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CORK CITY NORTHWEST QUARTER PHASE 1D EAST HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

Appropriate Assessment Screening Report

Prepared for:

Cork City Council

Cork City Council
Comhairle Cathrach Chorcaí

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Abstract: This document is to inform the Competent Authority in carrying out their statutory obligations relating to the Habitats Directive requirement for Appropriate Assessment for plans and projects seeking consent. Appropriate Assessment is required under Article 6 (3) of the Habitats Directive for any project or plan that may give rise to significant effects on a European (Natura 2000) site.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Fehily Timoney and Company (FT) have been commissioned by Cork City Council (CCC) to prepare this Appropriate Assessment Screening Report, for the proposed Cork City Northwest Regeneration Masterplan Phase 1D East housing development at Kilmore Road Lower, Knocknaheeny, Cork City.

This report presents an examination of whether the proposed works are likely to have a significant effect on a European site (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) and is based on best available scientific knowledge. This report has been prepared to inform the competent authority in completing their statutory obligations in relation to Appropriate Assessment, as required by Article 6(3) under Council Directive 92/43/EEC (Habitats Directive).

1.1 Legislative Context

Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (Habitats Directive) provides legal protection for habitats and species of European importance. The Directive requires that where a plan or project is likely to have a significant effect on a European Site, while not directly connected with or necessary to the nature conservation management of the site, it will be subject to 'Appropriate Assessment' to identify any implications for the European site in view of the site's Conservation Objectives. Specifically, Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive states:

> *"6(3) Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site (Natura 2000 sites) but likely to have significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives. In the light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implications for the site and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, the competent 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."*

The competent authority must carry out a screening for appropriate assessment to assess, in view of best scientific knowledge, if the proposed project, individually or in combination with another plan or project is likely to have a significant effect on a European site. If it cannot be excluded, on the basis of objective information, that the proposed project, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will have a significant effect on a European site, an appropriate assessment of its implications for the European Site(s) in view of the Site's conservation objectives is required to be carried out.

The provisions of Article 6(3) do not apply where the proposed plan or project is 'connected with or necessary to the management of the site'. In this case, the proposed project is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of any European site(s).

1.2 Methodology

1.2.1 Guidance

The assessment was conducted in accordance with the following guidance:

- Assessment of plans and projects in relation to Natura 2000 sites - Methodological guidance on Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. Commission Notice (2021) Brussels, 28.9.2021 C(2021) 6913 final (European Commission, 2021).
- Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland: Guidance for Planning Authorities. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Dublin (2009, updated 2010) (Environment Heritage and Local Government, 2009).
- Managing Natura 2000 sites. The provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. European Commission (2019). Brussels, (2019/C 33/01). OJ C 33, 25.1.2019.
- Interpretation Manual of European Union Habitats. Version EUR 28. (European Commission, 2013)
- OPR Practice Note PN01 Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management, (Office of the Planning Regulator, 2021).

1.2.2 Process

The process of determining the likelihood of significant effects from a proposed project on European sites is an iterative process centred around a Source-Pathway-Receptor model as per OPR, 2021. In order for an effect to be established, all three elements of this mechanism must be in place. The absence of one of the elements of the mechanism is sufficient to conclude that a potential effect cannot occur.

- Source(s) – e.g. pollutant run-off, noise, removal of vegetation, etc.;
- Pathway(s) – functional link, or ecological pathway e.g. groundwater connecting to nearby qualifying wetland habitats; and
- Receptor(s) – the qualifying habitats and species of European sites and ecological resources supporting those habitats/species.

In the context of this report, a source is any identifiable element of the proposed project that is known to interact with the receiving environment. A receptor is the Qualifying Interests (QI)[1] for an SAC or Special Conservation Interests (SCI)[2] for an SPA or an ecological feature that is known to be utilised by the QI/SCI. In practice, the term Qualifying Interests also applies to SCIs (and is used in this document for simplicity). A pathway is any connection or link between the source and the receptor.

