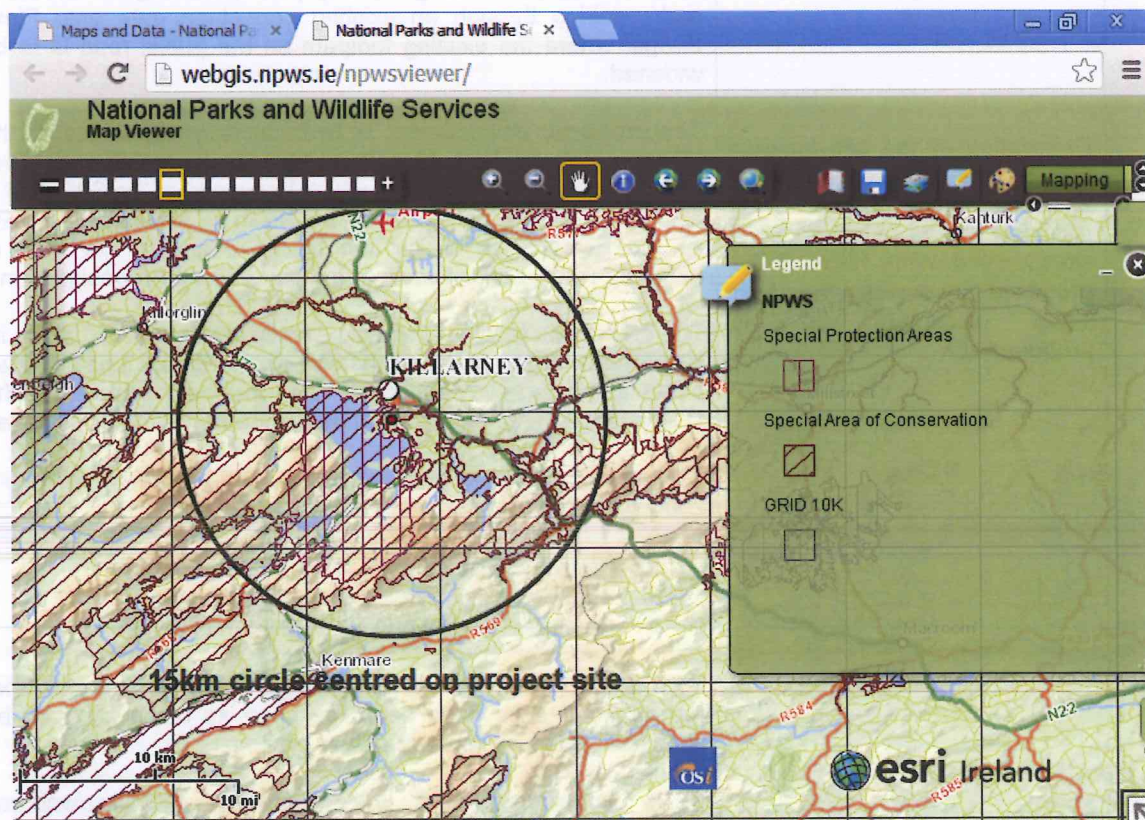


Preliminary Appropriate Assessment Screening Report

Title	Part 8: Ross Road to Muckcross Road Cycleway/Walkway
Description of development	<p>A 3 metre wide cycleway and walkway is proposed, 1040m in length providing a critical off road link between Ross Road and Muckcross Road. This path forms part of an overall plan to improve access in and around Killarney for pedestrians and cyclists and will link with the existing cycleway on Ross Road as well as the amenity trails in the Killarney National Park. The development will also link with the proposed N71 Road improvement scheme. The proposal is consistent with the policy of the Killarney Town Development Plan 2009-2015 where it is a policy to (INFRA-04, c) 'To create pedestrian priority concepts, cycle lanes and off-road cycle paths as required...'</p> <p>Drawings and specifications are attached in accompanying engineers report.</p>
Is the proposed development directly connected with or necessary to the nature conservation management of a Natura 2000 site	The proposal is <u>not</u> connected with or necessary to the conservation management of a Natura 2000 site



Above: Location of proposed works relative to current Natura 2000 site designations in the vicinity¹

