



## 4. THE ENVIRONMENTAL BASELINE

### 4.1 Introduction

An evaluation and a characterisation of the current state of the environment likely to be affected by the Draft Strategy was undertaken to inform the SEA process. This section of the Draft SEA Environmental Report documents this evaluation. The following Environmental Components were considered during this evaluation:

- Population & Human Health
- Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna
- Landscape, Seascape & Visual Amenity
- Cultural Heritage - Archaeological & Architectural
- Soils
- Land Use
- Air Quality & Noise
- Water
- Material Assets
- Tourism & Recreation
- Climate Change

Baseline environmental information for the local authority functional area (herein referred to as the 'study area') was gathered using available environmental datasets. The evaluation of the baseline environment was informed by the SEA Scoping Report produced and the consultation responses received during the SEA Scoping process. It was also guided and informed by the in-depth experience and expert judgement of the SEA Environmental Report Authors.

This section of the Draft SEA Environmental Report included information on the state of the environment within the defined study area (Figure 4-1), including maps of individual environmental components, environmental sensitivity mapping and a description of the baseline environment under the Environmental Components identified by the SEA Directive and transposing Regulations (i.e. population and human health, biodiversity and flora and fauna, soil, water, air and climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between these factors). Existing environmental problems which are relevant to the Strategy were identified and examined under each Environmental Component heading.

This Draft SEA Environmental Report also considered the zone of influence for the Strategy and includes baseline information beyond the Strategy boundary for certain environmental components (e.g., the status of shared water bodies).



Information provided in this section is based on readily available baseline data from web-based searches and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) information. A key resource that has been used throughout the SEA process is the EPA's SEA Spatial Information Sources Inventory<sup>10</sup>. The data presented in this section of the Draft SEA Environmental Report is as up-to-date and as accurate as possible and is presented in a readily accessible format, where possible.

The interrelationships between Environmental Components are addressed throughout this section, as appropriate, under each Environmental Component heading. A summary of Environmental Component interrelationships is also provided.

This section of the Draft SEA Environmental Report examines the likely evolution of the baseline environmental in the absence of the Strategy being implemented (i.e., in the 'do nothing' or 'do minimum' scenario).

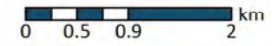
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<sup>10</sup> Environmental Protection Agency. 2022. SEA Spatial Information Sources: Available at [Strategic Environmental Assessment | Environmental Protection Agency \(epa.ie\)](https://www.epa.ie/assessment/sea)



Legend

 Local Authority Boundaries

<b>Local Authority Boundary</b>	
Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy	
<b>FIGURE NO:</b>	4.1
<b>CLIENT:</b>	CORK CITY COUNCIL
<b>DATE:</b> 20/11/2023	<b>SCALE:</b> 1:70,000 @ A3
	



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## 4.2 Population and Human Health

In the 2022 Census, the total population of Cork City was 224,004 persons<sup>11</sup>.

Cork City is identified by the Southern Regional Assembly Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) 2019-2031 as being part of the Cork Metropolitan Area. The transitional population projection for the Cork Metropolitan Area until 2031 is 408,826 persons<sup>12</sup>.

There are features within the emerging Draft Strategy which could influence the human environment in the city and interact with various environmental components.

With regard to human health, impacts relevant to the SEA are those which arise as a result of interactions with environmental vectors (i.e. environmental components such as air, water or soil through which contaminants or pollutants, which have the potential to cause harm, can be transported so that they come into contact with human beings). Hazards or nuisances to human health can arise as a result of exposure to these vectors arising from incompatible adjacent land uses, for example.

### 4.2.1 Key Considerations relating to the Draft Strategy

The key considerations in relation to Population and Human Health are as follows:

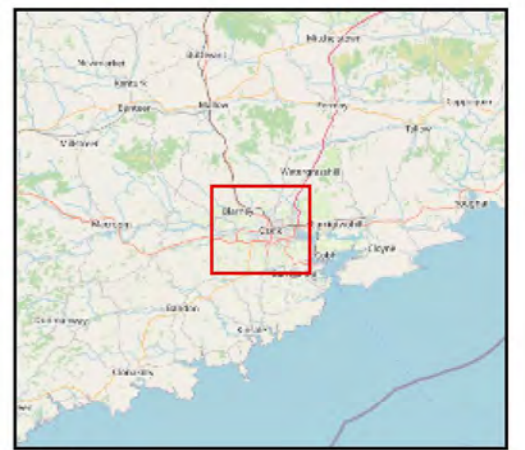
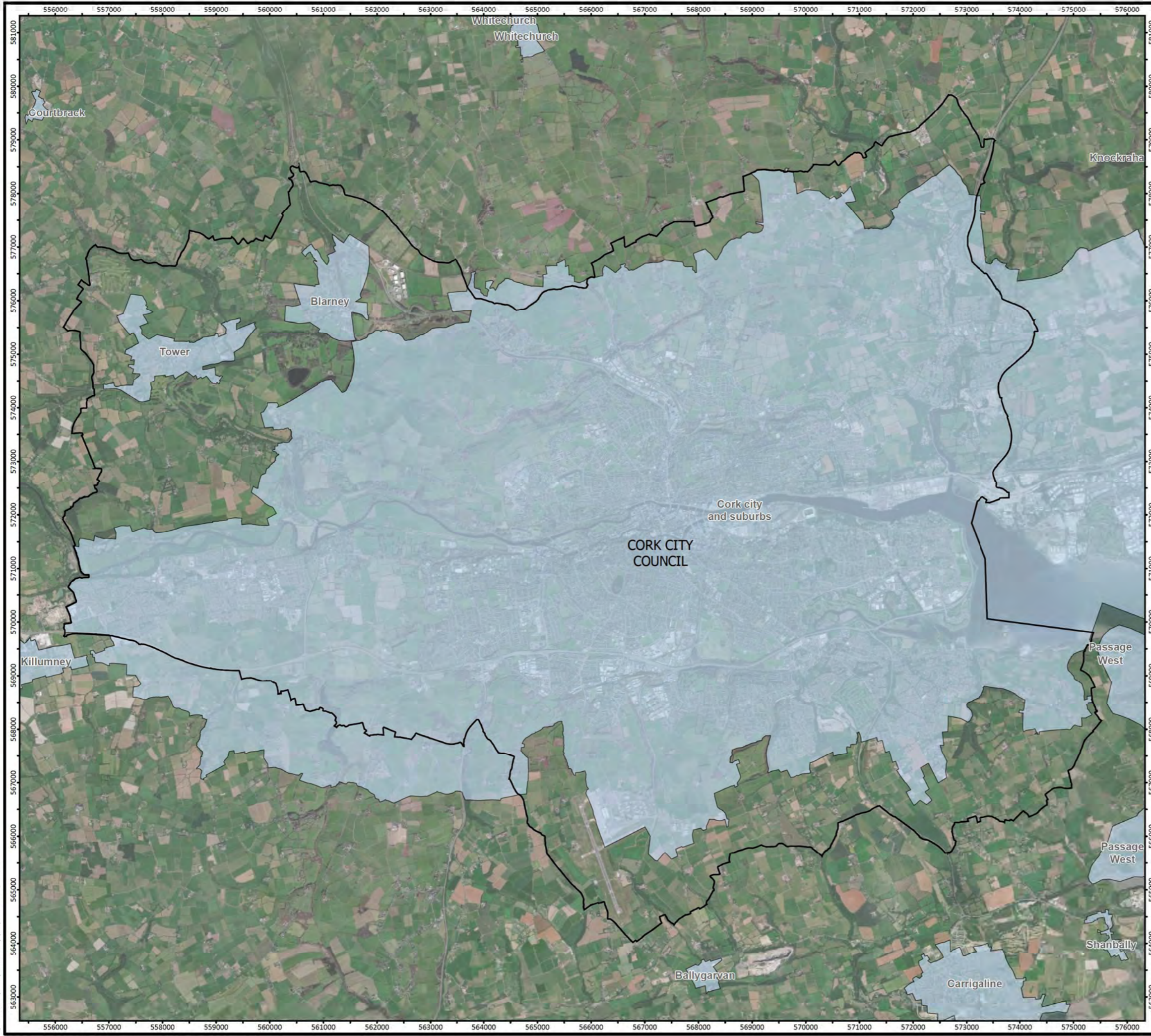
- EV infrastructure development may influence the human environment and land use in the urban setting of Cork City.
- Existing settlement patterns will influence the location of EV charge points.
- The construction of EV infrastructure can cause temporary disruption to the local community, such as noise, dust, disruption to services/utilities and traffic etc.

