



Appropriate Assessment Screening

Maglin Greenway Phase 1, Ballincollig, Cork City

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For: Cork City Council

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1. Introduction

This report comprises information in support of screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA) in line with the requirements of Article 6[3] of the EU Habitats Directive (EC 92/43/EEC) on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora; the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2010; and the European Union (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 as amended, for the development of a walk/cycleway and associated works connecting Maglin Road and Gaelscoil Uí Riordáin in Ballincollig, Cork City.

This screening exercise aims to determine whether the proposed works have the potential to significantly impact upon the conservation objectives and overall integrity of any Natura 2000 sites. This assessment is based upon a desk study and field work carried out by suitably qualified ecologists. Also included is a general assessment of the ecological status of the site and the potential impacts of the proposed works on the ecology of the surrounding area, including Designated Sites.

The following definitions are used for the terms, “impact” and “effect”:

Impact – Actions resulting in changes to an ecological feature, e.g., the construction activities of a development removing a hedgerow.

Effect – Outcome to an ecological feature from an impact, e.g., the effects on an animal population from loss of a hedgerow.

The Competent Authority is obliged to examine the likely significant effects individually or in combination, of the proposed development on European Designated Sites in light of their specific Qualifying Interests (QIs) and Conservation Objectives (COs). If AA screening determines that there is likely to be significant effects on one or more of these sites, or the impacts are uncertain, then full AA must be carried out for the proposed development, including the compilation of a Natura Impact Statement to inform the decision making.

For the purposes of this assessment, a “significant effect” is:

“...an effect that either supports or undermines biodiversity conservation objectives for ‘important ecological features’ ... or for biodiversity in general. Conservation objectives may be specific (e.g., for a designated site) or broad (e.g., national/local nature conservation policy) or more wide-ranging (enhancement of biodiversity).

Effects can be considered significant at a wide range of scales from international to local. A significant effect is an effect that is sufficiently important to require assessment and reporting so that the decision

maker is adequately informed of the environmental consequences of permitting a project.

In broad terms, significant effects encompass impacts on structure and function of defined sites, habitats or ecosystems and the conservation status of habitats and species (including extent, abundance and distribution).”

- CIEEM Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland (2018)

Sections 4 and 5 of the report comprises the AA Screening that specifically focuses on the potential for impacts on Natura 2000 sites deemed to be at risk from the proposed development.

2. Background to Screening for Appropriate Assessment

2.1. European Designated Sites

Sites designated for the conservation of nature in Ireland include:

- Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)
- Special Protection Areas (SPAs)
- Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs)

SPAs and SACs form the Natura 2000 network of sites. It is these sites that are of relevance to the screening process for this Appropriate Assessment Screening.

SPAs and SACs are prime wildlife conservation areas in the country, considered to be important on a European as well as Irish level. SPAs and SACs are designated under EU Habitats Directive, transposed into Irish law by the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 477 of 2011), as amended.

Natural Heritage Area (NHA) is the basic designation for wildlife in Ireland. These are areas considered important for their habitats or species of plants and animals whose habitat requires protection and are protected by the Wildlife (Amendment) Act of 2000.

All European Designated Sites (henceforth simply referred to as “Designated Sites”) that are connected to the proposed development were considered during the desktop study in order to assess the potential for significant effects upon their QIs and COs. This stage of the process is used to determine whether any of the Designated Sites can be regarded as not being relevant to the process of Appropriate Assessment of the project, having no potential to be significantly affected.

2.2. Legislative Context

The methodology for this screening statement is clearly set out in a document prepared for the Environment DG of the European Commission entitled ‘Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites: Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6 paragraphs 3 and 4 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC’ (Oxford Brookes University, 2001). This report and contributory fieldwork were carried out in accordance with guidelines given by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government (2009, amended February 2010).

The assessment process is given in Articles 6[3] and 6[4] of the Habitats Directive and is commonly referred to as “Appropriate Assessment” or AA.

Article 6 of the Habitats Directive sets out provisions which govern the conservation and management of Natura 2000 sites. Article 6[3] and 6[4] of the Habitats Directive set out the decision-making tests for plans and projects likely to affect Natura 2000 sites (Annex 1.1). Article 6[3] establishes the requirement for Appropriate Assessment:

“Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the [Natura 2000] site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans and projects, shall be subjected to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site’s conservation objectives. In light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implication 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.”

Article 6[4] continues:

“If, in spite of a negative assessment of the implications for the site and in the absence of alternative solutions, a plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of social or economic nature, the Member State shall take all compensatory measures necessary to ensure that the overall coherence of Natura 2000 is protected. It shall inform the Commission of the compensatory measures adopted. Where the site concerned hosts a priority natural habitat type and/or a priority species the only considerations which may be raised are those relating to human health or public safety, to beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment or, further to an opinion from the Commission, to other imperative reasons of overriding public interest.

