



**An Roinn Tithíochta,
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta**
Department of Housing,
Local Government and Heritage

RISK ASSESSMENT FOR ANNEX IV SPECIES

FS7004 Maintenance works on the revetment
at the Murrough, Wicklow Town

7th February 2022

The proposed project is to progress works to the existing revetment at the Murrough, Wicklow Town. This 260m length of revetment is located north of Wicklow Port and Harbour. These works include the re-profiling of the existing revetment and placement of a single layer of 3-6 tonne rock armour over the top. This rock armour will be delivered to the site via the road network. The timescale for the completion of the work is estimated to be three to six months. Works will occur during normal working hours. No artificial lighting is therefore anticipated at the works location.

Under Article 12 of the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) Member States must take the requisite measures to establish a system of strict protection for the animal species listed in Annex IV(a) in their natural range. In the context of this application this therefore refers to all cetaceans, the European Otter, marine turtles and bats.

A review of the National Biodiversity Database showed records of Bottlenose Dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*) and Harbour Porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*) outside of the harbour area while the European Otter (*Lutra lutra*) and bat species are recorded within the harbour. A small number of sighting of the Leathery turtle *Dermochelys coriacea* and Loggerhead Turtle *Caretta caretta* were recorded, the nearest being a record of the former species 20km to the south of Wicklow Town.

The project is on the north side of Wicklow Town in a popular pedestrian walkway and amenity area. It is therefore likely that the bats and otters which occur here are highly habituated to the presence of humans. They are therefore unlikely to be disturbed by these works.

No underwater noise will be generated during the work, therefore there is no risk to cetacean species from this activity.

Conclusion

Therefore given the lack of underwater noise generated by this project, its location in an area of high human activity, it does not have the potential to pose a risk to Annex IV species that may be present within its Zone of Influence.