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<sup>11</sup> Central Statistics Office. 2022. F1004A – Population (cso.ie) <https://data.cso.ie/table/F1004A>

<sup>12</sup> *Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Southern Region 2019-2031*

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- Legend
- Local Authority Boundaries
  - Census Settlements

<b>Major Settlement Pattern</b>	
Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy	
<b>FIGURE NO:</b>	4.2
<b>CLIENT:</b>	CORK CITY COUNCIL
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### 4.3 Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna

The SEA considers available information on designated sites of conservation interest as well as protected species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats which have high ecological value. The SEA has also identified data sources which may be appropriate to local, project level development and assessments.

There are a number of considerations for nature conservation designations in Cork City including:

**Table 4-1: Designated Ecological Sites and Protected Species**

Environmental Features	Description
UNESCO <sup>13</sup> (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation) World Heritage and Biosphere sites	There is no World Heritage or UNESCO designation within Cork City that is of natural and cultural importance, however, Cork City achieved a UNESCO award as a Learning City in 2015.
Special Areas of Conservation <sup>14</sup> (SACs) <sup>15</sup>	Designated under the Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora). <b>There are no designated SACs within, partially within or adjacent to the Strategy area.</b>
Special Protection Areas <sup>16</sup> (SPAs) <sup>17</sup>	Designated under the Birds Directive (EC Directive 200/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds). <b>There is 1 designated SPA partially within the Strategy area; Cork Harbour SPA (004030).</b>
RAMSAR sites <sup>18</sup>	The Convention of Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Water Fowl Habitat, was established at Ramsar in 1971 and ratified by Ireland in 1984. The main aim of the Convention is to secure the designation by each contracting state of wetlands in its territory for inclusion in a list of wetlands of international importance for waterfowl. This entails the commitment of each contracting state to a policy of protection and management of the designated wetlands, and of formulating and implementing planning so as to promote the conservation of designated wetlands and, as far as possible, the wise use of wetlands in its territory. Ireland presently has 45 sites designated as Wetlands of International Importance, with surface areas of 66,994 hectares. <b>There is 1 designated Ramsar site partially within the city boundary; Cork Harbour.</b>
Natural Heritage Areas <sup>19</sup> (NHAs)	NHAs are designated due to their national conservation value for ecological and/or geological/geomorphological heritage. They cover nationally important semi-natural and natural habitats, landforms or geomorphological features, wildlife plant and animal species or a diversity of these natural attributes. NHAs are designated under the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000. <b>There are no designated NHAs within the Strategy area.</b>

<sup>13</sup> [UNESCO Sites in Ireland - HeritageMaps.ie - data.gov.ie](https://www.heragemaps.ie/data.gov.ie)

<sup>14</sup> [Designated site data | National Parks & Wildlife Service \(npws.ie\)](https://www.npws.ie/designated-site-data)

<sup>15</sup> [Habitats Directive \(1992/43/EEC\) - habitats and species listed in Annex I and II](https://www.npws.ie/habitats-directive-1992-43-eeec)

<sup>16</sup> [Designated site data | National Parks & Wildlife Service \(npws.ie\)](https://www.npws.ie/designated-site-data)

<sup>17</sup> [Birds Directive \(2009/147/EEC\)](https://www.npws.ie/birds-directive-2009-147-eeec)

<sup>18</sup> [Ramsar Sites - Datasets - data.gov.ie](https://www.data.gov.ie/dataset/ramsar-sites)

<sup>19</sup> [Natural Heritage Areas \(NHA\) | National Parks & Wildlife Service \(npws.ie\)](https://www.npws.ie/natural-heritage-areas)