It is the responsibility of the proponent of the plan or project to provide the relevant information (ecological surveys, research, analysis etc.) for submission to the 'competent national authority'. If satisfied that the information is complete and objective, the competent authority will use this information to screen the project, i.e. to determine if an AA is required and to carry out the AA, if one is deemed necessary. The competent authority shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned."

The appropriate assessment process has four stages. Each stage determines whether a further stage in the process is required. If, for example, the conclusions at the end of Stage One are that there will be no significant impacts on the Natura 2000 site, there is no requirement to proceed further. The four stages are:

1. Screening to determine if an appropriate assessment is required;
2. Appropriate Assessment;
3. Consideration of alternative solutions, and;
4. Imperative reasons of overriding public interest/derogation.

Stage 1: Screening for AA

This report provides a stage one Screening for Appropriate Assessment. It aims to establish whether the plan or project is directly connected with or necessary to the management of Designated Sites; or in view of best scientific knowledge, if the plan or project, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, is likely to have a significant effect on a Designated Site. This is done by examining the proposed plan or project and the COs of any Designated Sites that might potentially be affected.

The study is based on a preliminary impact assessment using both publicly available data and data collected during site surveys. This is followed by a determination of whether there is a risk that the effects identified could significantly impact any Natura 2000 sites, and if so an Appropriate Assessment (AA) is required. The need to apply the precautionary principle in making any key decisions in relation to the tests of AA has been confirmed by European Court of Justice case law. Therefore, where significant effects are likely, possible or uncertain at screening stage, a stage two AA will be required.

3. Methodology

3.1. Desk Study

A desktop study was carried out as part of this screening process to gain an understanding of the surrounding human and natural environments. This included a review of available data from a range of sources on the site and its immediate environs.

3.2. Data used to carry out the assessment

The following sources of data were employed:

- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Appropriate Assessment Tool;
- EPA Maps (to identify watercourses, hydrology and Natura 2000 site boundaries);
- NPWS protected species database and online mapping;
- The Geological Survey of Ireland hydrological and lidar data and map viewer;
- The National Biodiversity Data Centre archives;
- Inland Fisheries Ireland, and;
- An Bord Pleanála's online database

3.3. SPR Model

This assessment was carried out using the source-pathway-receptor (SPR) approach, a standard tool in environmental assessment. The SPR concept in ecological impact assessment relates to the idea that for the risk of an impact to occur, a source is needed (e.g., a development site); an environmental receptor is present (a lake); and finally there must be a pathway between the source and the receptor (a watercourse linking the development site to the lake). Even though there might be a risk of an impact occurring, it does not necessarily mean that it will occur, and in the event that it does occur, it may not have significant effects on the receiving environment. Identification of a risk means that there is a possibility of ecological or environmental damage occurring, with the level and significance of the impact depending upon the nature and exposure to the risk and the characteristics of the receptor.

In this instance, the most relevant receptors are any relevant Natura 2000 sites with connectivity of the proposed works. These were considered during the desktop study stage of this screening assessment in order to assess the potential for significant effects upon their QIs and COs.

3.4. Field Survey

The field survey was carried out on 30th January 2023. Baseline ecological conditions were assessed. Habitats were classified according to A Guide to Habitats in Ireland (Fossitt, 2000). Where applicable, the habitat types and species usage were recorded (Smith et al. 2011; Scannell and Synnott, 1987; Wyse Jackson et al. 2016). Habitats were classified and dominant plant species noted according to the guidelines given by the JNCC (2010) with reference to best practice guidance for habitat survey and mapping (Smith et al., 2011) and Census Catalogue of the Flora of Ireland (Scannell & Synnott, 1987).

4. Screening of Designated Sites

4.1. Site Location

The project is proposed to take place just south of Ballincollig, Cork, in Maglin, where it is proposed to deliver a significantly improved cycling and walking environment consistent with the Cork City Development Plan 2022-2028, Cork Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy (CMATS) and the Cork Cycle Network Plan (CCNP). This phase of the project is proposed to provide a high quality and direct route for pedestrians and cyclists between Maglin Road and Gaelscoil Uí Ríordáin in Ballincollig, over approximately 1.4km, connecting to several residential developments along the way. The proposed works will include full construction of the route from ground improvement, drainage, formation, lighting, street furniture, landscaping, creation of access points, integration with adjacent developments and incorporation of local heritage.

At present, the western section of the route is primarily on an area of rough grassland between two housing developments; some 200m of the proposed route then passes through amenity areas of an existing development (Carrignarra). The main proposed route passes to the south of Limeworth estate, while a small pedestrian access point is provided at the western edge of the Limeworth estate in the vicinity of the historic bridge. The eastern end of the proposed route runs south of a housing development under construction (Heathfield) across agricultural land. A small section of the proposed route runs adjacent to the Curragheen River (Figure 1.). The proposed corridor travels primarily along the line of the 1500mm city and harbour water supply pipeline from Inniscarra.

To the immediate north and south, the works area is bounded by suburban housing developments; further south beyond the Curragheen River the landscape is composed of a mosaic of improved agricultural grasslands.

