

**Habitats Directive Assessment Screening Report**  
**for a proposed**  
**Car / Bus Park and Amenity Area at Annadale Road, Killorglin, Co Kerry**

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF ARTICLE 6  
OF THE  
EU HABITATS DIRECTIVE 92/43/EEC



**Environmental Assessment Unit**  
**Kerry County Council**

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## 1. Introduction

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### **Introduction**

This report considers the likelihood of significant effects on Natura 2000 sites arising from a proposal to provide a car / bus park and an amenity area adjoining the existing carpark on the Annadale Road, Killorglin. As part of this, the capacity of the car park would increase by 53 car spaces from 37 to 90 spaces. 6 new coach spaces would also be created. This report constitutes Stage 1 Screening which considers the likelihood of significant effects on Natura 2000 Sites of permitting the project.

### **Habitats Directive Requirements**

Natura 2000, as an EU wide network of nature protection areas, is the centrepiece of EU nature & biodiversity policy. The aim of this network is to assure the long-term survival of Europe's most valuable and threatened species and habitats. Natura 2000 is not a system of strict nature reserves where all human activities are excluded. While the network includes nature reserves, most of the land is privately owned, with the emphasis on ensuring that future management is sustainable, both ecologically and economically. Natura 2000 sites, also known as European Sites, incorporate Special Protection Areas (SPAs) designated under the 1979 Birds Directive and Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) designated by Member States under the 1992 Habitats Directive, as well sites awaiting final approval, *i.e.* potential Special Protection Areas (pSPA) and candidate Special Areas of Conservation (cSAC). The Habitats Directive was transposed into Irish law by the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations, SI 94/1997.

As per the requirements of the Habitats Directive, projects can only be permitted after having ascertained that there will be no significant adverse effect on the integrity of the sites in question. This was reinforced in the European Court of Justice (ECJ) ruling against Ireland (Case 418/04). The European Union has provided guidance as to how to make a Habitats Directive Assessment. This guidance identifies four main stages in the process as outlined below. 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.

### Stage One: Screening

*The process which identifies the likely impacts upon a Natura 2000 site of a project or plan, wither alone or in combination with other projects or plans, and considers whether these impacts are likely to be significant.*

Where significant effects cannot be ruled out, beyond reasonable scientific doubt, at screening stage, a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) report providing a more detailed analysis of the potential effects of a proposed project on Natura 2000 Sites is required. It is the responsibility of the proponent of the plan or project to have a NIS prepared for submission to the Competent Authority in order to assist in the undertaking of an Appropriate Assessment (AA).

### Stage Two: Appropriate assessment

*The consideration of the impact on the integrity of the Natura 2000 site of the project or plan, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, with respect to the site's structure and function and its conservation objectives. Additionally, where there are adverse impacts, an assessment of the potential mitigation of those impacts.*

### Stage Three: Assessment of alternative solutions

*The process which examines alternative ways of achieving the objectives of the project or plan that avoid adverse impacts on the integrity of the Natura 2000 site. It would be contrary to the requirements of the Habitats Directive to permit an option which would have adverse impacts on the conservation objectives of a Natura 2000 site, if non-harmful alternative solutions have been identified.*

### Stage Four: Assessment where no alternative solutions exist and where adverse impacts remain

*An assessment of compensatory measures, where in the light of an assessment of imperative reasons of overriding public interest, it is deemed that the project or plan should proceed.*

### **Guidance Documents**

This Appropriate Assessment Screening Report has been undertaken in accordance with the European Commission Methodological Guidance on the provision of Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC (EC, 2001) and the European Commission Guidance 'Managing Natura 2000 sites' (EC, updated April 2015) and guidance prepared by the NPWS (DoEHLG, 2009). Regard was also had to the European Commission (2007): Guidance document on Article 6(4) of the 'Habitats Directive' 92/43/EEC clarification of the Concepts of Alternative Solutions, Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest, Compensatory Measures, Overall Coherence. Opinion of the European Commission (European Commission, January 2007) and to NPWS 2019 reports outlining 'The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland'.

### **Stage one Appropriate Assessment Screening Methodology**

As set out in the NPWS guidance, the task of establishing whether a plan or project is likely to have an effect on a Natura 2000 site is based on a preliminary impact assessment using available information and data and other available environmental information, supplemented as necessary by local site information and ecological surveys. This is followed by a determination of whether there is a risk that the effects identified could be significant, 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, AA will be required.

This Appropriate Assessment Screening exercise will be systematically set out in the following manner:-

2. Establish whether the Plan or Project is necessary for the management of a Natura 2000 site.
3. Description of the Plan or Project.
4. Identification of Natura 2000 sites potentially affected.
5. Identification and description of individual and cumulative impacts of the project.
6. Assessment of the significance of the impacts on the integrity of Natura 2000 sites (through the use of key indicators).
7. Conclusion of Screening Report.

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## **2. Establish whether the plan or project is necessary for the management of a Natura 2000 Site**

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### **2.1 Introduction**

Plans or projects that are directly connected with or necessary to the nature conservation management of a Natura 2000 site are essentially exempt from further AA related consideration. The DEHLG 2010 Circular NPW 1/10 & PSSP 2/10, outlines that such exceptions will be comparatively rare and it is recommended that the reasons and justifications, and any possible wider effects and mitigation measures, are assessed and recorded in advance of the decision to proceed in each case, together with evidence of consultation with the appropriate National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) officials of the Department.

### **2.2 Assessment**

It is considered that this project is not one which is necessary for the management of a Natura 2000 site and therefore AA Screening is required.

### 3. Description of the Project

This project is a car / bus park and an amenity project adjoining an existing carpark in Killorglin Town. The proposal is a natural extension to the existing carpark and it is noted that the area functions as an informal carparking area during events such as Puck Fair. As part of the proposal the capacity of the existing car park would increase by 53 car spaces from 37 to 90 spaces. 6 new coach spaces would also be created. The site adjoins a woodland to the south, which forms part of the Castlemaine Harbour SAC, as does the River Laune and an unnamed tributary to the east. Amenity walkways are proposed around the carpark as are a number of picnic tables to the northeast. Public lighting and open grassed landscaping are also proposed.