Environmental Features	Description
Proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs) <sup>20</sup>	pNHAs were published on a non-statutory basis in 1995 but have not since been statutorily proposed or designated. These sites are of significance for wildlife and habitats. <b>There are 11 pNHAs within or partially within the City, of which include: Lee Valley, Shournagh Valley, Blarney Castle Woods, Douglas River Estuary, Glanmire Wood, Cork Lough, Dunkettle Shore, Ballincollig Cave, Blarney Lake, Ardamadane Wood and Blarney Bog.</b>
Tree Preservation Order (TPO)	Tree Preservation Orders may be made under Section 45 of the Local Government (Planning and Development) Act, 1963 and subsequent acts. Part XIII of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 sets out the provisions for TPOs. TPOs can be made in the interest of amenity or the environment and allow for the protection of individual or groups of trees. <b>12 TPOs within the City have been identified within the City Development Plan.</b>
Flora Protection Order Sites <sup>21</sup>	The Flora (Protection) Order, 2022 (S.I. No. 235 of 2022) gives legal protection to 65 species of bryophytes in the Republic of Ireland (25 liverworts and 40 mosses). The current list of plant species protected by Section 21 of the Wildlife Act, 1976 is set out in the Flora (Protection) Order, 2022, which supersedes orders made in 1980, 1987, 1999 and 2015. <b>There are 3 designated Flora Protection Order Sites in the City; near Cork City (Bryum intermedium), Cork City (Scleropodium touretii) and Blarney (Entosthodon muhlenbergii).</b>
Wildfowl Sanctuaries <sup>22</sup> (see S.I. 192 of 1979)	Wildfowl Sanctuaries are areas that have been excluded from the 'Open Season Order' so that game birds can rest and feed undisturbed. There are 68 sanctuaries in the State. Shooting of game birds is not allowed in these sanctuaries. <b>There is 1 Wildfowl Sanctuary within the City: The Lough (WFS-12).</b>
Salmonid Waters <sup>23</sup>	Salmonid waters are designated and protected as under the European Communities (Quality of Salmonid Waters) Regulations 1988 (SI No. 293 of 1988). Designated Salmonid Waters are capable of supporting salmon ( <i>Salmo salar</i> ), trout ( <i>Salmo trutta</i> ), char ( <i>Salvelinus</i> ) and whitefish ( <i>Coregonus</i> ). <b>The River Lee is a protected salmonid water.</b>
CORINE Landcover <sup>24</sup>	Land cover is the observed physical cover, as seen from the ground or through remote sensing, including for example natural or planted vegetation, water and human constructions which cover the earth's surface. <b>The most dominant land cover type is urban.</b>

<sup>20</sup> [EPA Maps](#)

<sup>21</sup> [Flora Protection Order Map Viewer \(npws.ie\)](#)

<sup>22</sup> [Wildfowl Sanctuaries | National Parks & Wildlife Service \(npws.ie\)](#)

<sup>23</sup> [Register of Protected Areas - Salmonid Water Regs Table - Datasets - data.gov.ie](#)

<sup>24</sup> [EPA Maps](#)



Additionally, the SEA considered non designated sites for impacts with regards to aspects such as:

**Table 4-2: Ecological Connectivity and Non-designated Habitats**

	Description
Ecological connectivity and networks (including stepping stones and corridors)	Coastal systems, riparian habitats, hedgerow and other blue and green infrastructure networks. Ecological connectivity and networks will be a key consideration along with invasive species - particularly those listed on the Third Schedule to the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 [S.I.477/2011].
Other sites of high biodiversity value or ecological importance	Semi-natural habitats in National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) national surveys (native woodlands, reef systems, tidal habitats, grasslands, peatlands etc.). Trees and woodlands of national importance have been identified.

The SEA made use of available data sources including those from the NPWS, the EPA’s Framework National Ecological Network for Ireland and CORINE land cover mapping.

As well as considerations related to European sites - a focus was placed on protected species outside of these designations such as bats<sup>25</sup>, breeding birds<sup>26</sup>, badgers<sup>27</sup> etc. as well as all related species listed within the Flora (Protection) Order, 2022 ([S.I. No. 235 of 2022](#))<sup>28</sup>.

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<sup>25</sup> The Habitats Directive ([1992/43/EEC](#)) and Birds Directive ([2009/205/EEC](#)) provides legal protection for habitats and species of European importance. The overall aim of the Habitat and Birds Directives are to maintain or restore the “favourable conservation status” of habitats and species of European Community Interest. These habitats and species are listed in the Habitats and Birds Directives (Habitats Directive as above and Directive 2009/205/EC on the conservation of wild birds) with Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) designated to afford protection to the most vulnerable among them. These two designations are collectively known and referred to as European sites. Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directives set out the decision-making tests for plans and projects likely to affect such sites. Article 6(3) establishes the requirement for AA. These requirements are implemented in the Republic of Ireland by the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (as amended) and the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). Further to the requirements of considerations related to European sites protected Annex IV of the Habitats Directive identifies priority species which are afforded protection in their own right - these include all Irish species of bats. Bats are also protected under the Irish Wildlife Acts, 1976 and 2000.

<sup>26</sup> Irish Wildlife Acts, 1976 (as amended)

<sup>27</sup> Irish Wildlife Act 1976 (as amended) and Bern Convention Appendix III

<sup>28</sup> Which gives legal protection to 68 species of vascular plants 65 species of bryophytes in the Republic of Ireland (25 liverworts and 40 mosses). The current list of plant species protected by Section 21 of the Wildlife Acts is set out in the Flora (Protection) Order, 1999 (as amended).





#### 4.3.1 Key Considerations relating to the Draft Strategy

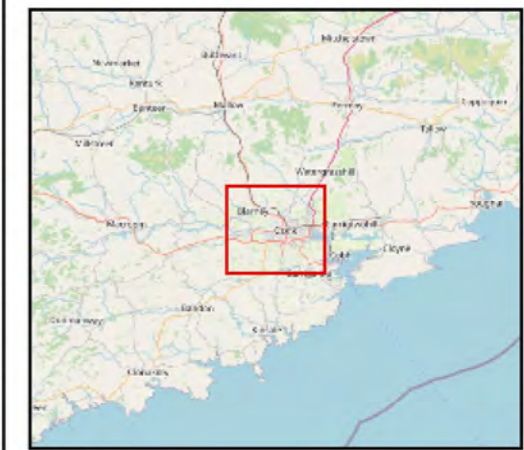
The key considerations in relation to Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna are as follows:

- The potential for effects on non-designated biodiversity features e.g. important habitats and species outside designated sites - particularly with regard to barriers to movement and displacement.
- The potential for effects on protected areas and other Conservation Interest Sites e.g. refuge for fauna or flora, wildfowl reserves.<sup>29</sup>

