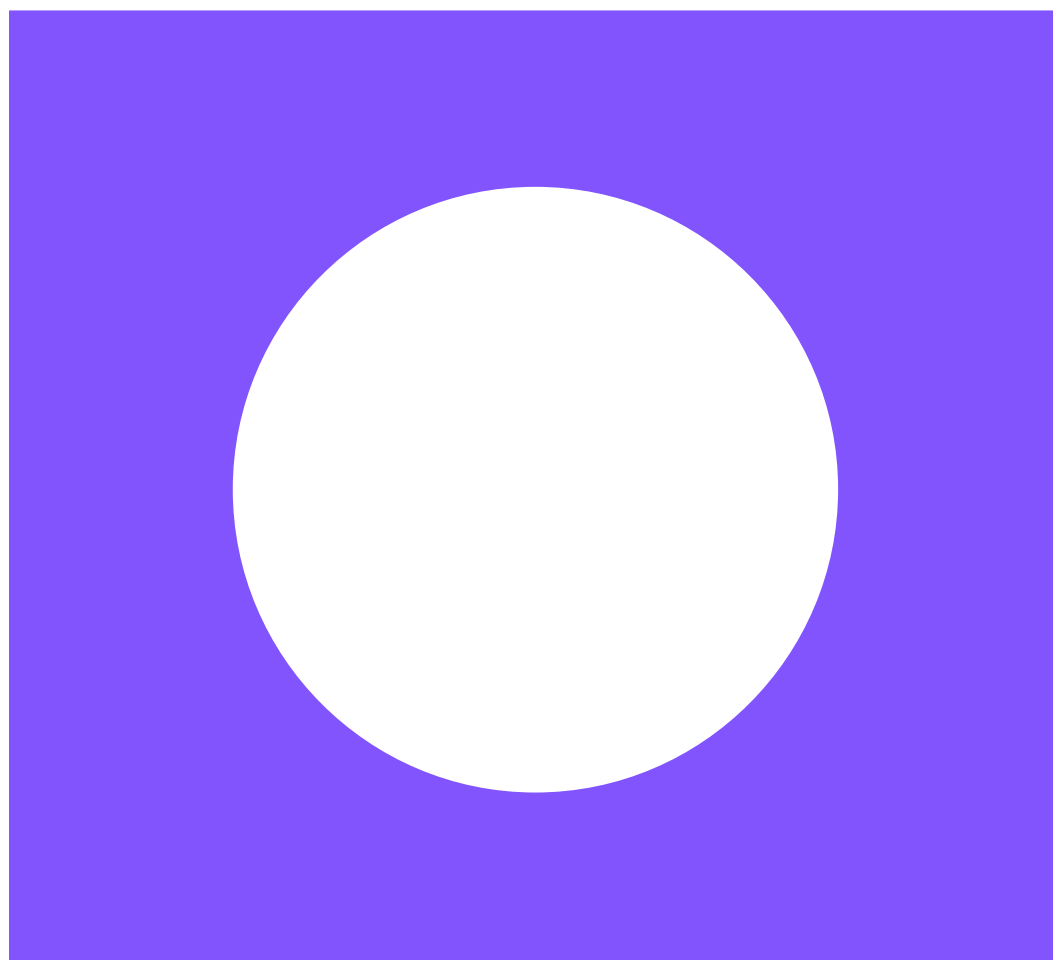




R610 St. Patrick's Junction Improvement Scheme

Appropriate Assessment Screening Report

August 2026

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R610 St. Patrick's Junction Improvement Scheme

Appropriate Assessment Screening Report

August 2026

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1 Introduction

1.1 Overview

Mott MacDonald Ireland Limited have been appointed by Cork City Council to prepare and lodge a Part 8 planning application for the construction/delivery of the R610 St. Patrick's Junction Improvement Scheme within Cork City (hereafter referred to as the "Proposed Development").

An Appropriate Assessment (AA) screening report has been prepared to allow the Competent Authority, Cork City Council (CCC), to conduct an AA Screening and AA in accordance with the requirements of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC) of the proposed active travel route. The assessment considers whether the upgrade (construction phase) either alone or in combination with other plans and projects is likely to have significant effects on any European site, in view of best scientific knowledge and the Conservation Objectives (CO)s of the respective sites.

1.2 Project Location

The Proposed Development is located approximately 3km southeast of Cork city centre within the suburban area of Rochestown, within the townlands of Maryborough, Monfieldstown and Mounthovel. The proposed Active Travel Scheme will be located on Rochestown Road (R610) and Clarke's Hill (L2471), both these sections of roads within the application boundary are located within a suburban residential area and predominately facilitate local traffic movements along Rochestown Road and to the city centre.

The N28 intersects the route of the Proposed Development, running in a north-south direction through the area. The Proposed Development also incorporates c.0.15km section of Clarke's Hill, with Lough Mahon being situated c.400 m to the north (direct line). Lough Mahon is a transitional waterbody which is designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) as part of Cork Harbour SPA (Site code: 004030), comprising a sheltered bay system with intertidal flats and recognised as an internationally important wetland site. Cork Harbour SPA occurs approximately 100 m north of the Proposed Development at its closest point, adjacent to the junction of Rochestown Road and Riverside.

The location of the Proposed Development is illustrated in Figure 1.1.

Figure 1.1: Location of Proposed Development



Figure Source: Mott MacDonald Ireland Limited 2026

1.3 Requirement for Appropriate Assessment

Article 6 of the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) requires that where a plan or project is likely to have a significant effect on a European site, while not directly connected with or necessary to the nature conservation management of the site, it will be subject to 'Appropriate Assessment' to identify any implications for the European site in view of the site's Conservation Objectives. Specifically, Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive states:

"Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives. In the light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implications for the site and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, the competent national authorities shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public".

Regulation 42 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 437 of 2011) (as amended) transposes Article 6 of the Habitats Directive into Irish law. The regulations require that before consent for a project is given, a screening for Appropriate Assessment of a project must be carried out by the public authority to assess, in view of best scientific knowledge and in view of the conservation objectives of the site, if that project, individually or in combination with other plans or projects is likely to have a significant effect on the European site.

1.4 Stages of Appropriate Assessment

There are potentially four stages in the AA process; the result of each stage determines the requirement for assessment under the next (European Commission, 2021).

Stage 1: Screening/Test of Significance

This process identifies the likely significant effects upon a European site from a proposed project or plan. Its purpose is to determine, on the basis of a preliminary assessment and objective criteria, whether a plan or project which is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of a European site, individually or in-combination with other plans or projects, is likely to have a significant effect upon the European site, in view of its conservation objectives. A project may be 'screened-in' if there is a possibility or uncertainty of possible effects upon the European site, requiring a Stage Two AA. If there is no evidence to suggest significant effects due to the proposed plan or development the project is 'screened-out' from further assessment.

Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment

In this stage, consideration is given to ascertain whether the plan or project would adversely affect the integrity of a European site(s), either alone or in- combination with other plans or projects, with respect to the European site's structure and function and its conservation objectives. This stage of the assessment is carried out by the consenting authority and is informed by a Natura Impact Statement (NIS). A NIS is required where there is uncertainty as to whether or not an adverse effect arises, uncertainty of the effect itself, or a potential effect has been defined which requires further procedures/mitigation to remove uncertainty of a defined impact (i.e. significant effects cannot be excluded). Where there are adverse effects, an assessment of the potential mitigation to ameliorate those effects is required. If the assessment results in a negative conclusion, i.e., adverse effects on the integrity of a site cannot be excluded (by design or mitigation) or there is uncertainty as to whether an adverse impact arises, then the process must consider alternatives (Stage 3) or proceed to Stage 4.

Stage 3: Assessment of Alternatives

This stage of the potential process arises where adverse effects on the integrity of a European site cannot be excluded and examines alternative ways of achieving the objectives of the project or plan that avoid adverse impacts on the integrity of the European site. However, in circumstances where there will not be any adverse effects on any European site, the developer places no reliance upon this third stage of the process in the context of this application for planning permission for the proposed development.

Stage 4: Assessment Where Adverse Effects Remain

This is the derogation process of Article 6(4), which examines whether there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest [IROPI] for allowing a project to proceed where adverse effects on the integrity of a European site have been predicted. Compensatory measures must be proposed and assessed as part of this stage and the EU Commission must be informed of the compensatory measures. Again, the developer places no reliance upon this stage of the process in the context of the application for planning permission for the proposed development.

With regards to Stage 1: Screening, there is no necessity to establish an effect; it is merely necessary for the Competent Authority to determine that there may be such an effect. The need to apply the precautionary principle (Commission on the European Communities, 2000) in making any key decisions in relation to the tests of Appropriate Assessment (AA) has been confirmed by the case law of the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU). Plans or projects that are not likely to have a significant effect on a European site may be excluded, but

the threshold at this stage is very low and operates as a trigger in order to determine whether a Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment must be undertaken by the competent authority on the implications of the proposed development for the Conservation Objectives of a European site.