[1] SACs are areas designated under the Habitats Directive to conserve habitats listed in Annex I of the Directive and plant and animal species listed in Annex II. Collectively these are referred to as the 'Qualifying Interests' or 'QIs' of the SAC.
[2] SPAs are sites classified under the Birds Directive to protect rare or vulnerable bird species listed in Annex I to the Directive as well as regularly occurring migratory species and wetlands. Wetland habitats that support internationally important populations of migratory birds may be coastal or inland. Collectively, these species and habitats are referred to as the 'Special Conservation Interests' of the SPA.

The European Commission Notice (2021) on the 'Assessment of plans and projects in relation to Natura 2000 sites – Methodological guidance on Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC', states that in identifying European sites (Natural 2000 sites), which may be affected by the project, the following should be identified:

- Any European sites geographically overlapping with any of the actions or aspects of the plan or project in any of its phases, or adjacent to them;
- Any European sites within the likely zone of influence of the plan or project. European sites located in the surroundings of the plan or project (or at some distance) that could still be indirectly affected by aspects of the project, including as regards the use of natural resources (e.g., water) and various types of waste, discharge or emissions of substances or energy;
- European sites whose connectivity or ecological continuity can be affected by the plan or project.

The ZoI of a proposed project is therefore the geographical area over which it could affect the receiving environment in a way that could have potential effects on the Qualifying Interests of a European site.

2. RELEVANT EXPERIENCE AND EXPERTISE OF ASSESSOR AND REVIEWER

Conor is a Project Ecologist working in the Circular Economy and Environment Team in FT. Conor has three years' postgraduate experience and holds a BSc. (Hons) in Zoology from University of Galway (formerly National University of Ireland, Galway) and a MSc. in Wildlife Conservation and Management (1st Class Hons) from University College Dublin. Both Conor and Sanghamitra have in-depth knowledge of environmental policy, legislation and assessment procedures. Conor has an in-depth knowledge of the AA process and understanding of the legislation governing AA practice in Ireland and the EU.

Donna O'Halloran of FT was responsible for reviewing, checking and finalising the report. Donna is a Senior Ecologist working as part of the Circular Economy and Environment Team at FT. Donna holds a MSc. First Class Honours in Ecological Assessment, a MSc. First Class Honours in Environmental Resource Management, a BSc (Hons) in Landscape Horticulture and a National Diploma in Horticulture. Donna has over 10 years' experience preparing Appropriate Assessment Screening Reports and Natura Impact Statements (NIS) for energy, circular economy and infrastructure projects. Donna has experience undertaking Appropriate Assessment (AA) of forestry related applications on behalf of the Minister of Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. Donna also has experience assisting County Councils and Government Departments in their delivery and implementation of planning services, reviewing the Ecological Impact Assessments (EcIAs), AA Screening Reports and NIS Reports of received planning applications. Donna has an in-depth knowledge of the AA process and has an in-depth understanding of the legislation and up-to-date case law governing AA practice in Ireland and the EU.

Bernie Guinan was responsible for reviewing and approving the report. Bernie is Director with FT and is a Chartered Waste Manager. She has 25 years' experience in delivering and managing projects and infrastructure delivery for a wide variety of sectors. Bernie has extensive experience in all aspects of strategic management planning and infrastructure development in Ireland, the UK, KSA and UAE. She is an experienced planning policy analyst and strategic planner. She has in-depth knowledge of all environmental and planning policy, legislation and guidance. She has been providing environmental, planning and waste management consultancy services to public bodies for over 20 years. She has a vast amount of experience coordinating EIA, SEA and AA projects, including national, large-scale and complex projects.

3. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

3.1 Overview of the Project

The proposed development will comprise the 14 no. new units, comprising the following:

- A block of 5 no. 2-storey 3-bedroom houses
- A block of 6no. 2½-storey 3-bed houses,
- A corner duplex block consisting of 1no. ground floor apartment
- 2 no. 2-storey 2-bedroom maisonettes, and
- Associated site development works including boundary walls, driveways and a cul-de-sac off Dunmore Gardens.

