

Habitats Directive Assessment Screening Report
for the proposed
replacement of the roof at Áras an Chontae, Rathass, Tralee, Co Kerry

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



Environmental Assessment Unit
Kerry County Council

1. Introduction

Introduction

This report considers the likelihood of significant effects on Natura 2000 sites arising from a proposal to replace the roof of Áras an Chontae, Rathass, Tralee County Kerry. The existing roof was constructed in the 1980's and consists of a asbestos cement slate roof. The proposed roof will consist of a standing seam insulated panel type roof. 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.

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

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 proposal seeks to replace the roof of Áras an Chontae, Rathass, Tralee County Kerry. The existing roof was constructed in the 1980's and consists of a asbestos cement slate roof. The proposed roof will consist of a standing seam insulated panel type roof. All elements of the proposed project have been assessed as part of this report.

Characteristics of the Plan or Project	
Size, scale, area, land take	<p>The main building at Rathass was constructed in 1842 and was formerly the Tralee Union Workhouse. The building is a protected structure and is listed in the Tralee Town Development Plan 2009-2015 for its architectural, historical and social value. The building is listed on the record of protected structures, RPS No. 256.</p> <p>The structure was renovated was in the 1980's. Sections of the structure were demolished. A new East, West and North-East wing were constructed. These new wings were built using a concrete frame. The walls were constructed as a 215mm inner leaf, a 100mm cavity and a 100mm stone cladding. The roof of the new wings were erected using a steel frame, steel purlins, timber rafters and battens and slated using an asbestos cement slate.</p> <p>The existing sections of the building were re-roofed. The existing roof structure in the main spine of County Buildings was maintained i.e. the original timber queen post trusses, purlins, rafters, joists and sections of the old workhouse floor remained in-situ and a new asbestos cement slate envelope was constructed.</p> <p>The asbestos cement slate roof has reached its end of life and is at present leaking in several locations, which will undermine the integrity of the structure of the roof if it continues. A new roof covering is required to protect the existing structure. To negate the effects of wind driven rain from the south west and to improve the energy efficiency of the structure it is proposed to use a standing seam insulated panel. The area to which the remedial works apply is 2025m².</p> <p>The development is located in Rathass, Tralee, Co. Kerry.</p>

Characteristics of the Plan or Project	
<p>Details of physical changes that will take place during the various stages of implementing the proposal</p>	<p><u>Demolition</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The works will comprise of the removal and disposal of the existing asbestos cement slate roof including battens and felt. • The removal and disposal of existing Perspex windows and Perspex roofs sections. • The removal and disposal of three number Air Opening Vents • The removal and disposal of ten number Velux windows. <p><u>Construction</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On removal of the existing asbestos cement slate roof, the roof envelope will be replaced using a standing seam insulated panel. The proposed colour is Anthracite which will match insofar as possible the existing colour of the asbestos cement slate roof. • The existing Perspex roof and window sections will be replaced with a Polycarbonate panel to match existing. The existing mullions and transoms are to remain in place and the panels and gaskets will be replaced. • Three number existing Air Opening Vents will be removed and replaced. The opes are to remain unchanged, it is proposed to change the vents to upgrade the existing window to a more thermally efficient product. • The existing ten number Velux windows are to be replaced. The replacement Velux windows will match existing; however, they will be more thermally efficient and contribute to the overall conservation of energy in County Buildings.
<p>Description of resource requirements for the construction/operation and decommissioning of the proposal (water resources, construction material, human presence etc)</p>	<p>It is proposed to complete the re-roofing of the building in four phases. Each phase will be scaffolded to provide safe access for the completion of the works. The removal and disposal of the asbestos cement slate roof will be completed by a competent contractor under supervision with certification required on completion of the removal and disposal of the asbestos containing material.</p> <p>The Contractor is required to be trained in the installation of the insulated standing seam panel and the installation will be inspected and certified by the manufacturer of the product.</p> <p>The Contractor will be required to submit all details of the products that are proposed for the</p>

