

Wicklow Port Access Road Link

Appropriate Assessment Screening Report

Wicklow County Council

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| Prepared by | Checked by | Verified by | Approved by |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Erfan Fadaei Senior Ecologist | Jenny Hunter Principal Ecologist | Eleanor Ballard Technical Director | Niamh Rodgers Regional Director |

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Prepared for:

Wicklow County Council

Prepared by:

AECOM Ireland Limited
4th Floor
Adelphi Plaza
Georges Street Upper
Dun Laoghaire
Co. Dublin A96 T927
Ireland

T: +353 1 238 3100
aecom.com

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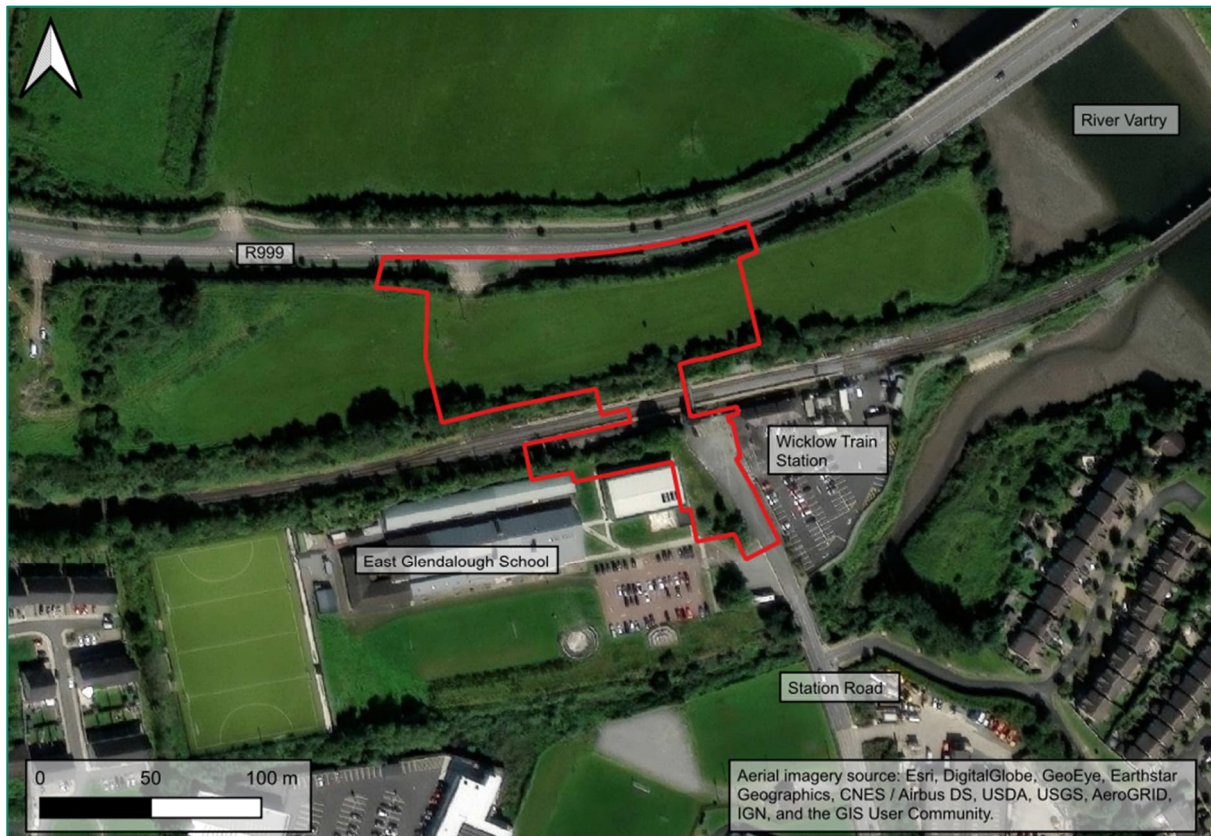
1. Introduction

1.1 Background

AECOM was commissioned by Wicklow County Council to prepare an Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening Report with regards to the Wicklow Port Access Road Link scheme (herein referred to as 'Wicklow PARL' or the 'Proposed Development'). The Proposed Development involves the construction of a new pedestrian and cycle bridge over the Dublin to Rosslare Railway Line and includes infrastructure such as access lifts and stairs to Wicklow Train Station's platforms, and a new parking and set-down facility to the north of the station.

