



**Screening for Appropriate Assessment
for a
Maritime Usage Licence Application
(MUL230031)**

From Amazon MCS Ireland Ltd.

For site investigations at Castlefreke, County Cork and in the Southern Exclusive Economic Zone and Agreed Continental Shelf.


Marine Advisor

Assessment, Research and Data Unit

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

Brief description of the project

Amazon MCS Ireland Ltd are seeking a Maritime Usage Licence (MUL) for site investigations to take place at Little Island Strand and Long Strand, Castlefreke and in the Southern Exclusive Economic Zone and Agreed Continental Shelf (See appendix 1).

The proposed works comprise of:

- Intertidal beach survey and site investigations to 3m water depth, including:
 - Topographical survey using total station, drone or LiDAR,
 - Geophysical survey using ground penetrating radar or magnetometer/metal detector,
 - Intertidal walk over survey,
 - Electrical resistivity tomography survey,
 - Up to 3 no. trial pits (target pit depth 2.5m) and up to 16 no. bar probes on the beach from high to low water (at 10m spacing) and
 - Up to 16 no. bar probes from the low water to the 3m water depth contour (at 10m spacing).
- Inshore Marine Survey (3m to 15m water depth) including:
 - Multibeam echo sounder,
 - Side scan sonar and
 - Sub-bottom profiler.
- Offshore and deep-water survey including geophysical and geotechnical site investigations:
 - Multibeam echo sounder and deep-water multibeam echo sounder,
 - Side scan sonar,
 - Sub-bottom profiler,
 - Ultra-short base line positioning system,
 - Magnetometer,
 - Up to 26 no. grab samples,
 - Up to 48 no. gravity cores/vibrocores,
 - Up to 96 no. cone penetration tests,
 - Underwater Video Survey and
 - Archaeological Survey.

All site investigation activities within the MUL area are scheduled to take less than 4 months in total and be completed in one operation. However, depending on operational factors the surveys may be split up over an 8 months period. The proposed MUL area is 16,880km² and the MUL period is 3 years.

Brief description of the site characteristics

The sediment in the area ranges from sandy mud, muddy sand and biogenic reef. Water depths in the MUL area are from 0m at the high water mark to over 4,000m depth at the western extent of the Agreed Continental Shelf.

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

European Site Code	Distance from the Proposed MUL area (km) or other metric used	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
Kilkeran Lake and Castlereke Dunes SAC (Site Code IE001061)	Within proposed MUL area	Coastal lagoons [1150] Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130] Embryonic shifting dunes [2110] Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120]	No Yes – trial pits in close proximity to 2110 Embryonic shifting dunes and 2120 White dunes	No Yes – possible physical disturbance and habitat loss	Yes
Lough Hyne Nature Reserve and Environs SAC (Site Code IE000097)	5.8	Large shallow inlets and bays [1160] Reefs [1170] European dry heaths [4030] Submerged or partially submerged sea caves [8330] Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0]	No	No	No
Clonakilty Bay SAC (Site Code IE000091)	5.9	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210] 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

		Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (Calluno-Ulicetea) [2150]			
Roaringwater Bay and Islands SAC (Site Code IE000101)	8.1	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] Phocoena phocoena (Harbour Porpoise) [1351] Lutra lutra (Otter) [1355] Halichoerus grypus (Grey Seal) [1364]	No Yes – within Grey Seal foraging range	No Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes
Glengarriff Harbour and Woodland SAC (Site Code IE000090)	38.2	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] Phoca vitulina (Harbour Seal) [1365]	No Yes – within Harbour Seal foraging range	No Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes
Kenmare River SAC (Site Code IE002158)	49.8/ within Harbour Porpoise Management Unit	Large shallow inlets and bays [1160] Reefs [1170] Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220] Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230]			

		<p>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] <i>Phoca vitulina</i> (Harbour Seal) [1365] <i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]</p>	<p>No</p> <p>Yes – within Harbour Seal foraging range and within Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023)¹</p>	<p>No</p> <p>Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Lower River Shannon SAC (Site Code IE002165)</p>	<p>76.9/within Bottlenose Dolphin Management Unit</p>	<p>Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time [1110] Estuaries [1130] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]</p>			

		<p>Coastal lagoons [1150] Large shallow inlets and bays [1160] Reefs [1170] 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 (Glaucopuccinellietalia maritimae) [1330] Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) [1410] Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitriche-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] Petromyzon marinus (Sea Lamprey) [1095] Lampetra planeri (Brook Lamprey) [1096] Lampetra fluviatilis (River Lamprey) [1099] Salmo salar (Salmon) [1106] Lutra lutra (Otter) [1355]</p>	<p>No</p> <p>Yes - within Bottlenose Dolphin</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Yes</p>
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		Tursiops truncatus (Common Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349]	Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) ¹	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	
Blasket Islands SAC (Site code IE002172)	102.5/within Harbour Porpoise Management Unit	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 Grey Seal foraging ranges (Carter et al, 2022) ¹ and within Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) ¹	No Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes
Saltee Islands SAC (Site code IE000707)	166.7 km	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] Halichoerus grypus (Grey Seal) [1364]	No Yes – within Grey Seal foraging ranges	No Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes

Lambay Island SAC [Site code IE000204]	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 - within Grey Seal foraging range and within Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) ¹	No Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes
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
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
Porcupine Bank Canyon SAC [Site code IE003001]	Within Management Unit for Bottlenose Dolphin	Reefs [1170] Tursiops truncatus (Common Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349]	No Yes – within Bottlenose Dolphin	No	Yes

			Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) ¹	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	
Inishmore Island SAC [Site code IE000213]	Within Management Unit for Harbour porpoise	<p>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]</p> <p><i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]</p>	<p>No</p> <p>Yes – within Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023)¹</p>	<p>No</p> <p>Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise</p>	Yes
		Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]			

<p>Kilkieran Bay and Islands SAC [Site code IE002111]</p>	<p>Within Management Unit for Harbour porpoise</p>	<p>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] 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]</p>	<p>No Yes – within Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023)¹</p>	<p>No Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Duvillaun Islands SAC (Site Code IE 000495)</p>	<p>Within the Management Unit for Bottlenose Dolphin and foraging range of Grey seal</p>	<p>Tursiops truncatus (Common Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349] Halichoerus grypus (Grey Seal) [1364]</p>	<p>Yes - within Grey Seal foraging range and within Bottlenose Dolphin Management Unit (JNCC, 2023)¹</p>	<p>Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>West Connacht Coast SAC [Site code IE002998]</p>	<p>Within Management Unit for Harbour porpoise and Bottlenose Dolphin</p>	<p>Tursiops truncatus (Common Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349] Phocoena phocoena (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]</p>	<p>Yes - within Bottlenose Dolphin and Harbour Porpoise Management</p>	<p>Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise</p>	<p>Yes</p>

			Units (JNCC, 2023) ¹		
Slyne Head Islands SAC (Site Code IE000328)	Within Management Unit for Harbour porpoise and Bottlenose Dolphin	Reefs [1170] Tursiops truncatus (Common Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349] Halichoerus grypus (Grey Seal) [1364]	No Yes - within Grey Seal foraging range and Bottlenose Dolphin Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) ¹	No Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes
Inishboffin and Inishshark SAC (Site Code IE000278)	Within Management Unit and foraging range of Grey seal	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] Halichoerus grypus (Grey Seal) [1364]	No Yes - within Grey Seal foraging range (Carter et al, 2022) ¹	No Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes
Bunduff Lough and Machair/Trawalua/Mullaghmore SAC [Site code IE000625]	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] Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130]	Yes - within Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) ¹	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes

		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]			
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) ²	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
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 and 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 and 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	Tursiops truncatus (Common Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349] Phocoena phocoena (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]	Yes - within Bottlenose Dolphin and Harbour Porpoise	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes

	Bottlenose Dolphin		Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) ¹		
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 and Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) ¹	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes
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 and Harbour Porpoise 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
Recifs et marais arriere – littoraux de Cap Levi a la Pointe de Saire FR250085	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 Bottlenose Dolphin	Tursiops truncatus (Common Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349]	Yes - within Bottlenose Dolphin Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) ¹	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes

Baie du Mont Saint-Michel [Site code FR2500077]	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
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 and Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) ¹	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes
Mers Celtiques – Talus du golfe de Gascogne FR5302015	Within Management Unit for Harbour porpoise and Bottlenose Dolphin	Tursiops truncatus (Common Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349]	Yes - within Bottlenose Dolphin Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) ¹	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes
Baie de Seine Occidentale FR2502020	Within Management Unit for Harbour porpoise and Bottlenose Dolphin	Tursiops truncatus (Common Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349] Phocoena phocoena (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]	Yes - within Bottlenose Dolphin and Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) ¹	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes
Baie de Seine Orientale FR2502021	Within Management Unit for Harbour porpoise and Bottlenose Dolphin	Tursiops truncatus (Common Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349] Phocoena phocoena (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]	Yes - within Bottlenose Dolphin and Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) ¹	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes

Baie de Canche et couloir des trois estuaries (Fr3102005]	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
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 Harbour porpoise	Phocoena phocoena (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]	Yes – within Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) ¹	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes
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 Lancieux, Baie de l'Arguenon, Archipel de Saint Malo et Dinard [Site code FR5300012]	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 Saint-Brieuc [Site code FR5300066]	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
Abers - Côte des légendes [Site code FR5300017]	Within Management	Phocoena phocoena (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]	Yes – within Harbour Porpoise	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes

	Unit for Harbour porpoise		Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) ¹		
Rivière Leguer, forêts de Beffou, Coat an Noz et Coat an Hay [Site code FR5300008]	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
Récifs du talus du golfe de Gascogne [Site code FR5302016]	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
Galley Head to Duneen Point SPA (Site code IE004190)	1	Chough (Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax) [A346]	Yes – within species foraging range of project site boundary	Yes – possible visual & above water noise disturbance	Yes
Sheeps Head to Toe Head SPA (Site code IE004156)	3.7	Peregrine (Falco peregrinus) [A103] Chough (Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax) [A346]	Yes – within foraging range of project site boundary	Yes – possible visual & above water noise disturbance	Yes
Clonakilty Bay SPA (Site code IE004081)	6	Shelduck (Tadorna tadorna) [A048] Dunlin (Calidris alpina) [A149] Black-tailed Godwit (Limosa limosa) [A156] Curlew (Numenius arquata) [A160] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	No	No	No
Seven Heads SPA (Site code IE004191)	13	Chough (Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax) [A346]	No	No	No
Courtmacsherry Bay SPA (Site code IE004219)	16.5	Great Northern Diver (Gavia immer) [A003] Shelduck (Tadorna tadorna) [A048] Wigeon (Anas penelope) [A050] Red-breasted Merganser (Mergus serrator) [A069] Golden Plover (Pluvialis apricaria) [A140] Lapwing (Vanellus vanellus) [A142] Dunlin (Calidris alpina) [A149]	No	No	Yes

		Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156] Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157] Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160] ridibundus) [A179] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999] Common Gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) [A182] Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus</i>	Yes – within foraging range of project site boundary	Yes – possible visual & above water noise disturbance	
Old Head of Kinsale SPA (Site code IE004021)	30	Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) [A188] Guillemot (<i>Uria aalge</i>) [A199]	Yes – within foraging range of project site boundary	Yes – possible visual & above water noise disturbance	Yes
Beara Peninsula SPA (Site code IE004191)	36.2	Chough (<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>) [A346] Fulmar (<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>) [A009]	No Yes – within foraging range of project site boundary	No Yes – possible visual & above water noise disturbance	Yes
Sovereign Islands SPA (Site code IE004124)	37.8	Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017]	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

Potential Impacts	Possible significance of potential impacts (duration, magnitude, etc.)
Physical disturbance and habitat loss	Possible temporal impacts on habitats.
Disturbance from underwater noise	Possible temporal impacts on marine mammals.
Visual & above water noise disturbance	Possible temporal impacts on 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 3 years. The CESS is defined with reference to JNCC Effective Deterrent Ranges (JNCC, 2020)² 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 15th October 2024, the below project(s) have been identified as potential in-combination projects:

Application reference	Project description	Distance from proposed MUL area	Project Status	Cumulative effects
LIC230033	Cable laying - Apollo Submarine Cable System Limited	0km	Maritime Usage Licence granted 28/06/2024	Spatially overlaps with Amazon Maritime Usage Licence Area. Within the CESS. Possible temporal overlap
MUL230024	Marine Survey and Site Investigations for proposed PISCES subsea telecoms cable system from a landfall at Ballyloughane County Galway traversing the Irish Maritime Area to the southwest of Ireland.	0km	Application for Maritime Usage Licence dated 17/04/2024	Spatially overlaps with Amazon Maritime Usage Licence Area. Within the CESS. Possible temporal overlap
FS006971	Cork County Council, Dredging at Reen Pier, Co. Cork	4.5km	Foreshore licence granted 23/09/2022	No spatial overlap with Amazon Maritime Usage Licence Area. Within the CESS. Possible temporal overlap
FS007258	Irish Water, construction of a storm water overflow outfall	Less than 10km	Foreshore licence granted 04/07/2022	No spatial overlap with Amazon Maritime Usage Licence Area. Within the CESS. Possible temporal overlap

The following plan, related to the development of the maritime environment was also identified:

- The Climate Action Plan 2024

Likely significant in-combination effects between this project and the above listed projects and plan 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

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

² 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

Step 4 Screening Determination Statement

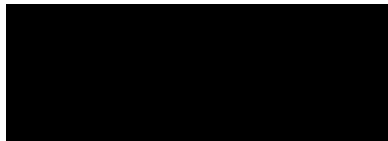
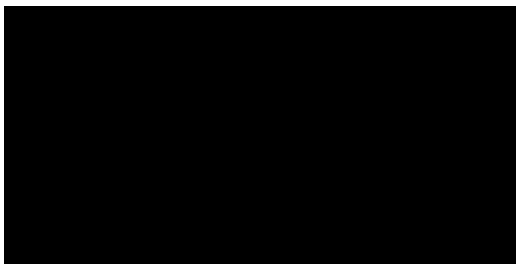
The assessment of significant effects:

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
- 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 proposed maritime usage by Amazon MCS Ireland Ltd to carry out site investigations at Castlerefke, County Cork and in the Southern Exclusive Economic Zone and Agreed Continental Shelf (MUL230031) will require Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment. It cannot be excluded on the basis of objective scientific information, that the proposed project, either 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 th October 2024	
Signature and Date of Decision Maker	 24 th October 2024	

Appendix 1 Proposed Maritime Usage Licence Area Map