¹ <http://webgis.npws.ie/npwsviewer/>

1. Proposed development site location relative to that of Natura 2000 Sites	
Description of the site location and geographical scope relative to Natura 2000 sites, having particular regard to Natura 2000 sites located within 15Km of the proposed site or within the same water catchment as the proposed site	The project site is partly located <u>within</u> and directly adjacent to the Killarney National Park, Macgillicuddy Reeks and Caragh River Catchment cSAC (Site Code 000365).
	Part of the proposed project is to be constructed in close proximity to the River Flesk; this river drains into Lough Leane to the west of the Town. The River Flesk form part of the Killarney National Park, Macgillicuddy Reeks and Caragh River Catchment cSAC (Site Code 000365), which is designated for the protection of a range of habitats and species while Lough Leane forms part of Killarney National Park SPA (Site Code 004038).
	The proposed 3 metre wide combined cycleway/walkway runs in a north to south direction from Ross Road, through Castle-Falls residential estate and the Killarney Racecourse before turning east at Priory Grove residential estate. As the cycleway/walkway turns east it runs parallel with the River Flesk, where it is proposed to be constructed north of a stand of mature trees and the river bank of the River Flesk. The cycleway will complete its route through an existing amenity park (O'Donoghue memorial park), exiting through an existing pedestrian gate onto Flesk Bridge, where the existing footpath on the public road is to be widened.
	The proposed development is hydrologically connected to the Killarney National Park, Macgillicuddy's Reeks and Caragh River cSAC through the River Flesk which forms part of the SAC and is also hydrologically connected to the Killarney National Park SPA as the River Flesk drains into Lough Leane to the west of Killarney Town, Lough Leane forms part of the SPA designation.
	<p>The proposed cycleway/walkway directly abuts the SAC along its route north of the river and there is an extremely small overlap between the cycleway and the SAC as the route crosses into the O'Donoghue memorial park just before it exits onto Flesk Bridge.</p> <p>The project is also located within 15km of the following Natura 2000 sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Killarney National Park, SPA, c. 1km to west • Sheheree Bog, SAC, c. 2km to south-east • Castlemaine Harbour, SAC, c. 7 km to west <p>Following a review of maps and hydrological data, no other Natura 2000 sites have been identified as being likely to be impacted by this cycleway/walkway proposal.</p> <p>It is considered that the proposed cycleway/walkway development does not include any element that has the potential to significantly alter the favourable conservation status of the habitat for which the Sheheree Bog, SAC has been designated. It is considered that the Sheheree Bog, SAC is outside the zone of impact influence of the proposed pathway. No pollution – receptor – pathway exists between the proposal and the designated site in question and it is objectively concluded that no impact on this designated site is reasonably foreseeable as a result of the proposed works.</p>

1. Proposed development site location relative to that of Natura 2000 Sites	
	<p>The Castlemaine Harbour cSAC Natura 2000 site which is partially located within 15km of the project is located downstream of the proposed development. Although this SAC is hydrologically connected to the development site through Lough Leane, which is drained by the Laune River approximately 7 km to the west, it is however a considerable distance removed and is buffered from the site works by way of Lough Leane.</p> <p>Therefore having regard to the distance between this site and the location of the works associated with the proposed project, it is objectively concluded that no significant impacts on the ecological integrity of the Castlemaine Harbour cSAC is reasonably foreseeable as a result of the programme of works detailed in the accompanying engineer's report.</p> <p>Therefore the assessment of significance of potential impacts that follows focuses on the remaining designated sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Killarney National Park, Macgillicuddy's Reeks and Caragh River SAC • Killarney National Park, SPA
Qualifying interests of the Natura 2000 sites concerned (i.e. the habitats and species for which the sites are designated) and the sites' conservation objectives.	<p>Full details on qualifying interests, selection species, special conservation interests and sites' conservation objectives are available at www.npws.ie. Tabulated information on Natura 2000 sites within or in the vicinity of County Kerry, including Environmental Conditions considered necessary to support site integrity are contained in Appendix A and B of the Habitats Directive Report prepared and published in support of the South West Regional Planning Guidelines 2010-2022 Document.</p> <p>Key details considered to be of particular relevance to this current report are outlined below:-</p> <p><u>Killarney National Park, Macgillicuddy's Reeks and Caragh River cSAC, 000365</u></p> <p>The site is of great ecological interest, with at least ten habitats which are listed on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive. The site is a candidate SAC selected for blanket bog, Yew wood and alluvial woodlands, priority habitats on Annex I of the E.U. Habitats Directive. The site is also selected as a candidate SAC for lowland oligotrophic lakes, upland oligotrophic lakes, floating river vegetation, alpine heath, dry heath, wet heath, <i>Molinia</i> meadows, old Oak woodlands, Rhynchosporion, Calaminarian grassland and Juniper scrub, all habitats listed on Annex I of the E.U. Habitats Directive. The lakes and rivers associated with these lakes are also of importance.</p> <p>The site is also selected for the following species listed on Annex II of the same directive – Killarney Fern, Slender Naiad, Freshwater Pearl Mussel, Kerry Slug, Marsh Fritillary, Killarney Shad, Atlantic Salmon, Brook Lamprey, River Lamprey, Sea Lamprey, Lesser Horseshoe Bat and Otter.</p> <p>Overall, the site is of high ecological value because of the diversity, quality and extensiveness of many of the habitats and impressive list of rare species of flora and fauna. In recognition of its importance the Killarney National Park has been designated a World Biosphere Reserve.</p> <p>Conservation Objectives</p> <p>1. To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status:</p>