The Proposed Development Site (herein referred to as 'the Site') is located within a developing area at the north extremity of Wicklow town. On the south side of the railway line along Station Road lie East Glendalough Secondary School, the train station access and car park, Wicklow County Council offices, and Church Gate Residential Area. On the immediate east side of Station Road between the road and the River Vartry, the area is dominated by the main station building and associated car park with very little natural environment. To the west of Station Road is the secondary school's grounds. North of the railway line, the area is dominated by large agricultural fields. The approximate central Irish Grid Reference for the Site is T3072594815 (ITM 730665 694844). The Site location is shown in Plate 1 and Figure 1.

Plate 1: Site boundary and location.



1.2 Purpose of this Report

This Report has been prepared to inform Wicklow County Council (acting as the competent authority) in their determination of whether the Proposed Development will have likely significant effects on any European sites.

Whilst the various steps involved in the AA process must be carried out by a competent authority (in this case Wicklow County Council), project proponents or their consultants may provide the information required to inform this assessment. This document has therefore been prepared to provide Wicklow County Council with the information needed to prepare an AA Screening of the Proposed Development.

The objective of this AA Screening is to identify any likely significant effects arising from the Proposed Development to European sites or their qualifying interest features, either in isolation or in-combination with other plans and projects.

1.3 Legislative Context

Council Directive 92/43/EEC (as amended) of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora, which is more commonly known as the 'Habitats Directive', requires Member States of the European Union (EU) to take measures to maintain or restore, at favourable conservation status, natural habitats and wild species of fauna and flora of Community interest. The provisions of the Habitats Directive require that Member States designate Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) for habitats listed in Annex I and for species listed in Annex II.

Similarly, Directive 2009/147/EC (as amended) on the conservation of wild birds, which is more commonly known as the 'Birds Directive', provides a framework for the conservation and management of wild birds. It also requires Member States to identify and classify Special Protection Areas (SPA) for rare or vulnerable species listed in Annex I of the Birds Directive, as well as for certain regularly occurring migratory species. Collectively, SACs and SPAs are known as 'European sites'.

In Ireland, the habitats and/or species which are the reason(s) for designation of an SAC are referred to as 'Qualifying Interests' (QI). In relation to SPAs, the bird species for which a particular site is designated are referred to as 'Special Conservation Interests' (SCI).

Under Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive, any plan or project which is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of a European site but would be likely to have a significant effect on such a site, either individually or in-combination with other plans or projects, must be subject to an AA of its implications for the SAC/SPA in view of the European site's Conservation Objectives.

In Ireland, the requirements of Article 6(3) are transposed into national law by Part XAB of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) for planning matters, and by the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 in relation to other relevant approvals/consents. Section 177U(1)(4) and (5) provide as follows:

"(1) A screening for appropriate assessment of a draft Land use plan or application for consent for proposed development shall be carried out by the competent authority to assess, in view of best scientific knowledge, if that Land use plan or proposed development, individually or in combination with another plan or project is likely to have a significant effect on the European site.

(4) The competent authority shall determine that an appropriate assessment of a draft Land use plan or a proposed development, as the case may be, is required if it cannot be excluded, on the basis of objective information, that the draft Land use plan or proposed development, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will have a significant effect on a European site.

(5) "The competent authority shall determine that an appropriate assessment of a draft Land use plan or a proposed development, as the case may be, is not required if it can be excluded, on the basis of objective information, that the draft Land use plan or proposed development, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will have a significant effect on a European site.

Section 177T (1)(b) and (2) provides:

(1) In this Part—

(b) A Natura impact statement means a statement, for the purposes of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive of the implications of a proposed development, on its own or in combination with other plans or projects, for one or more than one European site, in view of the conservation objectives of the site or sites.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1), a Natura impact report or a Natura impact statement, as the case may be, shall include a report of a scientific examination of evidence and data, carried out by competent persons to identify and classify any implications for one or more than one European site in view of the conservation objectives of the site or sites.

1.4 Quality Assurance

This project has been completed in line with AECOM's Integrated Management System (IMS). Our IMS places great emphasis on professionalism, technical excellence, its quality as well as covering all aspects of environmental and Health and Safety management. All staff members are committed to establishing and maintaining our accreditation to the relevant international standards namely BS EN ISO 9001:2015 and 14001:2015 and BS OHSAS 18001:2021. In addition, our IMS requires careful selection and monitoring of the performance of all sub consultants and contractors.

