

Comhairle Cathrach Chorcaí

Cork City Council

South Douglas Road Junction Upgrade



**Appropriate Assessment
Screening Report**

October 2020



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Cork City Council

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1.0 Appropriate Assessment Screening Report

Section 177U of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)
Article 6(3) and 6(4) EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC)

Due to the specific context of Cork City relative to the location of the European sites identified below a combined appropriate assessment screening report is used to assess potential impacts on both sites.

1.1 Europe Site Data

Cork Harbour Special Protection Area, Site Code 004030 (See Appendix 1)	
Conservation objective	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as special conservation interests for this SPA.
Qualifying interests	Annex I-listed bird species: bar-tailed godwit, common tern (breeding), golden plover, ruff, whooper swan. Other birds of special conservation interest include black-headed gull, black-tailed godwit, common gull, curlew, dunlin, great crested grebe, grey heron, grey plover, lapwing, lesser black-backed gull, little grebe, oystercatcher, pintail, red-breasted merganser, redshank, shelduck, shoveler, teal, and widgeon. This site is an internationally important wetland site supporting > 20,000 wintering waterfowl.
References and further information	<i>Conservation Objectives for Cork Harbour SPA [004030]</i> (NPWS), <i>Natura 2000 Standard Data Form</i> (NPWS), <i>Site Synopsis Cork Harbour SPA Site Code 004030</i> (NPWS) (see www.npws.ie for further details)

Great Island Channel candidate Special Area Of Conservation, Site Code 001058 (See Appendix 1)	
Conservation objective	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected.
Qualifying interests	Annex I listed habitats: mudflats, sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide, estuaries, spartina swards, Atlantic salt meadows.
References and further information	<i>Conservation Objectives for Great Island Channel SAC [001058]</i> (NPWS), <i>Natura 2000 Standard Data Form</i> (NPWS), <i>Site Synopsis Great Island Channel Site Code 001058</i> (NPWS) (see www.npws.ie for further details)

2.0 Details of Proposed Development	
Reference no.	South Douglas Road Junction Upgrade
Development consent type	Local authority own development (Part 8 Planning Development Regulations 2001)
Development location	The project encompasses the R851 regional road and junction with N40 eastbound carriageway off slip road and junction with Willow Park and Gaelscoil na Dúglaise Primary School, Cork City
Distance from cSAC	5.5km
Distance from SPA	450m
Description of development	<p>The proposed development consists of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replacement of the existing roundabout at the Junction of the South Douglas Road (R851), the N40 West Douglas off ramp and Willow Park, with a new traffic signalised T-junction • Improved pedestrian facilities with extension of footpaths and provision of pedestrian crossings • Provision of new raised off road cycle tracks on South Douglas Road (R851), N40 West Douglas off ramp and Willow Park • Relocation of the bus stop on the northern side of the South Douglas Road • Coordination of proposed traffic signals with existing traffic signals at the West Douglas/N40 On Ramp junction • Revised layout of road into and out of Willow Park and Gaelscoil na Dúglaise • Revised layout of traffic lanes on the N40 West Douglas off ramp.
Relevant strategies or policies	Cork Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy 2040, City Development Plan, Douglas Village Land Use and Transport Strategy
EIS submitted?	No
Screening report/NIS submitted?	Yes

3.0 Significant Impacts Checklist

Does the project have the potential to		Yes or No
(1)	Reduce the area of key habitats?	No
(2)	Reduce the population of key species?	No
(3)	Change the balance between key species?	No
(4)	Reduce diversity of the site?	No
(5)	Result in disturbance that could affect population size or density or the balance between key species?	No
(6)	Result in fragmentation?	No
(7)	Result in loss or reduction of key features (e.g. tree cover, tidal exposure, annual flooding, etc.)?	No
(8)	Cause delays in progress towards achieving the conservation objectives of the site?	No
(9)	Interrupt progress towards achieving the conservation objectives of the site?	No
(10)	Disrupt those factors that help to maintain the favourable conditions of the site?	No
(11)	Interfere with the balance, distribution and density of key species that are the indicators of the favourable condition of the site?	No
(12)	Cause changes to the vital defining aspects (e.g. nutrient balance) that determine how the site functions as a habitat or ecosystem?	No
(13)	Change the dynamics of the relationships (between, for example, soil and water or plants and animals) that define the structure and/or function of the site?	No
(14)	Interfere with predicted or expected natural changes to the site (such as water dynamics or chemical composition)?	No

Comments or Notes	
(1)	All development activity will take place within the site works boundary and is within the footprint of existing carriageways and footpaths.. No works will take place within any Natura 2000 site. No material or spoil from the works will be deposited in any Natura 2000 site. There will be no encroachment on the habitats or species of any Natura 2000 site.
(2)	There will be no loss of Natura 2000 site habitat area, no fragmentation of the habitats of Natura 2000 sites, no disturbance to the qualifying species of the Natura 2000 sites, no impacts on population density of these species, no impacts on water resources and no impacts on water quality of the Natura 2000 sites.
(3)	There will be no significant emissions to air or soil during construction or operation. There will also be no significant noise emissions during the construction or operational phase.
(4)	In addition to the proposed development, other relevant proposed or permitted projects in the surrounding areas of Cork City have been considered. Due to the nature and short-term duration of the works and the location of the proposed development in relation to any Natura 2000 Sites, there is unlikely to be any significant impacts as a result of cumulative or in-combination effects with the proposed development.