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<sup>29</sup> AA Screening has concluded that the Draft Strategy is not likely to have any significant effects on European sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects,

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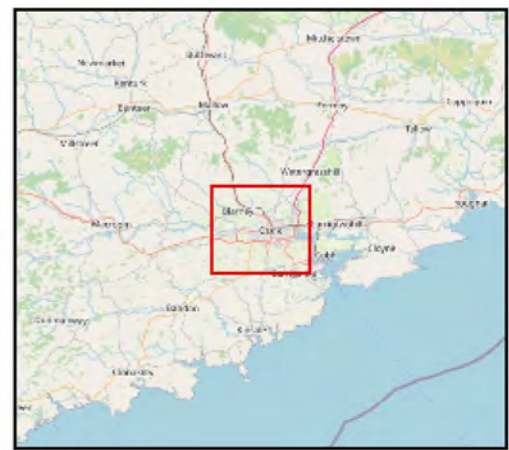
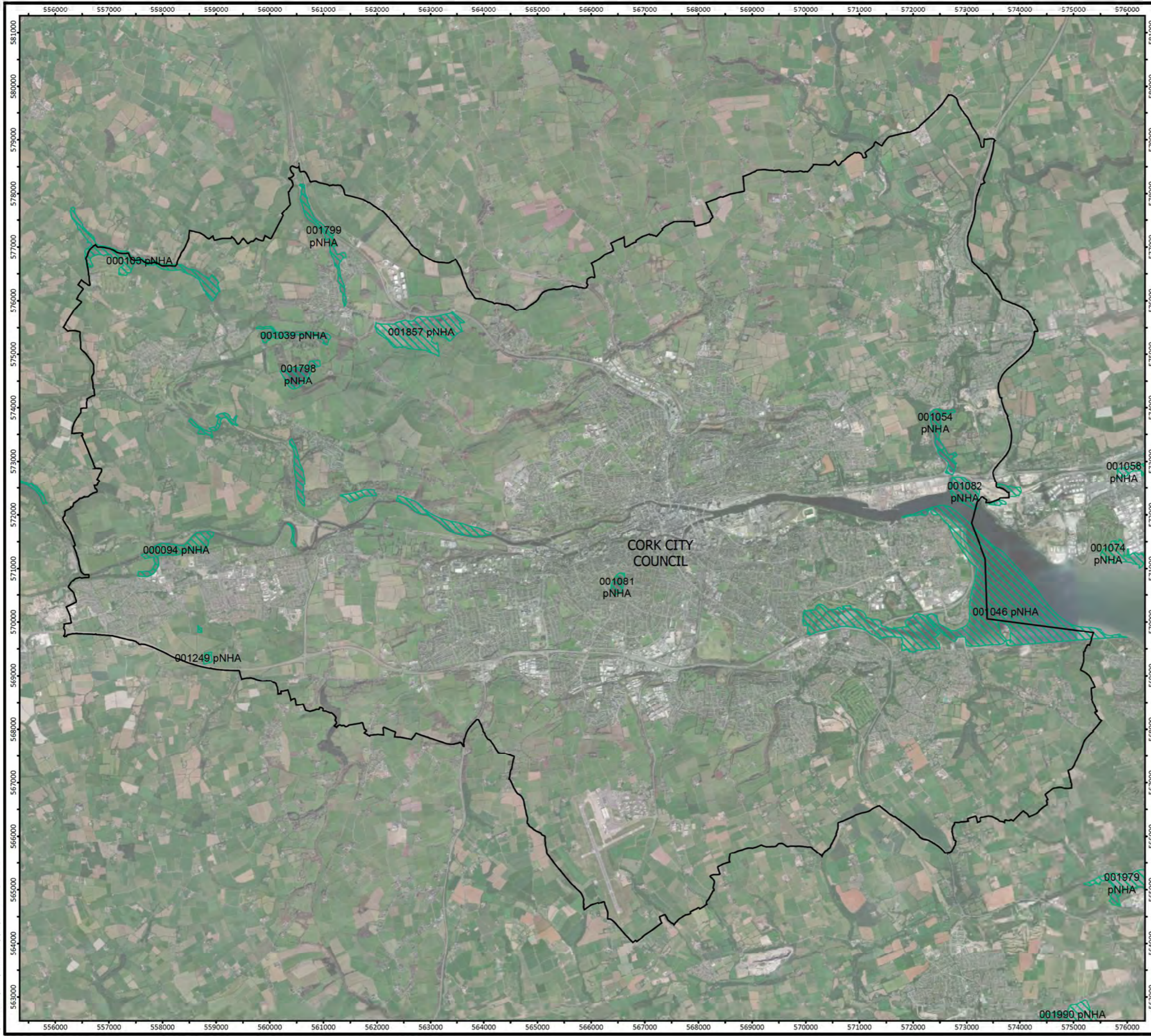
**Legend**

- Local Authority Boundaries
- Special Protection Area (SPA)
- Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protected Areas	
Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy	
FIGURE NO:	4.3
CLIENT: CORK CITY COUNCIL	
DATE: 20/11/2023	SCALE: 1:70,000 @ A3