All elements of the proposed project have been assessed as part of this report.



Above: Proposed development

<b>Characteristics of the Plan or Project</b>	
Size, scale, area, land take	The proposal provides for an extension to the capacity of the existing Car Park at the Annadale Road in Killorglin Town, as well as the provision of a public amenity in the form of a grassed open space area with footways and a maximum of 5 wooden picnic tables. The capacity of the car park will increase by 53 car spaces from 37 to 90 spaces. 6 new coach spaces will also be created. The area of the development is 3579m <sup>2</sup> (0.358Ha / 0.884 acres) on a site at edge of Killorglin Town Centre.
Details of physical changes that will take place during the various stages of implementing the proposal	<p><b><u>Site Clearance and Preparation</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The development will entail the removal of vegetation and stripping back of topsoil to a depth of 200 mm below ground level from the new parking area. This Topsoil (approximately 400 m<sup>3</sup>), will be stored on site for later use or disposed of to an authorised place of disposal.</li> <li>• A further depth of 200mm of subsoil will be excavated from the new parking surface, which is about 2133m<sup>2</sup> in area. This will give a new formation level which will be 400mm below existing ground level. The subsoil material (about 420 m<sup>3</sup>), will be removed off site to an authorised place of disposal.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Construction &amp; Services</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The new parking area will be trunked up using a layer of crushed stone 250mm deep.</li> <li>• Ducts for the lighting columns and stormwater pipes will be laid appropriately in/under the crushed stone layer. Sockets for the lighting columns will also be created.</li> <li>• The crushed stone will be covered by a layer of clause 804 crushed stone aggregate (maximum thickness 150mm).</li> <li>• A line of precast concrete kerbs c. 160 metres long will be laid to define the outside edge of the parking surface.</li> <li>• Surface water gullies will be placed where required by the detailed design. The surface water gullies will be concrete precast with a metal grate cover.</li> <li>• A bituminous finished parking surface layer (60mm thick) will be laid.</li> <li>• Lighting columns will be erected and commissioned so as to illuminate the site. Spillage outside of the site will not occur.</li> </ul>

Characteristics of the Plan or Project	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Standard thermoplastic white and yellow road marking material will be laid to delineate the parking spaces and general layout of the finished car park.</li> <li>• The new parking surface will be finished a maximum of 150mm above existing ground level.</li> </ul> <p><b>Landscaping</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• During the final phase finishes to the grassed/picnic areas and paths will be completed.</li> <li>• Public Green areas within the site will be graded with topsoil from the stored stockpile. The topsoil will be spread out, graded, seeded and rolled.</li> <li>• Tress &amp; shrubs will be planted in accordance with the landscaping Proposals.</li> </ul>
Description of resource requirements for the construction/operation and decommissioning of the proposal (water resources, construction material, human presence etc)	<p>Materials required will be typical of a public car park project and will include pre-cast concrete kerbs, crushed stone, uPVC pipes, 3 no. Steel lighting columns, ready mixed concrete, bituminous macadam and topsoil. Typical machinery required for a project of this nature include:- Excavator for stripping site and excavating subsoil to formation level, a dumper for moving topsoil to stockpile, lorry movements to remove excess material from site, a roller for compaction of the bituminous parking surface, various trucks including concrete mix trucks for delivery of ready mix concrete.</p> <p>Typically, between 4 and 7 employees will be present on site daily for the duration of the works. This will fluctuate from time to time as different phases of the construction take place and specialist services such as electricians or landscaping are required.</p>
Description of timescale for the various activities that will take place as a result of implementation (including likely start and finish date)	<p>Construction is expected to last about 9 weeks. Starting date is subject to development consent approval and funding. Using estimated durations for the various tasks envisaged, a start date of September 1<sup>st</sup> and a finish date of 30<sup>th</sup> October 2020 is considered a realistic proposal.</p>
Description of wastes arising and other residues (including quantities) and their disposal	<p>All waste material will be managed as per an integrated Waste Management Plan (WMP). Any material falling to waste will be streamed to the appropriate waste container/skip in the site compound. All waste material will be removed from site by an approved Licensed Waste Contractor and disposed of as required to authorised waste facilities approved by Kerry County Council. Any recyclable material will be disposed of at a recycling centre. If permitted, Kerry</p>

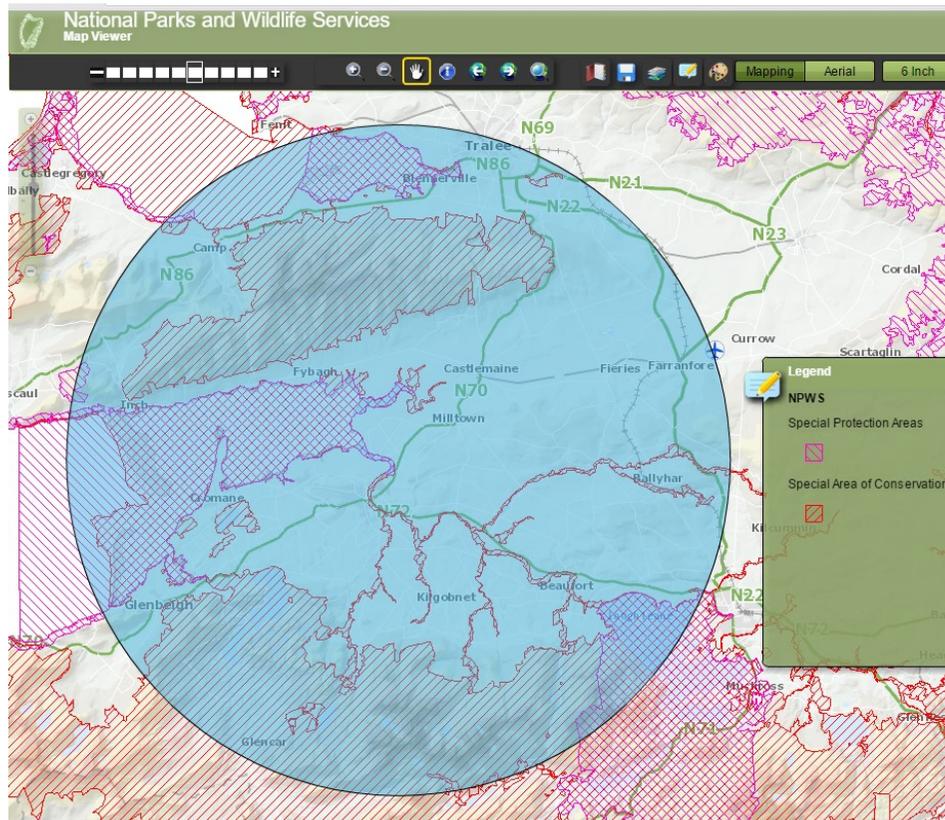
<b>Characteristics of the Plan or Project</b>	
	County Council will take over the operation and management of the proposed carpark. As part of this KCC will be responsible for litter management.
Description of any additional services required to implement the project or plan, their location and means of construction	This is a relatively small-scale car park extension and amenity project which can avail of local services located within the Killorglin area.
Other	This proposal will result in a moderate increase in noise and human presence during the construction and operational phases. Increased human presence will also provide improved passive surveillance of the adjoining woodland and discourage fly tipping within same at this location.