The European Commission Guidance (2021) prescribes a 4-step process in Screening for Appropriate Assessment as follows:

- Determine whether the project or plan is directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site.
- Describe the project or plan and describe and characterise other projects or plans that in combination have the potential for having significant effects on the Natura 2000 site.
- Identify the potential effects on the Natura 2000 site.
- Assess the significance of any effects on the Natura 2000 site.

This report has been structured to reflect the 4-step screening process set out in the European Guidelines (European Commission, 2021).

1.4.1 European Sites and Features

A network of European sites of conservation importance has been identified by each Member State, hosting habitats and/or species designated as needing to be either maintained at or returned to 'favourable conservation status'.

The sites of conservation importance known as European sites comprise the Natura 2000 network. European sites comprise areas designated as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and/or Special Protection Areas (SPAs) in Ireland. The process of designating candidate SACs (cSACs) as SACs is ongoing in Ireland. Candidate sites (In Ireland, comprising cSACs) are considered European Sites (as defined by the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulation 2011 – S.I. 477/2011) and have the same legal protection as those whose designation is complete.

The designation features of SACs are referred to as Qualifying Interests (QIs), and these comprise both species (excluding birds), and habitats.

The designation features of SPAs are referred to as Special Conservation Interests (SCIs), and these comprise bird species, as well as wetland bird habitats.

The designation features of European sites are identified in the Statutory Instruments (S.I) for European sites where such sites have completed the designation process. In all cases, designation features are also identified in COs published by the National Park and Wildlife Service (NPWS). Any CO referred to in this AA screening report are referenced to identify the date of publication and version number.

1.5 Statement of Authority

The AA screening including field surveys and reporting was completed by Lisa O'Dowd MSc BSc (Hons) ACIEEM of Mott MacDonald Ltd and reviewed by Roger Macnaughton MSc BSc (Hons) MCIEEM. The screening includes the pertinent information required by the Competent Authority to carry out an AA screening of the Proposed Development.

Lisa is a Senior Ecologist at Mott MacDonald with six years' professional experience in ecological assessments including Appropriate Assessment, Natura Impact Statement, Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, Ecological Impact Assessment and Biodiversity chapters of Environmental Impact Assessment. She holds associate membership with the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) (ACIEEM). Lisa received a MSc

in Environmental Leadership from the National University of Ireland, Galway and a BSc (Hons) in Botany from University College Dublin. Lisa is 'capable'¹ of undertaking field surveys and reporting associated with this AA screening.

Roger is a Senior Associate Ecologist at Mott MacDonald with over twenty-four years' professional experience in the environmental consultancy sector and an additional seven years of primarily research-based experience in freshwater and marine ecology. He specialises in the delivery of Ecological Impact Assessment (EclA) and Appropriate Assessment (AA) for a broad range of projects potentially affecting; terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecology. Roger is 'accomplished' in field surveys and reporting associated with this AA screening.

¹ As defined by CIEEM (2024) Competency Framework. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management <https://cieem.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Competency-Framework-2024-V7-Web.pdf> [Accessed 06 March 2026]

2 Proposed Development Description

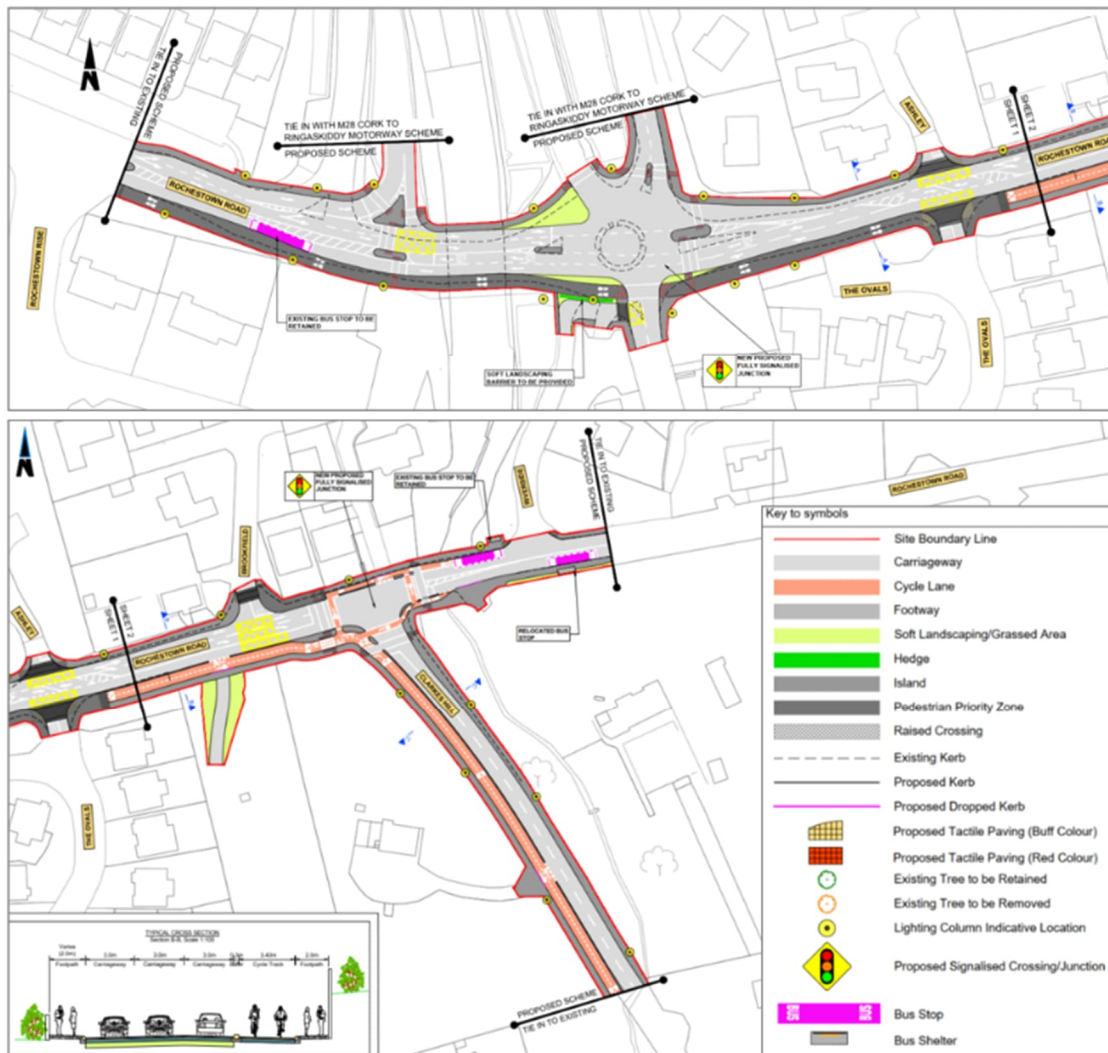
Cork City Council proposes to deliver new cycling and pedestrian infrastructure with a total scheme length of approximately 0.4 km along Rochestown Road (R610), extending between Rochestown Rise and Riverside and a c. 0.15km section of Clarke's Hill. The proposed works are intended to enhance active travel provision, improve pedestrian and cyclist safety, and provide greater connectivity along this corridor.

2.1 Description of the Proposed Development

The Proposed Development comprises the following:

- Provision of an upgraded road layout along approximately 0.4 km of Rochestown Road (R610) and c. 0.15 km of Clarke's Hill (L2471), comprising a 6.0 m wide carriageway together with the delivery of safe, high-quality, fully segregated cycling and pedestrian facilities along the length of the route.
 - Cycle tracks will be 2.4m wide (one way) / 3.4m wide (two-way) with 0.3m buffer; and
 - Footpath enhancement and widening up to 3m width;
- New fully signalised junction at Clarke's Hill and St. Patrick's roundabout on Rochestown Road;
- Uncontrolled raised table crossings at 4no. junctions along the route;
- Relocation of 1no. existing bus stop along Rochestown Road;
- Setback reduction of private property boundaries to facilitate provision of the cycle facilities where required; and;
- All associated works to facilitate the development e.g. upgrading and extension of storm drainage network and public lighting, provision of road signage, road markings, bollards, tactile paving, kerbing, traffic signalling and landscaping, as required.

Figure 2.1: Proposed Development



Source: Extract from Mott MacDonald Ireland Limited drawing numbers 229101186-MMD-0000-XX-DR-C-0009 and 229101186-MMD-0000-XX-DR-C-0010 2026

2.1.1 Junction Reconfiguration

Junctions along the scheme corridor will be reconfigured, as appropriate, to maintain pedestrian and cyclist priority and to ensure the safe and efficient operation of the proposed active travel facilities. All existing junctions along the R610 Rochestown Road will be retained, with no new junctions proposed as part of the scheme.

Minor geometric and layout modifications to existing junctions will also be undertaken, where required, to improve safety and operational performance. As part of the proposed works, the Rochestown Road/Clarke's Hill junction and the St Patrick's Roundabout will be upgraded to fully signalised junctions.

In addition, the scheme will be designed to interface effectively with other existing and proposed transport initiatives, including those identified within the Cork Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy (CMATS), and relevant complementary projects such as the M28 Cork to Ringaskiddy Motorway Project and the Clarke's Hill Road Improvement Scheme, where applicable.