The works area lies within the Lee, Cork Harbour and Youghal Bay 19 catchment, Glasheen (Cork City) _SC_010 subcatchment.

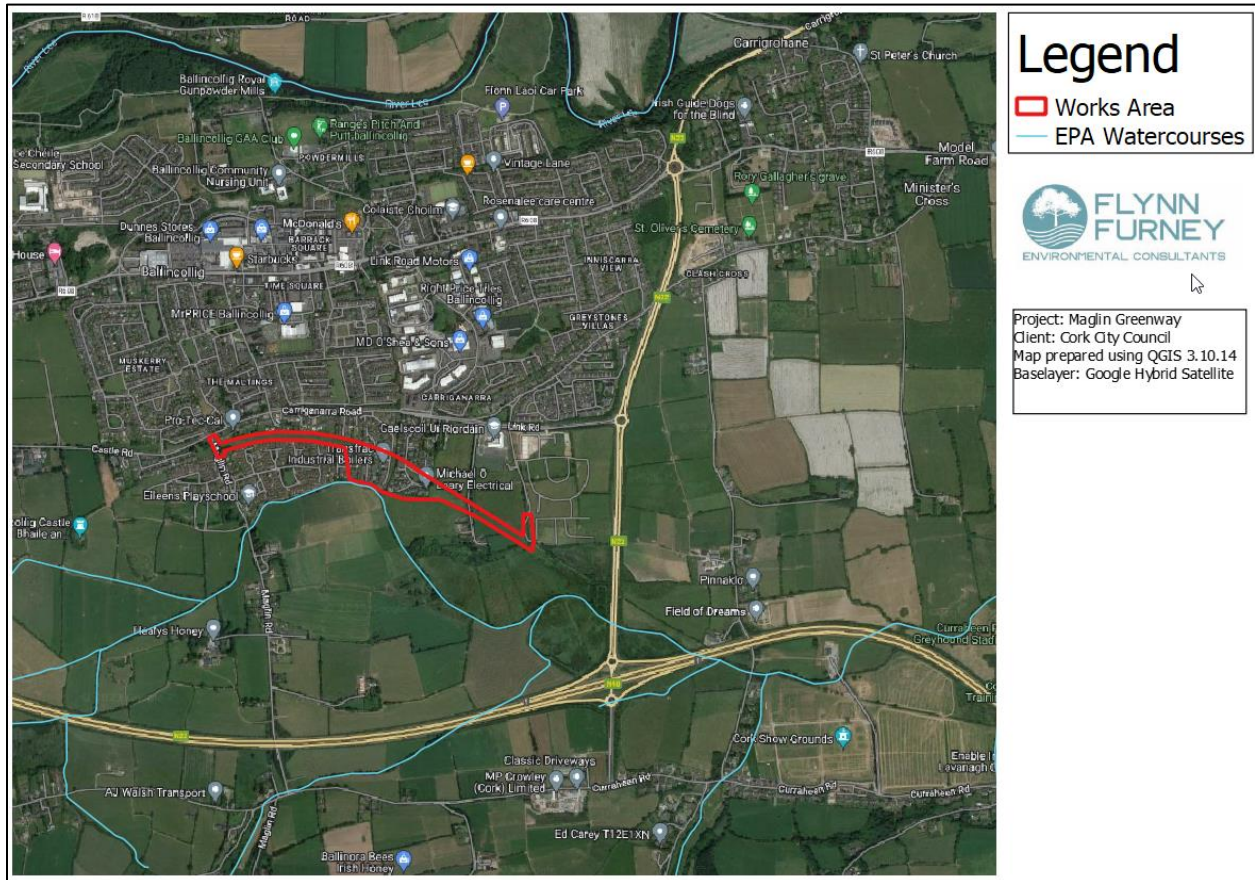


Figure 1 Overview of the works area

4.2. Receiving Environment

A description of the habitats of significant ecological value that were observed within the immediate surroundings of the works area are listed below, with descriptions adapted from “A Guide to Habitats in Ireland” by Julie A. Fossitt, 2000 (Figures 2, 3).