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#### 4. Identification of Natura 2000 Sites potentially affected

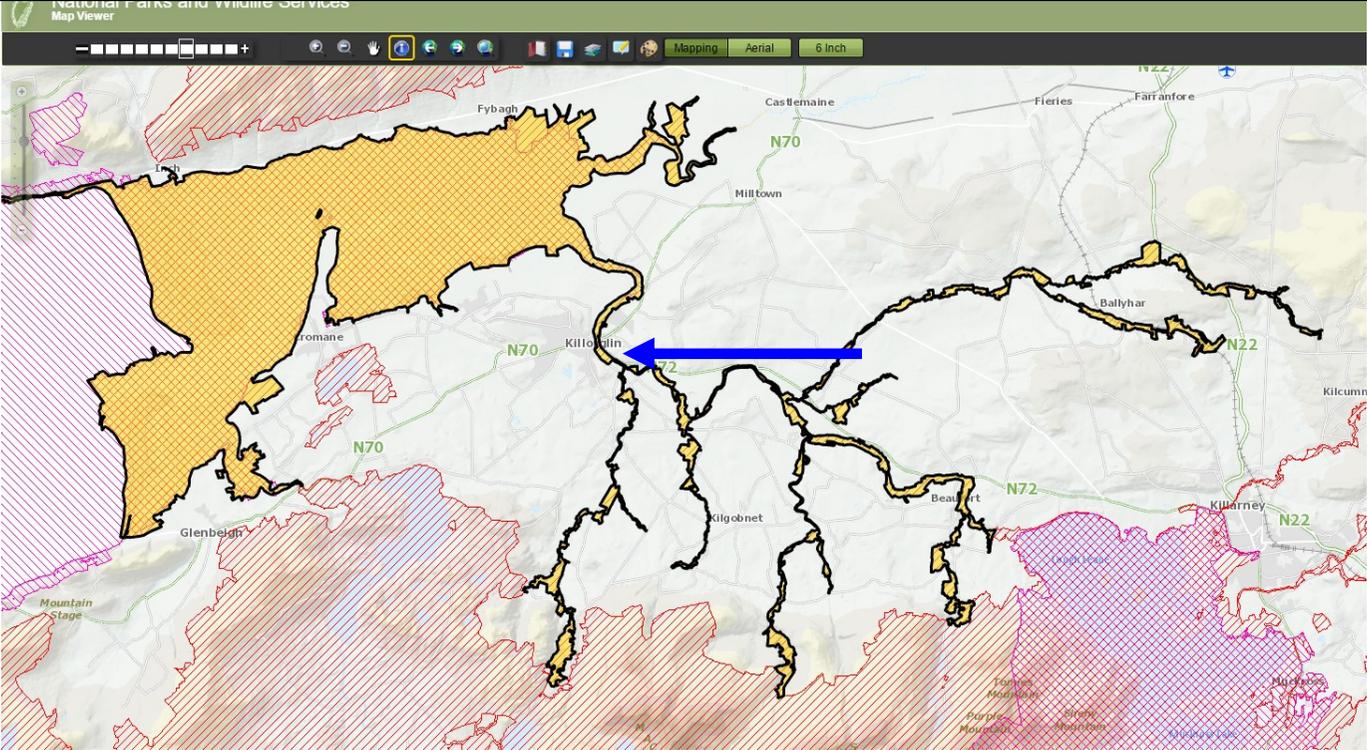
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As part of this assessment Natura 2000 sites which are located within 15Km of the development location where taken into consideration.

