

## Screening for Appropriate Assessment Report and Screening Determination

### Maritime Usage Licence Application ESB Moneypoint Site Investigation Surveys

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

File Reference No	LIC230008
Brief Description of the Project	<p>ESB are seeking a Maritime Usage Licence for geophysical, environmental/ecological, metocean and geotechnical surveys at Moneypoint Co. Clare.</p> <p>The total proposed Maritime Usage Licence Area is approximately 927.5 hectares. See Appendix 1 Maritime Usage Licence Map.</p> <p>The site investigations are proposed to take place over two phases.</p> <p>Phase one Marine Site Investigation Works will included Marine Geophysical Surveys, Marine Environmental/Ecological Surveys and Metocean Surveys. The proposed geophysical surveys include Multi Beam Echosounder, Sub-bottom Profiler, Side Scan Sonar and Magnetometer surveys. The geophysical surveys may also incorporate visual surveys e.g., drop down video or remotely operated vehicle. Phase two Marine Site Investigation Works will include Marine Geotechnical Surveys i.e. sampling/coring boreholes at 20 locations to a maximum of 30m investigation depth below seabed level and Vibrocores at approximately 25 locations. See Appendix 1 Proposed Site Investigation Works.</p> <p>The geophysical surveys, which are expected to last for four to six weeks, are proposed to be carried out in phase one (Q2 2024) and the geotechnical surveys are proposed to be carried out in phase two (Q4 2024/Q1 2025).</p>
Brief Description of the Site Characteristics	<p>The proposed site investigation works will take place in the vicinity of the existing Moneypoint generating station located on the northern shore of the Shannon Estuary in Co. Clare, approximately 3 km west of Killimer and 6 km south-east of Kilrush. See appendix 1 Maritime Usage Licence Map.</p> <p>The sediment in the area is largely that of coarse sediment (<a href="https://www.emodnet-seabedhabitats.eu/">https://www.emodnet-seabedhabitats.eu/</a>).</p> <p>Water depths in the survey area range from the intertidal to approximately 10m. The Shannon estuary is the largest estuary in Ireland and contains a variety of habitats and species; the estuary also contains vast expanses of intertidal mudflats often fringed with salt march vegetation.</p>

Step 2 - Identification of relevant Natura 2000 sites using Source-Pathway Receptor Model and compilation of information on Qualifying Interests and Conservation Objectives. The QIs in bold text are screened in for Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment.

As these works are being undertaken in the marine environment, using the Source-Pathway-Receptor model (OPR 2021), only marine and coastal Natura 2000 sites were considered in this screening process.

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
Lower River Shannon SAC [Site Code IE002165]	Within SAC boundary	Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time [1110] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Coastal lagoons [1150] Large shallow inlets and bays [1160] Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220] Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230] Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima) [1330] Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) [1410] Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation [3260] Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae) [6410] Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0] Margaritifera margaritifera (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) [1029]	No	No	Yes
		<b>Estuaries [1130]</b> <b>Reefs [1170]</b>	Yes – geotechnical surveys to take place within 1130 Estuaries and 1170 Reefs	Yes – possible physical disturbance and habitat loss	

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		<p><b>Petromyzon marinus (Sea Lamprey) [1095]</b>  <b>Lampetra planeri (Brook Lamprey) [1096]</b>  <b>Lampetra fluviatilis (River Lamprey) [1099]</b>  <b>Salmo salar (Salmon) [1106]</b></p> <p><b>Tursiops truncatus (Common Bottle-nose Dolphin) [1349]</b>  <b>Lutra lutra (Otter) [1355]</b></p>	<p>Yes – geotechnical surveys to take place within SAC boundary</p> <p>Yes – geophysical surveys to take place within SAC boundary</p>	<p>Yes – possible increased suspended sediment concentrations</p> <p>Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise</p>	
Blasket Islands SAC [Site code IE002172]	95/within Management Unit for Harbour porpoise	<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>	No	No	Yes
		<p><b>Phocoena phocoena (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]</b>  <b>Halichoerus grypus (Grey Seal) [1364]</b></p>	<p>Yes - foraging ranges of up to 448km for Grey Seal (Carter et al, 2022)<sup>1</sup> and within Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023)<sup>2</sup></p>	<p>Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise</p>	
Slyne Head Islands SAC		Reefs [1170]	No	No	Yes

