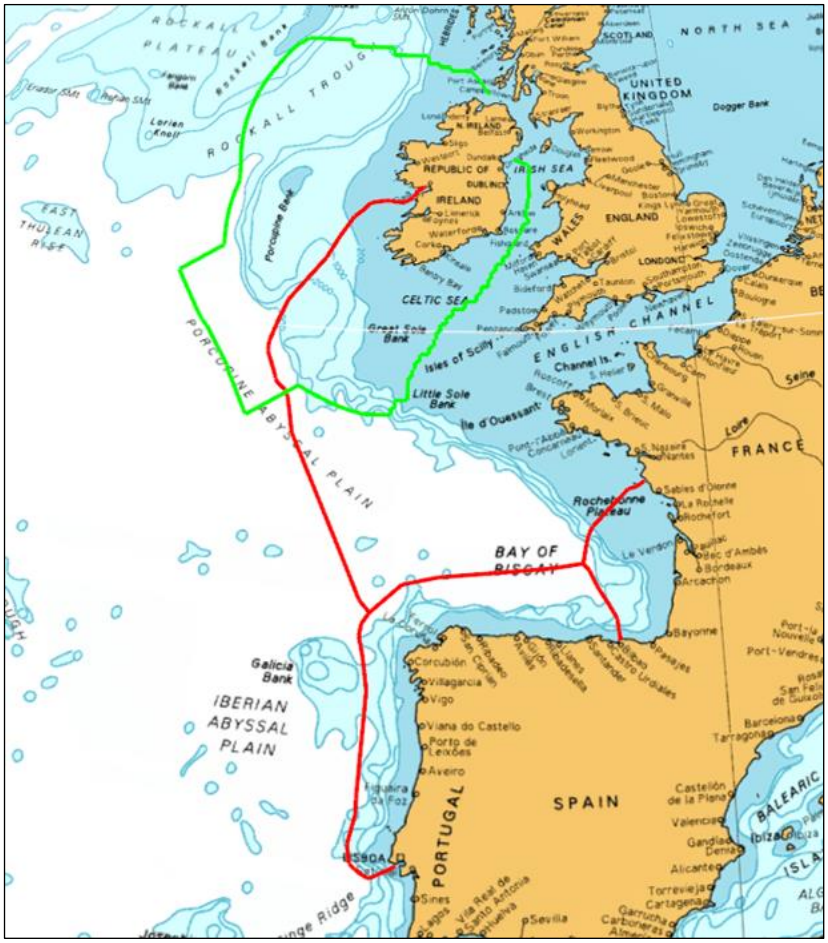
ALTEMAR

Marine & Environmental Consultancy

Supporting Information for Screening for Appropriate Assessment Report for marine survey and site investigation works at Ballyloughane, Co. Galway.



11th March 2024

Prepared by: [redacted] of Altemar Ltd.
On behalf of: McMahon Design and Management Ltd.

Altemar Ltd., 50 Templecarrig Upper, Delgany, Co. Wicklow. [redacted]
Directors: [redacted]
Company No.427560 VAT No. 9649832U
www.altemar.ie

Document Control Sheet			
Project	Supporting Information for Screening for Appropriate Assessment Report for marine survey and site investigations at Ballyloughane, Co. Galway.		
Report	Appropriate Assessment Screening		
Date	11th March 2024		
Version	Author	Reviewed	Date
Draft 01	[redacted]	[redacted]	01st November 2023
Draft 02			23rd November 2023
Final			11th March 2024

Table of Contents

1. Introduction 2

1.1 Altemar Ltd. 2

2. Background to the Appropriate Assessment 3

3. Stages of the Appropriate Assessment 4

4. Stage 1 Screening Assessment 5

4.1 Management of the Site 5

4.2 Description of the Proposed Project 5

4.2.1 Project Overview 5

4.2.2 Proposed Survey Route and Survey Application Area in Irish Maritime Area 6

4.2.3 Survey Vessels 27

4.2.4 Marine Survey and Site Investigations Sound Pressure Level Summary 28

4.2.5 Timeline and Duration of Survey Activities 28

4.3 Zone of Influence 32

4.3.1 Marine Mammals 32

4.3.2 Migratory Fish 33

4.4 Identification of Relevant Natura 2000 Sites 34

4.4.1 Management of the Site 34

4.4.2 Relevant Natura 2000 Sites to the Proposed Project 34

4.5 Cumulative Impact Assessment 115

4.5.1 Geographic Boundaries and the Timeline for Assessment 115

4.5.2 Identification of Plans/Projects that could act In Combination 115

4.5.3 Impact Identification 119

4.5.4 Pathway Identification 120

4.5.5 Prediction 120

4.5.6 Assessment 120

4.6 Appropriate Assessment Screening Conclusions 121

5. Data Used for AA Screening 123

6. References 124

Appendix I 128

1. Introduction

The following Supporting Information for Screening for Appropriate Assessment (SISAA) Report has been prepared by **Altemar Ltd.** for marine survey out to the limits of the Irish Maritime Area (encompassing the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and Agreed Continental Shelf) and site investigation works at Ballyloughane, Co. Galway.

An AA is an assessment of the potential effects of a proposed project or plan, on its own, or in combination with other plans or projects, on any European sites. European sites are those sites designated as Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) under the Habitats Directive or Special Protection Areas (SPA) under the Birds Directive.

The AA Screening stage examines the likely significant effects of a plan or project, either on its own, or in combination with other plans and projects, upon a European site and considers whether, on the basis of objective scientific evidence, it can be concluded that there are no likely significant effects on any European site, in view of best scientific knowledge and the conservation objectives of the relevant European sites.

1.1 Altemar Ltd.

Since its inception in 2001, Altemar has been delivering ecological and environmental services to a broad range of clients. Operational areas include: residential; infrastructural; renewable; oil & gas; private industry; Local Authorities; EC projects; and, State/semi-State Departments. Bryan Deegan, the managing director of Altemar, is an Environmental Scientist and Marine Biologist with 28 years' experience working in Irish terrestrial and aquatic environments, providing services to the State, Semi-State and industry. He is currently contracted to Inland Fisheries Ireland as the sole "External Expert" to environmentally assess internal and external projects. He is also chair of an internal IFI working group on environmental assessment. Bryan Deegan (MCIEEM) holds a MSc in Environmental Science, BSc (Hons.) in Applied Marine Biology, NCEA National Diploma in Applied Aquatic Science and a NCEA National Certificate in Science (Aquaculture). Bryan Deegan carried out all elements of this SISAA. Bryan has been involved in eight international sub marine fibre optic cable projects, many of which involved Horizontal Directional Drills within designated sites and all works required ecological supervision.

2. Background to the Appropriate Assessment

The Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (together with the Birds Directive (2009/1477/EC)) forms the cornerstone of Europe's nature conservation policy. The Directive protects over 1000 animals and plant species and over 200 "habitat types" which are of European importance. In the Habitats Directive, Articles 3 to 9 provide the legislative means to protect habitats and species of European Community interest through the establishment and conservation of an EU-wide network of conservation sites (NATURA, 2000). These are Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) designated under the Habitats Directive and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) designated under the Birds Directive), Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive set out the decision-making tests for plans and projects likely to affect European sites (Annex 1.1). Article 6(3) establishes the requirement for Appropriate Assessment:

"Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the [NATURA 2000] site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans and projects, shall be subjected to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives. In light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implication for the site and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, the component national authorities shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public."

As outlined in "Managing European sites, The provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC" (European Commission, 21 November 2018) *"The purpose of the appropriate assessment is to assess the implications of the plan or project in respect of the site's conservation objectives, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects. The conclusions should enable the competent authorities to ascertain whether the plan or project will adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned. The focus of the appropriate assessment is therefore specifically on the species and/or the habitats for which the European site is designated."*

As outlined in the EC guidance document on Article 6(4) (January 2007)[1]:

"Appropriate assessments of the implications of the plan or project for the site concerned must precede its approval and take into account the cumulative effects which result from the combination of that plan or project with other plans or projects in view of the site's conservation objectives. This implies that all aspects of the plan or project which can, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, affect those objectives must be identified in the light of the best scientific knowledge in the field.

Assessment procedures of plans or projects likely to affect European sites should guarantee full consideration of all elements contributing to the site integrity and to the overall coherence of the network, both in the definition of the baseline conditions and in the stages leading to identification of potential impacts, mitigation measures and residual impacts. These determine what has to be compensated, both in quality and quantity. Regardless of whether the provisions of Article 6(3) are delivered following existing environmental impact assessment procedures or other specific methods, it must be ensured that:

- *Article 6(3) assessment results allow full traceability of the decisions eventually made, including the selection of alternatives and any imperative reasons of overriding public interest.*
- *The assessment should include all elements contributing to the site's integrity and to the overall coherence of the network as defined in the site's conservation objectives and Standard Data Form, and be based on best available scientific knowledge in the field. The information required should be updated and could include the following issues:*
    - *Structure and function, and the respective role of the site's ecological assets;*
    - *Area, representativity and conservation status of the priority and nonpriority habitats in the site;*
    - *Population size, degree of isolation, ecotype, genetic pool, age class structure, and conservation status of species under Annex II of the Habitats Directive or Annex I of the Birds Directive present in the site;*

[1]European Commission. (2007).Guidance document on Article 6(4) of the 'Habitats Directive' 92/43/EEC – Clarification of the concepts of: alternative solutions, imperative reasons of overriding public interest, compensatory measures, overall coherence, opinion of the commission;

- *Role of the site within the biographical region and in the coherence of the European network; and,*
- *Any other ecological assets and functions identified in the site.*

- *It should include a comprehensive identification of all the potential impacts of the plan or project likely to be significant on the site, taking into account cumulative impacts and other impacts likely to arise as a result of the combined action of the plan or project under assessment and other plans or projects.*
- *The assessment under Article 6(3) applies the best available techniques and methods, to estimate the extent of the effects of the plan or project on the biological integrity of the site(s) likely to be damaged.*
- *The assessment provides for the incorporation of the most effective mitigation measures into the plan or project concerned, in order to avoid, reduce or even cancel the negative impacts on the site.*
- *The characterisation of the biological integrity and the impact assessment should be based on the best possible indicators specific to the European assets which must also be useful to monitor the plan or project implementation."*

3. Stages of the Appropriate Assessment

This SISAA was undertaken in accordance with the European Commission Methodological Guidance on the provision of Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC (EC, 2001), Part XAB of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, in addition to the December 2009 publication from the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government; 'Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland: Guidance for Planning Authorities' and the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011. In order to comply with the above Guidelines and legislation, the Appropriate Assessment process must be structured as follows:

1) Screening stage:
   - Description of plan or project, and local site or plan area characteristics;
   - Identification of relevant European sites, and compilation of information on their qualifying interests and conservation objectives
   - Identification and description of individual in combination effects likely to result from the proposed project;
   - Assessment of the likely significance of the effects identified above. Exclusion of sites where it can be objectively concluded that there will be no likely significant effects; and,
     Conclusions
2) Appropriate Assessment (Natura Impact Statement):
   - Description of the European sites that will be considered further;
   - Identification and description of potential adverse impacts on the conservation objectives of these sites likely to occur from the project or plan; and,
   - Mitigation Measures that will be implemented to avoid, reduce or remedy any such potential adverse impacts
   - Assessment as to whether, following the implementation of the proposed mitigation measures, it can be concluded, beyond all reasonable scientific doubt, that there will be no adverse impact on the integrity of the relevant European Site in light of its conservation objectives"
   - Conclusions.

If it can be demonstrated during the AA screening phase (Stage 1), that the proposed project will not have a significant effect, whether alone or in combination with other plans or projects, on the conservation objectives of a Natura 2000 site, then no further AA (Stage 2) will be required. It is important to note that there is a requirement to apply a precautionary approach to AA screening. Therefore, where effects are possible, certain or unknown at the screening stage, AA will be required.

In addition, it should be noted that Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive must be interpreted as meaning that, in order to determine whether it is necessary to carry out, subsequently, an AA of the implications, for a site concerned, of a plan or project, it is not appropriate, at the screening stage, to take account of the measures intended to avoid or reduce the harmful effects of the plan or project on that site.

4. Stage 1 Screening Assessment

4.1 Management of the Site

The plan or project is not directly connected with, or necessary to the management of Natura 2000 sites.

4.2 Description of the Proposed Project

4.2.1 Project Overview

The applicant plans to investigate the feasibility of constructing a new subsea telecoms cable system, PISCES, linking Ireland to EU member states, from a landfall at Ballyloughane, Co. Galway to landfalls in France, Spain and Portugal as shown in Figure 1 below. This Works Methodology is produced in support of an application for a marine survey and site investigations licence under the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021 and should not be used for any other purpose apart from that expressly stated in this document. The applicant intends to undertake the survey campaign across the Licence Application Area within the IRL Maritime Area in order to inform the location and design of the cable route and landfall.

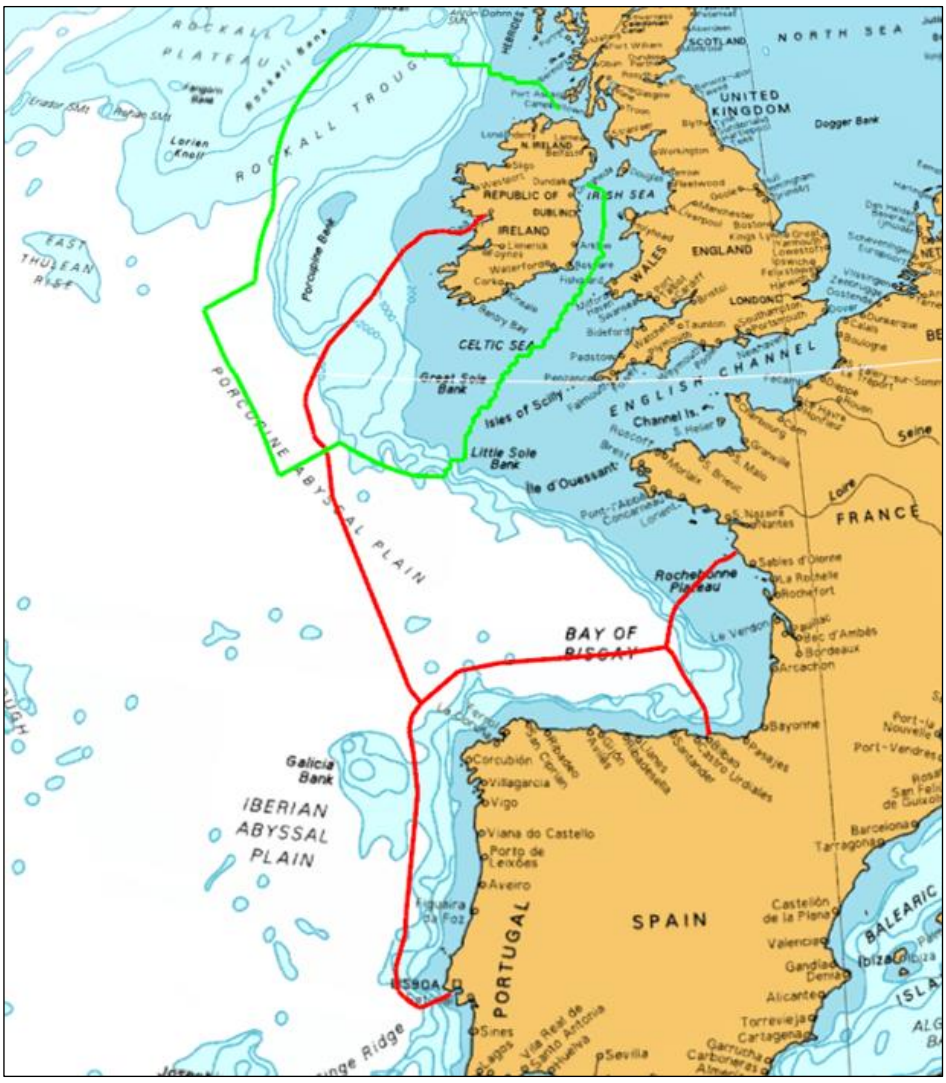


Figure 1: The PISCES Telecoms Cable System & IRL Maritime Area

The works will be carried out predominantly by remote sensing seabed mapping techniques (geophysical survey) with some selective sampling of the upper layers of the seabed (geotechnical survey). Once the results of the survey are obtained and analysed a preferred route will be determined, design and method statements will be developed and a final Route Position List (RPL) will be defined as part of further submissions for a Maritime Area Consent and Planning Consent for the installation works.

4.2.2 Proposed Survey Route and Survey Application Area in Irish Maritime Area

Licence Application Area

The License Application Area begins at a landfall at Ballyloughane Strand in Galway Bay, traverses Galway Bay and through the South Sound to the 12nm limit, continuing to the west offshore of the County Clare coast and onwards in a southwest to south direction until it crosses the continental shelf and leaves the Irish Maritime Area (Figure 2). The survey corridor has total length of approx. 710km and a total area of 3,607km^2 within the Maritime Area. A cable route corridor of between 250m to 12,000m in width will be surveyed within the licence application area.

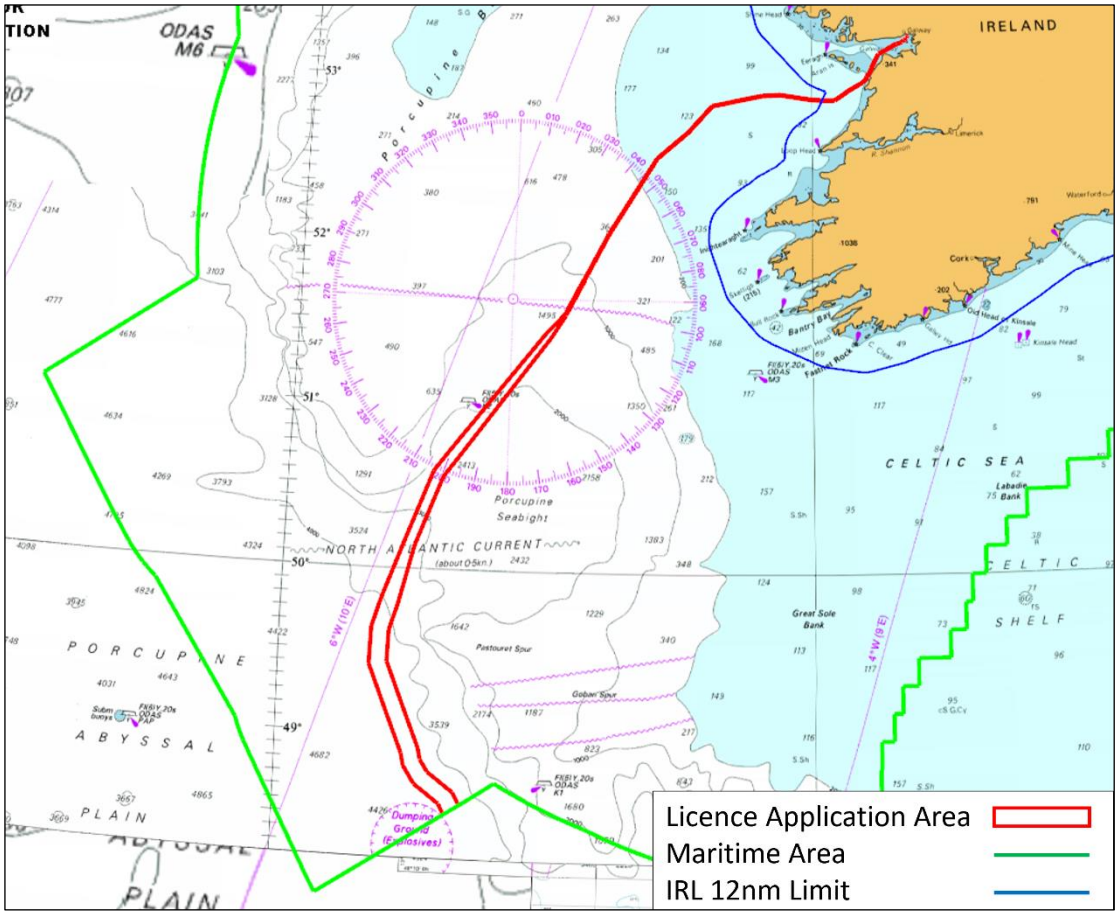


Figure 1. Survey Licence Application Area.

Landfall & Inshore Survey Corridors

The licence application area covers the landfall at Ballyloughane, with a survey corridor traversing Galway Bay. The landfall location is shown in Figure 3 and the general inshore location is shown in Figure 4 on an admiralty chart base. The route heads southwest from the landfall, parallel to the existing IRIS cable, before turning south and then south westerly again to the north of Black Head before turning to the south and leaving the bay through the South Sound as shown in Figure 5.

Figure 3: Landfall at Ballyloughane Strand, Renmore, Co. Galway

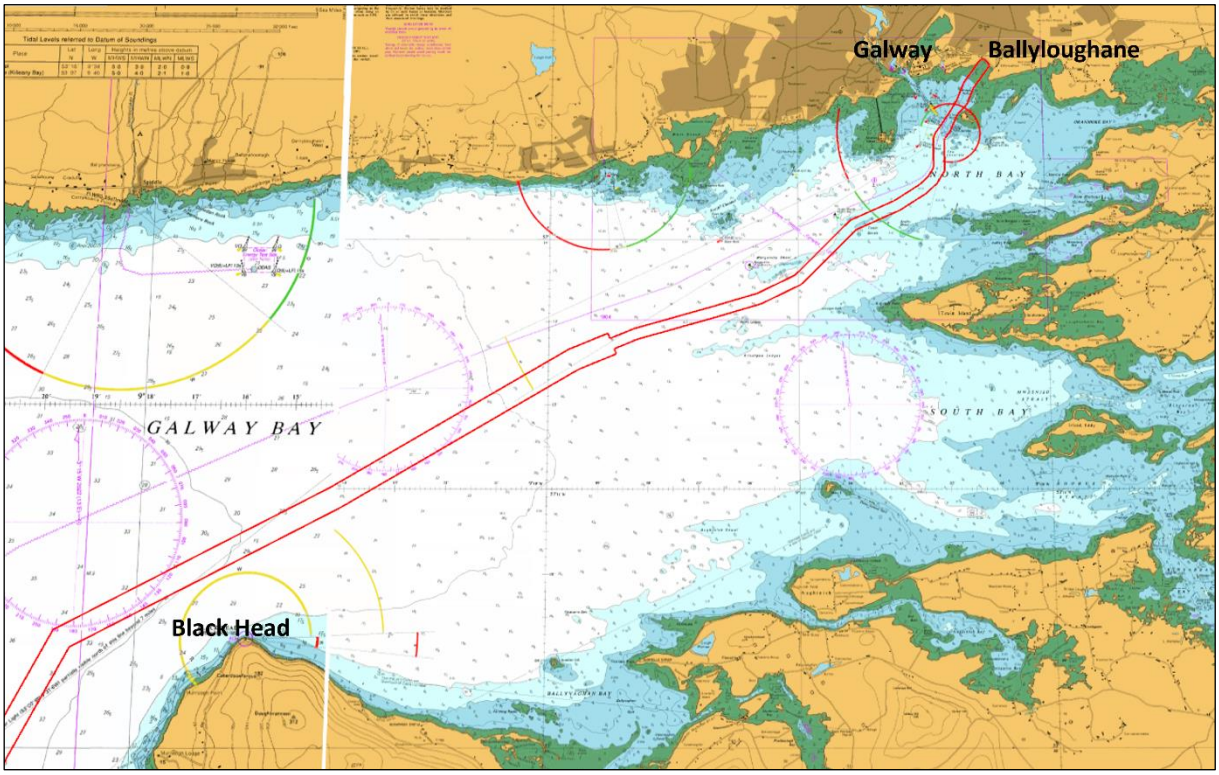


Figure 4: Landfall & Inshore Survey Licence Application Area in Galway Bay

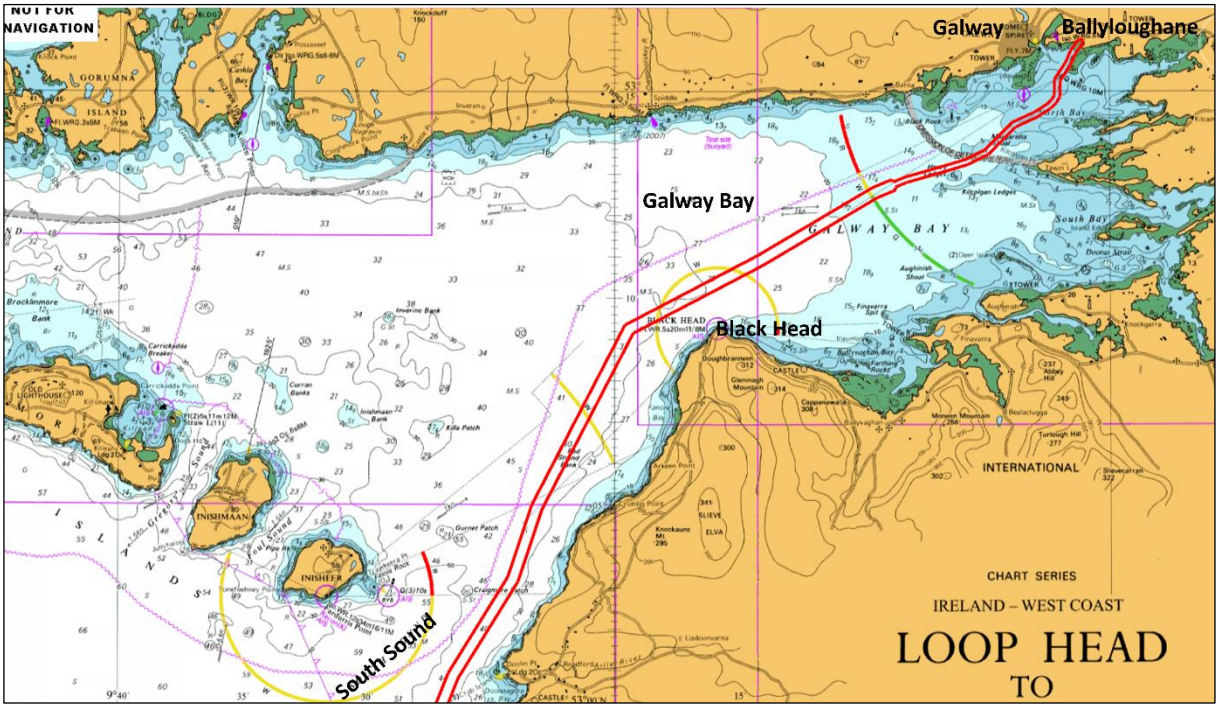


Figure 5: Survey Licence Application Area in Galway Bay

The offshore survey corridor as the route leaves Galway Bay and crosses the 12nm limit is shown in Figure 6.

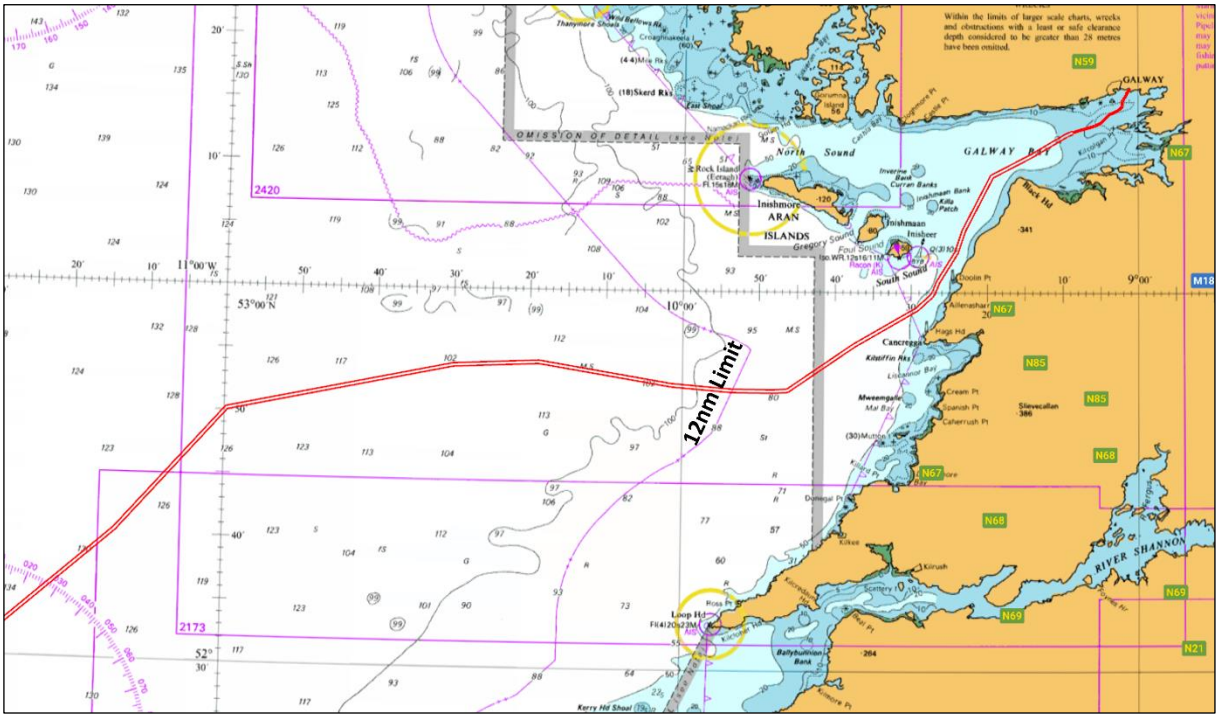


Figure 6: Survey Licence Application Area Offshore of Galway

The offshore survey corridor continues in a southwestern direction entering the deep waters of the Porcupine Seabight and traversing the continental shelf before leaving the Irish Maritime Area and continuing in a southern direction towards a subsea Branching Unit which will bring system legs to France, Spain and Portugal respectively. The width of the seabed covered by a single survey line increases as a function of water depth. Therefore, in deep water the survey corridor width increases as the survey progresses into deeper waters.

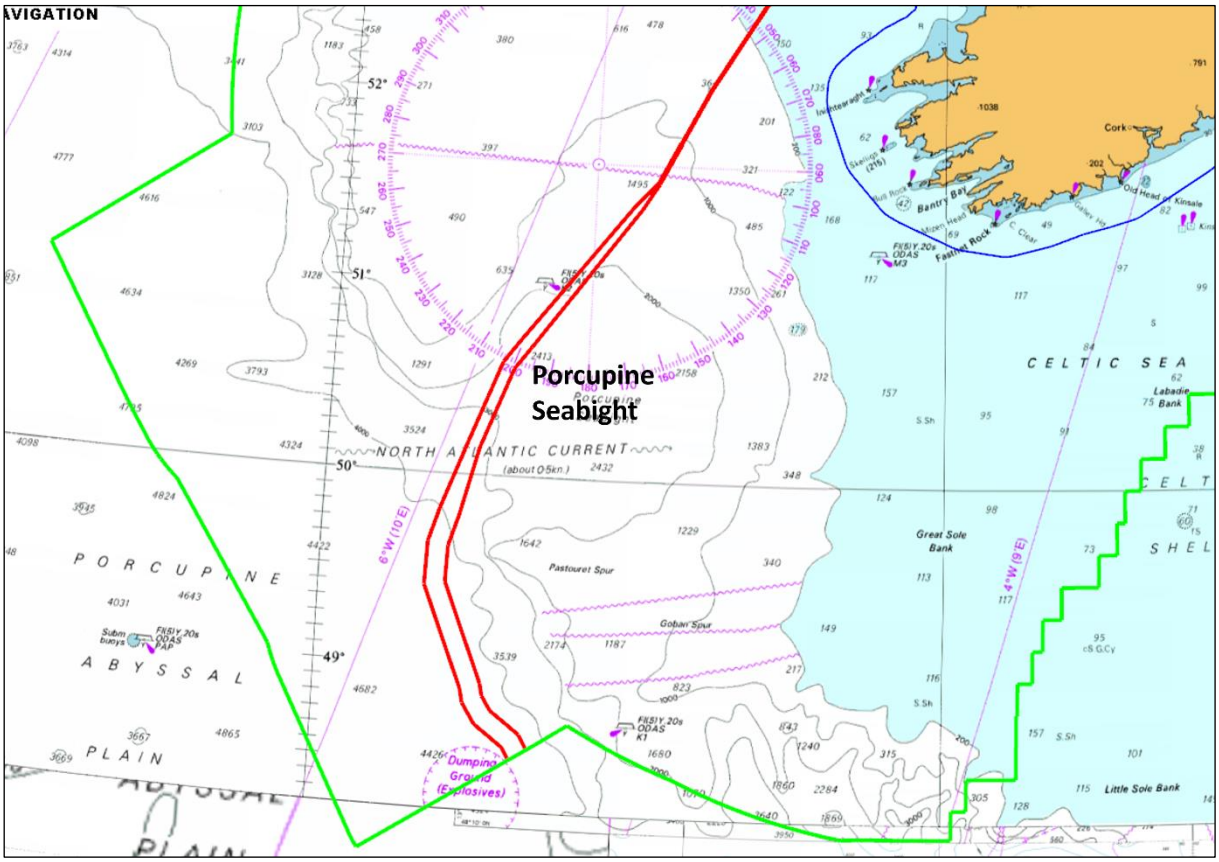


Figure 7: Survey Licence Application Area in Deep Water

The Route Position List for the Licence Application Area is presented in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Survey Licence Application Area Route Position List

Idx	Longitude	Latitude	Idx	Longitude	Latitude
1	13° 15' 40.6602" W	48° 35' 05.9241" N	41	9° 06' 55.2641" W	53° 13' 00.7071" N
2	13° 19' 28.3570" W	48° 39' 46.3066" N	42	9° 06' 37.1111" W	53° 13' 03.8033" N
3	13° 33' 36.5808" W	48° 46' 46.0106" N	43	9° 05' 44.8350" W	53° 13' 13.1578" N
4	13° 37' 55.4916" W	48° 51' 13.7382" N	44	9° 04' 55.9719" W	53° 13' 27.4651" N
5	13° 39' 10.1792" W	48° 55' 08.1926" N	45	9° 03' 49.1407" W	53° 14' 07.6656" N
6	13° 49' 38.1849" W	49° 11' 54.9773" N	46	9° 02' 56.5110" W	53° 14' 21.8296" N
7	13° 58' 33.7124" W	49° 26' 13.6475" N	47	9° 02' 23.6463" W	53° 14' 34.4860" N
8	13° 58' 04.5249" W	49° 37' 29.0694" N	48	9° 02' 10.2903" W	53° 14' 42.0380" N
9	13° 53' 35.6169" W	49° 47' 07.3325" N	49	9° 02' 01.1462" W	53° 14' 51.2711" N
10	13° 45' 27.8725" W	50° 08' 37.1570" N	50	9° 02' 00.5431" W	53° 15' 14.3059" N
11	13° 30' 47.9275" W	50° 33' 39.6285" N	51	9° 01' 59.6009" W	53° 15' 15.6754" N
12	13° 22' 49.4965" W	50° 40' 30.5128" N	52	9° 01' 53.2766" W	53° 15' 20.8228" N
13	12° 31' 26.0974" W	51° 25' 00.4497" N	53	9° 01' 38.5897" W	53° 15' 34.1200" N
14	12° 23' 30.6015" W	51° 33' 04.1614" N	54	9° 01' 31.8507" W	53° 15' 41.2755" N
15	12° 13' 05.0465" W	51° 45' 52.6812" N	55	9° 01' 23.7643" W	53° 15' 53.3603" N
16	12° 13' 16.6686" W	51° 45' 56.3420" N	56	9° 01' 03.3247" W	53° 16' 10.3606" N
17	11° 59' 17.1772" W	52° 02' 55.3974" N	57	9° 01' 03.9036" W	53° 16' 10.6626" N
18	11° 31' 58.2790" W	52° 30' 36.0315" N	58	9° 01' 04.9116" W	53° 16' 12.3204" N
19	11° 13' 50.1244" W	52° 40' 12.8647" N	59	9° 01' 10.4214" W	53° 16' 15.4272" N
20	10° 59' 33.0179" W	52° 49' 59.5201" N	60	9° 01' 13.5984" W	53° 16' 15.2256" N
21	10° 30' 00.7955" W	52° 53' 45.4284" N	61	9° 01' 14.8793" W	53° 16' 14.5864" N
22	10° 18' 51.0571" W	52° 54' 05.0846" N	62	9° 01' 35.6743" W	53° 15' 57.2892" N
23	10° 01' 26.4248" W	52° 52' 22.8686" N	63	9° 01' 44.0398" W	53° 15' 44.7860" N
24	9° 59' 58.0369" W	52° 52' 18.6471" N	64	9° 01' 50.1025" W	53° 15' 38.3479" N
25	9° 53' 38.0336" W	52° 52' 00.2869" N	65	9° 02' 04.3380" W	53° 15' 25.4587" N
26	9° 48' 09.9457" W	52° 51' 58.6803" N	66	9° 02' 11.4416" W	53° 15' 19.6765" N
27	9° 46' 08.5261" W	52° 52' 03.0793" N	67	9° 02' 13.9914" W	53° 15' 15.9700" N
28	9° 37' 24.9826" W	52° 55' 41.3048" N	68	9° 02' 14.5764" W	53° 14' 53.5512" N
29	9° 29' 08.4352" W	52° 58' 35.3813" N	69	9° 02' 20.9194" W	53° 14' 47.1460" N
30	9° 27' 12.6426" W	52° 59' 39.1394" N	70	9° 02' 31.9860" W	53° 14' 40.8883" N
31	9° 26' 50.5369" W	52° 59' 58.7339" N	71	9° 03' 02.9491" W	53° 14' 28.9640" N
32	9° 26' 17.6225" W	53° 00' 48.7213" N	72	9° 03' 56.9299" W	53° 14' 14.4360" N
33	9° 23' 53.8215" W	53° 03' 08.6062" N	73	9° 05' 03.9179" W	53° 13' 34.1404" N
34	9° 22' 56.1031" W	53° 04' 53.2502" N	74	9° 05' 49.7491" W	53° 13' 20.7206" N
35	9° 19' 15.7727" W	53° 09' 08.8661" N	75	9° 06' 40.8795" W	53° 13' 11.5711" N
36	9° 14' 03.1758" W	53° 10' 46.8008" N	76	9° 06' 58.9490" W	53° 13' 08.4890" N
37	9° 09' 24.0033" W	53° 12' 25.4751" N	77	9° 08' 18.1355" W	53° 12' 54.9721" N
38	9° 08' 38.8823" W	53° 12' 36.6865" N	78	9° 08' 46.6116" W	53° 12' 47.8997" N
39	9° 08' 41.4586" W	53° 12' 40.4243" N	79	9° 08' 49.1883" W	53° 12' 51.6374" N
40	9° 08' 13.7006" W	53° 12' 47.3183" N	80	9° 09' 36.0453" W	53° 12' 39.9944" N

Table 1: Survey Licence Application Area Route Position List (cont.)