1. Proposed development site location relative to that of Natura 2000 Sites	
	<p>Habitat Annex 1, * Priority habitat</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>) [3110] • Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the <i>Littorelletea uniflorae</i> and/or of the <i>Isoto-Nanojuncetea</i> [3130] • Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculum fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260] • Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010] • European dry heaths [4030] • Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060] • <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130] • Calaminarian grasslands of the <i>Violetalia calaminariae</i> [6130] • <i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>) [6410] • Blanket bog (*active only) [7130] • Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> [7150] • Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in British Isles [91A0] • *Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i>, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>) [91E0] • *<i>Taxus baccata</i> woods of the British Isles [91J0] <p>Conservation Objectives</p> <p>2. To maintain the Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status:</p> <p>Species – Annex 11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kerry slug (<i>Geomalacus maculosus</i>) [1024] • Freshwater pearl mussel (<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>) [1029] • Marsh fritillary (<i>Euphydryas aurinia</i>) [1065] • Sea lamprey (<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>) [1095] • Brook lamprey (<i>Lampetra planeri</i>) [1096] • River lamprey (<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>) [1099] • Twait shad (<i>Alosa fallax fallax</i>) [1103] • Salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) [1106] • Lesser horseshoe bat (<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>) [1303] • Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) [1355] • Killarney fern (<i>Trichomanes speciosum</i>) [1421] • Slender naiad (<i>Najas flexilis</i>) [1833] <p>3. To maintain the extent, species richness and biodiversity of the entire site.</p> <p>4. To establish effective liaison and co-operation with landowners, legal users and relevant authorities.</p>

1. Proposed development site location relative to that of Natura 2000 Sites	
	<p>Killarney National Park, SPA, 004038</p> <p>Objective: To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA.</p> <p><u>Special Conservation Interest:</u> Merlin Greenland White –fronted Goose</p>

2. Specialist reports, advice and recommendations received (if any)	
<p>Brief overview of specialist reports, advice, and recommendations received from NPWS / Heritage Officer / Biodiversity Officer / other Specialists (where appropriate)</p>	<p>On site meeting 1st April, with Senior Environmental Officers from Inland Fisheries Ireland and Local Authority Staff. Inland Fisheries Officers agreed that it is more desirable to construct the cycleway/walkway away from the river bank, (as proposed) to the north of the established line of trees, thus also minimising the need for cutting and filling as site more level at this location. This will also create for a more interesting cycle route and minimise potential conflict with any anglers along river-bank.</p> <p>Recommended that design measures be incorporated into the project to protect the aquatic and riparian environment, measures to prevent siltation and pollution of watercourse from works required.</p> <p>Advised that developing access points and stands for people with disabilities along the river has the potential to create issues at this particular location, including issues of maintenance, maintenance after flooding and the absence of public parking associated with the site was also noted. The further consideration of access stands etc will not now be pursued. This project proposes only the construction of a cycleway/walkway.</p>