This AA Screening has been prepared, reviewed, and verified by AECOM Ecologists, all of whom have vast experience of AA in Ireland and are considered competent to carry out the assessment.

2. Methods

2.1 Sources of Guidance

This AA Screening Report has been prepared in accordance with the European Commission (EC) guidance documents *Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly affecting Natura 2000 Sites: Methodological Guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC* (EC, 2021).

In addition, the following relevant guidance was considered during the preparation of this Report:

- *Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management* (OPR, 2021);
- *Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland* (Department of the Environmental Heritage and Local Government (DoEHLG), 2010);
- *Managing Natura 2000 Sites: The Provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC* (EC, 2018); and,
- *Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive: Guidance for Planning Authorities. Circular Letter National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) 1/10 & PSSP 2/10* (NPWS, 2010).

2.1.1 The Precautionary Principle

Under EC guidance, the Precautionary Principle, which is referenced in Article 191 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, is described as the “*absence of scientific evidence on the significant negative effect of an action cannot be used as justification for approval of this action. When applied to Article 6(3) procedure, the Precautionary Principle implies that the absence of a negative effect on European [Natura 2000] sites has to be demonstrated before a plan or project can be authorised. In other words, if there is a lack of certainty as to whether there will be any negative effects, then the plan or project cannot be approved*” (EC, 2021).

Reasoned application of the Precautionary Principle is fundamental to all stages of AA. During Screening, significant effects are presumed without evidence to the contrary, where there was evidence of possible effects on a European site(s) from the Proposed Development, but uncertainty remained.

2.2 The Stages in Appropriate Assessment

2.2.1 Summary of the Stages

Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive sets out a step-by-step procedure for assessing plans or projects that are likely to have impact on European sites. This involves three main stages, as outlined in EC (2021). Each stage of the procedure is influenced by the previous one. The order in which the stages are followed is therefore essential for applying Article 6(3) and (4) correctly. The following is a summary of these steps:

- **Stage 1 – Screening:** This stage consists of a pre-assessment stage (i.e. Screening) to ascertain whether the plan or project is directly connected with, or necessary to, the management of a European site, and if not, subsequently examines whether it is likely to have likely significant effects to the European site(s), either alone or in-combination with other projects, in view of the conservation objectives.
- **Stage 2 – Appropriate Assessment:** If likely significant effects cannot be excluded at Stage 1, an assessment is made of the impact of the plan or project (either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects) on the integrity of the European site(s) (in view of Conservation Objectives) and ascertaining whether it will affect the integrity of the European site. If relevant, mitigation measures specifically designed to protect the European site can be considered.
- **Stage 3 – Derogation from Article 6(3) under certain conditions:** The third stage of the procedure governed by Article 6(4) and is relevant where, despite a negative assessment, the developer considers that the plan or project should still be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI). This is only possible if there are no alternative solutions, the IROPI are duly justified, and if suitable compensatory measures are adopted to ensure that the overall coherence of European site is protected.

2.2.2 AA Screening

The first stage of the AA process examines the likelihood of a plan or project having significant effects upon a European site, either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects. In the context of this Report, the Proposed Development constitutes a project. Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR) guidance (OPR, 2021) describes a likely significant effect as follows:

- **Likely** means a risk or possibility of effects occurring that cannot be ruled out based on objective information.
- **Significant effects** are those that would undermine the Conservation Objectives of the European site, either alone or in-combination with other plans and projects.

EC (2021) outlines the stages involved in carrying out an AA Screening of a project. The method adopted for this AA Screening is informed by these guidelines and was conducted in the following stages:

- Determine whether the Proposed Development is connected with, or necessary for, the conservation management of European sites.
- With reference to the baseline environment, define and describe the project and identify the relevant elements of the Proposed Development and its likely impacts (construction and operation (a decommissioning phase is not considered relevant for the Proposed Development)).
- Identify European sites likely to be impacted by the Proposed Development (i.e., those which are potentially connected to the proposal by source-pathway-receptor links or lie in the zone of influence (Zol) of potential impacts).
- Identify other plans or projects that, in-combination with the project, have the potential to affect the European sites identified.
- Assess whether likely significant effects on European site(s) can be ruled out, in view of their Conservation Objectives.