Id	Longitude	Latitude	Id	Longitude	Latitude
81	9° 14' 16.2409" W	53° 11' 00.9566" N	100	11° 59' 40.1258" W	52° 03' 03.2559" N
82	9° 19' 35.7536" W	53° 09' 20.8481" N	101	12° 13' 39.9142" W	51° 46' 03.6626" N
83	9° 23' 20.9374" W	53° 04' 59.5614" N	102	12° 13' 51.5378" W	51° 46' 07.3224" N
84	9° 24' 18.3111" W	53° 03' 15.5134" N	103	12° 24' 14.7705" W	51° 33' 21.3975" N
85	9° 26' 41.6821" W	53° 00' 56.0239" N	104	12° 34' 31.5841" W	51° 26' 28.4427" N
86	9° 27' 14.3740" W	53° 00' 06.3634" N	105	13° 27' 56.2484" W	50° 42' 54.9242" N
87	9° 27' 33.0421" W	52° 59' 49.8140" N	106	13° 36' 25.7921" W	50° 35' 36.5216" N
88	9° 29' 24.3735" W	52° 58' 48.5082" N	107	13° 51' 25.6644" W	50° 09' 54.6815" N
89	9° 37' 39.3236" W	52° 55' 54.9831" N	108	14° 03' 09.5703" W	49° 48' 59.1051" N
90	9° 46' 17.5769" W	52° 52' 18.9622" N	109	14° 07' 59.4399" W	49° 38' 31.1007" N
91	9° 48' 10.6320" W	52° 52' 14.8653" N	110	14° 08' 31.6508" W	49° 25' 02.2185" N
92	9° 53' 36.8583" W	52° 52' 16.4627" N	111	13° 58' 45.7494" W	49° 09' 27.7664" N
93	9° 59' 55.9279" W	52° 52' 34.7772" N	112	13° 48' 35.0613" W	48° 53' 13.6017" N
94	10° 01' 23.2071" W	52° 52' 38.9458" N	113	13° 47' 08.4353" W	48° 48' 44.1665" N
95	10° 18' 49.5627" W	52° 54' 21.3250" N	114	13° 40' 53.1282" W	48° 42' 17.1260" N
96	10° 30' 04.1943" W	52° 54' 01.5252" N	115	13° 27' 02.4693" W	48° 35' 26.8473" N
97	10° 59' 47.1668" W	52° 50' 14.2294" N	116	13° 23' 52.6522" W	48° 31' 34.0455" N
98	11° 14' 08.8948" W	52° 40' 24.3831" N	117	13° 15' 40.6602" W	48° 35' 05.9241" N
99	11° 32' 18.7977" W	52° 30' 46.5738" N			

The principal objective of the Marine Survey & Site Investigations is to ascertain a feasible and safe route for cable system design, deployment, survivability and subsequent maintenance with due regard for environmental and ecological considerations. The survey will also enable decisions to be made on cable armouring and burial. The survey will identify the necessary water depths, route features, seabed obstructions, seabed geomorphology and cable hazards and will also provide detailed information on the seabed sediment, subsurface stratigraphy and upper sediment layers to support cable route and installation engineering. The site investigations will provide "ground-truthing" of the geophysical data along the route.

The objectives of the marine geophysical survey shall be:

- To collect up to date high-resolution bathymetry along a 250 – 12,000m wide cable corridor within the License Application Area;
- To obtain information on the seabed surface (type, texture, variability, etc.) and in particular, to identify any seabed features that may be of interest.
- Identify any shallow geohazards and man-made hazards (including but not limited to outcropping, boulders, shallow gas, wrecks, debris etc.);
- Determine the stratigraphy of the upper layers of the seabed along the cable route and quantify the variability in the lateral and vertical extents to depths of 2-5m.
- Identify any magnetic anomalies;
- Identify sensitive marine habitats which will need to be avoided during site investigations and sampling.

The survey operations will be broken down into separate but overlapping areas, with boundaries defined by water depth as specified in the technical requirements outlined below. These water depth boundaries may be adjusted due to suitability of the survey vessel(s) and survey spread. The survey and survey line spacing will be designed to ensure adequate coverage and overlap of geophysical measurements.

- Landfall Survey – Intertidal Zone
- Inshore Survey – from 3m Chart Datum to 15m Chart Datum

- Offshore Survey – Water depths greater than 15m Chart Datum

In order to ensure data continuity, coverage between the survey areas is required with indicated overlap below:

- Landfall Survey to Inshore Survey – 50m overlap
- Inshore Survey to Offshore Survey – 500m overlap

Landfall Survey & Site Investigations

The landfall survey and site investigations will be limited as the PISCES cable will be installed at the landfall by sharing existing infrastructure (a duct installed by horizontal directional drilling for the IRIS system installation in 2022) to cross the shoreline at Ballyloughane.

A non-intrusive topographic survey along the line of the cable route at the landfall is required to the low water mark. Intertidal and beach surveys (walkover survey) will be carried out on the beach by the project ecologist and the project archaeologist.

The topographical survey would typically be carried out by GPS Rover, Total Station or UAV Aerial Drone using photogrammetry or LiDAR techniques. The terrestrial geophysical survey will comprise remote sensing techniques such as Ground Penetrating Radar or Electrical Resistivity Tomography (ERT) to establish subsurface features and depth to bedrock and magnetometer or handheld marine metal detector to locate buried ferrous objects.

Landfall Site Investigations will be undertaken to establish the depth and nature of the sediment. The focus of the site investigations will be on the upper layers of sediment to assess the feasibility of cable burial and installation techniques. The following may be undertaken at the landfall:

- Bar probes on the intertidal at nominal 10m spacing (approx. 8 to 10 at the landfall).
- Bar probes from the Low Water Line to the 3m water depth contour at nominal 30m spacing. (approx. 8 to 10 at the landfall)
- 3 Trial Pits on the beach (target depth 2.5m).

The bar probes on the intertidal are manually driven to a depth of 2 metres simply to prove the depth of upper layers of sand, gravel or soft material.

The Trial Pits will be positioned at approximately 30 to 50m centres starting seaward of the High Water Mark. The Trial Pits will be excavated, logged, photographed and backfilled in a single tidal cycle. The trial pits will be backfilled with the original excavated materials in the sequence in which they are excavated.

A summary Method Statement for excavation of the Trial Pits is as follows;

- Excavate sand and place to one side.
- Excavate substrate and place separate from sand.
- Measure, log and photograph each Trial Pit.
- Backfill in sequence compacting with bucket of back-hoe as the backfilling proceeds.

The proposed intertidal works will be carried out during late Spring / Summer (April-September) 2025.

Inshore Marine Survey

The area extending seaward from the low water mark at the landfall and inshore of the safe working draft limits of the primary survey vessel will be accurately surveyed with a small craft or Unmanned Survey Vessel (USV) using Multibeam Echosounder (MBES), sidescan sonar, marine magnetometer and sub-bottom profile equipment. Sub-bottom profile equipment will be able to discern the nature and density of the upper 3 metres of seabed and will be used on a non-interfering basis with other sounding systems. A minimum of seven survey lines, based upon the Survey RPL, is required.

Features such as shallow reefs, surge channels, debris fields, archaeological features or anything that could be a hazard to the cable or installation team will be noted. General reconnaissance of the survey corridor beyond the planned survey lines and tie-lines may be necessary to describe the seabed as accurately as possible. A line plan showing number of survey lines as a function of depth will be determined prior to start of survey operations.

Table 2: Inshore Survey

Survey Area	Depth Range	Survey Corridor Width	Min. # of Lines	Min. Overlap	Typical Survey Speed
Inshore	0m to 15m	250m	7	SSS: 100% MBES Bathy: 20%	4 knots

Offshore Marine Survey

The area extending seaward from the outer limits of the inshore survey up to a water depth of 1,500m will be surveyed by the primary survey vessel using Multibeam Echosounder (MBES), sidescan sonar, marine magnetometer and sub-bottom profiler equipment. A continuous bathymetric swathe along with side scan sonar imagery and sub-bottom traces will be obtained, centred on the preliminary route and along all wing lines needed to complete the route corridor coverage. A minimum of seven survey lines, based upon the Survey RPL, is required.

Sub-bottom profile equipment will be able to discern the nature and density of the upper 3 metres of seabed and will be used on a non-interfering basis with other sounding systems.

Table 3: Offshore Survey

Survey Area	Depth Range	Survey Corridor Width	Min. # of Lines	Min. Overlap	Typical Survey Speed
Offshore	15m to 100m	500m	7	SSS: 100% MBES Bathy: 20%	4 knots
Offshore	100m to 1,000m	500m	5	SSS: 100% MBES Bathy: 20%	4 knots
Offshore	1,000m to 1,500m	1,000m	7	SSS: 100% MBES Bathy: 20%	4 knots

Deep Water Marine Survey

The area extending seaward from 1,500m water depth to the Maritime Area limits will be surveyed by the primary survey vessel using Multibeam Echosounder (MBES) equipment. A continuous bathymetric swathe will be obtained, centred on the preliminary route and along all wing lines needed to complete the route corridor coverage. One survey line, based upon the Survey RPL, is required.

The width of the seabed covered by a single survey line increases as a function of water depth, with the width approximately equal to 3 times the water depth. This is illustrated in Figure 12 below. Therefore, in deep water the survey corridor width increases as the survey progresses into deeper waters. The maximum water depth of the survey within the Maritime Area is approximately 4,000m. The survey corridor width will therefore extend up to a maximum of approximately 12,000m at the Maritime Area extents.

Table 4: Deep Water Survey

Survey Area	Depth Range	Survey Corridor Width	Min. # of Lines	Min. Overlap	Typical Survey Speed
Offshore	> 1,500m	3 x WD Max. approx. 12,000m	1	NA	4 knots

Marine Site Investigations and Seabed Sampling

The purpose of the marine site investigations and seabed sampling is to evaluate the physical properties of the superficial seabed sediments along the cable route. These methodologies will ensure that a full understanding of the subsurface is achieved, focussing on the upper 3 metres of sediment to subsequently develop a cable burial assessment, installation and burial plan.

Site investigations and seabed sampling will only be undertaken up to a limit of 1,500m water depth and the scheduled site investigations and seabed sampling within Maritime Area limits will comprise of the following techniques:

- Up to 85 CPTs (2m to 3m deep at approximately 4km spacing along the route to a limit of 1,500m water depth)
- Up to 35 Gravity Cores / Vibrocores (3m deep at approximately 4km spacing along the route to a limit of 1,500m water depth)
- Up to 11 Grab Samples (at approximately 1km spacing up to 15m water depth)

Indicative locations for the relevant site investigation activities (Gravity or Vibrocore and CPT's) are shown in Figures 8-11. Typically, individual sampling positions will be determined following initial interpretation of the geophysical survey data. The positioning of individual site investigation locations will also take into consideration environmental constraints such as the position of sensitive habitats or archaeological features.

Two or more attempts may be made at each location to acquire a suitable sample. If an acceptable sample is achieved on the first attempt, there is no need to perform a second attempt.

An acceptable sample is defined as;

- Grab Sample – recovery of approximately a full bucket of sediment. Recovery of large size granular material may be taken as indication of a hard seabed.
- Gravity Core / Vibrocore – recovery of < 3m core of soil. If stiff or hard soils are encountered and are clearly indicated in the sample, it sample may be deemed acceptable. Any sample site yielding less than 1m of recovery must be investigated a second or third time unless there is obvious damage to the coring equipment indicating a hard or rocky substrate.
- CPT – Penetration to the 3m target depth or refusal. Any push resulting in less than 3m penetration will warrant a second attempt.

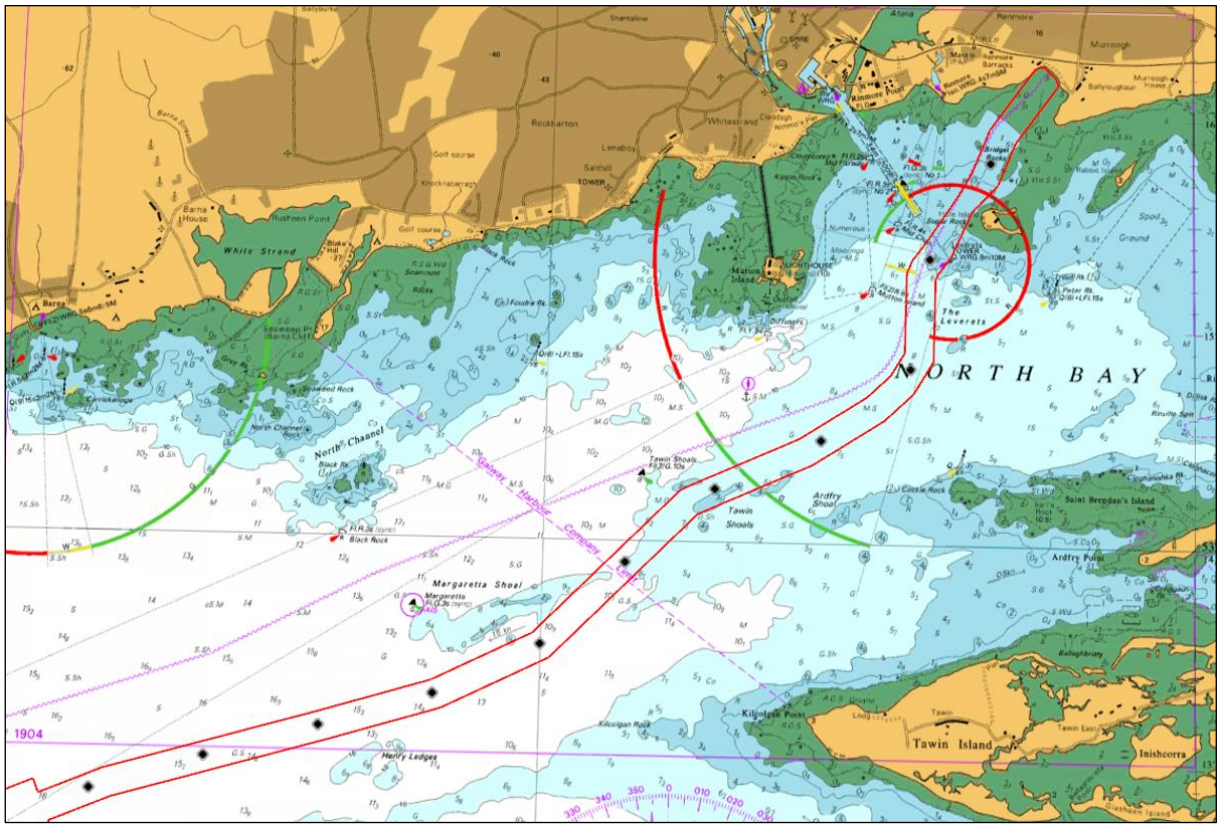


Figure 8: Indicative Grab Sample Locations (11no. to 15m water depth)

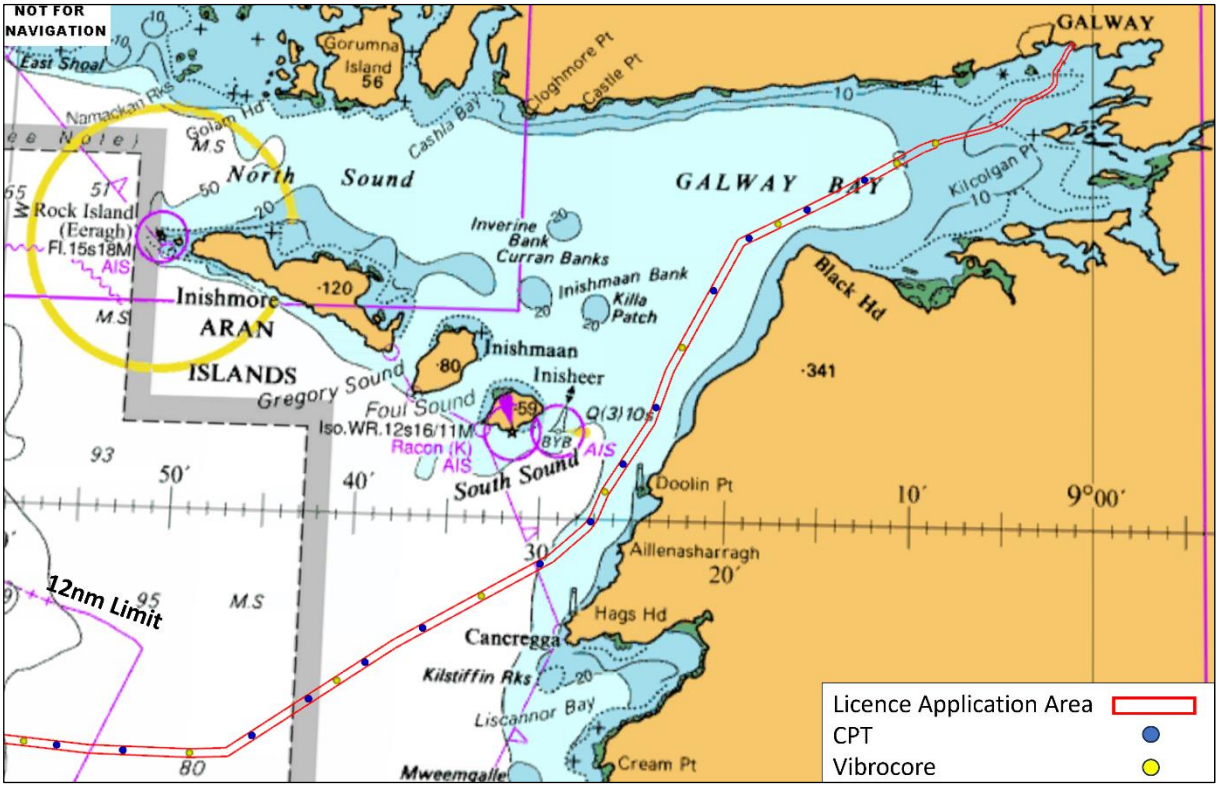


Figure 9: Indicative CPT and Vibrocore Locations (1 of 3)

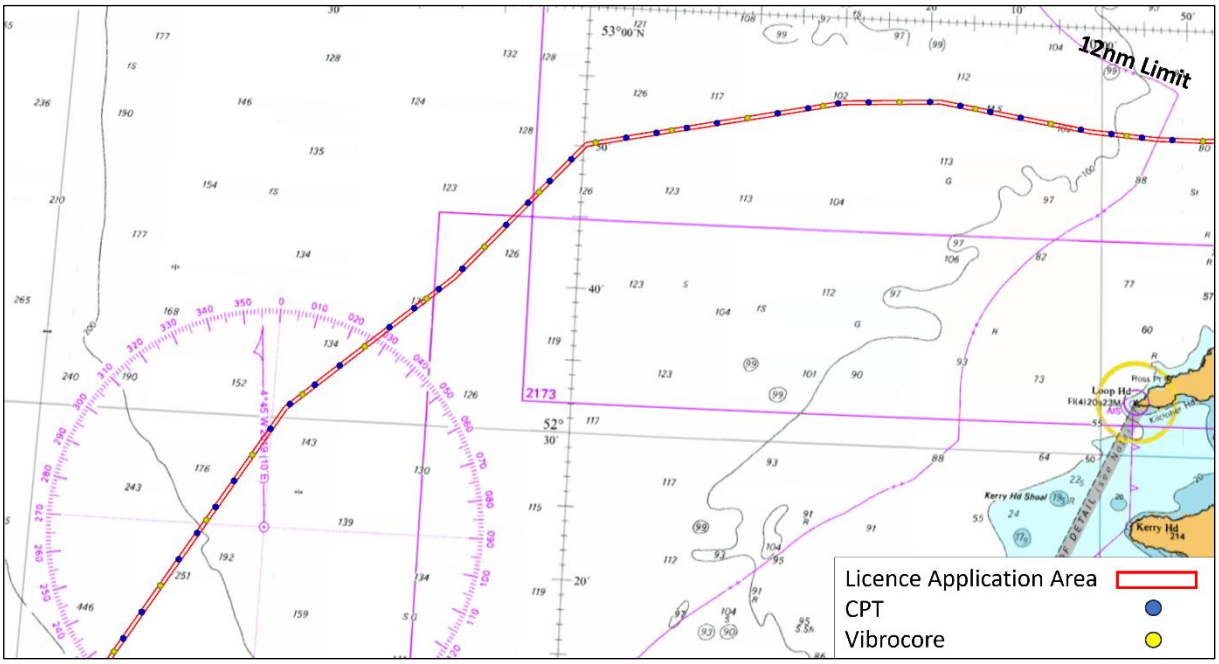


Figure 10: Indicative CPT and Vibrocore Locations continued (2 of 3)

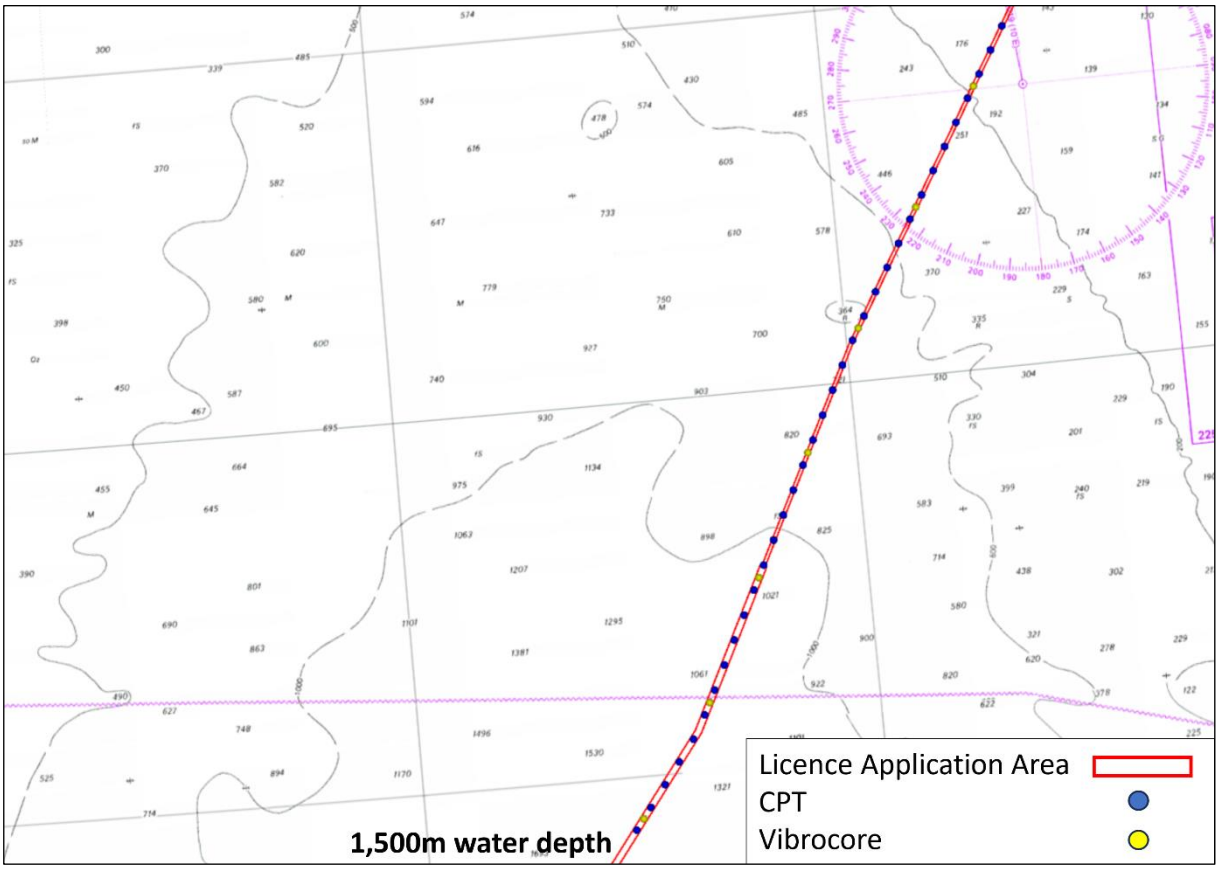


Figure 11: Indicative CPT and Vibrocore Locations continued (3 of 3)

Seabed Sampling

The total overall scope of the Site Investigations is as follows

- Bar Probes 10 No. on the intertidal
- Trial Pits 3 No. on the beach
- Bar Probes 10 No. from Low Water to 3m contour.
- Grab Samples 11 No. along the route corridor.
- Gravity Cores / Vibrocores 35 No. along the route corridor.
- Cone Penetration Tests 85 No. along the route corridor.

Underwater Video Survey

Underwater video camera system may be used for inspections of the seabed to investigate seabed obstructions, marine archaeology or benthic habitats. An underwater drop-down camera system or similar may be used in a series of video transects which would be georeferenced and later mapped in GIS.

Archeological Survey

The survey specification takes into account archaeological data acquisition to enable professional archaeological interpretation and analysis of data. The survey equipment deployed and data acquisition and processing shall comply with the requirements of the National Monuments Service, Underwater Archaeology Unit.

All archaeological assessments will be carried out by a suitably qualified and experienced marine archaeologist to determine the location of all known archaeological features in advance of the intrusive site investigations and seabed sampling. The data collected will be used to support the archaeological assessments.

SURVEY EQUIPMENT PARAMETERS

Echo-sounders are a diverse group of acoustic sources used to collect information on bathymetry, seabed features and objects in the water column (e.g. Multi beam echosounder, scientific echo-sounders/ fish-finders). They measure water depth by emitting rapid pulses of sound towards the seabed and measuring the sound reflected back.

Multibeam Echosounder (MBES) will be used during the marine survey to provide detailed 3 dimensional bathymetric mapping of the cable route corridor using multiple beams elongated in the across-track direction to cover a fan-shaped sector (or swath) (Figure 12). Measurements of the across-track beam from MBES showed 3 dB beam widths of 150-160°; in the along-track orientation beam width is narrow, typically ~1.5-3.0° (Crocker & Fratantonio 2016).

MBES is non-intrusive and does not interact with the seabed. The MBES system that will be used will be confirmed following the appointment of a survey contractor but typical systems which can be taken as examples would be the R2 Sonic 2024, Kongsberg EM2040 or Teledyne Seabat T50 which would be hull mounted on the survey vessel.

A specific deepwater Multibeam system will be required for surveying in water depths greater than 1,500m. The deepwater MBES system that will be used will be confirmed following the appointment of a survey contractor but typical systems which can be taken as examples would be the Kongsberg EM304 or Teledyne Seabat 7150 which would be hull mounted on the survey vessel.

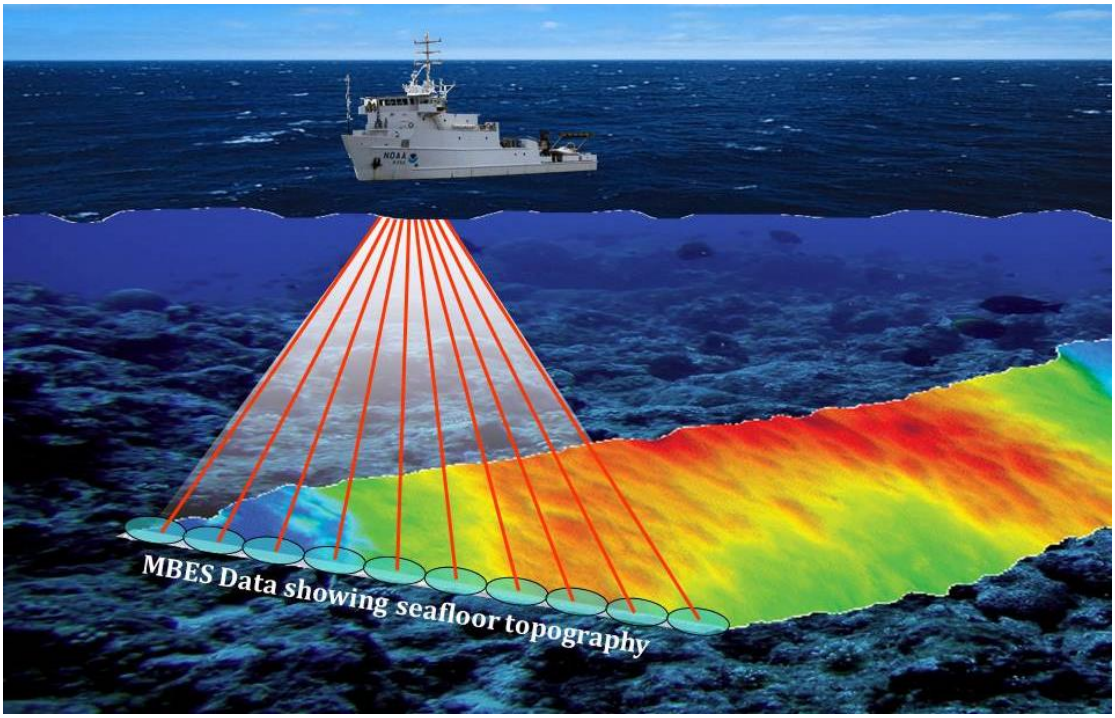


Figure 12: Graphic of MBES Survey in Operation

The acoustic signal emitted by MBES systems is short duration, typically of a few milliseconds or less, and can be configured to within the range 0.05-10 ms for certain systems. Repetition rates are highly customisable, varying with signal frequency and water depth. Ping rates of up to 10-20 pings per second may be used in very high frequency systems, whereas there may be several seconds between pings in low-frequency deep-water applications.

For collecting information on the seabed, emitted sound frequencies are typically between 12 – 400 kHz depending on water depth, with surveys in continental shelf applications operating at between 70 to 150 kHz, and in shallower waters of less than 200m using multi-beam echosounders operating at between 200 and 500 kHz The typical operating frequencies for the cable route survey within the licence application area will be in the range of 12kHz to 500kHz. (Danson 2005, Hopkins 2007, Lurton and DeReutier 2011).

Maximum sound source pressure levels of MBES have been reported as ranging from 210-245 dB re 1µPa at 1m with the highest levels corresponding to the lowest frequency systems (DECC 2011, Lurton and DeReutier 2011, Lurton 2016, BEIS 2020). The highest measured source levels among three MBES systems when operated at maximum power for central operating frequencies of ≥100 kHz was between Lp,pk 225-228 dB re 1µPa at 1m (LE,p 181-197 dB re 1µPa2 s at 1m (Crocker & Fratantonio 2016).

Side-Scan Sonar

Side-scan sonar (SSS) is a seabed imaging technique used to provide high-resolution and detailed 2 dimensional imagery of the seabed for a variety of purposes. SSS involves the use of an acoustic beam to obtain an accurate image over a narrow area of seabed to either side of the instrument.

Piezoelectric transducers in the SSS generate high-frequency acoustic pulses which are directed either side of the tow fish. The transducers are oriented such that the acoustic signal covers a wide angle perpendicular to the path of the tow fish through the water, providing information on a strip either side of the device (port and starboard). The intensity of the acoustic reflections from the seafloor is recorded in a series of cross-track images. When stitched together along the direction of motion, these images form a waterfall

view of the sea floor within the swath of the beam. The range (swath width) is dependent upon the frequency, power and other source configurations, but is typically between 50-300 m on both sides.

Analysis of SSS data can aid identification of seafloor sediment, surficial bedrock outcrops and geomorphology mapping. Obstacles rising proud of the seafloor, such as shipwrecks, boulders, pipelines, outfalls, exposed cables, fishing gear etc. can cast shadows on the resulting seafloor image where no acoustic signal is returned. The size of the shadow can be used to determine the size of the feature casting it (Figure 13).

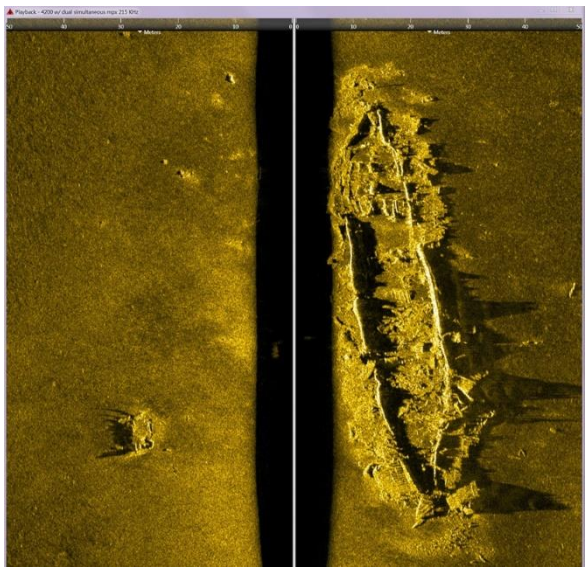


Figure 13: SSS Image of Shipwreck on Seabed and Nadir Gap

SSS is non-intrusive and does not interact with the seabed. The SSS system will be used will be confirmed following the appointment of a survey contractor but typical systems which can be taken as examples would be the Klein 3000 or Edgetech 4200 (Figure 14). The SSS may be hull mounted but is typically towed at depth behind the survey vessel on an armoured tow cable.

Figure 14: Deployment of Edgetech 4200 Tow fish

Acoustic signal durations of SSS systems are short (0.4ms – 1.0ms), but vary between models and configurations with longer signal durations are required to survey greater ranges. Repetition rates are highly customisable with ping rates of up to several tens of pings per second (Crocker & Fratantonio 2016).

The frequencies used by side-scan sonar are relatively very high, typically between 100 and 900 kHz. Most SSS systems offer real-time dual frequency operation which allows acquisition of both frequencies across a

swath independently and simultaneously. The higher frequency produces higher resolution data and sharper images but with a narrow swath width while the lower frequency results in wider seabed coverage at lower resolutions.

SSS typically offer a selection of two operational frequencies in the range of 100-500 kHz, or may operate both simultaneously. Some models may offer an upper frequency of up to 900 kHz for applications requiring the highest resolution data. Across-track resolutions vary between 1-8 cm with finer resolution at higher operating frequencies. The typical operating frequencies for the cable route survey within the licence application area will be between 200 to 700 kHz.

The line spacing for the survey will be determined after consideration of all factors including water depth and prevailing conditions at time of survey. Generally for SSS, full coverage requires two passes with 100% overlap over a given area of sea-floor, with the two passes each insonifying the sea-floor from opposite directions to ensure targets are adequately imaged. This also ensures that the 'nadir gap' or the centre of the image directly under the path of the towfish is fully covered (Figure 13).

Sound source pressure levels of SSS systems have been reported typically in the range Lp,pk 200-240 dB re 1µPa at 1m. (BOEM 2016, BEIS 2020, DAHG 2014). Maximum calibrated source levels, (sound pressure) measured by Crocker & Fratantonio (2016) were Lp, pk 227 dB re 1µPa at 1m for a 0.1 ms pulse, whereas the highest energy source level of LE, p 205 dB re 1µPa2 s at 1m corresponded to a longer pulse of 1.1 ms at lower maximum pressure (Lp, pk 210 dB re 1µPa at 1m).

Marine Magnetometer

A marine magnetometer is a passive towed sensor used to measure magnetic field strength and to detect variations in the total magnetic field of the underlying seafloor. The magnetometer does not transmit any signals into the marine environment.

Usually, the increased magnetization is caused by the presence of ferrous (unoxidized) iron on the seafloor or buried below the surface, whether from a shipwrecked vessel made of steel or from natural rock formations containing grains of magnetite. After corrections are made to measurements of the total magnetic field, magnetic data is used to locate existing infrastructure such as buried pipelines, undersea cables and to identify shipwrecks and potential unexploded ordnance.

Marine magnetometers are non-intrusive and do not interact with the seabed. They are towed at depth at least two and a half ship-lengths behind the survey vessel, so that the ship's magnetic field does not interfere with magnetic measurements. The marine magnetometer may be integrated and towed in tandem with the SSS. The marine magnetometer will be of the Caesium Vapour type and capable of recording variations in magnetic field strength during survey to an accuracy of ±0.5nT.

The marine magnetometer system to be used will be confirmed following the appointment of a survey contractor but typical systems which can be taken as examples would be the Geometrics G-882 or Marine Magnetics SeaSpy (Figure 11). The line spacing and coverage will generally match the SSS as they are towed in tandem and the parameters of the survey may be determined by the requirements of the Underwater Archaeology Unit of the National Monuments Service.

Figure 14: Marine Magnetics SeaSpy Towfish

Sub-bottom Profiler

Sub-bottom profilers (SBPs) encompass a range of acoustic systems which are designed to collect information on the characteristics of strata below the seabed, establish changes in sediments and detect and image structures buried within the sediments (Figure 15). Shallow Sub-bottom profiling can penetrate the seabed to a range of depths, from a few metres to tens of metres depending on the geological conditions encountered, and with vertical resolutions from a few centimetres to a few metres. Most are towed behind a survey vessel, either at/near the surface or at depth, whereas some smaller devices may be hull-mounted or lowered over the side of a vessel on a pole mount.

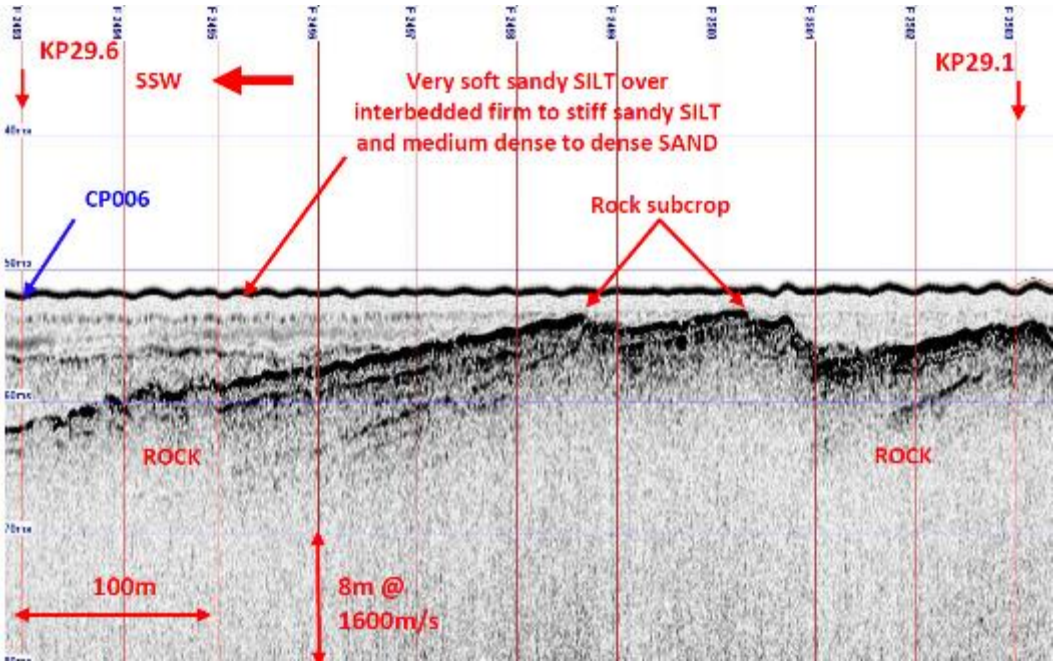


Figure 15: Interpreted SBP Seabed Profile

Pulsed waveform SBPs generate an acoustic signal either through the impulsive physical processes of electrostatic discharge, as in sparkers, or electromechanically via accelerated water mass, as in boomers. All periodic waveform SBPs i.e. pingers, chirpers and parametric SBPs are electromechanical sources which employ piezoelectric transducers to generate an acoustic waveform by converting electrical energy into mechanical movement i.e. vibrations. Through the reverse of this process, the transducers can also detect sound. As such, these sources are highly customisable; in many cases, the signal is modulated in frequency and/or amplitude to improve its detectability and performance.