3. Consideration of the potential for significant impacts on Natura 2000 sites, having particular regard to potential significance indicators, status information, qualifying interests and conservation objectives for Natura 2000 sites. In line with the precautionary principle, where doubt exists, it should be assumed that effects could be significant.	
<p>Proposed project may result in:</p> <p>(i) Habitat loss and / or degradation</p> <p>(ii) Species loss, disturbance and / or displacement</p> <p>Potential significance indicators include:</p> <p>• Reduction, degradation or fragmentation of key habitat (land clearance etc)</p>	<p>Significance will vary depending on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Magnitude of impact • Type • Extent • Distance • Duration • Intensity • Timing • Probability • Cumulative effects <p>The project site will be located <u>partly within</u> and adjacent to the Killarney National Park, Macgillicuddy's Reeks and Caragh River cSAC. The project site is also located within 1km of the Killarney National Park SPA.</p> <p>It is noted that a significant section of the cycleway/walkway route running through the Castle-Falls estate and the Killarney Racecourse lands will be located away from the cSAC</p>

3. Consideration of the potential for significant impacts on Natura 2000 sites, having particular regard to potential significance indicators, status information, qualifying interests and conservation objectives for Natura 2000 sites. In line with the precautionary principle, where doubt exists, it should be assumed that effects could be significant.

	<p>designation; however where the route runs parallel to the River Flesk the path will directly abut the cSAC designation. It is noted that the entire project site is hydrologically connected to Killarney National Park, Macgillycuddy's Reeks and Caragh River cSAC and to the Killarney National Park SPA.</p>
	<p>Therefore direct loss of habitat in the Natura 2000 site could potentially occur; in addition indirect impacts are also possible due to impacts on water quality during construction and operational phase.</p> <p>For c. 290 metres of its length the pathway will make use of the existing residential estate road through Castle Falls estate before entering the Racecourse lands where under planning application 08/294987 planning permission was granted for a re-development of the stables there. The new layout of the racecourse site will now facilitate the proposed cycleway/walkway. The pathway route from Ross Road running north to south through the Castle Falls residential estate and through the racecourse land will be constructed on existing built, modified and disturb land (categorised as Buildings and artificial surfaces BL3 under Fossitt's 'A guide to Habitats in Ireland'). No annexed habitat of the Killarney National Park Macgillycuddy's Reeks and Caragh River cSAC was identified along this section of the route.</p> <p>As expected key supporting habitat for the birds (Merlin and Greenland White –fronted Goose) identified as qualifying interests for the Killarney National Park SPA was not identified along this section of the route.</p> <p>After the racecourse the pathway route turns eastwards and for about 400 metres it is to be located directly north of an established line of trees north of the River Flesk river bank.</p> <p>For this section of the pathway it is proposed that machinery will not be permitted to work south of the proposed path footprint towards the area of the river bank or encroach into the SAC (where the route does not already overlap it) and therefore no habitat loss or alteration is expected south of the 3 metre width of footprint. No clearance of any bank-side vegetation will occur. The private residential estate road directly to the north of the proposed pathway route will facilitate access to the development site at this location.</p> <p>Habitat loss within the 3m cycleway/walkway footprint will occur. No area of potential significance has been identified. As shown on the drawings attached this section of the route is located directly adjacent to the cSAC designation, however the habitat at the location of the proposed pathway is classed as Amenity Grassland (improved) GA2.</p> <p>As the pathway moves through the recreational park it encroaches into the SAC designation. This area has already been modified into a recreational park and the area extending westwards along the riverbank has been modified by worn paths as a result of frequent walkers/anglers accessing the river bank. The existing path route in the recreational park will be upgraded into the proposed cycle way. The crossover area with the SAC is quite small approximately, a matter of metres. It is noted that this habitat has already been modified into a recreational park</p>