Characteristics of the Plan or Project	
	<p>project for approval by Kerry County Council prior to the commencement of installation works on site.</p> <p>The Contractor prior to commencement of the project on site will be required to submit a detailed Site-Specific Method Statement detailing all the resources required to safely and efficiently deliver the project. In addition, a Site-Specific Risk Assessment will also be required from the Contractor assessing the hazards and risks associated with the completion of the project and the mitigation measures required to combat these at source.</p>
Description of timescale for the various activities that will take place as a result of implementation (including likely start and finish date)	It is estimated that the construction period will be 5 months. The Contractor will be required to carefully assess the time required for the completion of the works considering the requirements of the Health & Safety and Welfare at Work (Construction) Regulations 2013. Based on this assessment the Contractor will be required to submit a detailed programme detailing the Project Construction timescale. It is envisaged that the project will commence in November 2020.
Description of wastes arising and other residues (including quantities) and their disposal	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.
Description of any additional services required to implement the project or plan, their location and means of construction	<p>The Contractor will be required to provide all the necessary welfare facilities including, offices, canteens, storage, toilets etc. to allow for the completion of the works.</p> <p>The Contractor will be required to liaise with Kerry County Council for the duration of the works to allow for safe implementation of the work phases and the interaction of construction related activities with the existing staff and members of public on site.</p>
Other	This proposal will result in increased in noise and human presence during the construction phase.

4. Identification of Natura 2000 Sites potentially affected

The application site is not located within a Natura 2000 site. The closest designated Natura 2000 sites are those associated with Tralee Bay which are Ballyseedy Woods (approx. 1Km away) and Tralee Bay Complex SPA and Tralee Bay and Magharees Peninsula West Cloghane SAC, which are approx. 2.9 Km away and downstream. Slieve Mish Mountains SAC is located further to the south. The following Natura 2000 sites are within or partially within 15km of the development site:

Special Areas of Conservation

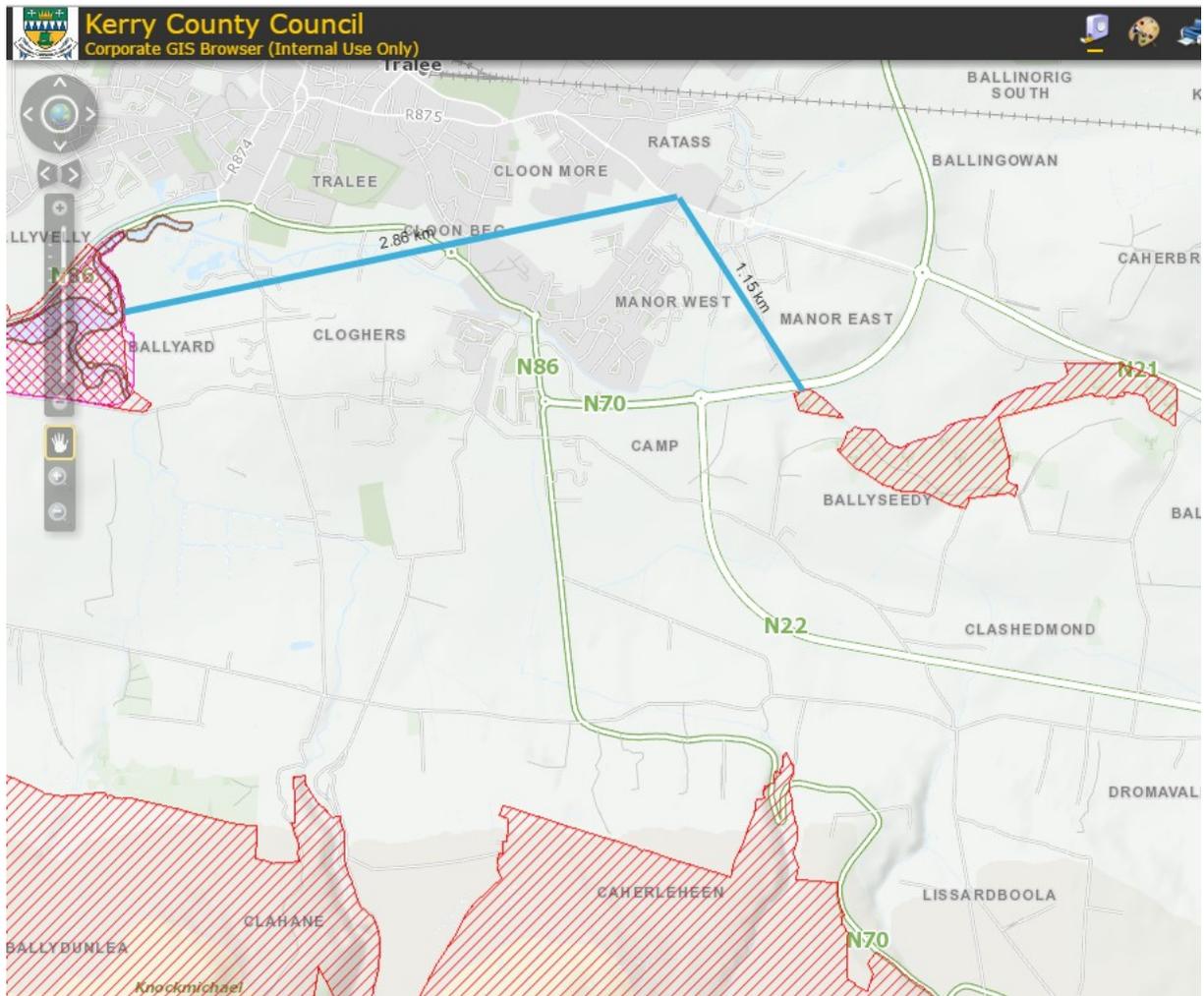
- Ballyseedy Woods cSAC (Site Code 002112)
- Slieve Mish Mountains cSAC (Site Code 002185)
- Tralee Bay and Magharees Peninsula West Cloghane cSAC (Site Code 002070)
- Castlemaine Harbour cSAC (Site Code 000343)
- Akeragh, Banna and Barrow Harbour cSAC (Site Code 000332)
- Magharees Islands cSAC (Site Code 002261)
- Lower Shannon cSAC (Site Code 002165)