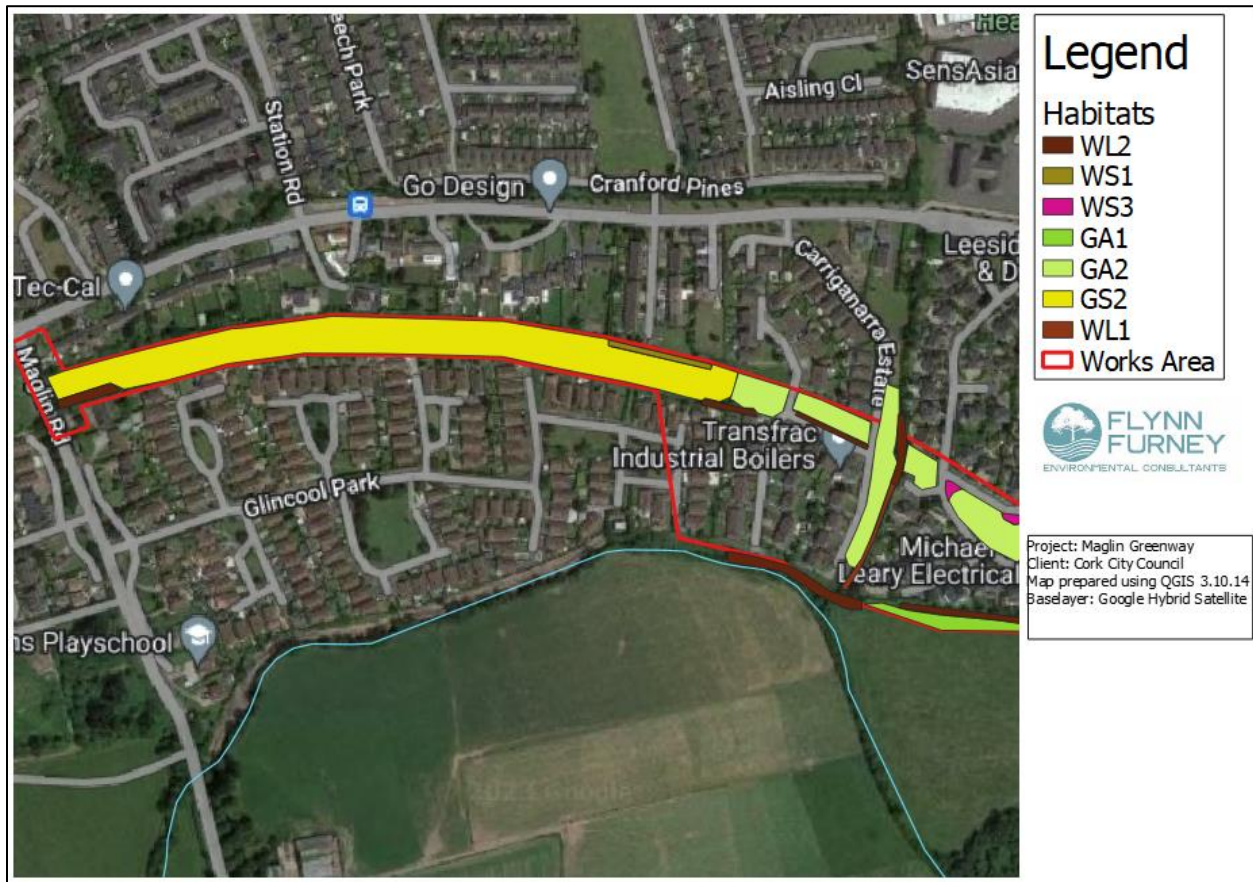


Figure 2 Habitat map of the western extent of the proposed works area

From Maglin Road, the works area is predominately dry meadow, **GS2** with some patches of scrub **WS1**, dominated by tussocky grasses such as cocksfoot *Dactylis glomerata* and *Holcus lanatus*. Immediately adjacent to the road, patches of winter heliotrope *Petasites pyrenaicus* were observed. There is a mature treeline of Leyland cypress *Cupressus x leylandii* along the boundary of a residence here **WL2**. Backing on to Ashton Court, a palisade fence with an area of scrub **WS1** is present, composed primarily of blackthorn *Prunus spinosa* and bramble *Rubus fruticosus* agg.

Within Carriganarra estate, the dominant habitat is amenity grassland **GA2**, with some ornamental tree planting. A treeline of willow *Salix* sp. and Leyland cypress **WL2** is present on the southern border, and a row of cherry blossom *Prunus* sp. has been planted adjacent to the road **WL2**. To the east of this area as the route leaves the estate there is an earth bund with an immature treeline planted on it, consisting of oak *Quercus* sp., horse chestnut *Aesculus hippocastanum*, birch *Betula pendula*, beech *Fagus sylvatica*, holly *Ilex aquifolium* and blackthorn.