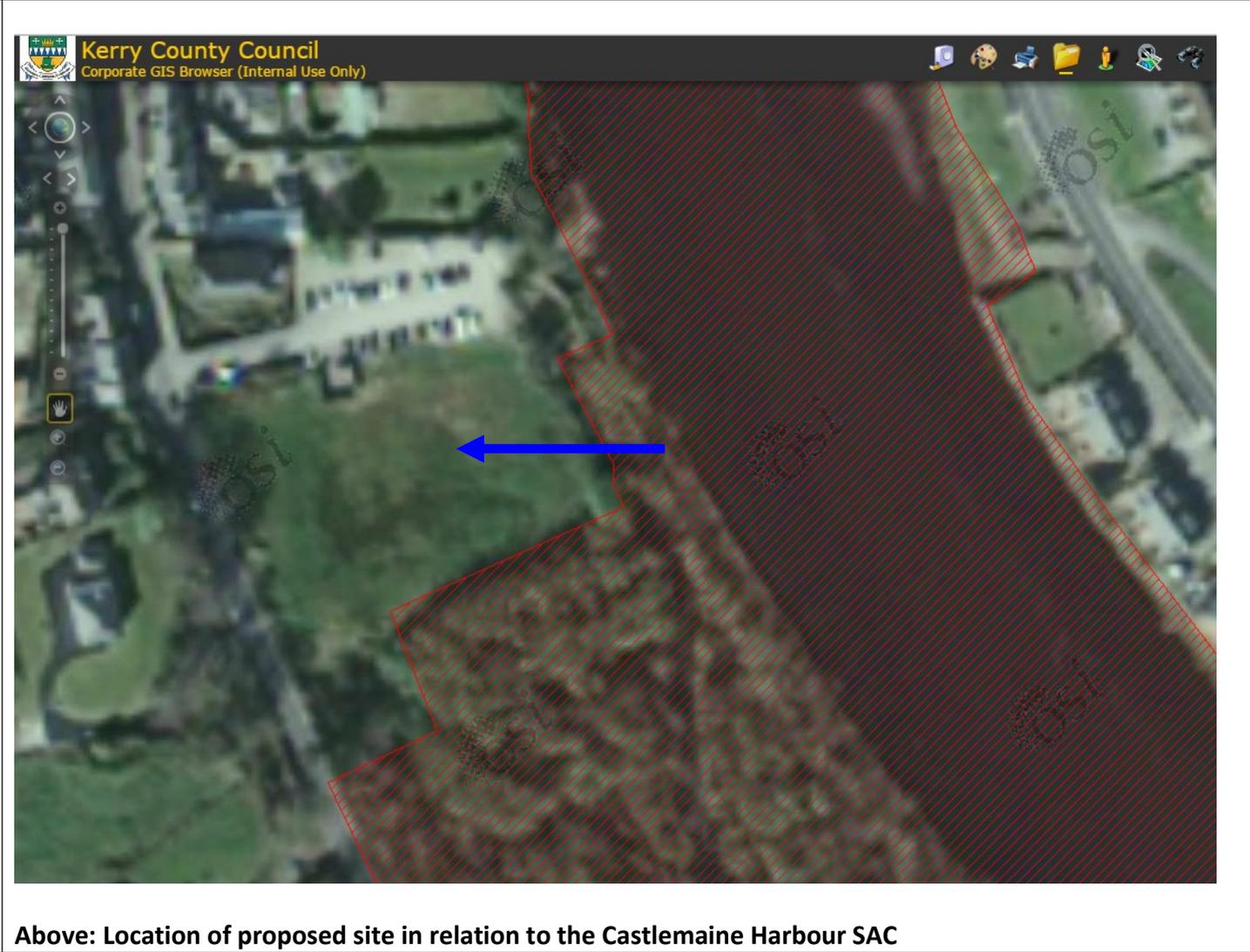


Above: Natura 2000 sites located within 15Km of the proposed works

The proposed works are located upstream of the Castlemaine Harbour SAC and the Castlemaine Harbour SPA. The nearby River Laune Estuary forms part of the Castlemaine Harbour SAC and is located downstream of the Killarney National Park, MacGillycuddy Reeks and Caragh River Catchment SAC and the Killarney National Park SPA. There are no other connecting pathways between the development (source) and Natura 2000 sites (receptors). Potential for impact on the Castlemaine Harbour SPA and Killarney National Park SPA can be ruled out beyond reasonable scientific doubt at this preliminary stage of the assessment as the species of conservation interest for those sites are birds and there is no potential pathway for impact on same or on their supporting habitats.

<b>Description of the Natura 2000 Site</b>	<b>Castlemaine Harbour SAC (Site Code 000343)</b>
<b>Name</b>	<b>Castlemaine Harbour SAC</b>
<b>Site designation status</b>	<b>Special Area of Conservation</b>
<p>Natura 2000 site highlighted in yellow. Killarney located by the blue arrow.</p>	 <p>The map shows the geographical context of the proposed site. The Castlemaine Harbour SAC is highlighted in yellow. Killarney is marked with a blue arrow. The map includes labels for various locations such as Fybagh, Castlemaine, Milltown, Ballyhar, Killarney, and Glenbeggin. It also shows the N70, N72, and N22 roads. The map is titled 'National Parks and Wildlife Services Map Viewer' and includes a scale of 6 inches.</p> <p><b>Above: Location of proposed site in relation to the Castlemaine Harbour SAC</b></p>

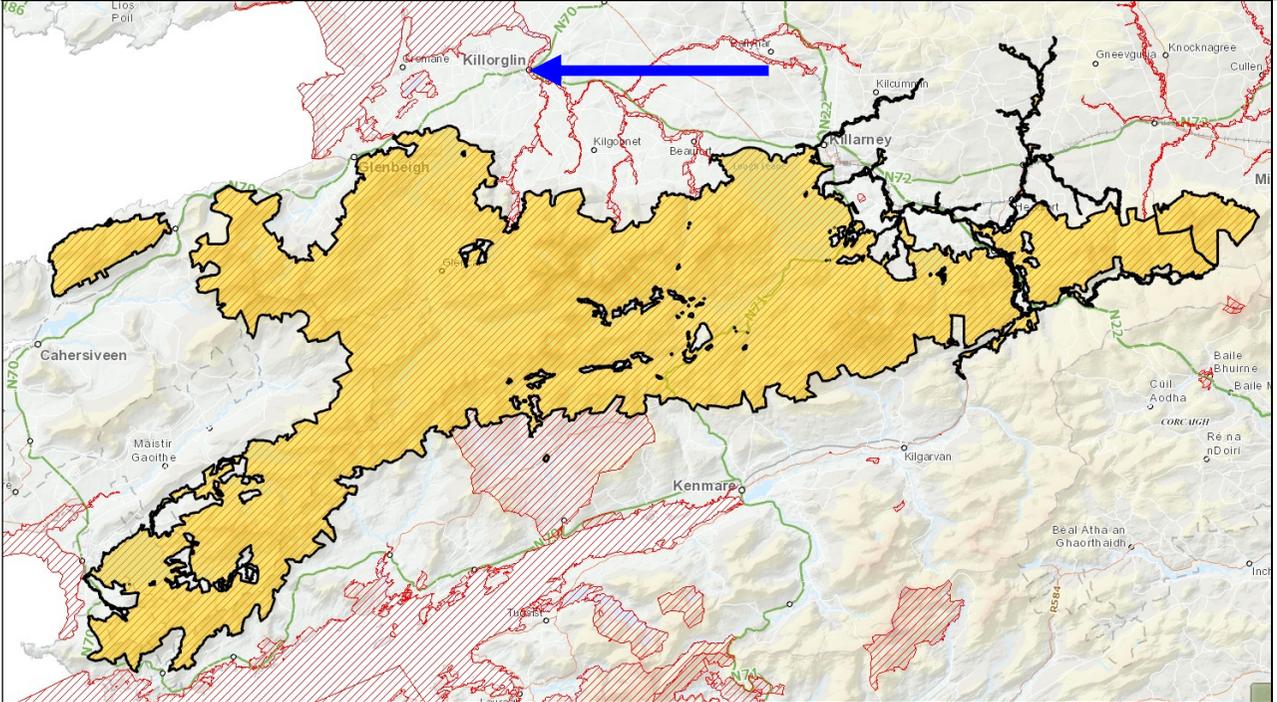
Description of the Natura 2000 Site	Castlemaine Harbour SAC (Site Code 000343)
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**Above: Location of proposed site in relation to the Castlemaine Harbour SAC**