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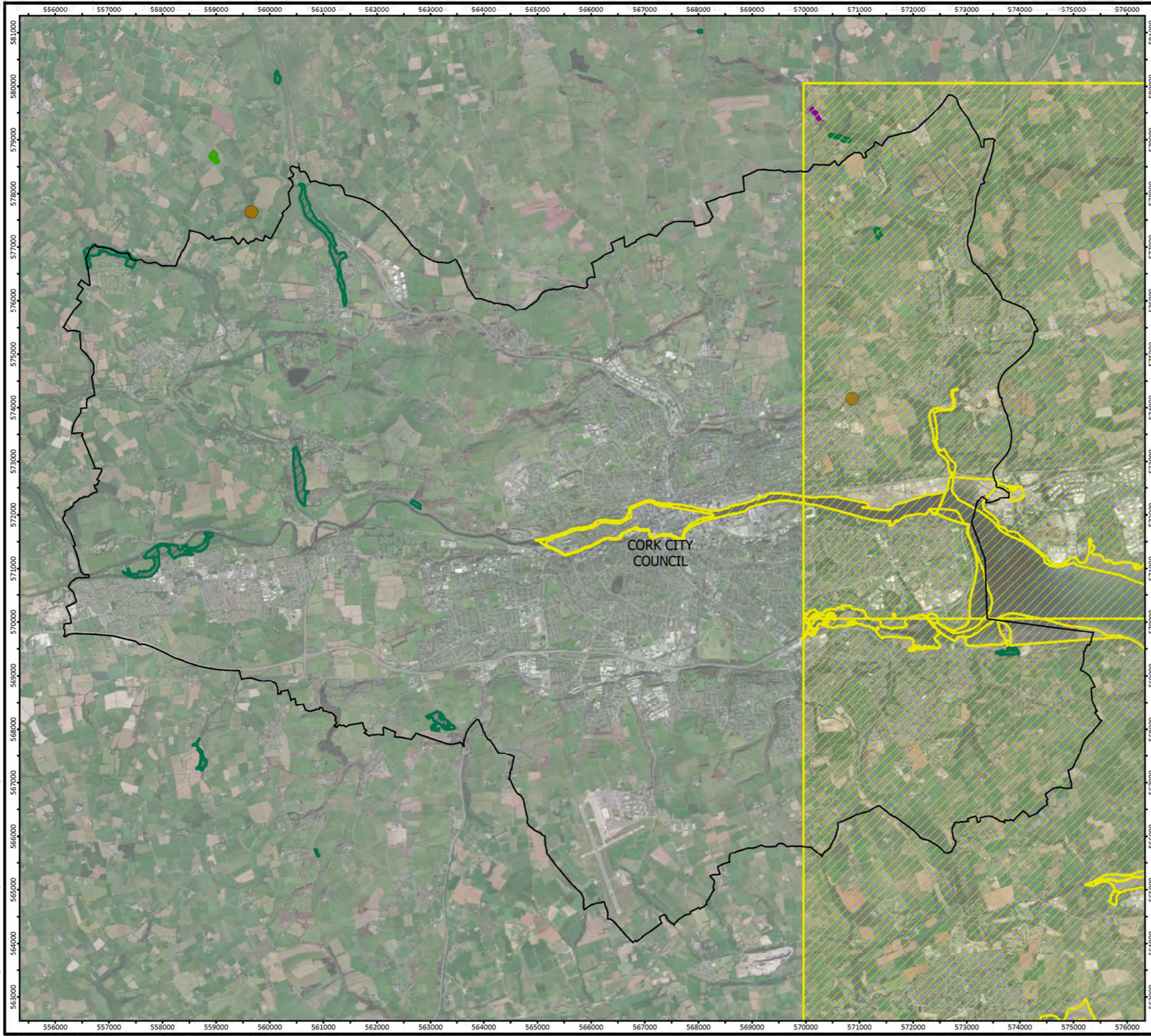


**Legend**

- Local Authority Boundaries
- Natural Heritage Areas
- Proposed Natural Heritage Areas

Natural Heritage Areas and proposed Natural Heritage Areas in Ireland	
Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy	
<b>FIGURE NO:</b>	4.4
<b>CLIENT:</b>	CORK CITY COUNCIL
<b>DATE:</b> 20/11/2023	<b>SCALE:</b> 1:70,000 @ A3

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- Legend**
- Local Authority Boundaries
  - Article17HabitatsDetailedDistributionPointGDPR**
  - Bogs, Mires and Fens
  - Article17HabitatsDetailedDistributionPolygonGDPR**
  - Coastal
  - Forests
  - Grasslands
  - Heath and Scrub

**Potential Habitat Sensitivities - Areas likely to contain Annex I habitats**

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Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy

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**FIGURE NO:** 4.5

**CLIENT:** CORK CITY COUNCIL

**DATE:** 20/11/2023      **SCALE:** 1:70,000 @ A3

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#### 4.4 Landscape, Seascape and Visual Amenity

The landscape of Cork City is formed by a unique set of natural and built elements that have evolved over time. The distinctive ridgelines and topography to the north of the city are formed by the lower ranges of the Boggeragh Mountains to the north-west and the Nagle Mountains to the north. The southern ridges belong to the Shehy Mountains, the peaks of which lie to the east of County Cork. The rivers Lee and Sulhane merge around Macroom to the west of the county, and flow east along the post-glacial valley into the Lee proper, through Cork City, into Lough Mahon, Cork Harbour and south into the Atlantic Ocean.

The Port of Cork is a port of national significance and a significant driver of economic development in the Cork region. The Port of Cork is considered a ‘Tier 1’ Port by the Southern Regional Assembly RSES.

The Cork City Council Landscape Study (2008)<sup>30</sup> divides the city into 8 Landscape Character Areas. Areas of High Landscape Value display an intrinsic landscape character and a special amenity value. Landscape Preservation Zones are areas in need of special protection as their character and amenity value is considered to be to highly sensitive to development. These must be considered when assessing planning applications.

In addition to LCAs, areas of High Visual Amenity have also been identified in the City. These are presented in the table below.

**Table 4-3: Landscape Character Areas and Areas of High Visual Amenity**

Environmental Features	Description
Landscape Character Areas (LCAs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Estuarine / Riverine</li> <li>• Natural Harbour</li> <li>• Sub-urban Residential</li> <li>• Urban Sylvan Character</li> <li>• Historic Urban Core</li> <li>• Urban Industrial / Commercial / Institutional</li> <li>• Fine-grained / inner-city residential</li> <li>• Rural Agricultural</li> </ul>
Areas of High Visual Amenity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Glen River Corridor / sections to the south of Bride river corridor</li> <li>• St. Finbarr’s Diocesan Seminary Grounds</li> <li>• Lee Fields</li> <li>• Sunday’s Well / Mardyke</li> <li>• Southern slopes of Tivoli and Montenotte ridges</li> <li>• Glanmire Woods / Glashaboy river corridor</li> <li>• Lee Fields</li> <li>• Mardyke</li> <li>• UCC grounds</li> <li>• The Lough</li> <li>• St. Finbarr’s Cemetery</li> </ul>

<sup>30</sup> Cork City Landscape Study (2008). This Study referred to the pre-2019 City area, and Cork City Council will undertake a revised landscape study that addresses the entirety of the administrative area including the urban towns, villages and suburbs.



Environmental Features	Description
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Marina</li><li>• Mahon Golf Course</li><li>• Bessboro Farm / Grounds</li></ul>

The above and any other or emerging landscape designations were considered by the assessment.