2.1.2 Public Utilities and Drainage

The proposed road drainage will facilitate the efficient removal of surface and sub-surface water, while minimising the impact of runoff on the receiving environment. The principal type of drainage system will be kerb and gully, which will be integrated into the existing drainage network, with new gullies and gully connections to be installed, where required. ■

The design of the proposed road improvement scheme will include for the provision of road lighting for the full length of the route, tying into the existing local public lighting network. It will also include tying into other existing public utilities such as foul sewers, watermains, telecommunications and gas mains, in the vicinity of the proposed road development.

Local utility diversions and alterations will be made, as necessary, to facilitate the Proposed Development. Ducting will be provided for any future extension of services such as telecommunications and electricity. ■

2.1.3 Signage

Appropriate signage and road markings will be provided, as required, in accordance with the Traffic Signs Manual.

2.1.4 Vehicle Restraint Systems

Vehicle Restraint Systems (VRS) are not anticipated to be required as part of the proposed development. However, should the need for VRS be identified during detailed design, they will be designed and installed in accordance with the relevant Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) Publications.

2.2 Construction Activities

2.2.1 Road Closures/Re-Alignments

The works required for the Proposed Development do not include, and do not necessitate, the extinguishment of any public rights of way, and no permanent road closures are proposed. Notwithstanding this, the scheme will involve the reallocation of existing carriageway and roadside space to accommodate the proposed active travel facilities.

The proposed realignment may necessitate the acquisition of limited areas of private land. It is estimated that two (2) adjacent properties along Rochestown Road may be affected by the proposed works. Any associated land-take would be required solely to facilitate the delivery of the proposed active travel upgrades along the route.

Traffic management measures will be required during the construction phase of the proposed works. A detailed Traffic Management Plan (TMP) will be prepared by the Contractor and submitted for review, consultation and agreement with An Garda Síochána and Cork City Council, in advance of the commencement of construction works.

The Traffic Management Plan will be prepared in full compliance with the requirements of "Chapter 8 of the Traffic Signs Manual" (Temporary Traffic Measures and Signs for Roadworks), issued by the Department of Transport.

The Contractor will also be required to take account of the "Guidance for the Control and Management of Traffic at Road Works", issued by the Department of Transport, in the implementation of the TMP, as well as the "Guidelines for Managing Openings in Public Roads" issued by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport.

2.2.2 Earthworks/Excavation

Limited earthworks are anticipated to facilitate the construction of widened sections of Rochestown Road and Clarke's Hill, where segregated pedestrian and cycle facilities are proposed. It is anticipated that excavation works will be required adjacent to existing retaining walls to facilitate the proposed road widening. In addition, new retaining walls may be required at certain locations to retain the existing earth embankments adjoining the road corridor. It is anticipated that topsoil will be required in newly developed areas adjacent to the carriageway to support appropriate landscaping, and in locations where portions of private gardens have been acquired, in order to restore and retain the existing landscape character.

2.2.3 Demolition

It is anticipated that there are sections of existing boundary walls that will need to be demolished in order to facilitate the slight realignment and/or widening of the road to accommodate the proposed cycle and pedestrian facilities in some locations along the route. No house or building will be required to be demolished.

2.3 Construction Programme

The construction of the proposed development is anticipated to commence in July 2027, with an approximate duration of six months, with completion scheduled for December 2027.

3 Methodology

3.1 Guidance and Legislation

This report has been produced using the following guidance documents:

- Communication from the Commission on the Precautionary Principle (Commission on the European Communities, 2000);
- Nature and Biodiversity Cases: Ruling of the European Court of Justice (European Commission, 2006);
- Managing Natura 2000 sites – The provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (European Commission, 2019);
- Interpretation Manual of European Union Habitats (European Commission, 2013);
- Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland, Guidance for Planning (DoEHLG, 2010);
- Guidance document on Article 6(4) of the 'Habitats Directive' 92/43/EEC (European Commission, 2007);
- Article 6 of the Habitats Directive: Rulings of the European Court of Justice (Sundseth & Roth, 2019);
- Assessment of plans and projects in relation to Natura 2000 sites (European Commission, 2021); and
- Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management (OPR, 2021).

This report has similarly been prepared with regard to relevant rulings by the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU), the High Court, and the Supreme Court.

3.2 Relevant European Sites

The identification of relevant European sites to be included in this report was based on the identification of the Zone of Influence (Zoi) of the proposed development, a source-pathway-receptor model of effects, and the likely significance of any identified effects².

3.2.1 Zone of Influence

Projects have the potential to affect European sites beyond the footprint of the project itself. National Guidance from the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DoEHLG, 2010) specifies that screening for Appropriate Assessment should be carried out for any European site within the likely 'Zone of Influence' of a plan or project. For projects, the guidance recommends that the Zone of Influence (Zoi) must be evaluated on a case-by-case basis with reference to the nature, size and location of the project, the sensitivities of the ecological receptors, and the potential for in combination effects.

To establish the Zoi of the Proposed Development, publicly available data on protected habitats and species was appraised using Geographic Information System (GIS). The following section establishes the different Zoi associated with the potential impacts described in Section 5.2.

² Conservation objectives and locations of European sites are available at <https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites> and [Accessed 16 March 2026]. Natura 2000 data forms were also reviewed and are available at <https://natura2000.eea.europa.eu/> [Accessed 16 March 2026]

3.2.1.1 Surface Water Pollution

Hydrological linkages between the Proposed Development and European sites (and their QIs/SCIs) can occur over significant distances. In this case, a reasonable worst-case Zol for water pollution is considered to not extend beyond the first water body of relative depositional nature (e.g. transitional water body). Therefore, the Zol for water pollution from the Proposed Development will not be considered likely beyond Lough Mahon transitional water body (Section 4.1.3).

3.2.1.2 Dust Emissions and Deposition

The Construction Phase works have the potential to cause dust emissions, and consequent deposition. The Institute of Air Quality Management (IAQM, 2024) prescribes potential dust emission risk classes to ecological receptors, specifying the requirement for a detailed assessment *“where there is an ‘ecological receptor’ within 50m of the works, or within 50m of the route(s) used by construction vehicles on the public highway, up to 500m from the site entrance”* and that *“where the need for a more detailed assessment is screened out, it can be concluded that the level of risk is “negligible”, and any effects will not be significant”*.

The Zol is, therefore, taken as 50 m from the works and 500 m along existing roadways from the Proposed Development.

3.2.1.3 Noise

There is potential for a temporary increase in noise during the Construction Phase of the Proposed Development. The Zol for noise will be dependent on the species potentially being affected. Noise and vibration control on construction and open sites guidance (British Standard 5228-1:2009+A1:2014³) prescribes typical noise level data for various construction plant and activities within 10m of the various sources. The inverse square law can be applied to determine likely noise levels at varying distances from the proposed development site (Table 3.1).

It is relevant to note that general machinery that will be used during the Construction Phase of the Proposed Development, include excavators, dumpers, compaction equipment, delivery trucks, and a mobile crane.

Table 3.1: Noise Levels dB(A) at Various Distances from Construction Activities³

Plant Item	10m	100m	150m	200m	250m
Rock Breaking (excavator and crusher)	96	73	69	65	63
Compactor rammer	80	57	53	49	47
Tracked Excavator	78	55	51	47	45
Earthworks (Dozer)	86	63	59	55	53
Dump Truck (Empty)	88	65	61	57	55
Road Planer	82	59	55	51	49
Asphalt Paver	77	54	50	46	44
Spreading Chipping / Fill (Dozer)	82	59	55	51	49
Trenching	77	54	50	46	44
Vibratory Roller	84	61	57	53	51
Handheld Circular Saw	87	64	60	56	54
Pumping Water	65	42	38	34	32
All Above		75	70	67	65

³ https://www.warrington.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2020-08/cf53_bs_5228_pt1-2009a1-2014.pdf [Accessed 16 March 2026]

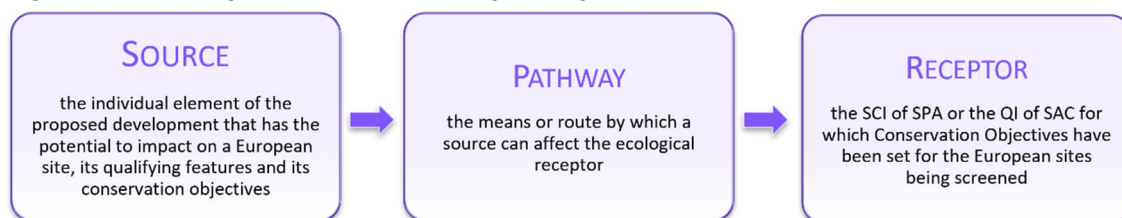
3.2.1.4 Light Levels

The Proposed Development is located within an existing road subject to lighting along its entire length. The Proposed Development will result in alterations and upgrades to this lighting scheme; however, it is not anticipated that there will be an increase in overall fugitive lighting as a result.

3.2.2 Source-Pathway-Receptor Model

The likely effects of the Proposed Development on European sites have been appraised using a source-pathway-receptor model (Figure 3.1), a standard tool used in environmental assessment. In the context of AA, the existence of a pathway is a crucial element in the screening process, i.e. if no pathway can be identified between the 'source' and the 'receptor', then no effect can be anticipated on the receptor (OPR, 2021).