Natura 2000 Site Description	This is a large site located on the south-east corner of the Dingle Peninsula, County Kerry. It consists of the whole inner section of Dingle Bay, i.e. Castlemaine Harbour, the spits of Inch and White Strand/Rosbehy and
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Description of the Natura 2000 Site	Castlemaine Harbour SAC (Site Code 000343)
	a little of the coastline to the west. The River Maine, almost to Castlemaine and much of the River Laune catchment, including the Gaddagh, Gweestion, Glanooragh, Cottoner's River and the River Loe, are also included within the site.
Qualifying species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> (Sea Lamprey)</li> <li>• <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> (River Lamprey)</li> <li>• <i>Salmo salar</i> (Atlantic Salmon)</li> <li>• <i>Lutra lutra</i> (European Otter)</li> <li>• <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> (Petalwort)</li> </ul>
Qualifying habitats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Estuaries</li> <li>• Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide</li> <li>• Annual vegetation of drift lines; Perennial vegetation of stony banks</li> <li>• <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonizing mud and sand; Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>)</li> <li>• Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>)</li> <li>• Embryonic shifting dunes</li> <li>• Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes)</li> <li>• Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes)</li> <li>• Dunes with <i>Salix repens ssp. argentea</i> (<i>Salix arenariae</i>)</li> <li>• Humid dune slacks</li> <li>• Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i>, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>)</li> </ul>
Non-qualifying species and habitats of interest	<p>Non qualifying species and habitats of interest include:-</p> <p>The site also contains the Natterjack Toad an Annex IV species and supports internationally important waterfowl populations as well as a number of Red Data Book plants including Sea-kale, Sea Pea, Corn Cockle (<i>Agrostemma githago</i>), Pennyroyal (<i>Mentha pulegium</i>) and Irish Lady's-tresses (<i>Spiranthes romanzoffiana</i>). The site also supports a small colony of Common Seal.</p>
Unit size	8683Ha
Condition / threats	Dune systems are vulnerable to trampling and erosion associated with recreation and overgrazing. Water quality is a threat to water dependent habitats and species, including lampreys and salmon.

Natura 2000 Site: Killarney National Park, MacGillycuddy's Reeks & Caragh River Catchment SAC (Site Code 000365)	
Name	Killarney National Park, Macgillycuddy's Reeks & Caragh River Catchment SAC (Site Code 000365)
Site designation status	Special Area of Conservation
Natura 2000 site highlighted in yellow. Killarney located by the blue arrow.	
Natura 2000 Site Description	<p>This very large site encompasses the mountains, rivers and lakes of the Iveragh peninsula, and the Paps Mountains which stretch eastward from Killarney towards Millstreet. It is the most mountainous region in Ireland and includes Carrauntoohil (1039m), the highest peak in the country.</p> <p>The underlying geology is almost entirely Old Red Sandstone. The dramatic sandstone ridges and valleys have been shaped by glacial processes and many of the lakes are impounded by glacial</p>

Natura 2000 Site: Killarney National Park, MacGillycuddy's Reeks & Caragh River Catchment SAC (Site Code 000365)	
	<p>moraines. Located close to the Atlantic in the south-west of Ireland, the site is subject to strong oceanic influences. Generally, the Lusitanian flora and fauna is well represented, while the high peaks and cliffs support arctic-alpine relicts. The site is of great ecological interest, with at least ten habitats which are listed on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive.</p>
Qualifying species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Alosa fallax</i> (Killarney shad),</li> <li>• <i>Trichomanes speciosum</i> (Killarney Fern),</li> <li>• <i>Najas flexilis</i> (Slender Naiad),</li> <li>• <i>Geomalacus maculosus</i> (Kerry spotted slug)</li> <li>• <i>Euphydryas aurinia</i> (Marsh Fritillary)</li> <li>• <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> (Lesser Horseshoe Bat)</li> <li>• <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> (Sea Lamprey)</li> <li>• <i>Lampetra planeri</i> (European Brook Lamprey)</li> <li>• <i>Salmo salar</i> (Atlantic Salmon)</li> <li>• <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> (River Lamprey)</li> <li>• <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> (Freshwater Pearl Mussel)</li> <li>• <i>Lutra lutra</i> (European Otter)</li> </ul>
Qualifying habitats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion;</li> <li>• Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (Littorelletalia uniflorae);</li> <li>• Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the Littorelletea uniflorae and/or of the Isoëto-Nanojuncetea;</li> <li>• Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation;</li> <li>• European dry heaths;</li> <li>• <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands;</li> <li>• Calaminarian grasslands of the Violetalia calaminariae;</li> <li>• <i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae);</li> <li>• Blanket bog;</li> <li>• Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in British Isles;</li> <li>• Alpine and Boreal heaths; <i>Taxus baccata</i> woods of the British Isles;</li> </ul>

