

# Habitats Directive Appropriate Assessment Screening Report

for

**Proposal to resurface and extend the existing seafront public carpark at Waterville, Co Kerry to include provision of coach parking spaces, bicycle stands, a multi-use paved area and ancillary site works**

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 resurface and extend the existing seafront public carpark at Waterville, Co Kerry to include provision of coach parking spaces, bicycle stands, a multi-use paved area and ancillary site works. As part of this, the capacity of the car park would be a maximum of 45 cars and 6 coaches. Ten of these car parking spaces are located on the multi-use paved area. The paved multi-use space provides for bicycle parking and car parking or alternative uses such as amenity, community, cultural, social activities. 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 undertake 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: Appropriate Assessment 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. Measures intended to avoid or reduce negative effects on the European sites cannot be taken into account in considering whether or not a proposal requires a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment. 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 prepared in accordance with the following guidance:

- Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland. Guidance for Planning Authorities. Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2010.
- Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites: Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. European Commission Environment DG, 2002.
- Managing Natura 2000 sites: The Provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. European Commission, 2018.
- NPWS reports outlining 'The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland' have also been taken into account.

### **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. As part of this measures intended to avoid or reduce negative effects on the European sites will not be taken into account in considering whether or not this proposal requires a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment.

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.

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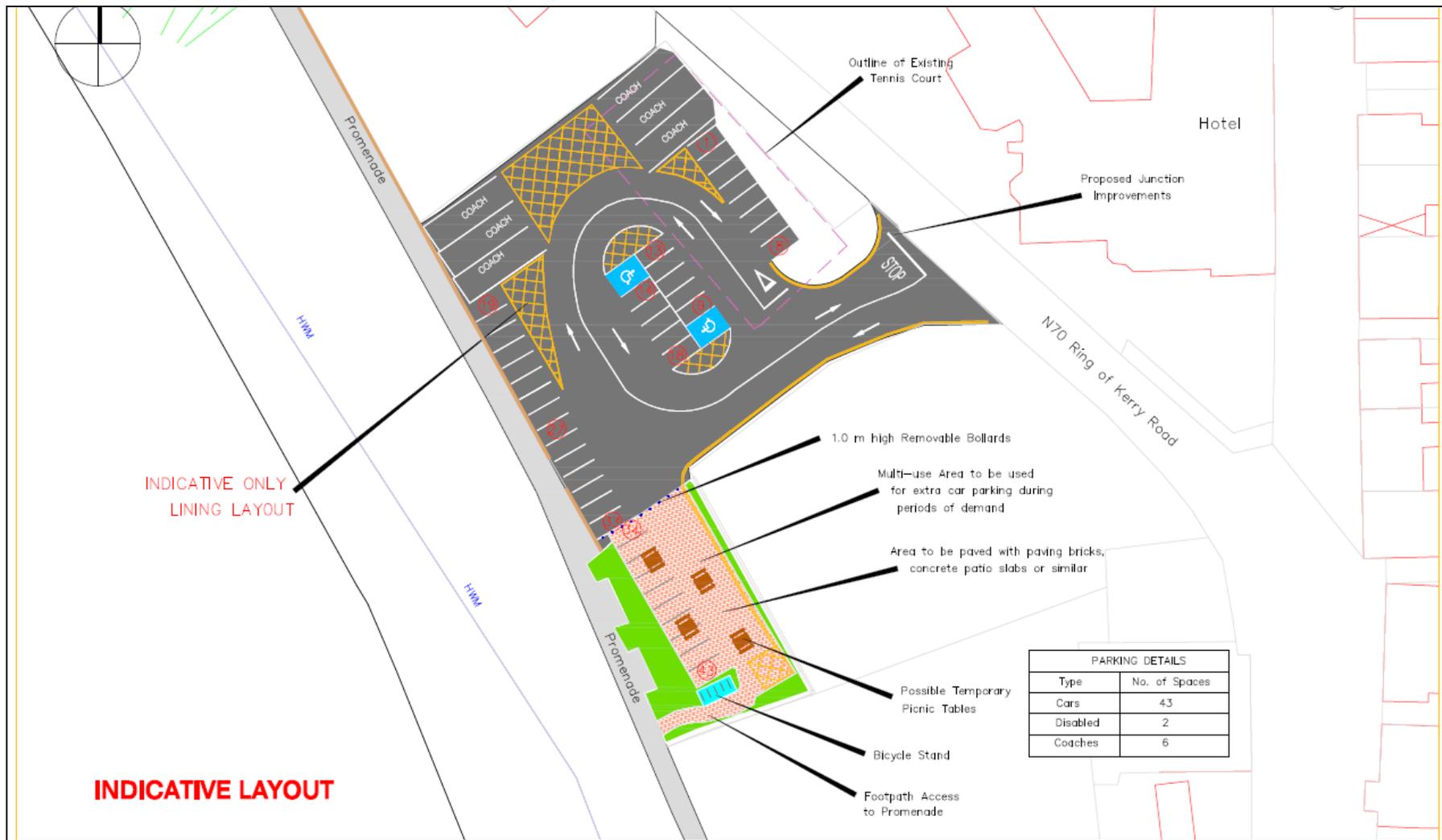
### **3. Description of the Project**