Special Protected Areas:

- Tralee Bay Complex pSPA (Site Code 004188)
- Magharee Islands SPA (Site Code 004125)
- Akeragh, Banna and Barrow Harbour SPA (Site Code 004079)
- Stack's To Mullaghareirk Mountains, West Limerick Hills and Mount Eagle SPA (Site Code 004161)
- Castlemaine Harbour SPA (Site Code 004029)
- Kerry Head SPA (Site Code 004189)

The Tralee Bay and Magharees Peninsula West Cloghane cSAC (Site Code 002070) and the Tralee Bay Complex SPA (Site Code 004188) are within the same water catchment as the development site and are approx. 2.9Km from the proposed site. The potential for significant effects on other Natura 2000 sites can be objectively and conclusively ruled out at this preliminary stage of the AA Screening

process given that there is no viable or possible pathway between the proposal / site and other Natura 2000 sites. As part of this there is no viable connection between the proposed site and Ballyseedy woods SAC.



Above: Site location relative to Natura 2000 Sites associated with Tralee Bay and Ballyseedy Woods.

Description of the Natura 2000 Site	Tralee Bay and Magharees Peninsula, West to Cloghane SAC (Site Code 002070)
Name	Tralee Bay and Magharees Peninsula, West to Cloghane SAC (Site Code 002070)
Site designation status	Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
Natura 2000 site highlighted in yellow. Tralee located by the blue arrow.	<div data-bbox="622 427 1883 1284"> <p>The image is a screenshot of a 'National Parks and Wildlife Services Map Viewer'. It shows a topographic map of a coastal region in Ireland. A large area, including the coastline from Fenit Harbour to Cloghane and the inland area to the west, is highlighted in yellow. This yellow area represents the proposed Natura 2000 site. To the east of this area, the town of Tralee is marked with a blue arrow pointing from the right edge of the map. Other labeled locations include Abbeydorney, Ardfert, Stradbally, and Cloghane. Major roads are shown in green, with labels for N69, N86, and N70. The map interface includes a scale bar at the top, a search bar, and various navigation icons.</p> </div> <p>Above: Location of proposed site in relation to the Tralee Bay and Magharees Peninsula, West to Cloghane SAC</p>
Natura 2000 Site	This large site stretches from Tralee town westwards to Fenit Harbour and Cloghane, encompassing Tralee