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[Site code IE000328]	145/Within Management Unit for Bottlenose Dolphin	<b>Tursiops truncatus (Common Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349]</b> <b>Halichoerus grypus (Grey Seal) [1364]</b>	Yes - foraging ranges of up to 448km for Grey Seal (Carter et al, 2022) <sup>1</sup> and within Bottlenose Dolphin Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) <sup>2</sup>	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	
Slyne Head Peninsula SAC [Site code IE002074]	Within Management Unit for Bottlenose Dolphin	Coastal lagoons [1150] Large shallow inlets and bays [1160] Reefs [1170] Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210] Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220] Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima) [1330] Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) [1410] Embryonic shifting dunes [2110] Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria (white dunes) [2120] Machairs (* in Ireland) [21A0] Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (Littorelletalia uniflorae) [3110] Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the Littorelletea uniflorae and/or Isoeto-Nanojuncetea [3130] Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp. [3140] European dry heaths [4030] Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130]	No	No	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
		Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (* important orchid sites) [6210] Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae) [6410] Lowland hay meadows (Alopecurus pratensis, Sanguisorba officinalis) [6510] Alkaline fens [7230] Petalophyllum ralfsii (Petalwort) [1395] Najas flexilis (Slender Naiad) [1833]			
		<b>Tursiops truncatus (Common Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349]</b>	Yes - within Bottlenose Dolphin Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) <sup>2</sup>	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	
Inishmore Island SAC [Site code IE000213]	Within Management Unit 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 Ammophila arenaria (white dunes) [2120] Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130] Dunes with Salix repens ssp. argentea (Salicion arenariae) [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 (Festuco-Brometalia) (* important orchid sites) [6210]	No	No	Yes

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		Lowland hay meadows ( <i>Alopecurus pratensis</i> , <i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i> ) [6510] Limestone pavements [8240] Submerged or partially submerged sea caves [8330] Vertigo angustior (Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail) [1014]			
		<b>Phocoena phocoena (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]</b>	Yes - within Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) <sup>2</sup>	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	
Kilkieran Bay and Islands SAC [Site code IE002111]	Within Management Unit 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 <i>Littorelletea uniflorae</i> and/or <i>Isoeto-Nanojuncetea</i> [3130] Lowland hay meadows ( <i>Alopecurus pratensis</i> , <i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i> ) [6510] Lutra lutra (Otter) [1355] Najas flexilis (Slender Naiad) [1833]	No	No	Yes
		<b>Phocoena phocoena (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]</b> <b>Phoca vitulina (Harbour Seal) [1365]</b>	Yes - within Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) <sup>2</sup>	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	

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West Connacht Coast SAC [Site code IE002998]	Within Management Unit for Bottlenose Dolphin	<b>Tursiops truncatus (Common Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349]</b> <b>Phocoena phocoena (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]</b>	Yes - within Bottlenose Dolphin Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) <sup>2</sup>	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes
Inishbofin and Inishshark SAC [Site code IE000278]	178	Coastal lagoons [1150] Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (Littorelletalia uniflorae) [3110] Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix [4010] European dry heaths [4030]	No	No	Yes
		<b>Halichoerus grypus (Grey Seal) [1364]</b>	Yes - foraging ranges of up to 448km for Grey Seal (Carter et al, 2022) <sup>1</sup>	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	
Duvillaun Islands SAC [Site code IE000495]	245/Within Management Unit for Bottlenose Dolphin	<b>Tursiops truncatus (Common Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349]</b> <b>Halichoerus grypus (Grey Seal) [1364]</b>	Yes - foraging ranges of up to 448km for Grey Seal (Carter et al, 2022) <sup>1</sup> and within Bottlenose Dolphin Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) <sup>2</sup>	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes
Inishkea Islands SAC [Site code IE000507]	228	Machairs (* in Ireland) [21A0] Petalophyllum ralfsii (Petalwort) [1395]	No	No	Yes