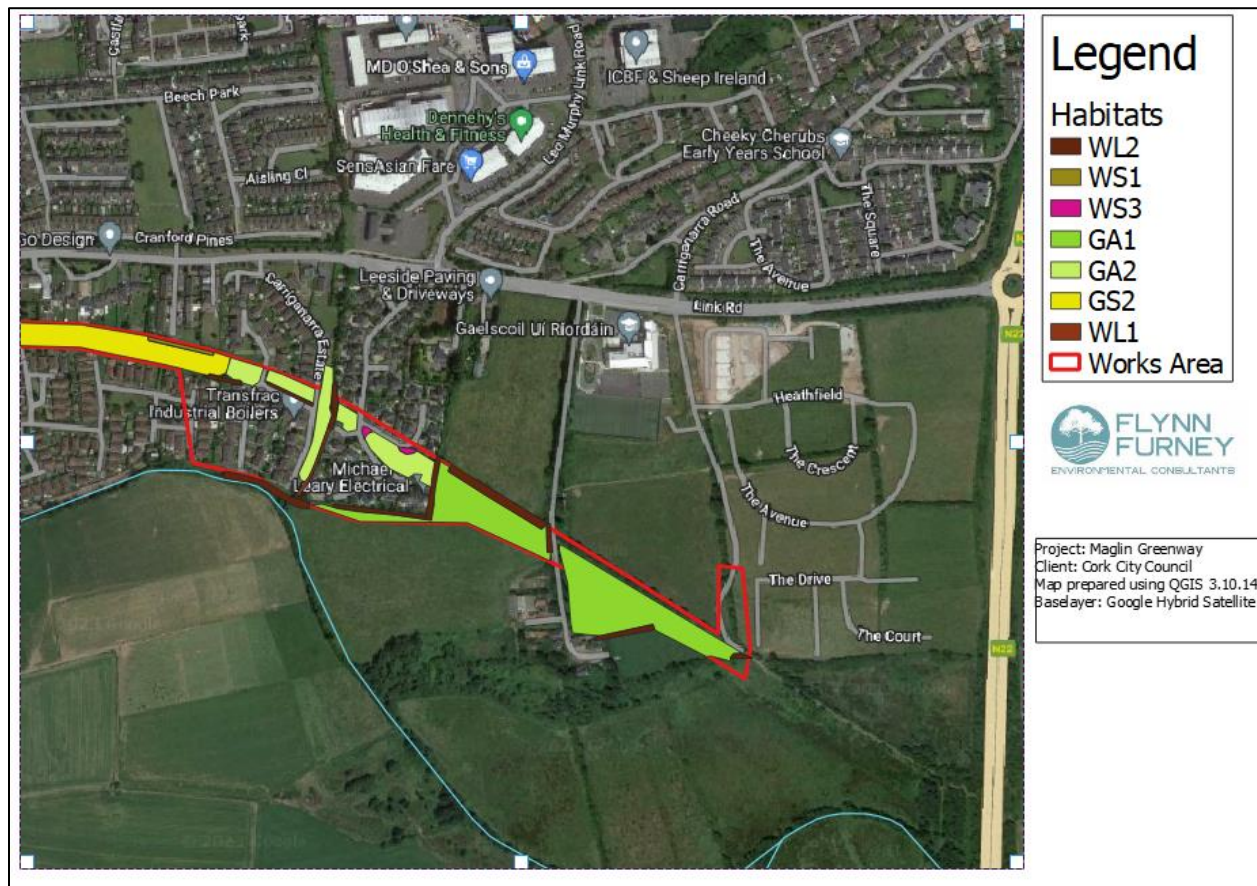


Figure 3 Habitat map of the eastern extent of the proposed works area

The proposed route runs south and then east along the edge of Limeworth estate; it passes close to the River Curragheen where there is a riparian treeline of alder *Alnus glutinosa* and willow. A treeline **WL2** of hawthorn and laurel borders the southern extent of the residential areas; to the south is a large area of agricultural pastureland **GA1**.

To the east of the estate the route crosses improved agricultural grassland **GA1**, with an old stone wall and ash *Fraxinus excelsior* treeline adjoining the north edge. Also present is a scrub understory with bramble and blackthorn. The route crosses a farm track, where a hawthorn treeline is present, with two mature sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus* and willow also present. The remainder of the route to the access road to Heathfield follows another small road adjoining more improved grassland **GA1**. The area to the north of the route is being developed into a residential estate which has begun construction; a treeline that previously ran along the road has been removed by the developers.

4.2.1. Surface water

No watercourses are present within the works area. The nearest watercourse to the proposed route is the Curragheen River, which runs adjacent to the works area where it runs south of the Carriganarra housing estate, with a riparian treeline of alder and willow between the works area and the watercourse. The Curragheen is classified as At Risk under the latest WFD assessment cycle, with a water quality of Moderate. The watercourse is well buffered from the proposed route of works along most of its length bar the short section south of Carriganarra; significant housing development lies between the route and the river along most of its length – towards the eastern end of the route the river lies across approximately 200m of pastureland.

4.2.2. Breeding Birds

All species of wild bird that occur naturally in Ireland are fully protected at all times by the Wildlife Act and relevant amending legislation. Similarly, all birds naturally occurring in the wild state are afforded a measure of protection by the EU Birds Directive, but derogations may reduce protection for specific reasons. As such, any vegetation clearance must be carried out outside of the bird nesting season (March 1st - August 31st).

No dedicated bird survey was carried out as part of this investigation. A number of trees and scrub areas were noted during the survey that would provide suitable nesting habitat for birds. The proposed works require removal of several trees and clearance of scrub, and depending on the timing of the works. A pre-construction nesting bird survey is strongly recommended prior to commencement.

4.2.3. Amphibians

No habitat suitable for either the common frog *Rana temporaria* or smooth newt *Lissotriton vulgaris* was noted during the survey.