The systems most commonly used for high-resolution surveying are the boomer (such as the Applied Acoustics S-Boom), pinger (such as the Kongsberg GeoPulse), chirp (such as the Edgetech SB-424, Figure 136) and parametric chirp systems (such as the Innomar SES-2000). Whereas the boomer system provides best results for coarser sediments, the pinger and chirp systems deliver detail for finer sediments.

The objective of the SBP cable route survey is to investigate the upper layers of the seabed sediments for cable burial potential and installation risk from seabed obstructions such as subcropping rock formations and is not focussed on deep seabed conditions such as required for investigation of offshore wind farm foundations or deepwater seismic surveys carried out by Oil and Gas Exploration. The SBP system used for the survey will be confirmed following the appointment of a survey contractor and the most appropriate system chosen depending on the seabed, anticipated geological environment and the survey vessel capabilities.

Sound source pressure levels of various SBP systems have been reported typically in the range Lp,pk 185-247 dB re 1µPa at 1m. (Hartley Anderson 2020, Crocker & Fratantonio 2016). A summary of the Maximum Sound Pressure Levels for SBP systems is described in Table 4 below. The SBP survey is non-intrusive therefore does not interact with the seabed.

Figure 16: Edgetech SB-424 Tow Body

Table 4: Typical SBP Specifications

Equipment Type	Frequency Range	Duration	*Maximum* Source Pressure Level (re 1µPa at 1 m)	Reference
Sub-bottom Profiler (SBP) - Pinger	2 kHz to 15 kHz	0.5 - 30 ms	214 dB.	Hartley Anderson 2020
Sub-bottom Profiler (SBP) - Chirper	2 kHz to 13 kHz	5 - 40 ms	185 - 215 dB.	Crocker & Fratantonio 2016, Hartley Anderson 2020
Sub-bottom Profiler (SBP) - Boomer	500 Hz to 15 kHz	0.5 - 1.0 ms	205 - 215 dB.	Crocker & Fratantonio 2016
Sub-bottom Profiler (SBP) - Parametric	4 to 15 kHz, 85 to 115 kHz	0.2 - 30 ms	238 - 247 dB. 200 - 206 dB.	Hartley Anderson 2020

Ultra-Short Baseline (USBL) Subsea Positioning

An Ultra-Short Baseline (USBL) is a subsea positioning system widely used by the offshore marine industry and scientific research vessels to accurately track the position of towed equipment and sensors. The USBL system consists of a transceiver mounted to the survey vessel, and transponders on the towed equipment.

To calculate a subsea position, the USBL calculates both a range and an angle from the transceiver to the subsea beacon. Angles are measured by the transceiver, which contains an array of transducers. The transceiver emits an acoustic signal at predetermined periods (often 0.5 seconds) which is returned by the transponder and allows for the bearing and distance to be calculated.

USBL systems are designed for close range transmission and thus typically emit pulses of medium frequency sound (20 to 50 kHz). Manufacturers report SPL values of 194 to 207dB re 1µPa at 1m depending on the model used, taking as an example the higher range of USBL source (Kongsberg HiPAP) with a SPL of 207dB re 1µPa at 1m.

Cone Penetration Test (CPT)

The survey vessel will position itself over the target position to carry out the CPT. The seabed CPT rig (such as a Neptune 3000, Figure 14) is deployed to the seabed from the vessel crane, A-frame or dedicated Launch and Recovery System (LARS). Once on the seabed, in a stable position, a steel rod with a conical tip (typically an apex angle of 60° and a diameter of 35.7 mm) is pushed at a steady rate into the seabed until it reaches target penetration depth of 3 to 6m or refusal. The penetration resistance at the tip and along a section of the shaft (friction sleeve) is measured and recorded for later analysis.

Refusal is indicated by peak system thrust, excessive load on the tip or excessive inclination of the cone. If target penetration depth is not met, the CPT rig may be moved to a nearby position on the seabed and the test repeated. The time taken to complete a shallow CPT is typically less than 10 minutes but the total time in the water from deployment to recovery may be 1 to 2 hours at each position, depending on water depth and sea state.

There is very little published information on the sound pressure levels generated from CPT equipment, collected either from field experimentation or from manufactures specifications. Data from a similar device, deep boring, indicates that sound pressure source levels are typically within the range 118 - 145 decibels (dB) (BOEM 2012, EIRGRID 2014).

Figure 17: Neptune 3000 CPT Rig

Gravity Core

Gravity corers (Figure 15) provide a rapid means of obtaining a continuous core sample in water depths from a few metres down to several thousand metres. A gravity corer consists of a steel tube in which is inserted a plastic liner to hold the core sample. Gravity corers are commonly used for cable route investigations.

A set of heavy weights, up to 750 kg, is attached at the top end of the tube above which is a fin arrangement to keep the corer stable and vertical during its fall to the seabed. The sampler penetrates the seabed under its own weight. Normal practice is to lower the device to within 10 m of the seabed before releasing. The penetration depth is between 1 m and 3 m. Penetration in stiffer clays or sands is usually limited.

The penetrating end of the tube is fitted with a cutter and a concave spring-steel core-catcher to retain the sample when the corer is retracted from the soil. The suction caused when withdrawing a core barrel from a soft soil such as clay, can pull the sample from the barrel, or in other ways disturb its homogeneity. By fitting a piston above the sample, the partial vacuum caused above the piston, when the barrel is withdrawn, keeps the sample from being pulled out of the tube.

Upon refusal or at target depth of 3m, the sampler is recovered on deck where the sample is split, typically into 1m lengths, logged, sealed and stored for later laboratory analysis. The typical diameter of the liner is in the region of 90mm with a typical maximum diameter of 120mm.

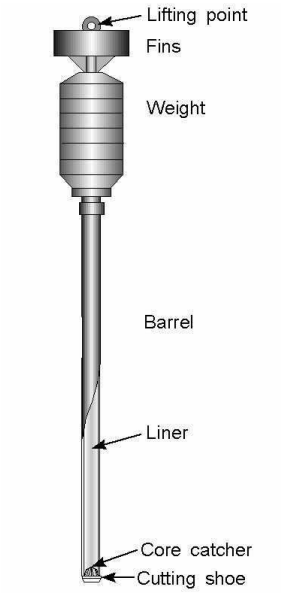


Figure 18: Gravity Corer Schematic

Vibrocorer

Vibrocorers are used wherever soil conditions are unsuited to gravity corers or where greater penetration of the seabed is necessary. Vibrocore is best suited to non-cohesive soils (e.g. gravel or sand) as samples recovered are considered disturbed. Vibrocorers are commonly used for cable route investigations.

To penetrate soils such as dense sands and gravels, or to reach deeper into stiff clays, rather than depending on a gravity free-fall, the corer's barrel is vibrated, thus facilitating its penetration into the soil. This vibration energy allows the core barrel to penetrate the sediments under self-weight. In other respects, the barrel and sample retention systems are similar to gravity corers.

The typical vibrocorer consists of a tall steel frame and tripod support. Within the frame is a standard 102 mm steel coring barrel in which is inserted a PVC liner to contain the sample. The typical diameter of the PVC liner is in the region of 90mm with a typical maximum diameter of 120mm. A spring steel core catcher is fitted to the cutting shoe, as with the gravity corer. Two linear electric motors enclosed in a pressure housing provide the vibratory motion; the core barrel is attached directly to the motor housing. Power is fed to the motors via an electrical control line from the survey vessel.

Once in motion, the heavy motor housing provides the mass to drive the core barrel into the seabed. The penetration depth can be from 2m to 8m depending on seabed conditions. A typical 6 m vibrocorer will weigh nearly two tonnes and requires a crane for A-Frame or deployment and recovery. Vibrocorers come with barrel lengths of 3m, 6m and 8m. A normal coring operation in 100 m water depth will take about one hour.

Once coring is started, the core barrel will penetrate to the target depth. Upon refusal or at target depth of 3m, the vibrocore is recovered on deck where the sample in the liner is removed from the barrel, the sample is split, typically into 1m lengths, logged, sealed and stored for later laboratory analysis.

The sounds produced by the operation of a vibrocorer on the seabed consist of a series of impulses corresponding to the movement and impacts of the mechanics of the vibrating motion from the oscillating motors on the core barrel. Expected sound pressure levels generated by vibrocore equipment would be approximately 187.4 dB re 1µPa at 1m (LGL, 2010).

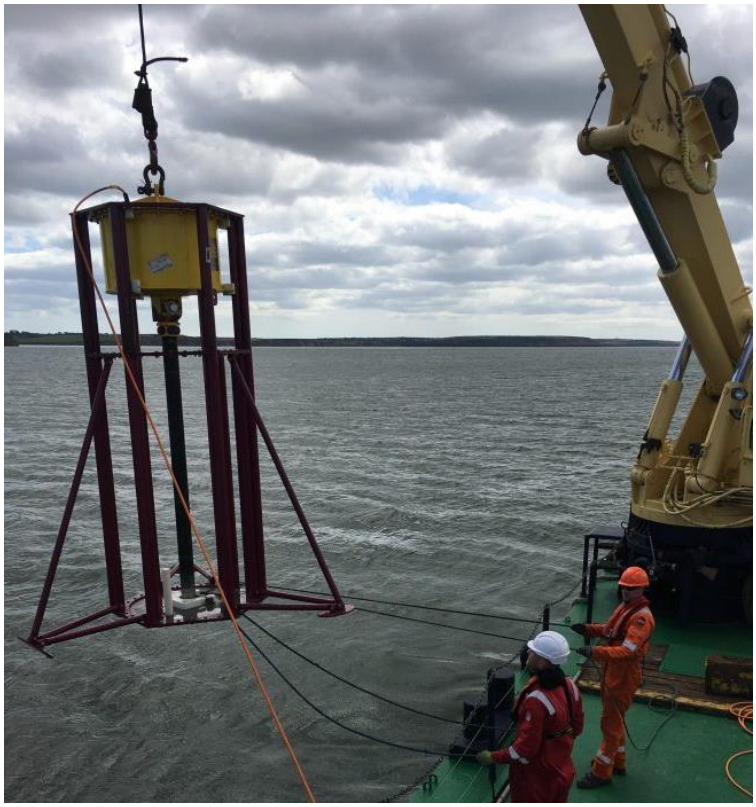


Figure 19: Deployment of Vibrocorer from Survey Vessel

Grab Samplers

Grab samplers are one of the most common methods of retrieving soil samples from the seabed surface. The grab sampler is a device that simply grabs a sample of the topmost layers of the seabed by bringing two steel clamshells together and cutting a bite from the seabed surface to a depth of 0.1 to 0.5m. The information they provide can be applied in a number of applications such as seabed classification, environmental sampling, chemical and biological analysis and ground truthing for morphological mapping and geophysical survey. Grab samplers can be used to recover samples of most seabed soils, although care is needed in selecting the right size unit for the task.

There are various grab sampler types to include but not limited to Van Veen (single or double, Figure 17), Hamon, Shipek and Day Grab samplers. Generally, some variants may come both as single or double, and in a variety of different sizes. The grab sampler comprises two steel clamshells acting on a single or double pivot. The shells are brought together either by a powerful spring (Shipek type) or powered hydraulic rams operated from the survey vessel.

In operation, the grab is lowered from the survey vessel to the seabed with the clamshells in the open position and which trigger shut when the sampler is in contact with the seafloor. The shells swivel together in a cutting action and retains a sample of seabed. The sampler is then recovered to the survey vessel for

visual inspection, processing, logging and transfer to suitable sample containers for storage and later laboratory analysis. Typical performance rates are between three and four samples per hour.

The smaller Shipek type grab sampler is useful for ground truthing geophysical surveys for the surface layer, and samples are taken to about 0.1 m below the seabed. Larger hydraulic grabs are capable of recovering relatively intact samples of consolidated soils to a depth of about 0.5 m. In areas of large cobbles or boulders, grabs can become jammed open and their contents washed away during recovery to the surface. However, the hydraulic grab is more likely to recover cobbles and small boulders than any other system, and in this respect is invaluable. Various grabs will be available for the survey to ensure adequate sampling equipment for various sediment types.

Figure 20: Single and Double Van Veen Grab

4.2.3 Survey Vessels

Offshore survey vessels are typically between 15m and 75m in length with potential for smaller vessels to be used in nearshore / shallow water areas. Offshore survey vessel typically have an endurance of approximately 14 to 28 days. A vessel with a shallow water draft will be utilised for the inshore survey area. An unmanned surface vehicle (USV) and/or autonomous surface vehicle (ASV) may also be used for the geophysical survey. The survey vessels may use a local port for personnel / equipment mobilisation, bunkering and provisioning.

The marine survey works will consist of a dedicated marine spread which will be suitable for the scope of work required, the water depth and the anticipated seabed conditions of the survey area. The exact equipment to be used will be confirmed following a tender process to procure the marine survey contractor.

All survey vessels will be fit for purpose, will possess all relevant classification certificates and capable of safely undertaking the survey work required. Health, safety, environment and welfare considerations will be a priority and will be actively managed during the course of the survey scopes of work. Appointed contractors will be required to comply with all legislation relevant to the activities within their scope of work. Prior to survey works taking place under Licence, both Project Supervisor for Design Process (PSDP) and Project Supervisor for Construction Stage (PSCS) will be appointed under the relevant legislation and project / survey specific HSE plans will be put in place which will form part of the survey project execution plans.

The vessels will conform to the following minimum requirements as appropriate:

- Compliance with Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), International Maritime Organization (IMO) and national requirements for operating within Irish territorial waters.
- Station-keeping and sea keeping capabilities required to carry out the survey operations safely;
- Calibrated equipment and spares with necessary tools for all specified works;
- Endurance (e.g. fuel, water, stores, etc.) to undertake the required survey works;

- Sufficient qualified staff to allow the survey operations to be carried out efficiently, (typically 24 hour continuous for offshore survey, 12 hour for nearshore survey); and
- Appropriate accommodation and crew welfare facilities.

Survey vessels will generate some subsea noise in the marine environment from engine noise and dynamic positioning thrusters. Shipping noise is typically within the 50-300 Hz frequency band and is the dominant noise source in deeper water (DECC, 2011). Propellers on vessels all have the potential to produce cavitation noise. This sound is caused by vacuum bubbles that were generated by the collapse of bubbles created by the spinning of the propellers.

Acoustic broadband source pressure levels typically increase with increasing vessel size, with smaller vessels (<50 m) having source pressure levels 160-175 dB (re 1µPa at 1m), medium size vessel (50-100 m) 165-180 dB (re 1µPa at 1m) and large vessels (>100 m) 180-190 dB (re 1µPa at 1m) (DECC, 2011). Every vessel has a unique noise signature and for each vessel this can change in response to a number of factors, including; ship speed, operational status, vessel load, the condition of the vessel and even the properties of the water that the vessel is operating in.

4.2.4 Marine Survey and Site Investigations Sound Pressure Level Summary

All survey works that involve the use of acoustic instrumentation will follow the Guidance to Manage the Risk to Marine Mammals from Man-made Sound Sources in Irish Waters, 2014.

The ranges of noise frequency and sound pressure levels associated with all the surveys outlined in previous sections is summarised in Tables 6 and 7 below. It can be noted that as the focus of the cable route surveys within the licence application area is the seabed surface and upper layers of seabed sediments and generally obtaining higher resolution data, the geophysical equipment such as MBES and SSS is generally operated more towards the higher end of the frequency range where possible.

4.2.5 Timeline and Duration of Survey Activities

The intention is to commence the survey as soon as feasible following license award, taking into account survey vessel availability, the overall cable route survey programme, seasonality and suitable weather windows. The exact mobilisation dates will not be known until the process of procuring a contractor and issue of the Marine Usage Licence is complete. It is anticipated that the marine geophysical survey and site investigations activities within the Marine Usage Licence area will take less than 6 weeks in total and will be completed over a 6 month period.

The estimated time required to complete the cable route survey campaign activities is described in Table 7 below.

Table 5. Marine Survey Activities.

Equipment Type	**Purpose**	**Frequency Range**	**Duration**	***Maximum* Source Pressure Level (re 1µPa at 1 m)**	**Reference**
Multibeam Echo Sounder (MBES)	Measure detailed bathymetry by transmitting sound pulses (active sonar).	12 kHz to 500 kHz	0.05 - 10 ms	210 - 245 dB.	Danson 2005, Hopkins 2007, DECC 2011, Lurton and DeReutier 2011, Lurton 2016, BEIS 2020, Crocker & Fratantonio 2016
Side Scan Sonar (SSS)	Determine surficial nature of the seabed and detect objects by transmitting sound pulse.	200 kHz to 700 kHz	0.4 - 1.0 ms	200 - 240 dB.	BOEM 2016, BEIS 2020, DAHG 2014, Crocker & Fratantonio 2016
Sub-bottom Profiler (SBP) - Pinger	Identify different geological layers encountered in the shallow sediments and sediment thicknesses beneath the seabed.	2 kHz to 15 kHz	0.5 - 30 ms	214 dB.	Hartley Anderson 2020
Sub-bottom Profiler (SBP) - Chirper	Identify different geological layers encountered in the shallow sediments and sediment thicknesses beneath the seabed.	2 kHz to 13 kHz	5 - 40 ms	185 - 215 dB.	Crocker & Fratantonio 2016, Hartley Anderson 2020
Sub-bottom Profiler (SBP) - Boomer	Identify different geological layers encountered in the shallow sediments and sediment thicknesses beneath the seabed.	500 Hz to 15 kHz	0.5 - 1.0 ms	205 - 215 dB.	Crocker & Fratantonio 2016
Sub-bottom Profiler (SBP) - Parametric	Identify different geological layers encountered in the shallow sediments and sediment thicknesses beneath the seabed.	4 to 15 kHz, 85 to 115 kHz	0.2 - 30 ms	238 - 247 dB. 200 - 206 dB.	Hartley Anderson 2020
Ultra-Short Base Line (USBL)	Subsea positioning.	20 kHz to 50 kHz	5 - 10 ms	194 - 207 dB.	Kongsberg
Magnetometer	Identify ferrous anomalies for metal obstructions, shipwrecks, etc. on and under the seabed.	Passive	N/A	Passive	N/A
Survey Vessels	Carry out the survey and deploy the equipment.	50 Hz to 300 Hz	N/A	160 - 190 dB.	DECC 2011

Table 6. Marine Site Investigation Activities.

Equipment Type	Purpose	Number of locations within Licence Application Area (up to)	Frequency Range	*Maximum* Source Pressure Level (re 1µPa at 1 m)	Reference
Cone Penetration Test (CPT)	Determine geotechnical engineering properties of seabed sediments.	85	28 Hz	118 - 145 dB.	BOEM 2012, EIRGRID 2014
Gravity Corer	Retrieve a seabed sediment sample by penetrating seabed with a steel core barrel under self-weight	35	N/A	N/A	N/A
Vibrocorer	Retrieve a seabed sediment sample by penetrating seabed with a vibrating steel core barrel	35	30 Hz	187.4 dB.	LGL 2010
Grab Samples	Collect small sediment samples from seabed surface with clamshell mechanism	11	N/A	N/A	N/A

Table 7. Estimated Time and Duration of Survey Activities

Activity	Typical Time Period Required for Activity	Total Number of SI Locations	Total Time for SI	Foot Print Affected per SI	Foot Print Affected per SI (km^2)	Total Foot Print (km^2)	Area Directly Affected as % of Licence Application Area
Inshore Geophysical Survey (to 15m WD)	2 to 3 days (weather and sea state dependent)	250 m cable route corridor	2 to 3 days (weather and sea state dependent)	N/A	N/A	2.8 km^2	0.08%
Offshore Geophysical Survey (100m – 1,500m WD)	35 to 40 days (weather and sea state dependent)	500 - 1000 m cable route corridor	35 to 40 days (weather and sea state dependent)	N/A	N/A	218.6 km^2	6.06%
Deep Water Geophysical Survey (>1,500m WD)	5 to 10 days (weather and sea state dependent)	4,500 – 12,000 m cable route corridor	5 to 10 days (weather and sea state dependent)	N/A	N/A	3,386.1 km^2	93.88%
CPT	30 minutes - 2 hours in any one location	85	170 hours within total 50 days of Site Investigations campaign (weather and sea state dependent)	8m^2	0.0000008 km^2	0.00068 km^2	0.0000002%
Gravity Corer	30 minutes - 2 hours in any one location	35	70 hours within total 50 days of Site Investigations campaign (weather and sea state dependent)	1m^2	0.0000001 km^2	0.000035 km^2	0.00000001%
Vibro Corer	30 minutes - 2 hours in any one location	35	70 hours within total 50 days of Site Investigations campaign (weather and sea state dependent)	8m^2	0.0000008 km^2	0.00028 km^2	0.00000008%
Grab Samples	20 minutes - 45 minutes in any one location	11	8 hours within total 50 days of Site Investigations campaign (weather and sea state dependent)	0.5m^2	0.00000005 km^2	0.0000175 km^2	0.000000005%

4.3 Zone of Influence

As outlined in Office of the Planning Regulator (2021) "*The zone of influence of a proposed development is the geographical area over which it could affect the receiving environment in a way that could have significant effects on the Qualifying Interests of a European site. This should be established on a case-by-case basis using the Source- Pathway-Receptor framework and not by arbitrary distances (such as 15 km)*."

IEEM (2006) defined the zone of influence as "*the areas/resources that may be affected by the biophysical changes caused by activities associated with a project*". In order to define the extent of the study area for assessment, all elements of the project were assessed and reviewed in order to identify the spatial scale at which ecological features could be impacted. Due to the limited temporal and geographical scale of the project and the use of Best Available Techniques (BAT), the slow speed of the survey vessel (4kn), it is considered that the potential impacts of the proposed works could only extend beyond 500 m of the subtidal elements of the project due to noise generation and potential disturbance of sediment. However, as outlined in IEEM (2010) "*in the marine environment it is more difficult to define the geographical framework precisely and to accommodate all factors that should influence the definition of value, e.g. size or conservation status of populations or the quality of habitats*." As a result, "*it is very unlikely that the impacts on integrity can be evaluated without considering functions and processes acting outside the site's formal boundary*." It is important to note that unlike other maritime operations, the research vessel speed will be very slow (4 knots). However, the project has the potential to introduce noise into the marine environment particularly through the use of Ultra-Short Baseline (USBL), Multibeam Echosounder (MBES), and Side-scan Sonar (SSS) equipment, which may extend the effects of the project beyond 2km. In the interest of carrying out a thorough assessment in line with both the Habitats Directive, and the precautionary principle, the ZoI was expanded for this assessment to include designated sites within 15km of the proposed development site, and sites beyond 15km that have the potential to be impacted by the proposed survey works based on the Source-Pathway-Receptor model. This was done in the interest of ensuring that any potential impacts, however indirect or remote, were taken into account.

4.3.1 Marine Mammals

Seals and Cetaceans

As outlined in NPWS[2] "*Cetaceans account for 48% of all the native species of mammals, both marine and terrestrial, recorded in Ireland and Irish waters are thought to contain important habitats for cetaceans within the northeast Atlantic. To date, 24 species of cetacean, or 28% of species described worldwide, have been recorded in Ireland. Irish cetaceans include six species of baleen whale and eighteen species of toothed whale, including five species of beaked whale. Twenty-two of these have been reported stranded ashore and 20 species observed at sea. Two species (Pygmy sperm whale and Gervais' beaked whale) are only known from stranded individuals and two species (Northern right whale and White whale/beluga) have only been recorded historically, with neither species occurring in the stranding record so far.*

Ireland also has two species of seals, the Common Seal (or Harbour Seal) and the Grey Seal. Whilst both species haul out on land for key stages of their life history, the majority of their time is spent in the marine environment.

In Ireland, the 1992 EC Habitats Directive as transposed by the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 477 of 2011) requires that both seal species and all cetaceans occurring in Ireland are maintained at favourable conservation status. Under Article 12 of the Directive, all cetaceans should receive strict protection within the Exclusive Economic Zone. Under Article 4 of the Directive, Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) must be proposed for the following species:"

- Bottlenose Dolphin
- Harbour Porpoise
- Common Seal
- Grey Seal

[2] https://www.npws.ie/marine/marine-species/cetaceans

The protection afforded to marine mammals in Ireland is summarised below:

- Harbour Porpoise Annex II of EC Habitats Directive Annex IV of EC Habitats Directive/Protected species of Wildlife (Amendment) Act/OSPAR List of Threatened and Declining Species and Habitats
- Bottlenose Dolphin Annex II of EC Habitats Directive/Annex IV of EC Habitats Directive/Protected species of Wildlife (Amendment) Act
- All Cetacea Annex IV of EC Habitats Directive/Protected species of Wildlife (Amendment) Act
- Grey Seal/Harbour Seal Annex II of EC Habitats Directive/Protected species of Wildlife (Amendment) Act

Recent research suggests that the foraging range for grey seals is 448km Carter et al., 2022). Further, the foraging range for harbour seal is estimated at 273 km (Carter et al., 2022). Further, there are a number of SACs designated for cetaceans (harbour porpoise and common dolphin) in Ireland. As these species are a highly mobile species, and are designated as qualifying interests of Natura 2000 sites outside the Irish EEZ, specific Management Units (MU) are utilised to assess the potential impacts of a proposed project on these species, based on the JNCC Review of Management Unit boundaries for cetaceans in UK waters (2023) methodology[3]. The proposed project is located within the Celtic and Irish Seas MU for harbour porpoise, and Oceanic Waters MU and West Coast of Ireland MUs for bottlenose dolphin (IAMMWG, 2015). The ZoI of the proposed project has been extended to include the potential for significant effects on grey seal, harbour seal, harbour porpoise and common bottlenose dolphin as there is potential for these mobile marine mammals to enter the ZoI from within the Celtic and Irish Seas MU (harbour porpoise), Oceanic Waters MU (bottlenose dolphin), and West Coast of Ireland MU (bottlenose dolphin).

Otter

Otters are a semi-aquatic species who use the marine environment for foraging and are protected under Annex II and Annex IV of the Habitats Directive. As detailed by Reid et al. (2013), female otters have territories of 7.5 ± 1.5km in length along a riverine environment and 6.5 ± 1.0km in coastal environments, while male otter territory along rivers is approximately 13.2 ± 5.3km in length with a high degree of variability. Out of an abundance of caution, the ZoI of the proposed project has been extended to include the potential for significant effects on otter that may enter the proposed area of works.

4.3.2 Migratory Fish

In relation to Atlantic salmon, it has been found that salmon populations from southeast Ireland appear to migrate towards the shelf edge before crossing the Atlantic towards Greenland for feeding (Rikardson et al., 2021). The recorded areas of salmon migration are demonstrated in Figure AI.1 in Appendix I.

Recent studies on Twaite Shad recorded movement of up to 950km from the River Severn with one individual detected in the Blackwater Estuary (Davies et al. 2020). However, given the spatial and temporal nature of the proposed works, the proposed project is considered too distant from Natura 2000 sites where it is a feature of interest, for any significant interaction to occur. Similarly distant SACs designated for lamprey species were considered too distant for any significant interaction to occur.

[3] https://data.jncc.gov.uk/data/b48b8332-349f-4358-b080-b4506384f4f7/jncc-report-734.pdf

4.4 Identification of Relevant Natura 2000 Sites

4.4.1 Management of the Site

The proposed works are not directly connected with, or necessary to, the management of Natura 2000 sites.

4.4.2 Relevant Natura 2000 Sites to the Proposed Project

A key factor in the consideration as to whether or not a particular European site is likely to be affected by the proposed survey works is its distance from the works location. It is generally, but not necessarily, the case that the greater the distance from the plan or project the smaller the likelihood of impacts. In this case, a portion of the proposed survey works will be located within the Galway Bay Complex SAC and Inner Galway Bay SPA.

Given that the proposed survey route is located within the Galway Bay Complex SAC and Inner Galway Bay SPA, out of an abundance of caution, in the absence of mitigation, it is considered that during the survey works there is the potential for significant effects on the qualifying interests of these European Sites through pollution and physical impact on habitats and species. Further information is required to assess the potential effects of the proposed works on European Sites.

In relation to marine mammals, given that the proposed survey route is located within Galway Bay Complex SAC, there is potential for marine mammals from Galway Bay Complex SAC (Harbour seal (*Phoca vitulina*)) to be in the vicinity of the proposed survey works. Further, following an examination of relevant MU's and foraging areas for grey seal and harbour seal, the following Natura 2000 sites have been screened IN due to the potential movements of harbour porpoise, common bottlenose dolphin, harbour seals, and grey seals (qualifying interests of these SAC):

- Slaney River Valley SAC (IE)
- Saltee Islands SAC (IE)
- Roaring Water Bay and Islands SAC (IE)
- Blasket Islands SAC (IE)
- Kilkieran Bay And Islands SAC (IE)
- Lower River Shannon SAC (IE)
- Slyne Head Peninsula SAC (IE)
- West Connacht Coast SAC (IE)
- Slyne Head Islands SAC (IE)
- Clew Bay Complex SAC (IE)
- Slyne Head Islands SAC (IE)
- Inishbofin and Inishshark SAC (IE)
- Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SAC (IE)
- Ballysadare Bay SAC (IE)
- Kenmare River SAC (IE)
- Cummeen Strand/Drumcliffe Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC (IE)
- Duvillaun Islands SAC (IE)
- Inishkea Islands SAC (IE)
- Glengarriff Harbour and Woodland SAC (IE)
- Slieve Tooey/Tormore Island/Loughbros Beg Bay SAC (IE)
- Donegal Bay (Murvagh) SAC (IE)
- West of Adara/Maas Road SAC (IE)
- Rutland Island and Sound SAC (IE)
- Rockabill to Dalkey Islands SAC (IE)
- Lambay Island SAC (IE)
- Horn Head and Rinclevan SAC (IE)
- North Anglesey Marine/Gogledd Môn Forol (UK)
- West Wales Marine / Gorllewin Cymru Forol (UK)
- Pen Llyn a'r Sarnau/Lleyn Peninsula and the Sarnau (UK)
- Murlough (UK)

- North Channel (UK)
- Strangford Lough (UK)
- Cardigan Bay / Bae Ceredigion (UK)
- Pembrokeshire Marine / Sir Benfro Forol (UK)
- The Maidens SAC (UK)
- Bristol Channel Approaches/Dynesfeydd Môr Hafren (UK)
- Treshnish Isles (UK)
- Lundy (UK)
- Isles of Scilly Complex (UK)
- Nord Bretagne DH (FR)
- Récifs et landes de la Hague (FR)
- Anse de Vauville (FR)
- Mers Celtiques – Talus du golfe de Gascogne (FR)
- Banc et récifs de Surtainville (FR)
- Côte de Granit rose-Sept-Iles (FR)
- Trégor – Goëlo (FR)
- Baie de Morlaix (FR)
- Abers – Côtes des legends (FR)
- Rivière Leguer, forêts de Beffou, Coat an Noz et Coat an Hay (FR)
- Cap d'Erquy-Cap Fréhel (FR)
- Ouessant-Molène (FR)
- Chausey (FR)
- Baie de Saint-Brieuc – Est (FR)
- Côtes de Crozon (FR)
- Baie du Mont Saint-Michel (FR)
- Baie de Lancieux, Baie de l'Arguenon, Archipel de Saint Malo et Dinard (FR)
- Estuairie de la Rance (FR)
- Chaussée de Sein (FR)
- Récifs du talus du golfe de Gascogne (FR)

Further information is required to assess the potential effects of the proposed works on these European Sites.

All Natura 2000 sites within 15km, and beyond 15km with the potential for significant effects on Natura 2000 sites (including Irish, French, and UK sites), are listed in Tables 8-10. The qualifying interests, and the potential impact of the development on each European site and qualifying interest, are screened in/out in Table 11.

The proposed Survey Route Corridor and Works (including landfall onto Ballyloughane Beach) is demonstrated in Figures 21-24. Waterbodies located proximate to the Survey Route Corridor is demonstrated in Figure 25. SPAs and SACs within / proximate to the proposed Survey Route Corridor are demonstrated in Figures 26 & 27. SACs and SPAs within 15 km of the proposed Survey Route Corridor are seen in Figures 28 & 29. The proposed fibre optic survey route in relation to the 12 nm limit, Designated Irish Continental shelf and Offshore SAC's (no offshore SAC's in the area) is demonstrated in Figure 30. IE, FR, & UK SACs designated for Grey Seals (*Halichoerus grypus*) within 448km of the Proposed Survey Route Corridor are demonstrated in Figure 31. IE, FR, & UK SACs designated for Harbour Seals (*Phoca vitulina*) within 273km of the Proposed Survey Route Corridor are demonstrated in Figure 32. IE, FR, & UK SACs located within the Management Units (MU) for Bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*) and Harbour Porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*) are demonstrated in Figures 33 & 34.

