



SCREENING FOR APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT REPORT

FS007004 To carry out maintenance on the rock armour revetment at the Murrough, Wicklow Town.

18th October 2021

The Project

The proposed project is for the maintenance works on the 260m length of revetment located north of Wicklow Port and Harbour. The works include the re-profiling of the existing revetment and placement of a single layer of 3-6 tonne rock armour over the top. A gabion mattress wrapped in geotextile will be placed under the proposed revetment toe. A brief summary of the anticipated scope of the work is as follows:

- Site set-up, including all compound and laydown areas;
- Identify and protect all existing services;
- Re-profiling of the existing revetment;
- Placement of the new armour layer and gabion mattress. It is anticipated that the proposed 3-6 tonne rock armour will be delivered to site via the road network;
- Site clean-up and demobilisation; and
- All temporary works associated with the project, e.g. temporary traffic management, etc.

The timescale for the completion of the work is estimated at approximately 3 to 6 months. Works will occur during normal working hours between 08.00 and 19.00hrs. No artificial lighting is therefore anticipated at the works location.

Site characteristics

The proposed works will be carried out north of Wicklow Town on the Murrough. The surrounding area is predominately made up of residential, industrial and infrastructure buildings. Wicklow Harbour lies just south of the works. The revetment is located on the coastal side of an amenity grassland and pedestrian walkway.

Identification of relevant Natura 2000 sites

A radius of 15km is recommended by the DEHLG 2010 guidance as the Zone of Influence when identifying Natura 2000 sites that should be considered in the Screening for Appropriate Assessment process. This is a guideline only and may vary depending on the proposed works and the Qualifying Interests that it is necessary to consider.

Eight Natura 2000 sites occur within the 15km Zone of Influence of the works. The Source-Pathway-Receptor model was used to further screen these sites. Five sites were screened out as there is no source receptor pathway for adverse effects and therefore the potential impact of the proposed works on these SACs was screened out. These sites were: Maherabeg Dunes SAC, Deputy's Pass Nature Reserve SAC, Buckroney-Brittias Dunes and Fen SAC, Vale of

Clara (Rathdrum Wood) SAC and Murrough Wetlands SAC. Wicklow Head Reef SAC was screened out due to its distance from the works, the scale of the works and the dilute effect of the Irish Sea.

Table 1 List of Natura 2000 sites within 15km of the proposed development.

Site Name	Code	Distance from proposed development	Screened In/Out
The Murrough SPA	004186	0.13km	Yes
The Murrough Wetlands SAC	002249	1.15km	No
Wicklow Head SPA	004127	1.29km	No
Wicklow Head Reef SAC	002274	3.22km	No
Maherabeg Dunes SAC	001766	5.26km	No
Deputy's Pass Nature Reserve SAC	000717	8.50km	No
Buckroneys-Brittans Dunes and Fen SAC	000729	9.07km	No
Vale of Clara (Rathdrum Wood) SAC	000733	11.91km	No

The Murrough SPA lies 87m north of the proposed works and was screened in for further assessment. The proposed works area does not provide roosting opportunity for birds of this SPA. These works will commence in spring and may run into early summer and therefore will not overlap with the over wintering species which are qualifying interests at the site. The works will result in some noise and visual disturbance during this time. This will result in some avoidance of the area during working hours by some foraging bird species. However this is temporary and the area will be free from disturbance outside of working hours. There is also a significant large foraging area within the SPA away from the proposed works area to maintain foraging activity during working hours. Consequently, there is no predicted impact on the bird species which are protected within this SPA.

Wicklow County Development Plan carried out a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Statement and Natura Impact Report (NIR). The NIR identified policies and objectives which were not likely to cause potential adverse effects and screened them out. The NIR also identified policies and objectives which had a potential significant adverse effect and as a result, amendments were made to a number of policies and objectives to mitigate against adverse effects and to ensure the protection and conservation of qualifying interests and special conservation interests for European Sites. Therefore, the Wicklow County

Development Plan in combination with the proposed works will not have a significant effect on any European Site.

Screening Conclusion

In view of best scientific knowledge and in view of the sites' conservation objectives, the project, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will not have a significant effect on European sites. Therefore a phase 2 Appropriate Assessment is not required.