

Screening for Appropriate Assessment
 Maritime Usage Licence Application
 Site investigations surveys - Microsoft Kilmore Quay

Step 1 - Description of Project/Proposal and local site characteristics

File Reference No	LIC230017
Brief Description of the Project	<p>Microsoft Ireland Operations Ltd. have applied to MARA for a Maritime Usage Licence (MUL) to carry out site investigation surveys. The proposed surveys will consist of geophysical, geotechnical, environmental (benthic sampling), an archaeological survey and intertidal landfall surveys (including bar probes and 3 Trial Pits).</p> <p>These surveys are proposed to investigate the feasibility of constructing a new subsea telecoms cable system, linking Wales to Ireland, from a landfall on the northwest coast of Wales to a landfall at Kilmore Quay on the southeast coast of Ireland.</p> <p>The licence survey corridor is approximately 64.5 km in length and is a total area of 3211 hectares within the Irish EEZ. A cable route corridor of approximately 500m width will be surveyed within the licence application area (see Figure 1).</p> <p>The principal objective of the Marine Survey & Site Investigations is to ascertain a feasible and safe route for cable system design, deployment, survivability, and subsequent maintenance with due regard for environmental and ecological considerations.</p> <p>The geophysical survey consists of inshore and offshore surveys using different vessels. The inshore marine survey will be carried out using a small craft or unmanned survey vessel equipped with multibeam echosounder, side-scan sonar, marine magnetometer and sub-bottom profile equipment.</p> <p>The offshore marine survey will be carried out by the primary survey vessel using multibeam echosounder, side-scan sonar, marine magnetometer and sub-bottom profiler equipment. The geotechnical surveys consist of up to 15 cone penetration tests (2m to 3m); up to 12 gravity core/Vibrocores (3m) and up to 11 grab samples.</p> <p>The site investigation works are planned to commence as soon as feasible, following licence award, are anticipated to take less than 6 weeks in total and will be completed over a 6-month period.</p>
Brief Description of the Site Characteristics	<p>The sediments in the MUL area are largely that of sand, sandy mud and coarse substrate.</p> <p>The area provides foraging habitat for seabirds and is a diverse range of marine mammals utilise this area also.</p> <p>Water depths in the survey area range from the intertidal to approximately 90m depth at the extent of the Irish EEZ.</p>

Step 2 - Identification of relevant Natura 2000 sites using Source-Pathway Receptor Model and compilation of information on Qualifying Interests and Conservation Objectives.

Please note:

- The Qualifying Interests (QI's) highlighted in **bold text** are screened in for Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment.
- As these works are being undertaken in the marine environment, and assessment is using the Source-Pathway-Receptor model (OPR 2021), only marine and coastal Natura 2000 sites were considered in this screening process.
- Distances are measured as straight line distances in open water, or along-shore coastal distances, depending on the site and QI's being considered.
- For international Natura sites, only Qualifying Interest species that are screened in for Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment have been listed in the table below.
- Also included in this assessment are candidate Qualifying Interest (QI) species for a number of SAC sites which are currently open for public consultation.

European Site Code	Distance from the Proposed Development (km)	List of Qualifying Interests	Connections (Source-Pathway Receptors)	Qualifying Interests considered further in Screening Y/N	European Site Screened In for Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment
Ballyteige Burrow SAC (Site code: IE000696)	Within site	Estuaries [1130] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Coastal lagoons [1150] Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210] Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220] Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] <i>Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>) [1330]</i>	Yes – all QI's	Yes - The proposed cable survey route passes through this SAC.	Yes

European Site Code	Distance from the Proposed Development (km)	List of Qualifying Interests	Connections (Source-Pathway Receptors)	Qualifying Interests considered further in Screening Y/N	European Site Screened In for Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment
		<p>Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410] Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrubs (<i>Sarcocornetea fruticosi</i>) [1420] Embryonic shifting dunes [2110] Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120] Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130] Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (<i>Calluno-Ulicetea</i>) [2150] Humid dune slacks [2190]</p>			
Saltee Islands SAC (Site Code: IE000707)	350m	<p>Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Large shallow inlets and bays [1160] Reefs [1170] Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230] Submerged or partially submerged sea caves [8330]</p> <p><i>Halichoerus grypus</i> (Grey Seal) [1364]</p>	Yes – within the foraging range of Grey seal (Carter et al., 2022) ¹ and potentially close to haul out and moulting sites.	Yes - there may be potential for underwater noise and physical disturbance which could impact Grey Seal	Yes
Hook Head SAC (Site code: IE000764)	3.6 km	<p>Large shallow inlets and bays [1160] Reefs [1170] Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230]</p> <p><i>Tursiops truncatus</i> (Common Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349] <i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]</p>	Yes – within the Management unit (MU) for Bottlenose Dolphin and Harbour	Yes - there may be potential for underwater noise and physical	Yes

European Site Code	Distance from the Proposed Development (km)	List of Qualifying Interests	Connections (Source-Pathway Receptors)	Qualifying Interests considered further in Screening Y/N	European Site Screened In for Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment
			Porpoise (JNCC, 2023) ²	disturbance which could impact the species listed	
Tacumshin Lake SAC (Site code: IE000709)	5.6 km	Coastal lagoons [1150] Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210] Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220] Embryonic shifting dunes [2110] Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120]	No	No	No
Bannow Bay SAC (Site code: IE000697)	7.5 km	Estuaries [1130] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210] Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220] Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>) [1330] Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410] Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrubs (<i>Sarcocornetea fruticosi</i>) [1420] Embryonic shifting dunes [2110] Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120] Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130]	No	No	No