Figure 3.1: Conceptual Source-Pathway-Receptor Model



Source: Mott MacDonald 2026

To this effect, any European sites identified to have a viable pathway connecting the source (i.e. the Proposed Development) with the receptor (i.e. the respective European site) were then examined further to determine the potential for likely significant effects.

3.2.3 Likely Significant Effects

It is relevant to distinguish between 'impact' and 'effect' in the context of AA. The former, 'impact', is considered the outcome of an element of a development on the environment, whereas 'effect' is how that outcome relates to the Conservation Objectives (OPR, 2021).

The threshold for a Likely Significant Effect is treated in the screening exercise as being above a *de minimis* level. The opinion of the Advocate General in CJEU case C-258/11 outlines:

"The requirement that the effect in question be 'significant' exists in order to lay down a de minimis threshold. Plans or projects that have no appreciable effect on a European site are thereby excluded. If all plans or projects capable of having any effect whatsoever on the site were to be caught by Article 6(3), activities on or near the site would risk being impossible by reason of legislative overkill".

In this report, therefore, 'relevant' European sites are those within the potential ZoI of activities where pathways to European sites were identified through the source-pathway-receptor model.

3.3 Ecological Data

For the characterisation of the baseline environment, a combination of desk and field studies have been carried out.

3.3.1 Desk Study

A desk study was undertaken to inform this screening assessment, which comprised a review of the key datasets and information sources as outlined in Table 3.2.

Table 3.2: Desk Study Methodology

Feature	Search Area	Source
European Sites	Within Zol of the Proposed Development	NPWS protected sites in Ireland and conservation objectives ⁴ Natura 2000 data forms ⁵
Habitats Directive Article 17 habitats and species Data	Within 2 km of the Proposed Development	Webmap application for the spatial data for the Conservation Status Assessment of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland – 3 rd Article 17 report -2019 ⁶
Biodiversity data	2 km square ⁷	National Biodiversity Data Centre (NBDC) Biodiversity Map ⁸
	2 km square	Flora Protection Order (2022) Map Viewer ⁹
	Within water bodies hydrologically linked to the Proposed Development	Inland Fisheries Ireland ¹⁰
WFD data including river water bodies, transitional water bodies, lakes, status, Q value, pressures, catchment, fish ecological status	Within areas hydrologically linked to the Proposed Development	EPA Geoportal datasets and map ¹⁴ Catchments.ie ¹¹
		Inland Fisheries Ireland ¹²
Geological Information	Within areas hydrologically and hydrogeologically linked to the Proposed Development	Geological Survey Ireland ¹³
Discharge Licence and Annual Environment Report	Proposed Development	EPA Licence and Enforcement Access Portal (LEAP) ¹⁴
Other geospatial data	Within areas hydrologically and hydrogeologically linked to the Proposed Development	GeoHive ¹⁵

3.3.2 Field Study

Ecological field walkover surveys were undertaken at the Proposed Development in 2022, 2025 and 2026 by suitably experienced Mott Mac Donald Ecologists as outlined in Table 3.3. The surveys investigated several receptors including habitats, invasive plant species and suitability for the presence of protected fauna species. The habitat survey was carried out within the area of the existing WWTP and surrounding area in accordance with 'Best Practice Guidelines for Habitat Survey and Mapping' (Smith, et al., 2011). Habitats were classified to level three according to 'A Guide to Habitats in Ireland' (Fossitt, 2000).

⁴ <https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites> [Accessed 16 March 2026]

⁵ <https://natura2000.eea.europa.eu/> [Accessed 16 March 2026]

⁶ <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/collections/1a721520030d404f899d658d5b6e159a?item=1> [Accessed 10 March 2026]

⁷ Data from the last 10 years (2016-2026) was reviewed

⁸ <https://maps.biodiversityireland.ie/Map> [Accessed 10 March 2026]

⁹ <https://heritagedata.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=a41ef4e10227499d8de17a8abe42bd1e> [Accessed 09 April 2026]

¹⁰ <https://opendata-ifi.geo.hub.arcgis.com/> [Accessed 10 March 2026]

¹¹ <https://www.catchments.ie/> [Accessed 10 March 2026]

¹² <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/6f48cedf09b84d2e8b40100d85743c5b> [Accessed 10 March 2026]

¹³ <https://www.gsi.ie/en-ie> [Accessed 10 March 2026]

¹⁴ <https://leap.epa.ie/> [Accessed 10 March 2026]

¹⁵ <https://www.geohive.ie/> [Accessed 10 March 2026]

Table 3.3: Overview of Field Surveys

Survey Type	Survey Date
Ecology Walkover	2 July 2026
	12 March 2025
	19 August 2022

In addition, invasive plant species, as listed on Part 1 of the first schedule of the European Union (Invasive Alien Species) Regulations 2024 (S.I. no 374/2024) or listed under the Irish Red Data List of Irish Plants (Jackson, et al., 2016), were recorded where encountered.

The scientific names for vascular (flowering) plant species follow those in the New Flora of the British Isles (Stace, 2010). Nomenclature for bryophytes follow Mosses and Liverworts of Britain and Ireland (Atherton, et al., 2010).

Evidence of protected or otherwise notable fauna was also recorded as well as the suitability of the habitats to support such species. This was based on relevant guidance on habitat suitability assessment for key faunal groups likely to be encountered within the Proposed Development and surroundings (e.g. (NRA, 2008)). This was supplemented by professional experience of the prevailing habitats.

A Daytime Bat Walkover (DBW) was carried out concurrently, describing and assessing suitability of features for roosting, foraging and flight paths following standard guidance (Collins, 2023).

Equipment used for survey included base maps, binoculars, and vegetative keys.

4 Receiving Environment

4.1 Desk Study

4.1.1 Relevant European Sites

A review of European sites within the ZoI of the Proposed Development identified one European site. This site is assessed in Section 5, Stage 1: Screening for Appropriate Assessment.

4.1.2 Biodiversity Records

A review of Habitats Directive Article 17 reporting data (2019)⁶ and data available from the NBDC⁸ showed a range of protected and notable biodiversity present within the tetrad (2 km grid square) W716E. Details of relevant records are provided in Table 4.1. No records of amphibians were identified during the desktop study.

Table 4.1: Biodiversity Records Identified During the Desk Study

Species Group	Species	Relevant Conservation Policy and Legislation ¹⁶	Source	Year
Bird	Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>)	WA	NBDC	2024
		BD – Annex I		
		BoCCI: Red		
		QI: Cork Harbour SPA [004030]		
	Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>)	WA	NBDC	2024
		BoCCI: Amber		
		QI: Cork Harbour SPA [004030]		
	Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>)	WA	NBDC	2024
		BoCCI: Red		
		QI: Cork Harbour SPA [004030]		
	Common Gull (<i>Larus canus</i>)	WA	NBDC	2024
		BoCCI: Amber		
		QI: Cork Harbour SPA [004030]		
	Common Sandpiper (<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>)	WA	NBDC	2020
		BoCCI: Amber		
	Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>)	WA	NBDC	2020
		BoCCI: Amber		
		QI: Cork Harbour SPA [004030]		
	Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>)	WA	NBDC	2024
		BD – Annex II		
		BoCCI: Red		
		QI: Cork Harbour SPA [004030]		
	Curlew Sandpiper (<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>)	WA	NBDC	2016
		BD- Annex I		
		BoCCI: Red		
	Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>)	WA	NBDC	2024
		BoCCI: Red		
		QI: Cork Harbour SPA [004030]		
	Goldcrest (<i>Regulus regulus</i>)	WA	NBDC	2024

¹⁶ WA abbreviates the Wildlife Act, BD abbreviates the Birds Directive and HD abbreviates the Habitats Directive

Species Group	Species	Relevant Conservation Policy and Legislation ¹⁶	Source	Year
		BoCCI: Amber		
	Goldeneye (<i>Bucephala clangula</i>)	WA	NBDC	2024
		BD: Annex II		
		BoCCI: Red		
	Goosander (<i>Mergus merganser</i>)	WA	NBDC	2024
		BD: Annex II		
		BoCCI: Amber		
	Great Crested Grebe (<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>)	WA	NBDC	2020
		BoCCI: Amber		
		QI: Cork Harbour SPA [004030]		
	Greenfinch (<i>Chloris chloris</i>)	WA	NBDC	2020
		BoCCI: Amber		
	Grey Wagtail (<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>)	WA	NBDC	2020
		BoCCI: Red		
	House Martin (<i>Delichon urbicum</i>)	WA	NBDC	2024
		BoCCI: Amber		
	Jack Snipe (<i>Lymnocyrtus minimus</i>)	WA	NBDC	
		BD: Annex II		
		BoCCI: Amber		
	Kingfisher (<i>Alcedo atthis</i>)	WA	NBDC	2023
		BD: Annex I		
		BoCCI: Amber		
	Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>)	WA	NBDC	2020
		BoCCI: Red		
	Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>)	WA	NBDC	2024
		BD: Annex II		
		BoCCI: Red		
		QI: Cork Harbour SPA [004030]		
	Lesser Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>)	WA	NBDC	2024
		BoCCI: Amber		
		QI: Cork Harbour SPA [004030]		
	Little Egret (<i>Egretta garzetta</i>)	WA	NBDC	2024
		BD: Annex I		
	Little Grebe (<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>)	WA	NBDC	2024
		QI: Cork Harbour SPA [004030]		
	Mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>)	WA	NBDC	2020
		BD: Annex II, III		
		BoCCI: Amber		
	Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>)	WA	NBDC	2024
		BD: Annex I		
		BoCCI: Amber		
	Mistle Thrush (<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>)	WA	NBDC	2020
	Mute Swan (<i>Cygnus olor</i>)	WA	NBDC	2020
		BoCCI: Amber		
	Red-breasted Merganser (<i>Mergus serrator</i>)	WA	NBDC	2020
		BD: Annex II		
		BoCCI: Amber		
		QI: Cork Harbour SPA [004030]		