3.2 Construction Phase of the Proposed Development

3.2.1 Overview of Proposed Construction Works

The following construction sequence is expected to be carried out for the proposed development:

- Installation of temporary construction site area.
- Breaking of hard-standing areas, as required.
- Excavation to formation levels – excavated material will be reused on site or dispatched to an appropriate waste management facility.
- Laying of building foundations.
- Backfilling of excavated material and any imported fill required will be carried out.
- Construction of residential units.
- Construction/installation of ancillary site infrastructure, including boundary treatments, roadways, paths, car/bike parking, landscaping, surface water and wastewater drainage systems, lighting, boundary structures, and electrical connections.
- Site clean-up and commissioning.

A list of typical plant that will be utilised on-site during construction is provided below:

- Tracked excavators
- Mobile crane
- Grader
- Front loader
- Dumper
- Ride-on roller
- Tipper lorry

The materials to be used will consist mainly of common construction finishes including brick, plaster, etc. The exact construction methods to be used will be determined by the appointed Contractor. It is anticipated that the construction methods will be of a common system commensurate of a project of similar scope, including blockwork, light gauge steel or timber frame.

The design and specification of the scheme shall comply with the following:

- Current Building Regulations and all relevant updates
- The DHLGH Design Manual for Quality Housing
- The DHLGH Employer's Requirements for Detail Design of Quality Housing
- The DHLGH Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets
- The 2011 City Northwest Quarter Regeneration Masterplan
- The 2016 CNWQR Design Code & Public Realm Strategy
- The 2024 Housing Agency's Guide for use of PW-CF2 Public Works Contract Designed by the Contractor'

3.2.2 Construction Hours

Construction works will occur between the following hours:

- 08:00-18:00 on Monday to Friday.
- 08:00-16:00 on Saturdays.

3.2.3 Environmental Management during Construction

The construction works will adhere to environmental best practice and health and safety considerations, and will include the following aspects:

- Environmental Management System (EMS) requirements.
- Ecological Management
- Invasive Species Management
- Pollution Prevention
- Management of Noise, Vibration and Dust
- Surface Water Management
- Soil Management
- Protection of Archaeology and Archaeological Monitoring, as necessary.
- Emergency Response

The Contractor responsible for the construction works will be required to develop and implement a Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) to manage safe access and egress of construction vehicles from the site and the movement of plant and vehicles around the site. A Construction Stage Health and Safety Plan (CSHSP) will be adopted and adhered to by the Contractor to ensure minimal risk in terms of human health and the environment due to the construction works.

3.3 Operational Phase of the Proposed Development

3.3.1 Utilities

A pre-connection enquiry to Uisce Eireann was submitted for this development (Reference CDS250004613). A confirmation of feasibility has subsequently been received from Uisce Eireann stating that connections to the water mains and the wastewater networks are feasible without infrastructure upgrades.

Potable water supply to the proposed development will be sourced via proposed connections to existing Uisce Éireann watermains to the north of the site.

Services have been designed to connect into the existing combined sewers in the wider area. Wastewater from the proposed development will be directed north to the existing foul sewer network through proposed connections. This will ultimately discharge to Carrigrennan Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) (Discharge Point Reference: TPEFF0400D0033SW001) in Little Island.

3.3.2 Energy

All residential units will be 'Nearly Net Zero' in accordance with NZEB buildings standards and will be designed to achieve an A1 Building Energy Rating. Specifics on how this will be achieved will be explored with the Mechanical & Electrical Engineer once appointed post planning.

3.3.3 Drainage Strategy

Site investigations at the proposed development location have indicated that the site is underlain by sands and gravel, which have increased permeability and an increased capacity for stormwater discharge.

Stormwater drainage from the proposed development will comprise a proposed UPVC stormwater pipe for collection of stormwaters from roofs, which will be directed east of the site and discharged north to stormwater manholes with a hydrobrake and an interceptor trap. From the interceptor trap, stormwater will feed into the existing 225Ø combined water pipe via the proposed saddle connection, located in the northern section of the proposed development and exits the site at the eastern boundary. According to Cork City Council Maps, the stormwater will be discharged to Carrigrennan WWTP in Little Island.

