



**Comhairle Cathrach Chorcaí
Cork City Council**

**APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT
SCREENING REPORT
&
SCREENING DETERMINATION**

For the

**Cork Docklands to City Centre Road Network Improvement
Scheme**

December 2024

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. EUROPEAN SITE DATA

Great Island Channel candidate Special Area Of Conservation (site code 001058)	
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)

Cork Harbour Special Protection Area (site code 004030)	
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)

2. DETAILS OF PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

Reference no.	Cork Docklands to City Centre Road Network Improvement Scheme
Development consent type	Local authority own development (Part 8 Planning Development Regulations 2001)
Development location	Albert Quay, Victoria Road and adjoining streets, Cork City
Distance from cSAC	7.7km
Distance from SPA	1.68km
Description of development	<p>The proposed development will consist of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • conversion of the existing Victoria Road Roundabout to a signalised four-arm junction. • Introduction of an inbound contraflow bus lane on Victoria Road North from the new signalised four-arm junction (replacing the Victoria Road Roundabout) to Albert Quay East, continuing west along Albert Quay East through the Albert Quay/Albert Street/Eamon De Valera Bridge Junction and terminating at the Eglinton Street/Albert Quay West/ Clontarf Bridge Junction. • Introduction of an outbound bus lane on Albert Quay East from the Albert Quay/Albert Street/Eamon De Valera Bridge Junction to the proposed new signalised four-arm junction (replacing the Victoria Road Roundabout). • Introduction of a 2-way cycle track starting at Terence MacSwiney Quay and running along Albert Quay West and Albert Quay East and connecting into Victoria Road North, as far as the new signalised four-arm junction (replacing the Victoria Road Roundabout) where it will continue as single direction cycle tracks for a short distance down Centre Park Road to connect to the existing outbound cycle track and also down Victoria Road South toward Monahan Road to allow for future connectivity; • re-alignment of Monahan Road/Victoria Road Junction to keep the traffic movement between the proposed signalised four-arm junction (replacing the Victoria Road Roundabout) and Monahan Road the priority, with Victoria Road South becoming a minor arm of Monahan Road. • Re-alignment of the Old Blackrock Road/Victoria Road South Junction.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public realm improvements to Albert Quay East – this quay will act as the ‘gateway’ to the South Docks from the city centre. This will include a sustainable drainage system (SuDS) with planting strips and new trees, raised planting areas with public seating, walkways and bike parking including a public bike sharing docking station. • Regrading of the existing wharf on Albert Quay East • Public realm improvements to Victoria Road North, Albert Road, Monerea Terrace and Marina Terrace including trees, planting, street furniture, public lighting etc; and • creation of a new residential access link between Electric Terrace (Eastville) and Rosefield Terrace (Rosehill).
Relevant strategies or policies	Cork City Development Plan 2022-2028, Cork Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan etc
EIS submitted?	no
NIS submitted?	no

3. Significant Impacts Checklist

Does the project have the potential to	Yes or No
Reduce the area of key habitats?	No
Reduce the population of key species?	No
Change the balance between key species?	No
Reduce diversity of the site?	No
Result in disturbance that could affect population size or density or the balance between key species?	No
Result in fragmentation?	No
Result in loss or reduction of key features (e.g. tree cover, tidal exposure, annual flooding, etc.)?	No
Cause delays in progress towards achieving the conservation objectives of the site?	No
Interrupt progress towards achieving the conservation objectives of the site?	No
Disrupt those factors that help to maintain the favourable conditions of the site?	No
Interfere with the balance, distribution and density of key species that are the indicators of the favourable condition of the site?	No
Cause changes to the vital defining aspects (e.g. nutrient balance) that determine how the site functions as a habitat or ecosystem?	No
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
Interfere with predicted or expected natural changes to the site (such as water dynamics or chemical composition)?	No
Comments or notes	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● This assessment has been undertaken following full consideration of the information in the report titled <i>Cork Docklands to City Centre Road Network Improvement Scheme Screening for Appropriate Assessment</i> Report prepared by ARUP. ● All development activity will take place within the site works boundary. 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. ● 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. ● 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. ● 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, the likelihood of significant impacts as a result of cumulative or in-combination effects can be excluded. 	

4. SCREENING CONCLUSION STATEMENT

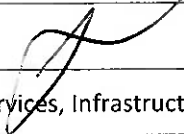
In view of the above it is considered that (tick one box only):

- Appropriate Assessment is not required**
The proposed development is directly connected / necessary to the conservation management of a site.
- Appropriate Assessment is not required**
The possibility of significant effects on the sites has been excluded through screening.
- Further information is required**
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.
- Appropriate Assessment is required**
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.

Further information required / Comments or Notes

Please refer to attached report in appendix A for screening for appropriate assessment as prepared by Arup Environmental team on behalf of Cork City Council.

- There is no potential for the proposed development to significantly impact on Natura 2000 Sites.
- The proposed development is not directly connected with, or necessary to the conservation management of any Natura 2000 sites.
- 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.

Name:	 (G. O'BRIEN)
Position:	Director of Services, Infrastructure Development on behalf of Cork City Council.
Date:	18/12/25