4.2.4. Mammals

The habitat on the western extent of the proposed route, within the dry meadow/scrub habitat, might provide cover for mammals moving through the area; no particular sign of mammals was noted during the survey. None of the trees within the proposed route offer suitable habitat for roosting bats; the old railway bridge on the edge of the Carriganarra estate does have some bat potential, and may need to be further investigated prior to the commencement of works. Badger prints were noted adjacent to the farm road to the west of the proposed works; none of the habitat within the proposed works footprint was suitable for the species, however.

4.2.5. Invasive Species

The Wildlife Acts, 1976 and 2000, contain a number of provisions relating to invasive non-native species (INNS), covering several sections and subsections of the Acts. It is prohibited, without licence, to plant or otherwise cause to grow in a wild state, in any place in the State, any species of flora, or the flowers, roots, seeds or spores of invasive flora listed on the Third Schedule. Articles 49 and 50 of the aforementioned Acts set out the legal implications associated with alien invasive species and Schedule 3 (the Third Schedule) of the regulations lists non-native species subject to the restrictions of Articles 49 and 50, which make it an offence to plant, disperse, allow dispersal or cause the spread of invasive species.

No 3rd schedule species were noted during the survey. A number of non-native species were observed during the survey, mostly associated with adjacent gardens and amenity development. While not on the Schedule, many of these are quite invasive, and their removal/management should be considered during the works. These included winter heliotrope *Petasites pyrenaicus*, cherry laurel *Prunus laurocerasus* and old man's beard *Clematis vitalba*.

4.3. Proposed Works

The proposed works involve the creation of a walkway/cycleway along the proposed route, as well as upgrading existing infrastructure surrounding it and linking it to the adjacent residential areas. All ancillary services such as lighting/ducting and drainage, as well as fencing etc will all be created. A positive impact on biodiversity will also be implemented through the creation of a wildlife corridor and appropriate planting. See Figure 4 for the proposed works route.

- Pavement design for greenway surfaces throughout.
- Connectivity of proposed greenway with an existing adjacent residential estate to enhance permeability to abutting areas.
- Connectivity of proposed greenway with proposed adjacent residential developments
- Provision of uncontrolled pedestrian crossing facilities where necessary and where feasible. This will include the use of tabletop features to facilitate safe pedestrian, cyclist and vehicle interactions where required. This will also include the treatment of junctions where pedestrians meet live traffic.
- Repaving of existing footpaths where necessary.
- Installing new energy efficient public lighting and CCTV.
- Installation of street furniture and landscaping.
- Create an environmental 'living' corridor which will support pollinator populations, increase biodiversity, and optimise the benefits for flora and fauna along the route.
- Tree planting.
- Boundary treatments and fencing, including sensitive design of termination points to allow for future development of adjoining phases.
- SUDS based solutions for collection and discharge of surface water.

- Installation of ducting for services along the route as well as spare ducting for potential future usage.
- Highlighting of the former Cork to Macroom Railway through landscape design elements and by incorporating the remaining railway infrastructure into the scheme.

4.4. Works, site characteristics and risks to the environment

The principal risks to the environment posed by the project relate to direct land take from the development of the greenway and associated works, disturbance of the surrounding landscape, and surface water discharge from the site during the construction phase which may contain elevated sediment/nutrient levels that could affect the nearby watercourse. There is an ongoing risk of disturbance (noise and light) from the operational phase of the project.

The surrounding landscape however is highly modified, with the nearest watercourse over 100m away for much of its length with substantial development and a riparian corridor buffering it. A short section of the route runs close to the River Curragheen; a riparian treeline buffers it from the works area and the watercourse itself is heavily modified and impacted in this area. No sensitive ecological receptors lie within the footprint of the proposed works or in the vicinity; the proposed works in fact offer an opportunity to enhance the biodiversity of the immediate area and mitigate some of the impact of the surrounding development.



Figure 4 Proposed Route

4.5. Nearby Designated Sites

All sites within 15km of the proposed works (and beyond) were initially considered as part of this screening. Only a single Natura 2000 site, *Cork Harbour SPA 004030*, lies within this radius, with a second, *Great Channel Island SAC 001058*, 5km beyond it in Cork Harbour. Although a short section of the proposed works area lies close to a connected receptor, the River Curragheen, the two European sites lie 15km and 20km downstream respectively from this point, in an estuarine habitat, no reasonable source-pathway-receptor connectivity is considered for a project of this nature and scale, and no reasonable pathway for impact exists (Figure 5).