Description of the Natura 2000 Site	Tralee Bay and Magharees Peninsula, West to Cloghane SAC (Site Code 002070)
Description	<p>Bay, Brandon Bay and the Magharees Peninsula. It includes extensive mudflats at the eastern end, the beaches of Derrymore Island, the sand dunes and lagoons of the Magharees Peninsula as well as the rocky headlands at its end. The site includes two Statutory Nature Reserves, Tralee Bay and Derrymore Island, and much of the estuarine part of the site has been designated an SPA.</p> <p>Both the Tralee and Brandon (Owenmore) estuaries feature wide expanses of sheltered intertidal flats, often fringed with saltmarsh vegetation. The majority of Tralee Bay is shallow and composed of sublittoral sediments. In the more sheltered areas of the bay, there is a variety of important sublittoral sediment communities in which a number of rare species occur.</p> <p>More information on this Natura 2000 site is available from the NPWS and on-line at: www.NPWS.ie</p>
Qualifying species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) [1355] • Petalwort (<i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i>) [1395]
Qualifying habitats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estuaries [1130] • Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] • Coastal lagoons [1150] • Large shallow inlets and bays [1160] • Reefs [1170] • Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210] • Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220] • Salicornia and other annuals colonizing mud and sand [1310] • Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) [1330] • Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410] • Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120] • Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130] • Dunes with <i>Salix repens</i> ssp. <i>argentea</i> (<i>Salix arenariae</i>) [2170] • Humid dune slacks [2190] • Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>) [6410] • 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]