If it can be demonstrated that likely significant effects can be excluded, no further assessment is required. However, if likely significant effects cannot be ruled out, then the assessment must proceed to the AA stage, and a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) will be required.

2.2.2.1 The Source-Pathway-Receptor Model and Zones of Influence

The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government guidance (DoEHLG, 2010) states that European sites with the potential to be affected by a plan or project should be identified taking into consideration the potential for direct, indirect and/or cumulative (in-combination) effects. It also states that the specific approach in each case is likely to differ depending on the scale and likely effects of the plan or project. However, it advises that the following sites should generally be included:

- All European sites within or immediately adjacent to the plan or project area.
- All European sites within the likely 'zone of influence' (Zol) of the plan or project.
- Adopting the Precautionary Principle, all European sites for which there is doubt as to whether or not such sites might be significantly affected.

The likely Zol of a plan or project is the geographic extent over which it could affect the receiving environment in a way that could have significant effects on the QI/SCI of a European site (OPR, 2021). In the case of projects, the DoEHLG guidance acknowledges that the Zol must be devised on a case-by-case basis with reference to the following criteria: the nature, size/scale and location of the project, sensitivity of ecological features under consideration, and cumulative effects.

When seeking to identify the relevant European sites, consideration was given to identified impact pathways and the source-pathway-receptor approach (OPR, 2021), rather than adopting a purely 'zones'-based approach whereby European sites within, potentially arbitrary, set distances of the Proposed Development would be assessed. The source-pathway-receptor approach is a standard tool in environmental assessment. For an effect to occur, all three elements of this mechanism must be in place. The absence or removal of one of the elements of the mechanism means there is no possibility of an effect occurring. If, for example, there is a sensitive European site in the vicinity of the Proposed Development but no mechanism by which the Proposed Development could affect that site then there is no potential for a likely significant effect. Furthermore, even where an impact is predicted to occur, it may not result in significant effects.

An example of this model is provided below:

- Source(s), e.g., piling.
- Pathway(s) e.g., vibration.
- Receptor(s) e.g., underground otter *Lutra lutra* resting site at risk of collapse.

The model is focused solely on the selection features for which sites are designated or features which support the qualifying features.

Habitats and plants are not mobile, and it can therefore be easier to determine whether habitats and plants are within the Zol. In contrast, fauna species are mobile and so the distances they move beyond European sites (i.e., range) must be considered when determining if they occur within the Zol. The range of fauna species varies considerably, from a maximum of several metres (e.g., in the case of whorl snails *Vertigo* spp.) to hundreds of kilometres (in the case of migratory wetland birds). Whilst habitats and plants are not mobile, these features can still be significantly affected at considerable distances from an effect source; for instance, where an instream habitat is located many kilometres downstream from a pollution source.

2.2.2.2 Assessment In-combination

It is a requirement of the Habitats Regulations (177U of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)) that the impacts and effects of any development are not considered in isolation but in-combination with other plans and projects that may also affect the European site(s) in question.

2.3 Ecological Baseline

The AA Screening was informed by a desk study. Where available, information relevant to the ecological evaluation of the Site was obtained from sources such as ordnance survey maps, historical and recent aerial photography, and database searches. No field surveys were carried out to inform this Screening.

A search was conducted for European sites that may be within the Zol of the Proposed Development. The following data sources were used for the identification of European sites:

- Environment Protection Agency (EPA) online maps (EPA, 2024).
- National Biodiversity Data Centre (NBDC) online maps (NBDC, 2024).
- NPWS website for published documents regarding site citations, synopses, and conservation objectives.

3. Ecological Baseline and Project Description

3.1 Site Description and Ecological Baseline

The Site is in a developing area to the north of Wicklow town. The surrounding lands mainly comprise agricultural fields, Wicklow Train Station and car park, the East Glendalough Secondary School, and the Church Gate Residential Area.

The River Vartry is located approximately 30 m to the south-east of the Site. The river at this location is encompassed by The Murrough SPA. On the north side of the Dublin Rosslare Railway Line, the River Vartry is also designated as The Murrough Wetlands SAC, which is located approximately 150 m from the Site.

Based on a review of aerial imagery, the Proposed Development Site appears to be located on an agricultural field with semi-improved grassland north of the railway line, a corridor of scrub and trees along the railway line, and amenity grassland with mature trees associated with the East Glendalough Secondary School, and part of the regional road R999 and Station Road. Invasive non-native species could also be present within the Site.