Table 8. Proximity to designated sites of conservation importance (IE)

Code	NATURA 2000 Site	Distance
Special Areas of Conservation		
000268	Galway Bay Complex SAC	**Route passes through site**
000020	Black Head-Poulsallagh Complex SAC	1 km
000297	Lough Corrib SAC	1.9 km
001275	Inisheer Island SAC	5.5 km
000036	Inagh River Estuary SAC	7.8 km
001926	East Burren Complex SAC	8.3 km
000054	Moneen Mountain SAC	8.5 km
000996	Ballyvaughan Turlough SAC	8.8 km
000994	Ballyteige (Clare) SAC	9.1 km
002034	Connemara Bog Complex SAC	9.3 km
000606	Lough Fingall Complex SAC	10.7 km
000212	Inishman Island SAC	10.8 km
001021	Carrowmore Point to Spanish Point and Islands SAC	12.8 km
000213	Inishmore Island SAC	13.6 km
001285	Kiltiernan Turlough SAC	13.9 km
002111	Kilkieran Bay And Islands SAC	19.2 km
002165	Lower River Shannon SAC	24.4 km **(Within MU for Common Bottlenose Dolphin)**
002074	Slyne Head Peninsula SAC	57 km **(Within MU for Common Bottlenose Dolphin)**
002998	West Connacht Coast SAC	63.1 km **(Within MU for Common Bottlenose Dolphin)**
000328	Slyne Head Islands SAC	64.7 km **(Within MU for Common Bottlenose Dolphin)**
001482	Clew Bay Complex SAC	67.6 km
000328	Slyne Head Islands SAC	64.7 km
002172	Blasket Island SAC	67.7 km **(Within MU for Harbour Porpoise)**
000278	Inishbofin and Inishshark SAC	76.2 km
000458	Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SAC	94.2 km
000622	Ballysadare Bay SAC	108.1 km
002158	Kenmare River SAC	114.2 km
000627	Cummeen Strand/Drumcliffe Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC	114.7 km
000495	Duvillaun Islands SAC	116 km **(Within MU for Common Bottlenose Dolphin)**
000507	Inishkea Islands SAC	120.3 km
000090	Glengarriff Harbour and Woodland SAC	121.8 km
000101	Roaring Water Bay and Islands SAC	146.9 km **(Within MU for Harbour Porpoise)**
000190	Slieve Tooey/Tormore Island/Loughbros Beg Bay SAC	160.5 km
000133	Donegal Bay (Murvagh) SAC	157.4 km
000781	Slaney River Valley SAC	158.3 km

000197	West of Adara/Maas Road SAC	170.4 km
002283	Rutland Island and Sound SAC	187.5 km
003000	Rockabill to Dalkey Islands SAC	195.3 km **(Within MU for Harbour Porpoise)**
000707	Saltee Islands SAC	198.7 km
000204	Lambay Island SAC	199.8 km
000147	Horn Head and Rinclevan SAC	220.4 km
Special Protection Areas		
004031	Inner Galway Bay SPA	**Route passes through site**
004152	Inishmore SPA	3.2 km
004005	Cliffs of Moher SPA	4.1 km
004042	Lough Corrib SPA	5.1 km
004142	Cregganna Marsh SPA	5.9 km
004181	Connemara Bog Complex SPA	9.7 km

Table 9. Proximity to designated sites of conservation importance (UK)

Designation	European Site	Distance
SAC	Murlough	227.6 km
SAC	North Anglesey Marine/Gogledd Môn Forol	245.7 km **(Within MU for Harbour Porpoise)**
SAC	Strangford Lough	251.3 km
SAC	North Channel	257.8 km **(Within MU for Harbour Porpoise)**
SAC	West Wales Marine / Gorllewin Cymru Forol	265.7 km **(Within MU for Harbour Porpoise)**
SAC	Pembrokeshire Marine / Sir Benfro Forol	274.8 km
SAC	The Maidens	277.5 km
SAC	Pen Llyn a'r Sarnau/Lleyn Peninsula and the Sarnau	284.2 km
SAC	Cardigan Bay / Bae Ceredigion	295.3 km
SAC	Bristol Channel Approaches/Dynesfeydd Môr Hafren	335.2 km **(Within MU for Harbour Porpoise)**
SAC	Lundy	372.2 km
SAC	Isles of Scilly Complex	391.5 km
SAC	Treshnish Isles	393 km

Table 10. Proximity to designated sites of conservation importance (FR)

Code	Natura 2000 Site	Distance
Special Areas of Conservation		
Marine Mammals		
SAC	Mers Celtiques – Talus du golfe de Gascogne	251.6 km **(Within MU for Harbour Porpoise & Common Bottlenose Dolphin)**
SAC	Récifs du talus du golfe de Gascogne	305.2 km **(Within MU for Harbour Porpoise & Common Bottlenose Dolphin)**
SAC	Nord Bretagne DH	530.2 km **(Within MU for Harbour Porpoise)**
SAC	Ouessant-Molène	581.9 km **(Within MU for Harbour Porpoise)**
SAC	Abers – Côtes des légendes	587.7 km **(Within MU for Harbour Porpoise)**
SAC	Chaussée de Sein	589.4 km **(Within MU for Harbour Porpoise)**
SAC	Côte de Granit rose-Sept-Iles	594.8 km **(Within MU for Harbour Porpoise)**
SAC	Baie de Morlaix	603.1 km **(Within MU for Harbour Porpoise)**
SAC	Trégor – Goëlo	613 km **(Within MU for Harbour Porpoise)**
SAC	Côtes de Crozon	623.5 km **(Within MU for Harbour Porpoise)**
SAC	Récifs et landes de la Hague	623.9 km **(Within MU for Harbour Porpoise)**
SAC	Rivière Leguer, forêts de Beffou, Coat an Noz et Coat an Hay	627 km **(Within MU for Harbour Porpoise)**
SAC	Anse de Vauville	630.1 km **(Within MU for Harbour Porpoise)**
SAC	Banc et récifs de Surtainville	643.9 km **(Within MU for Harbour Porpoise)**
SAC	Cap d'Erquy-Cap Fréhel	670.4 km **(Within MU for Harbour Porpoise)**
SAC	Baie de Saint-Brieuc - Est	681.3 km **(Within MU for Harbour Porpoise)**
SAC	Chaucy	687.6 km **(Within MU for Harbour Porpoise)**
SAC	Baie de Lancieux, Baie de l'Arguenon, Archipel de Saint Malo et Dinard	699.3 km **(Within MU for Harbour Porpoise)**
SAC	Estuairie de la Rance	714.6 km **(Within MU for Harbour Porpoise)**
SAC	Baie du Mont Saint-Michel	715 km **(Within MU for Harbour Porpoise)**

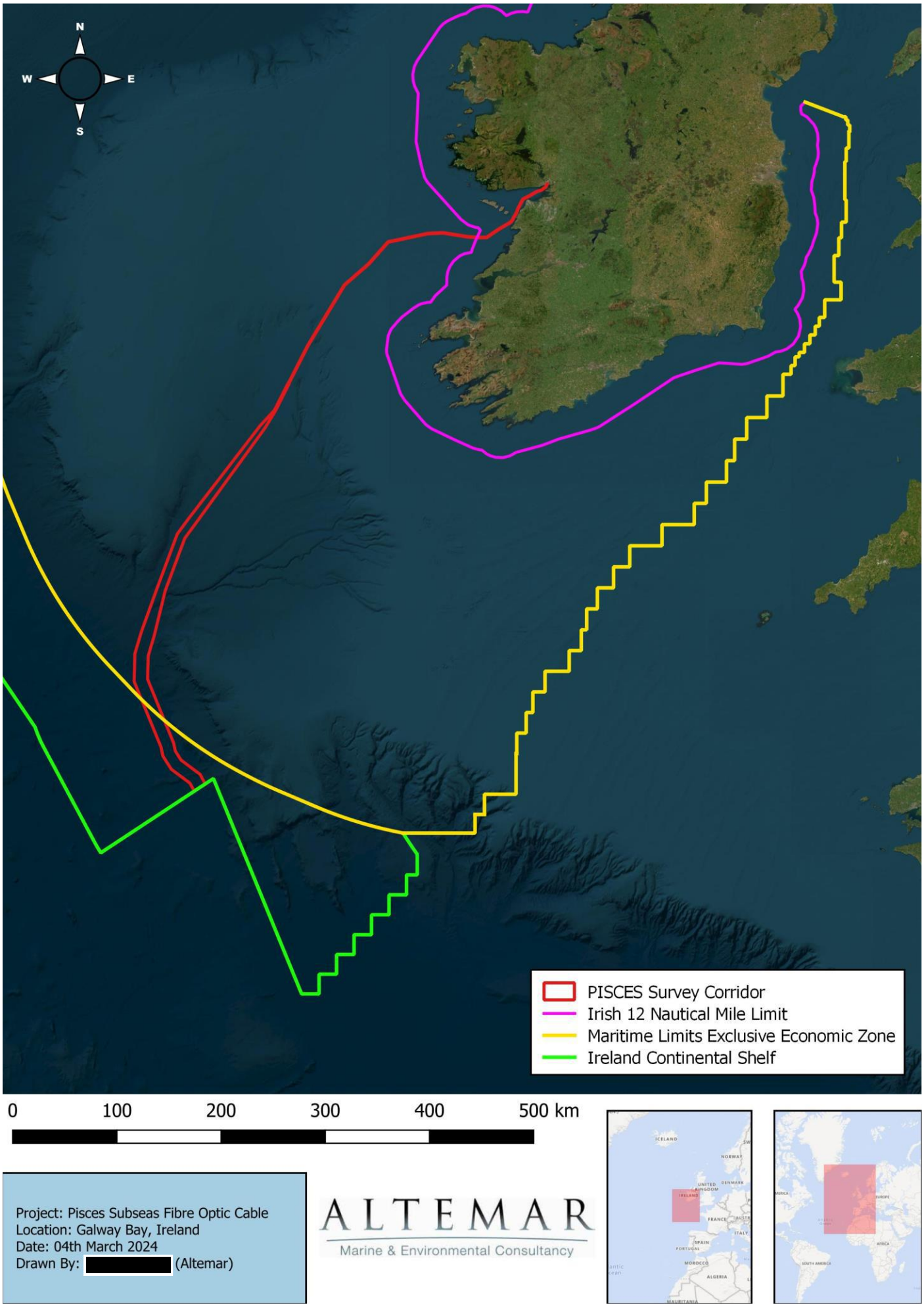


Figure 21: Proposed Survey Route Corridor (incl. 12nm limit, EEZ, & Irish Continental Shelf)

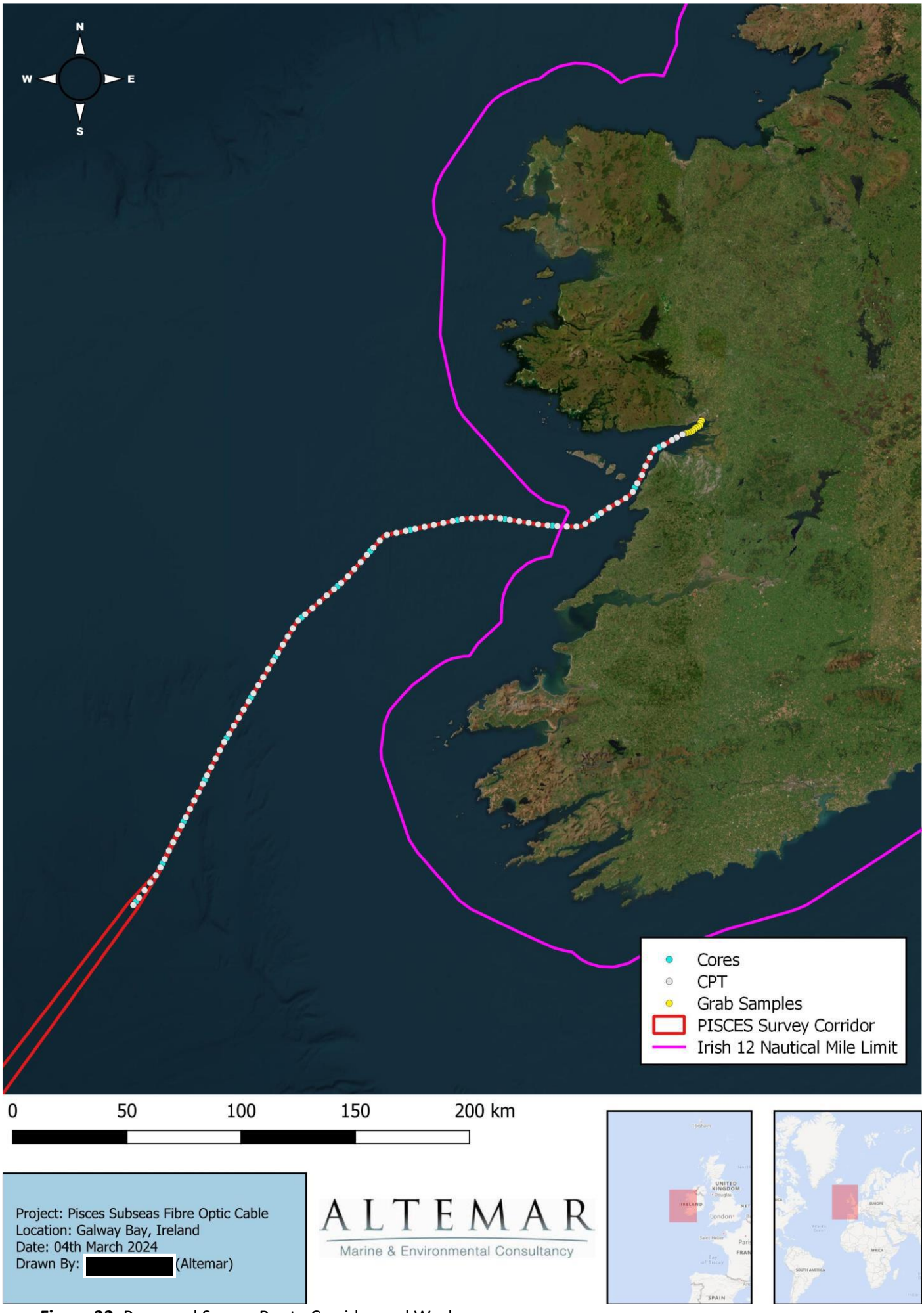


Figure 22: Proposed Survey Route Corridor and Works

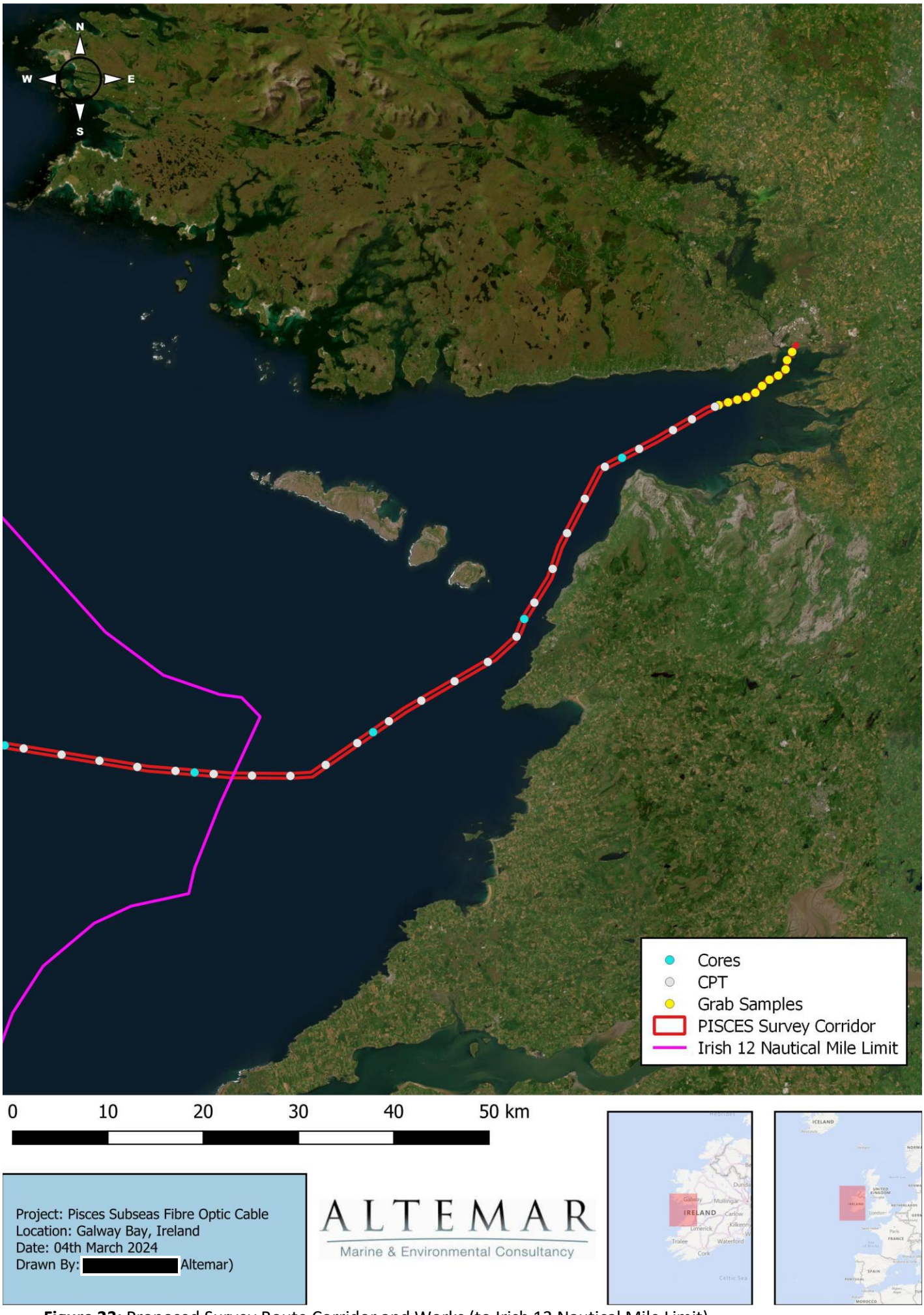


Figure 23: Proposed Survey Route Corridor and Works (to Irish 12 Nautical Mile Limit).

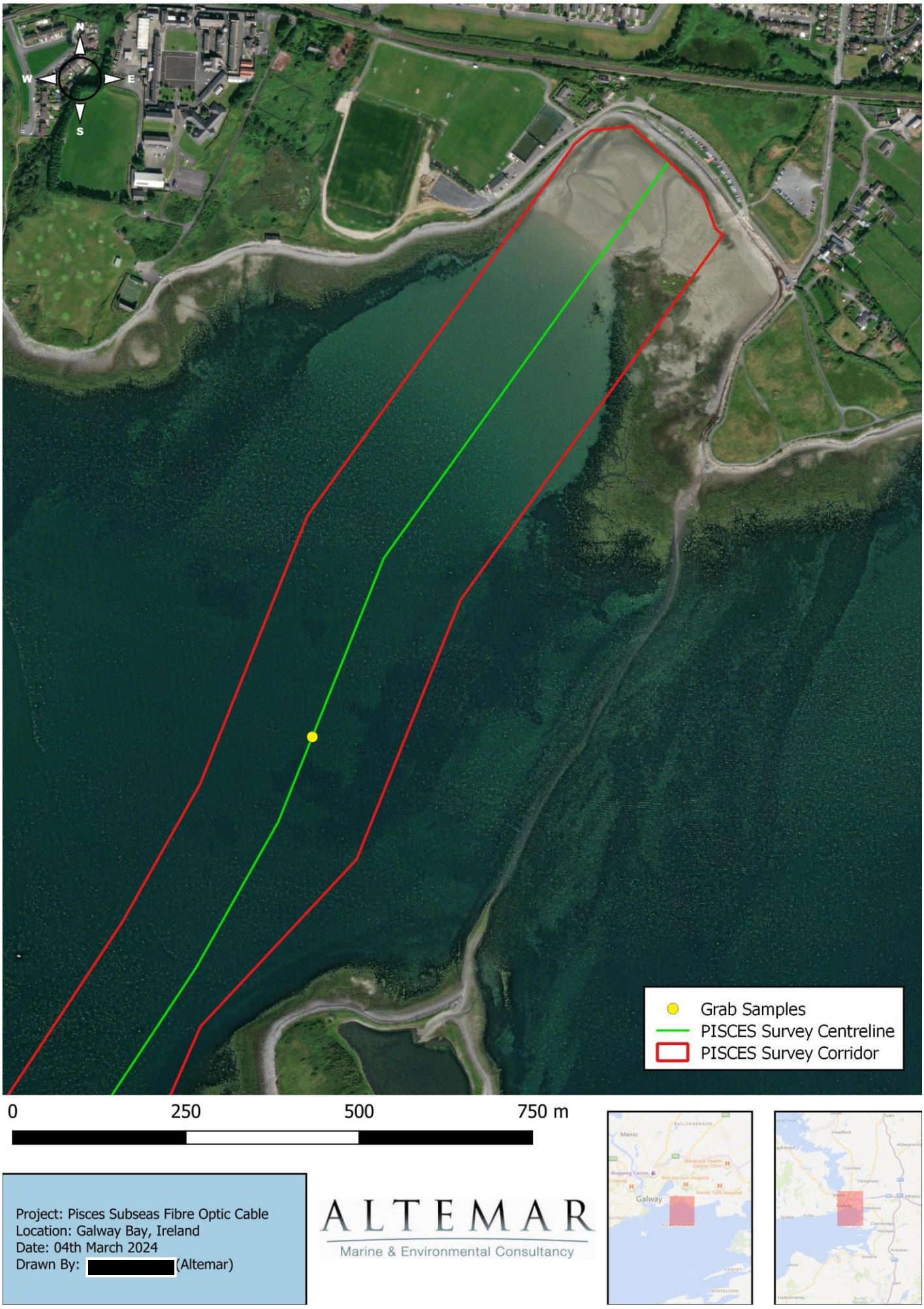


Figure 24. Proposed Survey Route Corridor within Ballyloughane Beach

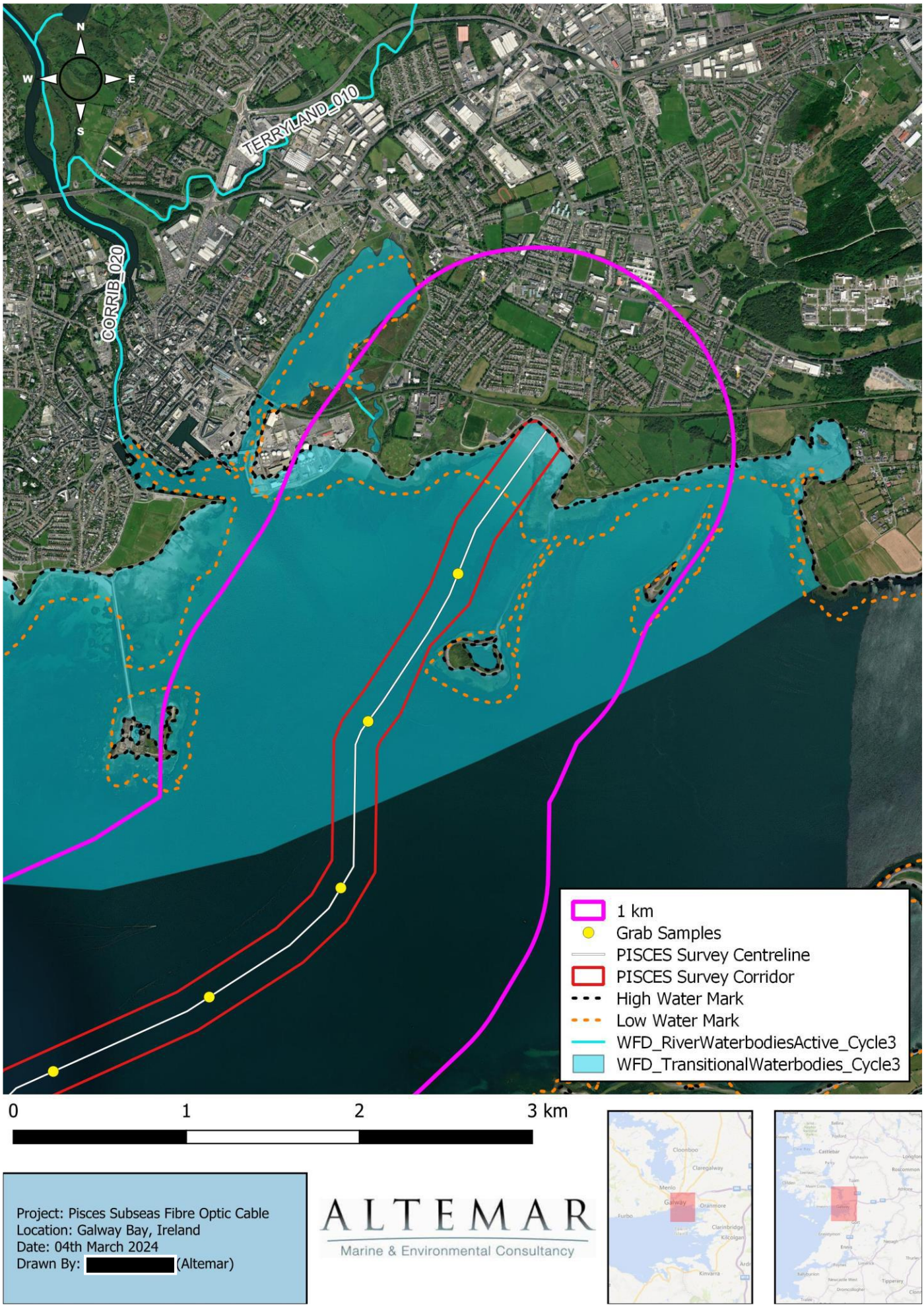


Figure 25. Waterbodies proximate to the proposed Survey Route Corridor.

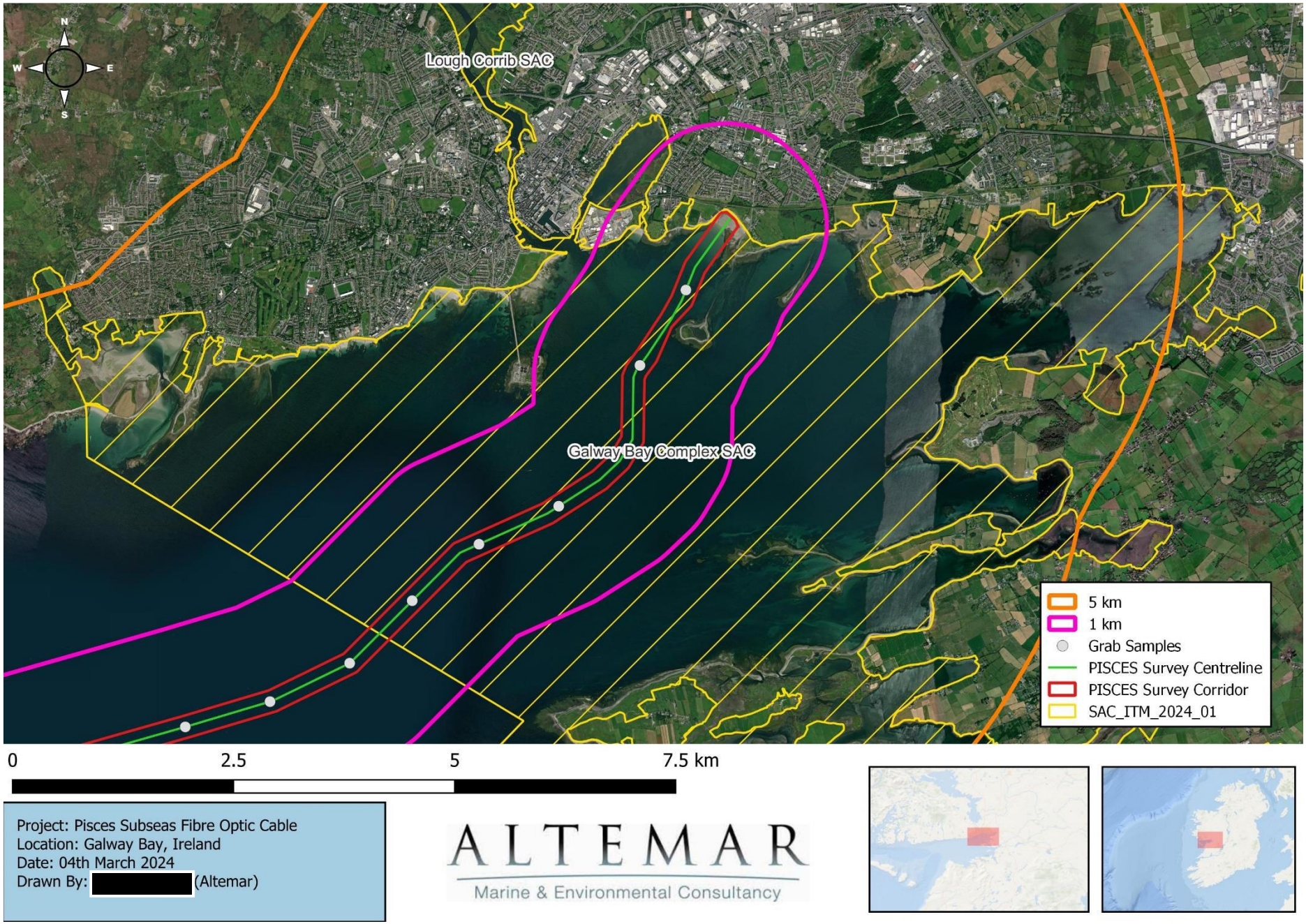


Figure 26: Special Areas of Conservation proximate to the proposed Survey Route Corridor and Works.

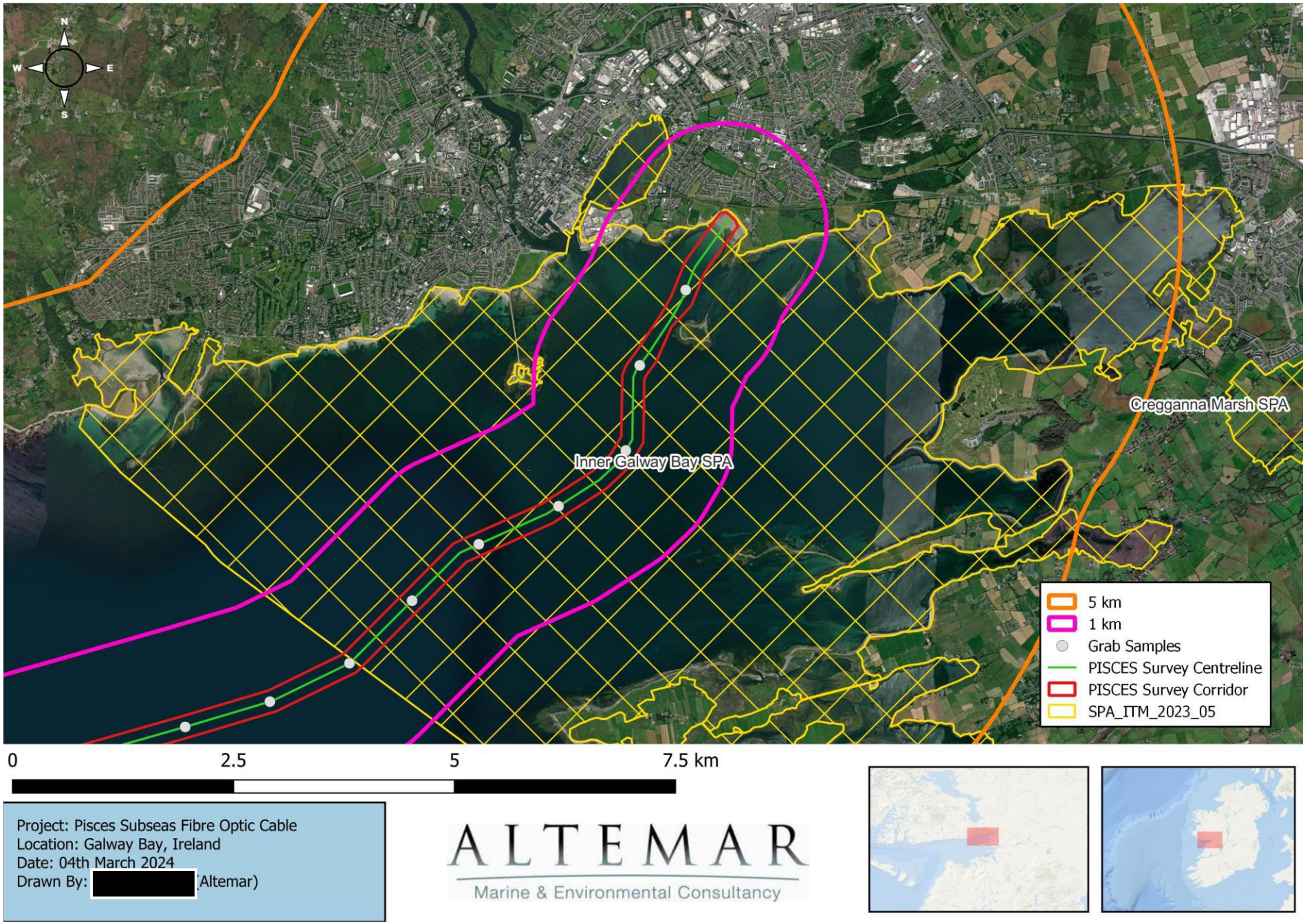


Figure 27: Special Protection Areas proximate to the proposed Survey Route Corridor and Works

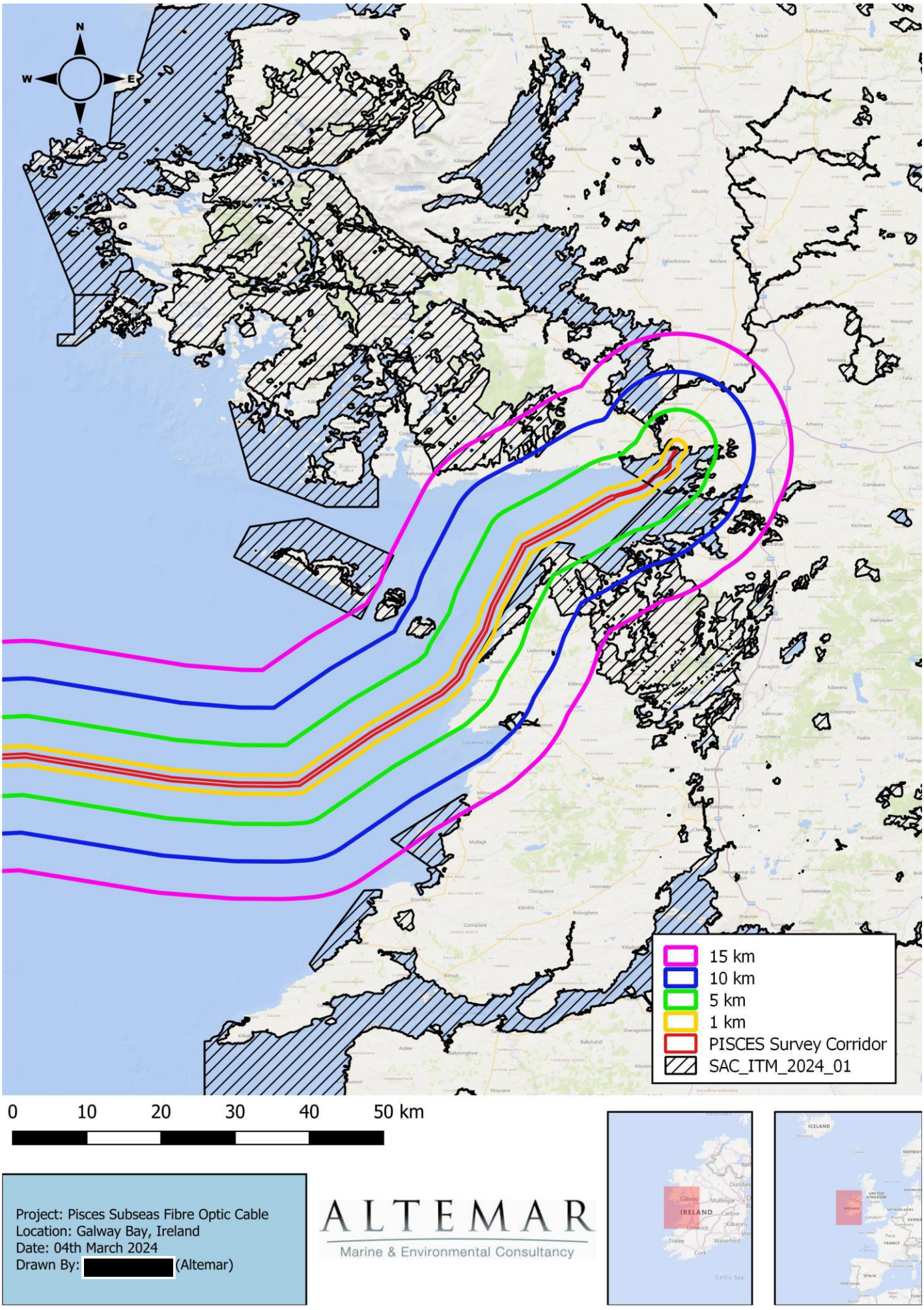


Figure 28: Special Areas of Conservation within 15 km of the proposed Survey Route Corridor.

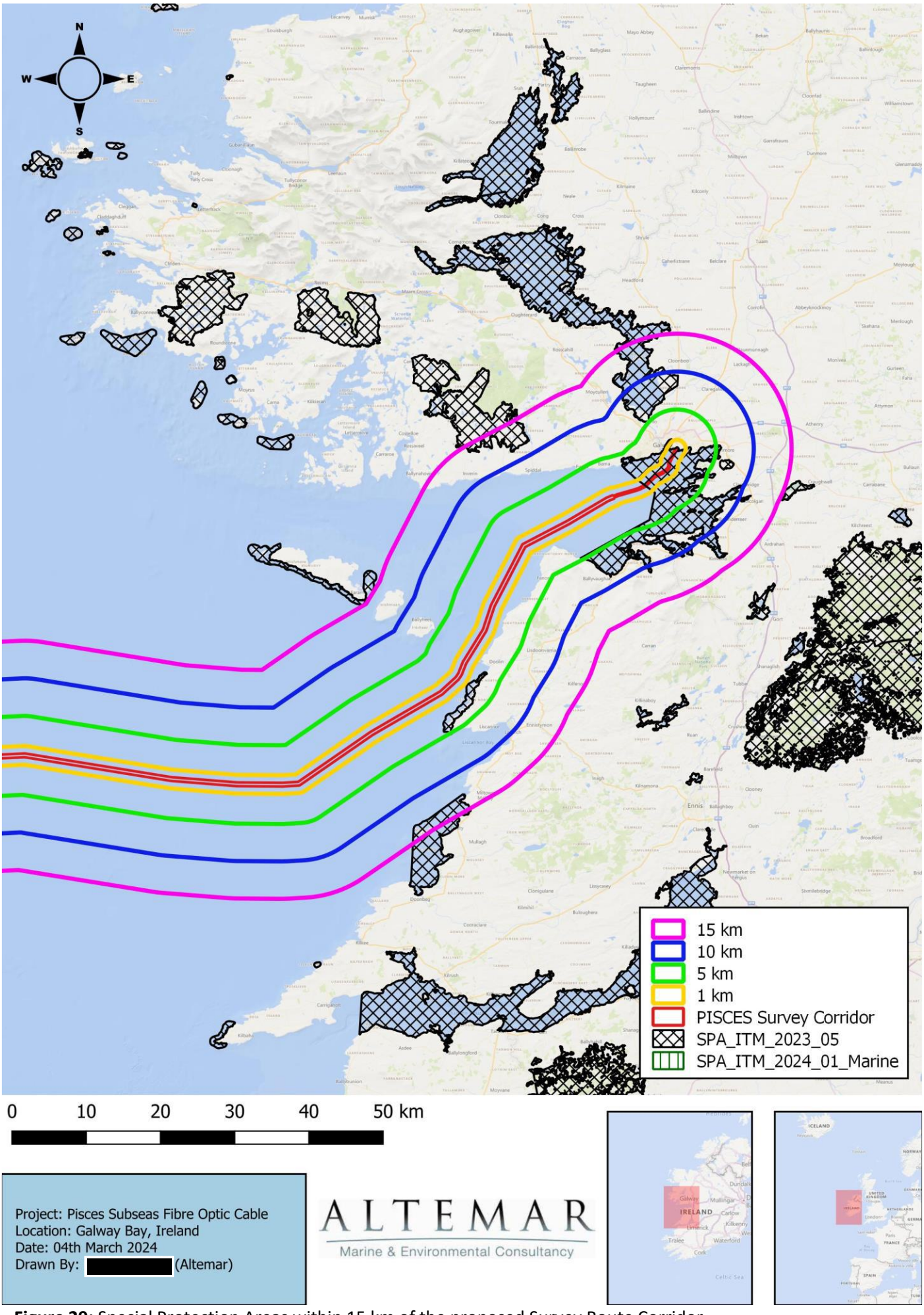


Figure 29: Special Protection Areas within 15 km of the proposed Survey Route Corridor.

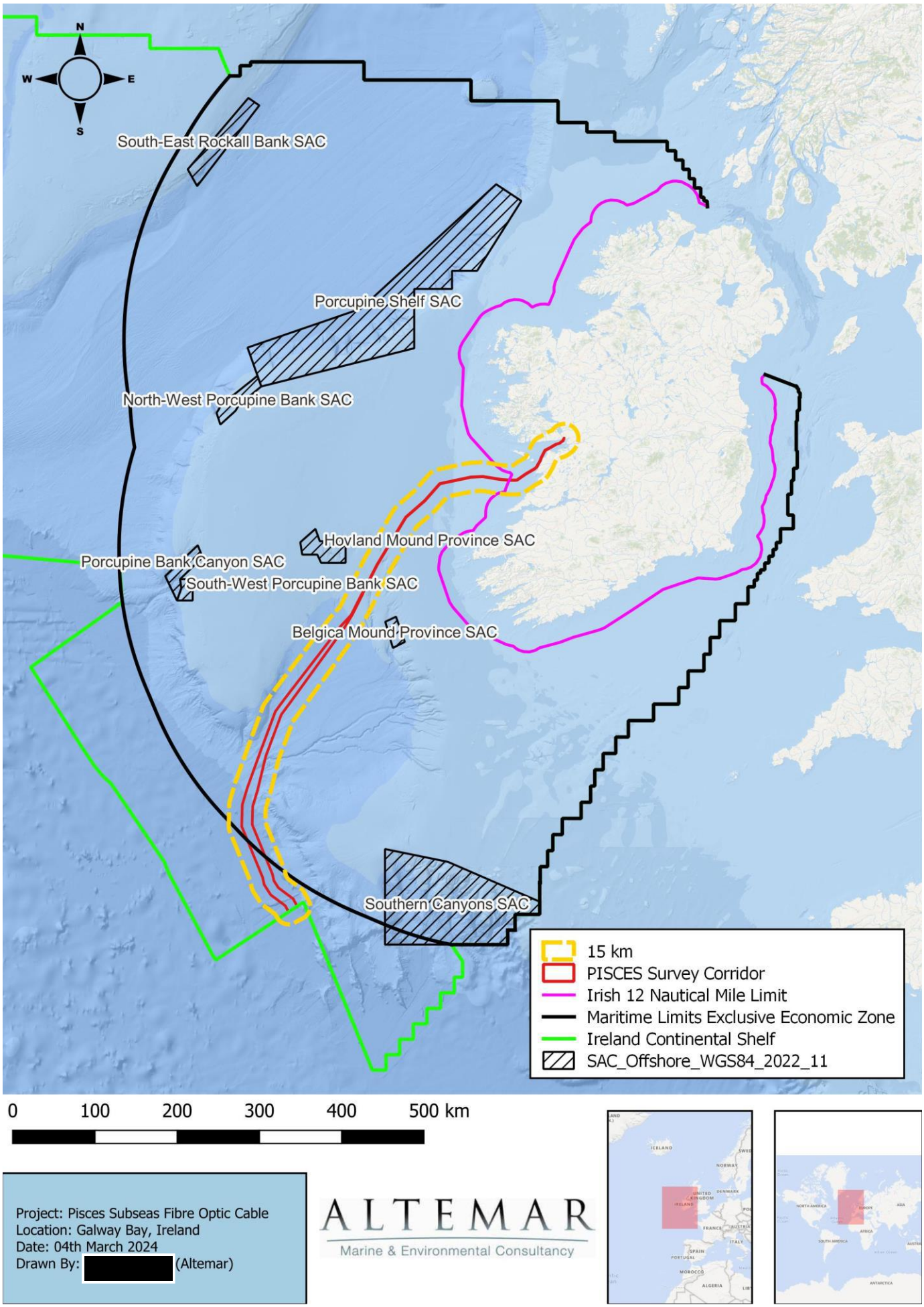


Figure 30: Fibre optic survey route in relation to the 12 nm limit, Designated Irish Continental shelf and Offshore SAC's (no offshore SAC's in the area).