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This project seeks to resurface and extend the existing seafront public carpark at Waterville, Co Kerry to include provision of coach parking spaces, bicycle stands, a multi-use paved area and ancillary site works. This carpark is the main public carpark in Waterville and serves a wide range of uses including as an access point to the promenade walkway which it adjoins. It is also used as a parking location for coaches travelling along the famed Ring of Kerry and Wild Atlantic Way both of which pass through Waterville.

As part of the proposal, the existing carpark would extend into a tarmacadam finished tennis court area to the east – located between the public roadway and the existing carpark. The permanent capacity of the car park would be 33 car spaces and 6 bus spaces. The proposed multi-use paved area would be located in an existing open space green area to the immediate south of the existing carpark. This paved area is bounded to the east and west by existing low stone walls. The paved area is designed to facilitate multiple uses including car and bicycle parking. The paving would also facilitate its use as a space for amenity, community, cultural or social activities. An additional 10 No. carparking spaces would be accommodated within the paved area.

The promenade separates the proposed site from Ballinskelligs Bay and Beach, which form part of the Ballinskelligs Bay and River Inny Estuary SAC. 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 an existing Public Car Park at Waterville. The proposed works will provide public parking for up to 45 cars and 6 full size coaches. The area for development is c. 3014m <sup>2</sup> (0.301Ha / 0.744 acres) on and adjacent to an existing Public Car Park site in Waterville.
Details of physical changes that will take place during the various stages of implementing the proposal	<p><b>Site Clearance and Preparation</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 existing ground level from the new multi-use area of c. 360 m<sup>2</sup>. Some of this topsoil (approximately 70 m<sup>3</sup>), will be temporarily stored on site for most of the duration of the project for re-use and all excess to be carted away of to an authorised place of disposal.</li> <li>• The railing adjacent to the tennis court will be removed and disposed of appropriately.</li> <li>• The Bituminous surface of the existing tennis court removed and carted away to an authorised place of disposal. (Approx. 12 m<sup>3</sup>).</li> <li>• The ground in the footprint of the existing tennis court will be further reduced by a varying depth to finish about 150mm below the profile of the existing car parking surface and carted away to an authorised place of disposal. (about 170 m<sup>3</sup>)</li> <li>• The low wall at the north west side of the bell mouth entrance (between tennis courts and entrance road) will be taken down and some of the stones stored off-site for re-use.</li> <li>• The low wall at entrance to new multi-use area to be taken down and stone stored off-site for recycling.</li> </ul> <p><b>Construction &amp; Services</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Precast concrete kerbs will be laid to define the outside edge of the multi-use surface.</li> <li>• The area inside the kerbs will be covered by a layer of clause 804 crushed stone aggregate compacted to average thickness 150mm.</li> <li>• Retention Sockets for the proposed removable bollards will be embedded in concrete at appropriate locations at the edge of the multi-use area as shown on the drawing.</li> <li>• Paving bricks, slabs or cobbles will be placed to provide the finished multi use surface.</li> <li>• A Bicycle stand to be installed as shown on the drawing.</li> <li>• The area where the tennis court was, will be covered by a layer of clause 804 crushed</li> </ul>

Characteristics of the Plan or Project	
	<p>stone aggregate compacted to average thickness 150mm to bring the reduced surface level up to match the ground level of the adjacent existing car park.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The ground at the north west side of the entrance will be reshaped and/or reduced to facilitate the reconstruction of part of the low stone wall to produce a more appropriate bell mouth curve to the entrance from the N70.</li> <li>• Concrete for the wall foundation to be placed and the low wall re-built at car park entrance as shown on the drawing.</li> <li>• Bituminous Pavement layers of maximum total thickness 100mm to be placed across the full extent of the parking area.</li> <li>• Pavement markings (White and yellow lines and blue disabled spaces) to be completed.</li> </ul> <p><b>Landscaping</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• During the final phase finishes to the grassed areas will be completed. Green areas within the site will be graded if required, with topsoil from the stored stockpile. The topsoil will be spread out, graded, grass seeded and rolled.</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 (Clause 804 aggregate), ready mixed concrete, bituminous macadam and topsoil. Typical machinery required for a project of this nature include:- Excavator (JCB) 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 paving machine for laying bituminous surfacing, 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 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)	Construction is expected to last about 7 weeks. Starting date is subject to development consent approval and funding.