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		<b>Halichoerus grypus (Grey Seal) [1364]</b>	Yes - foraging ranges of up to 448km for Grey Seal (Carter et al, 2022) <sup>1</sup>	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	
Roaringwater Bay and Islands SAC [Site code IE000101]	Within Management Unit for Harbour porpoise	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] Lutra lutra (Otter) [1355] Halichoerus grypus (Grey Seal) [1364]	No	No	Yes
		<b>Phocoena phocoena (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]</b>	Yes - within Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) <sup>2</sup>	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	
Rockabill to Dalkey SAC [IE003000]	Within Management Unit for Harbour porpoise	Reefs [1170]	No	No	Yes
		<b>Phocoena phocoena (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]</b>	Yes - within Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) <sup>2</sup>	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	



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Kenmare River SAC [IE002158]	210	<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 maritima</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]  <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130]  Calaminarian grasslands of the <i>Violetalia calaminariae</i> [6130]  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>	No	No	Yes
		<p><b><i>Phoca vitulina</i> (Harbour Seal) [1365]</b>  <b><i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]</b></p>	Yes - within Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) <sup>2</sup>	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	
Belgica Mound Province SAC [IE002327]	Within Management Unit for Harbour	Reefs [1170]	No	No	

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	porpoise and Bottlenose Dolphin	<b>Phocoena phocoena (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]</b> <b>Tursiops truncatus (Common Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349]</b>	Yes - within Harbour Porpoise and Bottlenose Dolphin Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) <sup>2</sup>	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes
Bunduff Lough and Machair/Trawalua/Mullaghmore SAC [000625]	Within Management Unit for Harbour porpoise	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>Euphydryas aurinia</i> (Marsh Fritillary) [1065] <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> (Petalwort) [1395]	No	No	Yes
		<b>Phocoena phocoena (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]</b>	Yes - within Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 202h3) <sup>2</sup>	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	

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St Johns Point SAC [IE000191]	Within Management Unit for Bottlenose Dolphin	Large shallow inlets and bays [1160] Reefs [1170] Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230] Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (* important orchid sites) [6210] Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae) [6410] Alkaline fens [7230] Limestone pavements [8240] Submerged or partially submerged sea caves [8330] Euphydryas aurinia (Marsh Fritillary) [1065]	No	No	Yes
		<b>Tursiops truncatus (Common Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349]</b>	Yes - within Bottlenose Dolphin Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) <sup>2</sup>	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	
Hook Head SAC [IE000764]	Within Management Unit for Harbour porpoise	Large shallow inlets and bays [1160] Reefs [1170] Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230] Tursiops truncatus (Common Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349]	No	No	Yes
		<b>Phocoena phocoena (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]</b>	Yes - within Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) <sup>2</sup>	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	

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Carnsore Point SAC [IE002629]	Within Management Unit for Harbour porpoise	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Reefs [1170]	No	No	Yes
		<b>Phocoena phocoena (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]</b>	Yes - within Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) <sup>2</sup>	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	
Blackwater Bank SAC [IE002953]	Within Management Unit for Harbour porpoise	Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time [1110]	No	No	Yes
		<b>Phocoena phocoena (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]</b>	Yes - within Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) <sup>2</sup>	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	
Porcupine Bank Canyon SAC [IE003001]	Within Management Unit for	Reefs [1170]	No	No	

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	Bottlenose Dolphin	<b>Tursiops truncatus (Common Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349]</b>	Yes - within Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) <sup>2</sup>	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes
South-west Porcupine Bank SAC [IE002329]	Within Management Unit for Bottlenose Dolphin	Reefs [1170]	No	No	Yes
		<b>Tursiops truncatus (Common Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349]</b>	Yes - within Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) <sup>2</sup>	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	
Codling Fault Zone SAC [IE003015]	Within Management Unit for Harbour porpoise	Submarine structures made by leaking gases [1180]	No	No	Yes
		<b>Phocoena phocoena (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]</b>	Yes - within Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) <sup>2</sup>	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	

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Lambay Island SAC [IE000204]	Within Management Unit for Harbour porpoise	Reefs [1170] Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230] Halichoerus grypus (Grey Seal) [1364] Phoca vitulina (Harbour Seal) [1365]	No	No	Yes
		<b>Phocoena phocoena (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]</b>	Yes - within Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) <sup>2</sup>	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	
North Anglesey Marine / Gogledd Môn Forol [UK 0030398]	Within Management Unit for Harbour porpoise	<b>Phocoena phocoena (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]</b>	Yes - within Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) <sup>2</sup>	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes
Bristol Channel Approaches / Dynesfeydd Môr Hafren [UK0030396]	Within Management Unit for Harbour porpoise	<b>Phocoena phocoena (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]</b>	Yes - within Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) <sup>2</sup>	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes
North Channel [UK 0030399]	Within Management Unit for Harbour porpoise	<b>Phocoena phocoena (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]</b>	Yes - within Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) <sup>2</sup>	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes

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West Wales Marine / Gorllewin Cymru Forol [UK 0030397]	Within Management Unit for Harbour porpoise	<b>Phocoena phocoena (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]</b>	Yes - within Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) <sup>2</sup>	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes
Récifs et landes de la Hague [FR2500084]	Within Management Unit for Harbour porpoise	<b>Phocoena phocoena (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]</b>	Yes - within Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) <sup>2</sup>	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes
Anse de Vauville [FR2502019]	Within Management Unit for Harbour porpoise	<b>Phocoena phocoena (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]</b>	Yes - within Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) <sup>2</sup>	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes
Banc et récifs de Surtainville [FR2502018]	Within Management Unit for Harbour porpoise	<b>Phocoena phocoena (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]</b>	Yes - within Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) <sup>2</sup>	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes
Chausey [FR2500079]	Within Management Unit for Harbour porpoise	<b>Phocoena phocoena (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]</b>	Yes - within Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) <sup>2</sup>	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes

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Baie du Mont Saint-Michel [FR2500077]	Within Management Unit for Harbour porpoise	<b>Phocoena phocoena (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]</b>	Yes - within Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) <sup>2</sup>	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes
Estuaire de la Rance [FR5300061]	Within Management Unit for Harbour porpoise	<b>Phocoena phocoena (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]</b>	Yes - within Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) <sup>2</sup>	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes
Baie de Lancieux, Baie de l'Arguenon, Archipel de Saint Malo et Dinard [FR5300012]	Within Management Unit for Harbour porpoise	<b>Phocoena phocoena (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]</b>	Yes - within Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) <sup>2</sup>	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes
Cap d'Erquy-Cap Fréhel [FR5300011]	Within Management Unit for Harbour porpoise	<b>Phocoena phocoena (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]</b>	Yes - within Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) <sup>2</sup>	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes
Baie de Saint-Brieuc – Est [FR5300066]	Within Management Unit for Harbour porpoise	<b>Phocoena phocoena (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]</b>	Yes - within Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) <sup>2</sup>	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes



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Tregor Goëlo Est [FR5300010]	Within Management Unit for Harbour porpoise	<b>Phocoena phocoena (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]</b>	Yes - within Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) <sup>2</sup>	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes
Côte de Granit rose-Sept-Iles [FR5300009]	Within Management Unit for Harbour porpoise	<b>Phocoena phocoena (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]</b>	Yes - within Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) <sup>2</sup>	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes
Nord Bretagne DH [FR2502022]	Within Management Unit for Harbour porpoise	<b>Phocoena phocoena (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]</b>	Yes - within Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) <sup>2</sup>	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes
Baie de Morlaix [FR5300015]	Within Management Unit for Harbour porpoise	<b>Phocoena phocoena (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]</b>	Yes - within Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) <sup>2</sup>	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes
Abers - Côte des legends [FR5300017]	Within Management Unit for Harbour porpoise	<b>Phocoena phocoena (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]</b>	Yes - within Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) <sup>2</sup>	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-Molène [FR5300018]	Within Management Unit for Harbour porpoise	<b>Phocoena phocoena (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]</b>	Yes - within Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) <sup>2</sup>	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes
Côtes de Crozon [FR5302006]	Within Management Unit for Harbour porpoise	<b>Phocoena phocoena (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]</b>	Yes - within Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) <sup>2</sup>	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes
River Shannon and River Foynes Estuaries SPA [Site code IE004077]	Within SPA boundary	<b>Cormorant (Phalacrocorax carbo) [A017]</b> <b>Whooper Swan (Cygnus cygnus) [A038]</b> <b>Light-bellied Brent Goose (Branta bernicla hrota) [A046]</b> <b>Shelduck (Tadorna tadorna) [A048]</b> <b>Wigeon (Anas penelope) [A050]</b> <b>Teal (Anas crecca) [A052]</b> <b>Pintail (Anas acuta) [A054]</b> <b>Shoveler (Anas clypeata) [A056]</b> <b>Scaup (Aythya marila) [A062]</b> <b>Ringed Plover (Charadrius hiaticula) [A137]</b> <b>Golden Plover (Pluvialis apricaria) [A140]</b> <b>Grey Plover (Pluvialis squatarola) [A141]</b> <b>Lapwing (Vanellus vanellus) [A142]</b> <b>Knot (Calidris canutus) [A143]</b> <b>Dunlin (Calidris alpina) [A149]</b> <b>Black-tailed Godwit (Limosa limosa) [A156]</b> <b>Bar-tailed Godwit (Limosa lapponica) [A157]</b> <b>Curlew (Numenius arquata) [A160]</b>	Yes - geophysical and geotechnical surveys to take place within SPA boundary	Yes - possible visual & above water noise disturbance and 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
		Redshank ( <i>Tringa totanus</i> ) [A162] Greenshank ( <i>Tringa nebularia</i> ) [A164] Black-headed Gull ( <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> ) [A179] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]			