3.2 The Proposed Development

The Proposed Development consists of the development of a new pedestrian and cycle bridge over the Dublin to Rosslare Railway Line, including access lifts and stairs to Wicklow Train Station's platforms, and a new parking and set-down facility to the north of the station.

The aim of the project is to provide a high-quality pedestrian and cycle link between the Wicklow Port Access Road, Wicklow Train Station, and Station Road. By improving the infrastructure over the railway line and creating a link to Port Access Road, the project aims to encourage a modal shift to walking and cycling for those accessing Station Road and Wicklow Train Station which will partially alleviate peak-time congestion in the area.

The Proposed Development Site covers approximately 1.34 ha, with the following features proposed:

- Construction of a parking and set-down facility that will include 3 no. bus parking spaces, set-down area, 27 no. private vehicle parking spaces (including 3 no. electric vehicle bays), 3 no. disabled parking spaces and 3 no. age friendly parking spaces.
- Construction of cycle tracks and footpaths.
- Construction of a pedestrian and cycle bridge spanning Dublin to Rosslare railway line to accommodate a 5.5 m wide cycle track and footpath.
- Installation of 3 no. stair structures, 1 no. ramp structure which will accommodate an underground bike parking facility and 2 no. lifts.
- Soft and hard landscaping and public lighting.
- All associated site and engineering works and accommodating works.

Construction is estimated to take 24 months.

4. AA Screening

4.1 Identification of Relevant European Sites

The Proposed Development is a project with a clearly defined physical footprint, during both construction and operation. The area occupied by the Proposed Development is contained within a small site, largely consisting of improved grassland, and although not within a European site it lies close to two European sites.

European sites are relevant where there may be a source-pathway-receptor relationship which may give rise to likely significant effects on the site or its qualifying features. The European sites identified as relevant are based on proximity and factors such as air quality, hydrological connectivity, or the potential connection to the Site due to mobile selection features that may be associated with the habitats within the potential Zol of the Proposed Development.

European sites that fall within the Zol of the Proposed Development are considered to comprise those that are in proximity, have QI/SCI species which may be present outside their European site boundary, and/or are hydrologically connected to the site and therefore have a potential source-pathway-receptor relationship.

Based on this selection criteria, four European sites are located within the Zol of the Proposed Development. These sites and their QI/SCI are detailed in Table 1 and their locations are displayed in Figure 1. The validity of the source-pathway-relationships to each European site is further examined within Section 4.2, to determine if likely significant effects could arise.

Table 1: European sites within the potential Zol of the Proposed Development

| Site name [site code] | Approximate distance from the Site* | Summary of Qualifying Interests / Special Conservation Interests |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| The Murrough SPA [004186] | 30 m south-east | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Red-throated diver <i>Gavia stellate</i> [A001] Greylag goose <i>Anser anser</i> [A043] Light-bellied brent goose <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> [A046] Wigeon <i>Anas penelope</i> [A050] Teal <i>Anas crecca</i> [A052] Black-headed gull <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> [A179] Herring gull <i>Larus argentatus</i> [A184] Little tern <i>Sterna albifrons</i> [A195] Wetland and waterbirds [A999] |
| The Murrough Wetlands SAC [002249] | 150 m east-north-east | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210] Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220] Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>) [1330] Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410] Calcareous fens <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of <i>Caricion davalliana</i> [7210] Alkaline fens [7230] |
| Wicklow Head SPA [004127] | 2.5 km south-east | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kittiwake <i>Rissa tridactyla</i> [A188] |
| Wicklow Reef SAC [002274] | 4.2 km east-south-east | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reefs [1170] |

*Distance given "as the crow flies".

4.2 Consideration of European Sites

The Proposed Development is not connected with or necessary to the management of any European sites, and no land take from any European site is required. There will be no works within the European sites, either to facilitate construction or during operation, therefore there will be no transport, resource, or excavation requirements within the European sites. The construction works will take approximately 24 months and operation is considered permanent. Based on the nature of the Proposed Development, decommissioning is not considered relevant.

The European sites identified as potentially relevant in Section 4.1 are assessed and discussed in the following Sections.