Natura 2000 Site: Killarney National Park, MacGillycuddy's Reeks & Caragh River Catchment SAC (Site Code 000365)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (Alno-Padion, <i>Alnus incanae</i>, <i>Salix albae</i>);</li> <li>• Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i></li> </ul>
Unit size	3488.49Ha
Non-qualifying species and habitats of interest	<p>An additional twenty-two Red Data Book plant species have been recorded, but only twelve of these have been seen recently. These are Pillwort (<i>Pilularia globulifera</i>), Kerry Lily (<i>Simethis planifolia</i>), Irish Lady's Tresses (<i>Spiranthes romanzoffiana</i>), Slender Cottongrass (<i>Eriophorum gracile</i>), Slender Cudweed (<i>Logfia minima</i>), Betony (<i>Stachys officinalis</i>), Heath Cudweed (<i>Omalotheca sylvatica</i>), Alder Buckthorn (<i>Frangula alnus</i>), Alpine Saw-wort (<i>Saussurea alpina</i>), Hoary Whitlowgrass (<i>Draba incana</i>), Smooth Brome (<i>Bromus racemosus</i>) and Holly Fern (<i>Polystichum lonchitis</i>). The first seven of these species are legally protected (Flora Protection Order, 1999). The site is very important for oceanic bryophytes, particularly the woodland species. It also contains good representative examples of the Northern Atlantic Hepatic Mat community and other oceanic montane communities. Killarney Oak woods and mountains have been nominated as a site of international importance for bryophytes. Additional plant species of interest include a fern (<i>Dryopteris affinis</i> subsp. <i>stilluppensis</i>) and a Whitebeam (<i>Sorbus anglica</i>), both at their only Irish locations.</p> <p>The Killarney Woods are notable for the number of rare species of Myxomycete fungus that have been recorded, namely <i>Collaria arcyronema</i>, <i>Craterium muscorum</i>, <i>Cribraria microcarpa</i> (only known Irish site), <i>C. rufa</i>, <i>C. violacea</i>, <i>Diderma chondrioderma</i>, <i>D. lucidum</i>, <i>D. ochraceum</i>, <i>Fuligo muscorum</i>, <i>Licea marginata</i>.</p> <p>The site has six bird species which are listed on Annex I of the EU Birds Directive. A small flock of Greenland White-fronted Geese, which winters on the boglands within the National Park, is now the only regular flock in the south-west. The site has one of the highest concentrations of breeding Peregrines in the country, as well as some breeding Merlin. Chough is found both in the coastal areas and inland areas of the site, with possibly up to 30 pairs breeding. Kingfisher is a species associated with the lakes and rivers, especially in the National Park and probably breeds. Finally, a few pairs of Common Tern breed within the site. The woodlands provide habitat for a variety of breeding birds, most notably Garden Warbler, Blackcap, and probably a few pairs each of the rare</p>

Natura 2000 Site: Killarney National Park, MacGillycuddy's Reeks & Caragh River Catchment SAC (Site Code 000365)	
	<p>Redstart and Wood Warbler. Lough Leane is a site for wintering wildfowl with the following the average counts for the two winters 1995/96 and 1996/97: Teal (208), Mallard (350), Pochard (81), Tufted Duck (323) and Coot (169).</p> <p>Also of note is the glacial relict, Arctic Charr (<i>Salvelinus alpinus</i>), a Red Data Book fish species, a unique form of which is found in Lough Coomasaharn.</p> <p>Other invertebrate species of note include: three chironomids of international importance found in the River Flesk; a wood ant (<i>Formica lugubris</i>) at one of only four Irish sites; a snail (<i>Limnaea involuta</i>), in Lough Crincaum, at its only known location; two dragonflies (<i>Cordulea aenea</i> and <i>Somatochlora arctica</i>), the former at one of only two known sites in Ireland and the latter at its only known Irish location; and several other aquatic and woodland species at their only known Irish locations.</p>
Unit size	72,960Ha
Condition / threats	Grazing from sheep and deer is a threat to certain habitats within the site. Most of the lakes are very acid sensitive and therefore vulnerable to afforestation within the catchment areas. Most are also oligotrophic and so are vulnerable to nutrient pollution. The bogs are sensitive to grazing and are also threatened by turbary, burning and afforestation. The site is also under threat from invasive non-native species, including zebra mussels and rhododendron. A rhododendron removal programme is underway in the National Park.

## 5. Identification and description of potential individual and cumulative impacts of the Plan or Project

Identification and description of the individual and cumulative impacts of the Plan or Project	
<p>Describe the individual elements of the project (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) likely to give rise to impacts on Natura 2000 Sites</p>	<p><b>Consideration of ‘in combination’ effects</b></p> <p>The proposed development site is located on the eastern edge of Killorglin Town Centre on lands adjoining the River Laune Estuary and an Alluvial Woodland which forms part of the Castlemaine Harbour SAC. The lands are for the most part zoned as Town Centre with the remainder zoned passive open space. The current Development and Local Area Plans for the area outline the importance of infrastructure, amenity and biodiversity protection. Land use plans for the area were subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Directive Assessment at Plan preparation stage.</p> <p>A planning search revealed no permitted (unbuilt) developments at the general location of the proposed works, which could result in ‘in-combination’ effects. Climate change is likely to result in more extreme weather events. These considerations have been taken into account as part of the consideration of potential cumulative and in combination impacts.</p> <p><b>Elements of the project, either alone or in combination, with potential to give rise to impacts:-</b></p> <p>Development works can potentially result in loss or degradation of habitats and can result in species disturbance.</p>
<p>Describe any likely direct, indirect or secondary impacts of the project (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) on Natura 2000 sites by virtue of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Size and scale</li> </ul>	<p><b>Size and scale</b></p> <p>The site area is 0.358Ha, located on the edge of Killorglin Town. The capacity of the existing Annadale car park would increase by 53 car spaces from 37 to 90 spaces. 6 new coach spaces and an amenity area would also be created.</p> <p><b>Distance from Natura 2000 Site or key features of the Site</b></p> <p>The proposed site adjoins the Castlemaine Harbour SAC. Within the site an amenity area is to be located between the car park area and the SAC (approx. 10m).</p>