The SEA assessment of landscape utilised information from the following sources:

- Cork City environmental sensitivity mapping
- The National Landscape Strategy for Ireland
- Tree Preservation Orders
- Forest cover/Indicative Forest Strategies<sup>31</sup>
- Cork City Development Plan
- Cork City Council Landscape Study (2008)

#### 4.4.1 Key Considerations relating to the Draft Strategy

The key considerations in relation to Landscape, Seascape and Visual Amenity are as follows:

- Sensitivity of landscape and visual amenity to change from EV infrastructure development, in particular sensitive, historic townscape.

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<sup>31</sup> Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine



## 4.5 Cultural Heritage - Archaeological and Architectural

Archaeological sites are legally protected<sup>32</sup>. This section of the Draft SEA Environmental Report includes information on the archaeological heritage of Cork City. One of the primary sources of information for known archaeological features is the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP)<sup>33</sup>. The RMP is an inventory of sites and areas of archaeological significance.

There are 60 archaeological sites within Cork City Centre including standing stones and medieval walls and c. 400 entries to the RMP within the surrounding towns, villages and hinterland. Churches, houses, distilleries, factories and graveyards are amongst the most common recorded monuments and sites of significant archaeological, historic and cultural importance include St. Francis' Well, Skiddy's Castle, and Sunday's Well. Clusters of archaeological heritage are concentrated around the City's historic core and within the centres of other settlements in the Strategy area. The City's historic core consists of the Medieval City and Georgian City with many sites of significant archaeological interest. Cork City Centre is also designated a Zone of Archaeological Potential. The locations of the known archaeological sites are detailed in Figure 4-6.

This Draft SEA Environmental Report has also included information on the architectural heritage of Cork City including that relating to designations such as the Record of Protected Structures (RPS). Local authorities compile and maintain the RPSs<sup>34</sup>; these RPSs are listed in the County and City Development Plans and some are available in digital map format. The RPS for Cork City Council can be found in Volume 3 of the City Development Plan 2022-2028. There are hundreds of entries to the RPS within the City<sup>35</sup>, which include many notable buildings such as: St. Fin Barre's Cathedral, Elizabeth Fort and City Hall. Cork City has an important vernacular heritage with many important historic buildings and structures. Historic Street Character Areas are designated within Cork City and consist of groups of buildings with architectural and social interest, including a number of older residential areas outside the City Centre. Individual buildings of character are also identified, including farmhouses, cottages, stone walls and other local features that contribute to the architectural heritage of the area.

It is acknowledged that the register of protected structures documented in CDPs may not represent all Ministerial recommended sites/structures which are included in the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH)<sup>36</sup>. The purpose of the NIAH is to identify, record, and evaluate the post-1700 heritage of Ireland and there are over 50,000 listings on the NIAH in Ireland (DAHRRG, 2022). These provisions include historic gardens, designed landscapes and underwater archaeological heritage<sup>37</sup>.

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage has developed the Heritage Ireland 2030<sup>38</sup> plan, published in February 2022, serving the purpose of informing the decision-making process. An Architectural Conservation Area (ACA) is a place, area, group of structures or townscape designated for its special characteristics and distinctive features. An ACA may or may not include Protected Structures. In an ACA, protection is placed on the external appearance of such areas or structures. There are 42 ACAs designated within the city.

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<sup>32</sup> National Monuments Acts 1930 (as amended), the National Cultural Institutions Act 1997 (as amended) and the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)

<sup>33</sup> Data available at [National Monuments Service - Archaeological Survey of Ireland - Datasets - data.gov.ie](https://data.gov.ie/national-monuments-service-archaeological-survey-of-ireland-datasets)

<sup>34</sup> Under Section 51 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended).

<sup>35</sup> *Cork City Development Plan 2022-2028*

<sup>36</sup> Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1999 (as amended) Data available at [National Inventory of Architectural Heritage \(NIAH\) National Dataset - Datasets - data.gov.ie](https://data.gov.ie/national-inventory-of-architectural-heritage-niah-national-dataset-datasets)

<sup>37</sup> Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. 2015. Advice to the Public on Ireland's Underwater Archaeological Heritage

<sup>38</sup> Available at [Heritage Ireland 2030 | gov.ie/housing \(www.gov.ie\)](https://www.gov.ie/housing)



The SEA assessment of Cultural Heritage - Archaeological and Architectural utilised information from the following sources:

- The Department of Arts, Heritage Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs<sup>39</sup> (including underwater archaeology such as wreck data<sup>40</sup>)
- National Monuments Service (including the Underwater Unit)
- Built Heritage and Architectural Policy Section (the NIAH)<sup>41</sup>
- City Development Plan 2022-2028
- Heritage Council
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

#### 4.5.1 Key Considerations relating to the Draft Strategy

The key considerations in relation to Cultural Heritage are as follows:

- The potential impact of the development of EV Charging Infrastructure on existing and unknown archaeological sites, and architectural heritage sites, including Historic Street Character Areas and protected structures.