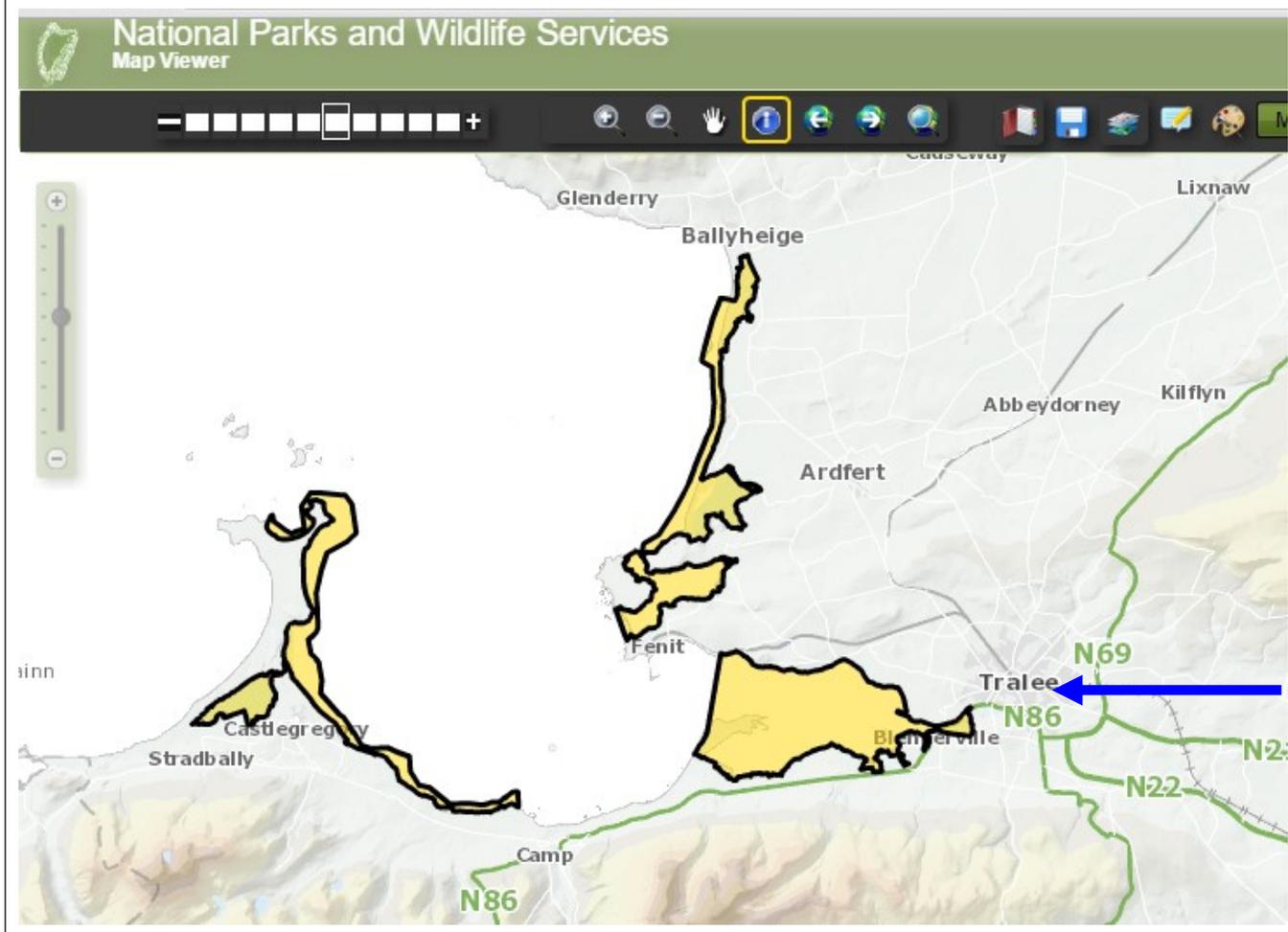
Description of the Natura 2000 Site	Tralee Bay and Magharees Peninsula, West to Cloghane SAC (Site Code 002070)
Non-qualifying species and habitats of interest	<p>Additional Special Conservation Interests:</p> <p>Several relatively rare plant species are also present and a good number of Red Data Book species. Tralee Bay, including Lough Gill, is an internationally important wetland for wintering waders and wildfowl. The presence of a number of Red Data Book species including the largest population of Natterjack Toads in Ireland, is notable.</p>
Unit size	11,632.15Ha
Condition / threats	<p>The dunes face pressures from intensive farming practices and recreational use by visitors to the site. The most threatening activities include fertilisation of the species rich dune grasslands, overgrazing, and trampling of areas of dunes adjacent to tourist facilities (e.g. caravan parks). These activities may lead to severe erosion of the dune system and eutrophication of the dune grasslands and dune slacks. Parts of the dune system are also vulnerable to invasion by Sea Buckthorn (<i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i>).</p> <p>Agricultural run-off from areas of fertilised dune grasslands in the vicinity of Lough Gill pose a continued threat to the nutrient status of the lagoon; algal blooms and fish kills have occurred in the past. Removal of sand has also occurred and poses a threat to the integrity of the system.</p> <p>Generally, the intertidal areas are relatively robust, although certain communities are vulnerable. For example, <i>Spartina</i> has spread widely, and may oust less vigorous colonisers of mud and may also reduce the area of mudflat available to feeding birds. Other activities, such as land reclamation and aquaculture, pose potential threats in terms of damage to habitats and potential disturbance to wintering birds. Domestic and industrial wastes are discharged into inner Tralee Bay, but water quality is generally satisfactory - except in the inner bay reflecting the sewage load from Tralee Town. Further industrial development along the bay in the vicinity of Tralee Town and Fenit and water polluting operations are potential threats.</p>

Natura 2000 Site: Tralee Bay Complex SPA (Site Code 004188)

Name Tralee Bay Complex SPA (Site Code 004188)

Site designation status Special Protection Area (SPA)

Natura 2000 site highlighted in yellow. Tralee located by the blue arrow.



Above: Location of proposed site in relation to the Tralee Bay Complex SPA

Natura 2000 Site Description This Natura 2000 site is an amalgamation and extension to the following previously designated Natura 2000 sites: Lough Gill SPA (Site Code 004011), Tralee Bay SPA (Site Code 004018) and Akeragh, Banna &