Species Group	Species	Relevant Conservation Policy and Legislation ¹⁶	Source	Year
	Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>)	WA BoCCI: Red QI: Cork Harbour SPA [004030]	NBDC	2024
	Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>)	WA BoCCI: Amber	NBDC	2020
	Robin (<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>)	WA	NBDC	2024
	Rock Dove (<i>Columba livia</i>)	WA BoCCI: Annex II	NBDC	2016
	Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>)	WA BoCCI: Amber QI: Cork Harbour SPA [004030]	NBDC	2024
	Skylark (<i>Alauda arvensis</i>)	WA BoCCI: Amber	NBDC	2016
	Snipe (<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>)	WA BD: Annex II, Annex III BoCCI: Red	NBDC	2020
	Sparrowhawk (<i>Accipiter nisus</i>)	WA	NBDC	2024
	Spotted Flycatcher (<i>Muscicapa striata</i>)	WA BoCCI: Amber	NBDC	2024
	Starling (<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>)	BoCCI: Amber	NBDC	2024
	Swallow (<i>Hirundo rustica</i>)	WA BoCCI: Amber	NBDC	2024
	Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>)	WA BD: Annex II BoCCI: Amber QI: Cork Harbour SPA [004030]	NBDC	2024
	Turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>)	WA BoCCI: Amber	NBDC	2020
	Wigeon (<i>Mareca penelope</i>)	WA BD: Annex II BoCCI: Amber QI: Cork Harbour SPA [004030]	NBDC	2020
	Japanese Knotweed (<i>Fallopia japonica</i>)	Invasive species regulation S. I. 374/2024	NBDC	2016
	Little-robin (<i>Geranium purpureum</i>)	Near threatened species	NBDC	2016
	Three-cornered Garlic (<i>Allium triquetrum</i>)	Invasive species regulations S.I. 374/2024	NBDC	20214
	Harlequin Ladybird (<i>Harmonia axyridis</i>)	Invasive species regulations S.I. 374/2024	NBDC	2022
	Buffish Mining Bee (<i>Andrena nigroaenea</i>)	Threatened species: Vulnerable	NBDC	2019
	Gooden's Nomad Bee (<i>Nomada goodeniana</i>)	Threatened species: Vulnerable	NBDC	2019
	Red-tailed Bumblebee (<i>Bombus lapidarius</i>)	Threatened species: Near Threatened	NBDC	2017
Mammal	Hedgehog (<i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>)	WA	NBDC	2025
	Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>)	WA HD: Annex II	NBDC Article 17 data	2016
	Red Squirrel (<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>)	WA	NBDC	2022
	Cod (<i>Gadus morhua</i>)	n/a	IFI	2010

¹⁷ All fish species were recorded approximately 350 m downstream in Lough Mahon within the hydrological pathway from the Proposed Development recorded in the last survey period

Species Group	Species	Relevant Conservation Policy and Legislation ¹⁶	Source	Year
	Common dragonet (<i>Callionymus lyra</i>)	n/a		
		n/a		
	Common goby (<i>Pomatoschistus microps</i>)			
	European eel (<i>Anguilla anguilla</i>)	Critically endangered: Ireland red list (King, et al., 2011)		
	Fifteen-spined stickleback (<i>Spinachia spinachia</i>)	n/a		
	Fivebeard rockling (<i>Ciliata Mustela</i>)	n/a		
	Flounder (<i>Platichthys flesus</i>)	n/a		
	Greater Pipefish (<i>Syngnathus acus</i>)	n/a		
	Gunnel (<i>Pholis gunnellus</i>)	n/a		
	Plaice (<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>)	n/a		
	Sand goby (<i>Pomatoschistus minutus</i>)	n/a		
	Sand smelt (<i>Atherina presbyter</i>)	n/a		
	Scad (<i>Trachurus trachurus</i>)	n/a		
	Sprat (<i>Sprattus sprattus sprattus</i>)	n/a		
	Thick-lipped grey mullet (<i>Chelon labrosus</i>)	n/a		
	Two-spotted goby (<i>Gobiusculus flavescens</i>)	n/a		

4.1.3 Aquatic Environment

4.1.3.1 Catchment and sub catchment

The Proposed Development is located within the Lee, Cork Harbour and Youghal bay WFD catchment (catchment ID: 19), Glasheen (Cork city) SC_010 WFD sub catchment (Sub catchment ID: 19_17. This WFD sub catchment is identified as being pressured by urban waste water, urban run-off, domestic wastewater, anthropogenic pressures and waste (EPA, 2019).

The hydrological pathway from the Proposed Development does not extend through any other sub catchments and concludes at Lough Mahon transitional waterbody (IE_SW_060_0750) (Lough Mahon estuary) approximately 370 m downstream.

4.1.3.2 River Water Bodies

The Proposed Development intersects with the Moneygurney_010 (IE_SW_19M300900) WFD river waterbody. This river discharges directly to the transitional waterbody and no other river waterbodies are within the hydrological pathway. The most recent WFD water quality status (2019-2024 monitoring period) identified the river water body as poor status with 'invertebrate status or potential' the limiting factor¹⁸.preventing this river waterbody achieving Good WFD water quality status.

4.1.3.3 Transitional Water Bodies

The hydrological pathway from the Proposed Development includes one transitional waterbody – Lough Mahon (IE_SW_060_0750). The latest WFD water quality status assessment (2019-2024) shows Lough Mahon with a moderate status. Phytoplankton status or potential, hydromorphological conditions, supporting chemistry conditions, general conditions, Oxygenation conditions, Dissolved oxygen (%sat), nutrient conditions and other determined for

¹⁸ https://www.catchments.ie/data/#!/waterbody/IE_SW_19M300900?_k=gcop75 [Accessed 27 July 2026]

nutrient conditions were identified as the limiting factors preventing *Good* WFD water quality status.

4.1.3.4 Groundwater Body

The Proposed Development lies within Ballinhassig East WFD groundwater body (IE_SW_G_004). The Ballinhassig groundwater body was classified as having a Good WFD water quality assessment during the last monitoring period (2019-2024).

4.1.4 Field Study

4.1.4.1 Habitat

Key habitats identified during ecological walkover surveys are outlined in Table 4.2. and illustrated in Figure 4.1.

Table 4.2: Habitats recorded during the walkover survey

Habitat Classification	Description	Photo
Buildings and Artificial Surfaces (BL3)	The majority of the study area within the Application Boundary is comprised of the existing road surfaces, pavement, and buildings.	
Amenity Grassland (GA2)	Amenity grassland was recorded in recreational green areas, in areas adjacent to the roadside, and in gardens. This habitat is heavily managed and species poor. The habitat was recorded within the application boundary. The species that do occur were widespread and commonly occurring.	

Habitat Classification	Description	Photo
Broadleaf Woodland (WD1)	Broadleaf woodland was recorded north of the study area at Woodbrook adjacent to the Moneygurney river waterbody (EU Code: IE_SW_19M300900). The woodland is located outside of the application boundary. The woodland is dominated by mature beech (<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>) trees with ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>) and holly (<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>) also present.	
Eroding/Upland River (FW1)	The moneygurney_010 WFD river water body ¹⁹ intersects the application boundary at the N28. It flows northwest towards the Cork Harbour SPA. This river waterbody could not be accessed within the application boundary during the survey however, it was viewed to the north of the application boundary. No aquatic vegetation was recorded with alder (<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>) and willow (<i>Salix</i> sp.) observed along the banks.	No photograph available

¹⁹ <https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps>

Habitat Classification	Description	Photo
Treeline (WL2)	Treelines were recorded running adjacent to the existing road. Several trees were noted to be very mature, most notably the mature broadleaved treeline on the east of Clarke's Hill and mature conifer treeline on the west side of Clarke's Hill. The treelines are located within the Application boundary. Species recorded within the treeline habitat included birch (<i>Betula pendula</i>), beech (<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>), ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>), sycamore (<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>), old man's beard (<i>Clematis vitalba</i>), hazel (<i>Corylus avellana</i>) Leylandii cypress (<i>Cupressus x leylandii</i>), Cypress (<i>Cupressus sp.</i>) and bramble (<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>).	
Scrub (WS1)	Scrub was recorded within the application boundary. Species recorded within the habitat included butterfly bush (<i>Buddleja davidii</i>), bramble (<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>), blackthorn (<i>Prunus spinosa</i>), common dogwood (<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>), silver birch (<i>Betula pendula</i>), gorse (<i>Ulex europaeus</i>), hazel (<i>Corylus avellana</i>), sycamore (<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>), and tutsan.	