4.0 Screening Conclusion Statement	
<i>In view of the above it is considered that (tick one box only):</i>	
	<p>Appropriate Assessment is not required</p> <p>The proposed development is directly connected / necessary to the conservation management of a site.</p>
✓	<p>Appropriate Assessment is not required It can be excluded through screening that the proposed development will have No significant effects on the sites.</p>
	<p>Further information is required</p> <p>Potential impacts have been identified through initial screening and/or there is insufficient information to enable the planning authority to screen out impacts, but on balance it is determined that the issues could be resolved through minor modifications to the proposed development or by appropriate conditions. The information required is specified below.</p>
	<p>Appropriate Assessment is required</p> <p>Significant issues have been identified and/or significant effects are certain, likely or uncertain, and the submission of a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) is required, or the proposed development must be rejected.</p>

Comments or Notes	
(1)	There is no potential for the proposed development to significantly impact on Natura 2000 Sites.
(2)	The proposed development is not directly connected with, or necessary to the conservation management of any Natura 2000 sites.
(3)	The proposed development, alone or in combination with other projects, is not likely to have significant effects on Natura 2000 sites in view of their conservation objectives.
(4)	<p>Please refer to Appendix 1</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Brief Fact Sheet Cork Harbour Special Protection Area, Site Code 004030 2. Brief Fact Sheet Great Island Channel Candidate Special Area of Conservation, Site Code 001058

	Name	Position	Signature	Date
Approved on behalf of Cork City Council	G. O'Beirne	Director of Services Infrastructure Development		

5.0 Appendix 1

5.1 Brief Fact Sheet Cork Harbour Special Protection Area, Site Code 004030

Brief site summary

The site is of major international ornithological significance and amongst the top five sites in the country. Cork Harbour is a large, sheltered bay system adjacent to a major urban and industrial centre with several river estuaries including those of the Rivers Lee and Douglas. The SPA comprises most of the main intertidal areas of the Harbour including the Douglas River Estuary and inner Lough Mahon. 94% of the site comprises tidal rivers, estuaries, mudflats, sand flats and lagoons (including saltwork basins). The site provides both feeding and roosting sites for birds.

Conservation objective

To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as special conservation interests for this SPA

Designation Criteria

- Internationally important wetland site supporting > 20,000 wintering waterfowl
- Supports breeding colony of Common Tern (Annex I listed species)
- Supports internationally important (>1% of international population) population of Black-tailed Godwit and Redshank
- Bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA marked in the lists below with *

Annex I Habitats (EU Habitats)

Directive 92/43/EEC) None

Annex I Species (EU Birds Directive 79/409/EEC) (2009/147/EC, codified version)

Bar-tailed Godwit *	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>
Common Tern (breeding) *	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>
Golden Plover *	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>
Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>
Whooper Swan	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>

Other birds of note

Black-headed Gull *	<i>Chroicocephalus (larus) ridibundus</i>
Black-tailed Godwit *	<i>Limosa limosa</i>
Common Gull *	<i>Larus canus</i>
Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>
Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>
Curlew *	<i>Numenius arquata</i>
Dunlin *	<i>Calidris alpina</i>
Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>
Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>
Great Crested Grebe *	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>
Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>

Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>
Grey Heron *	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
Grey Plover *	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>
Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>
Lapwing *	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>
Lesser Black-backed Gull *	<i>Larus fuscus</i>
Little Grebe *	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>
Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>
Oystercatcher *	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>
Pintail *	<i>Anas acuta</i>
Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>
Red-breasted Merganser *	<i>Mergus serrator</i>
Redshank *	<i>Tringa totanus</i>
Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>
Shelduck *	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>
Shoveler *	<i>Anas clypeata</i>
Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>
Teal *	<i>Anas crecca</i>
Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>
Widgeon *	<i>Anas penelope</i>

Other

The intertidal mudflats support a range of macro-invertebrates, algae and plant species.

5.2 Brief Fact Sheet Great Island Channel Candidate Special Area of Conservation, Site Code 001058

Brief site summary

The site is of ecological importance for its examples of intertidal mud and sand flats and Atlantic salt meadows. Both habitats are fairly extensive (88% of the site comprises tidal rivers, estuaries, mudflats, sand flats and lagoons) and of moderate to good quality. The site is an integral part of Cork Harbour (see Appendix 1) and of high ornithological importance supporting 50% of the wintering waterfowl, and containing three of the top five areas for wintering waterfowl, within the Harbour. All the mudflats support feeding birds.

Conservation objective

To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected.

Designation Criteria

- ☐ Annex I listed habitats including tidal sand and mudflats and Atlantic salt meadows
- ☐ Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected marked in the lists below with *

Annex I Habitats (EU Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC)

Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide (62% site coverage) * Estuaries (20%)
Spartina swards (10%) Atlantic salt meadows (2%) *

Annex I Species (EU Birds Directive 79/409/EEC (2009/147/EC, codified version) Bar-tailed Godwit

Limosa lapponica
Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

Other birds of note

Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>
Common Merganser	<i>Mergus merganser</i>
Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>
Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>
Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>
Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>
Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>
Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>
Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>
Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>
Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>
Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>
Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>
Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>
Widgeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>

SOUTH DOUGLAS ROAD JUNCTION UPGRADE

Other

The intertidal mudflats support a range of macro-invertebrates, algae and plant species. Cetaceans (dolphins, porpoises and whales), seals and otters are also likely to occur within the site or in the Harbour area generally.