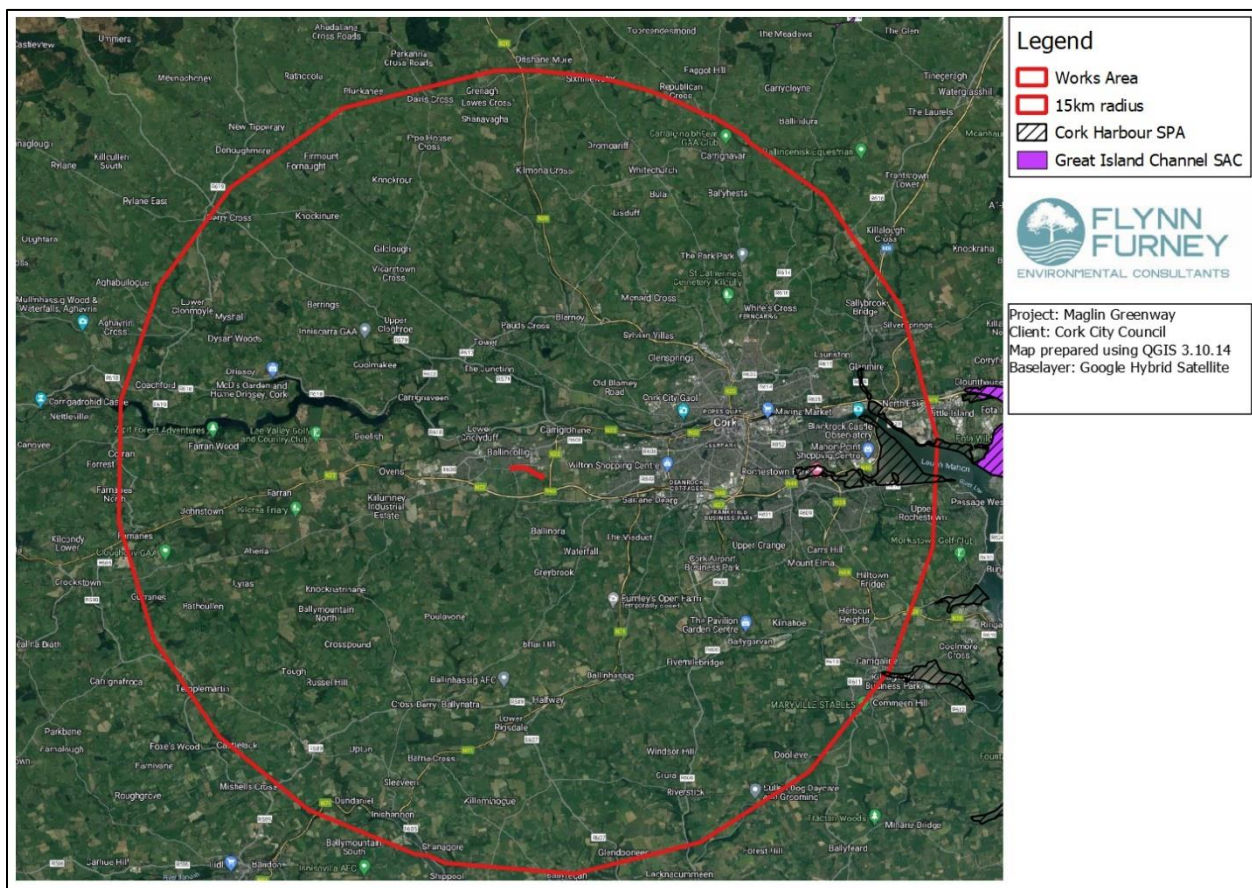


Figure 5 Natura 2000 sites in the vicinity of the proposed works

5. ARTICLE 6(3) SCREENING ASSESSMENT

This section of the report focuses solely on the potential for the proposed works to impact upon Natura 2000 sites. The European Commission has set guidelines for the assessment of a project's potential to impact on a designated site (EC, 2001). The consideration of this project in this context is detailed below.

5.1 Article 6(3) Assessment Criteria

Description of the individual elements of the project likely to give rise to impacts on the Natura 2000 sites.

No elements of this project are considered likely to give rise to impacts on any Natura 2000 site, due to the location of the works within a suburban/modified agricultural landscape, the distance to any European site and the lack of any significant pathway from the works to the wider receiving environment. Additionally, the site itself contains no habitat suitable for any SCI species associated with the closest Natura 2000 site (*Cork Harbour SPA*).

5.1.1 Description of any likely direct, indirect, or secondary impacts of the project on the Natura2000 sites

Any likely direct, indirect or secondary impacts of the proposed works, both alone and in-combination with other plans or projects, on the designated sites by virtue of the following criteria: size and scale, land take, distance from the Natura 2000 site or key feature thereof, resource requirements, emissions, excavation requirements, transportation requirements and duration of construction, operational and decommissioning phases of the works are detailed in the table below (Table 1).

Table 1 Assessment of likely impacts on Cork Harbour SPA.

Assessment of Likely Impacts	
Size and scale	The proposed works footprint is ca4.3 hectares. The scale of the development is small relative to the closest Natura 2000 site.
Landtake	No work takes place within the boundary of any European site.
Distance from Natura 2000 site or key features of the site	The closest Natura 2000 site (<i>Cork Harbour SPA</i>) is 9.5km away (15km downstream)
Resource requirements	No materials for construction will be sourced from within any Natura 2000 site. No water will be abstracted from the site during the construction or operation of the site.