Habitat Classification	Description	Photo
Grassy Verge (GS2)	Grassy verge habitat was recorded within the application boundary. The habitat was noted to be of low ecological value. Species included Yorkshire fog, creeping bent, eyeglass, chickweed, white clover, dandelion, ragwort, silverweed, broadleaved plantain, creeping buttercup, yarrow, selfheal, common birds foot trefoil.	No photograph available
Hedgerows (WL1)	Hedgerow habtiat was recorded within the application boundary Hedgerows were noted to be mostly of low ecological value and included hedges of cherry laurel (<i>Prunus laurocerasus</i>).	No photograph available

Figure 4.1: Habitat Map



Source: Mott MacDonald 2026

4.1.4.2 Invasive Species

No invasive species listed on the first schedule of SI 374/2024I were recorded during the walkover survey.

Several non-listed invasive species were recorded during the walkover survey including cherry laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus*), butterfly bush (*Buddleja davidii*), old man's beard (*Clematis vitalba*) and winter heliotrope (*Petasites fragrans*).

4.1.4.3 Fauna

During the walkover survey, blackcap, robin and wren were noted to be singing within the fields adjacent to the Proposed Development site. No other birds were recorded during the walkover survey.

Suitability for bats and potential roost features was noted in a number of structures and trees during the walkover survey. No structure will be removed due to the Proposed Development. Further assessment of trees will be required prior to felling.

No other fauna was noted during the walkover survey.

5 Stage 1: Screening for Appropriate Assessment

5.1 Management of European sites

Screening for AA is not required where a project is connected with, or necessary for the management of any European site. In the case of the Proposed Development, it is not directly connected with, located in or necessary to the management of any European site and AA screening is required.

5.2 Proposed Development Source-Pathway-Receptor-Model

This screening for AA is centred on the specific source-pathway-receptor model for the Proposed Development for the identification and appraisal of likely significant effects on European sites. As described in Section 3.2 this appraisal process begins with the identification of pathways connecting the Proposed Development and European sites.

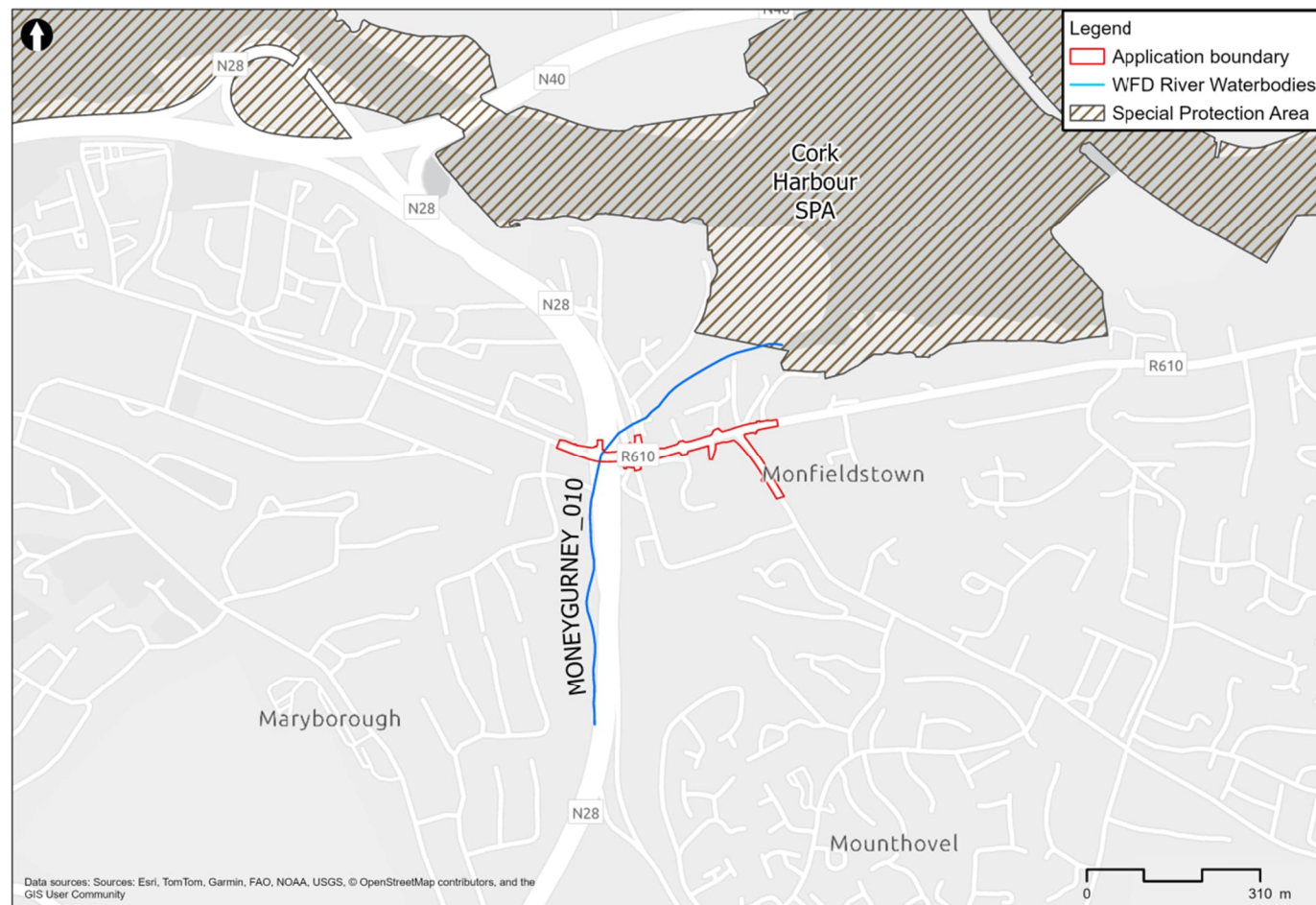
5.2.1 Connectivity with European Sites

The Proposed Development has been appraised as hydrologically connected with one European site: Cork Harbour SPA [004030]. The location of the Proposed Development relative to the SPA is illustrated in Figure 5.1.

Table 5.1: Appraisal of Connectivity Between the Proposed Development and European sites Within the Zol of the Proposed Development

Site Name [Code]	Conservation Objectives; Statutory Instruments	Distance between the Proposed Development and European Site	Qualifying Interests / Special Conservation Interests (SCI) of the European Site (* denotes priority habitat)	Connectivity with the Proposed Development
Cork Harbour SPA [004030]	Version 1 (NPWS, 2014a); S.I. No 391/2021	The nearest point to Cork Harbour SPA is at the east of the cycleway. Here the SPA lies approximately 90m north (straight line distance). Where the Moneygurney_010 WFD waterbody flows beneath the Proposed Development, there is a distance of 350 m to the SPA (fluvial distance).	A004 Little Grebe A005 Great crested grebe A017 Cormorant A028 Grey heron (<i>Ardea cinerea</i>) A048 Shelduck A050 Wigeon A052 Teal A054 Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) A056 Shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>) A069 Red-breasted merganser A130 Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) A140 Golden plover A141 Grey plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) A142 Lapwing A149 Dunlin A156 Black-tailed godwit A157 Bar-tailed godwit A160 Curlew A162 Redshank A179 Black-headed gull A182 Common gull A183 Lesser black-backed gull A193 Common tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) A999 Wetlands	Yes Cork Harbour SPA is located downstream of any potential hydrological influence from the Proposed Development along the Moneygurney_010 river waterbody. In addition, there is potential for SCI species to occur outside of the boundary of the SPA in proximity to the proposed development. Localised disturbance effects due to noise may occur during the construction phase and should be examined. Given the proximity to the Cork Harbour SPA, the possible hydrological connectivity and the issue of disturbance, a viable source pathway receptor link is identified

Figure 5.1: Location of Cork Harbour SPA in relation to the Proposed Development



Source: Mott MacDonald 2026

5.2.2 Likely Significant Effects

Upon the assessment of viable pathways connecting the Proposed development with European sites (Table 5.1), the specific source-pathway—receptor model for the Proposed Development can be developed (Table 5.2.) along with the assessment of likely significant effect on European sites.

5.2.3 Construction Phase

5.2.3.1 Size, Scale, Area, Land-Take

The works comprise alterations to an existing roadway to provide a safe-high quality link for cyclists along Rochestown Road over approximately 400 m. The works are located adjacent to Cork Harbour SPA, within 80 m, however there will be no land take within any European sites.

Given the nature and location of the project, there is no potential for direct impact to European Sites from the size, scale, area of the project.

5.2.3.2 Physical Changes

The works are located within the existing roadway and roadside habitats and will not result in any physical changes to any European Sites. There is no potential for physical changes to any European Sites as a result of the Proposed Development during the construction phase.

5.2.3.3 Resource Requirements

Any material (for example gravel or other fill) required to facilitate the works will be imported from a licensed facility.