3. Consideration of the potential for significant impacts on Natura 2000 sites, having particular regard to potential significance indicators, status information, qualifying interests and conservation objectives for Natura 2000 sites. In line with the precautionary principle, where doubt exists, it should be assumed that effects could be significant.	
	<p>(classed as Amenity grassland (improved) GA2 and does not contain key annexed habitat of the SAC or supporting habitat for the SPA.</p> <p>Having regard to the above it is considered there is no likelihood of direct reduction, degradation and or fragmentation of the key habitats identified as the qualifying interests for which cSAC has been designated nor any likelihood of reduction, degradation and or fragmentation of the key habitats of the birds identified as qualifying interests for which the Killarney National Park SPA has been designated as detailed in section 1 of this report.</p> <p>Possible indirect effects on the water dependent habitats and species due to potential impacts on water quality.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disturbance/Mortality/harm of key species, (e.g. noise or light pollution, trampling, general disturbance) 	<p>The habitats and species immediately adjacent to the proposed cycleway/walkway will be subject to certain levels of disturbance during the construction phase of the project, however any impacts are expected to be slight as the proposed works are small in this case and will be carried out over a short time frame (3 months).</p> <p>The main disturbance will be the physical disturbance of the soil and vegetation and the disturbance to species due to the increase in noise and light levels and presence of machinery and humans. Disturbance can restrict access of wildlife to habitats and or can alter habitats. The level of this disturbance during the construction phase will be local. Any impact of the movement of workers and materials is expected to be slight and temporary as operations will be confined to a limited area and existing roadways are available for delivery of materials to a point immediately adjacent to the pathway along the extent of its route.</p> <p>Overall disturbance to sensitive species such as otters in the SAC, is not considered significant given the habitualisation of otters at this location to pedestrian movements and the confinement of proposed works to daylight hours when the species are likely to avoid this area (which is also popular with dog walkers and other recreational users).</p> <p>An increased level of localised noise disturbance may also occur during the operational phase due to the increased presence of pedestrians and cyclists. However given the location of the proposed development within the context of the receiving environment, a certain level of disturbance is already experienced (and tolerated) caused by the significant level of use by the public, both vehicular and pedestrian traffic through Castle-Falls estate and the Killarney racecourse and from pedestrians and anglers accessing the river bank.</p> <p>In addition it is noted that there is an existing informal path providing access for pedestrians and anglers along the river bank linking the memorial park with the boundary of the racecourse lands. The proposed new amenity pathway is located further north of the existing path and river-bank, thereby reducing the potential for noise and light disturbance. Further any impacts arising from the proposed development will also be softened due to the presence of existing mature trees/vegetation to the south of the pathway adjoining the river bank, which is not to be disturbed.</p> <p>Further it is noted that the existing path along the River remains</p>

3. Consideration of the potential for significant impacts on Natura 2000 sites, having particular regard to potential significance indicators, status information, qualifying interests and conservation objectives for Natura 2000 sites. In line with the precautionary principle, where doubt exists, it should be assumed that effects could be significant.

	<p>unlit and a new lighting scheme has <u>not</u> been proposed as part of this project along the new path north of the river. (Lighting schemes already exist along Castle Falls estate road, in the Racecourse and along the Priory Grove estate). Therefore the section of the path closest to the River will rarely be in use outside daylight hours, thus further limiting the potential for disturbance to sensitive species such as bat and otter.</p> <p>Bridges can be important roosting sites for bats. The cycle way will exit on the N71 and continue in the direction of Muckcross over Flesk Bridge. The existing footpath on the N71 will be widened to facilitate the cyclists/pedestrians. However it is noted that no work will be undertaken under the bridge deck or onto the side of the Flesk bridge. Therefore considering the nature of the works as outlined above no significant impact is likely on any bat species that may be present on the bridge.</p> <p>Species loss could potentially occur within the River Flesk arising from the proposed development as a consequence of uncontrolled pollutant run-off from construction activities. However the design of the project has included for standard best practice to ensure that potentially harmful pollutants will not enter the watercourse to affect water quality and as a result water dependent species are not considered likely to be affected. Overall the proposed development at this location will not result in species loss, disturbance and / or displacement.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alteration of key environmental conditions (eg. Water quality, water supply, air quality) 	<p>Possible from construction works. It is noted that the project site is partly located within and directly adjacent to the Killarney National Park Macgillicuddy's Reeks and Caragh River cSAC, which supports water dependent species and habitats. If contaminated water from construction works enters the water course there is the potential for water quality to be effected further down stream. Annexed habitats and species of the Natura 2000 site require good water quality for favourable conservation status. There is also a risk of indirect impacts to otters who feed on water dependent species due to a reduction in prey availability by means of adverse water quality impacts to the adjacent River Flesk from the ingress of silt, sediment or spillage of petrochemicals as a consequence of the project being constructed in close proximity to the river.</p> <p>Key aquatic habitat of the Killarney National Park will be protected through the employment of good site management during the construction stage to prevent discharge of silt/hydrocarbons contaminated waters to surface waters. No run off will be allowed flow in River Flesk. Any runoff will be directed to silt ponds which will allow runoff water to percolate slowly into the ground through a terram base and pea gravel. Further to the above no impacts on water quality is deemed likely therefore no impact on freshwater species or no indirect impact on otters who feed on water dependent species is considered likely.</p> <p>The proposed development is not one which will significantly affect air quality of sensitive habitats.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitation of changes, that may promote invasive species colonisation (including introduction, 	<p>This is a small scale cycleway/walkway project and is not one which is likely to facilitate the introduction to or spread of such species within Natura 2000 sites as would cause concern. Standard best practice will be adhered to in relation to this issue</p>

