Screening for Appropriate Assessment for a Maritime Usage Licence Application

From Port of Waterford Company
for Geotechnical Site Investigation Survey

At Port of Waterford, Belview Co. Kilkenny

MARA Licence Reference: LIC230013

Document control			
Rev	**Date**	**Prepared by**	**Reviewed by**
1	**02/08/2024**	[redacted]	[redacted]

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Assessment, Research and Data Unit

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

Brief description of the project

The Port of Waterford Company has applied for a Maritime Usage Licence to carry out geotechnical site investigations at the Port of Waterford, Belview Co. Kilkenny. The site investigation will consist of 10 boreholes and 10 coreholes, associated sampling and testing.

The equipment for excavating boreholes will be a cable percussive drilling rig. The boreholes will be approximately 200mm in diameter. Coreholes will be undertaken to remove a length of rock 2-4 meter's in length and 150-200mm in diameter. A drill rig and diamond drill will be used to extract the coreholes. All equipment that will be used for the drilling work will be placed on a barge. All drilling works will be through the river into underlying soils and rock. Access to the proposed marine usage area will be via the Port of Waterford.

The applicant stated that the site investigation works will commence as soon as practicable and are scheduled to take 3 weeks in total. The Maritime Usage Licence period is 9 weeks.

Owing to uncertainty as to when the works will take place this screening for Appropriate Assessment addresses ecological scenarios that may take place at any given time in one calendar year.

Brief description of the site characteristics

The proposed Marine Usage Licence area is 2.48 hectares in size. This area is located within the area adjacent to the active Port of Waterford and within the Lower Suir Estuary. The estuary converges with the River Barrow 1.5km north of the Port to form the Barrow Suir Nore Estuary. This watercourse then flows south into Waterford Harbour and then the Eastern Celtic Sea a further 20km downstream.

The proposed Marine Usage Licence Area is located within the Lower River Suir SAC, which flows into the River Barrow and River Nore SAC downstream. The majority of the area is consistently covered by estuarine waters; however areas of mudflats and stonewalls/rock are located within the northern section of the proposed Marine Usage Licence area.

Step 2 - Identification of relevant Natura 2000 sites using Source-Pathway-Receptor Model and compilation of information on qualifying interests and conservation objectives.

The Qualifying Interests (QI's) highlighted in **bold text** are screened in for Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment. This assessment was undertaken using the Source-Pathway-Receptor model. Distances are measured as straight line distances in open water, or along-shore coastal distances, depending on the site and QI's being considered.

Table 1: List of protect sites and their qualifying interests.

European Site Code	Distance from the Proposed Project (km)	List of Qualifying Interests	Connections (Source-pathway-receptor link)	Qualifying Interests considered further in Screening Y/N	European Site Screening in for stage 2 Appropriate Assessment
Lower River Suir SAC [Site code IE002137]	Within site boundary	Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation [3260] Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels [6430] Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0] Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0] Taxus baccata woods of the British Isles [91J0] Austropotamobius pallipes (White-clawed Crayfish) [1092]	No	No	Yes
		Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae) [1330] **Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) [1410]**	Yes -geotechnical survey within 1130 Atlantic salt meadows and 1410 Mediterranean salt meadows site boundary	Yes – possible physical disturbance and habitat loss	

		Lampetra planeri (Brook Lamprey) [1096] **Margaritifera margaritifera (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) [1029]** **Petromyzon marinus (Sea Lamprey) [1095]** **Lampetra fluviatilis (River Lamprey) [1099]** **Alosa fallax fallax (Twaite Shad) [1103]** **Salmo salar (Salmon) [1106]** **Lutra lutra (Otter) [1355]**	Yes - geotechnical survey within site boundary of selected species Yes - geotechnical survey within Otter site boundary	Yes - possible disturbance from increased suspended solids concentrations Yes - possible disturbance from underwater noise and increased suspended solids concentrations	
River Barrow and River Nore SAC [Site code IE002162]	1.1	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 (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae) [1330] Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) [1410] Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion 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 (Cratoneurion) [7220] Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0]	No	No	

		Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0] Vertigo moulinsiana (Desmoulin's Whorl Snail) [1016] Austropotamobius pallipes (White-clawed Crayfish) [1092] Trichomanes speciosum (Killarney Fern) [1421] **Margaritifera margaritifera (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) [1029]** **Petromyzon marinus (Sea Lamprey) [1095]** **Lampetra planeri (Brook Lamprey) [1096]** **Lampetra fluviatilis (River Lamprey) [1099]** **Alosa fallax fallax (Twaite Shad) [1103]** **Salmo salar (Salmon) [1106]** **Lutra lutra (Otter) [1355]**	Yes - geotechnical survey within 1.1 km of fish species migratory route Yes - geotechnical survey within otter foraging range	Yes - possible disturbance from increased suspended solids concentrations Yes - possible disturbance from underwater noise and increased suspended solids concentrations	Yes
Tramore Dunes and Blackstrand SAC (Site code IE000671)	11.3	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 (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae) [1330] Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) [1410] Embryonic shifting dunes [2110] Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria (white dunes) [2120]	No	No	No

		Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130]			
Bannow Bay SAC (Site Code IE000697)	13	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 colonizing mud and sand [1310] Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae) [1330] Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) [1410] Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrubs (Sarcocornetea fruticosi) [1420] Embryonic shifting dunes [2110] Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria (white dunes) [2120] Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130]	No	No	No
Hook Head SAC [Site code IE000764]	19.5	Large shallow inlets and bays [1160] Reefs [1170] Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230] **Tursiops truncatus (Common Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349]** **Phocoena phocoena (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]**	No Yes – geotechnical survey within Bottlenose Dolphin and Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023)[1]	No Yes - possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes
Saltee Islands SAC [Site code IE000707]	38.2	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Large shallow inlets and bays [1160] Reefs [1170]	No	No	

		Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230] Submerged or partially submerged sea caves [8330] **Halichoerus grypus (Grey Seal) [1364]**	Yes - foraging ranges of up to 448km for Grey Seal (Carter et al, 2022)[2]	Yes	Yes
Ballyteige Burrow SAC [Site code IE000696]	45	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] Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae) [1330] Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) [1410] Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrubs (Sarcocornetea fruticosi) [1420] Embryonic shifting dunes [2110] Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria (white dunes) [2120] Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130] Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (Calluno-Ulicetea) [2150] Humid dune slacks [2190]	No	No	No
Helvick Head SAC [Site code IE000665]	58	Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230] European dry heaths [4030]	No	No	No
Carnsore Point SAC [Site code IE002269]	60	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] **Phocoena phocoena (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]**	No	No	

			Yes - within Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023)[2]	Yes	Yes
Ardmore Head SAC [Site code IE002123]	70	Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230] European dry heaths [4030]	No	No	No
Ballymacoda (Clonpriest and Pillmore) SAC [Site code IE000077]	85	Estuaries [1130] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae) [1330] Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) [1410]	No	No	No
Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) SAC [Site code IE002170]	90	Estuaries [1130] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220] Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae) [1330] Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) [1410] Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation [3260] Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0] Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0] Margaritifera margaritifera (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) [1029]	No	No	No

		Austropotamobius pallipes (White-clawed Crayfish) [1092] Petromyzon marinus (Sea Lamprey) [1095] Lampetra planeri (Brook Lamprey) [1096] Lampetra fluviatilis (River Lamprey) [1099] Alosa fallax fallax (Twaite Shad) [1103] Salmo salar (Salmon) [1106] Lutra lutra (Otter) [1355] Trichomanes speciosum (Killarney Fern) [1421]			
Slaney River Valley SAC [Site code IE 000781	90	Estuaries [1130] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae) [1330] Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) [1410] Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation [3260] Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0] Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0] Margaritifera margaritifera (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) [1029] Lampetra planeri (Brook Lamprey) [1096] Lutra lutra (Otter) [1355] Petromyzon marinus (Sea Lamprey) [1095] Lampetra fluviatilis (River Lamprey) [1099] Alosa fallax fallax (Twaite Shad) [1103] Salmo salar (Salmon) [1106] **Phoca vitulina (Harbour Seal) [1365]**	No Yes - foraging ranges of up to 273km for	No Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes

			Harbour Seal (Carter et al, 2022)[2]		
Kenmare River SAC [Site code IE002158]	132	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 (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae) [1330] Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) [1410] Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria (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 Violetalia calaminariae [6130] Submerged or partially submerged sea caves [8330] Vertigo angustior (Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail) [1014] Rhinolophus hipposideros (Lesser Horseshoe Bat) [1303] Lutra lutra (Otter) [1355] **Phoca vitulina (Harbour Seal) [1365]** **Phocoena phocoena (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]**	No Yes - foraging ranges of up to 273km for Harbour Seal (Carter et al, 2022)[2] and within Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023)[1]	No Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes
Roaringwater Bay and Islands SAC	210	Large shallow inlets and bays [1160] Reefs [1170]			

[Site code IE000101]		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]** **Phocoena phocoena (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]**	No Yes - foraging ranges of up to 448km for Grey Seal (Carter et al, 2022)[2] and within Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023)[1]	No Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes
Lambay Island SAC [Site code IE000204]	215 and within Management Unit for Harbour porpoise	Reefs [1170] Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230] Phoca vitulina (Harbour Seal) [1365] **Halichoerus grypus (Grey Seal) [1364]** **Phocoena phocoena (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]**	No Yes - foraging ranges of up to 448km for Grey Seal (Carter et al, 2022)[2] and within Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023)[1]	No Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes
Glengarriff Harbour and Woodland SAC [Site code IE000090]	280	Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0] Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0] Geomalacus maculosus (Kerry Slug) [1024] Rhinolophus hipposideros (Lesser Horseshoe Bat) [1303] Lutra lutra (Otter) [1355]	No	No	Yes

		Phoca vitulina (Harbour Seal) [1365]	Yes - foraging ranges of up to 273km for Harbour Seal (Carter et al, 2022)[2]	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	
Codling Fault Zone SAC [Site code IE003015]	Within Management Unit for Harbour porpoise	Submarine structures made by leaking gases [1180] **Phocoena phocoena (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]**	No Yes - within Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023)[1]	No Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes
Blasket Islands SAC [Site code IE002172]	Within Management Unit for Harbour porpoise	Reefs [1170] Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230] European dry heaths [4030] Submerged or partially submerged sea caves [8330] Halichoerus grypus (Grey Seal) [1364] **Phocoena phocoena (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]**	No Yes - within Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023)[1]	No Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes
Belgica Mound Province SAC [Site code IE002327]	Within Management Unit for Harbour porpoise	Reefs [1170] Tursiops truncatus (Common Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349] **Phocoena phocoena (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]**	No Yes -within Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023)[1]	No Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes
Inishmore Island SAC [Site code IE000213]	Within Management Unit for	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]			

	Harbour porpoise	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] Lowland hay meadows (Alopecurus pratensis, Sanguisorba officinalis) [6510] Limestone pavements [8240] Submerged or partially submerged sea caves [8330] Vertigo angustior (Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail) [1014] **Phocoena phocoena (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]**	No Yes - within Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023)[1]	No Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes
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 (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae) [1330] Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) [1410] Machairs (* in Ireland) [21A0]	No	No	Yes

		Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the Littorelletea uniflorae and/or Isoeto-Nanojuncetea [3130] Lowland hay meadows (Alopecurus pratensis, Sanguisorba officinalis) [6510] Lutra lutra (Otter) [1355] Phoca vitulina (Harbour Seal) [1365] Najas flexilis (Slender Naiad) [1833] **Phocoena phocoena (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]**	Yes - within Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023)[1]	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	
West Connacht Coast SAC [Site code IE002998]	Within Management Unit for Harbour porpoise	Tursiops truncatus (Common Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349] **Phocoena phocoena (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]**	No Yes - within Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023)[1]	No Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes
Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC [Site code IE003000]	Within MU for Harbour porpoise	Reefs [1170] **Phocoena phocoena (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]**	No Yes - within Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023)[1]	No 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 Ammophila arenaria (white dunes) [2120] Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130] Humid dune slacks [2190] Machairs (* in Ireland) [21A0]	No	No	Yes

		Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130] Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (* important orchid sites) [6210] Alkaline fens [7230] Euphydryas aurinia (Marsh Fritillary) [1065] Petalophyllum ralfsii (Petalwort) [1395] **Phocoena phocoena (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]**	Yes - within Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023)[1]	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	
Lleyn Peninsula and the Sarnau SAC [Site code UK0013117]	Within Management Unit for Bottlenose Dolphin	**Tursiops truncatus (Common Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349]**	Yes - within Bottlenose Dolphin Management Unit (JNCC, 2023)[1]	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes
Cardigan Bay SAC [Site code UK0012712]	Within Management Unit for Bottlenose Dolphin	**Tursiops truncatus (Common Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349]**	Yes - within Bottlenose Dolphin Management Unit (JNCC, 2023)[1]	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes
Moray Firth SAC [Site code UK0019808]	Within Management Unit for Bottlenose Dolphin	**Tursiops truncatus (Common Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349]**	Yes - within Bottlenose Dolphin Management Unit (JNCC, 2023)[1]	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes
North Anglesey Marine SAC [Site code UK0030398]	Within Management Unit for Harbour porpoise	**Phocoena phocoena (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]**	Yes - within Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023)[1]	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes

West Wales Marine SAC [Site code UK0030397]	Within Management Unit for Harbour porpoise	**Phocoena phocoena (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]**	Yes - within Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023)[1]	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes
Bristol Channel Approaches SAC [Site code UK003039]	Within Management Unit for Harbour porpoise	**Phocoena phocoena (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]**	Yes within Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023)[1]	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes
Pembrokeshire Marine/ Sir Benfro Forol SAC [UK0013116]	120	**Halichoerus grypus (Grey Seal) [1364]**	Yes - foraging ranges of up to 448km for Grey Seal (Carter et al, 2022)	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes
Chaussée de Sein SAC [Site code FR5302007]	Within Management Unit for Bottlenose Dolphin	**Tursiops truncatus (Common Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349]**	Yes -within Bottlenose Dolphin Management Unit (JNCC, 2023)[1]	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes
Cap Sizun SAC [Site code FR5300020]	Within Management Unit for Bottlenose Dolphin	**Tursiops truncatus (Common Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349]**	Yes - within Bottlenose Dolphin Management Unit (JNCC, 2023)[1]	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes
Côtes de Crozon [Site code FR5302006]	Within Management Unit for Harbour porpoise and Bottlenose Dolphin	**Tursiops truncatus (Common Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349]** **Phocoena phocoena (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]**	Yes -within Bottlenose Dolphin & Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023)[1]	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes

Ouessant-Molène [Site code FR5300018]	Within Management Unit for Harbour porpoise and Bottlenose Dolphin	**Tursiops truncatus (Common Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349]** **Phocoena phocoena (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]**	Yes - within Bottlenose Dolphin & Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023)[1]	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes
Abers - Côte des légendes [Site code FR5300017]	Within Management Unit for Harbour porpoise and Bottlenose Dolphin	**Tursiops truncatus (Common Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349]** **Phocoena phocoena (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]**	Yes - within Bottlenose Dolphin & Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023)[1]	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes
Côte de Granit rose-Sept-Iles [Site code FR5300009]	Within Management Unit for Harbour porpoise and Bottlenose Dolphin	**Tursiops truncatus (Common Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349]** **Phocoena phocoena (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]**	Yes - within Bottlenose Dolphin & Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023)[1]	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes
Tregor Goëlo [Site code FR5310070]	Within Management Unit for Harbour porpoise and Bottlenose Dolphin	**Tursiops truncatus (Common Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349]** **Phocoena phocoena (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]**	Yes - within Bottlenose Dolphin & Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023)[1]	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes
Baie de Saint-Brieuc [Site code FR5300066]	Within Management Unit for	**Tursiops truncatus (Common Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349]**	Yes - within Bottlenose Dolphin & Harbour	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes

	Harbour porpoise and Bottlenose Dolphin	**Phocoena phocoena (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]**	Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023)[1]		
Cap d'Erquy-Cap Fréhel [Site code FR5300011]	Within Management Unit for Harbour porpoise and Bottlenose Dolphin	**Tursiops truncatus (Common Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349]** **Phocoena phocoena (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]**	Yes - within Bottlenose Dolphin & Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023)[1]	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes
Baie de Lancieux, Baie de l'Arguenon, Archipel de Saint Malo et Dinard [Site code FR5300012]	Within Management Unit for Harbour porpoise and Bottlenose Dolphin	**Tursiops truncatus (Common Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349]** **Phocoena phocoena (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]**	Yes - within Bottlenose Dolphin & Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023)[1]	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes
Iles de la Colombiere, de la Nelliere et des Haches [Site code FR5310052]	Within Management Unit for Bottlenose Dolphin	**Tursiops truncatus (Common Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349]**	Yes - within Bottlenose Dolphin Management Unit (JNCC, 2023)[1]	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes
Côte de Cancale à Paramé [Site code FR5300052]	Within Management Unit for Bottlenose Dolphin	**Tursiops truncatus (Common Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349]**	Yes - within Bottlenose Dolphin Management Unit (JNCC, 2023)[1]	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes
Chausey [Site code FR2500079]	Within Management Unit for	**Tursiops truncatus (Common Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349]**	Yes - within Bottlenose Dolphin & Harbour	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes

	Harbour porpoise and Bottlenose Dolphin	**Phocoena phocoena (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]**	Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023)[1]		
Baie du Mont Saint-Michel [Site code FR2500077]	Within Management Unit for Harbour porpoise and Bottlenose Dolphin	**Tursiops truncatus (Common Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349]** **Phocoena phocoena (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]**	Yes - within Bottlenose Dolphin & Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023)[1]	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes
Nord Bretagne DH [Site code FR2502022]	Within Management Unit for Harbour porpoise and Bottlenose Dolphin	**Tursiops truncatus (Common Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349]** **Phocoena phocoena (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]**	Yes - within Bottlenose Dolphin & Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023)[1]	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes
Récifs et landes de la Hague SAC [Site code FR2500084]	Within Management Unit for Harbour porpoise	**Phocoena phocoena (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]**	Yes - within Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023)[1]	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes
Anse de Vauville SAC [Site code FR2502019]	Within Management Unit for Harbour porpoise	**Phocoena phocoena (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]**	Yes - within Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023)[1]	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes
Banc et récifs de Surtainville SAC [Site code FR2502018]	Within Management Unit for	**Phocoena phocoena (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]**	Yes - within Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023)[1]	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes

	Harbour porpoise				
Estuaire de la Rance SAC [Site code FR5300061]	Within Management Unit for Harbour porpoise	**Phocoena phocoena (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]**	Yes - within Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023)[1]	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes
Baie de Morlaix SAC [Site code FR5300015]	Within Management Unit for Harbour porpoise	**Phocoena phocoena (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]**	Yes - within Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023)[1]	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes
Tramore Black Strand SPA (Site Code 004027)	11.3	Light-bellied Brent Goose (Branta bernicla hrota) [A046] Golden Plover (Pluvialis apricaria) [A140] Grey Plover (Pluvialis squatarola) [A141] Lapwing (Vanellus vanellus) [A142] Dunlin (Calidris alpina) [A149] Black-tailed Godwit (Limosa limosa) [A156] Bar-tailed Godwit (Limosa lapponica) [A157] Curlew (Numenius arquata) [A160] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	No	No	No
Seas off Wexford SPA [IE004237]	14	Mediterranean Gull (Larus melanocephalus) [A176] Black-headed Gull (Chroicocephalus ridibundus) [A179] Lesser Black-backed Gull (Larus fuscus) [A183] Herring Gull (Larus argentatus) [A184] Kittiwake (Rissa tridactyla) [A188] Guillemot (Uria aalge) [A199] Sandwich Tern (Sterna sandvicensis) [A191] Roseate Tern (Sterna dougallii) [A192] Common Tern (Sterna hirundo) [A193] Arctic Tern (Sterna paradisaea) [A194] Little Tern (Sterna albifrons) [A195]	No	No	Yes

		Red-throated Diver (Gavia stellata) [A001] **Fulmar (Fulmarus glacialis) [A009]** **Manx Shearwater (Puffinus puffinus) [A013]** **Gannet (Morus bassanus) [A016]** **Cormorant (Phalacrocorax carbo) [A017]** **Shag (Phalacrocorax aristotelis) [A018]** **Common Scoter (Melanitta nigra) [A065]** **Razorbill (Alca torda) [A200]** **Puffin (Fratercula arctica) [A204]**	Yes – diving species	Yes – possible disturbance & displacement by underwater noise	
Bannow Bay SPA (Site code 004033)	14	Light-bellied Brent Goose (Branta bernicla hrota) [A046] Shelduck (Tadorna tadorna) [A048] Pintail (Anas acuta) [A054] Oystercatcher (Haematopus ostralegus) [A130] Golden Plover (Pluvialis apricaria) [A140] Grey Plover (Pluvialis squatarola) [A141] Lapwing (Vanellus vanellus) [A142] Knot (Calidris canutus) [A143] Dunlin (Calidris alpina) [A149] Black-tailed Godwit (Limosa limosa) [A156] Bar-tailed Godwit (Limosa lapponica) [A157] Curlew (Numenius arquata) [A160] Redshank (Tringa totanus) [A162] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	No	No	No
Mid-Waterford Coast SPA [IE004030]	16.5	Peregrine (Falco peregrinus) [A103] Herring Gull (Larus argentatus) [A184] Chough (Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax) [A346] **Cormorant (Phalacrocorax carbo) [A017]**	No Yes – diving species	No Yes – possible disturbance & displacement by underwater noise	Yes
Ballyteige Burrow SPA [IE004020]	25	Light-bellied Brent Goose (Branta bernicla hrota) [A046] Shelduck (Tadorna tadorna) [A048]	No	No	No