Natura 2000 Site: Tralee Bay Complex SPA (Site Code 004188)	
	<p><u>Barrow Harbour</u> SPA (Site Code 004079).</p> <p>Inner Tralee Bay is well sheltered by the Derrymore Island peninsula. The intertidal sediments vary from muddy sands on the upper shore to firm rippled sands on the lower, more exposed shore. The sediments have a diverse macro-invertebrate fauna, with such species as Cockle (<i>Cerastoderma edule</i>), Lugworm (<i>Arenicola marina</i>), Ragworm (<i>Hediste diversicolor</i>), Baltic Tellin (<i>Macorna balthica</i>) and Shrimp (<i>Crangon crangon</i>) occurring. The intertidal flats have extensive beds of Eelgrass (<i>Zostera</i> spp.).</p> <p>Tralee Bay Complex SPA is of high ornithological importance as it annually supports over 20,000 wintering waterbirds, including an international important population of Light-bellied Brent Geese and nationally important populations of 21 other species. It is of note that three of the species that regularly occur, Whooper swan, Golden Plover and Bar-tailed Godwit, are listed on Annex I of the E.U. Birds Directive.</p> <p>More information on this Natura 2000 site is available from the NPWS and on-line at: www.NPWS.ie</p>
Qualifying species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whooper Swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>) [A038] • Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046] • Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048] • Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050] • Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052] • Mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>) [A053] • Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) [A054] • Scaup (<i>Aythya marila</i>) [A062] • Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130] • Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137] • Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140] • Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] • Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142] • Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144] • Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149]

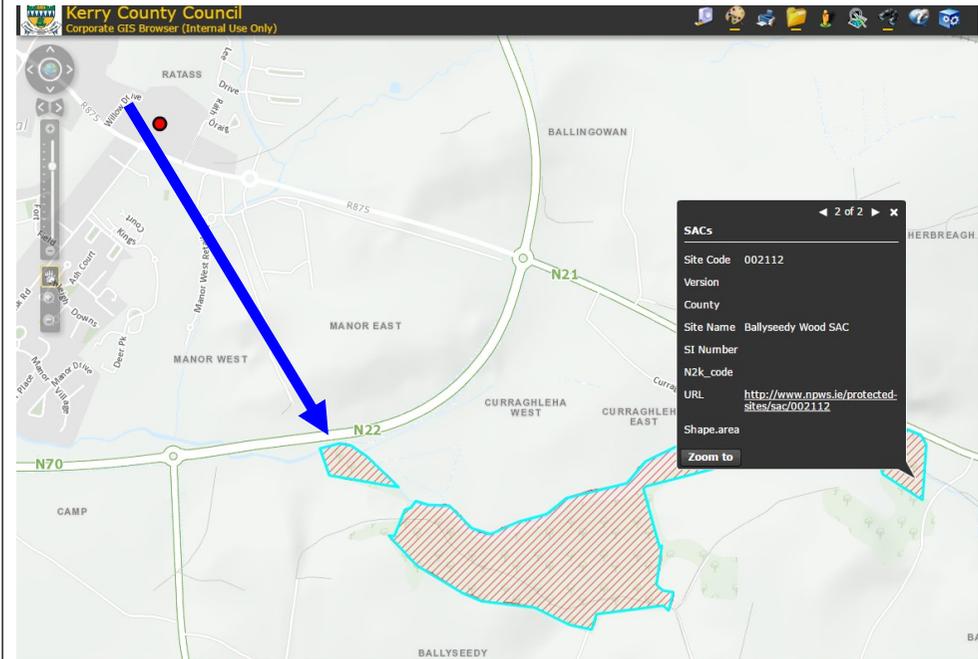
Natura 2000 Site: Tralee Bay Complex SPA (Site Code 004188)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156] • Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157] • Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160] • Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162] • Turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>) [A169] • Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179] • Common Gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) [A182] • Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]
Qualifying habitats	Wetlands
Non-qualifying species and habitats of interest	-
Unit size	The Tralee Bay Complex SPA is located along the coast of north Co. Kerry between Ballyheige in the north, Tralee in the east and Stradbally in the west. The site includes the inner part of Tralee Bay, including Derrymore Island, the inlets of Barrow Harbour and Carrahane Strand, Akeragh Lough, Lough Gill, and much of the intertidal habitat from Scraggane Point at the northern end of the Magharees Peninsula around the coast to south of Ballyheige.
Condition / threats	Part of Tralee Bay SPA is a Statutory Nature Reserve and there appears to be no serious threats to the wintering birds within this area. However, the intertidal areas receive somewhat polluted water via the River Lee and there may be some disturbance from walkers, free-running dogs, sailing activities and bait-digging. Land reclamation also poses a threat in certain areas as does the spread of exotic species (habitat loss / alteration).