### 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)
Physical disturbance and habitat loss	The works will be temporary in nature so any disturbance will be very temporal and recovery should take place soon thereafter.
Disturbance from underwater noise	Possible impacts on marine mammals.
Increased suspended sediment concentrations	Possible temporary impacts on migratory fish species from increased suspended sediment concentrations.
Visual and above water noise disturbance	Possible temporary impacts on River Shannon and River Foynes Estuaries SPA QI.

### **In-Combination Effects**

MARA has developed a step wise 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 3 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, 2020<sup>3</sup>). And the CETS is the Maritime Usage Licence period.

Using the above 8 step approach, and following a search of relevant databases undertaken on the 19<sup>th</sup> of March 2024, the below projects have been identified as potential in-combination projects:

Application reference no.	Project	Approximate Distance from MUL Area	Project Status	Cumulative Effects
FS007083	ESB - installation of submarine electricity cables across the Lower Shannon Estuary	0km	Approved - permission granted 13/06/23	Spatial overlap with ESB Moneypoint Maritime Usage Licence Area. Within the CESS. Possible temporal overlap.
FS007141	ESB – ecological survey	0km	Completed – project completed in 2020	Spatial overlap with ESB Moneypoint Maritime Usage Licence Area. Within the CESS. Possible temporal overlap.
FS007137	FS007137 ESB Wind Development Ltd. Moneypoint Offshore Wind Farm - Site Investigations off Clare and Kerry Coasts	0km	Proposed - Foreshore licence application received 22/12/22	Spatial overlap with ESB Moneypoint Maritime Usage Licence Area. Within the CESS. Possible temporal overlap.
2332	ESB – Moneypoint generating station development	0km	Approved but not completed - permission granted 18/04/23	Spatial overlap with ESB Moneypoint Maritime Usage Licence Area. Within the CESS. Possible temporal overlap.
ABP-311233-21 (2)	Shannon LNG Ltd – proposed power plant, battery energy storage system, floating storage and regasification unit, jetty and onshore facility.	1km	Permission refused 13/09/20	No spatial overlap with ESB Moneypoint Maritime Usage Licence Area. Within the CESS. However project refused so no potential in-combination effects.
23350	Eirgrid – Tarbert generating station redevelopment	3.5km	Proposed – permission submitted 31/03/23	No spatial overlap with ESB Moneypoint Maritime Usage Licence Area. Within the 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 6 projects and 3 plans on the conservation objectives of Natura 2000 sites considered in this report cannot be excluded at this stage.

<b>(b) Describe any likely changes to the European site:</b>	
Reduction or Fragmentation of habitat area	Disturbance to the Annex I habitats Reefs and Estuaries cannot be excluded at this stage.
Disturbance to QI species	Disturbance to Annex I habitats and Annex II species 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 I habitats and Annex II species cannot be excluded at this stage.
Interference with the key relationships that define the structure or ecological function of the site	Not likely

Were mitigation measures considered during the screening process?