4.2.1 The Murrough SPA

The Murrough SPA is an extensive coastal wetland complex that stretches along the east coast of Ireland for 13 km from Kilcoole Station (east of Kilcoole village) and extends inland for up to 1 km in some places. The SPA includes an area of marine water to a distance of 0.2 km from the low water mark. A shingle ridge runs along the length of the site and carries the Dublin-Wexford railway line. At its closest point, The Murrough SPA is located c. 30 m south-east of the Site. The Murrough SPA is designated for eight species of waterbirds. Little tern nest within the SPA. The other species use the SPA for overwintering.

Little tern favours sand or shingle habitats for nesting and are known to nest at a shingle ridge at Kilcoole within the SPA, some 13 km north of the Site. In addition, there is no suitable habitat for nesting little tern within the Site. No impacts to nesting little tern are likely to occur.

The field on the northern side of the railway line could be used by black-headed gull and herring gull, both of which are SCI of The Murrough SPA. Gulls may also use other parts of the built environment around the Proposed Development. Given the proximity of hedgerows and substantial amounts of human activity, it is not expected that any other SCI species would use this area or any other part of the Site of the Proposed Development. Any loss of habitat used by gulls which are SCI of the SPA would have no measurable impact or effect on those species. Herring gull and black-headed gull are both highly adaptable and tolerant of a high degree of human activity. The loss of a very small area of suburban habitat which may be used by these species would have no effect at all on their conservation status, or on the ability of The Murrough SPA to meet its conservation objectives.

There is the potential for direct disturbance of the SCI birds when within the boundary of the SPA as a result of increased noise, artificial lighting and/or the increased presence of personnel, plant and machinery during the construction phase. However, due to the scale and nature of the works, the attenuation of sound in air, and the existing urban/suburban nature of the surrounding area, no significant effects are likely to occur. Likewise, any disturbance to birds that may occur within the Site outside of the SPA boundary will not have significant effects owing to the minor nature and scale of the works, and due to the availability of alternative habitat in the surrounding area.

The construction works do not involve activities which generally create large amounts of airborne pollution such as rock quarrying or processing. They will not therefore generate sufficient quantities, even in a worst-case scenario, of airborne pollution (e.g. dust) to result in likely significant effects on the SPA habitats.

The nearest watercourse to the Proposed Development is approximately 30 m to the south-east of the Site and is referred to by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as the 'Broad Lough' (river waterbody code: IE_EA_130_0100), which falls within the SPA. However, at a distance of 30 m, there is negligible possibility of sufficient quantities of waterborne pollution flowing from the Proposed Development to the watercourse. In addition, any surface water run-off from the Proposed Development to the north of the railway line would enter the existing urban drainage network on the R999 Port Access Road and will be subject to standard water treatment before discharge.

Operational activities are likely to be very minor in nature and, in addition to use by commuters, will involve infrequent visits by small numbers of personnel to conduct operational and maintenance activities. There is no possibility of such activities having any impacts or effects to SCI species occurring in the Broad Lough watercourse 30 m away. Likewise, the Proposed Development allows for pedestrian and cycle use only, which will generate no emissions to air. The new car parking/set-down area will allow for vehicle access, but use of this area will be purely for parking/set-down by a limited number of vehicles and there will be no significant emissions to air as a result. There will be no possible source for waterborne pollution beyond normal run-off from the built environment. Thus, there will be no impacts from airborne or waterborne pollution, thus there is no possibility of effects from the operational phase of the Proposed Development.

4.2.2 The Murrough Wetlands SAC

The boundary of The Murrough Wetlands SAC is largely coincident with the terrestrial portion of The Murrough SPA, although the SAC does not extend south of the railway line, and thus at its closest point is c. 150 m east-north-east of the Site.

There are no fauna QI species, and thus there is no possibility for disturbance impacts to the SAC. As described in Section 4.2.1, there is a hydrological connection to the Broad Lough, and even though the SAC is upstream of the Site and construction works, this is a tidal waterbody, and thus runoff could potentially flow upstream. However as presented in Section 4.2.1, there is no possibility of sufficient quantities of waterborne pollution

flowing from the Proposed Development to the watercourse, and any surface water run-off north of the railway line would enter the existing urban drainage network. There will be no significant emissions of airborne pollution, during either construction or operation. No impacts, and indeed significant effects, to the SAC are anticipated.