Each unit of the proposed development will contain a proposed plane infiltration system to the south for 100-year storm events and a 20% increase in rainfall depth for collection of stormwaters from back roofs.

Uisce Eireann Confirmation of Feasibility Reference (CDS250004613) received for this development has confirmed that a connection to the combined sewer is feasible without infrastructure upgrade.

3.4 Existing Environment

The project site comprises a 0.49 ha brownfield site located at Kilmore Road Lower, Knocknaheeny, Cork City. The proposed development will occupy land historically used for residential housing (social housing) at Kilmore Road Lower and Dunmore Gardens. Structures that previously occupied the site have long since been demolished but it is understood that the foundations of a number of structures remain in place.

The project site is situated within a built-up urban area; with Kilmore Road Lower located along its southern boundary, Dunmore Gardens located along its eastern and northern boundary and a residential property located along its western boundary. The landscape surrounding the project comprises residential developments, commercial developments and St Vincent's GAA Club; with agricultural grassland present to the north-west of the project. The footprint of the proposed development extends from the boundary of a private residential dwelling to the west of the proposed development, to the proposed new road connecting Dunmore Gardens and Kilmore Road Lower.

A combined sewer (collecting stormwater and foul water) services the area and discharges to Carrigrennan WWTP in Little Island.

3.4.1 Description of Existing Ecological Baseline

3.4.1.1 Desktop Assessment

In August 2025, a desk study was carried out to collate available information on the existing natural environment at the project location. This comprised a review of the following publications, data and datasets:

- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) (on-line map-viewer including the Appropriate Assessment Tool);
- Department of Housing, Planning, and Local Government- EIA Portal;
- National Parks and Wildlife Service – online European site network information, including site conservation objectives;
- National Parks and Wildlife Service – Information on the status of EU protected habitats and species in Ireland (including Article 17 and Article 12 Reports);
- National Biodiversity Data Centre records (viewed August 2025)

According to the National Land Cover Map, the project comprises Wet Grassland (540), Hedgerows (460), Amenity Grassland (520), Buildings (110) and Ways (120). Examination of orthophotography rules out the presence of buildings and hedgerow. The surrounding environment comprises Other Artificial Surfaces (130), Wet Grassland, Amenity Grassland, Buildings and Ways with interspersed areas of Improved Grassland (510) and Coniferous Forest (410).

The project site lies within the BRIDE (Cork City)_020 sub-basin (IE_SW_19B140300) and forms part of the Kiln sub-catchment (Kiln_SC_010) which is located within the Lee, Cork Harbour and Youghal Bay Catchment (ID: 19). The Bride (Cork City) Stream (IE_SW_19B140110) is ca. 975 m to the north of the project site, is the closest waterbody to the project site and shares the same sub-basin. The Bride (Cork City) Stream flows into Cork Harbour (IE_SW_060_0000) ca. 19 km (instream distance) to the east of the project site.

No 100m NBDC record for Otter (*Lutra lutra*) overlap with the project or is located within 150 m of the project, this is to be expected as the closest stream is located 975 m from the project.

There were no records of alien invasive species documented within the proposed project site.

4. SCREENING FOR APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

4.1 Introduction

This section of the report examines whether the proposed works are likely to have a significant effect upon European Sites, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.

NOTE: It is to be noted that SuDs that have been considered as part of the proposed development are not included within the design to avoid or reduce any potential harmful effects to any European Sites but are included for alignment with County and Regional Development Policies. This screening for Appropriate Assessment does not take SuDS into consideration in determining whether the proposed development could result in likely significant effects on European Sites.

4.2 Identification of European Sites within the Zone of Influence of the Proposed Project

The OPR (2021) AA Screening practice note states that the Zone of Influence (ZoI) must be established on a case-by-case basis using the Source-Pathway-Receptor model.

The dominant ecological pathways to consider are:

- Direct physical interactions or changes to the local environment;
- Air dispersal (noise, dust, odour emissions etc.);
- Hydrological interactions; and
- Dispersal patterns of mobile species.