**Identification and description of the individual and cumulative impacts of the Plan or Project**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land-take</li> <li>• Distance from Natura 2000 Site or key features of the Site</li> <li>• Resource requirements</li> <li>• Emissions</li> <li>• Excavation requirements</li> <li>• Transportation requirements</li> <li>• Duration of construction, operation etc</li> <li>• Others</li> </ul>	<p><b>Land take</b> There will be no land take or direct loss of qualifying or potentially supporting habitat associated with the Natura 2000 site network as a result of this proposal.</p> <p><b>Resource and excavation requirements</b> Minimal requirements for road building materials. No large-scale excavation works required.</p> <p><b>Emissions</b> None of significance likely.</p> <p><b>Transportation requirements</b> Works will be facilitated by the existing road network.</p> <p><b>Duration of construction, operation etc</b> It is anticipated that these works will be carried out in a relatively short construction period – subject to funding (2 months). The operational aspects of the proposal will be permanent. It is noted that proposal is compatible with proposals as set out in the land use plans for the area.</p>
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## 6. Assessment of the significance of the impacts on the integrity of Natura 2000 Sites

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<p>Describe any likely changes to the site arising as a result of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reduction of habitat area</li><li>• Disturbance of key species</li><li>• Habitat or species fragmentation</li><li>• Reduction in species density</li><li>• Changes in key indicators of conservation value</li><li>• Climate change</li></ul>	<p><b>Reduction of habitat area or quality</b></p> <p>Construction projects can release sediment once vegetation is removed and soil disturbed. In this instance, it is considered that any such release would not impact on Natura 2000 or functionally linked habitat quality downstream given the minor scale of the works and the scale and dilution capacity of the River Laune in the vicinity of the works area. It is noted that the River Laune is tidal at this location and the habitat type classified as estuarine. As such vulnerable habitat such as salmon spawning gravels are not likely to be located in the vicinity. Furthermore, it is noted that mature vegetation is located between the proposed carpark and watercourses which will provide natural filtration of sediments arising from the site. It is considered that the effects of any potential pollution event (which would be unlikely) would be easily dissipated and assimilated so as not to significantly impact water quality in the estuary or SAC.</p> <p>There will be no habitat loss or degradation of any Natura 2000 qualifying habitat or functionally linked supporting habitat. The adjoining woodland to the south is an alluvial woodland. The ground level of same is lower than that of the proposed site, which suggests that the proposed site was infilled in the past. It is noted that the attributes set out in the Conservation Objective document for this habitat type within the SAC are:- Habitat area, Habitat distribution, Woodland size, Woodland structure (various aspects of same), Hydrological regime, Vegetation composition (various aspects of same) and presence of rubbish. The alluvial woodland habitat or any of these attributes are not likely to be in any way impacted by this proposal. The River Laune is in the vicinity of Killorglin Town is classified as Estuarine Habitat. The Laune is approx. 30m downstream in the vicinity of the proposed works area. It is noted that the attributes set out in the Conservation Objective document for this habitat type within the SAC are:- Habitat area and Community Distribution. The estuarine habitat or any of these attributes are not likely to be in any way impacted by this proposal.</p>
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**Impact on qualifying species, having regard to conservation objectives of the Natura 2000 sites in the vicinity (disturbance reduction in density etc)**

**Otter (*Lutra lutra*)**

No significant loss of habitat or of any potential commuting routes is considered likely. The proposal does not impact on bridges or make culverts less accessible to Otters and is not one which could impact on or disturb Otter movements in the landscape. The proposed site, which adjoins an existing car park is open and disturbed in nature and is not suitable habitat for Otter. The proposed amenity elements at this location do not pose a threat to the species.

**Other species**

Potential impact on other species can be ruled out given the scale, nature and location of the works, which is unlikely to impact on water quality or other environmental conditions required to support species populations including Lamprey and Salmon. It is noted that the River Laune is estuarine in the vicinity of the works area and are therefore not likely to contain Salmon and Lamprey spawning habitat. The proposed site is not suitable habitat for the Castlemaine Harbour SAC qualifying interest species *Petalophyllum ralfsii* – which is associated with sand dune habitats not present in the area.

**Habitat or species fragmentation**

This proposal is not one which will result in habitat or species fragmentation. The proposed site is not of use or importance to species of conservation interest associated with Natura 2000 sites.

**Changes in key indicators of conservation value**

No significant impact likely

**Climate change**

Climate change is likely to result in more extreme weather events. This consideration has taken into account as part of the consideration of potential cumulative and in combination impacts.

Having regard to the above it is considered that significant changes to Natura 2000 sites or to key habitats or species are not likely to occur.

Describe any likely impacts on

**Interference with the key relationships that define the structure of the site:**

<p>the Natura 2000 site as a whole in terms of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interference with the Key relationships that define the structure of the site</li> <li>• Interference with key relationships that define the function of the site</li> </ul>	<p>Key relationships that define the structure of the Natura 2000 Sites will not be interfered with or impacted by way of this proposal.</p> <p><b>Interference with key relationships that define the function of the site:</b> Key relationships that define the function of the Natura 2000 Sites will not be interfered with or impacted by way of this proposal.</p>
<p>Describe from the above those elements of the project, or combination of elements, where the above impacts are likely to be significant or where the scale of magnitude of impacts is not known.</p>	<p>This proposal seeks to extend an existing car park and to provide a small number of bus parking spaces on disturbed ground adjoining the existing Annadale Road Carpark on the edge of Killorglin Town Centre. Amenity facilities, landscaping and lighting are also proposed. Construction works associated with this project make use of the existing road and parking infrastructure and overall are relatively minor in scale, complexity and duration and do not have the potential to have significant effects on Natura 2000 sites in the area or elsewhere. The potential for significant effects of the proposal have been ruled out beyond reasonable scientific doubt. Consequently, this Appropriate Assessment screening exercise concludes that a Stage 2 Natura Impact Statement / Appropriate Assessment is <u>not</u> required in this instance.</p>

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## 7. Conclusion of Appropriate Assessment Screening Report

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### Conclusion Statement

In accordance with Section 177U of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and on the basis of the objective information provided in this report, it is concluded beyond reasonable scientific doubt that the proposed works, individually or in combination with other plans/projects are not likely to have a significant effect on a European site (Natura 2000 site). It is therefore considered that a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment / Natura Impact Statement under Section 177V of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), is not required.