Any water required will be imported to site in a bowser. There will be no abstraction within any European sites as result of the Proposed Development.

There is no potential for effect on any European sites due to resource requirements associated with the Proposed Development during the construction phase.

5.2.3.4 Transportation Requirements

Transportation to the works area during construction phase will be via the existing road network.

There is no potential for effect on any European sites due to transportation requirements associated with the proposed scheme during the construction phase.

5.2.3.5 Emissions and Waste

Surface water run-off

There is potential for surface water run-off associated with site clearance, excavations, and stockpiled materials during the construction phase of the Proposed Development. In addition, there is potential for accidental spills of hydrocarbons and concrete.

The works are set back from the coastal waters such that there is no potential for surface water emissions to enter directly into any European sites as a result of the Proposed Development.

There is no potential for surface water run off to enter directly into the Moneygurney_010 WFD river waterbody. Where the Proposed Development crosses this watercourse, it is culverted beneath the road. In addition, any surface water emissions will be contained within the roadway.

As outlined previously, the Proposed Development is primarily within the existing roadway. The drainage along the existing roadway does not outfall to adjacent watercourses and rather ties

into Uisce Éireann infrastructure which flows to Ronayne's Court Pumping Station. As such, any surface water emissions within these sections will be treated prior to entering the Cork Harbour SPA.

Given the nature of the Proposed Development, and the receiving environment within the Zol, there is no potential for significant effects to any European Sites associated with surface water emissions.

Noise

The Proposed Development will result in an increase in noise levels during the construction phase.

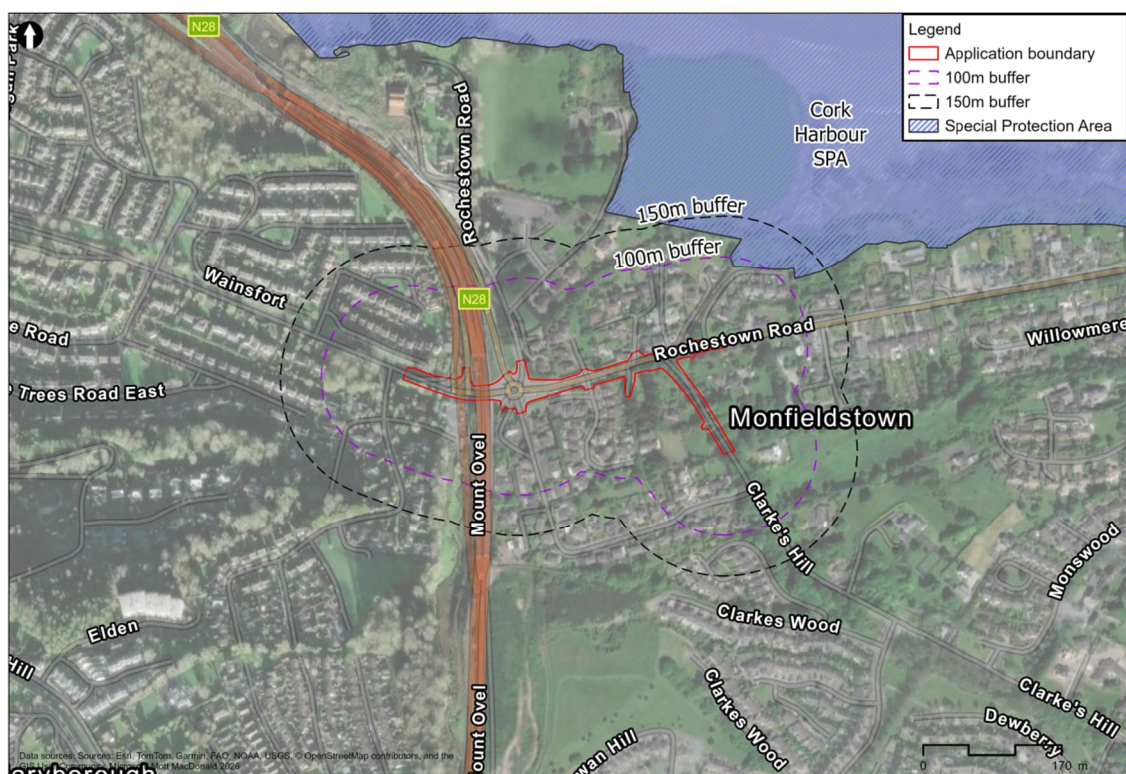
Wetland birds have been documented to tolerate noise levels at or below 70dB(A) (Cutts, et al., 2009). As outlined in Section 3.2.1.3 of this report, noise levels (calculated on a worst-case scenario basis) are approx. 75dB(A) within 100 m of construction works, dropping to 70dB(A) within 150 m. This Zol (which does not incorporate noise buffering due to landscape features such as buildings) in relation to Cork Harbour SPA is presented in Figure 5.2.

The nearest known roost of SCI species of Cork Harbour SPA is located 250 m north of the Proposed Development (NPWS, 2014b). As such, the roost is outside the Zol for noise and will not be disturbed. Figure 5.3 illustrates the location of this roost and the Proposed Development.

At its closest point, Cork Harbour SPA is located 80 m north of the Proposed Development. As such, the Zol for the effect of noise incorporates a small area of grassland and mudflat habitat within the SPA itself. However, this area is buffered from noise effects by sound barriers including existing buildings, trees, hedgerows and gardens.

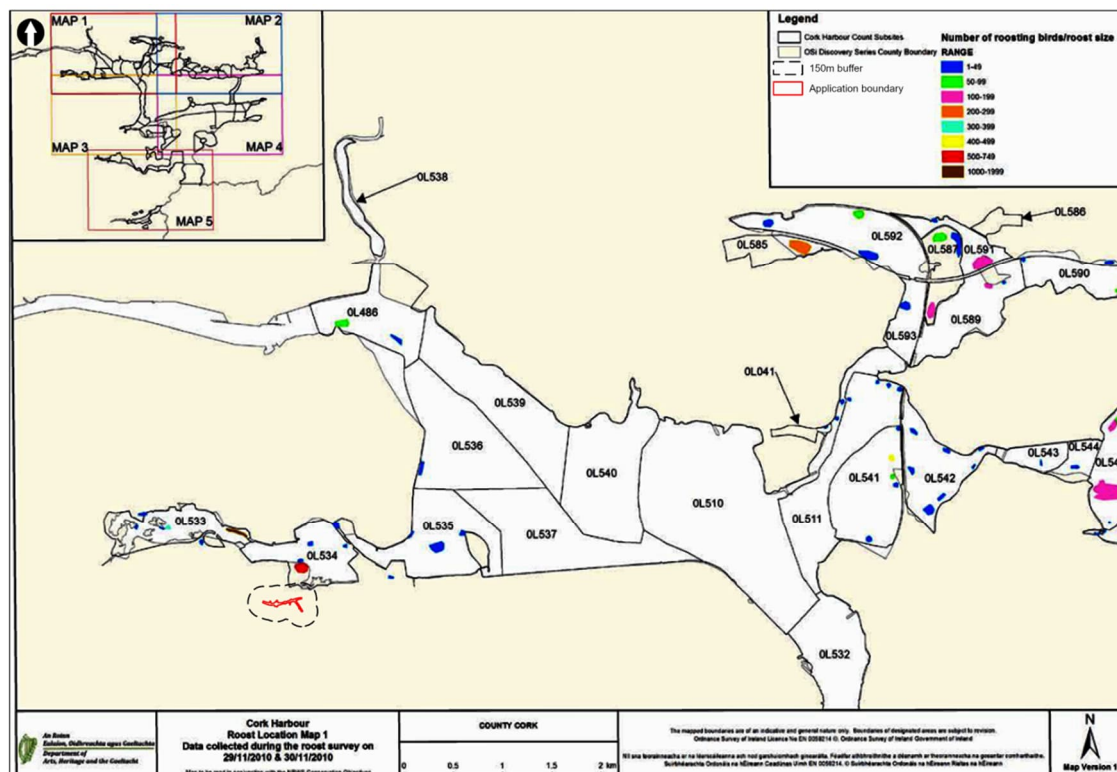
Therefore, no likely significant effects on any SCI of Cork Harbour SPA are anticipated and the effect of noise can be screened out.

Figure 5.2: Non-Buffered Noise Zone of Impact



Source: Mott MacDonald 2026

Figure 5.3: Winter Roost Sites in Cork Harbour SPA and Proximity to the Proposed Development



Source: Proposed Development overlaid on NPWS (2014b) Cork Harbour SPA Supporting Document

Dust

There is potential for the generation of dust during the construction phase. Any dust will be local to works and temporary in duration. As previously noted, the ZOI for dust is taken as 50m from the works and 500m along existing roadways from the works area. The closest European site is located approximately 40m from the proposed scheme. Cork Harbour SPA is within the ZOI for dust, however there are no sensitive receptors within the Cork Harbour SPA. As such there is no potential for any European sites to be impacted by dust from the proposed scheme during either construction or operational phases.