As such European sites for consideration are any which could be:

- hydrologically connected to the proposed project;
- designated for species which could use the habitats impacted by the proposed project (i.e. grass verge) and which are in the foraging / commuting range of the project;
- are within a distance of the proposed project such that with potential impacts from habitat loss, noise, lighting, invasive species and dust.

In addition , the following was considered:

- Impacts on habitats - the potential for biophysical change by disturbance/damage/ degradation is taken as the footprint of the works (including site clearance) plus 10m beyond (based on Ryan Hanley, 2014)[3].

- The Institute of Air Quality Management (Holman et al, 2024)[4] states that for sensitive ecological receptors, sensitivity to dust is 'High' up to 20m from the source and reduces to 'Medium' over 50m from the source. The guidelines also stipulate that dust deposition from construction typically occurs up to 500 m from large sites, 200 m from medium sites and 50 m from small sites. A 50m ZoI for dust is adopted given the small scale of the proposed project.
- For potential for impacts on surface waters, regard is had to IFI (2020) guidelines[5] which states that "The recommended [riparian] buffer zone width for larger river channels (>10m) is 35m to 60m and for smaller channels (<10m) is 20m or greater".
- For groundwater dependant terrestrial ecosystems (GWDTE), regard is had to SEPA guidelines[6] which prescribes a potential hydrogeological effect zone of 250m from ground works.
- The potential disturbance zone for marine mammals is taken as 500m having regard DEAHG (2014) 'Guidance to Manage the Risk to Marine Mammals from Man-made Sound Sources in Irish Waters'. However, the proposed development works are located beyond a 500m distance from the coast and as such there is no marine environment within the ZoI.
- The NRA (2008) Guidelines for the Treatment of Otters prior to the Construction of National Road Schemes notes a 150m potential disturbance zone for otter for breeding holts and 20m for non-breeding active holts. As such the study area included the proposed development site plus a 150m buffer to assess habitat suitability for otter and potential association with an SAC population.
- The potential disturbance zone for birds beyond the footprint of the proposed development was considered having regard to Cutts et al (2013)[7] and was defined as 500m.

Based upon the above, there are no European sites within the Zone of Influence of the proposed project.

For SACs, consideration was given to existing records for qualifying features in the locality of the proposed development and an assessment of the potential for mobile qualifying features of European sites to use the lands within the disturbance and impact ZoIs. Given the landcover (see Section 3.4) and their urban disturbed context the project site is does not support any qualifying features associated with any SAC.

[3] Ryan Hanley (2014b) Stage 1: Appropriate Assessment Screening Methodology for the Maintenance of Arterial Drainage Schemes. Prepared by Ryan Hanley Consulting Engineers on behalf of the Office of Public Works
[4] Holman et al (2024). IAQM Guidance on the assessment of dust from demolition and construction, Institute of Air Quality Management, London.
[5] Inland Fisheries Ireland (2020) A Guide to the Protection of Watercourses through the use of Buffer Zones, Sustainable Drainage Systems, Instream Rehabilitation, Climate / Flood Risk and Recreational Planning.
[6] Scottish Environment Protection Agency (2014) Land Use Planning System SEPA Guidance Note 31. Guidance on Assessing the Impacts of Development Proposals on Groundwater Abstractions and groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems.
[7] Cutts N, Hemingway K and Spencer J (2013). The Waterbird Disturbance Mitigation Toolkit Informing Estuarine Planning and Construction Projects. Produced by the Institute of Estuarine and Coastal Studies (IECS). Version 3.2.

In terms of birds there are no SPAs within the 500 m potential disturbance zone for birds. There is also no S-P-R connectivity for significant effects on the supporting/wetland habitat of SPAs. However, to assess potential connectivity between the proposed development and mobile special conservation interests of SPAs, regard was had to the SNH guidelines for the core foraging ranges of SPA birds, and a 15 km range was adopted for consideration. That is, an assessment was made as to whether the habitats within the ZoI of the proposed development could act as foraging or roosting habitat for any avian SCIs of SPAs which are located within 15km of the project site, having regard to the conservation objective backing documents for each SPA.