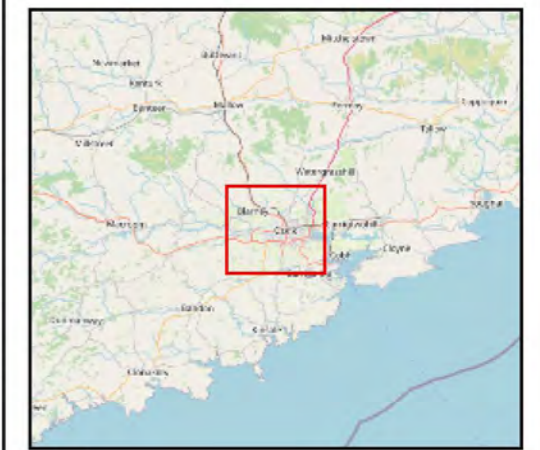
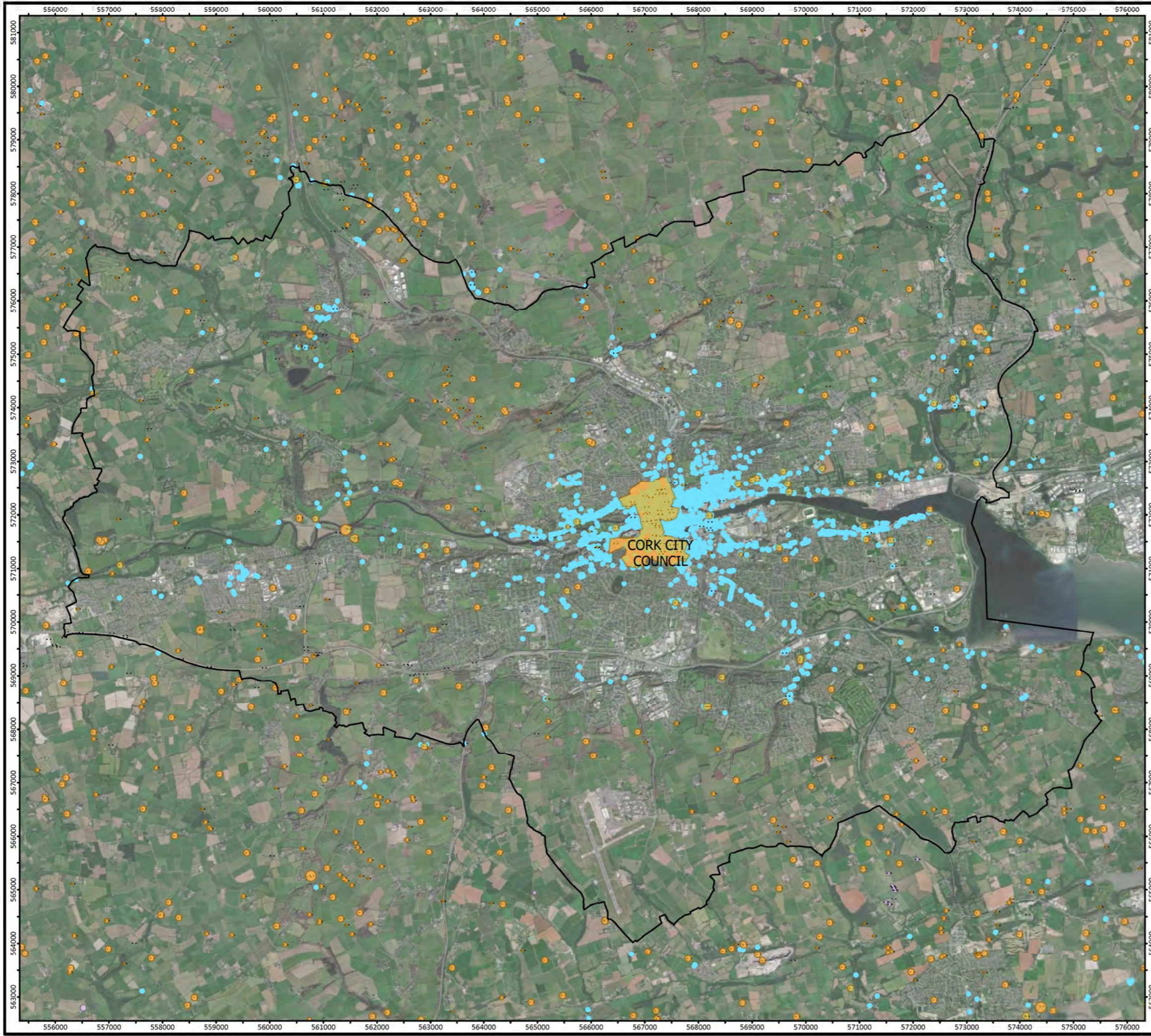
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<sup>39</sup> Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

<sup>40</sup> Available at [Wreck Viewer | National Monuments Service \(archaeology.ie\)](https://www.archaeology.ie/wreck-viewer)

<sup>41</sup> Data available at [National Inventory of Architectural Heritage \(NIAH\) National Dataset - Datasets - data.gov.ie](https://data.gov.ie/datasets/niah-national-inventory-of-architectural-heritage)





- Legend**
- Local Authority Boundaries
  - National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH)
  - National Monuments Service
  - SMRZones
  - National Monuments Service - Zones of Notification

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<b>Archaeological Heritage and National Monuments Map</b>	
Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy	
FIGURE NO:	4.6
CLIENT: CORK CITY COUNCIL	
DATE: 20/11/2023	SCALE: 1:70,000 @ A3





## 4.6 Soils

The types of soils found covering the city<sup>42</sup> include the following:

**Table 4-4: Soil Types Covering the City**

Soil Type	Description
<b>Dominant Soils</b>	
Urban soils	Urban soils are soils which have been disturbed, transported or manipulated by human activity in the urban environment and are often overlain by a non-agricultural, man-made surface layer that has been produced by mixing, filling or by contamination of land surfaces in urban and suburban areas. <b>These soils are found mainly in proximity to built-up parts of the city.</b>
Brown Earth	Brown earths are well drained mineral soils, associated with high levels of natural fertility. <b>These soils are found to the north, south and west of the city.</b>
<b>Other Soils</b>	
Alluvial soils	These are associated with alluvial (clay, silt or sand) river deposits. <b>These are found in the flood plains of rivers and streams.</b>
Gleys	Gleys are soils showing the effects of poor drainage and have developed as a result of permanent or intermittent water logging. This may be due to a high-water table, to a 'perched' water table caused by the impervious nature of the soil itself, or to seepage of runoff from slopes. Most gleys have poor physical conditions, resulting in restricted growth in spring and autumn. <b>These are found in the south-east of the city.</b>
Brown Podzols	Brown podzolic soils are characterised by a comparatively thin organic covering and an organic-mineral. <b>These are found mainly in the north, north-east and north-west of the city.</b>

The audit of Geological sites found in Cork City was completed in 2022 and identified 8 Geological Sites<sup>43</sup>. Previous Landslide Events and Landslide Susceptibility Mapping sources has been considered by the SEA.

The SEA of Soils utilised information from the following sources:

- Geological Survey Ireland (GSI)
- Teagasc
- Infomar<sup>44</sup>
- EPA

<sup>42</sup> Teagasc.ie. General Soil Map.

<sup>43</sup> Geological Survey of Ireland (2022) *The Geological Heritage of Cork City*.