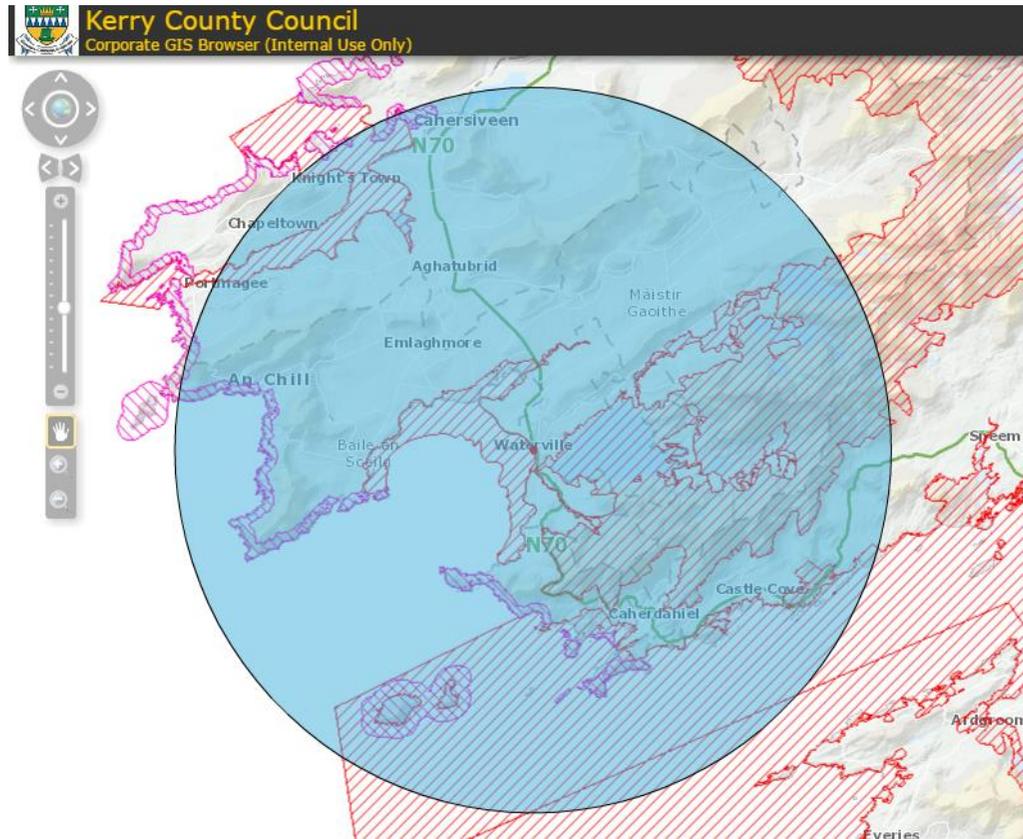
<b>Characteristics of the Plan or Project</b>	
Description of wastes arising and other residues (including quantities) and their disposal	All waste material will be managed as per an integrated Waste Management Plan (WMP). Any material falling to waste will be streamed to the appropriate waste container/skip 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	This is a relatively small-scale car park extension and improvement project which can avail of local services located within the Waterville area.

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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