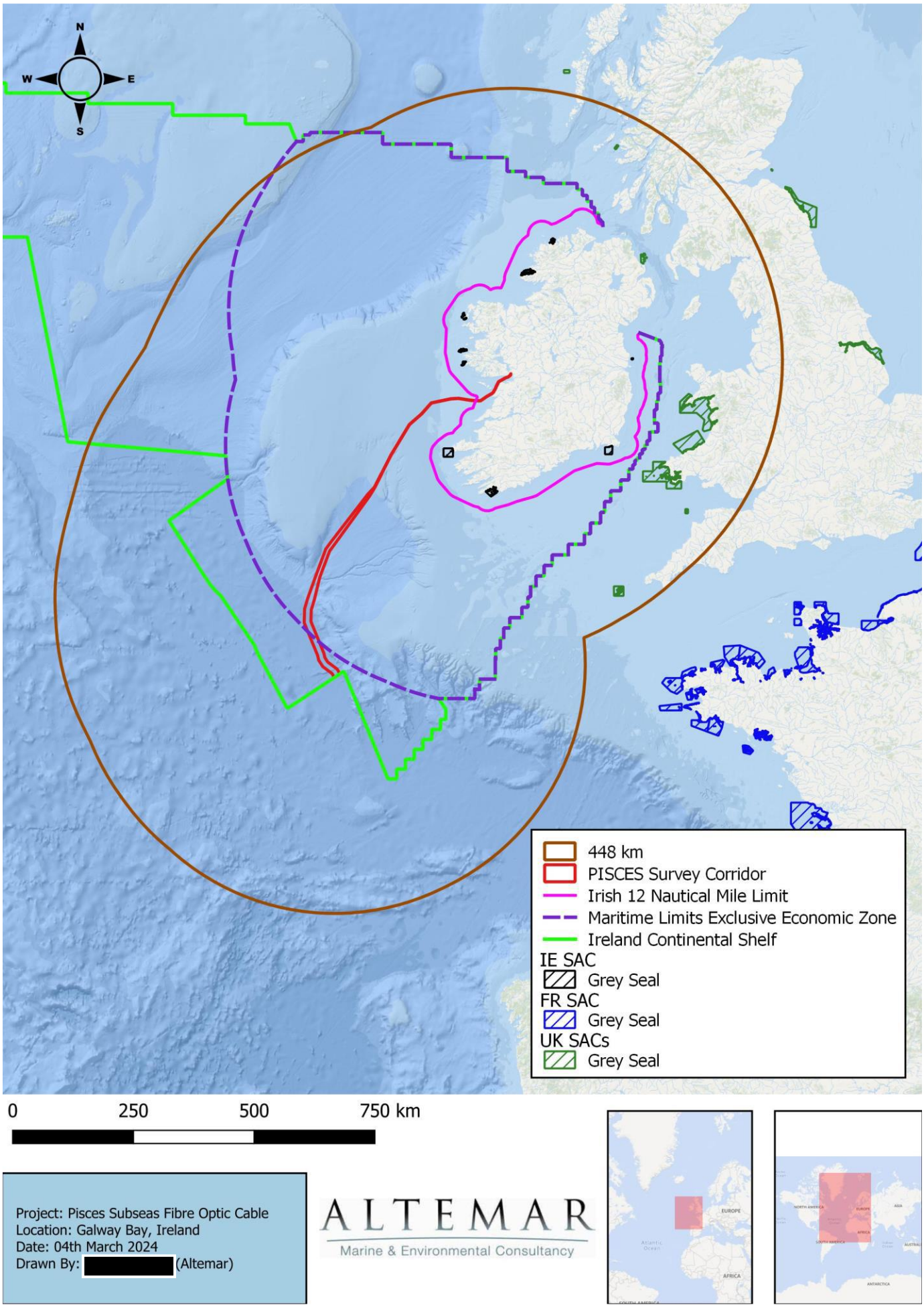


Figure 31: IE, FR, & UK SACs designated for Grey Seals (*Halichoerus grypus*) within 448km of the Proposed Survey Route Corridor.

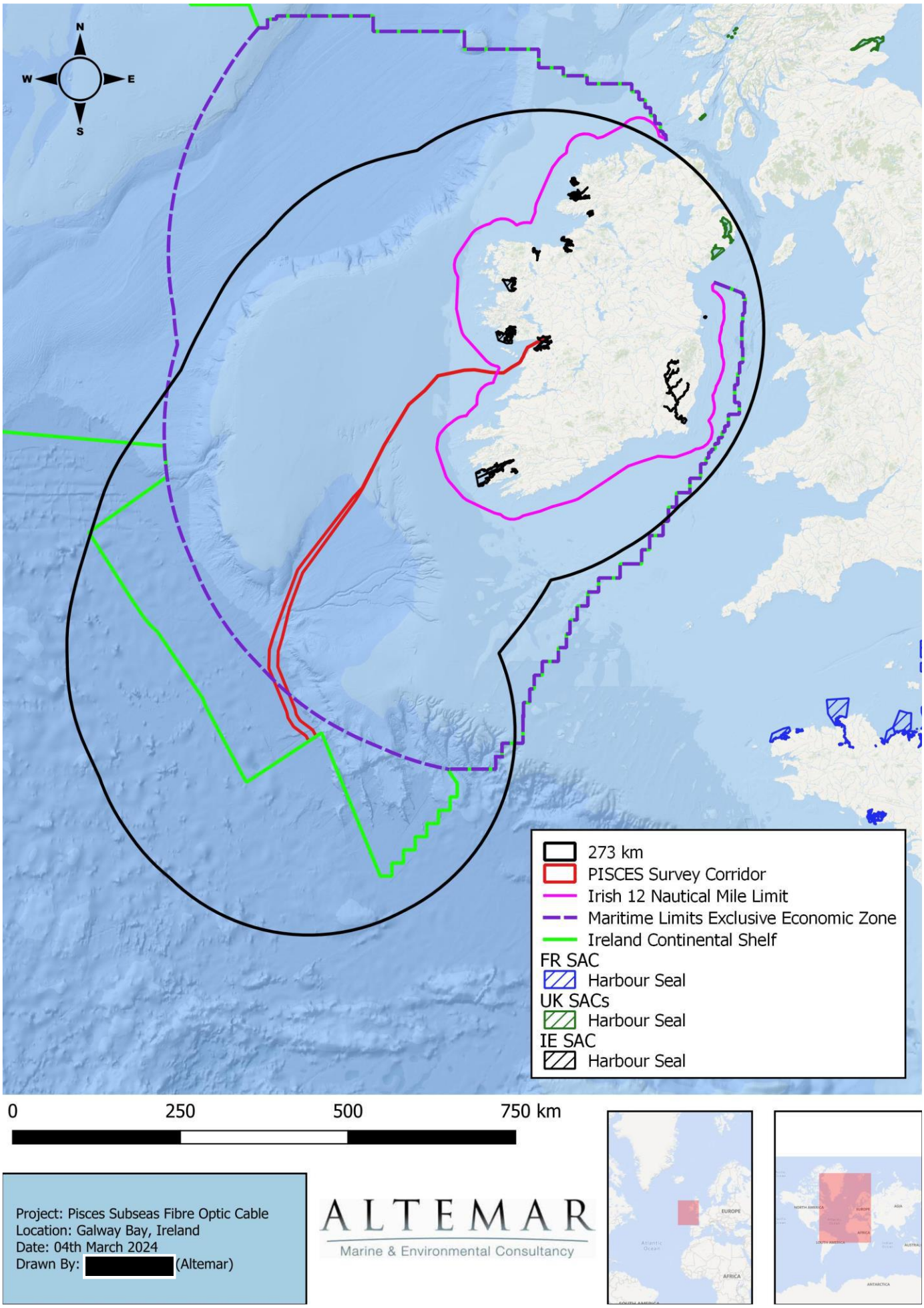


Figure 32: IE, FR, & UK SACs designated for Harbour Seals (*Phoca vitulina*) within 273km of the Proposed Survey Route Corridor

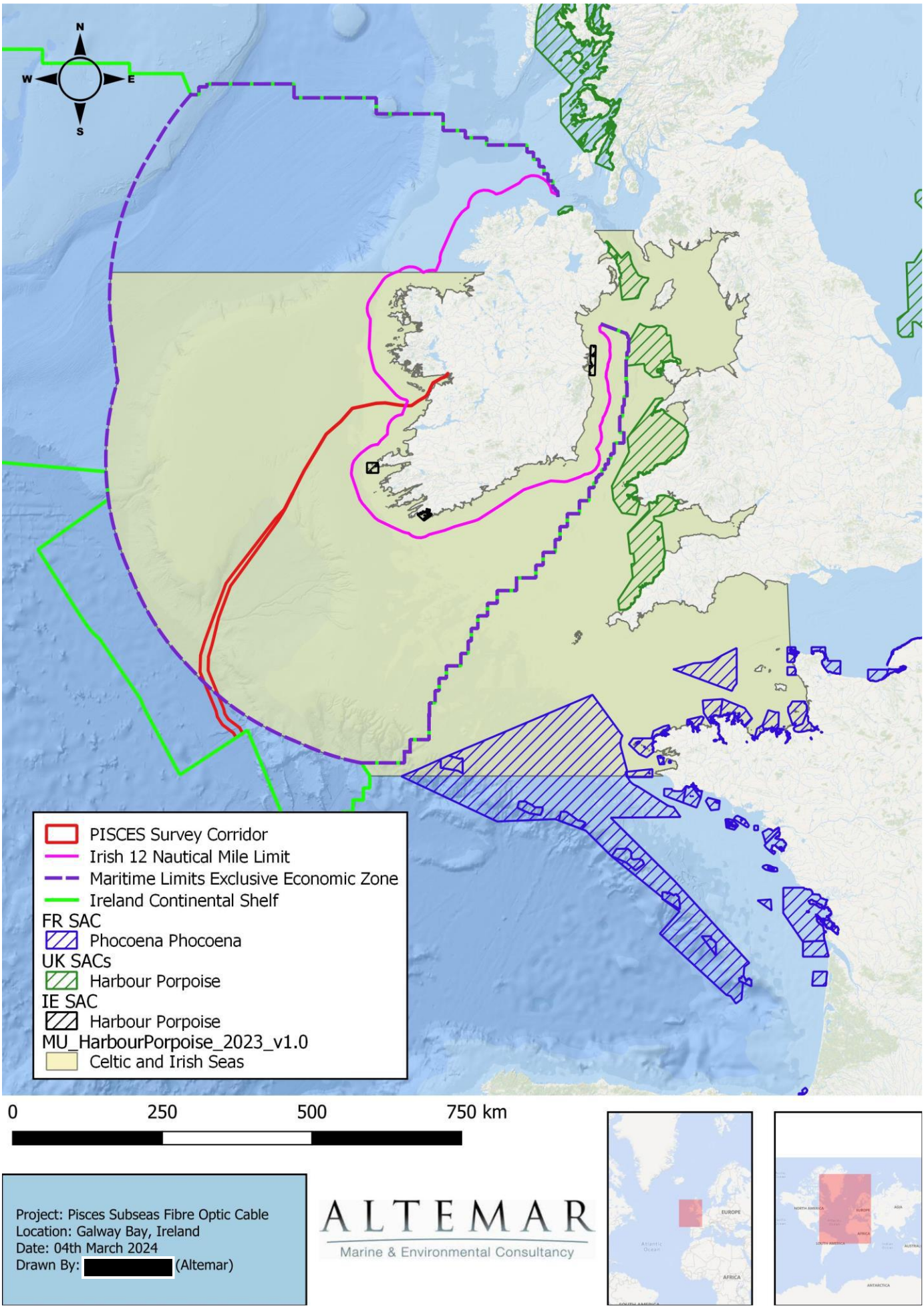


Figure 33: IE, FR, & UK SACs designated for Harbour Porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*) within the Celtic and Irish Seas MU for Harbour Porpoise

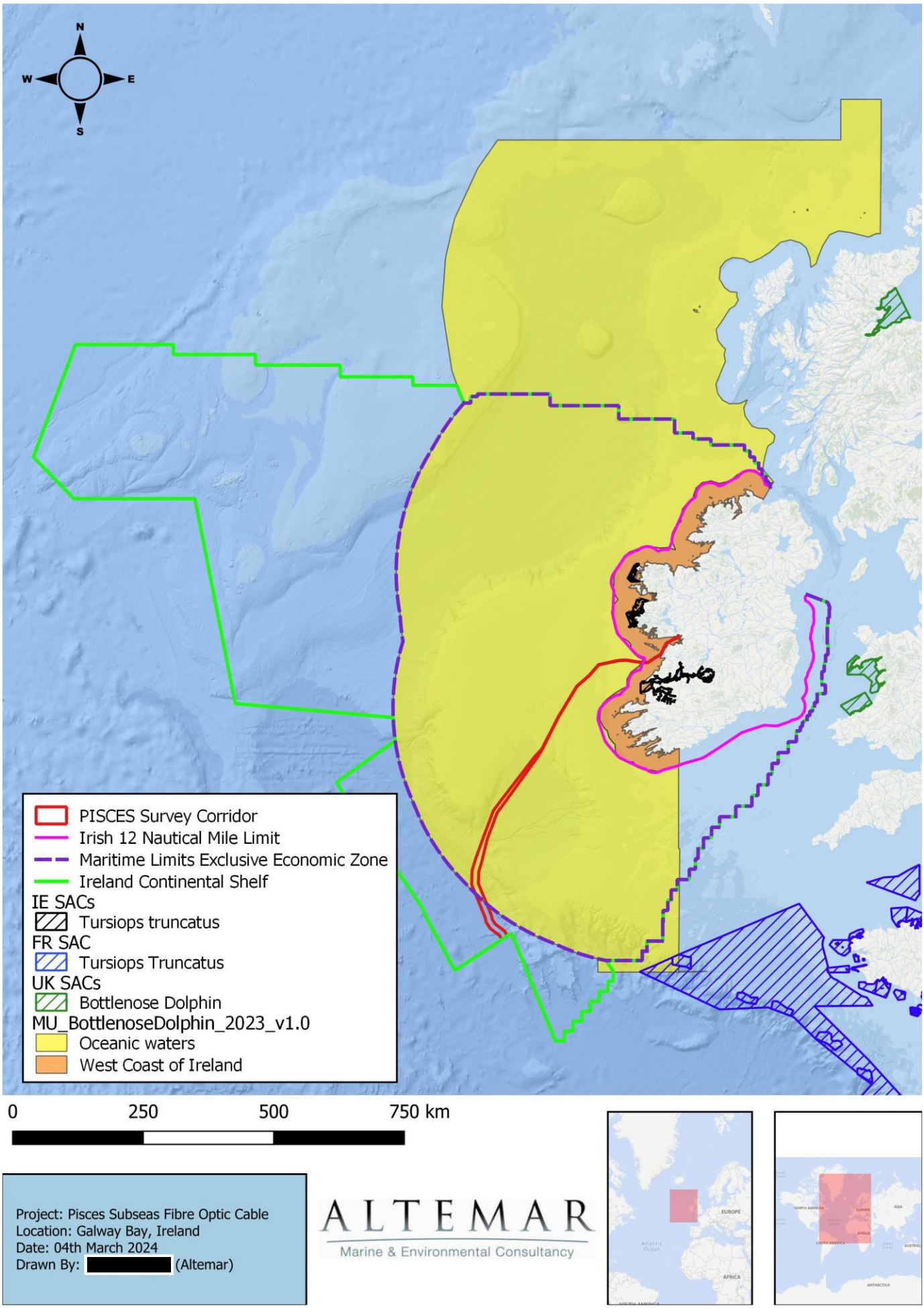


Figure 34: IE, FR, & UK SACs designated for Bottlenose Dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*) within the Oceanic Waters MU and West Coast of Ireland MU for Bottlenose Dolphin

Table 11. Initial screening of Natura 2000 sites within 15km of the proposed survey route.

NATURA Site Code	NAME	Screened In/Out	SSCO's/ Potential for likely significant effects.
Special Protection Areas			
IE004031	Inner Galway Bay SPA	**IN**	*Objective:* To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA: A002 Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica* A003 Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer* A017 Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo* A028 Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea* A046 Light-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla hrota* A050 Wigeon *Anas penelope* A052 Teal *Anas crecca* A056 Shoveler *Anas clypeata* A069 Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator* A137 Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula* A140 Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria* A142 Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus* A149 Dunlin *Calidris alpina alpina* A157 Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica* A160 Curlew *Numenius arquata* A162 Redshank *Tringa totanus* A169 Turnstone *Arenaria interpres* A179 Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus* A182 Common Gull *Larus canus* A191 Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis* A193 Common Tern *Sterna hirundo* A999 Wetlands *Potential for likely significant effects.* The proposed cable survey route passes through this SPA. The survey is in the marine intertidal of Ballyloughane Strand, in addition to the terrestrial environment in the vicinity of the beach and within the subtidal marine environment, including offshore areas. Landfall Site Investigations will be undertaken to establish the depth and nature of the sediment. The focus of the site investigations will be on the upper layers of sediment to assess the feasibility of cable burial and installation techniques. The following may be undertaken at the landfall: • Bar probes on the intertidal at 10m spacing (approx. 8 to 10 at the landfall). • Bar probes from the Low Water Line to the 3m water depth contour at 30m spacing. (approx. 8 to 10 at the landfall) • 3 Trial Pits on the beach (by digger) (target depth 2.5m). The bar probes on the intertidal are manually driven to a depth of 2 metres simply to prove the depth of upper layers of sand, gravel or soft material. The Trial Pits will be positioned at approximately 30 to 50m centres starting seaward of the High Water Mark. The Trial Pits will be excavated by machinery, logged, photographed and backfilled in a single tidal cycle. The trial pits will be backfilled with the original excavated materials in the

NATURA Site Code	NAME	Screened In/Out	SSCO's/ Potential for likely significant effects.
			sequence in which they are excavated. The site investigation works are outside the over wintering bird season and will be carried out in the April-September 2025 period. The works are within an area of existing vessel traffic in Galway Bay and the intertidal element is on a popular beach with a car park and existing human and dog walking activity. However, initial assessment identifies that, in the absence of mitigation measures, there may be potential for impact on the features of interest of this SPA through physical impact on the intertidal and subtidal sediments within the SPA and physical disturbance which could impact the Features of Interest of this SPA. Mitigation measures are required to protect the SPA from significant effects. **Natura Impact Statement Required**
IE004152	Inishmore SPA	**Out**	**Conservation Objective** To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA. **Qualifying Interest** Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*) [A188] Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*) [A194] Little Tern (*Sterna albifrons*) [A195] Guillemot (*Uria aalge*) [A199] **Potential for likely significant effects.** This SPA is located 3.2 km from the proposed cable survey area. The survey is in the marine intertidal of Ballyloughane Strand, in addition to the terrestrial environment in the vicinity of the beach and within the subtidal marine environment, including offshore areas. The proposed survey works will be within an area of existing vessel traffic and the intertidal element is on a popular beach with a car park and existing human and dog walking activity. Due to the scale and timing of the proposed survey works, and the distance from the proposed survey area to this SPA, no disturbance impacts on this SPA are foreseen. The presence of a vessel offshore in an area of vessel activity and at such a distance would not be deemed to have an impact on the conservation objectives of this SPA. In the absence of mitigation, there will be no significant effects on the features of interest from the proposed works associated with this survey license application. **No significant impact likely.**
IE004005	Cliffs of Moher SPA	**Out**	**Conservation Objective** To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA. **Qualifying Interest** Fulmar (*Fulmarus glacialis*) [A009] Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*) [A188] Guillemot (*Uria aalge*) [A199] Razorbill (*Alca torda*) [A200]

NATURA Site Code	NAME	Screened In/Out	SSCO's/ Potential for likely significant effects.
			Puffin (*Fratercula arctica*) [A204] Chough (*Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*) [A346] **Potential for likely significant effects** This SPA is located 4.1 km from the proposed cable survey area. The survey is in the marine intertidal of Ballyloughane Strand, in addition to the terrestrial environment in the vicinity of the beach and within the subtidal marine environment, including offshore areas. The proposed survey works will be within an area of existing vessel traffic and the intertidal element is on a popular beach with a car park and existing human and dog walking activity. Due to the scale and timing of the proposed survey works, and the distance from the proposed survey area to this SPA, no disturbance impacts on this SPA are foreseen. The presence of a vessel offshore in an area of vessel activity and at such a distance would not be deemed to have an impact on the conservation objectives of this SPA. In the absence of mitigation, there will be no significant effects on the features of interest from the proposed works associated with this survey license application. **No significant impact likely.**
IE004042	Lough Corrib SPA	**Out**	**Conservation Objective** To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA. **Qualifying Interest** A051Gadwall *Anas strepera* A056 Shoveler *Anas clypeata* A059Pochard *Aythya ferina* A061 Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula* A065 Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra* A082Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus* A125 Coot *Fulica atra* A140 Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria* A179 Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus* A182 Common Gull *Larus canus* A193 Common Tern *Sterna hirundo* A194 Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea* A395 Greenland White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons flavirostris* A999 Wetlands **Potential for likely significant effects** This SPA is located 5.1 km from the proposed cable survey area. The survey is in the marine intertidal of Ballyloughane Strand, in addition to the terrestrial environment in the vicinity of the beach and within the subtidal marine environment, including offshore areas. The proposed survey works will be within an area of existing vessel traffic and the intertidal element is on a popular beach with a car park and existing human and dog walking activity. Due to the scale and timing of the proposed survey works, and the distance from the proposed survey area to this SPA, no disturbance impacts on this SPA are foreseen. The presence of a vessel offshore in an area of vessel activity and at such a distance would not be deemed to have an impact on the conservation objectives of this SPA. In the

NATURA Site Code	NAME	Screened In/Out	SSCO's/ Potential for likely significant effects.
			absence of mitigation, there will be no significant effects on the features of interest from the proposed works associated with this survey license application. **No significant impact likely.**
IE004142	Cregganna Marsh SPA	**Out**	**Conservation Objective** To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA. **Qualifying Interest** A395: Greenland White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons flavirostris* **Potential for likely significant effects** This SPA is located 5.9 km from the proposed cable survey area. The survey is in the marine intertidal of Ballyloughane Strand, in addition to the terrestrial environment in the vicinity of the beach and within the subtidal marine environment, including offshore areas. The proposed survey works will be within an area of existing vessel traffic and the intertidal element is on a popular beach with a car park and existing human and dog walking activity. Due to the scale and timing of the proposed survey works, and the distance from the proposed survey area to this SPA, no disturbance impacts on this SPA are foreseen. The presence of a vessel offshore in an area of vessel activity and at such a distance would not be deemed to have an impact on the conservation objectives of this SPA. In the absence of mitigation, there will be no significant effects on the features of interest from the proposed works associated with this survey license application. **No significant impact likely.**
IE004181	Connemara Bog Complex SPA	**Out**	**Conservation Objective** To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA. **Features of Interest** A017 Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo* A098 Merlin *Falco columbarius* A140 Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria* A182 Common Gull *Larus canus* **Potential for likely significant effects** This SPA is located 9.7 km from the proposed cable survey area. The survey is in the marine intertidal of Ballyloughane Strand, in addition to the terrestrial environment in the vicinity of the beach and within the subtidal marine environment, including offshore areas. The proposed survey works will be within an area of existing vessel traffic and the intertidal element is on a popular beach with a car park and existing human and dog walking activity. Due to the scale and timing of the proposed survey works, and the distance from the proposed survey area to this SPA, no disturbance impacts on this SPA are foreseen. The presence of a vessel

NATURA Site Code	NAME	Screened In/Out	SSCO's/ Potential for likely significant effects.
			offshore in an area of vessel activity and at such a distance would not be deemed to have an impact on the conservation objectives of this SPA. In the absence of mitigation, there will be no significant effects on the features of interest from the proposed works associated with this survey license application. **No significant impact likely.**

NATURA Site	NAME	Screened In/Out	SSCO's/Reason
Special Areas of Conservation			
IE 000268	Galway Bay Complex SAC	**IN**	**Objective:** To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected: 1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide 1150 Coastal lagoons* 1160 Large shallow inlets and bays 1170 Reefs 1220 Perennial vegetation of stony banks 1310 Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand 1330 Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*) 1355 Otter *Lutra lutra* 1365 Harbour seal *Phoca vitulina* 1410 Mediterranean salt meadows (*Juncetalia maritimi*) 3180 Turloughs* 5130 *Juniperus communis* formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands 6210 Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (*Festuco Brometalia*)(*important orchid sites) 7210 Calcareous fens with *Cladium mariscus* and species of the *Caricion davallianae** 7230 Alkaline fens ***Potential for significant effects.*** The proposed cable survey route passes through this SAC. The survey is in the marine intertidal of Ballyloughane Strand, in addition to the terrestrial environment in the vicinity of the beach and within the subtidal marine environment, including offshore areas. Landfall Site Investigations will be undertaken to establish the depth and nature of the sediment. The focus of the site investigations will be on the upper layers of sediment to assess the feasibility of cable burial and installation techniques. The following may be undertaken at the landfall: • Bar probes on the intertidal at 10m spacing (approx. 8 to 10 at each landfall).

NATURA Site	NAME	Screened In/Out	SSCO's/Reason
			• Bar probes from the Low Water Line to the 3m water depth contour at 30m spacing. (approx. 8 to 10 at each landfall) • 3 Trial Pits on the beach (target depth 2.5m). The bar probes on the intertidal are manually driven to a depth of 2 metres simply to prove the depth of upper layers of sand, gravel or soft material. The Trial Pits will be positioned at approximately 30 to 50m centres starting seaward of the High Water Mark. The Trial Pits will be excavated, logged, photographed and backfilled in a single tidal cycle. The trial pits will be backfilled with the original excavated materials in the sequence in which they are excavated. The works would result in temporary impacts on sediment and infauna within the qualifying habitat (1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide) in the immediate vicinity of the footprint of the beach works. No physical loss of the Habitat area of 1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide or would be foreseen. The proposed marine survey will not impactsubtidal reef habitat within the SAC. The proposed works could result in minor localised sedimentation if reef areas are adjacent to the works. However, these impacts would be localised and temporary. Harbour seal (*Phoca vitulina*) is a conservation interest of this SAC and mitigation measures are required in relation marine mammals during the proposed project. The proposed survey works on Ballyloughane Beach are not within the area defined as Large shallow inlets and Bays in Galway Bay Complex SAC. However, subtidal elements of the project are within approximately 2km of the area. The sensitive communities (Zostera-dominated community complex and the maërl-dominated community) as outlined in MERC (2006) were avoided in the initial proposed cable route planning. Groundtruthing of this route by video camera identified additional Maerl areas in addition to a *Virgularia mirabilis* habitat. The survey corridor was devised to avoid maerl (Conservation Interest) areas. Additional video surveys have been carried out to further optimise the route in the vicinity of *Virgularia mirabilis* (not listed as a conservation interest). Routing of the proposed survey corridor has been informed by the subtidal surveys in 2021 so as to cause minimal impact on this sensitive subtidal community that is not a feature of interest of the SAC. The habitat area of the Large shallow inlets and Bays would not be impacted by the works and impacts would be temporary and in the immediate vicinity of the proposed works along the proposed survey corridor. The survey works will be within an area of existing vessel traffic in Galway Bay and the intertidal element is on a popular beach with a car park and existing human and dog walking activity.

NATURA Site	NAME	Screened In/Out	SSCO's/Reason
			However, initial assessment identifies that in the absence of mitigation measures there may be potential for impact on the features of interest of this SAC through disturbance and the physical impact on the intertidal and subtidal sediments within the SAC and disturbance which could impact the Features of Interest of this SAC. Further information is required to assess the potential impact. **Natura Impact Statement Required**
IE000020	Black Head-Poulsallagh Complex SAC	**Out**	**Conservation Objective** To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected. **Qualifying Interests** 1170 Reefs 1220 Perennial vegetation of stony banks 1395 Petalwort *Petalophyllum ralfsii* 3260 Water courses of plain to montane levels with the *Ranunculion fluitantis* and *Callitricho-Batrachion* vegetation 4060 Alpine and Boreal heaths 5130 *Juniperus communis* formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands 6210 Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (*Festuco Brometalia*)(*important orchid sites) 6510 Lowland hay meadows (*Alopecurus pratensis, Sanguisorba officinalis*) 7220 Petrifying springs with tufa formation (*Cratoneurion*) 8240 Limestone pavements* 8330 Submerged or partially submerged sea caves **Potential for likely significant effects** This SAC is 1 km from the proposed cable survey area. The survey is in the marine intertidal of Ballyloughane Strand, in addition to the terrestrial environment in the vicinity of the beach and within the subtidal marine environment, including offshore areas. The proposed survey works will be in the marine environment will not impact on the conservation interests that are located in freshwater, intertidal or terrestrial habitats. In addition, in relation to the marine habitats, the proposed marine survey works are within marine sediments in a very exposed marine environment that is subject to significant wave action. Impacts from the survey works would be minor, localised and would not be expected to extend to the SAC 1 km from the works. **No significant effects are likely.**

NATURA Site	NAME	Screened In/Out	SSCO's/Reason
IE000297	Lough Corrib SAC	**Out**	**Conservation Objective** To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected. **Qualifying Interests** ***Habitats*** 3110 Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (*Littorelletalia uniflorae*) 3140 Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of *Chara* spp. 3260 Water courses of plain to montane levels with the *Ranunculion fluitantis* and *Callitricho-Batrachion* vegetation 6210 Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (*Festuco Brometalia*) (* important orchid sites)* 6410 Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (*Molinion caeruleae*) 7110 Active raised bogs* 7120 Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration 7150 Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion 7210 Calcareous fens with *Cladium mariscus* and species of the *Caricion davallianae** 7220 Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) 7230 Alkaline fens 8240 Limestone pavements* 91A0 Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles 91D0 Bog woodland* ***Species*** 1029 Freshwater Pearl Mussel *Margaritifera margaritifera* 1092 White-clawed Crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes* 1095 Sea Lamprey *Petromyzon marinus* 1096 Brook Lamprey *Lampetra planeri* 1106 Salmon *Salmo salar* 1303 Lesser Horseshoe Bat *Rhinolophus hipposideros* 1355 Otter *Lutra lutra* 1393 Slender Green Feather-moss *Drepanocladus vernicosus* 1833 Slender Naiad Najas flexilis **Potential for likely significant effects** This freshwater SAC is 1.9 km from the proposed location of the proposed survey works. The proposed survey works will not impact on freshwater habitat, molluscan, crustacean or terrestrial conservation interests of this SAC as the proposed survey works will be within the marine environment. In relation to anadromous fish species, sea lamprey, otter, and Atlantic salmon that utilise this SAC may be within Galway Bay at the time of the survey works, vessel speeds are slow (4 kn) and impacts will be localised in nature. Following commencement of

NATURA Site	NAME	Screened In/Out	SSCO's/Reason
			the offshore survey works, underwater noise levels would increase gradually as the vessel approaches fish species. Fish species and otter would easily avoid the vessel as noise levels increase as speeds are slow. Minor and temporary disturbance may be caused at the mouth of the River Corrib, but at the vessel speeds proposed it would take 4 hours to reach the 10m contour, 2nm from the LWM at Ballyloughane Beach. Several survey lines may be required depending on depth and local constraints. It should also be noted that this area is beside Galway Port and biodiversity in the area is accustomed to vessels and underwater noise. This temporary disturbance would be deemed insignificant in relation to the several months over which a salmon run may occur and given the vessel activity already in the area. Due to short term scale of the project, the distance from the survey works to the SAC and the low level of impact there is no possibility of significant effects on the features of interest of this SAC. **No significant effects are likely.**
IE001275	Inisheer Island SAC	**Out**	**Conservation Objective** To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected. **Qualifying Interests** Reefs [1170] European dry heaths [4030] 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] **Potential for likely significant effects** This SAC is 5.5 km from the proposed cable survey area. The survey is in the marine intertidal of Ballyloughane Strand, in addition to the terrestrial environment in the vicinity of the beach and within the subtidal marine environment, including offshore areas.The proposed survey works will be in the marine environment will not impact on the conservation interests that are located in freshwater, intertidal or terrestrial habitats. In addition, in relation to the marine habitats, the proposed marine survey works are within marine sediments in a very exposed marine environment that is subject to significant wave action. Impacts from the survey works would be minor, localised and would not be expected to extend to the SAC 5.5 km from the works. **No significant effects are likely.**

NATURA Site	NAME	Screened In/Out	SSCO's/Reason
IE000036	Inagh River Estuary SAC	**Out**	**Conservation Objective** To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected. **Qualifying Interests** Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] 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] **Potential for likely significant effects** This SAC is 7.8 km from the proposed cable survey area. The survey is in the marine intertidal of Ballyloughane Strand, in addition to the terrestrial environment in the vicinity of the beach and within the subtidal marine environment, including offshore areas. The proposed survey works will be in the marine environment will not impact on the conservation interests that are located in freshwater, intertidal or terrestrial habitats. In addition, in relation to the marine habitats, the proposed marine survey works are within marine sediments in a very exposed marine environment that is subject to significant wave action. Impacts from the survey works would be minor, localised and would not be expected to extend to the SAC 7.8 km from the works. **No significant effects are likely.**
IE001926	East Burren Complex SAC	**Out**	**Conservation Objective** To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected. **Qualifying Interests** ***Habitats*** 3140 Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of *Chara* spp. 3180 Turloughs* 3260 Water courses of plain to montane levels with the *Ranunculion fluitantis* and *Callitricho-Batrachion* vegetation 4060 Alpine and Boreal heaths 5130 *Juniperus communis* formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands 6210 Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco Brometalia) (* important orchid sites)* 6510 Lowland hay meadows (*Alopecurus pratensis, Sanguisorba officinalis*)

NATURA Site	NAME	Screened In/Out	SSCO's/Reason
			7210 Calcareous fens with *Cladium mariscus* and species of the *Caricion davallianae** 7220 Petrifying springs with tufa formation (*Cratoneurion*)* 7230 Alkaline fens 8240 Limestone pavements* 8310 Caves not open to the public 91E0 Alluvial forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior* (*Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae*)* ***Species*** 1065 Marsh Fritillary *Euphydryas aurinia* 1303 Lesser Horseshoe Bat *Rhinolophus hipposideros* 1355 Otter *Lutra lutra* **Potential for likely significant effects** This SAC is 8.3 km from the proposed cable survey area. The survey is in the marine intertidal of Ballyloughane Strand, in addition to the terrestrial environment in the vicinity of the beach and within the subtidal marine environment, including offshore areas. The proposed survey works will be in the marine environment will not impact on the conservation interests that are located in freshwater, intertidal or terrestrial habitats. In addition, in relation to the marine habitats, the proposed marine survey works are within marine sediments in a very exposed marine environment that is subject to significant wave action. Impacts from the survey works would be minor, localised and would not be expected to extend to the SAC 8.3 km from the works. **No significant effects are likely.**
IE000054	Moneen Mountain SAC	**Out**	**Conservation Objective** To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected. **Qualifying Interests** ***Habitats*** 3180 Turloughs* 4060 Alpine and Boreal heaths 5130 *Juniperus communis* formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands 6130 Calaminarian grasslands of the *Violetalia calaminariae* 6210 Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (*Festuco Brometalia*) (* important orchid sites)* 7220 Petrifying springs with tufa formation (*Cratoneurion*)* 8240 Limestone pavements* ***Species*** 1065 Marsh Fritillary *Euphydryas aurinia* 1303 Lesser Horseshoe Bat *Rhinolophus hipposideros*

NATURA Site	NAME	Screened In/Out	SSCO's/Reason
			Potential for likely significant effects This SAC is 8.5 km from the proposed location of the survey works. The proposed survey works will be in the marine environment and will not impact on the conservation interests of this SAC, which are located in freshwater and terrestrial habitats. There is no direct or indirect pathway to this SAC. **No significant impact likely**
IE000996	Ballyvaughan Turlough SAC	**Out**	**Conservation Objective** To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected. **Qualifying Interest** 3180 Turloughs* * denotes a priority habitat **Potential Impact** This SAC is 8.8 km from the proposed location of the survey works. The proposed survey works will be in the marine environment and will not impact on the conservation interests of this SAC, which are located in freshwater and terrestrial habitats. There is no direct or indirect pathway to this SAC. **No significant impact likely**
IE000994	Ballyteige (Clare) SAC	**Out**	**Conservation Objective** To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected. **Potential for likely significant effects** Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (*Molinion caeruleae*) [6410] **Potential Impact** This SAC is 9.1 km from the proposed location of the survey works. The proposed survey works will be in the marine environment and will not impact on the conservation interests of this SAC, which are located in freshwater and terrestrial habitats. There is no direct or indirect pathway to this SAC. **No significant impact likely**
IE002034	Connemara Bog Complex SAC	**Out**	**Conservation Objective** To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected.

