

## SCREENING FOR APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT DETERMINATION

***Project reference:*** LIC230033 APOLLO SUBMARINE CABLE SYSTEM LTD, INSTALLATION OF FIBRE OPTIC SUBSEA TELECOMS CABLE AND POTENTIAL FUTURE TELECOMS MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES IN THE SOUTHERN EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE AND AGREED CONTINENTAL SHELF.

In accordance with Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/EEC) and Regulation 42(1) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 as amended ('the Regulations'), MARA has undertaken screening for Appropriate Assessment to assess, in view of best scientific knowledge and the conservation objectives of relevant European sites, if this cable installation and potential future maintenance activities in the southern EEZ and agreed continental shelf, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, would be likely to have significant effects on any European site.

In accordance with Regulation 42(6) of the Regulations, MARA has determined that an Appropriate Assessment is required as it cannot be excluded on the basis of objective scientific information that the proposed activities, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, may have a significant effect on the following European sites:

Southern Canyons SAC [Site code IE002278]  
Roaringwater Bay and Islands SAC [Site code IE000101]  
Glengarriff Harbour and Woodland SAC [Site code IE00090]  
Blasket Islands SAC [Site code IE002172]  
Saltee Islands SAC [Site code IE0007071]  
Kenmare River SAC [Site code IE0007071]  
Rockabill to Dalkey SA [Site code IE003000]  
Lower River Shannon SAC [Site code IE002165]  
West Connacht Coast SAC [Site code IE002998]  
Pembrokeshire Marine/ Sir Benfro Forol SAC [UK0013116]  
Llyn Peninsula and the Sarnau / Pen Llyn a'r Sar [Site code UK0013117]  
Cardigan Bay [UK0012712]  
North Anglesey Marine / Gogledd Môn Forol [UK 0030398]  
West Wales Marine / Gorllewin Cymru Forol [UK 0030397]  
North Channel [UK 0030399]  
Bristol Channel Approaches / Dynesfeydd Môr Hafren [UK0030396]  
Mers Celtiques – Talus du golfe de Gascogne [FR5302015]  
Récifs du talus du golfe de Gascogne [FR5302016]  
Nord Bretagne DH [FR2502022]  
Ouessant-Molène [FR5300018]

Abers - Côte des legends [FR5300017]  
Chaussée de Sein [FR5300017]  
Baie de Morlaix [FR5300015]  
Côte de Granit rose-Sept-Iles [Côte de Granit rose-Sept-Iles]  
Côtes de Crozon [FR5302006]  
Trégor – Goëlo [FR5300010]  
Rivière Leguer, forêts de Beffou, Coat an Noz et Coat an Hay [FR5300008]  
Récifs et landes de la Hague [FR2500084]  
Anse de Vauville [FR2502019]  
Baie de Saint-Brieuc – Est [FR5300066]  
Cap d'Erquy-Cap Fréhel [FR5310095]  
Banc et récifs de Surtainville [FR2502018]  
Baie de Lancieux, Baie de l'Arguenon, Archipel de Saint Malo et Dinard [FR5310012]  
Récifs et marais arrière-littoraux du Cap Lévi à la Pointe de Saire [FR2500085]  
Côte de Cancale á Parmè [FR5300052]  
Estuaire de la Rance [FR5300061]  
Baie du Mont Saint-Michel [FR5300077]  
Baie de Seine occidentale [FR2502020]  
Baie de Seine orientale [FR2502021]  
Littoral Cauchois [FR2300139]  
Falaises du Cran aux Oeufs et du Cap Gris-Nez, Dunes du Chatelet, Marais de Tardinghen et Dunes de Wissant [FR3100478]

The reasons for MARA's determination that Appropriate Assessment is required are set out in detail in the screening report published alongside the determination.

This determination is based on the location, scale, extent and duration of the proposed site investigations, and has not taken account of measures intended to avoid or reduce significant effects on European sites.

Recommending officer: \_\_\_\_\_

Mary Hegarty, 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2024

Decision maker: \_\_\_\_\_

Dr Karen Creed, 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2024