European Site Code	Distance from the Proposed Development (km)	List of Qualifying Interests	Connections (Source-Pathway Receptors)	Qualifying Interests considered further in Screening Y/N	European Site Screened In for Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment
Carnsore Point SAC (Site code: IE002269)	10.4 km	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Reefs [1170] <i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]	Yes - Within the MU for Harbour Porpoise (JNCC, 2023) ²	Yes - there may be potential for underwater noise and physical disturbance which could impact the species listed	Yes
Lady's Island SAC (Site code: IE000704)	11.5 km	Coastal lagoons [1150] Reefs [1170] Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220]	No	No	No

European Site Code	Distance from the Proposed Development (km)	List of Qualifying Interests	Connections (Source-Pathway Receptors)	Qualifying Interests considered further in Screening Y/N	European Site Screened In for Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment
River Barrow and River Nore SAC (Site code: IE002162)	23 km	<p>Estuaries [1130] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Reefs [1170] Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>) [1330] Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410] Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitricho-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260] European dry heaths [4030] Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels [6430] Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>) [7220] Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0] Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i>, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>) [91E0] Desmoulin's Whorl Snail (<i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i>) [1016] Freshwater Pearl Mussel (<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>) [1029] White-clawed Crayfish (<i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>) [1092]h</p>	Yes – slight possibility of disturbance to migratory salmon and Twaite shad	Yes –salmon likely to migrate westwards so out of range of proposed works. Twaite shad highly unlikely to be disturbed at this distance	No

European Site Code	Distance from the Proposed Development (km)	List of Qualifying Interests	Connections (Source-Pathway Receptors)	Qualifying Interests considered further in Screening Y/N	European Site Screened In for Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment
		Sea Lamprey (<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>) [1095] Brook Lamprey (<i>Lampetra planeri</i>) [1096] River Lamprey (<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>) [1099] Twaite Shad (<i>Alosa fallax fallax</i>) [1103] Salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) [1106] Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) [1355] Killarney Fern (<i>Trichomanes speciosum</i>) [1421] Nore Pearl Mussel (<i>Margaritifera durrovensis</i>) [1990]			

European Site Code	Distance from the Proposed Development (km)	List of Qualifying Interests	Connections (Source-Pathway Receptors)	Qualifying Interests considered further in Screening Y/N	European Site Screened In for Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment
Slaney River SAC (Site code:IE000781)	Approx. 60 km	<p>Estuaries [1130] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>) [1330] Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410]</p> <p>Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculus fluitans</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260] Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0] Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i>, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>) [91E0] <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) [1029] <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> (Sea Lamprey) [1095] <i>Lampetra planeri</i> (Brook Lamprey) [1096] <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> (River Lamprey) [1099] <i>Alosa fallax fallax</i> (Twaite Shad) [1103] <i>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter) [1355]</p> <p><i>Salmo salar</i> (Salmon) [1106] <i>Phoca vitulina</i> (Harbour Seal) [1365]</p>	Yes – slight possibility of disturbance to migratory salmon and within foraging distance of Harbour Seal (Carter et al., 2022) ¹	Yes –within foraging range of Harbour Seal. Possibility of disturbance to migrating salmon given location in migratory route.	Yes

European Site Code	Distance from the Proposed Development (km)	List of Qualifying Interests	Connections (Source-Pathway Receptors)	Qualifying Interests considered further in Screening Y/N	European Site Screened In for Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment
Blackwater Bank SAC (Site code: 002953)	27 km	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]	Yes – within MU for Harbour Porpoise (JNCC, 2023) ²	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes
Rockabill to Dalkey Islands SAC (Site code: IE003000)	124 km	Reefs [1170] <i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]	Yes – within MU for Harbour Porpoise (JNCC, 2023) ²	Yes – Harbour Porpoise - possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes
Lambay Island SAC (Site Code IE000204)	150 km	Reefs [1170] Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230] <i>Halichoerus grypus</i> (Grey Seal) [1364] <i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351] <i>Phoca vitulina</i> (Harbour Seal) [1365]	Yes -within foraging ranges of up to 448km for Grey Seal (Carter et al, 2022) ¹ ,273km for Harbour Seal (Carter et al, 2022) ² and	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes

European Site Code	Distance from the Proposed Development (km)	List of Qualifying Interests	Connections (Source-Pathway Receptors)	Qualifying Interests considered further in Screening Y/N	European Site Screened In for Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment
			Harbour Porpoise MU (JNCC, 2023) ²		
Codling Fault Zone SAC (Site code IE003015)	140 km	Submarine structures made by leaking gases [1180] <i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]	Yes - within Harbour Porpoise MU (JNCC, 2023) ²	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes
Roaringwater Bay and Islands SAC [Site code IE000101]	Approx. 190 km	Large shallow inlets and bays [1160] Reefs [1170] Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230] European dry heaths [4030] Submerged or partially submerged sea caves [8330] <i>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter) [1355] <i>Halichoerus grypus</i> (Grey Seal) [1364] <i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]	Yes - within foraging ranges of up to 448km for Grey Seal (Carter et al, 2022) ¹ within Harbour Porpoise MU (JNCC, 2023) ²	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes
Glengarriff Harbour and Woodland SAC (Site code: IE00090)	Approx. 195 km	Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0]	Yes-within foraging range of up to 273km for Harbour	Yes	