4.2.3 Wicklow Head SPA

Wicklow Head SPA is located approximately 2.5 km south-east of the Site and is designated for kittiwake. This is a marine and intertidal species that nests on clifftops and rock ledges, and therefore is not anticipated to be present within the Site, neither nesting nor present opportunistically. Wicklow Head SPA is too remote to elicit disturbance impacts to kittiwake within the SPA, and as described in Section 4.2.1, disturbance impacts from construction are not anticipated to impact this species should it occur outwith the SPA boundary near the Site (which again, is unlikely). There is a distant hydrological connection via the Broad Lough, which connects to the sea through Wicklow Harbour, and a stretch of approximately 1.5 km of sea. However, no effects from airborne or water pollution are anticipated to this SPA.

4.2.4 Wicklow Reef SAC

Wicklow Reef SAC is approximately 4.2 km south-east of the Site and is designated for reef habitat. There is no possibility for disturbance impacts, and as described in Section 4.2.2, there is also no possibility for significant effects on reefs arising from either the construction or operation of the Proposed Development.

4.3 Assessment In-combination

Cumulative effects can result from individually insignificant but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time or concentrated in a location (CIEEM, 2018). Effects which arise in-combination with other projects or plans must be considered as part of AA Screening. In accordance with OPR (2021), the assessment of in-combination effects must examine:

- Completed projects.
- Projects which are approved but not completed.
- Proposed projects (i.e. for which an application for approval or consent has been made, including refusals subject to appeal and not yet determined).
- Proposals in adopted plans.
- Proposals in finalised draft plans formally published or submitted for consultation or adoption.

Projects and plans that are not yet proposed do not generally need to be considered in the assessment of in-combination effects. The exception to this is where the project is considered to be functionally interdependent with the development being put before the competent authority.

However, no effects were identified for any impacts which may arise from the Proposed Development. Where there is no possibility of any effect (as opposed to a small but insignificant effect), there cannot be any in-combination effect with other projects or plans as there will be no addition from the Proposed Development.

It is therefore possible to conclude that there is no possibility of the Proposed Development acting in-combination with other projects or plans to result in likely significant effects on any European site.

4.4 Screening Conclusion

In view of best scientific knowledge and on the basis of objective information in light of the Conservation Objectives of the relevant European Sites, it can be stated beyond reasonable scientific doubt, that the Proposed Development will not have a significant effect on any European site, either individually or in-combination with other plans and projects.

There is consequently no requirement to proceed to the next stage of Appropriate Assessment.