3. Consideration of the potential for significant impacts on Natura 2000 sites, having particular regard to potential significance indicators, status information, qualifying interests and conservation objectives for Natura 2000 sites. In line with the precautionary principle, where doubt exists, it should be assumed that effects could be significant.	
dispersal and / or creation of favourable habitat)	as outlined in the NRA (2008) document ' <i>Guidelines on the management of noxious weeds and non-native invasive plant species on National Road Schemes</i> '
• Interference with the movement of mobile dune and intertidal Natura 2000 habitats	It is not considered likely that there would be significant impacts in relation to this as the proposed site is not located in close proximity to these coastal habitats.
• Hydrological disruptions (loss of groundwater supplies, altered run-off rates etc)	Storm water run-off rates in the area will not be altered by way of this proposal during construction or operational stage. Any runoff will be directed to silt ponds which will allow runoff water to percolate slowly into the ground through a terram base and pea gravel.
• Movement related disturbances, including increased access to / within ecologically sensitive areas (human, traffic, machinery etc)	<p>The majority of the work will take place within the footprint of the existing Castle-Falls estate road, the Killarney Racecourse grounds and the N71 carriageway. While the pathway will introduce additional footfall into the area, any such increase is not likely to significantly impact on nature conservation sensitivities in the area. Where the route runs parallel to the River Flesk, access to or movement through the ecological sensitive area will not be necessary to complete this project. For example for this section of the cycleway/walkway it is proposed that machinery will not be permitted to work south of the cycleway/walkway footprint towards the area of the river bank and therefore no habitat loss or alteration is expected south of the 3 metre width of footprint. The private residential estate road of Priory Grove directly to the north of the proposed cycleway route will facilitate access to the development site at this location.</p> <p>It is noted that there is an existing pedestrian pathway established along the river bank of the River Flesk. The proposed cycleway/walkway is to be located further away from the riverbank than the existing path and its location at this point will not result in significant wildlife disturbance. No clearance of any bank-side vegetation will occur. In addition the river bank has a natural protection barrier as a consequence of the existing stand of mature trees that line the top of the embankment; these measures will ensure the protection of the ecological integrity of the Natura 2000 site. All these areas are well used by the public and accordingly wildlife utilising the area is likely to be adapted to and tolerant of same.</p>
• Dust	Not likely to be a concern in this instance.
• Landslides and collapses	A cycle lane ramp will be constructed for 80 metres along a section of the route adjoining Priory Grove and the Racecourse. This ramp will require rock armoring. Having regard to the scale of the development outlined in this project however it is considered unlikely that landslides and collapses will be a concern in this instance.
• Other potential indicators	-
• Interactive / cumulative / in combination impacts including potential climate change impacts and those with other plans and projects	<p>The predominant land use in the immediate surrounding area is residential and commercial consisting mainly of the racecourse, hotel and guesthouse developments. It is noted that there are a number of existing extant planning permissions within the vicinity of the project site:</p> <p><u>08/294987</u>: Killarney Racecourse: Planning permission granted to demolish existing stable blocks, relocate water storage tank, construct (a) new access road adjacent to the eastern boundary, (b) new stable yard.</p> <p><u>13/205360</u>, outline planning permission granted for four detached</p>

3. Consideration of the potential for significant impacts on Natura 2000 sites, having particular regard to potential significance indicators, status information, qualifying interests and conservation objectives for Natura 2000 sites. In line with the precautionary principle, where doubt exists, it should be assumed that effects could be significant.