### Reasons for Conclusion

1. The proposal is a relatively small-scale project which seeks to extend an existing parking area on the edge of Killorglin Town Centre and to provide amenity facilities (walkways, landscaped area and picnic tables).
2. The proposal is not a complex one either in scale or design.
3. The proposed works would not encroach on a Natura 2000 site and there would be no loss or degradation of Natura 2000 habitat or functionally linked habitat.
4. There would be no significant direct or indirect impact on qualifying species associated with Natura 2000 sites as a result of the proposal.

This report concludes on the basis of objective scientific information, that the proposed project, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, is not likely to have a significant effect on a European or Natura 2000 site, and accordingly it is considered that a Natura Impact Statement / Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment is not required in this instance.

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## Appendix A: FONSE Report

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### **Introduction**

This Findings of No Significant Effects Report (FONSE) documents the conclusion of the screening process for a Habitats Directive Assessment of the proposal to extend the Annadale Parking area in Killorglin and to provide amenity facilities adjoining same.

### **Name and Location of Natura 2000 sites**

The Castlemaine Harbour SAC adjoins the site. The Castlemaine Harbour SPA is located further downstream. The Killarney National Park SPA and the Killarney National Park, Macgillycuddy's Reeks & Caragh River Catchment SAC are located upstream.

### **Description of the project or plan**

The proposal provides for an extension to the capacity of the existing Car Park at the Annadale Road in Killorglin Town, as well as the provision of a public amenity in the form of a grassed open space area with footways and a maximum of 5 wooden picnic tables. The capacity of the car park will increase by 53 car spaces from 37 to 90 spaces. 6 new coach spaces will also be created. The area of the development is 3579m<sup>2</sup> (0.358Ha / 0.884 acres) on a site at edge of Killorglin Town Centre.

### **Is this project or plan directly connected with or necessary to the management of the sites (provide details)?**

No

### **Are there other projects or plans that together with the project or plan being assessed could affect the sites (provide details)?**

No.

### **Describe how the project or plan (alone or in combination) is likely to affect Natura 2000 sites**

Development projects can theoretically potentially impact on water quality downstream and can result in loss or degradation of qualifying habitat or functionally linked habitat of interest.

### **Explain why these effects are not considered significant**

Potential for impact on water quality and / or aquatic ecological interests associated with Natura 2000 sites are not likely be significant in this instance having regard to the scale of pollution possible and to the assimilative and dissipation capacities of receiving waters. It is

also noted that the River Laune is tidal at this location and that a open grassed area is to be retained between the proposed car park and the SAC, within which sediments would naturally filter out. The proposal would not result in the loss or degradation of habitat of importance to Natura 2000 sites. The site is not located within or adjoining habitat of interest outlined in Natura 2000 site conservation reports.

#### **List of agencies consulted**

Formal consultation as part of the Part 8 local authority own development consent process

#### **Who carried out this assessment?**

This assessment was carried out by the Environmental Assessment Unit of Kerry County Council.

#### **Sources of data**

The Habitats Directive Assessment of potential impacts on the integrity of Natura 2000 sites in this study is based on a desktop review of literature, existing and relevant NPWS Natura 2000 Site Synopses Data, Qualifying Interests, Conservation Management Plans and the (generic) Conservation Objectives and on-site assessment.

Data collected to carry out the assessment was as follows:

- Identification of Natura 2000 sites located within or immediately adjoining the plan area in situ and ex situ
- Mapping of Natura 2000 sites located within the plan area
- Identification of the reasons for site designation,
- Identification of conservation objectives
- Literature review
- Site walkover
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#### **Level of assessment completed**

Stage One Screening.

#### **Where the full results of the assessment can be accessed and viewed?**

The full results of the assessment are contained within this document.

## **Overall Conclusions**

This report concludes that no significant effects on Natura 2000 sites are likely to arise as a result of the proposal either by itself or in combination with other proposals.

### **Explain how the overall conclusion that there are no significant effects on the Natura 2000 site was arrived at**

The overall conclusion that no significant effects on Natura 2000 are likely was determined following a methodological assessment as set out in this report. Particular attention was given to the consideration of species and habitats of the Castlemaine Harbour SAC. In identifying the potential issues which could affect the integrity of these sites a range of factors were taken into account, including the possibility of effects manifesting themselves in the short, medium and long-term, in combination effects and the potential impacts of climate change. In addition, the precautionary principle was adhered to in the carrying out of this assessment. As part of the assessment due regard was given to the following:-

- the existing conditions;
- the nature, scale and location of the proposed works;
- the potential for cumulative and in combinations effects;
- the conservation objectives and qualifying interests of Natura 2000 sites in the vicinity.

### **The reasons for the conclusion as outlined are as follows:-**

- The proposal is a relatively small-scale project which seeks to extend an existing parking area on the edge of Killorglin Town Centre and to provide amenity facilities (walkways, landscaped area and picnic tables).
- The proposal is not a complex one either in scale or design.
- The proposed works would not encroach on a Natura 2000 site and there would be no loss or degradation of Natura 2000 habitat or functionally linked habitat.
- There would be no significant direct or indirect impact on qualifying species associated with Natura 2000 sites as a result of the proposal.

**Conclusion**

Based on the foregoing, this report objectively concludes, on the basis of objective scientific information, that the proposed Project individually or in combination with other plans or projects, is not likely to have a significant effect on a European or Natura 2000 Site, and accordingly it is considered that a Natura Impact Statement / Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment is not required in this instance.



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**Eoin Kelleher**  
**Executive Planner and Ecologist**  
**Environmental Assessment Unit**