NATURA Site	NAME	Screened In/Out	SSCO's/Reason
			Qualifying Interests ***Habitats*** 1150 Coastal lagoons* 1170 Reefs 3110 Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (*Littorelletalia uniflorae*) 3160 Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds 3260 Water courses of plain to montane levels with the *Ranunculion fluitantis* and *Callitricho-Batrachion* vegetation 4010 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix* 4030 European dry heaths 6410 Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (*Molinion caeruleae*) 7130 Blanket bogs (* if active bog) 7140 Transition mires and quaking bogs 7150 Depressions on peat substrates of the *Rhynchosporion* 7230 Alkaline fens 91A0 Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles ***Species*** 1065 Marsh Fritillary *Euphydryas aurinia* 1106 Salmon *Salmo salar* 1355 Otter *Lutra lutra* 1833 Slender Naiad *Najas flexilis* **Potential for likely significant effects** This SAC is 9.3 km from the proposed location of the survey works. The proposed survey works will not impact on the conservation interests that are located in freshwater, intertidal or terrestrial habitats. Atlantic salmon is a conservation interest of this SAC. As outlined in the Site Synopsis "*Atlantic Salmon, occurs in many of the rivers within the site. The Cashla and Ballynahinch systems are good examples of western acidic spate rivers which support the species. Good spawning and nursery grounds for the species occur in these systems. Arctic Char occurs in a number of lakes within the site: Ballynahinch Lake, Glenicmurrin Lough and Lough Shindilla. The species has also been reported from Lough Oorid and Lough Glendollagh in the past, but has not been recorded from these lakes in recent years. Arctic Char is listed as threatened in the Irish Red Data Book*."[d] The proposed survey works will not impact on freshwater or terrestrial conservation interests of this SAC. In relation to anadromous fish species, otter, and Atlantic salmon that utilise this SAC may be within Galway Bay at the time of the survey works. The survey works are solely in the terrestrial/intertidal elements of Ballyloughane Strand and the marine environment. Vessel speeds are slow (4 kn) for a limited period in Galway Bay and impacts will be localised in nature. Following

[d] https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/synopsis/SY002034.pdf

NATURA Site	NAME	Screened In/Out	SSCO's/Reason
			commencement of the survey works underwater noise levels would increase gradually as the vessel approaches fish species. Fish species and otter would easily avoid the vessel as noise levels increase as speeds are slow. Vessel activity in the region of this SAC is 9.3 km offshore in the deeper water of Galway Bay. This temporary disturbance would be deemed insignificant in relation to the several months over which a salmon run may occur and given the vessel activity already in the area Galway Bay. It would be expected that vessels would be avoided by fish species. In relation to subtidal reefs sediment disturbed by survey works will be limited to the direct vicinity of the proposed survey corridor and would not impact reefs 9.3 km from the survey works outline. Due to short term scale of the project, the distance from the cable laying to the SAC and the low level of impact there is no possibility of significant effects on the features of interest of this SAC. **No significant effects are likely.**
IE000606	Lough Fingall Complex SAC	**Out**	**Conservation Objective** To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected. **Qualifying Interests** ***Habitats*** 3180 Turloughs* 4060 Alpine and Boreal heaths 5130 *Juniperus communis* formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands 6210 Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (*Festuco Brometalia*) (*important orchid sites)* 7210 Calcareous fens with *Cladium mariscus* and species of the *Caricion davallianae** 8240 Limestone pavements* ***Species*** 1303 Lesser Horseshoe Bat *Rhinolophus hipposideros* **Potential for likely significant effects** This SAC is 10.7 km from the proposed location of the survey works. There is no direct or indirect pathway to this SAC. The proposed survey works in the marine environment will not impact on the conservation interests of this SAC. **No significant effects are likely.**
IE000212	Inishmaan Island SAC	**Out**	**Conservation Objective** To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected.

NATURA Site	NAME	Screened In/Out	SSCO's/Reason
			Qualifying Interests 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] Machairs (* in Ireland) [21A0] European dry heaths [4030] 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] **Potential for likely significant effects** This SAC is 10.7 km from the proposed survey works. The proposed survey works will be in the marine environment will not impact on the conservation interests that are located in freshwater, intertidal or terrestrial habitats. In relation to subtidal reefs sediment that could potentially be disturbed, survey works will be limited to the direct vicinity of the proposed survey corridor and would not impact reefs 10.7 km from the survey location. Due to short term scale of the project, the distance from the survey works to the SAC and the low level of impact there is no possibility of significant effects on the features of interest of this SAC. **No significant effects are likely.**
IE001021	Carrowmore Point to Spanish Point and Islands SAC	**Out**	**Conservation Objective** The maintenance of habitats and species within Natura 2000 sites at favourable conservation condition will contribute to the overall maintenance of favourable conservation status of those habitats and species at a national level. **Qualifying Interests** Coastal lagoons [1150] Reefs [1170] Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220] Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220] **Potential for likely significant effects** This SAC is 12.8 km from the proposed survey works. The proposed survey works will be in the marine environment will not impact on the conservation interests that are located in freshwater, intertidal or terrestrial habitats. In relation to subtidal reefs sediment that could potentially be disturbed, survey works will be limited to the direct vicinity of the proposed survey corridor and would not impact reefs 12.8 km from the survey location. Due to short term scale of the project,

NATURA Site	NAME	Screened In/Out	SSCO's/Reason
			the distance from the survey works to the SAC and the low level of impact there is no possibility of significant effects on the features of interest of this SAC. **No significant effects are likely.**
IE000213	Inishmore Island SAC	**Out**	**Conservation Objective** To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected. **Qualifying Interests** 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] 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] **Potential for likely significant effects** This SAC is 13.6 km from the proposed cable survey area. The survey is in the marine intertidal of Ballyloughane Strand, in addition to the terrestrial environment in the vicinity of the beach and within the subtidal marine environment, including offshore areas. The proposed survey works will be in the marine environment will not impact on the conservation interests that are located in freshwater, intertidal or terrestrial habitats. In addition, in relation to the marine habitats, the proposed marine survey works are within marine sediments in a very exposed marine environment that is subject to significant wave action. Impacts from the survey works would be minor, localised and would not be expected to extend to the SAC 13.6km from the works. **No significant effects are likely.**

NATURA Site	NAME	Screened In/Out	SSCO's/Reason
IE001285	Kiltiernan Turlough SAC	**Out**	**Conservation Objective** To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected. **Qualifying Interest** 3180 Turloughs* **Potential for likely significant effects** This SAC is 13.9 km from the proposed location of the survey works. There is no direct or indirect pathway to this SAC. The proposed survey works in the marine environment will not impact on the conservation interests of this SAC. **No significant effects are likely.**
IE002111	Kilkieran Bay And Islands SAC	**In**	**Conservation Objective** To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected. **Qualifying Interest** 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] 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] **Potential for likely significant effects** This SAC is 19.2 km from the proposed cable survey area. The proposed cable survey area is located within the foraging range for harbour seal (Carter et al., 2022). Initial assessment identifies that, in the absence of mitigation measures, there may be potential for impact on harbour seal (feature of interest of this SAC) through underwater noise and physical disturbance which could impact the Feature of Interest of this SAC should this species enter the Zone of Influence. Mitigation measures are required to protect the SAC from significant effects.

NATURA Site	NAME	Screened In/Out	SSCO's/Reason
			The cable survey area is located 19.2 km from this conservation site. Given the nature of the proposed works, and the significant distance to this SAC across a marine environment, in the absence of mitigation measures, no significant impacts on designated habitats or Slender Naiad protected as a qualifying interest of this SAC are foreseen from the proposed works associated with this license application. Further, no significant impacts on otter are foreseen. As detailed by Reid et al. (2013), female otters have territories of 7.5 ± 1.5km in length along a riverine environment and 6.5 ± 1.0km in coastal environments, while male otter territory along rivers is approximately 13.2 ± 5.3km in length with a high degree of variability. Given the nature of the proposed works and the significant distance between the proposed cable survey area and this SAC (19.2 km), in the absence of mitigation, no significant effects on otter species are likely as a result of the proposed project. The proposed project has the potential to introduce noise into the marine environment and mitigation measures are required to protect harbour seal. **Natura Impact Statement Required**
IE002165	Lower River Shannon SAC	**IN**	**Conservation Objective** To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected. **Qualifying Interest** 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] 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 (*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] 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]

NATURA Site	NAME	Screened In/Out	SSCO's/Reason
			Tursiops truncatus (Common Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349] *Lutra lutra* (Otter) [1355] **Potential for likely significant effects** This SAC is 24.4 km from the proposed cable survey area. The proposed cable survey area is located within the West Coast of Ireland MU for bottlenose dolphin (JNCC, 2023). Initial assessment identifies that, in the absence of mitigation measures, there may be potential for impact on bottlenose dolphin (feature of interest of this SAC) through underwater noise and physical disturbance which could impact the Feature of Interest of this SAC should this species enter the Zone of Influence. Mitigation measures are required to protect the SAC from significant effects. The cable survey area is located 24.4 km from this conservation site. Given the nature of the proposed works, and the significant distance to this SAC across a marine environment, in the absence of mitigation measures, no significant impacts on designated habitats, Lamprey species (Sea, Brook, and River), or Freshwater pearl mussel protected as a qualifying interest of this SAC are foreseen from the proposed works associated with this license application. In relation to Atlantic salmon, it has been found that salmon from southeast Ireland tend to move out to the shelf edge before crossing the Atlantic towards Greenland (Rikardson et al., 2021). The proposed project is located within the area of salmon migration recorded as part of Rikardson et al.'s (2021) study (see Appendix AI.1). However, given the nature of the proposed works, and the short timeframe of the proposed works, no significant impacts on salmon are foreseen as a result of the proposed project in the absence of mitigation. Further, no significant impacts on otter are foreseen. As detailed by Reid et al. (2013), female otters have territories of 7.5 ± 1.5km in length along a riverine environment and 6.5 ± 1.0km in coastal environments, while male otter territory along rivers is approximately 13.2 ± 5.3km in length with a high degree of variability. Given the nature of the proposed works and the significant distance between the proposed cable survey area and this SAC (24.4 km), in the absence of mitigation, no significant effects on otter species are likely as a result of the proposed project. The proposed project has the potential to introduce noise into the marine environment and mitigation measures are required to protect bottlenose dolphin. **Natura Impact Statement Required**
IE002074	Slyne Head Peninsula SAC	**IN**	**Conservation Objective** To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected.

NATURA Site	NAME	Screened In/Out	SSCO's/Reason
			Qualifying Interest 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 maritimae*) [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] 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] *Tursiops truncatus* (Common Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349] *Petalophyllum ralfsii* (Petalwort) [1395] *Najas flexilis* (Slender Naiad) [1833] **Potential for likely significant effects** This SAC is 57 km from the proposed cable survey area. The proposed cable survey area is located within the West Coast of Ireland MU for bottlenose dolphin (JNCC, 2023). Initial assessment identifies that, in the absence of mitigation measures, there may be potential for impact on bottlenose dolphin (features of interest of this SAC) through underwater noise and physical disturbance which could impact the Feature of Interest of this SAC should this species enter the Zone of Influence. Mitigation measures are required to protect the SAC from significant effects. The cable survey area is located 57 km from this conservation site. Given the nature of the proposed works, and the significant distance to this SAC across a marine environment, in the absence of mitigation measures, no significant impacts on designated habitats, petalwort, or slender naiad protected as a

NATURA Site	NAME	Screened In/Out	SSCO's/Reason
			qualifying interest of this SAC are foreseen from the proposed works associated with this license application. The proposed project has the potential to introduce noise into the marine environment and mitigation measures are required to protect bottlenose dolphin. **Natura Impact Statement Required**
IE002998	West Connacht Coast SAC	**IN**	**Conservation Objective** To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected. **Qualifying Interest** *Tursiops truncatus* (Common Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349] **Potential for likely significant effects** This SAC is 63.1 km from the proposed cable survey area. The proposed cable survey area is located within the West Coast of Ireland MU for bottlenose dolphin (JNCC, 2023). Initial assessment identifies that, in the absence of mitigation measures, there may be potential for impact on bottlenose dolphin (features of interest of this SAC) through underwater noise and physical disturbance which could impact the Feature of Interest of this SAC should this species enter the Zone of Influence. Mitigation measures are required to protect the SAC from significant effects. The proposed project has the potential to introduce noise into the marine environment and mitigation measures are required to protect bottlenose dolphin. **Natura Impact Statement Required**
IE000328	Slyne Head Islands SAC	**IN**	**Conservation Objective** To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected. **Qualifying Interest** Reefs [1170] *Tursiops truncatus* (Common Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349] *Halichoerus grypus* (Grey Seal) [1364] **Potential for likely significant effects** This SAC is 64.7 km from the proposed cable survey area. The proposed cable survey area is located within the foraging range of grey seal (448km) (Carter et al., 2022) and the West Coast of Ireland MU for bottlenose dolphin (JNCC, 2023). Initial assessment identifies that, in the absence of mitigation measures, there may be potential for impact on grey seal and bottlenose dolphin (features of interest of this SAC) through underwater noise and physical disturbance which could impact the Feature of Interest of this SAC should this species enter the

NATURA Site	NAME	Screened In/Out	SSCO's/Reason
			Zone of Influence. Mitigation measures are required to protect the SAC from significant effects. The cable survey area is located 64.7 km from this conservation site. Given the nature of the proposed works, and the significant distance to this SAC across a marine environment, in the absence of mitigation measures, no significant impacts on reefs protected as a qualifying interest of this SAC are foreseen from the proposed works associated with this license application. The proposed project has the potential to introduce noise into the marine environment and mitigation measures are required to protect grey seal and bottlenose dolphin. **Natura Impact Statement Required**
IE000328	Slyne Head Islands SAC	**IN**	**Conservation Objective** To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected. **Qualifying Interest** Reefs [1170] Tursiops truncatus (Common Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349] Halichoerus grypus (Grey Seal) [1364] **Potential for likely significant effects** This SAC is 64.7 km from the proposed cable survey area. The proposed cable survey area is located within the foraging range of grey seal (448km) (Carter et al., 2022) and the West Coast of Ireland MU for bottlenose dolphin (JNCC, 2023). Initial assessment identifies that, in the absence of mitigation measures, there may be potential for impact on grey seal and bottlenose dolphin (features of interest of this SAC) through underwater noise and physical disturbance which could impact the Feature of Interest of this SAC should this species enter the Zone of Influence. Mitigation measures are required to protect the SAC from significant effects. The cable survey area is located 64.7 km from this conservation site. Given the nature of the proposed works, and the significant distance to this SAC across a marine environment, in the absence of mitigation measures, no significant impacts on reefs protected as a qualifying interest of this SAC are foreseen from the proposed works associated with this license application. The proposed project has the potential to introduce noise into the marine environment and mitigation measures are required to protect grey seal and bottlenose dolphin. **Natura Impact Statement Required**
IE001482	Clew Bay Complex SAC	**IN**	**Conservation Objective** To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected.

NATURA Site	NAME	Screened In/Out	SSCO's/Reason
			Qualifying Interest Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Coastal lagoons [1150] Large shallow inlets and bays [1160] Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210] Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220] Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*) [1330] Embryonic shifting dunes [2110] Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* (white dunes) [2120] Machairs (* in Ireland) [21A0] Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0] *Lutra lutra* (Otter) [1355] *Phoca vitulina* (Harbour Seal) [1365] **Potential for likely significant effects** This SAC is 67.6 km from the proposed cable survey area. The proposed cable survey area is located within the foraging range of harbour seal (273km) (Carter et al., 2022). Initial assessment identifies that, in the absence of mitigation measures, there may be potential for impact on harbour seal (features of interest of this SAC) through underwater noise and physical disturbance which could impact the Feature of Interest of this SAC should this species enter the Zone of Influence. Mitigation measures are required to protect the SAC from significant effects. The cable survey area is located 67.6 km from this conservation site. Given the nature of the proposed works, and the significant distance to this SAC across a marine environment, in the absence of mitigation measures, no significant impacts on designated habitats protected as a qualifying interest of this SAC are foreseen from the proposed works associated with this license application. Further, no significant impacts on otter are foreseen. As detailed by Reid et al. (2013), female otters have territories of 7.5 ± 1.5km in length along a riverine environment and 6.5 ± 1.0km in coastal environments, while male otter territory along rivers is approximately 13.2 ± 5.3km in length with a high degree of variability. Given the nature of the proposed works and the significant distance between the proposed cable survey area and this SAC (67.6 km), in the absence of mitigation, no significant effects on otter species are likely as a result of the proposed project. The proposed project has the potential to introduce noise into the marine environment and mitigation measures are required to protect harbour seal. **Natura Impact Statement Required**

NATURA Site	NAME	Screened In/Out	SSCO's/Reason
IE002172	Blasket Islands SAC	**IN**	**Conservation Objective** To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected. **Qualifying Interest** 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] *Halichoerus grypus* (Grey Seal) [1364] **Potential for likely significant effects** This SAC is 67.7 km from the proposed cable survey area. The proposed cable survey area is located within the foraging range of grey seal (448km) (Carter et al., 2022) and the Celtic and Irish Seas MU for harbour porpoise (JNCC, 2023). Initial assessment identifies that, in the absence of mitigation measures, there may be potential for impact on grey seal and harbour porpoise (features of interest of this SAC) through underwater noise and physical disturbance which could impact the Feature of Interest of this SAC should this species enter the Zone of Influence. Mitigation measures are required to protect the SAC from significant effects. The cable survey area is located 67.7 km from this conservation site. Given the nature of the proposed works, and the significant distance to this SAC across a marine environment, in the absence of mitigation measures, no significant impacts on designated habitats protected as a qualifying interest of this SAC are foreseen from the proposed works associated with this license application. The proposed project has the potential to introduce noise into the marine environment and mitigation measures are required to protect grey seal and harbour porpoise. **Natura Impact Statement Required**
IE000278	Inishbofin and Inishshark SAC	**IN**	**Conservation Objective** To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected. **Qualifying Interest** 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] **Potential for likely significant effects**

NATURA Site	NAME	Screened In/Out	SSCO's/Reason
			This SAC is 76.2 km from the proposed cable survey area. The proposed cable survey area is located within the foraging range of grey seal (448km) (Carter et al., 2022). Initial assessment identifies that, in the absence of mitigation measures, there may be potential for impact on grey seal (features of interest of this SAC) through underwater noise and physical disturbance which could impact the Feature of Interest of this SAC should this species enter the Zone of Influence. Mitigation measures are required to protect the SAC from significant effects. The cable survey area is located 76.2 km from this conservation site. Given the nature of the proposed works, and the significant distance to this SAC across a marine environment, in the absence of mitigation measures, no significant impacts on designated habitats protected as a qualifying interest of this SAC are foreseen from the proposed works associated with this license application. The proposed project has the potential to introduce noise into the marine environment and mitigation measures are required to protect grey seal. **Natura Impact Statement Required**
IE000458	Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SAC	**IN**	**Conservation Objective** To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected. **Qualifying Interest** Estuaries [1130] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210] Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230] Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*) [1330] Embryonic shifting dunes [2110] Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* (white dunes) [2120] Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130] Humid dune slacks [2190] *Vertigo angustior* (Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail) [1014] *Petromyzon marinus* (Sea Lamprey) [1095] *Phoca vitulina* (Harbour Seal) [1365] **Potential for likely significant effects** This SAC is 94.2 km from the proposed cable survey area. The proposed cable survey area is located within the foraging range of harbour seal (273km) (Carter et al., 2022). Initial assessment identifies that, in the absence of mitigation measures, there may be potential for impact on harbour seal

NATURA Site	NAME	Screened In/Out	SSCO's/Reason
			(features of interest of this SAC) through underwater noise and physical disturbance which could impact the Feature of Interest of this SAC should this species enter the Zone of Influence. Mitigation measures are required to protect the SAC from significant effects. The cable survey area is located 94.2 km from this conservation site. Given the nature of the proposed works, and the significant distance to this SAC across a marine environment, in the absence of mitigation measures, no significant impacts on designated habitats, Sea Lamprey, or Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail protected as a qualifying interest of this SAC are foreseen from the proposed works associated with this license application. The proposed project has the potential to introduce noise into the marine environment and mitigation measures are required to protect harbour seal. **Natura Impact Statement Required**
IE000622	Ballysadare Bay SAC	**IN**	**Conservation Objective** To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected. **Qualifying Interest** Estuaries [1130] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Embryonic shifting dunes [2110] Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* (white dunes) [2120] Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130] Humid dune slacks [2190] *Vertigo angustior* (Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail) [1014] *Phoca vitulina* (Harbour Seal) [1365] **Potential for likely significant effects** This SAC is 108.1 km from the proposed cable survey area. The proposed cable survey area is located within the foraging range of harbour seal (273km) (Carter et al., 2022). Initial assessment identifies that, in the absence of mitigation measures, there may be potential for impact on harbour seal (features of interest of this SAC) through underwater noise and physical disturbance which could impact the Feature of Interest of this SAC should this species enter the Zone of Influence. Mitigation measures are required to protect the SAC from significant effects. The cable survey area is located 108.1 km from this conservation site. Given the nature of the proposed works, and the significant distance to this SAC across a marine environment, in the absence of mitigation measures, no significant impacts on designated habitats or Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail protected

NATURA Site	NAME	Screened In/Out	SSCO's/Reason
			as a qualifying interest of this SAC are foreseen from the proposed works associated with this license application. Further, no significant impacts on otter are foreseen. As detailed by Reid et al. (2013), female otters have territories of 7.5 ± 1.5km in length along a riverine environment and 6.5 ± 1.0km in coastal environments, while male otter territory along rivers is approximately 13.2 ± 5.3km in length with a high degree of variability. Given the nature of the proposed works and the significant distance between the proposed cable survey area and this SAC (108.1 km), in the absence of mitigation, no significant effects on otter species are likely as a result of the proposed project. The proposed project has the potential to introduce noise into the marine environment and mitigation measures are required to protect harbour seal. **Natura Impact Statement Required**
IE002158	Kenmare River SAC	**IN**	**Conservation Objective** To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected. **Qualifying Interest** 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] **Potential for likely significant effects** This SAC is 114.2 km from the proposed cable survey area. The proposed cable survey area is located within the foraging range of harbour seal (273km) (Carter et al., 2022). Initial assessment identifies that, in the absence of mitigation measures, there may be potential for impact on harbour seal (features of interest of this SAC) through underwater noise and physical disturbance which could impact the Feature of Interest of this SAC should this species enter the Zone of Influence.

NATURA Site	NAME	Screened In/Out	SSCO's/Reason
			Mitigation measures are required to protect the SAC from significant effects. The cable survey area is located 114.2 km from this conservation site. Given the nature of the proposed works, and the significant distance to this SAC across a marine environment, in the absence of mitigation measures, no significant impacts on designated habitats, lesser horseshoe bat, or Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail protected as a qualifying interest of this SAC are foreseen from the proposed works associated with this license application. Further, no significant impacts on otter are foreseen. As detailed by Reid et al. (2013), female otters have territories of 7.5 ± 1.5km in length along a riverine environment and 6.5 ± 1.0km in coastal environments, while male otter territory along rivers is approximately 13.2 ± 5.3km in length with a high degree of variability. Given the nature of the proposed works and the significant distance between the proposed cable survey area and this SAC (114.2 km), in the absence of mitigation, no significant effects on otter species are likely as a result of the proposed project. The proposed project has the potential to introduce noise into the marine environment and mitigation measures are required to protect harbour seal. **Natura Impact Statement Required**
IE000627	Cummeen Strand/Drumcliffe Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC	**IN**	**Conservation Objective** To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected. **Qualifying Interest** Estuaries [1130] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Embryonic shifting dunes [2110] Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* (white dunes) [2120] Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130] 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] Petrifying springs with tufa formation (*Cratoneurion*) [7220] *Vertigo angustior* (Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail) [1014] *Petromyzon marinus* (Sea Lamprey) [1095] *Lampetra fluviatilis* (River Lamprey) [1099] *Phoca vitulina* (Harbour Seal) [1365] **Potential for likely significant effects**

NATURA Site	NAME	Screened In/Out	SSCO's/Reason
			This SAC is 114.7 km from the proposed cable survey area. The proposed cable survey area is located within the foraging range of harbour seal (273km) (Carter et al., 2022). Initial assessment identifies that, in the absence of mitigation measures, there may be potential for impact on harbour seal (feature of interest of this SAC) through underwater noise and physical disturbance which could impact the Feature of Interest of this SAC should this species enter the Zone of Influence. Mitigation measures are required to protect the SAC from significant effects. The cable survey area is located 114.7 km from this conservation site. Given the nature of the proposed works, and the significant distance to this SAC across a marine environment, in the absence of mitigation measures, no significant impacts on designated habitats, Lamprey species (Sea and River), or Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail protected as a qualifying interest of this SAC are foreseen from the proposed works associated with this license application. The proposed project has the potential to introduce noise into the marine environment and mitigation measures are required to protect harbour seals. **Natura Impact Statement Required**
IE000495	Duvillaun Islands SAC	**IN**	**Conservation Objective** To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected. **Qualifying Interest** *Tursiops truncatus* (Common Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349] *Halichoerus grypus* (Grey Seal) [1364] **Potential for likely significant effects** This SAC is 116 km from the proposed cable survey area. The proposed cable survey area is located within the foraging range of grey seal (448km) (Carter et al., 2022) and the West Coast of Ireland MU for bottlenose dolphin (JNCC, 2023). Initial assessment identifies that, in the absence of mitigation measures, there may be potential for impact on grey seal and bottlenose dolphin (features of interest of this SAC) through underwater noise and physical disturbance which could impact the Feature of Interest of this SAC should this species enter the Zone of Influence. Mitigation measures are required to protect the SAC from significant effects. The proposed project has the potential to introduce noise into the marine environment and mitigation measures are required to protect grey seal and bottlenose dolphin. **Natura Impact Statement Required**
IE000507	Inishkea Islands SAC	**IN**	**Conservation Objective**

NATURA Site	NAME	Screened In/Out	SSCO's/Reason
			To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected. **Qualifying Interest** Machairs (* in Ireland) [21A0] *Halichoerus grypus* (Grey Seal) [1364] *Petalophyllum ralfsii* (Petalwort) [1395] **Potential for likely significant effects** This SAC is 120.3 km from the proposed cable survey area. The proposed cable survey area is located within the foraging range of grey seal (448km) (Carter et al., 2022). Initial assessment identifies that, in the absence of mitigation measures, there may be potential for impact on grey seal (feature of interest of this SAC) through underwater noise and physical disturbance which could impact the Feature of Interest of this SAC should this species enter the Zone of Influence. Mitigation measures are required to protect the SAC from significant effects. The cable survey area is located 120.3 km from this conservation site. Given the nature of the proposed works, and the significant distance to this SAC across a marine environment, in the absence of mitigation measures, no significant impacts on designated habitats or Petalwort protected as a qualifying interest of this SAC are foreseen from the proposed works associated with this license application. Further, no significant impacts on otter are foreseen. As detailed by Reid et al. (2013), female otters have territories of 7.5 ± 1.5km in length along a riverine environment and 6.5 ± 1.0km in coastal environments, while male otter territory along rivers is approximately 13.2 ± 5.3km in length with a high degree of variability. Given the nature of the proposed works and the significant distance between the proposed cable survey area and this SAC (120.3 km), in the absence of mitigation, no significant effects on otter species are likely as a result of the proposed project. The proposed project has the potential to introduce noise into the marine environment and mitigation measures are required to protect grey seals. **Natura Impact Statement Required**
IE000090	Glengarriff Harbour and Woodland SAC	**IN**	**Conservation Objective** To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected. **Qualifying Interest** 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]

NATURA Site	NAME	Screened In/Out	SSCO's/Reason
			Geomalacus maculosus (Kerry Slug) [1024] *Rhinolophus hipposideros* (Lesser Horseshoe Bat) [1303] *Lutra lutra* (Otter) [1355] *Phoca vitulina* (Harbour Seal) [1365] **Potential for likely significant effects** This SAC is 121.8 km from the proposed cable survey area. The proposed cable survey area is located within the foraging range of harbour seal (273km) (Carter et al., 2022). Initial assessment identifies that, in the absence of mitigation measures, there may be potential for impact on harbour seal (feature of interest of this SAC) through underwater noise and physical disturbance which could impact the Feature of Interest of this SAC should this species enter the Zone of Influence. Mitigation measures are required to protect the SAC from significant effects. The cable survey area is located 121.8 km from this conservation site. Given the nature of the proposed works, and the significant distance to this SAC across a marine environment, in the absence of mitigation measures, no significant impacts on designated habitats, lesser horseshoe bat, or Kerry slug protected as a qualifying interest of this SAC are foreseen from the proposed works associated with this license application. Further, no significant impacts on otter are foreseen. As detailed by Reid et al. (2013), female otters have territories of 7.5 ± 1.5km in length along a riverine environment and 6.5 ± 1.0km in coastal environments, while male otter territory along rivers is approximately 13.2 ± 5.3km in length with a high degree of variability. Given the nature of the proposed works and the significant distance between the proposed cable survey area and this SAC (121.8 km), in the absence of mitigation, no significant effects on otter species are likely as a result of the proposed project. The proposed project has the potential to introduce noise into the marine environment and mitigation measures are required to protect harbour seal. **Natura Impact Statement Required**
IE000101	Roaring Water Bay and Islands SAC	**IN**	**Conservation Objective** To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected. **Qualifying Interest** 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]

NATURA Site	NAME	Screened In/Out	SSCO's/Reason
			Halichoerus grypus (Grey Seal) [1364] **Potential for likely significant effects** This SAC is 146.9 km from the proposed cable survey area. The proposed cable survey area is located within the foraging range of grey seal (448km) (Carter et al., 2022) and also within the Celtic and Irish Seas MU for harbour porpoise (JNCC, 2023). Initial assessment identifies that, in the absence of mitigation measures, there may be potential for impact on grey seal and harbour porpoise (features of interest of this SAC) through underwater noise and physical disturbance which could impact the Feature of Interest of this SAC should this species enter the Zone of Influence. Mitigation measures are required to protect the SAC from significant effects. The cable survey area is located 146.9 km from this conservation site. Given the nature of the proposed works, and the significant distance to this SAC across a marine environment, in the absence of mitigation measures, no significant impacts on designated habitats protected as a qualifying interest of this SAC are foreseen from the proposed works associated with this license application. Further, no significant impacts on otter are foreseen. As detailed by Reid et al. (2013), female otters have territories of 7.5 ± 1.5km in length along a riverine environment and 6.5 ± 1.0km in coastal environments, while male otter territory along rivers is approximately 13.2 ± 5.3km in length with a high degree of variability. Given the nature of the proposed works and the significant distance between the proposed cable survey area and this SAC (146.9 km), in the absence of mitigation, no significant effects on otter species are likely as a result of the proposed project. The proposed project has the potential to introduce noise into the marine environment and mitigation measures are required to protect grey seals and harbour porpoise. **Natura Impact Statement Required**
IE000133	Donegal Bay (Murvagh) SAC	**IN**	**Conservation Objective** To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected. **Qualifying Interest** Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130] Dunes with Salix repens ssp. argentea (*Salicion arenariae*) [2170] Humid dune slacks [2190] *Phoca vitulina* (Harbour Seal) [1365]

NATURA Site	NAME	Screened In/Out	SSCO's/Reason
			Potential for likely significant effects This SAC is 157.4 km from the proposed cable survey area. The proposed cable survey area is located within the foraging range of harbour seal (273km) (Carter et al., 2022). Initial assessment identifies that, in the absence of mitigation measures, there may be potential for impact on harbour seal (feature of interest of this SAC) through underwater noise and physical disturbance which could impact the Feature of Interest of this SAC should this species enter the Zone of Influence. Mitigation measures are required to protect the SAC from significant effects. The cable survey area is located 157.4 km from this conservation site. Given the nature of the proposed works, and the significant distance to this SAC across a marine environment, in the absence of mitigation measures, no significant impacts on designated habitats protected as a qualifying interest of this SAC are foreseen from the proposed works associated with this license application. The proposed project has the potential to introduce noise into the marine environment and mitigation measures are required to protect harbour seals. **Natura Impact Statement Required**
IE000781	Slaney River Valley SAC	**IN**	**Conservation Objective** To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected. **Qualifying Interest** 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] *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] *Phoca vitulina* (Harbour Seal) [1365] **Potential for likely significant effects**

NATURA Site	NAME	Screened In/Out	SSCO's/Reason
			This SAC is 158.3 km from the proposed cable survey area. The proposed cable survey area is located within the foraging range of harbour seal (273km) (Carter et al., 2022). Initial assessment identifies that, in the absence of mitigation measures, there may be potential for impact on harbour seal (feature of interest of this SAC) through underwater noise and physical disturbance which could impact the Feature of Interest of this SAC should this species enter the Zone of Influence. Mitigation measures are required to protect the SAC from significant effects. The cable survey area is located 158.3 km from this conservation site. Given the nature of the proposed works, and the significant distance to this SAC across a marine environment, in the absence of mitigation measures, no significant impacts on designated habitats, Lamprey species (Sea, Brook, and River), or Freshwater pearl mussel protected as a qualifying interest of this SAC are foreseen from the proposed works associated with this license application. In relation to Atlantic salmon, it has been found that salmon from southeast Ireland tend to move out to the shelf edge before crossing the Atlantic towards Greenland (Rikardson et al., 2021). The proposed project is located within the area of salmon migration recorded as part of Rikardson et al.'s (2021) study (see Appendix AI.1). However, given the nature of the proposed works, and the short timeframe of the proposed works, no significant impacts on salmon are foreseen as a result of the proposed project in the absence of mitigation. In relation to Twaite Shad, given the spatial and temporal nature of the proposed works, and the distance to this SAC, the proposed project is considered too far for any significant interaction to occur. Further, no significant impacts on otter are foreseen. As detailed by Reid et al. (2013), female otters have territories of 7.5 ± 1.5km in length along a riverine environment and 6.5 ± 1.0km in coastal environments, while male otter territory along rivers is approximately 13.2 ± 5.3km in length with a high degree of variability. Given the nature of the proposed works and the significant distance between the proposed cable survey area and this SAC (158.3 km), in the absence of mitigation, no significant effects on otter species are likely as a result of the proposed project. The proposed project has the potential to introduce noise into the marine environment and mitigation measures are required to protect harbour seals. **Natura Impact Statement Required**
IE000190	Slieve Tooey/Tormore Island/Loughbros Beg Bay SAC	**IN**	**Conservation Objective** To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected.

NATURA Site	NAME	Screened In/Out	SSCO's/Reason
			Qualifying Interest Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230] 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] Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130] Decalcified fixed dunes with Empetrum nigrum [2140] Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (*Calluno-Ulicetea*) [2150] Dunes with Salix repens ssp. argentea (*Salicion arenariae*) [2170] Humid dune slacks [2190] Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060] Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130] *Vertigo angustior* (Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail) [1014] *Lutra lutra* (Otter) [1355] *Halichoerus grypus* (Grey Seal) [1364] **Potential for likely significant effects** This SAC is 160.5 km from the proposed cable survey area. The proposed cable survey area is located within the foraging range of grey seal (448km) (Carter et al., 2022). Initial assessment identifies that, in the absence of mitigation measures, there may be potential for impact on grey seal (feature of interest of this SAC) through underwater noise and physical disturbance which could impact the Feature of Interest of this SAC should this species enter the Zone of Influence. Mitigation measures are required to protect the SAC from significant effects. The cable survey area is located 160.5 km from this conservation site. Given the nature of the proposed works, and the significant distance to this SAC across a marine environment, in the absence of mitigation measures, no significant impacts on designated habitats or Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail protected as a qualifying interest of this SAC are foreseen from the proposed works associated with this license application. Further, no significant impacts on otter are foreseen. As detailed by Reid et al. (2013), female otters have territories of 7.5 ± 1.5km in length along a riverine environment and 6.5 ± 1.0km in coastal environments, while male otter territory along rivers is approximately 13.2 ± 5.3km in length with a high degree of variability. Given the nature of the proposed works and the significant distance between the proposed cable survey area and this SAC (160.5 km), in the absence of mitigation, no significant effects on otter species are likely as a result of the proposed project.

