

Assessment, Research and Data Unit

Appropriate Assessment Screening and Determination Report

To:	Maritime Authorisations Unit	From:	Ross Fitzgerald Marine Analyst
Date:	28/10/2025	Maritime Usage Licence Application No:	MUL240026
Applicant:	Uisce Éireann, Colvill House, 24-26 Talbot St, Dublin 1, D01 NP86		
Type of maritime usage activity in accordance with Schedule 7 of the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021:	<i>3. Marine environmental surveys for the purposes of site investigation or in support of an application under Part XXI of the Act of 2000.</i>		
Location of proposed maritime usage:	Southeast coast between Dungarvan, Co. Waterford and Greystones, Co. Wicklow		
Licence application received:	28/11/2024		

1. Background

Uisce Éireann (the applicant) has applied to the Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (MARA) for a Maritime Usage Licence (MUL) to undertake marine environmental surveys for the purposes of site investigation, falling under Schedule 7(3) of the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021 (the MAP Act). The activities are required to support the design and consenting of wastewater infrastructure.

2. Description of maritime usage and local site characteristics

2.1 Brief description of the maritime usage

Uisce Éireann wish to conduct a strategic modelling study of water currents and bathymetry along the Southeast coast of Ireland between Dungarvan, Co. Waterford and Greystones, Co. Wicklow. The proposed maritime usage requires the deployment of up to nine static Acoustic Doppler Current Profilers (ADCPs) at separate locations within the proposed maritime usage area. Ancillary instruments, to collect salinity and temperature data, may also be contained within the trawl resistant frames in which the ADCPs will be deployed. Boat based ADCP and water sampling surveys, a bathymetric survey (multibeam and single beam) and installation of tidal gauges will also be carried out. See Figure 1 for an overview of the proposed maritime usage area. The applicant has applied for a licence duration of five years.

The applicant submitted a Supporting Information for Screening of Appropriate Assessment (SISAA) report, an Assessment of Impacts of the Maritime Usage (AIMU) Report and a Risk Assessment for Annex IV Species Report in support of their licence application which were referred to during this assessment.

