

## Finding of no significant effects report

Name of project or plan:	Installation of a 74 berth marina, with access platform, gangway and associated infrastructure on the foreshore at Cobh, Co. Cork (MS51/8/1388)
Name and location of Natura 2000 site	Cork Harbour SPA (Site Code 004030) and Great Island Channel SAC (Site Code 001058)
	<p>The SPA site comprises most of the main intertidal areas of Cork Harbour, including all of the North Channel, the Douglas River Estuary, inner Lough Mahon, Monkstown Creek, Lough Beg, the Owenboy River Estuary, Whitegate Bay and the Rostellan and Poul nabibe inlets.</p>
	<p>The Conservation Objectives for the site are to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA <sup>1</sup> which includes wintering :</p> <p>Little Grebe, Great Crested Grebe, Cormorant, Grey Heron, Shelduck, Wigeon, Teal, Pintail, Shoveler, Red-breasted Merganser, Oystercatcher, Golden Plover, Grey Plover, Lapwing, Dunlin, Blacktailed Godwit, Bar-tailed Godwit, Curlew, Redshank, Black-headed Gull, Common Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull and Common Tern as well as wetlands and waterbirds.</p>
	<p>The Conservation Objectives of the SAC are<sup>2</sup> 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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide</li> <li>• Atlantic salt meadows (GlaucoPuccinellietalia maritimae)</li> </ul>
Description of the project or plan	Installation of a 74 berth marina, with access platform, gangway and associated infrastructure on the foreshore at Cobh, Co. Cork. The marina will be protected by an outer array of floating

<sup>1</sup> NPWS (2011) Conservation objectives for Cork Harbour SPA [004030]. Generic Version 3.0. Department of Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht.

<sup>2</sup> NPWS (2011) Conservation objectives for Great Island Channel SAC [001058]. Generic Version 3.0. Department of Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht.

concrete breakwater units and the breakwater will form part of the berthing infrastructure. Access to the marina from the landside will be controlled via a security gate located at the access platform. The marina will be anchored using a chain and anchor system consisting of 5 and 10 tonne anchor blocks connected to the pontoon / breakwater by 60mm chains.

The location and details of the proposed development is shown in the following drawings that were submitted with the application.

- Drawing No. C293/F/1 Rev A, - 1:10,560 Location Map
- Drawing No. C293/F/2 Rev A, - Foreshore Lease Map
- Drawing No. C293/F/3 Rev A, - Layout Plan and Anchorage Details
- Drawing No. C293/F/4 Rev A, - Site Plan and Services Layout
- Drawing No. C293/F/5 Rev A, - Cross Sections
- Drawing No. C293/F/6 Rev A, - Gangway Access Detail
- Drawing No. C293/F/7 Rev A - Admiralty Chart

The total area of foreshore involved is 2.6278 Hectares.

The site of the proposed works is not located within the Cork Harbour SPA. It is located some 1.6Km west of the closest boundary of the SPA, in Monkstown Creek. It is some 2.5Km north of Lough Beg, 4Km northeast of Whitegate Bay and 7Km east of Rostellan Bay. The Great Island Channel SAC (Site Code 001058) is located some 4Km to the north of the proposed development site.

Is the project or plan directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site (provide details)?

No.

Are there other projects or plans that together with the project or plan being assessed could affect the site (provide details)?

None identified

Describe how the project or plan (alone or in combination) is likely to affect the

Installation of the marina, access platform, gangway and associated infrastructure could potentially

**Natura 2000 site.**

- disturb and displace bird species as a result of construction noise
- introduce pollutants into the water column during the works which could impact on birds species and their associated habitats, principally intertidal mudflats

**Explain why these effects are not considered significant.**

The impact of the noise and other emissions from the works site will be localised. As the site of the proposed works is located a minimum of 1.6 Km from the nearest boundary of the SPA it is considered that there will not be any direct or indirect effects on the Natura site.

Additionally, Condition 2 of the Planning Permission for the works granted by the Cobh Town Council stipulates that no construction works shall commence before the 1<sup>st</sup> March and shall not continue beyond 31<sup>st</sup> October, thus disturbance to overwintering birds will be avoided during the construction phase.

The works will not result in a habitat loss, there will not be significant disturbance to key species and there will be no habitat or species fragmentation or significant disturbance to bird species that use these sites.

There will be no direct discharge of pollutants into the environment during the works and water quality will not be affected as a result of the operation of the marina. Foul water generated as a result of the operation of the marina will be treated with an on-site package treatment plant before being discharging to the existing public foul water drainage system.

There will be no direct or indirect impact on the Great Island Channel SAC. There will not be significant disturbance to key species and there will be no habitat or species fragmentation.

On the basis of the above it is concluded that there are not likely to be significant effects as a result of the proposed Installation of a 74 berth marina, with access platform, gangway and associated infrastructure on the foreshore at Cobh, Co. Cork on the Conservation Objectives of the Cork Harbour SPA or the Great Island Channel SAC.

**Who carried out the assessment?**

Marine Institute, on behalf of the MLVC, 26 June 2012.