European Site Code	Distance from the Proposed Development (km)	List of Qualifying Interests	Connections (Source-Pathway Receptors)	Qualifying Interests considered further in Screening Y/N	European Site Screened In for Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment
		<p>Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i>, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>) [91E0] <i>Geomalacus maculosus</i> (Kerry Slug) [1024] <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> (Lesser Horseshoe Bat) [1303] <i>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter) [1355]</p> <p><i>Phoca vitulina</i> (Harbour Seal) [1365]</p>	Seal (Carter et al, 2022) ¹		Yes
Kenmare River SAC [Site code: IE002158]	Approx. 200 km	<p>Large shallow inlets and bays [1160] Reefs [1170] Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220] Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230] 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] European dry heaths [4030] Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130] Calaminarian grasslands of the <i>Violetalia calaminariae</i> [6130]</p>	Yes – within foraging range of up to 273km for Harbour Seal (Carter et al, 2022) ¹ and Harbour Porpoise MU (JNCC, 2023) ²	Yes-	Yes

European Site Code	Distance from the Proposed Development (km)	List of Qualifying Interests	Connections (Source-Pathway Receptors)	Qualifying Interests considered further in Screening Y/N	European Site Screened In for Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment
		<p>Submerged or partially submerged sea caves [8330] <i>Vertigo angustior</i> (Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail) [1014] <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> (Lesser Horseshoe Bat) [1303] <i>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter) [1355]</p> <p><i>Phoca vitulina</i> (Harbour Seal) [1365] <i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]</p>			
Blasket Islands SAC [Site code IE002172]	Approx. 250 km	<p>Reefs [1170] Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230] European dry heaths [4030] Submerged or partially submerged sea caves [8330]</p> <p><i>Halichoerus grypus</i> (Grey Seal) [1364] <i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]</p>	Yes - within foraging ranges of up to 448km for Grey Seal (Carter et al, 2022) ¹ and within Harbour Porpoise MU (JNCC, 2023) ²	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes
Belgica Mound Province SAC [Site code IE002327]	Within MU for Harbour porpoise	<p>Reefs [1170] <i>Tursiops truncatus</i> (Common Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349]</p> <p><i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]</p>	Yes -within Harbour Porpoise MU (JNCC, 2023) ²	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes

European Site Code	Distance from the Proposed Development (km)	List of Qualifying Interests	Connections (Source-Pathway Receptors)	Qualifying Interests considered further in Screening Y/N	European Site Screened In for Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment
Inishmore Island SAC [Site code IE000213]	Within MU for Harbour porpoise	Coastal lagoons [1150] Reefs [1170] Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220] Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230] Embryonic shifting dunes [2110] 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>Salicion arenariae</i>) [2170] Humid dune slacks [2190] Machairs (* in Ireland) [21A0] European dry heaths [4030] Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060] Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) (* important orchid sites) [6210] Lowland hay meadows (<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i> , <i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i>) [6510] Limestone pavements [8240] Submerged or partially submerged sea caves [8330] <i>Vertigo angustior</i> (Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail) [1014] <i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]	Yes - within Harbour Porpoise MU (JNCC, 2023) ²	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes

European Site Code	Distance from the Proposed Development (km)	List of Qualifying Interests	Connections (Source-Pathway Receptors)	Qualifying Interests considered further in Screening Y/N	European Site Screened In for Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment
Kilkieran Bay and Islands SAC [Site code IE002111]	Within MU for Harbour porpoise	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Coastal lagoons [1150] Large shallow inlets and bays [1160] Reefs [1170] Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>) [1330] Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410] Machairs (* in Ireland) [21A0] Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the Littorelletea uniflorae and/or Isoeto-Nanojuncetea [3130] Lowland hay meadows (<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i> , <i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i>) [6510] <i>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter) [1355] <i>Najas flexilis</i> (Slender Naiad) [1833] <i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]	Yes –within Harbour Porpoise MU (JNCC, 2023) ²	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes
West Connacht Coast SAC [Site code IE002998]	Within MU for Harbour porpoise	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i> (Common Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349] <i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]	Yes - within Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) ²	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes

European Site Code	Distance from the Proposed Development (km)	List of Qualifying Interests	Connections (Source-Pathway Receptors)	Qualifying Interests considered further in Screening Y/N	European Site Screened In for Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment
Bunduff Lough and Machair/Trawalua/Mullaghmore SAC [000625]	Within MU for Harbour porpoise	<p>Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Large shallow inlets and bays [1160] Reefs [1170] Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120] Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130] Humid dune slacks [2190] Machairs (* in Ireland) [21A0] <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130] Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) (* important orchid sites) [6210] Alkaline fens [7230] <i>Euphydrias aurinia</i> (Marsh Fritillary) [1065] <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> (Petalwort) [1395]</p> <p><i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]</p>	Yes - within Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 202h3) ²	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes
Pembrokeshire Marine Sac (Site code: UK0013116)	Approx. 140 km	<i>Halichoerus grypus</i> (Grey Seal) [1364]	Yes - within foraging range of up to 448km for Grey Seal (Carter et al, 2022) ¹	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes

European Site Code	Distance from the Proposed Development (km)	List of Qualifying Interests	Connections (Source-Pathway Receptors)	Qualifying Interests considered further in Screening Y/N	European Site Screened In for Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment
West Wales Marine SAC [Site code UK0030397]	Approx. 100 km	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]	Yes - within Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) ²	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes
Cardigan Bay SAC [Site code UK0012712]	76 km	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i> (Common Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349]	Yes - within Bottlenose Dolphin Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) ²	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes
Bristol Channel Approaches SAC [Site code UK003039]	83 km	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]	Yes within Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) ²	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes
Lundy SAC (Site Code UK0013114)	Approx. 115 km	<i>Halichoerus grypus</i> (Grey Seal) [1364]	Yes - within foraging range of up to 448km for Grey Seal (Carter et al, 2022) ¹	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes

European Site Code	Distance from the Proposed Development (km)	List of Qualifying Interests	Connections (Source-Pathway Receptors)	Qualifying Interests considered further in Screening Y/N	European Site Screened In for Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment
Lleyn Peninsula and the Sarnau SAC [Site code UK0013117]	Approx. 120 km - within MU for Bottlenose Dolphin	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i> (Common Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349] <i>Halichoerus grypus</i> (Grey Seal) [1364]	Yes - within Bottlenose Dolphin Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) ² and foraging range of up to 448km for Grey Seal (Carter et al, 2022) ¹	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes
North Anglesey Marine SAC [Site code UK0030398]	Approx. 150 km - within MU for Harbour porpoise	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]	Yes - within Harbour Porpoise MU (JNCC, 2023) ²	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes
Isles of Scilly Complex SAC (Site code: UK0013694)	Approx. 195 km	<i>Halichoerus grypus</i> (Grey Seal) [1364]	Yes - foraging ranges of up to 448km for Grey Seal (Carter et al, 2022) ¹	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes

European Site Code	Distance from the Proposed Development (km)	List of Qualifying Interests	Connections (Source-Pathway Receptors)	Qualifying Interests considered further in Screening Y/N	European Site Screened In for Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment
Murlough SAC	Approx. 220 km	<i>Phoca vitulina</i> (Harbour Seal) [1351]	Yes – within foraging range of up to 273km for Harbour Seal (Carter et al, 2022) ¹	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes
North Channel SAC (Site code: UK0030399)	Approx. 235 km - within MU for Harbour porpoise	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]	Yes within Harbour Porpoise MU (JNCC, 2023) ²	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes
Strangford Lough (Site code:UK0016618)	Approx. 245 km	<i>Phoca vitulina</i> (Harbour Seal) [1351]	Yes – within foraging range of up to 273km for Harbour Seal (Carter et al, 2022) ¹	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes
Mers Celtiques – Talus du golfe de Gascogne (Site code: FR5302015)	Within MU for Harbour Porpoise and Bottlenose Dolphin	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351] <i>Tursiops truncatus</i> (Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349]	Yes within Harbour Porpoise and Bottlenose Dolphin Management	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes

European Site Code	Distance from the Proposed Development (km)	List of Qualifying Interests	Connections (Source-Pathway Receptors)	Qualifying Interests considered further in Screening Y/N	European Site Screened In for Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment
			Unit (JNCC, 2023) ²		
Nord Bretagne DH (Site code: FR2502022)	Within MU for Harbour Porpoise and Bottlenose Dolphin	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351] <i>Tursiops truncatus</i> (Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349]	Yes within Harbour Porpoise and Bottlenose Dolphin MU (JNCC, 2023) ²	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes
Côte de Granit rose-Sept-Iles (Site code: FR5300009)	Within MU for Harbour Porpoise and Bottlenose Dolphin	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351] <i>Tursiops truncatus</i> (Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349]	Yes within Harbour Porpoise and Bottlenose Dolphin MU (JNCC, 2023) ²	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes
Abers – Côtes des légendes (Site code: FR5300017)	Within MU for Harbour Porpoise and Bottlenose Dolphin	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351] <i>Tursiops truncatus</i> (Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349]	Yes within Harbour Porpoise and Bottlenose Dolphin MU (JNCC, 2023) ²	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes

European Site Code	Distance from the Proposed Development (km)	List of Qualifying Interests	Connections (Source-Pathway Receptors)	Qualifying Interests considered further in Screening Y/N	European Site Screened In for Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment
Trégor – Goëlo (Site code: FR5300010)	Within MU for Harbour Porpoise and Bottlenose Dolphin	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351] <i>Tursiops truncatus</i> (Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349]	Yes within Harbour Porpoise and Bottlenose Dolphin MU (JNCC, 2023) ²	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes
Récifs du talus du golfe de Gascogne (Site code: FR5302016)	Within MU for Harbour Porpoise and Bottlenose Dolphin	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351] <i>Tursiops truncatus</i> (Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349]	Yes within Harbour Porpoise and Bottlenose Dolphin MU (JNCC, 2023) ²	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes
Récifs et landes de la Hague SAC [Site code FR2500084]	Within MU for Harbour Porpoise and Bottlenose Dolphin	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351] <i>Tursiops truncatus</i> (Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349]	Yes - within Harbour Porpoise and Bottlenose Dolphin MU (JNCC, 2023) ²	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes
Baie de Morlaix (Site code: FR5300015)	Within Management Unit for Harbour Porpoise	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]	Yes - within Harbour Porpoise MU (JNCC, 2023) ²	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes

European Site Code	Distance from the Proposed Development (km)	List of Qualifying Interests	Connections (Source-Pathway Receptors)	Qualifying Interests considered further in Screening Y/N	European Site Screened In for Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment
Ouessant-Molene (Site code: FR5300018)	Within MU for Harbour Porpoise and Bottlenose Dolphin	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351] <i>Tursiops truncatus</i> (Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349]	Yes - within Harbour Porpoise and Bottlenose Dolphin MU (JNCC, 2023) ²	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes
Rivière Leguer, forêts de Beffou, Coat an Noz et Coat an Hay (Site code: FR5300008)	Within Management Unit for Harbour Porpoise	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]	Yes - within Harbour Porpoise MU (JNCC, 2023) ²	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes
Récifs et marais arrière-littoraux du Cap Lévi à la Pointe de Saire (Site code: FR2500085)	Within MU for Bottlenose Dolphin	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i> (Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349]	Yes - within Bottlenose Dolphin MU (JNCC, 2023) ²	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes
Anse de Vauville SAC [Site code FR2502019]	Within MU for Harbour Porpoise and Bottlenose Dolphin	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351] <i>Tursiops truncatus</i> (Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349]	Yes - within Harbour Porpoise and Bottlenose Dolphin MU (JNCC, 2023) ²	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes

European Site Code	Distance from the Proposed Development (km)	List of Qualifying Interests	Connections (Source-Pathway Receptors)	Qualifying Interests considered further in Screening Y/N	European Site Screened In for Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment
Banc et récifs de Surtainville SAC [Site code FR2502018]	Within MU for Harbour Porpoise and Bottlenose Dolphin	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351] <i>Tursiops truncatus</i> (Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349]	Yes - within Harbour Porpoise and Bottlenose Dolphin MU (JNCC, 2023) ²	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes
Chaussée de Sein (Site code: FR5302007)	Within MU for Harbour Porpoise and Bottlenose Dolphin	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351] <i>Tursiops truncatus</i> (Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349]	Yes - within Harbour Porpoise and Bottlenose Dolphin MU (JNCC, 2023) ²	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes
Baie de Seine occidentale (Site code: FR2502020)	Within MU for Bottlenose Dolphin	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i> (Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349]	Yes - within Bottlenose Dolphin MU (JNCC, 2023) ²	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes
Baie de Seine orientale (Site code: FR2502021)	Within MU for Bottlenose Dolphin	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i> (Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349]	Yes - within Bottlenose Dolphin MU (JNCC, 2023) ²	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes

European Site Code	Distance from the Proposed Development (km)	List of Qualifying Interests	Connections (Source-Pathway Receptors)	Qualifying Interests considered further in Screening Y/N	European Site Screened In for Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment
Littoral Cauchois (Site code: FR2300139)	Within MU for Bottlenose Dolphin	<i>Tursiops truncates</i> (Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349]	Yes - within Bottlenose Dolphin MU (JNCC, 2023) ²	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes
Chausey [Site code FR2500079]	Within Management Unit for Harbour porpoise	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]	Yes - within Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) ²	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes
Baie du Mont Saint-Michel [Site code FR2500077]	Within MU for Harbour Porpoise and Bottlenose Dolphin	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351] <i>Tursiops truncates</i> (Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349]	Yes - within Harbour Porpoise and Bottlenose Dolphin MU (JNCC, 2023) ²	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes
Estuaire de la Rance SAC [Site code FR5300061]	Within Management Unit for Harbour porpoise	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]	Yes - within Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) ²	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes

European Site Code	Distance from the Proposed Development (km)	List of Qualifying Interests	Connections (Source-Pathway Receptors)	Qualifying Interests considered further in Screening Y/N	European Site Screened In for Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment
Baie de Lancieux, Baie de l'Arguenon, Archipel de Saint Malo et Dinard [Site code FR5300012]	Within MU for Harbour Porpoise and Bottlenose Dolphin	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351] <i>Tursiops truncatus</i> (Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349]	Yes - within Harbour Porpoise and Bottlenose Dolphin MU (JNCC, 2023) ²	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes
Cap d'Erquy-Cap Fréhel [Site code FR5300011]	Within MU for Harbour Porpoise and Bottlenose Dolphin	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351] <i>Tursiops truncatus</i> (Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349]	Yes - within Harbour Porpoise and Bottlenose Dolphin MU (JNCC, 2023) ²	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes
Baie de Saint-Brieuc Est [Site code FR5300066]	Within MU for Harbour Porpoise and Bottlenose Dolphin	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351] <i>Tursiops truncatus</i> (Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349]	Yes - within Harbour Porpoise and Bottlenose Dolphin MU (JNCC, 2023) ²	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes
Côtes de Crozon [Site code FR5302006]	Within Management Unit for Harbour porpoise	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]	Yes - within Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) ²	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes

European Site Code	Distance from the Proposed Development (km)	List of Qualifying Interests	Connections (Source-Pathway Receptors)	Qualifying Interests considered further in Screening Y/N	European Site Screened In for Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment
Côte de Cancale á Parme (Site code: FR5300052)	Within MU for Bottlenose Dolphin	<i>Tursiops truncates</i> (Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349]	Yes - within Bottlenose Dolphin MU (JNCC, 2023) ²	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes
Falaises du Cran aux Oeufs et du Cap Gris-Nez, Dunes du Chatelet, Marais de Tardinghen et Dunes de Wissant (Site code: FR3100478)	Within MU for Bottlenose Dolphin	<i>Tursiops truncates</i> (Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349]	Yes - within Bottlenose Dolphin MU (JNCC, 2023) ²	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes

European Site Code	Distance from the Proposed Development (km)	List of Qualifying Interests	Connections (Source-Pathway Receptors)	Qualifying Interests considered further in Screening Y/N	European Site Screened In for Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment
Seas Off Wexford (Candidate) SPA (Site code: IE004237)	Within the site boundary	Red-throated Diver (<i>Gavia stellata</i>) [A001] Fulmar (<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>) [A009] Manx Shearwater (<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>) [A013] Gannet (<i>Morus bassanus</i>) [A016] Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017] Shag (<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>) [A018] Common Scoter (<i>Melanitta nigra</i>) [A065] Mediterranean Gull (<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>) [A176] Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179] Lesser Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>) [A183] Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) [A184] Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) [A188] Sandwich Tern (<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>) [A191] Roseate Tern (<i>Sterna dougallii</i>) [A192] Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193] Arctic Tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) [A194] Little Tern (<i>Sterna albifrons</i>) [A195] Guillemot (<i>Uria aalge</i>) [A199] Razorbill (<i>Alca torda</i>) [A200] Puffin (<i>Fratercula arctica</i>) [A204]	Yes – proposed works inside SPA	Yes – possibility for disturbance	Yes
Ballyteigue Burrow SPA (Site code: IE004020)	700m	Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046] Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048] Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140] Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142]	Yes – proposed works inside SPA	Yes – possibility for disturbance	Yes

European Site Code	Distance from the Proposed Development (km)	List of Qualifying Interests	Connections (Source-Pathway Receptors)	Qualifying Interests considered further in Screening Y/N	European Site Screened In for Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment
		Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156] Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]			
Saltee Islands SPA (Site code: IE004002)	3 km	Fulmar (<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>) [A009] Gannet (<i>Morus bassanus</i>) [A016] Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017] Shag (<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>) [A018] Lesser Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>) [A183] Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) [A184] Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) [A188] Guillemot (<i>Uria aalge</i>) [A199] Razorbill (<i>Alca torda</i>) [A200] Puffin (<i>Fratercula arctica</i>) [A204]	Yes – proposed works close to SPA, well within foraging range of a number of species	Yes – possibility for disturbance	Yes
Keeragh Islands SPA (Site code: IE004118)	3.5 km	Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017]	Yes - proposed works close to SPA, well within foraging range	Yes - possibility for disturbance	Yes

European Site Code	Distance from the Proposed Development (km)	List of Qualifying Interests	Connections (Source-Pathway Receptors)	Qualifying Interests considered further in Screening Y/N	European Site Screened In for Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment
Tacumshin Lake SPA (Site code: IE004092)	6.6 km	<p>Little Grebe (<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>) [A004] Bewick's Swan (<i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i>) [A037] Whooper Swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>) [A038] Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050] Gadwall (<i>Anas strepera</i>) [A051] Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052] Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) [A054] Shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>) [A056] Tufted Duck (<i>Aythya fuligula</i>) [A061] Coot (<i>Fulica atra</i>) [A125] Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140] Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142] Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]</p>	No	No	No
Bannow Bay SPA (Site code: IE004033)	7.6 km	<p>Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046] Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048] Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) [A054] Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130] Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140] Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142] Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143] Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149] Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156]</p>	No	No	No

European Site Code	Distance from the Proposed Development (km)	List of Qualifying Interests	Connections (Source-Pathway Receptors)	Qualifying Interests considered further in Screening Y/N	European Site Screened In for Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment
		Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157] Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160] Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]			
Lady's Island SPA (Site code: IE004009)	12 km	Gadwall (<i>Anas strepera</i>) [A051] Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179] Sandwich Tern (<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>) [A191] Roseate Tern (<i>Sterna dougallii</i>) [A192] Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193] Arctic Tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) [A194] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	Yes –within foraging range of a number of species	Yes – possibility of disturbance	Yes

European Site Code	Distance from the Proposed Development (km)	List of Qualifying Interests	Connections (Source-Pathway Receptors)	Qualifying Interests considered further in Screening Y/N	European Site Screened In for Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment
Wexford Harbour and Slobbs SPA (Site code: IE004076)	15 km	Little Grebe (<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>) [A004] Great Crested Grebe (<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>) [A005] Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017] Grey Heron (<i>Ardea cinerea</i>) [A028] Bewick's Swan (<i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i>) [A037] 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] Goldeneye (<i>Bucephala clangula</i>) [A067] Red-breasted Merganser (<i>Mergus serrator</i>) [A069] Hen Harrier (<i>Circus cyaneus</i>) [A082] Coot (<i>Fulica atra</i>) [A125] Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130] Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140] Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142] Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143] Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144] Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149] 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]	Yes –within foraging range of a number of species	Yes –within foraging range of a number of species	Yes

European Site Code	Distance from the Proposed Development (km)	List of Qualifying Interests	Connections (Source-Pathway Receptors)	Qualifying Interests considered further in Screening Y/N	European Site Screened In for Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment
		<p>Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179] Lesser Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>) [A183] Little Tern (<i>Sterna albifrons</i>) [A195] Greenland White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>) [A395] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]</p>			
The Raven SPA (Site code: 004019)	24 km	<p>Red-throated Diver (<i>Gavia stellata</i>) [A001] Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017] Common Scoter (<i>Melanitta nigra</i>) [A065] Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144] Greenland White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>) [A395] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]</p>	Yes – towards the outer edge of foraging range for cormorant	Yes – slight possibility of disturbance but highly unlikely to be significant	No