		Golden Plover (Pluvialis apricaria) [A140] Grey Plover (Pluvialis squatarola) [A141] Lapwing (Vanellus vanellus) [A142] Black-tailed Godwit (Limosa limosa) [A156] Bar-tailed Godwit (Limosa lapponica) [A157] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]			
Saltee Islands SPA [IE004002]	31.5	Lesser Black-backed Gull (Larus fuscus) [A183] Herring Gull (Larus argentatus) [A184] Kittiwake (Rissa tridactyla) [A188] **Fulmar (Fulmarus glacialis) [A009]** **Gannet (Morus bassanus) [A016]** **Cormorant (Phalacrocorax carbo) [A017]** **Shag (Phalacrocorax aristotelis) [A018]** **Guillemot (Uria aalge) [A199]** **Razorbill (Alca torda) [A200]** **Puffin (Fratercula arctica) [A204]**	No Yes – diving species	No Yes – possible disturbance & displacement by underwater noise	Yes

Step 3 Assessment of likely significant effects

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	Possible temporal impacts on habitats.
Increased suspended solids concentrations	Possible temporal impacts on migratory fish species and otter.
Disturbance from underwater noise	Possible temporal impacts on marine mammals and birds.

In-Combination Effects

MARA has developed a stepwise approach for identifying other In-Combination plans and projects.

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 10 km and the CETS as 6 months. The CESS is defined with reference to JNCC Effective Deterrent Ranges (JNCC, 2020)[3] and the CETS is the maximum estimated project completion time.

Using the above 8 step approach, and following a search of relevant databases undertaken on the 30th July 2024, the below project(s) have been identified as potential in-combination projects:

Application reference	Project description	Approximate distance from MUL area (Km)	Project Status	Cumulative effects
FS006684	Port of Waterford foreshore licence for Maintenance Dredging	Within the site boundary	Approved but not completed – foreshore licence period from 9/18/2020 to 12/18/2025	Spatial overlap with proposed Maritime Usage Licence Area. Within the CESS. Possible temporal overlap
S0012-05	Dredging of accumulated sediments to maintain navigation areas	Within the site boundary	Approved but not completed - application to EPA on 9/2/2024	Spatial overlap with proposed Maritime Usage Licence Area. Within the CESS. Possible temporal overlap
LIC230025	Port of Waterford Company Maritime Usage Licence Dredging	Within the site boundary	Approved but not completed - application to MARA on 7/2/2024	Spatial overlap with proposed Maritime Usage Licence Area. Within the CESS. Possible temporal overlap
PL24060152	For development at Unit 2 Belview Port to include for acceptance, uploading and storing of non hazardous waste by Glanway Ltd	Within the site boundary	Approved but not completed – planning permission finalised 22/5/2024	Spatial overlap with proposed Maritime Usage Licence Area. Within the CESS. Possible temporal overlap
FS006691	EIR site investigation licence	7.3	Approved but not completed – foreshore licence period from 3/27/2018 to 3/26/2117	No Spatial overlap with proposed 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 Plan (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 projects and 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
- Physical disturbance and habitat loss
- Increased suspended solids concentrations
- Disturbance from underwater noise

Having considered the legal framework applicable to Appropriate Assessment, it was concluded that the proposed maritime usage by Port of Waterford Company to carry out site investigation works at Waterford Port, Belview, Co. Kilkenny (LIC230013) will require Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment as *it cannot be excluded on the basis of objective scientific information following screening that the proposed project, 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	☑	Proceed to Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment NIS is required

(iii) Significant effects are likely		
Signature and Date of Recommending Officer	[redacted] 2nd August 2024	

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

[2] 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.