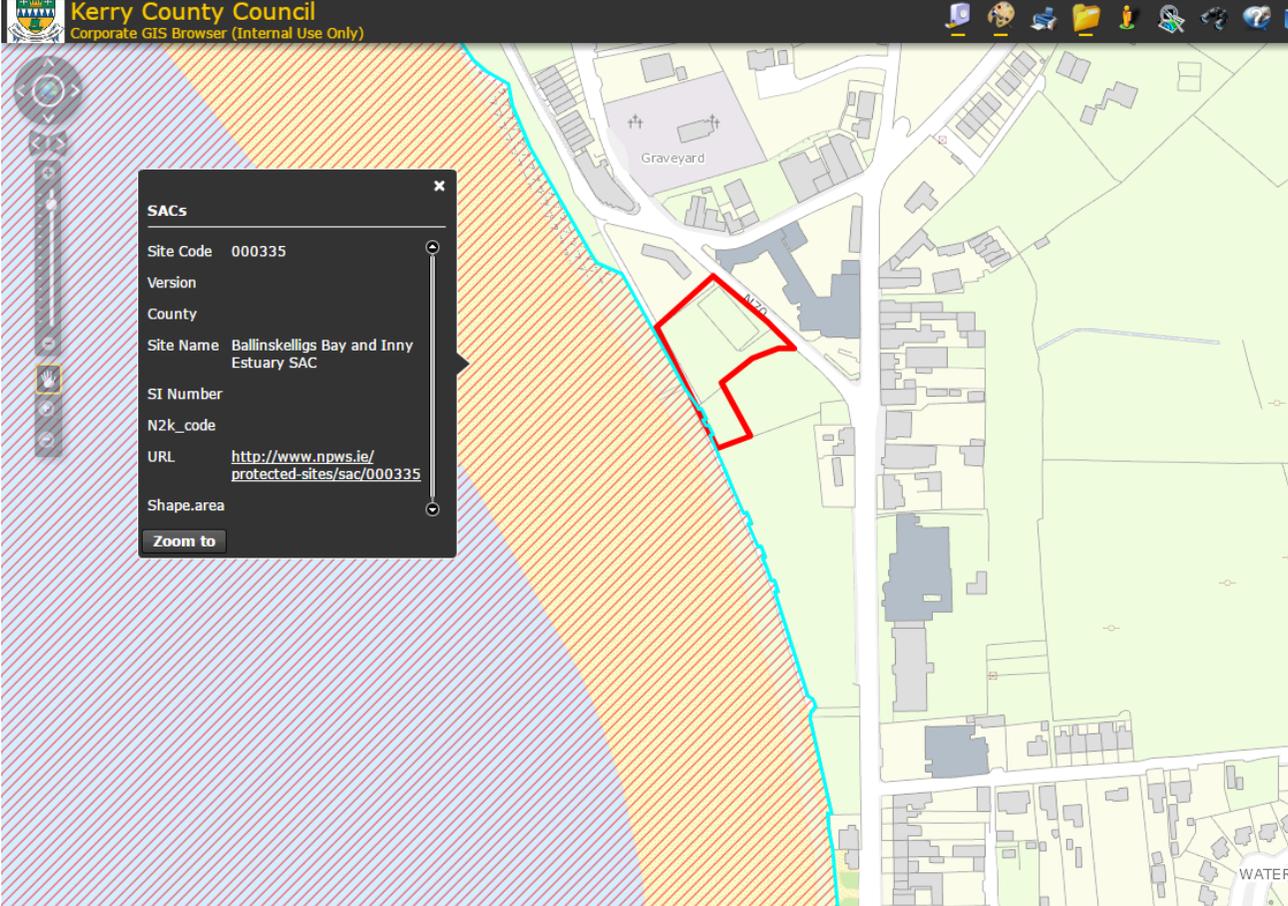
Site Code	Site Name	Distance To Site (Approx)	Qualifying Interests (* denotes a priority habitat)	Conservation Objectives	Preliminary Appropriate Assessment Screening Exercise
000335	Ballinskelligs Bay and Inny Estuary SAC	Proposed works adjoin the SAC	<b>Habitats</b> 1330 Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae) 1410 Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) <b>Species</b> 1395 Petalwort ( <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> )	<a href="http://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protection/sites/conservation_objectives/CO000335.pdf">http://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protection/sites/conservation_objectives/CO000335.pdf</a>	Given the proximity of the proposed development to this SAC, potential for significant effects will be considered in greater detail in the following sections of this report.
000365	Killarney National Park, Macgillycuddy's Reeks and Caragh River Catchment SAC	550m	<b>Habitats</b> 3110 Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (Littorelletalia uniflorae) 3130 Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the Littorelletea uniflorae and/or Isoeto-Nanojuncetea 3260 Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation 4010 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix 4030 European dry heaths 4060 Alpine and Boreal heaths 5130 Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands 6130 Calaminarian grasslands of the Violetalia calaminariae 6410 Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae)	<a href="http://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protection/sites/conservation_objectives/CO000365.pdf">http://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protection/sites/conservation_objectives/CO000365.pdf</a>	Given the proximity of the proposed development to this SAC, potential for significant effects will be considered in greater detail in the following sections of this report.