	<p>houses adjoining Castle Falls Estate, 09/295041, planning permission granted for 16 semi-detached dwellings on lands adjoining existing Castle Falls Estate.</p> <p>There is the potential for adverse cumulative impacts in relation to impacts on water quality and ecology downstream of project site. However if development is carried out in line with standard best practice, the potential for cumulative effects is reduced and or avoided.</p>
<p>Overview / Key Points</p>	<p>The project site will be located <u>partly within</u> and directly adjacent to the Killarney National Park, Macgillicuddy's Reeks and Caragh River cSAC. The project site is also located within 1km of the Killarney National Park SPA.</p> <p>It is noted that a significant section of the cycleway/walkway route through the Castle-Falls estate, the Killarney Racecourse lands and the N71 will be located away from the cSAC designation and constructed on habitat classed under Fossitt as <i>Buildings and artificial surfaces BL3</i>; however where the route runs parallel to the River Flesk the path will directly abut the cSAC designation and encroaches into the cSAC for a few metres at the O'Donoghue Memorial recreational park. It is noted that the entire project site is hydrologically connected to Killarney National Park, Macgillicuddy's Reeks and Caragh River cSAC and to the Killarney National Park SPA.</p> <p>No annexed habitat of the Killarney National Park Macgillicuddy's Reeks and Caragh River cSAC was identified along the length of proposed project route. Where the cycleway/walkway moves through the recreational park and encroaches into the SAC designation; it is noted that this habitat has already been modified into a recreational park (classed as Amenity grassland (improved) GA2 and does not contain annexed habitat of the SAC.</p> <p>As expected key supporting habitat for the birds identified as qualifying interests for the Killarney National Park SPA (Merlin and Greenland White –fronted Goose) was not identified along the cycleway/footpath route.</p> <p>Construction stage disturbance of sensitive species in the SAC (e.g. otters) can be ruled out, given the habitualisation of otters at this location to traffic / vehicular movements and the confinement of proposed works to daylight hours when the species are likely to avoid this area. From an operational point of view daytime impacts are likely to remain the same and can be discounted. Additional lighting schemes are not proposed as part of the project. (Lighting schemes already exist along Castle Falls estate road, in the Racecourse and along the Priory Grove estate). Therefore the section of the path closest to the River will rarely be in use outside daylight hours, thus further limiting the potential for disturbance to sensitive species such as bat and otter.</p> <p>Construction activities by their nature can potentially impact on water quality. Alternation of key environmental conditions is not considered likely in this instance having regard to the nature, scale and location of development, absence of large scale excavation works and particularly given that standard water quality control measures form an integral part of the proposal and are considered sufficient to prevent siltation and pollution of</p>

3. Consideration of the potential for significant impacts on Natura 2000 sites, having particular regard to potential significance indicators, status information, qualifying interests and conservation objectives for Natura 2000 sites. In line with the precautionary principle, where doubt exists, it should be assumed that effects could be significant.

watercourse from works and spillages.

4. Determination of which species and habitats could be significantly affected by the activities

There is no potential for significant impacts to Natura 2000 sites.

5. Conclusion and recommendation

Based on the foregoing, it is considered that the potential for significant effects to Natura 2000 sites can be ruled out and therefore that an Appropriate Assessment is not required in this instance. It should be noted that prior to a final conclusion being made the assessment contained in this report will be reviewed on receipt of any additional information received from prescribed bodies or public submissions as part of the Part 8 Planning Process. As this stage however, and without prejudice, no significant effects on Natura 2000 sites were identified.

Completed by:

Michelle O'Connor, Planning Department 24-07-2014

Signed: Michelle O'Connor

Date: 24-7-14

Appendix A



Fig 1: Existing recreational park adjoining the River Flesk



Fig 2, 3: Existing pathway near and on River Flesk river bank.



Fig 4: Existing entrance into park to be utilised as exit/entrance point for cyclists



Fig 5: Existing footpath along Flesk Bridge to be widened to accommodate cyclists



Fig 6,7: Existing ground to north of river bank adjoining Priory Grove residential estate will accommodate the cycle route.



Fig 8: existing lighting scheme along Priory Grove estate road



Fig 9: Castle Falls estate road to accommodate part of cycle route



Fig 10: Killarney Racecourse land, the cycle route will traverse through here along the western portion of ground, once stables demolished.



Fig 11: area where the cycle route meets with the Racecourse, rear amenity space of house no. 3 in Priory Grove visible. Rock armoring required here.

Fig. 1. Schematic diagram of the experimental setup. The test specimen is a rectangular plate of length l and width b . The plate is supported at the ends by two rigid supports. A vertical load P is applied at the center of the plate. The distance between the supports is $2a$. The plate is divided into three regions: a central region of length $2a$ and two side regions of length $l-a$ each. The plate is made of a material with a yield strength σ_y . The plate is subjected to a uniform temperature T . The plate is divided into three regions: a central region of length $2a$ and two side regions of length $l-a$ each. The plate is made of a material with a yield strength σ_y . The plate is subjected to a uniform temperature T .