NATURA Site	NAME	Screened In/Out	SSCO's/Reason
			The proposed project has the potential to introduce noise into the marine environment and mitigation measures are required to protect grey seals. **Natura Impact Statement Required**
IE000197	West of Ardara/Maas Road SAC	**IN**	**Conservation Objective** To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected. **Qualifying Interest** Estuaries [1130] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Large shallow inlets and bays [1160] Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210] 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] Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130] Decalcified fixed dunes with *Empetrum nigrum* [2140] Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (*Calluno-Ulicetea*) [2150] Dunes with Salix repens ssp. argentea (*Salicion arenariae*) [2170] Humid dune slacks [2190] 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] Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix [4010] European dry heaths [4030] Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060] 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] Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (*Molinion caeruleae*) [6410] Lowland hay meadows (*Alopecurus pratensis, Sanguisorba officinalis*) [6510] Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130] Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150] Alkaline fens [7230] *Vertigo geyeri* (Geyer's Whorl Snail) [1013] *Margaritifera margaritifera* (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) [1029] *Euphydryas aurinia* (Marsh Fritillary) [1065] *Salmo salar* (Salmon) [1106]

NATURA Site	NAME	Screened In/Out	SSCO's/Reason
			Lutra lutra (Otter) [1355] *Phoca vitulina* (Harbour Seal) [1365] *Petalophyllum ralfsii* (Petalwort) [1395] *Najas flexilis* (Slender Naiad) [1833] **Potential for likely significant effects** This SAC is 170.4 km from the proposed cable survey area. The proposed cable survey area is located within the foraging range of harbour seal (273km) (Carter et al., 2022). Initial assessment identifies that, in the absence of mitigation measures, there may be potential for impact on harbour seal (feature of interest of this SAC) through underwater noise and physical disturbance which could impact the Features of Interest of this SAC should this mobile marine mammal enter the ZoI. Mitigation measures are required to protect the SAC from significant effects. The survey area is located 170.4 km from this conservation site. Given the nature of the proposed works, and the significant distance to this SAC across a marine environment, in the absence of mitigation measures, no significant impacts on habitats, Geyer's Whorl Snail, Freshwater Pearl Mussel, Marsh Fritillary, Petalwort, or Slender Naiad protected as a qualifying interest of this SAC are foreseen from the proposed works associated with this survey license application. In relation to Atlantic salmon, it has been found that salmon from southeast Ireland tend to move out to the shelf edge before crossing the Atlantic towards Greenland (Rikardson et al., 2021). The proposed project is located within the area of salmon migration recorded as part of Rikardson et al.'s (2021) study (see Appendix AI.1). However, given the nature of the proposed works, and the short timeframe of the proposed works, no significant impacts on salmon are foreseen as a result of the proposed project in the absence of mitigation. Further, no significant impacts on otter are foreseen. As detailed by Reid et al. (2013), female otters have territories of 7.5 ± 1.5km in length along a riverine environment and 6.5 ± 1.0km in coastal environments, while male otter territory along rivers is approximately 13.2 ± 5.3km in length with a high degree of variability. Given the nature of the proposed works and the significant distance between the proposed survey area and this SAC (170.4 km), in the absence of mitigation, no significant effects on otter species are likely as a result of the proposed project. The proposed project has the potential to introduce noise, pollution, and physical disturbance into the marine environment and mitigation measures are required to protect harbour seals. **Natura Impact Statement Required**

NATURA Site	NAME	Screened In/Out	SSCO's/Reason
IE002283	Rutland Island and Sound SAC	**IN**	**Conservation Objective** To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected. **Qualifying Interest** Coastal lagoons [1150] Large shallow inlets and bays [1160] Reefs [1170] Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210] Embryonic shifting dunes [2110] Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* (white dunes) [2120] Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130] Humid dune slacks [2190] *Phoca vitulina* (Harbour Seal) [1365] **Potential for likely significant effects** This SAC is 187.5 km from the proposed cable survey area. The proposed cable survey area is located within the foraging range of harbour seal (273km) (Carter et al., 2022). Initial assessment identifies that, in the absence of mitigation measures, there may be potential for impact on harbour seal (feature of interest of this SAC) through underwater noise and physical disturbance which could impact the Features of Interest of this SAC should this mobile marine mammal enter the ZoI. Mitigation measures are required to protect the SAC from significant effects. The survey area is located 187.5 km from this conservation site. Given the nature of the proposed works, and the significant distance to this SAC across a marine environment, in the absence of mitigation measures, no significant impacts on habitats protected as a qualifying interest of this SAC are foreseen from the proposed works associated with this survey license application. The proposed project has the potential to introduce noise, pollution, and physical disturbance into the marine environment and mitigation measures are required to protect harbour seals. **Natura Impact Statement Required**
IE003000	Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC	**IN**	**Conservation Objective** To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected. **Qualifying Interest** Reefs [1170] *Phocoena phocoena* (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]

NATURA Site	NAME	Screened In/Out	SSCO's/Reason
			Potential for likely significant effects This SAC is 195.3 km from the proposed cable survey area. The proposed cable survey area is located within the Celtic and Irish Seas MU for Harbour Porpoise (JNCC, 2023). Initial assessment identifies that, in the absence of mitigation measures, and out of an abundance of caution, there may be potential for impact on harbour porpoise (qualifying interest of this SAC) through underwater noise, pollution, and physical disturbance which could impact the Qualifying Interest of this SAC. Mitigation measures are required to protect the SAC from significant effects. The survey area is located 195.3 km from this conservation site. Given the nature of the proposed works, and the significant distance to this SAC across a marine environment, in the absence of mitigation measures, no significant impacts on reefs protected as a qualifying interest of this SAC are foreseen from the proposed works associated with this survey license application. The proposed project has the potential to introduce noise, pollution, and physical disturbance into the marine environment and mitigation measures are required to protect harbour porpoise. **Natura Impact Statement Required**
IE000707	Saltee Islands SAC	**IN**	**Conservation Objective** To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected. **Qualifying Interest** 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] **Potential for likely significant effects** This SAC is 198.7 km from the proposed cable survey area. The proposed cable survey area is located within the foraging range of grey seal (448km) (Carter et al., 2022). Initial assessment identifies that, in the absence of mitigation measures, there may be potential for impact on grey seal (features of interest of this SAC) through underwater noise and physical disturbance which could impact the Features of Interest of this SAC should this mobile marine mammal enter the ZoI. Mitigation measures are required to protect the SAC from significant effects.

NATURA Site	NAME	Screened In/Out	SSCO's/Reason
			The survey area is located 198.7 km from this conservation site. Given the nature of the proposed works, and the significant distance to this SAC across a marine environment, in the absence of mitigation measures, no significant impacts on habitats protected as a qualifying interest of this SAC are foreseen from the proposed works associated with this survey license application. The proposed project has the potential to introduce noise, pollution, and physical disturbance into the marine environment and mitigation measures are required to protect grey seals. **Natura Impact Statement Required**
IE000204	Lambay Island SAC	**IN**	**Conservation Objective** To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected. **Qualifying Interest** Reefs [1170] Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230] *Halichoerus grypus* (Grey Seal) [1364] *Phoca vitulina* (Harbour Seal) [1365] **Potential for likely significant effects** This SAC is 199.8 km from the proposed cable survey area. The proposed cable survey area is located within the foraging range of grey seal (448km) and harbour seal (273km) (Carter et al., 2022). Initial assessment identifies that, in the absence of mitigation measures, there may be potential for impact on grey seal and harbour seal (features of interest of this SAC) through underwater noise and physical disturbance which could impact the Features of Interest of this SAC should these mobile marine mammals enter the ZoI. Mitigation measures are required to protect the SAC from significant effects. The survey area is located 199.8 km from this conservation site. Given the nature of the proposed works, and the significant distance to this SAC across a marine environment, in the absence of mitigation measures, no significant impacts on habitats protected as a qualifying interest of this SAC are foreseen from the proposed works associated with this survey license application. The proposed project has the potential to introduce noise, pollution, and physical disturbance into the marine environment and mitigation measures are required to protect grey seals and harbour seals. **Natura Impact Statement Required**

NATURA Site	NAME	Screened In/Out	SSCO's/Reason
IE000147	Horn Head and Rinclevan SAC	**IN**	**Conservation Objective** To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected. **Qualifying Interest** 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] Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the *Littorelletea uniflorae* and/or *Isoeto-Nanojuncetea* [3130] *Vertigo geyeri* (Geyer's Whorl Snail) [1013] *Halichoerus grypus* (Grey Seal) [1364] *Petalophyllum ralfsii* (Petalwort) [1395] *Najas flexilis* (Slender Naiad) [1833] **Potential for likely significant effects** This SAC is 220.4 km from the proposed cable survey area. The proposed cable survey area is located within the foraging range of grey seal (448km) (Carter et al., 2022). Initial assessment identifies that, in the absence of mitigation measures, there may be potential for impact on grey seal (features of interest of this SAC) through underwater noise and physical disturbance which could impact the Features of Interest of this SAC should this mobile marine mammal enter the ZoI. Mitigation measures are required to protect the SAC from significant effects. The survey area is located 220.4 km from this conservation site. Given the nature of the proposed works, and the significant distance to this SAC across a marine environment, in the absence of mitigation measures, no significant impacts on habitats, Geyer's Whorl Snail, Petalwort, or Slender Naiad protected as a qualifying interest of this SAC are foreseen from the proposed works associated with this survey license application. The proposed project has the potential to introduce noise, pollution, and physical disturbance into the marine environment and mitigation measures are required to protect grey seals. **Natura Impact Statement Required**

NATURA Site Code	NAME	Screened In/Out	Conservation Objectives/ Features of interest/ Potential impact on Natura 2000 site.
Special Areas of Conservation (UK)			
UK0016612	Murlough	**In**	**Conservation Objective** To maintain (or restore where appropriate) the qualifying interests to favourable condition. **Qualifying Interest** Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("grey dunes") [2130] *priority habitat. Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (*Calluno-Ulicetea*) [2150] *priority habitat. Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time [1110] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*) [1330] Embryonic shifting dunes [2110] Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria ("white dunes") [2120] Dunes with Salix repens ssp. argentea (*Salicion arenariae*) [2170] Marsh fritillary butterfly (*Euphydryas (Eurodryas, Hypodryas) aurinia*) [1065] Harbour Seal (*Phoca vitulina*) [1365] **Potential Impact** This SAC is 227.6 km from the proposed cable survey area. The proposed cable survey area is located within the foraging range of harbour seal (273 km) (Carter et al., 2022). Initial assessment identifies that, in the absence of mitigation measures, and out of an abundance of caution, there may be potential for impact on harbour seals (qualifying interests of this SAC) through underwater noise and physical disturbance which could impact the Qualifying Interest of this SAC. Mitigation measures are required to protect the SAC from significant effects. The survey area is located 227.6 km from this conservation site. Given the nature of the proposed works, and the significant distance to this SAC across a marine environment, in the absence of mitigation measures, no significant impacts on habitats or the marsh fritillary butterfly protected as a qualifying interest of this SAC are foreseen from the proposed works associated with this survey license application. The proposed project has the potential to introduce noise into the marine environment and mitigation measures are required to protect harbour seals. **Natura Impact Statement Required**

NATURA Site Code	NAME	Screened In/Out	Conservation Objectives/ Features of interest/ Potential impact on Natura 2000 site.
UK0030398	North Anglesey Marine/Gogledd Môn Forol	**In**	**Conservation Objective** Maintain site integrity by ensuring: 1. Harbour porpoise are a viable component of the site. 2. There is no significant disturbance of the species. 3. The condition of supporting habitats and processes, and the availability of prey is maintained. **Qualifying Interest** Harbour Porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*) [1351] **Potential Impact** This SAC is located 245.7 km from the proposed cable survey area. The proposed cable survey area is located within the Celtic and Irish Seas MU for Harbour Porpoise (JNCC, 2023). Initial assessment identifies that, in the absence of mitigation measures, and out of an abundance of caution, there may be potential for impact on harbour porpoise (qualifying interest of this SAC) through underwater noise, pollution, and physical disturbance which could impact the Qualifying Interest of this SAC. Mitigation measures are required to protect the SAC from significant effects. The proposed project has the potential to introduce noise into the marine environment and mitigation measures are required to protect harbour porpoise. **Natura Impact Statement Required**
UK0016618	Strangford Lough	**In**	**Conservation Objective** To maintain (or restore where appropriate) the qualifying interests to favourable condition. **Qualifying Interest** Large shallow inlet and bay [1160] Coastal lagoons [1150] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by sea water at low tide [1140] Reefs [1170] Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210] Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*) [1330] Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220] Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] Harbour (Common) Seal (*Phoca vitulina*) [1351] **Potential Impact** This SAC is 251.3 km from the proposed cable survey area. The proposed cable survey area is located within the foraging range of harbour seal (273 km) (Carter et al., 2022).

NATURA Site Code	NAME	Screened In/Out	Conservation Objectives/ Features of interest/ Potential impact on Natura 2000 site.
			Initial assessment identifies that, in the absence of mitigation measures, there may be potential for impact on harbour seal (feature of interest of this SAC) through underwater noise and physical disturbance which could impact the Feature of Interest of this SAC. Mitigation measures are required to protect the SAC from significant effects. The survey area is located 251.3 km from this conservation site. Given the nature of the proposed works, and the significant distance to this SAC across a marine environment, in the absence of mitigation measures, no significant impacts on habitats protected as qualifying interests of this SAC are foreseen from the proposed works associated with this survey license application. The proposed project has the potential to introduce noise into the marine environment and mitigation measures are required to protect harbour seals. **Natura Impact Statement Required**
UK0030399	North Channel	In	**Conservation Objective** Maintain site integrity by ensuring: 1. Harbour porpoise are a viable component of the site. 2. There is no significant disturbance of the species. 3. The condition of supporting habitats and processes, and the availability of prey is maintained. **Qualifying Interest** Harbour Porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*) [1351] **Potential Impact** This SAC is 257.8 km from the proposed cable survey area. The proposed cable survey area is located within the Celtic and Irish Seas MU for Harbour Porpoise (JNCC, 2023). Initial assessment identifies that, in the absence of mitigation measures, and out of an abundance of caution, there may be potential for impact on harbour porpoise (qualifying interest of this SAC) through underwater noise and physical disturbance which could impact the Qualifying Interest of this SAC. Mitigation measures are required to protect the SAC from significant effects. The proposed project has the potential to introduce noise into the marine environment and mitigation measures are required to protect harbour porpoise. **Natura Impact Statement Required**
UK0030397	West Wales Marine / Gorllewin Cymru Forol	In	**Conservation Objective** Maintain site integrity by ensuring: 1. Harbour porpoise are a viable component of the site. 2. There is no significant disturbance of the species.

NATURA Site Code	NAME	Screened In/Out	Conservation Objectives/ Features of interest/ Potential impact on Natura 2000 site.
			3. The condition of supporting habitats and processes, and the availability of prey is maintained. **Qualifying Interest** Harbour Porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*) [1351] **Potential Impact** This SAC is 265.7 km from the proposed cable survey area. The proposed cable survey area is located within the Celtic and Irish Seas MU for Harbour Porpoise (JNCC, 2023). Initial assessment identifies that, in the absence of mitigation measures, and out of an abundance of caution, there may be potential for impact on harbour porpoise (qualifying interest of this SAC) through underwater noise and physical disturbance which could impact the Qualifying Interest of this SAC. Mitigation measures are required to protect the SAC from significant effects. The proposed project has the potential to introduce noise into the marine environment and mitigation measures are required to protect harbour porpoise. **Natura Impact Statement Required**
UK0013116	Pembrokeshire Marine / Sir Benfro Forol	**In**	**Conservation Objective** To maintain (or restore where appropriate) the qualifying interests to favourable condition. **Qualifying Interests** Sandbanks which are slightly covered by seawater all the time [1110] Estuaries [1130] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Coastal lagoons [1150] Large shallow inlets and bays [1160] Reefs [1170] Submerged or partially submerged sea caves [8330] Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*) [1330] Grey Seal (*Halichoeurus grypus*) [1364] Otter (*Lutra lutra*) [1355] Allis shad (*Alosa alosa*) [1102] Twaite shad (*Alosa fallax*) [1103] River lamprey (*Lampetra fluviatilis*) [1099] Sea lamprey (*Petromyzon marinus*) [1095] Shore dock (*Rumex rupestris*) [1441] **Potential Impact** This SAC is 274.8 km from the proposed cable survey area. The proposed cable survey area is located within the foraging range of grey seal (448 km) (Carter et al., 2022).

NATURA Site Code	NAME	Screened In/Out	Conservation Objectives/ Features of interest/ Potential impact on Natura 2000 site.
			Initial assessment identifies that, in the absence of mitigation measures, and out of an abundance of caution, there may be potential for impact on grey seal (qualifying interest of this SAC) through underwater noise and physical disturbance which could impact the Qualifying Interest of this SAC. Mitigation measures are required to protect the SAC from significant effects. The survey area is located 274.8 km from this conservation site. Given the nature of the proposed works, and the significant distance to this SAC across a marine environment, in the absence of mitigation measures, no significant impacts on designated habitats, Lamprey species (Sea and River), or Shore dock protected as a qualifying interest of this SAC are foreseen from the proposed works associated with this survey license application. In relation to Twaite shad and Allis shad, given the spatial and temporal nature of the proposed works, and the distance to this SAC, the proposed project is considered too far for any significant interaction to occur. Further, no significant impacts on otter are foreseen. As detailed by Reid et al. (2013), female otters have territories of 7.5 ± 1.5km in length along a riverine environment and 6.5 ± 1.0km in coastal environments, while male otter territory along rivers is approximately 13.2 ± 5.3km in length with a high degree of variability. Given the nature of the proposed works and the significant distance between the proposed survey area and this SAC (274.8 km), in the absence of mitigation, no significant effects on otter species are likely as a result of the proposed project. The proposed project has the potential to introduce noise into the marine environment and mitigation measures are required to protect harbour seals. **Natura Impact Statement Required**
UK0030384	The Maidens	**In**	**Conservation Objective** To maintain (or restore where appropriate) the qualifying interests to favourable condition. **Qualifying Interest** Sandbanks which are slightly covered by seawater all the time [1110] Reefs [1170] Grey Seal (*Halichoeurus grypus*) [1364] **Potential Impact** This SAC is 277.5 km from the proposed cable survey area. The proposed cable survey area is located within the foraging range of grey seal (448 km) (Carter et al., 2022).

NATURA Site Code	NAME	Screened In/Out	Conservation Objectives/ Features of interest/ Potential impact on Natura 2000 site.
			Initial assessment identifies that, in the absence of mitigation measures, there may be potential for impact on grey seal (feature of interest of this SAC) through underwater noise and physical disturbance which could impact the Feature of Interest of this SAC. Mitigation measures are required to protect the SAC from significant effects. The survey area is located 277.5 km from this conservation site. Given the nature of the proposed works, and the significant distance to this SAC across a marine environment, in the absence of mitigation measures, no significant impacts on sandbanks or reefs protected as qualifying interests of this SAC are foreseen from the proposed works associated with this survey license application. The proposed project has the potential to introduce noise into the marine environment and mitigation measures are required to protect grey seals. **Natura Impact Statement Required**
UK0013117	Pen Llyn a'r Sarnau/Lleyn Peninsula and the Sarnau	**In**	**Conservation Objective** To achieve favourable conservation status all the following, subject to natural processes, need to be fulfilled and maintained in the long-term. If these objectives are not met restoration measures will be needed to achieve favourable conservation status. **Qualifying Interest** Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Salicornia and other annuals colonizing mud and sand [1310] Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*) [1330] Submerged or partially submerged sea caves [8330] *Lutra lutra* (Otter) [1355] *Tursiops truncatus* (Common Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349] *Halichoerus grypus* (Grey Seal) [1364] **Potential Impact** This SAC is 284.2 km from the proposed cable survey area. The proposed cable survey area is located within the foraging range of grey seal (448 km) (Carter et al., 2022). Initial assessment identifies that, in the absence of mitigation measures, there may be potential for impact on grey seal (feature of interest of this SAC) through underwater noise and physical disturbance which could impact the Features of Interest of this SAC. Mitigation measures are required to protect the SAC from significant effects. It should be noted that this SAC is located in the Irish Sea MU for bottlenose dolphin. As demonstrated in Figure 34, the proposed cable survey area within the Irish EEZ is not located within this MU. Given the minimum distance from the

NATURA Site Code	NAME	Screened In/Out	Conservation Objectives/ Features of interest/ Potential impact on Natura 2000 site.
			proposed cable survey area to this SAC (284.2 km), the nature of the proposed works, and the fact that this SAC is not located in the Irish Sea MU for bottlenose dolphin, in the absence of mitigation, no significant effects on this qualifying interest of the SAC is foreseen. The survey area is located 284.2 km from this conservation site. Given the nature of the proposed works, and the significant distance to this SAC across a marine environment, in the absence of mitigation measures, no significant impacts on habitats protected as a qualifying interest of this SAC are foreseen from the proposed works associated with this survey license application. Further, no significant impacts on otter are foreseen. As detailed by Reid et al. (2013), female otters have territories of 7.5 ± 1.5km in length along a riverine environment and 6.5 ± 1.0km in coastal environments, while male otter territory along rivers is approximately 13.2 ± 5.3km in length with a high degree of variability. Given the nature of the proposed works and the significant distance between the proposed survey area and this SAC (284.2 km), in the absence of mitigation, no significant effects on otter species are likely as a result of the proposed project. Initial assessment identifies that, in the absence of mitigation measures, and out of an abundance of caution, there may be potential for impact on grey seals (qualifying interest of this SAC) through underwater noise and physical disturbance which could impact the Qualifying Interest of this SAC. Mitigation measures are required to protect the SAC from significant effects. The proposed project has the potential to introduce noise into the marine environment and mitigation measures are required to protect grey seals. **Natura Impact Statement Required**
UK0012712	Cardigan Bay / Bae Ceredigion	**In**	**Conservation Objective** To maintain (or restore where appropriate) the qualifying interests to favourable condition. **Qualifying Interest** Sandbanks which are slightly covered by seawater all the time [1110] Reefs [1170] Submerged or partially submerged sea caves [8330] Grey Seal (*Halichoeurus grypus*) [1364] River lamprey (*Lampetra fluviatilis*) [1099] Sea lamprey (*Petromyzon marinus*) [1095] *Tursiops truncates* (Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349] **Potential Impact**

NATURA Site Code	NAME	Screened In/Out	Conservation Objectives/ Features of interest/ Potential impact on Natura 2000 site.
			This SAC is 295.3 km from the proposed cable survey area within the Irish EEZ. The proposed cable survey area is located within the foraging range of grey seal (448 km) (Carter et al., 2022). Initial assessment identifies that, in the absence of mitigation measures, and out of an abundance of caution, there may be potential for impact on grey seal (qualifying interest of this SAC) through underwater noise and physical disturbance which could impact the Qualifying Interest of this SAC. Mitigation measures are required to protect the SAC from significant effects. The proposed cable survey area within the Irish EEZ is located 295.3 km from this conservation site. Given the nature of the proposed works, and the significant distance to this SAC across a marine environment, in the absence of mitigation measures, no significant impacts on designated habitats or Lamprey species (Sea and River) protected as a qualifying interest of this SAC are foreseen from the proposed works associated with this license application. It should be noted that this SAC is located in the Irish Sea MU for bottlenose dolphin. As demonstrated in Figure 34, the proposed cable survey area within the Irish EEZ is not located within this MU. Given the minimum distance from the cable survey area to this SAC (295.3 km), the nature of the proposed works, and the fact that this SAC is not located in the Irish Sea MU for bottlenose dolphin, in the absence of mitigation, no significant effects on this qualifying interest of the SAC is foreseen. Initial assessment identifies that, in the absence of mitigation measures, and out of an abundance of caution, there may be potential for impact on grey seal (qualifying interest of this SAC) through underwater noise and physical disturbance which could impact the Qualifying Interest of this SAC. Mitigation measures are required to protect the SAC from significant effects. The proposed project has the potential to introduce noise into the marine environment and mitigation measures are required to protect grey seal. **Natura Impact Statement Required**
UK0030396	Bristol Channel Approaches/Dynesfeydd Môr Hafren	**In**	**Conservation Objective** To maintain (or restore where appropriate) the qualifying interests to favourable condition. **Qualifying Interest** Harbour porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*) [1351] **Potential Impact**

NATURA Site Code	NAME	Screened In/Out	Conservation Objectives/ Features of interest/ Potential impact on Natura 2000 site.
			This SAC is 335.2 km from the proposed cable survey area. The proposed cable survey area is located within the Celtic and Irish Seas MU for harbour porpoise (JNCC, 2023). Initial assessment identifies that, in the absence of mitigation measures, and out of an abundance of caution, there may be potential for impact on harbour porpoise (qualifying interest of this SAC) through underwater noise and physical disturbance which could impact the Qualifying Interest of this SAC. Mitigation measures are required to protect the SAC from significant effects. The proposed project has the potential to introduce noise into the marine environment and mitigation measures are required to protect harbour porpoise. **Natura Impact Statement Required**
UK0013114	Lundy	**In**	**Conservation Objective** To maintain (or restore where appropriate) the qualifying interests to favourable condition. **Qualifying Interest** Sandbanks which are slightly covered by seawater all the time [1110] Reefs [1170] Submerged or partially submerged sea caves [8330] Grey Seal (*Halichoeurus grypus*) [1364] **Potential Impact** This SAC is 372.2 km from the proposed cable survey area. The proposed cable survey area is located within the foraging range of grey seal (448 km) (Carter et al., 2022). Initial assessment identifies that, in the absence of mitigation measures, there may be potential for impact on grey seal (feature of interest of this SAC) through underwater noise and physical disturbance which could impact the Feature of Interest of this SAC. Mitigation measures are required to protect the SAC from significant effects. The survey area is located 372.2 km from this conservation site. Given the nature of the proposed works, and the significant distance to this SAC across a marine environment, in the absence of mitigation measures, no significant impacts on habitats protected as qualifying interests of this SAC are foreseen from the proposed works associated with this survey license application. The proposed project has the potential to introduce noise into the marine environment and mitigation measures are required to protect grey seals. **Natura Impact Statement Required**
UK0013694	Isles of Scilly Complex	**In**	**Conservation Objective**

NATURA Site Code	NAME	Screened In/Out	Conservation Objectives/ Features of interest/ Potential impact on Natura 2000 site.
			To maintain (or restore where appropriate) the qualifying interests to favourable condition. **Qualifying Interest** Sandbanks which are slightly covered by seawater all the time [1110] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Reefs [1170] Shore Dock (*Rumex rupestris*) [1441] Grey Seal (*Halichoeurus grypus*) [1364] **Potential Impact** This SAC is 391.5 km from the proposed cable survey area. The proposed cable survey area is located within the foraging range of grey seal (448 km) (Carter et al., 2022). Initial assessment identifies that, in the absence of mitigation measures, there may be potential for impact on grey seal (feature of interest of this SAC) through underwater noise and physical disturbance which could impact the Feature of Interest of this SAC. Mitigation measures are required to protect the SAC from significant effects. The survey area is located 391.5 km from this conservation site. Given the nature of the proposed works, and the significant distance to this SAC across a marine environment, in the absence of mitigation measures, no significant impacts on habitats or shore dock protected as qualifying interests of this SAC are foreseen from the proposed works associated with this survey license application. The proposed project has the potential to introduce noise into the marine environment and mitigation measures are required to protect grey seals. **Natura Impact Statement Required**
UK0030289	Treshnish Isles	**In**	**Conservation Objective** To maintain (or restore where appropriate) the qualifying interests to favourable condition. **Qualifying Interest** Reefs [1170] Grey Seal (*Halichoeurus grypus*) [1364] **Potential Impact** This SAC is 393 km from the proposed cable survey area. The proposed cable survey area is located within the foraging range of grey seal (448 km) (Carter et al., 2022). Initial assessment identifies that, in the absence of mitigation measures, there may be potential for impact on grey seal (feature of interest of this SAC) through underwater noise and physical disturbance which could impact the Feature of

NATURA Site Code	NAME	Screened In/Out	Conservation Objectives/ Features of interest/ Potential impact on Natura 2000 site.
			Interest of this SAC. Mitigation measures are required to protect the SAC from significant effects. The survey area is located 393 km from this conservation site. Given the nature of the proposed works, and the significant distance to this SAC across a marine environment, in the absence of mitigation measures, no significant impacts on reefs protected as qualifying interests of this SAC are foreseen from the proposed works associated with this survey license application. The proposed project has the potential to introduce noise into the marine environment and mitigation measures are required to protect grey seals. **Natura Impact Statement Required**

NATURA Site Code	NAME	Screened In/Out	Conservation Objectives/ Features of interest/ Potential impact on Natura 2000 site.
Special Areas of Conservation (FR)			
FR5302015	Mers Celtiques – Talus du golfe de Gascogne	**In**	**Conservation Objective** To maintain (or restore where appropriate) the qualifying interests to favourable condition. **Relevant Qualifying Interests** *Phocoena phocoena* (Harbour Porpoise) [1351] *Tursiops truncates* (Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349] **Potential Impact** This SAC is 251.6 km from the proposed cable survey area. The proposed cable survey area is located within the Celtic and Irish Seas MU for Harbour Porpoise (JNCC, 2023) and also the Oceanic Waters MU for Bottlenose Dolphin (JNCC, 2023). Initial assessment identifies that, in the absence of mitigation measures, and out of an abundance of caution, there may be potential for impact on harbour porpoise and bottlenose dolphin (qualifying interests of this SAC) through underwater noise and physical disturbance which could impact the Qualifying Interests of this SAC. Mitigation measures are required to protect the SAC from significant effects. The proposed project has the potential to introduce noise into the marine environment and mitigation measures are required to protect harbour porpoise and bottlenose dolphin. **Natura Impact Statement Required**
FR5302016	Récifs du talus du golfe de Gascogne	**In**	**Conservation Objective** To maintain (or restore where appropriate) the qualifying interests to favourable condition. **Relevant Qualifying Interests** *Phocoena phocoena* (Harbour Porpoise) [1351] *Tursiops truncates* (Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349] **Potential Impact** This SAC is 305.2 km from the proposed cable survey area. The proposed cable survey area is located within the Celtic and Irish Seas MU for Harbour Porpoise (JNCC, 2023) and also the Oceanic Waters MU for Bottlenose Dolphin (JNCC, 2023). Initial assessment identifies that, in the absence of mitigation measures, and out of an abundance of caution, there may be potential for impact on harbour porpoise and bottlenose dolphin (qualifying interests of this SAC) through underwater noise and physical disturbance which could impact the Qualifying Interests of this SAC. Mitigation measures are required to protect the SAC from significant effects. The proposed project has the potential to introduce noise into the marine environment and mitigation measures are required to protect harbour porpoise and bottlenose dolphin. **Natura Impact Statement Required**

NATURA Site Code	NAME	Screened In/Out	Conservation Objectives/ Features of interest/ Potential impact on Natura 2000 site.
FR2502022	Nord Bretagne DH	**In**	**Conservation Objective** To maintain (or restore where appropriate) the qualifying interests to favourable condition. **Relevant Qualifying Interests** *Phocoena phocoena* (Harbour Porpoise) [1351] **Potential Impact** This SAC is 530.2 km from the proposed cable survey area. The proposed cable survey area is located within the Celtic and Irish Seas MU for Harbour Porpoise (JNCC, 2023). Initial assessment identifies that, in the absence of mitigation measures, and out of an abundance of caution, there may be potential for impact on harbour porpoise (qualifying interest of this SAC) through underwater noise and physical disturbance which could impact the Qualifying Interest of this SAC. Mitigation measures are required to protect the SAC from significant effects. The proposed project has the potential to introduce noise into the marine environment and mitigation measures are required to protect harbour porpoise. **Natura Impact Statement Required**
FR5300018	Ouessant-Molène	**In**	**Conservation Objective** To maintain (or restore where appropriate) the qualifying interests to favourable condition. **Relevant Qualifying Interests** *Phocoena phocoena* (Harbour Porpoise) [1351] **Potential Impact** This SAC is 581.9 km from the proposed cable survey area. The proposed cable survey area is located within the Celtic and Irish Seas MU for Harbour Porpoise (JNCC, 2023). Initial assessment identifies that, in the absence of mitigation measures, and out of an abundance of caution, there may be potential for impact on harbour porpoise (qualifying interest of this SAC) through underwater noise and physical disturbance which could impact the Qualifying Interest of this SAC. Mitigation measures are required to protect the SAC from significant effects. The proposed project has the potential to introduce noise into the marine environment and mitigation measures are required to protect harbour porpoise. **Natura Impact Statement Required**

NATURA Site Code	NAME	Screened In/Out	Conservation Objectives/ Features of interest/ Potential impact on Natura 2000 site.
FR5300017	Abers – Côtes des légendes	**In**	**Conservation Objective** To maintain (or restore where appropriate) the qualifying interests to favourable condition. **Relevant Qualifying Interests** *Phocoena phocoena* (Harbour Porpoise) [1351] **Potential Impact** This SAC is 587.7 km from the proposed cable survey area. The proposed cable survey area is located within the Celtic and Irish Seas MU for Harbour Porpoise (JNCC, 2023). Initial assessment identifies that, in the absence of mitigation measures, and out of an abundance of caution, there may be potential for impact on harbour porpoise (qualifying interest of this SAC) through underwater noise and physical disturbance which could impact the Qualifying Interest of this SAC. Mitigation measures are required to protect the SAC from significant effects. The proposed project has the potential to introduce noise into the marine environment and mitigation measures are required to protect harbour porpoise. **Natura Impact Statement Required**
FR5302007	Chaussée de Sein	**In**	**Conservation Objective** To maintain (or restore where appropriate) the qualifying interests to favourable condition. **Relevant Qualifying Interests** *Phocoena phocoena* (Harbour Porpoise) [1351] **Potential Impact** This SAC is 589.4 km from the proposed cable survey area. The proposed cable survey area is located within the Celtic and Irish Seas MU for Harbour Porpoise (JNCC, 2023). Initial assessment identifies that, in the absence of mitigation measures, and out of an abundance of caution, there may be potential for impact on harbour porpoise (qualifying interest of this SAC) through underwater noise and physical disturbance which could impact the Qualifying Interest of this SAC. Mitigation measures are required to protect the SAC from significant effects. The proposed project has the potential to introduce noise into the marine environment and mitigation measures are required to protect harbour porpoise. **Natura Impact Statement Required**
FR5300009	Côte de Granit rose-Sept-Iles	**In**	**Conservation Objective** To maintain (or restore where appropriate) the qualifying interests to favourable condition.

NATURA Site Code	NAME	Screened In/Out	Conservation Objectives/ Features of interest/ Potential impact on Natura 2000 site.
			Relevant Qualifying Interests *Phocoena phocoena* (Harbour Porpoise) [1351] **Potential Impact** This SAC is 594.8 km from the proposed cable survey area. The proposed cable survey area is located within the Celtic and Irish Seas MU for Harbour Porpoise (JNCC, 2023). Initial assessment identifies that, in the absence of mitigation measures, and out of an abundance of caution, there may be potential for impact on harbour porpoise (qualifying interest of this SAC) through underwater noise and physical disturbance which could impact the Qualifying Interest of this SAC. Mitigation measures are required to protect the SAC from significant effects. The proposed project has the potential to introduce noise into the marine environment and mitigation measures are required to protect harbour porpoise. **Natura Impact Statement Required**
FR5300015	Baie de Morlaix	**In**	**Conservation Objective** To maintain (or restore where appropriate) the qualifying interests to favourable condition. **Relevant Qualifying Interests** *Phocoena phocoena* (Harbour Porpoise) [1351] **Potential Impact** This SAC is 603.1 km from the proposed cable survey area. The proposed cable survey area is located within the Celtic and Irish Seas MU for Harbour Porpoise (JNCC, 2023). Initial assessment identifies that, in the absence of mitigation measures, and out of an abundance of caution, there may be potential for impact on harbour porpoise (qualifying interest of this SAC) through underwater noise and physical disturbance which could impact the Qualifying Interest of this SAC. Mitigation measures are required to protect the SAC from significant effects. The proposed project has the potential to introduce noise into the marine environment and mitigation measures are required to protect harbour porpoise. **Natura Impact Statement Required**
FR5300010	Trégor – Goëlo	**In**	**Conservation Objective** To maintain (or restore where appropriate) the qualifying interests to favourable condition. **Relevant Qualifying Interests** *Phocoena phocoena* (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]

NATURA Site Code	NAME	Screened In/Out	Conservation Objectives/ Features of interest/ Potential impact on Natura 2000 site.
			Potential Impact This SAC is 613 km from the proposed cable survey area. The proposed cable survey area is located within the Celtic and Irish Seas MU for Harbour Porpoise (JNCC, 2023). Initial assessment identifies that, in the absence of mitigation measures, and out of an abundance of caution, there may be potential for impact on harbour porpoise (qualifying interest of this SAC) through underwater noise and physical disturbance which could impact the Qualifying Interest of this SAC. Mitigation measures are required to protect the SAC from significant effects. The proposed project has the potential to introduce noise into the marine environment and mitigation measures are required to protect harbour porpoise. **Natura Impact Statement Required**
FR5302006	Côtes de Crozon	**In**	**Conservation Objective** To maintain (or restore where appropriate) the qualifying interests to favourable condition. **Relevant Qualifying Interests** *Phocoena phocoena* (Harbour Porpoise) [1351] **Potential Impact** This SAC is 623.5 km from the proposed cable survey area. The proposed cable survey area is located within the Celtic and Irish Seas MU for Harbour Porpoise (JNCC, 2023). Initial assessment identifies that, in the absence of mitigation measures, and out of an abundance of caution, there may be potential for impact on harbour porpoise (qualifying interest of this SAC) through underwater noise and physical disturbance which could impact the Qualifying Interest of this SAC. Mitigation measures are required to protect the SAC from significant effects. The proposed project has the potential to introduce noise into the marine environment and mitigation measures are required to protect harbour porpoise. **Natura Impact Statement Required**
FR2500084	Récifs et landes de la Hague	**In**	**Conservation Objective** To maintain (or restore where appropriate) the qualifying interests to favourable condition. **Relevant Qualifying Interests** *Phocoena phocoena* (Harbour Porpoise) [1351] **Potential Impact**

NATURA Site Code	NAME	Screened In/Out	Conservation Objectives/ Features of interest/ Potential impact on Natura 2000 site.
			This SAC is 623.9 km from the proposed cable survey area. The proposed cable survey area is located within the Celtic and Irish Seas MU for Harbour Porpoise (JNCC, 2023). Initial assessment identifies that, in the absence of mitigation measures, and out of an abundance of caution, there may be potential for impact on harbour porpoise (qualifying interest of this SAC) through underwater noise and physical disturbance which could impact the Qualifying Interest of this SAC. Mitigation measures are required to protect the SAC from significant effects. The proposed project has the potential to introduce noise into the marine environment and mitigation measures are required to protect harbour porpoise. **Natura Impact Statement Required**
FR5300008	Rivière Leguer, forêts de Beffou, Coat an Noz et Coat an Hay	**In**	**Conservation Objective** To maintain (or restore where appropriate) the qualifying interests to favourable condition. **Relevant Qualifying Interests** *Phocoena phocoena* (Harbour Porpoise) [1351] **Potential Impact** This SAC is 627 km from the proposed cable survey area. The proposed cable survey area is located within the Celtic and Irish Seas MU for Harbour Porpoise (JNCC, 2023). Initial assessment identifies that, in the absence of mitigation measures, and out of an abundance of caution, there may be potential for impact on harbour porpoise (qualifying interest of this SAC) through underwater noise and physical disturbance which could impact the Qualifying Interest of this SAC. Mitigation measures are required to protect the SAC from significant effects. The proposed project has the potential to introduce noise into the marine environment and mitigation measures are required to protect harbour porpoise. **Natura Impact Statement Required**
FR2502019	Anse de Vauville	**In**	**Conservation Objective** To maintain (or restore where appropriate) the qualifying interests to favourable condition. **Relevant Qualifying Interests** *Phocoena phocoena* (Harbour Porpoise) [1351] **Potential Impact** This SAC is 630.1 km from the proposed cable survey area. The proposed cable survey area is located within the Celtic and Irish Seas MU for Harbour Porpoise (JNCC, 2023).