No



#### Step 4 Screening Determination Statement

The assessment of significant effects:

Having regard to:

- The nature and scale of the proposed development
- The distance to the nearest European site
- The potential for in-combination effects with other plans and projects
- The potential for physical disturbance and habitat loss
- Possible increases in suspended sediment concentrations
- Possible visual and above water noise disturbance and
- Possible disturbance from underwater noise

Having considered the legal framework applicable to Appropriate Assessment it was concluded that the proposal by the ESB to carry out site investigation works will require Appropriate Assessment as 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
(iii) Significant effects are likely		
Signature and Date of Recommending Officer	 9 <sup>th</sup> April 2024	
Signature and Date of Decision Maker	 9 <sup>th</sup> April 2024	

<sup>1</sup> Carter 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.

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

<https://data.jncc.gov.uk/data/b48b8332-349f-4358-b080-b4506384f4f7/jncc-report-734.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> JNCC, 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

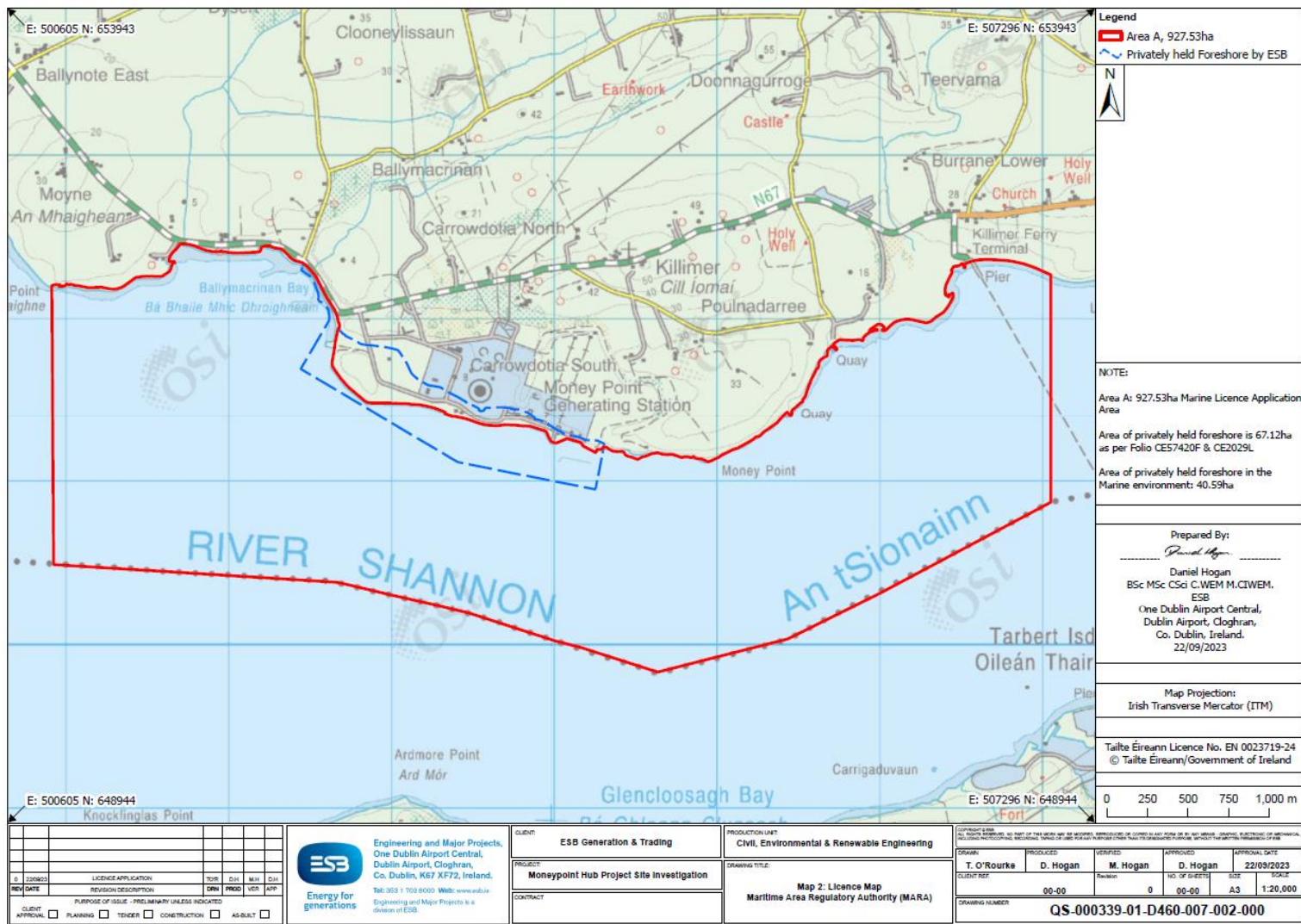


Figure 1 - Maritime Usage Licence Map



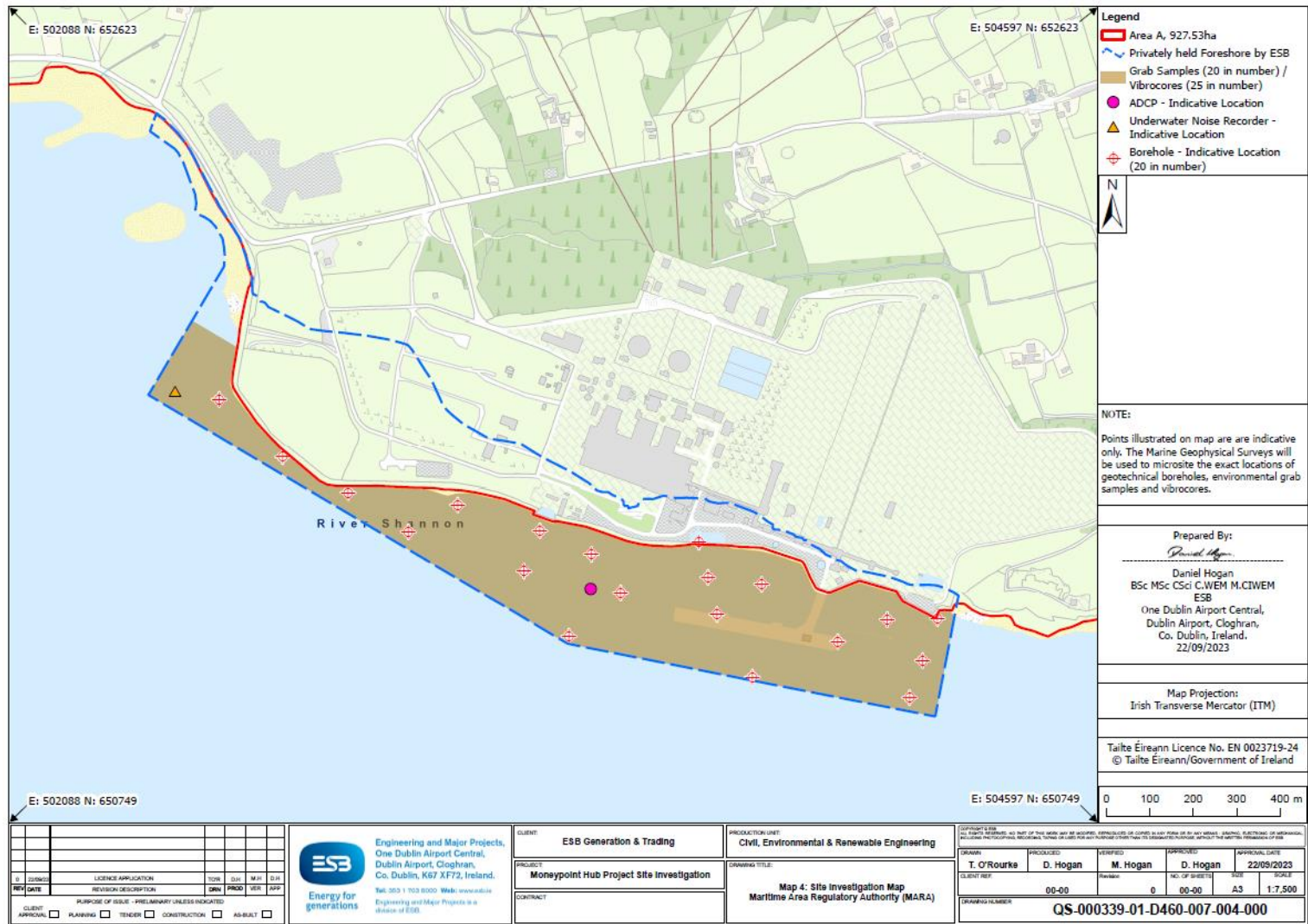


Figure 2 – Proposed Site Investigation Works