Emissions	No other emissions to air or water other than those associated with a small construction project area likely, and none that will impact on any Natura 2000 site.
Excavation requirements	No excavation of material or landscaping will take place within the boundary of any European site.
Transportation requirements	No access requirements are necessary for the proposed projects that will impact upon any Natura 2000 site.
Duration of construction, operation, decommissioning	As yet unknown.
Timing of works	As yet unknown
Cumulative or In-combination Impacts with other Projects and Plans	A search of Planning Permissions for the area within which the project is located did not indicate any plans for projects that are likely to lead to significant cumulative or in-combination impacts to any Natura 2000 sites.

5.1.2 Description of any Likely Changes to the Natura 2000 sites

Any likely changes to the Natura 2000 sites are described in the table below (Table 2) with reference to the following criteria: reduction of habitat area, disturbance to key species, habitat or species fragmentation, reduction in species density, changes in key indicators of conservation value and climate change.

Table 2 Likely changes to Cork Harbour SPA

Assessment of Likely Changes	
Reduction of habitat area	No works will take place within the boundary of any Natura 2000 site.
Disturbance of key species	No potential exists for the disturbance of any QI or SCI species associated with any Natura 2000 site, owing to the nature of, scale and distance from the works area.
Habitat or species fragmentation	No works will take place within the boundary of any Natura 2000 site
Reduction in species density	No reduction in species density is considered likely within the SAC or SPA as a result of the works.
Changes in key indicators of conservation value	No pathway for impact on any key indicators of value associated with any Natura 2000 site exist.
Climate change	No damage to any Natura 2000 site as a result of or in combination with enhanced climate change is predicted as a result of the proposed development.

5.1.3 Likelihood of interference with the key relationships that define the structure and functions of the Natura 2000 site as a whole.

It is considered that there will be no interference with the key relationships that define the structure and functions of the Natura 2000 site.

5.1.4 Indicators of significance as a result of the identification of effects

Indicators of significance as a result of the identification of effects are set out below in terms of loss, fragmentation, disruption, disturbance and changes to the key elements of the site (Table 3).

Table 3 Indicators of significance of impact to Lough Ree SAC and Lough Ree SPA

Indicators of Significance	
Loss	No habitat will be lost as a result of the proposed works.
Fragmentation	No habitat fragmentation to any Natura 2000 sites is predicted.
Disruption	No risk of disruption to any Natura 2000 site is predicted, due to the nature of, scale and distance to the works area.
Disturbance	No risk of disturbance to any Natura 2000 site is predicted, due to the nature of, scale and distance to the works area.
Change to key elements of site (e.g. water quality etc.)	No potential for change to the key elements of any European site exists, due to the nature of, scale and distance to the works area.

5.1.5 Description of any likely significant impacts or indeterminate impacts of the project on the Natura 2000 site

Based on a consideration of the likely or potential impacts arising from the proposed works and a review of their significance in terms of the conservation interests of *Cork Harbour SPA*, no reasonable potential for impact exists.

6. Screening Conclusions

This report presents the information for the relevant authority, Cork City Council, to carry out a screening for AA. A recommendation that a stage II is/is not required is made below, based on the findings of this assessment. It is for the relevant authority to reach one of the following conclusions:

- (i) A stage II AA of the proposed development is required if it *cannot* be excluded, on the basis of objective information, that the proposed development, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will not have a significant effect on any European Designated Sites.
- (ii) A stage II AA of the proposed development is not required if it *can* be excluded, on the basis of objective information, that the proposed development, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will not have a significant effect on any European Designated Sites.

Name of project or plan: Maglin Greenway Phase 1

Name and location of Natura 2000 sites: *Cork Harbour SPA*

Description of project or plan: Construction of greenway and associated works

Is the project or plan directly connected with or necessary for the management of the site? The project is not directly connected with or necessary for the management of any Natura 2000 sites.

Are there other projects or plans that together with the project or plan being assessed could affect the site (provide details)? No plans or projects were found that are likely to lead to cumulative or in-combination impacts to any Natura 2000 site.

6.1 Assessment of significance of effects

Describe how the project or plan (alone or in combination) is likely to affect the Natura 2000 site:

No impacts on any Natura 2000 site are predicted.

Direct impacts upon the Natura 2000 sites: N/A

Indirect impacts upon the Natura 2000 sites? N/A

Overall Conclusions

In conclusion, no impacts are likely as a result of the proposed works on the conservation objectives or overall integrity of the Natura 2000 site due to the scale, nature of and distance from the works area, and the lack of any pathways for indirect impact on any European site. **It is therefore recommended that Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment is not required, and the project is screened out.**

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Appendix I: Photos



Figure 6 GS2 habitat adjacent to Maglin Road



Figure 7 Scrub adjacent to Ashton Court



Figure 8 Cariganarra estate



Figure 9 Ash treeline with stone wall



Figure 10 New development at Heathfield



Figure 11 Eastern end of proposed route at Heathfield