European Site Code	Distance from the Proposed Development (km)	List of Qualifying Interests	Connections (Source-Pathway Receptors)	Qualifying Interests considered further in Screening Y/N	European Site Screened In for Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment
Tramore Back Strand SPA (Site code: 004027)	34 km	Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046] Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140] Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142] Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149] Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156] Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157] Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]			
Mid Waterford Coast SPA (Site Code:004193)	39.6 km	Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017] Peregrine (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>) [A103] Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) [A184] Chough (<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>) [A346]	No	No	No
Cahore Marshes SPA (Site code: h004143)	46.5 km	Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050] Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140] Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142] Greenland White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>) [A395] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	No	No	No

European Site Code	Distance from the Proposed Development (km)	List of Qualifying Interests	Connections (Source-Pathway Receptors)	Qualifying Interests considered further in Screening Y/N	European Site Screened In for Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment
Helvick Head to Ballyquin SPA (Site code: 004192)	65.5 km	Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017] Peregrine (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>) [A103] Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) [A184] Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) [A188] Chough (<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>) [A346]	No	No	No
Dungarvan Harbour SPA (Site code: 004032)	67 km	Great Crested Grebe (<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>) [A005] Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046] Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048] Red-breasted Merganser (<i>Mergus serrator</i>) [A069] Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130] Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140] Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142] Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143] Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149] 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] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	No	No	No

Step 3 Assessment of Likely Significant Effects

(a) Identify all potential direct and indirect impacts that may have an effect on the conservation objectives of a European site, taking into account the size and scale of the project	
Impacts	Possible Significance of Impacts (duration, magnitude etc.)
Disturbance from underwater noise	Possible temporal impacts on Marine Mammals and Birds.
Increased suspended sediment concentrations	Possible temporal impacts on salmon.
Visual and above water noise disturbance	Possible temporal impacts on Birds.

(b) Describe any likely changes to the European site:	
Reduction or Fragmentation of habitat area	Not likely
Disturbance to QI species	Disturbance to Annex II Marine Mammals and salmon and Birds cannot be excluded at this stage.
Changes in key indicators of conservation status value	Not likely
Changes to areas of sensitivity or threats to QI	Disturbance to Annex II Marine Mammals and salmon and Birds cannot be excluded at this stage.
Interference with the key relationships that define the structure or ecological function of the site	Not likely

In-Combination Effects

MARA has developed a stepwise approach for identifying other In-Combination plans and projects (see description on MARA website).

Using professional and scientific judgement, the key steps for assessing cumulative effects are as follows:

1. Defining the Cumulative Effects Spatial Scope (CESS);
2. Defining the Cumulative Effects Temporal Scope (CETS);
3. Impact identification;
4. Pathway identification;
5. Prediction;
6. Identification of Plans or Projects that could act in combination;
7. Screening Stage Cumulative Effects Assessment conclusion;
8. Managing cumulative impacts - to be carried out as part of Stage 2 AA process.

The CESS has been defined as 5 km and the CETS as 2 years. The definition of the CESS is based on acoustic survey equipment effective deterrence ranges as per JNCC Guidance on Assessing the

Significance of Noise Disturbance against Harbour Porpoise SACs Conservation Objectives (JNCC, 2020³). The CETS is the Maritime Usage Licence period.

Using the above 8-step approach, and following a search of relevant databases undertaken on the 22 of April 2024, the below projects have been identified as potential in-combination projects:

Application	Project	Approx. distance from the MUL area	Project status	Cumulative effects
FS007464	Bore Array Offshore Wind Farm in Wexford	0km	Proposed – foreshore licence application submitted 8 th April 2024	Spatial overlap. Within CESS. Possible temporal overlap.
FS007361	Beaufort Subsea Fibre Optic Cable off Wexford coast	0km	Foreshore licence granted 19 th November 2023	Spatial overlap. Within CESS. Possible temporal overlap.
20191633	Uisce Éireann construction of new wastewater treatment plant. Crossfarnogue, Nemestown, Beak, Ballyteigue and Libgate, Kilmore.	~200m	Proposed project - Permission granted 5 th February 2020.	No spatial overlap. Within CESS. Possible temporal overlap.
20170534	Extension to existing factory; Crossfarnogue, Kilmore.	~300m	Proposed project – permission granted 1 st August 2017.	No spatial overlap. Within CESS. Possible temporal overlap.
FS007384	Celtic Horizon Offshore Wind Farm Limited Site Investigations for proposed Offshore Wind Farm	~3km	Proposed project – foreshore licence application submitted 2 nd Jun 2021.	No spatial overlap. Within CESS. Possible temporal overlap.
FS007274	UCD Soil and Vegetation Sampling - Ballyteige	~4km	Proposed project – foreshore licence application submitted 15 th January 2021.	No spatial overlap. Within CESS. Possible temporal overlap.
20210079	Ballask (ED Kilmore), Kilmore.	~4.5km	Proposed project – permission granted 10 th March 2021.	No spatial overlap. Within CESS. Possible temporal overlap.

The following plans, related to the development of the maritime environment were also identified:

- The Climate Action Plan 2023
- River Basin Management Plans (RBMP)
- Designated Maritime Area Plans (DMAPs)

These plans promote sustainable development in the maritime environment and particularly Ireland’s Climate Action Plan’s renewable electricity target of 80% of energy generated from renewable electricity sources by 2030.

Likely significant in-combination effects between this project and the above listed seven projects and three plans on the conservation objectives of Natura 2000 sites considered in this report cannot be excluded at this stage.

Were mitigation measures considered during the screening process?