			<p>7130 Blanket bogs (* if active bog)</p> <p>7150 Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion</p> <p>91A0 Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles</p> <p>91E0 Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae)*</p> <p>91J0 Taxus baccata woods of the British Isles*</p> <p><b>Species</b></p> <p>1065 Marsh Fritillary (<i>Euphydryas aurinia</i>)</p> <p>1095 Sea Lamprey (<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>)</p> <p>1096 Brook Lamprey (<i>Lampetra planeri</i>)</p> <p>1099 River Lamprey (<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>)</p> <p>1029 Freshwater Pearl Mussel (<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>)</p> <p>1106 Salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>)</p> <p>1303 Lesser Horseshoe Bat (<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>)</p> <p>1024 Kerry Slug (<i>Geomalacus maculosus</i>)</p> <p>1833 Slender Naiad (<i>Najas flexilis</i>)</p> <p>1355 Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>)</p> <p>1421 Killarney Fern (<i>Trichomanes speciosum</i>)</p> <p>5046 Killarney Shad (<i>Alosa fallax killarnensis</i>)</p>		
002158	Kenmare River SAC	6.5Km	<p><b>Habitats</b></p> <p>1160 Large shallow inlets and bays</p> <p>1170 Reefs</p> <p>1220 Perennial vegetation of stony banks</p>	<p><a href="http://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_ob">http://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_ob</a></p>	<p>There are no realistic or viable connecting pathways between the development (source) and these Natura 2000 sites including their</p>

			<p>1230 Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts</p> <p>1330 Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>)</p> <p>1410 Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>)</p> <p>2120 Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes)</p> <p>2130 Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes)*</p> <p>4030 European dry heaths</p> <p>5130 <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands</p> <p>6130 Calaminarian grasslands of the <i>Violetalia calaminariae</i></p> <p>8330 Submerged or partially submerged sea caves</p> <p><b>Species</b></p> <p>1303 Lesser Horseshoe Bat (<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>)</p> <p>1014 Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail (<i>Vertigo angustior</i>)</p> <p>1355 Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>)</p> <p>1365 Harbour Seal (<i>Phoca vitulina</i>)</p>	<p><a href="http://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_objectives/CO002158.pdf">http://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_objectives/CO002158.pdf</a></p>	<p>qualifying interests (receptor). Potential for significant effects can be conclusively ruled out with certainty at this preliminary stage of the AA Screening process.</p>
002262	Valencia Harbour/Portmagee Channel SAC	9.5Km	<p><b>Habitats</b></p> <p>1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide</p> <p>1160 Large shallow inlets and bays</p> <p>1170 Reefs</p>	<p><a href="http://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_objectives/CO002262.pdf">http://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_objectives/CO002262.pdf</a></p>	
004154	Iveragh Peninsula	5.5Km	<p><b>Birds</b></p>	<p><a href="http://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_objectives/CO004154.pdf">http://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_objectives/CO004154.pdf</a></p>	

	SPA		A103 Peregrine ( <i>Falco peregrinus</i> ) A188 Kittiwake ( <i>Rissa tridactyla</i> ) A199 Guillemot ( <i>Uria aalge</i> ) A009 Fulmar ( <i>Fulmarus glacialis</i> ) A346 Chough ( <i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i> )	<a href="http://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_objectives/CO004154.pdf">ites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_objectives/CO004154.pdf</a>
004175	Deenish Island and Scariff Island SPA	9.5Km	<b>Birds</b> A183 Lesser Black-backed Gull ( <i>Larus fuscus</i> ) A013 Manx Shearwater ( <i>Puffinus puffinus</i> ) A194 Arctic Tern ( <i>Sterna paradisaea</i> ) A009 Fulmar ( <i>Fulmarus glacialis</i> ) A014 Storm Petrel ( <i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i> )	<a href="http://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_objectives/CO004175.pdf">http://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_objectives/CO004175.pdf</a>

Following a preliminary examination, two Natura 2000 sites will be looked at in more detail as part of this AA Screening exercise, Ballinskelligs Bay and Inny Estuary SAC which adjoins the proposed development and the Killarney National Park, MacGillycuddy Reeks and Caragh River Catchment SAC, which is located 560m away.