<sup>44</sup> [Seabed and Sediment Data | Infomar](#)

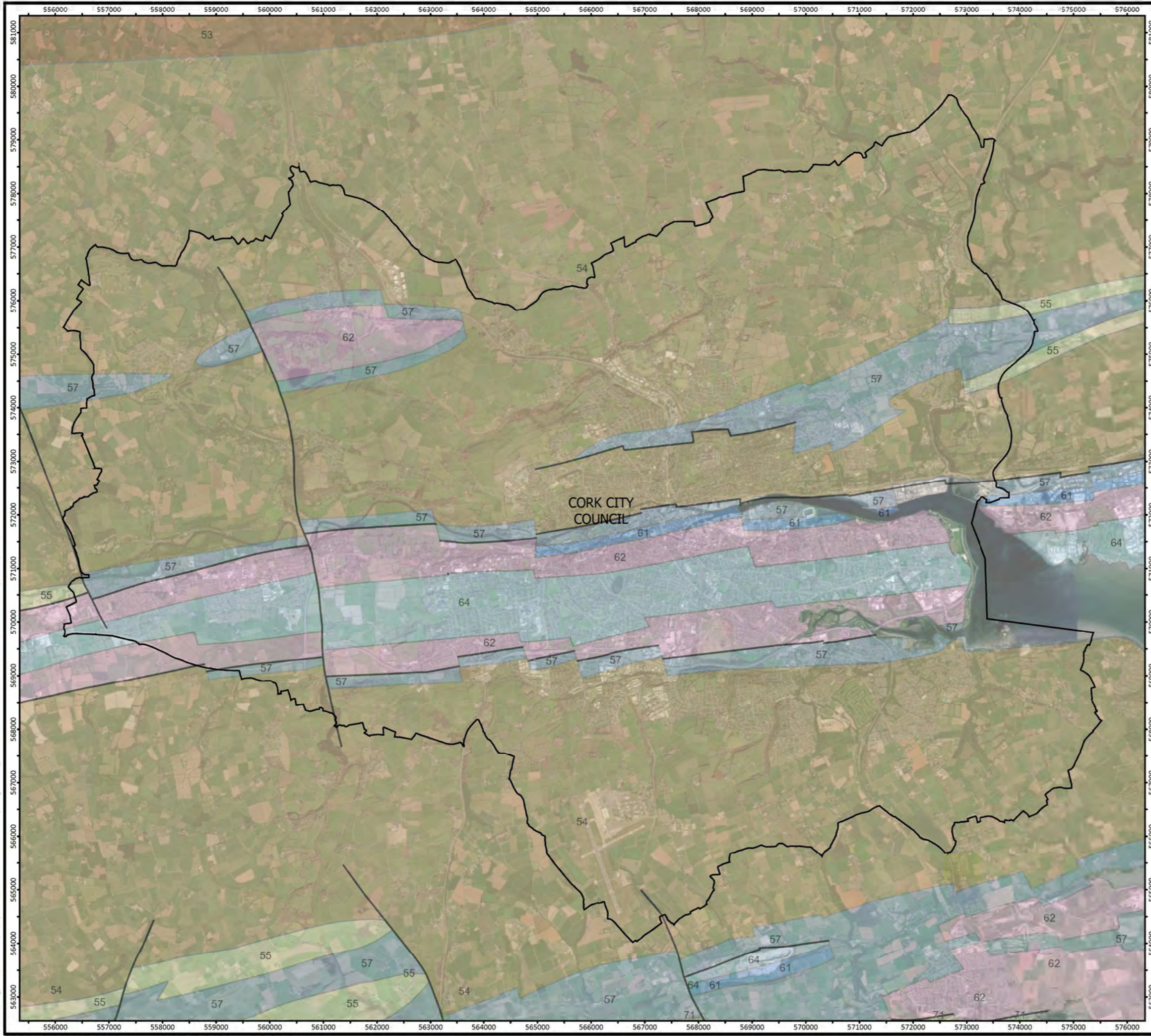


There is no legislation solely directed to soil protection in Ireland. In 2006, the European Commission (EC) developed a Soil Thematic Strategy that aims to protect soils and ensure the sustainable use of soils across Europe. Although a proposal for a Soil Framework Directive was withdrawn in 2014, the importance of sustainable soil management was recognised in the Seventh Environment Action Programme, where sustainable land management is to be achieved by 2020.

#### 4.6.1 Key Considerations relating to the Draft Strategy

It is not envisaged the Strategy will have any significant effect on the receiving soils environment - having regard to the predicted limited scale and magnitude of EV charging point development works supported by the Strategy.

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**Legend**

- Local Authority Boundaries
- Bedrock Geology 500k (ROI/NI)**
  - 54, Continental redbed facies; Sandstone, conglomerate & siltstone (in places extends into the Carboniferous)
  - 55, Shallow marine, (Cork Group, Old Head Sandstone Fm); Sandstone & mudstone
  - 57, Marine (Cork Group) (extends into the Viséan); Mudstone, sandstone & thin limestone
  - 61, Marine shelf & ramp facies; Argillaceous dark-grey bioclastic limestone, subsidiary shale
  - 62, Waulsortian mudbank; Pale-grey massive limestone
  - 64, Marine shelf facies; Limestone & calcareous shale

**Bedrock Geology**

Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy

**FIGURE NO:** 4.7

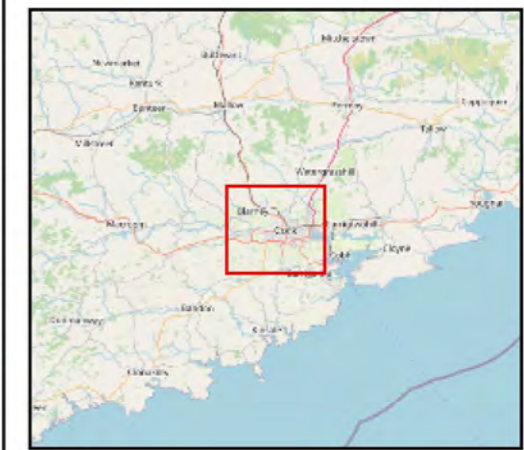
**CLIENT:** CORK CITY COUNCIL

**DATE:** 20/11/2023      **SCALE:** 1:70,000 @ A3

0 0.5 0.9 2 km

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- Legend**
-  Local Authority Boundaries
  -  Geological Heritage Sites (Audited Boundaries)
  -  Geological Heritage Sites (Unaudited Boundaries)

<b>Geological Heritage Sites</b>	
Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy	
<b>FIGURE NO:</b>	4.8
<b>CLIENT:</b> CORK CITY COUNCIL	
<b>DATE:</b> 20/11/2023	<b>SCALE:</b> 1:70,000 @ A3