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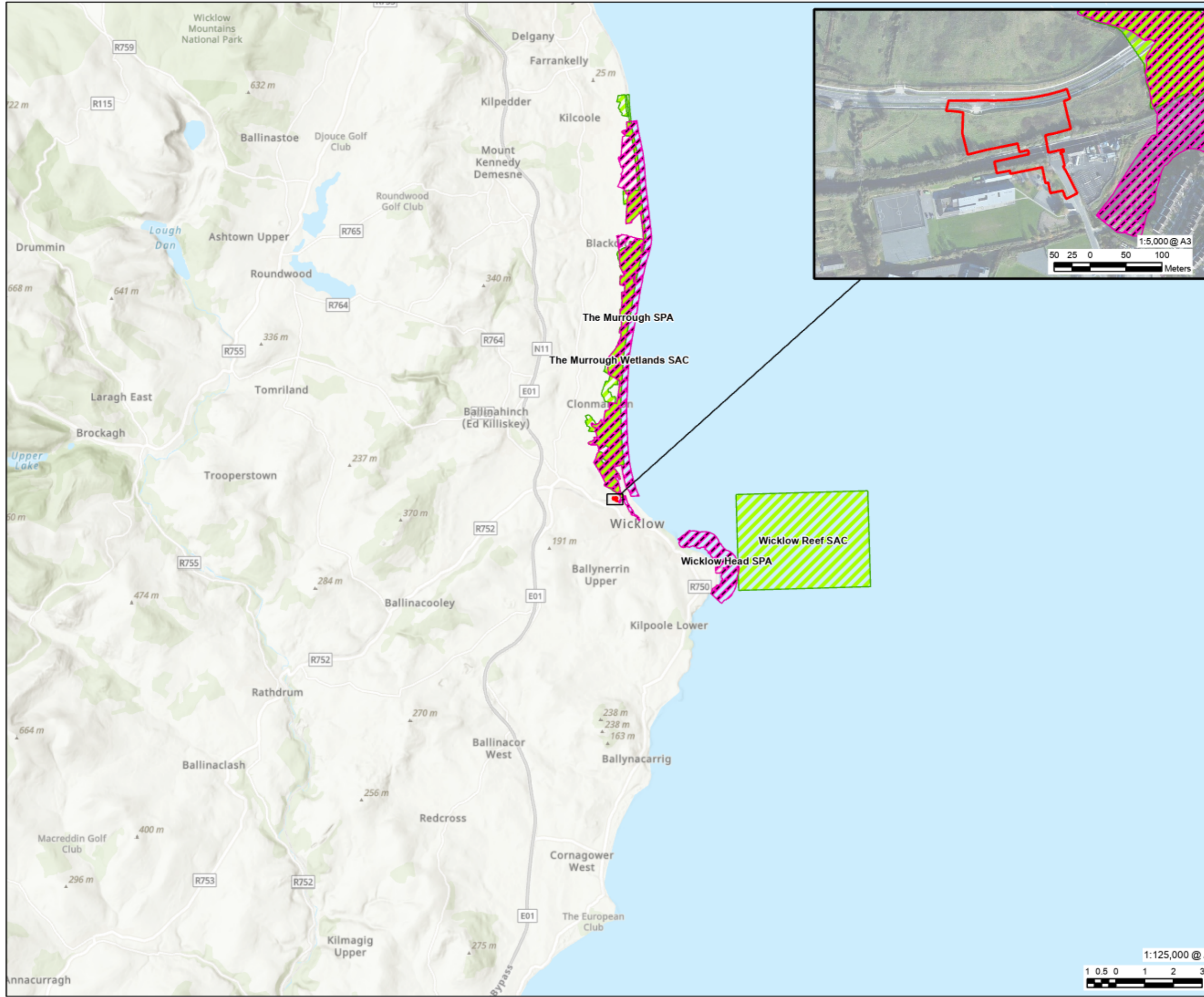
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The European Communities Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC.

6. Figures

Figure 1 – European sites



PROJECT
 Wicklow Port
 Access Road Link

CLIENT
 Wicklow County Council

CONSULTANT
 AECOM
 Adelphi Plaza,
 George's Street Upper
 Dun Laoghaire, Co Dublin,
 A96 T927
 T +353-1-989-6220

LEGEND

- Site Boundary
- Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)
- Special Protected Areas (SPA)

NOTES

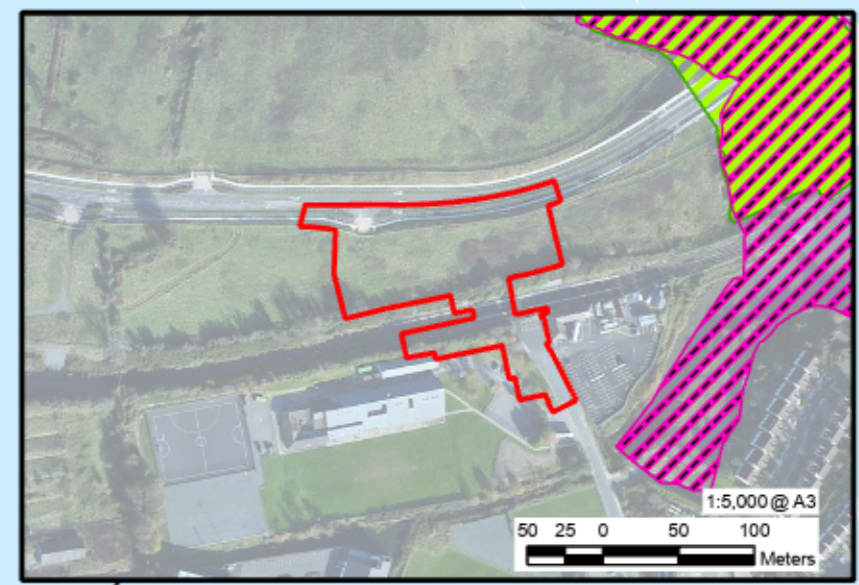
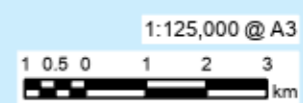
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ISSUE PURPOSE
 FOR ISSUE

PROJECT NUMBER
 60647343

FIGURE TITLE
 European Sites

FIGURE NUMBER
 Figure 1



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