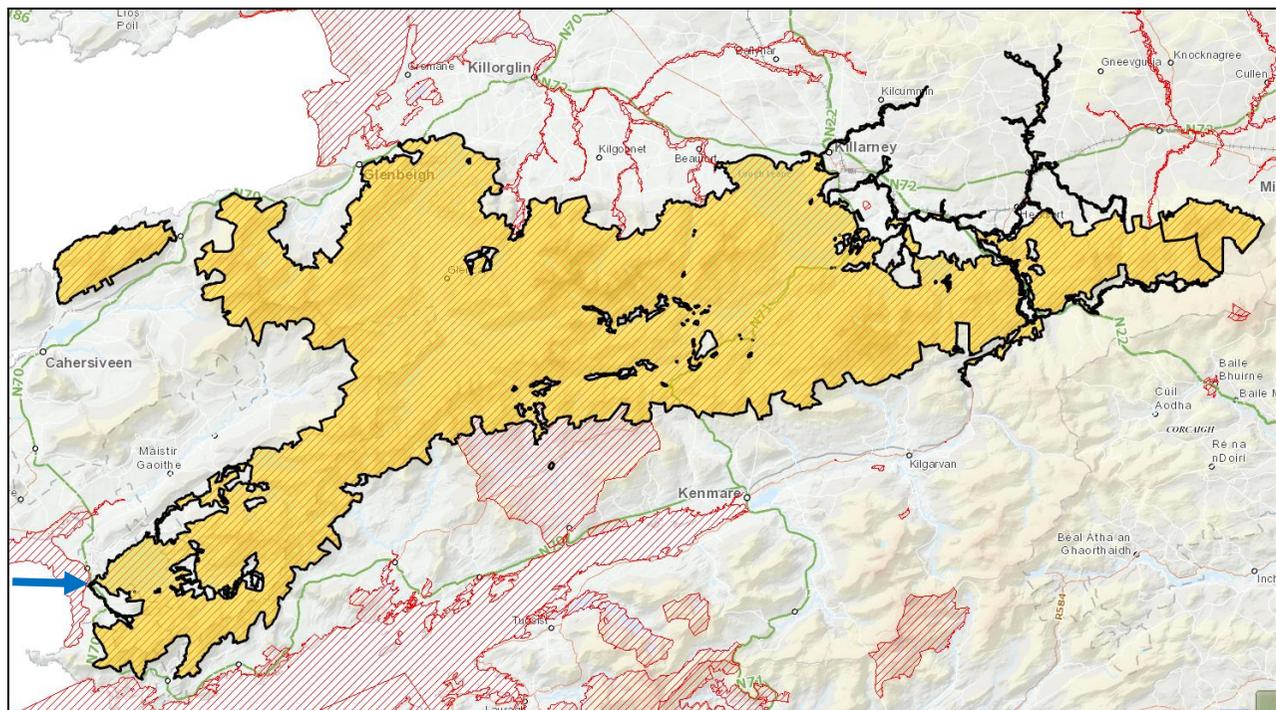
Description of the Natura 2000 Site	Ballinskelligs Bay and Inny Estuary SAC
Name	Ballinskelligs Bay and Inny Estuary SAC
Site designation status	Special Area of Conservation
Proposed site adjoins the SAC	 <p data-bbox="622 1268 1355 1300"><b>Above: Location of proposed site in relation to the SAC</b></p>
Natura 2000 Site Description	This site is located at the western end of the Iveragh Peninsula, Co. Kerry, close to the town of Waterville. It comprises the marine waters of Ballinskelligs Bay, as far out as the five-fathom line, some adjoining terrestrial areas and the estuary of the River Inny upstream to Breahig townland.

Description of the Natura 2000 Site	Ballinskelligs Bay and Inny Estuary SAC
	<p>The site extends from Horse Island at the western end of the bay round to Rineen Point at its south-eastern side. Much of the site comprises shallow marine water, Ballinskelligs Bay, but it also supports a wide variety of other habitats, including intertidal mud/sand flats, sandy beaches, shingle, tidal river channels, sea cliffs, wet and dry grassland, freshwater marshes, swamps, cut-away bog, scrub, bracken and saltmarsh.</p> <p>Two types of saltmarsh occur on the site. Mediterranean salt meadows are characterised by the presence of Sea Rush (<i>Juncus maritimus</i>), while species such as Thrift (<i>Armeria maritima</i>) and Common Saltmarsh-grass (<i>Puccinellia maritima</i>) are typical of Atlantic salt meadows. A small area of sand dunes near to the mouth of the estuary supports a population of the rare liverwort species, Petalwort (<i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i>). This species is protected under the Flora (Protection) Order, 1999 and is also listed on Annex II of the E.U. Habitats Directive.</p>
Qualifying species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> (Petalwort) [1395]</li> </ul>
Qualifying habitats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) [1330]</li> <li>• Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410]</li> </ul>
Non-qualifying species and habitats of interest	<p>Areas of freshwater marsh and swamp which occur within the SAC are of ecological interest. In addition, the SAC is used by a colony of Grey Seal and wintering waterbirds, including nationally important numbers of common scoter and common ringed plover.</p>
Unit size	1658Ha
Condition / threats	<p>Saltmarshs are of good quality. The dune area which supports the petalwork population is of limited size. Negative impacts / threats principally include golf course development, recreation pressure and sand and gravel / beach material removal extraction.</p>

**Natura 2000 Site: Killarney National Park, MacGillycuddy's Reeks & Caragh River Catchment SAC (Site Code 000365)**

Name and location. Waterville highlighted by blue arrow.