Description of the Natura 2000 Site	Ballyseedy Woods SAC (Site Code 002112)
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Name	Ballyseedy Woods SAC (Site Code 002112)
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Site designation status	Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
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Natura 2000 site highlighted in yellow. Tralee located by the blue arrow.



Above: Location of proposed site in relation to Ballyseedy Woods SAC

Natura 2000 Site Description	<p>Situated about 3 km south-east of Tralee on the south bank of the lower reaches of the River Lee. The wood is derived from the plantings of the Ballyseedy Estate. There are now few of the original trees remaining and in their place a dense secondary growth has arisen made up of mainly native species.</p> <p>Much of the site is of wet woodland, which grades into dry woodland in areas above the flood-plain. The high-water table of the woods is maintained more from water draining into the site from the south than</p>
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Description of the Natura 2000 Site	Ballyseedy Woods SAC (Site Code 002112)
	<p>from the river itself.</p> <p>A good example of an alluvial forest dominated by <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>. One of the largest of its type in the south-west. Woodland is well structured and very mature in places. Flora is diverse with a number of scarce species, notably <i>Carex strigosa</i>.</p> <p>More information on this Natura 2000 site is available from the NPWS and on-line at: www.NPWS.ie</p>
Qualifying species	-
Qualifying habitats	Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0]
Non-qualifying species and habitats of interest	Additional Special Conservation Interests:
Unit size	39.5Ha
Condition / threats	Value of part of the site is lessened by presence of a number of naturalised alien species.

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	
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>Consideration of ‘in combination’ effects A planning search revealed no permitted (unbuilt) developments at the general location of the proposed works, which could result in ‘in-combination’ effects.</p> <p>Elements of the project, either alone or in combination, with potential to give rise to impacts:- Development works can potentially result in loss or degradation of habitats and can result in species disturbance.</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:	<p>Size, scale and location The site roof is 2025m² but the scale of the proposed works is minimal from a potential environmental impact point of view. The proposed site is located over 1Km from Natura 2000 sites.</p> <p>Land take, resource and excavation requirements There will be no land take or loss of qualifying or potentially supporting habitat associated with the Natura 2000 site network as a result of this proposal. Minimal resource requirements largely associated with roof materials. No excavation works required.</p> <p>Emissions None</p> <p>Transportation requirements Works will be facilitated by the existing road network.</p> <p>Duration of construction, operation etc It is anticipated that these works will be carried out in a relatively short construction period. The operational aspects of the proposal will be permanent.</p>

6. Assessment of the significance of the impacts on the integrity of Natura 2000 Sites

<p>Describe any likely changes to the site arising as a result of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction of habitat area • Disturbance of key species • Habitat or species fragmentation • Reduction in species density • Changes in key indicators of conservation value • Climate change 	<p>The proposal has no potential to impact, reduce or fragment habitats or species associated with Natura 2000 sites in the vicinity. As part of this, changes in key indicators of conservation value as outlined in the Conservation Objectives reports for Natura 2000 sites in the area, can be objectively and conclusively ruled out.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>Describe any likely impacts on the Natura 2000 site as a whole in terms of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interference with the Key relationships that define the structure of the site • Interference with key relationships that define the function of the site 	<p>Interference with the key relationships that define the structure of the site: 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>Interference with key relationships that define the function of the site: 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>Construction works associated with this project are relatively minor in scale, complexity and duration and by themselves and in combination with other plans and projects in the area, do not have the potential to have significant effects on Natura 2000 sites. 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>

7. Conclusion of Appropriate Assessment Screening Report

Conclusion Statement

In accordance with Article 250 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) and 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.

The exclusion of likely significant effects is based wholly on objective information and that there is no reliance on any measures intended to reduce or avoid impacts on European Sites.

Reasons for Conclusion

1. The proposal is a relatively small-scale construction project, short in duration, with no excavation requirements and with all works located over 1Km away from Natura 2000 sites.
2. 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.
3. 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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