[3] 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

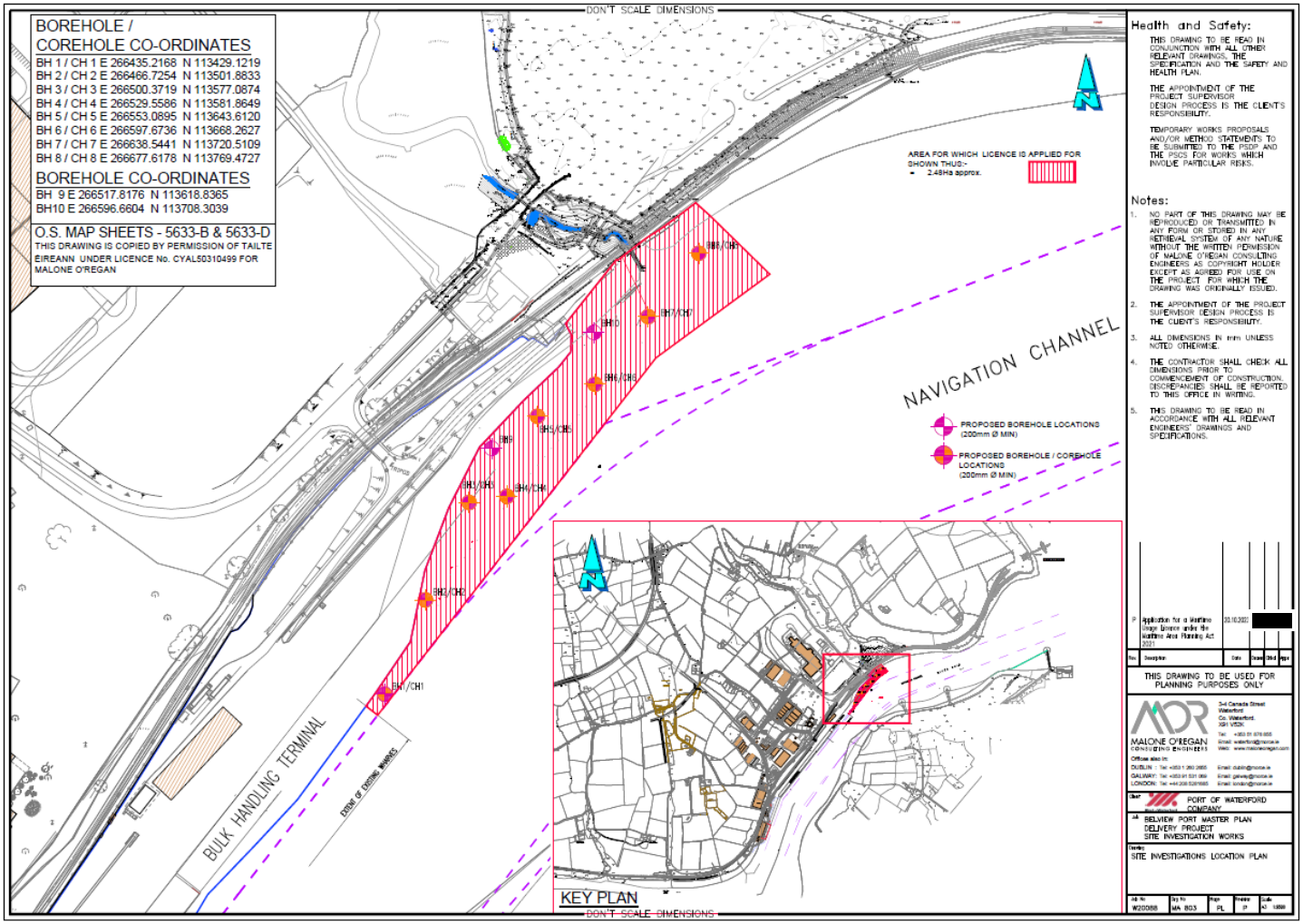

Figure 1 – Maritime Usage Licence area and proposed geotechnical survey borehole locations.