Cork Harbour SPA (IE0004030) is the only SPA located within 15 km of the project site; located 5.2 km away.

- Cork Harbour SPA (IE0004030): This SPA is located ca. 5.2 km from the project site. The project is located outside of the core foraging range of all avian SCIs with the exceptions of Cormorant, Common Tern, Black-headed Gull, Common Gull and Lesser Black-backed Gull. This SPA is considered further in terms of potential S-P-R connectivity and potential for significant effects in Table 3-1.

Based on the above, the following European sites are considered further in terms of potential S-P-R connectivity and potential for significant effects (see Table 3-1):

Table 3-1: Identification of European Sites within the Zone of Influence of the proposed project

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Features (qualifying interests & special conservation interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects
004030	Cork Harbour SPA	5.2	Little Grebe (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*) [A004] Great Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*) [A005] Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) [A017] Grey Heron (*Ardea cinerea*) [A028] Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*) [A048] Teal (*Anas crecca*) [A052] Pintail (*Anas acuta*) [A054] Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator*) [A069] Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*) [A130] Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*) [A140] Grey Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*) [A141] Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*) [A142] Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*) [A149] Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*) [A156] Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*) [A157] Curlew (*Numenius arquata*) [A160] Redshank (*Tringa totanus*) [A162] Black-headed Gull (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*) [A179] Common Gull (*Larus canus*) [A182]	The SPA is located outside of the ZoI of the project site and as such there is no potential for direct impacts on the SPA. However, consideration is given to potential for landscape/ecological connectivity. This SPA is located 5.2 km from the project site and is located outside of the core foraging range of all avian SCIs except for Cormorant, gull species and Common Tern. Foraging ranges for Common tern and Cormorant lie between 26.9-33.9 km (Nature Scot, 2023[9]). The project and 500 m disturbance distance do not provide suitable habitat for Common tern or Cormorant which are largely marine species. There will be no significant effects on SCIs Common tern or Cormorant. Core foraging ranges for Black-headed Gull, Common Gull and Lesser Black-backed Gull lie between 18.5-236 km (Nature Scot, 2023[8]). Birdwatch Ireland indicates that these species forage on terrestrial invertebrates and insects, with Black-headed Gull foraging in arable fields in coastal and inland habitats. The project site and area within 500 m of the project comprises built environment and disturbed, amenity grassland with sparse areas of improved grassland and deemed sub-optimal. More valuable habitat is present within the wider landscape.	No

[8] Nature Scot (2023) Guidance Note 3: Guidance to support Offshore Wind applications: Marine Birds - Identifying theoretical connectivity with breeding site Special Protection Areas using breeding season foraging ranges. Version 1: January 2023. Nature Scot, Scotland's Nature Agency

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Features (qualifying interests & special conservation interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects
			Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*) [A183] Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*) [A193] Wigeon (*Mareca penelope*) [A855] Shoveler (*Spatula clypeata*) [A857] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	There will be no significant effects on SCIs Black-headed Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull and Common Gull.	

4.3 Other plans and projects considered for potential in-combination effects

Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive requires that:

> *"Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives".*

It is therefore required that the likely significant effects of the proposed project are considered in-combination with any other plans or projects within the zone of influence.

As there are no meaningful pathways for effects identified with respect to European sites - given the nature of the habitats that will be affected by the project and the distance from relevant SPA location for SCI species. There are no further considerations required as the S-P-R model has been completed with no potential effects that could arise from the proposed project.

4.4 Screening Conclusion

The results of the S-P-R modelling process identified that - given the scale and nature of the potential sources identified in Section 3.1 - there are **no likely significant effects** identified to any European sites.

The AA screening process has considered potential effects which may arise during all phases of the proposed project. Through an assessment of the pathways for effects and an evaluation of the sources for impacts, taking account of the processes involved and the distance of separation from European sites, it has been evaluated that there are no likely significant effects on the qualifying interests, special conservation interest or the conservation objectives of any designated European site.

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