Light

The works area is located along a busy road with residential housing, adjacent to Cork Harbour SPA, which is already subject to street lighting. There may be a requirement for additional lighting during construction phase works, however given the current lighting regime that exists, and the location of the works relative to the SPA (i.e. set back from the shoreline, and buffered from ex situ habitat by a treeline) there is no potential for significant effects to any European Sites due to lighting at the construction phase.

5.2.4 Operational Phase

The proposed development comprises alterations to an existing road. There will be no increase in traffic levels associated with the operational phase of the development and therefore no increase in noise levels. As such, there is no potential for significant effect to any European sites associated with noise levels during the operational phase of the Proposed Development.

5.2.4.1 Resource requirements and Transportation

Any material (for example gravel or other fill) required to facilitate the works will be imported from a licensed facility. Any water required will be imported to site in a bowser.

The Proposed Development comprises works to an existing road and will not result in an increase in local traffic volumes during the operational phase.

There is no potential for effect on any European sites due to resource or transportation requirements associated with the Proposed Development during operation phase.

5.2.4.2 Surface Water Emissions

The Proposed Development comprises alterations to the existing road. Any alterations or additional drainage features will tie into the existing network and outfall arrangement. As such, there is no potential for any European sites to be impacted by surface-water emissions from the Proposed Development during the operational phase.

5.2.4.3 Light

The Proposed Development comprises alterations to the existing lighting regime along the road. The proposed alterations will not result in an increase in light spill into the SPA or into areas known to be supporting habitat for SCI species.

As such, there is no potential for significant effects to any European Sites due to lighting at the operational phase of the proposed development.

5.2.5 Summary

No likely significant effects on Cork Harbour SPA or any other European site during the construction or operation phase of the Proposed Development are expected as described in Table 5.2.

Table 5.2: Conceptual Source-Pathway-Receptor Model for the Proposed Development

Phase	Relevant Works	Source of Effect	Pathway	Potential Effect and Receptor
Construction	- Vegetation clearance - Earthworks and Excavations - Demolitions - Painting	- Heavy machinery - Power tools - Transportation - Material Handling	- Hydrological: Surface water run-off - Noise Pollution - Dust Pollution - Light Pollution	Likely Significant Effects: <u>None</u> Receptor: Cork Harbour SPA [004030]
Operation	- General maintenance - Use of active travel scheme	- Light machinery - General population	- Hydrological: Surface water run-off - Noise Pollution - Light Pollution	Likely Significant Effects: <u>None</u> Receptor: Cork Harbour SPA [004030]

5.3 In-Combination Effects

5.3.1 Overview

Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive requires that:

'Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives.'

It is therefore required that the potential impacts of the Proposed Development are considered in combination with any other relevant plans or projects.

A search of the Cork City Council planning database ([Planning Enquiry & Online Submissions | Cork City \(corkcoco.ie\)](#)), and the EIA portal (<https://www.housing.gov.ie/planning/environmental-assessment/environmental-impact-assessment-eia/eia-portal>) was undertaken in July 2025 to examine projects with potential for in combination effects. The projects which were considered as part of the in-combination assessment is provided in Appendix A.

The scale, nature, locations, extent and duration of the works are such that the Proposed Development does not have the capacity to act in-combination with any other plan or project such as to cause likely significant effects as a direct consequence of its contribution. There are no identified plans or consented projects which have the potential to act in-combination with the proposed works in relation to any identified effects.

There are therefore no potential effects identified from the Proposed Development which could act in-combination with any other plans or projects to result in any likely significant effects on any European Sites.

6 Screening Statement

The screening assessment considered whether the proposed works, alone or in combination with other projects or plans, may have the potential to result in significant effects to any European Sites. One European Site was identified as with viable source pathway receptor links given the proximity of the proposed active travel scheme: Cork Harbour SPA [004030].

The likely effects were assessed for the potential to result in significant effects. It can be concluded on the basis of objective scientific information following appropriate assessment screening, that the Proposed Development, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will not have a significant effect on any European Site. These conclusions are outlined below in a Findings of No Significant Effects Matrix (Table 6.1).

Table 6.1: Findings of No Significant Effects Matrix

Name of project or plan	R610 St. Patrick's Junction Improvement Scheme
Name and location of European Sites	Cork Harbour SPA [004030] located 80 m north from the Proposed Development
Description of the project or plan	• Provision of an upgraded road layout along approximately 0.4 km of Rochestown Road (R610) and c. 0.15 km of Clarke's Hill (L2471), comprising a 6.0 m wide carriageway together with the delivery of safe, high-quality, fully segregated cycling and pedestrian facilities along the length of the route. • Cycle tracks will be 2.4m wide (one way) / 3.4m wide (two-way) with 0.3m buffer; and • Footpath enhancement and widening up to 3m width; • New fully signalised junction at Clarke's Hill and St. Patrick's roundabout on Rochestown Road; • Uncontrolled raised table crossings at 4no. junctions along the route; • Relocation of 1no. existing bus stop along Rochestown Road; • Setback reduction of private property boundaries to facilitate provision of the cycle facilities where required, and; • All associated works to facilitate the development e.g. upgrading and extension of storm drainage network and public lighting, provision of road signage, road markings, bollards, tactile paving, kerbing, traffic signalling and landscaping, as required.
Is the project or plan directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site?	No
Are there other projects or plans that together with the project or plan being assessed could affect the site?	No. There are no identified plans or consented projects which have the potential to act in-combination with the Proposed Development in relation to the identified effects.
The assessment of significance of effects	
Describe how the project or plan (alone or in combination) is likely to affect the Natura 2000 site.	Noise generated by the works has potential for temporary increase in disturbance levels surrounding the proposed development. The proposed development has the potential to cause localised surface-water emissions. However, these are determined not to be likely significant effects.
Explain why these effects are not considered significant	The effect of noise may only reach a small area of the SPA where there is no known winter roost of SCI species. In addition, sound barriers such as buildings, trees and hedgerows are present to buffer the effect of sound on the SPA. Works to the Proposed Development will be contained within the roadway. The Proposed Development crosses the

Name of project or plan	R610 St. Patrick's Junction Improvement Scheme
	Moneygurney_010 river watercourse however, the watercourse is culverted beneath the road. In addition, an existing drainage network is present along the road where water flows to Ronayne's Court Pumping Station. Water is treated prior to discharge. No likely significant effect from surface water emissions on Cork Harbour SPA.
List of agencies consulted: provide contact name and telephone or e-mail address	None
Response to consultation.	N/A
Data collected to carry out the assessment	
Who carried out the assessment?	Lisa O'Dowd Senior Ecologist and Roger Macnaughton Senior Associate Ecologist at Mott MacDonald Ireland.
Sources of data?	Listed throughout this document.
Level of assessment?	Desktop and field study

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A. Planning Applications for In-Combination Assessment

Application Number	Development Description
2140229	Permission to construct 45 no. one, two and three-bedroom apartments in a single building of 3-4 storeys in height over a semi-basement car park, together with all associated site development and infrastructural works.
2140135	Permission for the construction of a 100 no. bed space nursing home and 47 no. independent living units and all associated site development works at Clarke's Hill, Rochestown, Co. Cork. The proposed development comprises of (1) The demolition of an existing dwelling and all associated structures, (2) The construction of a 2 storey over basement nursing home building, 20 no. townhouse units, and 27 apartments in 2 no. 3 storey over basement blocks. Photovoltaic panels are proposed at roof level, (3) A new vehicle access onto Clarke's Hill, (4) And all associated landscaping, car parking, bicycle storage and signage. The proposed site development works include: the construction of a ESB substation, 2 no. external bin stores, the installation of an underground water storage tank and external plant enclosure.
2543910 An Coimisiún Pleanála - Case reference: PL28.500529	Permission for (1) The demolition and removal of existing agricultural sheds/structures; (2) The construction of 72 no. residential units comprising 10 no. 3-bed dwelling houses and 62 no. apartments (comprising 21 no. 1 bed units and 41 no. 2 bed units) in 2 no. blocks ranging in height from 4-5 storeys with solar panels at roof level; (3) The provision of landscaping and amenity areas and all associated access, infrastructure and services including vehicular and pedestrian access to the Woodbrook Road/ Rochestown Road Roundabout; and (4) All associated ancillary development works including vehicular and pedestrian access, car and bicycle parking, footpaths, lighting, drainage, plant (including 1 no. ESB substation and 1 no. water break tank room) bike and bin storage. A Natura Impact Statement (NIS) has been prepared and will be submitted to the planning authority with the application.
HA04.HA0053	The M28 Cork to Ringaskiddy Project is the upgrade of approximately 12.5km of the N28 National Primary Route from the N40 South Ring Road, at Bloomfield Interchange, to Ringaskiddy, Co. Cork. Transport Infrastructure Ireland is the funding authority for this project, and the project has been included in the government's Infrastructure and Capital Investment Plan 2016 – 2021. The N28 corridor itself is part of the Trans-European Transport Network, accessing the Tier 1 Port at Ringaskiddy. This requires that the Port is served by a high-quality road (either a motorway or express road), designed and built for motor traffic. The existing N28 is predominantly a single carriageway road and suffers from significant congestion leading to considerable delays and queuing at peak times at certain locations. The road does not have the capacity to cater for current traffic volumes at peak times or future expected increases in traffic.