NATURA Site Code	NAME	Screened In/Out	Conservation Objectives/ Features of interest/ Potential impact on Natura 2000 site.
			Initial assessment identifies that, in the absence of mitigation measures, and out of an abundance of caution, there may be potential for impact on harbour porpoise (qualifying interest of this SAC) through underwater noise and physical disturbance which could impact the Qualifying Interest of this SAC. Mitigation measures are required to protect the SAC from significant effects. The proposed project has the potential to introduce noise into the marine environment and mitigation measures are required to protect harbour porpoise. **Natura Impact Statement Required**
FR2502018	Banc et récifs de Surtainville	**In**	**Conservation Objective** To maintain (or restore where appropriate) the qualifying interests to favourable condition. **Relevant Qualifying Interests** *Phocoena phocoena* (Harbour Porpoise) [1351] **Potential Impact** This SAC is 643.9 km from the proposed cable survey area. The proposed cable survey area is located within the Celtic and Irish Seas MU for Harbour Porpoise (JNCC, 2023). Initial assessment identifies that, in the absence of mitigation measures, and out of an abundance of caution, there may be potential for impact on harbour porpoise (qualifying interest of this SAC) through underwater noise and physical disturbance which could impact the Qualifying Interest of this SAC. Mitigation measures are required to protect the SAC from significant effects. The proposed project has the potential to introduce noise into the marine environment and mitigation measures are required to protect harbour porpoise. **Natura Impact Statement Required**
FR5300011	Cap d'Erquy-Cap Fréhel	**In**	**Conservation Objective** To maintain (or restore where appropriate) the qualifying interests to favourable condition. **Relevant Qualifying Interests** *Phocoena phocoena* (Harbour Porpoise) [1351] **Potential Impact** This SAC is 670.4 km from the proposed cable survey area. The proposed cable survey area is located within the Celtic and Irish Seas MU for Harbour Porpoise (JNCC, 2023). Initial assessment identifies that, in the absence of mitigation measures, and out of an abundance of caution, there may be potential for impact on harbour porpoise (qualifying interest of this SAC) through underwater noise and physical

NATURA Site Code	NAME	Screened In/Out	Conservation Objectives/ Features of interest/ Potential impact on Natura 2000 site.
			disturbance which could impact the Qualifying Interest of this SAC. Mitigation measures are required to protect the SAC from significant effects. The proposed project has the potential to introduce noise into the marine environment and mitigation measures are required to protect harbour porpoise. **Natura Impact Statement Required**
FR5300066	Baie de Saint-Brieuc - Est	**In**	**Conservation Objective** To maintain (or restore where appropriate) the qualifying interests to favourable condition. **Relevant Qualifying Interests** *Phocoena phocoena* (Harbour Porpoise) [1351] **Potential Impact** This SAC is 681.3 km from the proposed cable survey area. The proposed cable survey area is located within the Celtic and Irish Seas MU for Harbour Porpoise (JNCC, 2023). Initial assessment identifies that, in the absence of mitigation measures, and out of an abundance of caution, there may be potential for impact on harbour porpoise (qualifying interest of this SAC) through underwater noise and physical disturbance which could impact the Qualifying Interest of this SAC. Mitigation measures are required to protect the SAC from significant effects. The proposed project has the potential to introduce noise into the marine environment and mitigation measures are required to protect harbour porpoise. **Natura Impact Statement Required**
FR2500079	Chausey	**In**	**Conservation Objective** To maintain (or restore where appropriate) the qualifying interests to favourable condition. **Relevant Qualifying Interests** *Phocoena phocoena* (Harbour Porpoise) [1351] **Potential Impact** This SAC is 687.6 km from the proposed cable survey area. The proposed cable survey area is located within the Celtic and Irish Seas MU for Harbour Porpoise (JNCC, 2023). Initial assessment identifies that, in the absence of mitigation measures, and out of an abundance of caution, there may be potential for impact on harbour porpoise (qualifying interest of this SAC) through underwater noise and physical disturbance which could impact the Qualifying Interest of this SAC. Mitigation measures are required to protect the SAC from significant effects.

NATURA Site Code	NAME	Screened In/Out	Conservation Objectives/ Features of interest/ Potential impact on Natura 2000 site.
			The proposed project has the potential to introduce noise into the marine environment and mitigation measures are required to protect harbour porpoise. **Natura Impact Statement Required**
FR5300012	Baie de Lancieux, Baie de l'Arguenon, Archipel de Saint Malo et Dinard	**In**	**Conservation Objective** To maintain (or restore where appropriate) the qualifying interests to favourable condition. **Relevant Qualifying Interests** *Phocoena phocoena* (Harbour Porpoise) [1351] **Potential Impact** This SAC is 699.3 km from the proposed cable survey area. The proposed cable survey area is located within the Celtic and Irish Seas MU for Harbour Porpoise (JNCC, 2023). Initial assessment identifies that, in the absence of mitigation measures, and out of an abundance of caution, there may be potential for impact on harbour porpoise (qualifying interest of this SAC) through underwater noise and physical disturbance which could impact the Qualifying Interest of this SAC. Mitigation measures are required to protect the SAC from significant effects. The proposed project has the potential to introduce noise into the marine environment and mitigation measures are required to protect harbour porpoise. **Natura Impact Statement Required**
FR5300061	Estuairie de la Rance	**In**	**Conservation Objective** To maintain (or restore where appropriate) the qualifying interests to favourable condition. **Relevant Qualifying Interests** *Phocoena phocoena* (Harbour Porpoise) [1351] **Potential Impact** This SAC is 714.6 km from the proposed cable survey area. The proposed cable survey area is located within the Celtic and Irish Seas MU for Harbour Porpoise (JNCC, 2023). Initial assessment identifies that, in the absence of mitigation measures, and out of an abundance of caution, there may be potential for impact on harbour porpoise (qualifying interest of this SAC) through underwater noise and physical disturbance which could impact the Qualifying Interest of this SAC. Mitigation measures are required to protect the SAC from significant effects. The proposed project has the potential to introduce noise into the marine environment and mitigation measures are required to protect harbour porpoise. **Natura Impact Statement Required**

NATURA Site Code	NAME	Screened In/Out	Conservation Objectives/ Features of interest/ Potential impact on Natura 2000 site.
FR2500077	Baie du Mont Saint-Michel	**In**	**Conservation Objective** To maintain (or restore where appropriate) the qualifying interests to favourable condition. **Relevant Qualifying Interests** *Phocoena phocoena* (Harbour Porpoise) [1351] **Potential Impact** This SAC is 715 km from the proposed cable survey area. The proposed cable survey area is located within the Celtic and Irish Seas MU for Harbour Porpoise (JNCC, 2023). Initial assessment identifies that, in the absence of mitigation measures, and out of an abundance of caution, there may be potential for impact on harbour porpoise (qualifying interest of this SAC) through underwater noise and physical disturbance which could impact the Qualifying Interest of this SAC. Mitigation measures are required to protect the SAC from significant effects. The proposed project has the potential to introduce noise into the marine environment and mitigation measures are required to protect harbour porpoise. **Natura Impact Statement Required**

4.5 Cumulative Impact Assessment

As outlined by (OSPAR, 2012) "*Cumulative effects, the combined effect of more than one activity, may reinforce the impacts of a single activity due to temporal and/or spatial overlaps*". The potential for in-combination effects within the ZoI that may occur as a result of the proposed project, during and post works has been assessed. The following cumulative impact assessment has been guided by the EC 2021 AA guidance document[e], with particular reference to "Table 2. Cumulative impact assessment".

4.5.1 Geographic Boundaries and the Timeline for Assessment

The proposed project is primarily located within the intertidal and subtidal elements of Ballyloughane Beach, Galway Bay, and within the Irish EEZ. The potential ZoI for in-combination effects for this assessment has been deemed to be projects located proximate to the landfall and intertidal elements of the survey works in addition to subtidal elements relating to underwater noise. Terrestrial planning applications have been examined for the potential for in-combination effects. Given that the proposed survey works extend to the offshore subtidal in the Irish Sea, the geographic boundaries of assessment was expanded to include coastal and offshore marine projects located within the Irish Sea.

In relation to the timeline for assessment, given the short temporal nature of the proposed works, and the fact that the proposed works will be isolated to the survey corridor extents with potential for noise to extend beyond the survey area, the most recent projects located within the vicinity of the proposed survey works area have been examined for potential in-combination effects.

4.5.2 Identification of Plans/Projects that could act In Combination

Galway City Council planning permissions, Foreshore Applications, MARA Licence Applications, and EIA portal were examined, and the potential for in-combination effects due to development in the area.

Table 12. *Galway City Council Planning Permissions.*

Ref. No.	Address	Proposal
22127	Ballyloughane, Renmore, Galway	Permission for development which will consist of a dwelling house, domestic garage, on-site treatment system along with all associated site works. Access from the site to the public road is to be via proposed roadway permitted under pl. ref. no. 20/221
21405	Ballyloughane, Renmore, Galway	Permission for development which will consist of: (a) conversion of attic storage void to habitable space (b) additional roof windows to front and rear facades (c) all associated building works and site works
21391	Ballyloughane, Renmore, Galway	Permission for development which will consist of the construction of a dwelling house, domestic garage, on-site treatment system along with all associated site works.
20221	Ballyloughane, Renmore, Galway	Permission for the development which will consist of the construction of a new two storey dwelling and garage, with new access road plus wastewater treatment system and associated site works

[e] Official Journal C 437/2021 (europa.eu)

Table 13. *Foreshore licence applications in vicinity of Pisces Survey Works*

Reference	Title	Year	Location	Activity	Status
FS007569	Galway Wandering Kite Festival	2022	Omey Strand, Claddaghduff, Co. Galway	Galway Wandering Kite Festival	Determination
FS007161	Site Investigations for the proposed Sceirde Rocks Offshore Wind Farm	2022	Off County Galway	Site Investigation for Offshore Wind Farm	Determination
FS007461	UCD Research Experiments, Inishmaan	2022	Inishmaan, Co. Galway	Short term deployment of 1 no. Offshore Met Ocean Data Buoy, 1 no. Acoustic Doppler Current Profiler (ADCP) on the seabed and 1 no. Inshore String of 5 Buoys with monitoring devices, all with associated moorings etc. at various of locations within the licensed area	Determination
FS007495	Atlantic Offshore Renewable Energy 2	2021	Off County Galway	Site Investigations for proposed offshore wind farm	Applied
FS007246	Main lay and construction works for installation of the IRIS sub-sea fibre optic cable system, Co. Galway	2021	Galway	Main lay and construction works for installation of the IRIS sub-sea fibre optic cable system	Determination. Installed in 2022 under ecological supervision (Altemar)
FS007100	Health Service Executive Deployment of 6 Swim Buoys along Salthill Promenade	2021	Salthill Promenade, Co. Galway	To deploy 6 swim buoys along Salthill promenade in support of Healthy Galway City programme which is the structure to implement Healthy Ireland at the local level	Consultation
FS007543	Fuinneamh Sceirde Teoranta	2022	Off County Galway	Sceirde Rocks export cable corridor site investigations is to determine geotechnical, geophysical and benthic characteristics within the Foreshore Licence Area.	Determination
FS006916	EirGrid Celtic Interconnector Electricity Cable	2021	Co. Cork	Installation of Subsea Cable	Determination

Table 14. *MARA licence applications proximate to the proposed survey corridor*

Reference	Title	Year	Location	Activity	Status
LIC230033	LIC230033 – Apollo Submarine Cable System Limited	2023	Irish Deep Offshore Subtidal	Proposed installation and operation of the 2Africa Submarine Cable System within the Irish Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). The planned cable will extend from Widemouth Bay in Cornwall to a number of countries in Europe, Africa, and the Middle East.	Applied
LIC230019	LIC230019 – Doyle Shipping Group	2023	Lower Harbour of Cork on the western side of the River Lee, Co. Cork	Site Investigation in the maritime area including reclaimed dockland and surrounding nearshore to aid the design of increased port facilities in support of the ORE industry.	Applied
LIC230017	LIC230017 – Microsoft Ireland Operations Ltd.	2023	Kilmore Quay, Co. Wexford	Geophysical survey and site investigations for a proposed subsea fibre optic cable having a landfall in Kilmore Quay, County Wexford and to evaluate options for the route traversing Ballyteige Bay, across the Celtic Sea and St Georges Channel to Pembrokeshire, Wales.	Applied
LIC230014	LIC230014 – Shannon Foynes Port Company	2023	Foynes Island, Co. Limerick	A Marine Site Investigation to support the preliminary and detailed engineering design of the Deep-Water Terminal Development on Foynes Island.	Applied
LIC230004	LIC230004 – Aughinish Alumina Ltd	2023	Moneypoint, Co. Clare	ESB intends to undertake a survey campaign at the Moneypoint Generating Station site to inform the engineering design of the proposed Moneypoint Hub Project. The marine	Applied

Reference	Title	Year	Location	Activity	Status
				surveys will include geophysical, geotechnical, environmental, and met ocean surveys.	

4.5.3 Impact Identification

In relation to Foreshore Application **FS007246**, all main lay and construction works have been completed. An Ecological Clerk of Works (Altemar) was in place for the works. Main lay works on Ballyloughane Strand were completed in June 2022. The landfall survey and site investigations will be limited as the PISCES cable will be installed at the landfall by sharing existing infrastructure (a duct installed by horizontal directional drilling for the IRIS system installation in 2022) to cross the shoreline at Ballyloughane. The proposed routing of the Pisces cable has been designed to run as close as possible to the IRIS cable so as to minimise the potential for in combination effects. Communities within the vicinity of the IRIS cable route would be expected to have recovered within the intervening period and no in-combination effects would be foreseen.

In relation to **FS007543** (Sceirde Rocks export cable corridor site investigations) there are currently two potential offshore export cable corridors, one making landfall in Galway Bay, the second making landfall further south along the coast near Milltown Malbay and Doonbeg. Surveys include Shallow Sampling (75 grab samples), Cone Penetration Tests (CPT), Borehole sampling, Bathymetric surveying and benthic ecology surveys. As outlined in the project's NIS '*Due to the potential for injury to harbour porpoise, bottlenose dolphin, grey seal and harbour seal resulting from the site investigations, marine mammal mitigation will be implemented. Available mitigation measures specifically designed for geophysical surveys have been incorporated into the mitigation measures described below and the protocol 'Guidance to Manage the Risk to Marine Mammals from Man-made Sound Sources in Irish Waters' (Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (DAHG), 2014) will be followed at all times for all site investigation activities. Section 4.3.4 of the DAHG 2014 guidance specifically relates to geophysical survey activities. These best practice guidelines are now incorporated as standard operating procedures for all noise emitting surveys in Irish Waters and are considered sufficient by the competent authority (National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS)) to mitigate for disturbance to marine mammal species*.'

It should be noted that Sceirde Rocks Survey Licences have been granted and survey works were carried out in 2023. There is the potential for further survey works to be carried out as part of this project. Following a review of the Sceirde Rocks foreshore application, it has been determined that the proposed PISCES survey vessel would be within the Sceirde Rocks Licence Area for approximately 5 hours (based on a survey vessel speed of 4 knots). In the event that the proposed PICSES survey works overlap with survey works undertaken as part of the Sceirde Rocks survey (including the Export Cable Corridor), no significant in-combination effects are foreseen as that it is anticipated that the PISCES survey vessel would be within the Sceirde Rocks Licence Area for a short timeframe (approx. 5 hours) and mitigation measures will be in place. In the event that further survey works are proposed, they will be subject to the MARA licencing process and further assessment of potential in-combination effects will be conducted at this stage.

There are no projects, identified within Galway City Council, Foreshore Licence applications, or MARA planning records, that have been granted planning or currently under construction, proximate to the proposed survey works, that could potentially cause significant in combination effects on European sites.

The potential impacts of the proposed cable route survey are Temporary (i.e. Effects lasting less than a year) in relation to seabed sampling and brief, lasting less than a day, in relation to underwater noise and primarily to occur during the brief survey period (with the presence of boats, machinery and personnel in the vicinity of the works). Impacts on infauna would be deemed to be temporary (i.e. Effects lasting less than a year).

4.5.4 Pathway Identification

The proposed landfall survey works are in a populated area and is a popular destination for the local community. It is a location with a regular stream of dog walkers and pedestrians on the shore. The proposed subtidal cable survey route is in an area that experiences existing vessel activity (due to proximity to Galway Docks). Given that intertidal elements of the proposed survey works are located within the intertidal of Ballyloughane Beach, there is a potential hydrological pathway from the research vessel to designated conservation sites located within Galway Bay. These conservation sites are located downstream of a number of terrestrial planning applications outlined in Table 12. In the marine offshore subtidal of Galway Bay and the Atlantic Ocean, there is a potential hydrological pathway from the research vessel to marine-based conservation sites within the marine environment. A number of Foreshore applications are located in this area, and may share a hydrological pathway with the proposed survey works.

4.5.5 Prediction

The survey works would not be seen to have a significant impact on water quality of the area, including impacting the water quality status. Given the scale and the temporal nature of the proposed survey works, no significant cumulative effects with other identified plans or projects are foreseen. Any potential impacts from a pathway that the research vessel may share with projects identified in Tables 12 - 14 are considered to be minimal, and no significant cumulative effects on designated conservation sites are foreseen.

4.5.6 Assessment

The projects outlined above are either completed or, are currently going through planning stages and are not expected to be carried out concurrently or are not at a scale or location where in combination effects are foresee with the proposed project. This report pertains to survey works for the proposed route for a marine fibre optic cable in subtidal and intertidal habitats. As can be seen from using the Best Available Techniques and mitigation measures during survey works, considerable effort has gone into minimising the potential environmental impact of the project. "*Generally all mitigation measures applied for individual cables also contribute to reduction of cumulative impacts*" (OSPAR, 2012).

No likely in combination effects are foreseen from the project in conjunction with other projects.

4.6 Appropriate Assessment Screening Conclusions

An initial screening of the proposed works, using the precautionary principle (without the use of any mitigation measures) and Natura 2000 sites with the potential to result in significant effects on the conservation objectives and features of interest of the Natura 2000 sites was carried out in Table 11. Based on best scientific knowledge and objective information and assessment, the possibility of significant effects caused by the proposed project was excluded for the following Natura 2000 sites:

Special Protection Areas

Inishmore SPA
Cliffs of Moher SPA
Lough Corrib SPA
Cregganna Marsh SPA
Connemara Bog Complex SPA

Special Areas of Conservation

Black Head-Poulsallagh Complex SAC
Lough Corrib SAC
Inisheer Island SAC
Inagh River Estuary SAC
East Burren Complex SAC
Moneen Mountain SAC
Ballyvaughan Turlough SAC
Ballyteige (Clare) SAC
Connemara Bog Complex SAC
Lough Fingall Complex SAC
Inishmaan Island SAC
Carrowmore Point to Spanish Point and Islands SAC
Inishmore Island SAC
Kiltiernan Turlough SAC

The project is limited in scale and extent and the potential zone of influence is restricted to the immediate vicinity of the survey route, with the exception of underwater noise that may extend beyond the survey corridor. The proposed intertidal and subtidal elements of the project are located within the boundaries of Galway Bay Complex SAC and Inner Galway Bay SPA. Further, it should be noted that the following Natura 2000 sites have been screened IN due to the potential movements of harbour porpoise, common bottlenose dolphin, harbour seals, and grey seals (qualifying interests of these SAC):

- Slaney River Valley SAC (IE)
- Saltee Islands SAC (IE)
- Roaring Water Bay and Islands SAC (IE)
- Blasket Islands SAC (IE)
- Kilkieran Bay And Islands SAC (IE)
- Lower River Shannon SAC (IE)
- Slyne Head Peninsula SAC (IE)
- West Connacht Coast SAC (IE)
- Slyne Head Islands SAC (IE)
- Clew Bay Complex SAC (IE)
- Slyne Head Islands SAC (IE)
- Inishbofin and Inishshark SAC (IE)
- Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SAC (IE)
- Ballysadare Bay SAC (IE)
- Kenmare River SAC (IE)

- Cummeen Strand/Drumcliffe Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC (IE)
- Duvillaun Islands SAC (IE)
- Inishkea Islands SAC (IE)
- Glengarriff Harbour and Woodland SAC (IE)
- Slieve Tooey/Tormore Island/Loughbros Beg Bay SAC (IE)
- Donegal Bay (Murvagh) SAC (IE)
- West of Adara/Maas Road SAC (IE)
- Rutland Island and Sound SAC (IE)
- Rockabill to Dalkey Islands SAC (IE)
- Lambay Island SAC (IE)
- Horn Head and Rinclevan SAC (IE)
- North Anglesey Marine/Gogledd Môn Forol (UK)
- West Wales Marine / Gorllewin Cymru Forol (UK)
- Pen Llyn a'r Sarnau/Lleyn Peninsula and the Sarnau (UK)
- Murlough (UK)
- North Channel (UK)
- Strangford Lough (UK)
- Cardigan Bay / Bae Ceredigion (UK)
- Pembrokeshire Marine / Sir Benfro Forol (UK)
- The Maidens SAC (UK)
- Bristol Channel Approaches/Dynesfeydd Môr Hafren (UK)
- Treshnish Isles (UK)
- Lundy (UK)
- Isles of Scilly Complex (UK)
- Nord Bretagne DH (FR)
- Récifs et landes de la Hague (FR)
- Anse de Vauville (FR)
- Mers Celtiques – Talus du golfe de Gascogne (FR)
- Banc et récifs de Surtainville (FR)
- Côte de Granit rose-Sept-Iles (FR)
- Trégor – Goëlo (FR)
- Baie de Morlaix (FR)
- Abers – Côtes des legends (FR)
- Rivière Leguer, forêts de Beffou, Coat an Noz et Coat an Hay (FR)
- Cap d'Erquy-Cap Fréhel (FR)
- Ouessant-Molène (FR)
- Chausey (FR)
- Baie de Saint-Brieuc – Est (FR)
- Côtes de Crozon (FR)
- Baie du Mont Saint-Michel (FR)
- Baie de Lancieux, Baie de l'Arguenon, Archipel de Saint Malo et Dinard (FR)
- Estuairie de la Rance (FR)
- Chaussée de Sein (FR)
- Récifs du talus du golfe de Gascogne (FR)

The distribution of these species may bring them within the proximity of the subtidal survey works. Standard marine mammal mitigation measures will be in place (in compliance with NPWS guidance) and as a result it is required to go to NIS for these SACs.

Acting on a strictly precautionary basis, NIS is required in respect of the effects of the project on the Natura 2000 sites screened IN for NIS (potential habitat and disturbance effects in the absence of mitigation) because it cannot be excluded on the basis of best objective scientific information following screening, in the absence of control or mitigation measures that the plan or project, individually and/or in combination with other plans or projects, will have a significant effect on the named European Site/s.

An NIS or Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment is not required for the effects of the project on all other Natura sites because it can be excluded on the basis of the best objective scientific information following screening that the plan or project, individually and/or in combination with other plans or projects, will have a significant effect on the European Site/s.

A Stage 2 AA is required for the proposed project.

5. Data Used for AA Screening

NPWS site synopses and Conservation objectives of sites within 15km were assessed. The most recent SAC and SPA boundary shapefiles were downloaded and overlaid on Bing road maps and satellite imagery.

6. References

1. DoEHLG, 2009. Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland: Guidance for Planning Authorities, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government 2009; http://www.npws.ie/publications/archive/NPWS_2009_AA_Guidance.pdf
2. DoEHLG, 2013. Department of Environment Heritage and Local Government Circular NPW 1/10 and PSSP 2/10 on Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive – Guidance for Planning Authorities March 2010.
3. European Commission, 2006. Managing NATURA 2000 Sites: the provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, European Commission 2000; http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/Natura2000/management/docs/art6/provision_of_art6_en.pdf
4. European Commission, 2001. Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly Affecting NATURA 2000 Sites: Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC; http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/management/docs/art6/natura_2000_assess_en.pdf
5. European Commission. 2006. Nature and biodiversity cases: Ruling of the European Court of Justice. Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Luxembourg.
6. European Commission, 2011. Guidance document on the implementation of the birds and habitats directive in estuaries and coastal zones with particular attention to port development and dredging; http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/Natura2000/management/docs/guidance_doc.pdf
7. NPWS, 2013. The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland. http://www.npws.ie/publications/euconservationstatus/NPWS_2007_Conservation_Status_Report.pdf
8. NPWS(2012c) Marine Natura Impact Statements in Irish Special Areas of Conservation- A working Document. http://www.dcenr.gov.ie/NR/rdonlyres/2071E865-EC10-42A1-876F-44A3C1FBF527/0/MarineNatureImpact.pdf
9. OSPAR (2012) Guidelines on Best Environmental Practice (BEP) in Cable Laying and Operation
10. OSPAR, 2008a: Background Document on potential problems associated with power cables other than those for oil and gas activities. – Publication Number: 370/2008, 50 p.
11. OSPAR, 2009: Assessment of the environmental impacts of cables. – Publication Number: 437/2009, 19 p.
12. Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan (OREDP) for Ireland (2011) Natura Impact Statement (NIS)
13. O'Brien, J (2013). CETACEAN PRESENCE AT THE OCEAN ENERGY TEST SITE SPIDDAL: AS DETERMINED THROUGH LAND-BASED VISUAL MONITORING AND STATIC ACOUSTIC MONITORING USING PODs
14. Konsberg (2010), Underwater noise propagation modelling and estimate of impact zones for seismic operations in the Moray Firth. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/50020/mf-annexii.pdf
15. NOAA 2018 Revision to: Technical Guidance for Assessing the Effects of Anthropogenic Sound on Marine Mammal Hearing (Version 2.0) Underwater Thresholds for Onset of Permanent and Temporary Threshold Shifts. NOAA Technical Memorandum NMFS-OPR-59 April 2018.
16. DAHG (2014). Guidance to Manage the Risk to Marine Mammals from Man made Sound Sources in Irish Waters. https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/general/Underwater%20sound%20guidance_Jan%202014.pdf
17. BEIS. (2020). Review of Consented Offshore Wind Farms in the Southern North Sea Harbour Porpoise SAC.
18. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) Office of Renewable Energy Programs (2012). Commercial Wind Lease Issuance and Site Assessment Activities on the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf Offshore Massachusetts, Environmental Assessment. Published by U.S. Department of the Interior. October 2012.
19. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) (2016). Characteristics of sounds emitted during high resolution marine geophysical surveys U.S. OCS Study BOEM 2016-044 NUWC-NPT Technical Report 12.
20. Crocker SE, Fratantonio FD. 2016. Characteristics of High-Frequency Sounds Emitted During High-Resolution Geophysical Surveys. OCS Study, BOEM 2016-44, NUWC-NPT Technical Report 12, 203pp.
21. D'Amico AD, Pittenger R. 2009. A brief history of active sonar. Aquatic Mammals 35(4), 426-434.
22. Danson, E. (2005). Geotechnical and geophysical investigations for offshore and nearshore developments. Technical Committee 1, International Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering, September 2005.
23. DECC (2011), Review and Assessment of Underwater Sound Produced from Oil and Gas Sound Activities and Potential Reporting Requirements under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive. Document No: J71656-Final Report –G2

24. Department of Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht (2014), Guidance to Manage the Risk to Marine Mammals from Man-made Sound Sources in Irish Waters.
25. EIRGRID PLC. (2014). Celtic Interconnector Project: Marine Mammal Risk Assessment. Produced by Intertek Energy and Water consultancy services. Report Reference: Attachment F_P1812_R3691_REV1.
26. Hartley Anderson (2020), underwater acoustic surveys: review of source characteristics, impacts on marine species, current regulatory framework and recommendations for potential management options. NRW Evidence Report No: 448, 136pp, NRW, Bangor, UK.
27. Hildebrand JA, 2009. Anthropogenic and natural sources of ambient noise in the ocean. Marine Ecology Progress Series 395, 5-20.
28. Hildebrand JA. 2005. Impacts of anthropogenic sound. In: Reynolds JE, Perrin WF, Reeves RR, Montgomery S, Ragen TJ (eds) Marine mammal research: conservation beyond crisis. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press p101-124.
29. Hopkins, A. (2007). Recommended operating guidelines (ROG) for swath bathymetry. MESH.
30. Lam F-P, Kvadsheim PH, Isojunno S, van IJsselmuide S, Wensveen PJ, Hansen RR, Sivle LD, Kleivane L, Martín López LM, Benti B, Dekeling R, Miller PJO. 2018. Behavioral response study on the effects of continuous sonar and the effects of source proximity on sperm whales in Norwegian waters - The 3S-2017 Cruise Report. TNO Report TNO 2018 R10958, 54pp plus appendices.
31. LGL Alaska Research Associates and Jasco Applied Sciences (2010), Marine Mammal Monitoring and Mitigation during Marine Geophysical Surveys by Shell Offshore Inc. in the Alaskan Chukchi and Beaufort Seas, July – October 2010:90-Day Report
32. Lurton X, DeRuiter SL. 2011. Sound radiation of seafloor-mapping echo sounders in the water column, in relation to the risks posed to marine mammals. International Hydrographic Review, Nov 2011, 11pp.
33. Lurton X. 2016. Modelling of the sound field radiated by Multibeam echo sounders for acoustical impact assessment. Applied Acoustics 101, 201-221.
34. Pei Y, Kan G, Zhang L, Huang Y, Liu Z, Liu B, Yan K. 2019. Characteristics of source wavelets generated by two sparkers. Journal of Applied Geophysics 170, 103819.
35. Risch D, Wilson B, Lepper P. 2017. Acoustic assessment of SIMRAD EK60 high frequency echo sounder signals (120 & 200 kHz) in the context of marine mammal monitoring. Scottish Marine and Freshwater Science Vol. 8, No. 13, published by Marine Scotland Science, 27pp.
36. NOAA 2018 Revision to: Technical Guidance for Assessing the Effects of Anthropogenic Sound on Marine Mammal Hearing (Version 2.0) Underwater Thresholds for Onset of Permanent and Temporary Threshold Shifts. NOAA Technical Memorandum NMFS-OPR-59 April 2018.
37. NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives: Galway Bay Complex SAC 000268. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
38. NPWS (2015) Conservation Objectives: Inishmore Island SAC 000213. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
39. NPWS (2017) Conservation Objectives: Lough Corrib SAC 000297. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.
40. NPWS (2014) Conservation Objectives: Black Head-Poulsallagh Complex SAC 000020. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
41. NPWS (2014) Conservation Objectives: Inisheer Island SAC 001275. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
42. NPWS (2014) Conservation Objectives: Inishmaan Island SAC 000212. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
43. NPWS (2015) Conservation Objectives: Connemara Bog Complex SAC 002034. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
44. NPWS (2022) Conservation Objectives: East Burren Complex SAC 001926. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
45. NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives: Moneen Mountain SAC 000054. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
46. NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives: Ballyteige (Clare) SAC 000994. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
47. NPWS (2017) Conservation Objectives: Inagh River Estuary SAC 000036. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.
48. NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives: Ballyvaughan Turlough SAC 000996. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

49. NPWS (2019) Conservation Objectives: Lough Fingall Complex SAC 000606. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
50. NPWS (2014) Conservation Objectives: Carrowmore Point to Spanish Point and Islands SAC 001021. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
51. NPWS (2015) Conservation Objectives: Inishmore Island SAC 000213. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
52. NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives: Kiltiernan Turlough SAC 001285. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
53. NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives: Inner Galway Bay SPA 004031. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
54. NPWS (2022) Conservation objectives for Inishmore SPA [004152]. First Order Site-specific Conservation Objectives Version 1.0. Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
55. NPWS (2022) Conservation objectives for Cliffs of Moher SPA [004005]. First Order Sitespecific Conservation Objectives Version 1.0. Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
56. NPWS (2023) Conservation Objectives: Lough Corrib SPA 004042. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
57. NPWS (2023) Conservation Objectives: Cregganna Marsh SPA 004142. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
58. NPWS (2023) Conservation Objectives: Connemara Bog Complex SPA 004181. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
59. NPWS (2014) Conservation Objectives: Kilkieran Bay and Islands SAC 002111. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
60. NPWS (2012) Conservation Objectives: Lower River Shannon SAC 002165. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
61. NPWS (2015) Conservation Objectives: Slyne Head Peninsula SAC 002074. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
62. NPWS (2015) Conservation Objectives: West Connacht Coast SAC 002998. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
63. NPWS (2012) Conservation Objectives: Slyne Head Islands SAC 000328. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
64. NPWS (2011) Conservation Objectives: Clew Bay Complex SAC 001482. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
65. NPWS (2012) Conservation Objectives: Slyne Head Islands SAC 000328. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
66. NPWS (2014) Conservation Objectives: Blasket Islands SAC 002172. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
67. NPWS (2015) Conservation Objectives: Inishbofin and Inishshark SAC 000278. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
68. NPWS (2012) Conservation Objectives: Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SAC 000458. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
69. NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives: Ballysadare Bay SAC 000622. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
70. NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives: Kenmare River SAC 002158. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
71. NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives: Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC 000627. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
72. NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives: Duvillaun Islands SAC 000495. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
73. NPWS (2015) Conservation Objectives: Inishkea Islands SAC 000507. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
74. NPWS (2015) Conservation Objectives: Glengarriff Harbour and Woodland SAC 000090. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
75. NPWS (2011) Conservation Objectives: Roaringwater Bay and Islands SAC 000101. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
76. NPWS (2015) Conservation Objectives: Slieve Tooey/Tormore Island/Loughros Beg Bay SAC 000190. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

77. NPWS (2012) Conservation Objectives: Donegal Bay (Murvagh) SAC 000133. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
78. NPWS (2011) Conservation Objectives: Slaney River Valley SAC 000781. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
79. NPWS (2015) Conservation Objectives: West of Ardara/Maas Road SAC 000197. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
80. NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives: Rutland Island and Sound SAC 002283. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
81. NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives: Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC 003000. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
82. NPWS (2011) Conservation Objectives: Saltee Islands SAC 000707 and Saltee Islands SPA 004002. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
83. NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives: Lambay Island SAC 000204. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
84. NPWS (2014) Conservation Objectives: Horn Head and Rinclevan SAC 000147. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
85. Cronin, M., Pomeroy, P., & Jessopp, M. (2012). *Size and seasonal influences on the foraging range of female grey seals in the northeast Atlantic. Marine Biology, 160(3), 531–539.* doi:10.1007/s00227-012-2109-0
86. Ridgway, S and Harrison, R, 1999, Handbook of Marine Mammals, The Second Book of Dolphins and Porpoises, Vol 6, Academic Press, 339-340
87. Southall et al. (2019) Marine Mammal Noise Exposure Criteria: Updated Scientific Recommendations for Residual Hearing Effects
88. Costello, M, 2017, NBDC Sightings Data, Marine sites, habitats and species data collected during the BioMar survey of Ireland, https://www.gbif.org/dataset/5df3c9be-d9a1-4c36-a5bc-bdf88b78dbe3
89. Reid, N., Hayden, B., Lundy, M.G., Pietravalle, S., McDonald, R.A. & Montgomery, W.I. (2013) National Otter Survey of Ireland 2010/12. Irish Wildlife Manuals No. 76. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Dublin, Ireland.
90. Rikardsen, A.H., Righton, D., Strøm, J.F. *et al.* Redefining the oceanic distribution of Atlantic salmon. *Sci Rep* **11**, 12266 (2021).
91. Carter Matt I. D., Boehme Lars, Cronin Michelle A., Duck Callan D., Grecian W. James, Hastie Gordon D., Jessopp Mark, Matthiopoulos Jason, McConnell Bernie J., Miller David L., Morris Chris D., Moss Simon E. W., Thompson Dave, Thompson Paul M., Russell Debbie J. F. "Sympatric Seals, Satellite Tracking and Protected Areas: Habitat-Based Distribution Estimates for Conservation and Management", *Frontiers in Marine Science.* Vol. 9. (2022).
92. Davies, P., Britton, R.J., Nunn, A.D., Dodd, J.R., Crundwell, C., Velterop, R., Ó'Maoiléidigh, N., O'Neill, R., Sheehan, E.V., Stamp, T., Bolland, J.D. "Novel Insights into the marine phase and river fidelity of anadromous twaite shad *Alosa fallax* in the UK and Ireland", *Aquatic Conservation: Marine and Freshwater Ecosystems.* Vol. 30, no. 7. (2020).

Appendix I

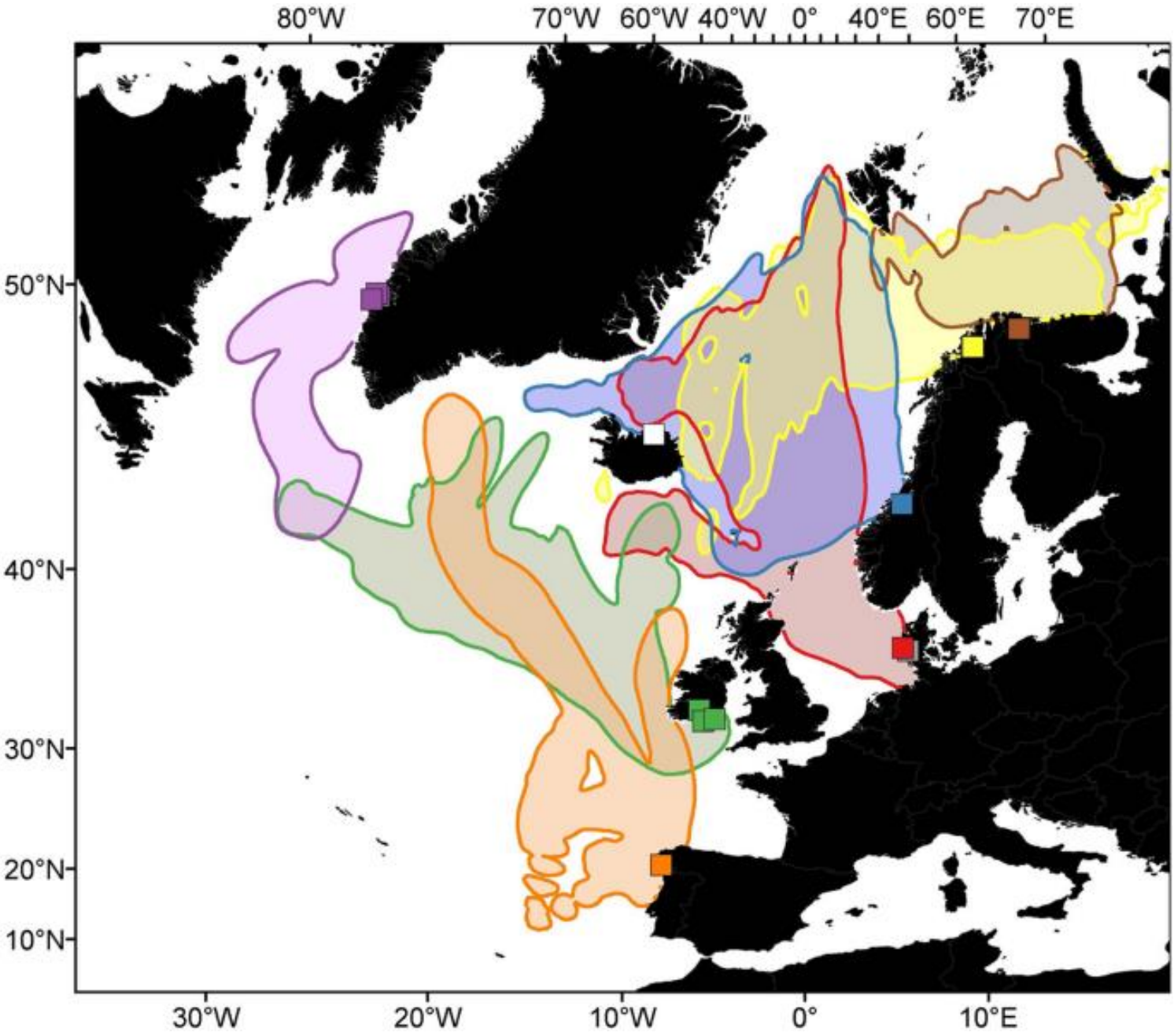


Figure AI.1. Area use during the ocean migration of tagged Atlantic salmon (Ireland = Green) (Source: Rikardsen et al., 2021).