Killarney National Park, Macgillycuddy's Reeks & Caragh River Catchment SAC (Site Code 000365)



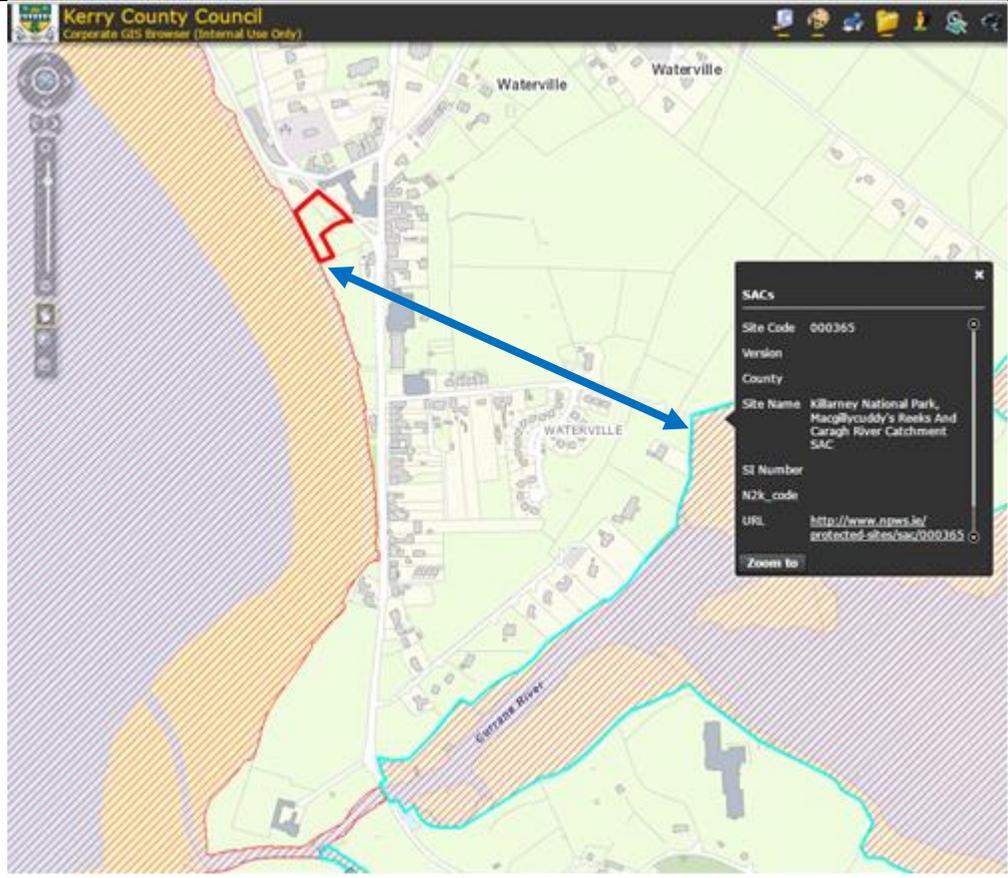
Site designation status

Special Area of Conservation

Proposed development site location relative to Natura 2000 site

The Currans and Finglas Rivers form part of the SAC. These discharge to Ballinskelligs Bay approx. 700m to the south of the proposed development. At its nearest the proposed development is located approx. 560m to the northwest of this Natura 2000 site.

**Natura 2000 Site: Killarney National Park, MacGillycuddy's Reeks & Caragh River Catchment SAC (Site Code 000365)**



Natura 2000 Site Description

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.

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 moraines. Located close to the Atlantic in the south-west of Ireland, the site is subject to strong

Natura 2000 Site: Killarney National Park, MacGillycuddy's Reeks & Caragh River Catchment SAC (Site Code 000365)	
	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.
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 Callitriche-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> <li>• Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae,</li> </ul>

Natura 2000 Site: Killarney National Park, MacGillycuddy's Reeks & Caragh River Catchment SAC (Site Code 000365)	
	<p>Salicion albae);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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 Redstart and Wood Warbler. Lough Leane is a site for wintering wildfowl with the following the</p>

Natura 2000 Site: Killarney National Park, MacGillycuddy's Reeks & Caragh River Catchment SAC (Site Code 000365)	
	<p>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. Rhododendron removal programmes are underway in the National Park and in the M. Reeks.