No

Step 4 Screening Determination Statement


The assessment of significant effects:


On the basis of the information on file, and having regard to:

- The nature and scale of the proposed development
- The distance to the nearest European sites
- The potential for in-combination effects with other plans and projects
- Possible disturbance from underwater noise
- Possible visual and above water noise disturbance

Having considered the legal framework applicable to Appropriate Assessment, it was concluded that the proposal by Microsoft Ireland Operations Ltd. to carry out site investigation surveys from Kilmore Quay (LIC2400017) will require Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment. It cannot be excluded on the basis of objective scientific information following screening that the proposed activities, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will have a significant effect on a European Site.

Conclusion

	Tick as appropriate	Recommendation
(i) It is clear that there is no likelihood of significant/possible effects on a European site		
(ii) It is uncertain whether the proposal will have a significant/possible effect on a European site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Proceed to Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment
(iii) Significant effects are likely		
Signature and Date of Recommending Officer	 24 April 2024	

Signature and Date of Decision Maker	 24 April 2024
--------------------------------------	---

References:

¹Carter et al, 2022 - Carter et al, 2022. Sympatric Seals, Satellite Tracking and Protected Areas: Habitat-Based Distribution Estimates for Conservation and Management, *Frontiers in Marine Science*, v9 2022.

²JNCC 2023 - IAMMWG. 2023. Review of Management Unit boundaries for cetaceans in UK waters (2023). JNCC Report 734, JNCC, Peterborough, ISSN 0963-8091.

³JNCC, 2020 - JNCC (2020). Guidance for assessing the significance of noise disturbance against Conservation Objectives of Harbour porpoise SACs (England, Wales & Northern Ireland). JNCC Report No. 65.

Appendix 1

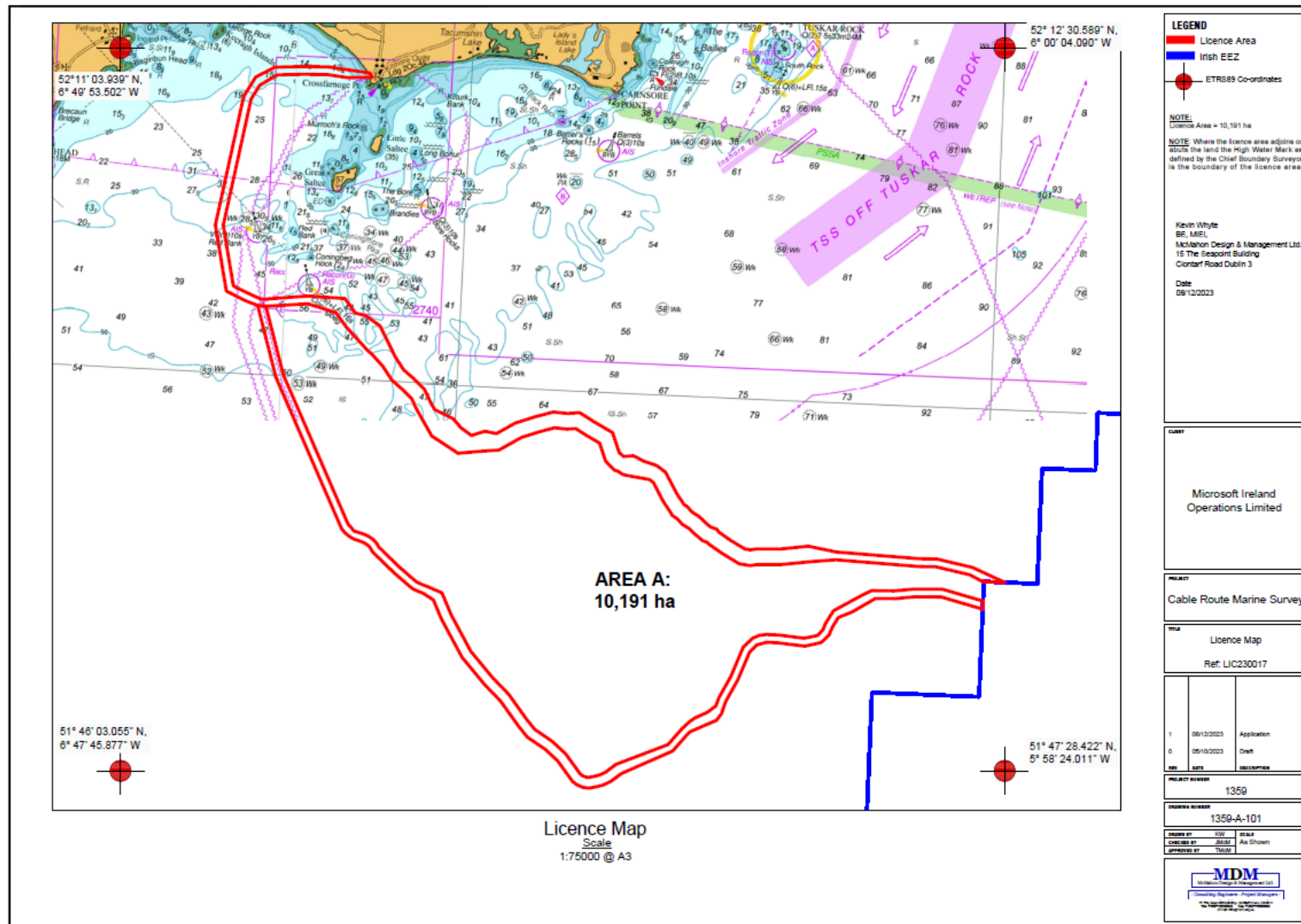


Figure 1 – Proposed Maritime Usage Licence Area