## 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 western edge of Waterville Town on lands adjoining the promenade and Ballinskelligs Bay which forms part of the Ballinskelligs Bay and Inny Estuary SAC. The northern part of the proposed site is located within an M4 Built up area zoning, while the southern part is located within G1 Open Space, Park zoning. Within the West Iveragh Local Area Plan, which governs the development of the area, car parking is permitted in principle within the M4 zoning and open to consideration within the G1 zoning. Public facilities and infrastructure are open to consideration within both zonings.</p> <p>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</p>	<p><b>Size and scale</b></p> <p>The site area is approx. 0.3Ha, located on the edge of Waterville Town. The maximum capacity of the waterfront car park would increase to 45 car spaces and 6 coach spaces. Bicycle stands are also to be proposed. A multi-use paved area would also be provided within which 10 of the proposed 45 car parking spaces would be located. Removable bollards will ensure that cars can be excluded from this area, as</p>

Identification and description of the individual and cumulative impacts of the Plan or Project	
<p>plans or projects) on Natura 2000 sites by virtue of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Size and scale</li> <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>required.</p> <p><b>Distance from Natura 2000 Site or key features of the Site</b>  The proposed site adjoins the Ballinskelligs Bay and Inny Estuary SAC. The key features of this site are not located in the vicinity of the proposed development. The qualifying interest saltmarsh habitat is located in the Inny Estuary and near Ballinskelligs and the area of interest for the qualifying interest petalwort is located to the west of the Inny Estuary. The proposed site is located over 500m from the Killarney National Park, Macgillycuddy's Reeks &amp; Caragh River Catchment SAC</p> <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 (approx. 2 months). The operational aspects of the proposal will be permanent. It is noted that land use zoning provisions for the area allow for the consideration of a proposal of this nature at this location.</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>The habitats directly affected by the proposed development are artificial surfaces (BL3) and amenity grasslands (GA2). Considering the small scale nature of the proposed development and the habitats directly affected by the proposed development, habitat or species fragmentation or loss can be ruled out.</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 Ballinskelligs Bay. Even accounting for a possible coastal flood event occurring during the course of the works and overtopping the promenade, any input likely to arise would be imperceptible and easily dissipated and assimilated within the received waters so as not to significantly impact water quality in the Ballinskelligs Bay or further afield.</p> <p>There will be no habitat loss or degradation of any Natura 2000 qualifying habitat or functionally linked supporting habitat.</p> <p><b>Impact on qualifying species, having regard to conservation objectives of the Natura 2000 sites in the vicinity (disturbance reduction in density etc)</b></p> <p><i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> a qualifying interest species for the Ballinskelligs Bay and River Inny Estuary SAC and which is associated with sand dune habitats is not present in the vicinity of the proposed development. It's nearest known location is to the west of the Inny Estuary, a location with no viable connection to that of the proposed development.</p> <p><b>Other species</b></p> <p>Potential impact on other species can be ruled out given the scale, nature, location and duration of the proposed works, which is unlikely to impact on water quality or other environmental conditions required to support species populations. Noise and disturbance are not likely to arise given that the site does not constitute key habitat for qualifying interest species and given the nature and short duration of the</p>
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	<p>works. Any species using this area would be accustomed and habituated to a level of disturbance, given the location of the site within and adjoining an existing carpark, amenity space and the Town of Waterville itself.</p> <p><b>Habitat or species fragmentation</b> 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.</p> <p><b>Changes in key indicators of conservation value</b> No significant impact likely</p> <p><b>Climate change</b> Climate change is likely to result in more extreme weather events. In Waterville the main flood risk is from the coast, with the main promenade overtopping during coastal storm events. The ICPSS tidal flood mapping shows the promenade area as being at risk in the 0.5% tidal event. Any such flooding of the proposed development is not likely to significantly impact on Natura 2000 sites – given the dilution capacity available during such extreme weather events.</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"> <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><b>Interference with the key relationships that define the structure of the site:</b> 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,</p>	<p>This proposal is minor in scale, complexity and the construction works will be short in duration. Operational effects will be similar to existing. The potential for significant effects of the proposal have been ruled out beyond reasonable scientific doubt.</p>

<p>where the above impacts are likely to be significant or where the scale of magnitude of impacts is not known.</p>	<p>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. Measures intended to avoid or reduce negative effects on the European sites have not been relied upon in reaching this conclusion.

### Reasons for Conclusion

This conclusion has been reached based on the following:

- The existing conditions;
- The location of the proposed development within the confines of the existing public car park and immediately adjoining lands;
- The nature of the works which are small in scale, short in duration and which involve limited excavation / preparatory works,
- The lack of in-combination effects arising from other proposed and permitted development in the vicinity,
- That there would be no significant loss or degradation of Natura 2000 habitat or functionally linked habitat,
- That there would be no significant direct or indirect impact on qualifying habitat or species associated with Natura 2000 sites as a result of the proposal.
- That measures intended to avoid or reduce negative effects on the European sites have not been relied upon in reaching this conclusion.



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