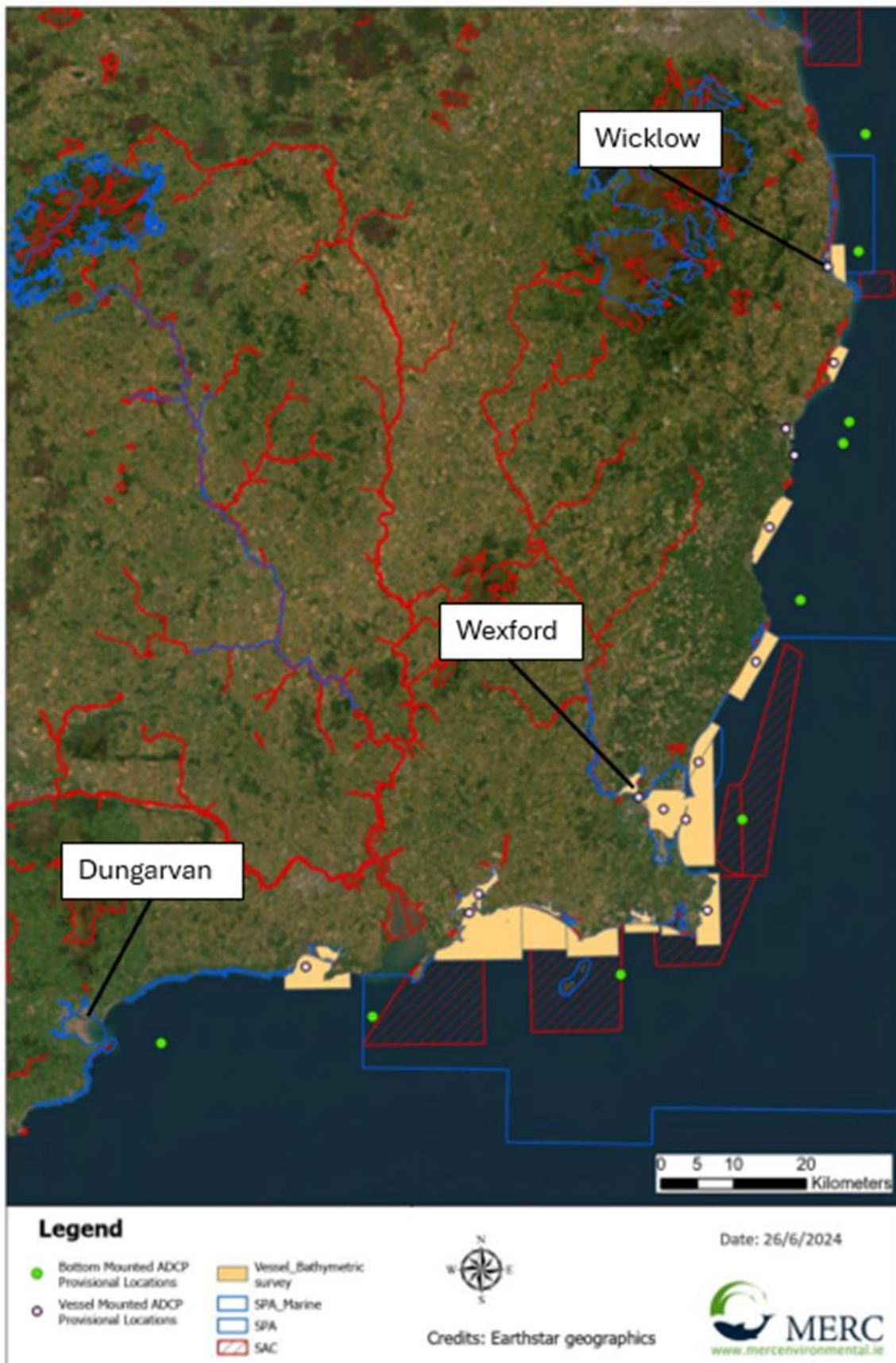


Figure 1 – Overview of the proposed maritime usage area

2.2 Brief description of the site characteristics

The proposed maritime usage covers a relatively large geographical area encompassing a number of sheltered and exposed bays, inlets and estuaries. There are a variety of habitats, including mudflats and sandflats, coastal lagoons, large shallow inlets and bays, salt meadows, estuaries and reefs. The area also has a number of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) designated for Common seal, Harbour seal and Harbour porpoise. There are a number of Special Protection Areas (SPAs) for a variety of seabirds, with many important areas for breeding and wintering birds.

3. Identification of relevant European sites

The MUL application is subject to screening for appropriate assessment in accordance with Regulation 42 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011, as amended, to determine if it alone, or in-combination with other plans or projects, is likely to have a significant effect on a European sites, in view of best scientific knowledge and the conservation objectives of the sites.

The proposed maritime usage is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of any European site(s). The European sites (Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs)) listed on Table 1 have been considered for appropriate assessment, given the nature, scale and Zone of Influence of the maritime usage, the conservation objectives of the European sites and using the Source-Pathway-Receptor model.

Table 1: Identification of relevant European sites, their qualifying interests and site-specific conservation objectives. Those Qualifying Interests marked in bold have been screened in for Stage 2 appropriate assessment.

European site & site code	Distance from proposed MUL area (km)	List of Qualifying Interests	Connections (Source-pathway-receptor)	European Site Screened in	Site-specific conservation objectives
SACs					
Tramore Dunes and Backstrand SAC [000671]	Within MUL Area	1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide 1210 Annual vegetation of drift lines 1310 <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand 1330 Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>) 1410 Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) 2120 Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) 1220 Perennial vegetation of stony banks 2110 Embryonic shifting dunes 2130 Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes)*	No	No	NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives: Bannow Bay SAC 000671. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
Hook Head SAC [000764]	Within MUL Area	1349 Common Bottlenose Dolphin (<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>) 1351 Harbour Porpoise (<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>)	Yes – possible disturbance and displacement from underwater noise from bathymetry survey activities	Yes	NPWS (2025) Conservation Objectives: Hook Head SAC 000764. Version 2.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
		1160 Large shallow inlets and bays 1170 Reefs 1230 Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts	No		

Bannow Bay SAC [000697]	Within MUL Area	1130 Estuaries 1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide 1210 Annual vegetation of drift lines 1310 <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand 1330 Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glaucopuccinellietalia maritimae</i>) 1410 Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) 1420 Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrubs (<i>Sarcocornetea fruticosi</i>) 1220 Perennial vegetation of stony banks 2110 Embryonic shifting dunes 2120 Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) 2130 Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes)*	No	No	NPWS (2012) Conservation Objectives: Bannow Bay SAC 000697. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
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Ballyteige Burrow SAC [000696]	Within MUL Area	1130 Estuaries 1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide 1310 <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand 1330 Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glaucopuccinellietalia maritimae</i>) 1410 Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) 1420 Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrubs (<i>Sarcocornetea fruticosi</i>) 1150 Coastal lagoons* 1210 Annual vegetation of drift lines 1220 Perennial vegetation of stony banks 2110 Embryonic shifting dunes 2120 Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) 2130 Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes)* 2150 Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (<i>Calluno-Ulicetea</i>)* 2190 Humid dune slacks	No	No	NPWS (2012) Conservation Objectives: Ballyteige Burrow SAC 000696. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
Saltee Islands SAC [000707]	Within MUL Area	1364 Grey Seal (<i>Halichoerus grypus</i>)	Yes – possible disturbance and displacement from underwater noise from bathymetry survey activities	Yes	NPWS (2011) Conservation Objectives: Saltee Islands SAC 000707. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
		1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide 1160 Large shallow inlets and bays 1170 Reefs	No		

		1230 Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts 8330 Submerged or partially submerged sea caves			
Tacumshin Lake SAC [000709]	Within MUL Area	1150 Coastal lagoons* 1210 Annual vegetation of drift lines 1220 Perennial vegetation of stony banks 2110 Embryonic shifting dunes 2120 Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes)	No	No	NPWS (2018) Conservation Objectives: Tacumshin Lake SAC 000696. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
Carnsore Point SAC [002269]	Within MUL Area	1351 Harbour Porpoise (<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>)	Yes – possible disturbance and displacement from underwater noise from bathymetry survey activities	Yes	NPWS (2024) Conservation Objectives: Carnsore Point SAC 002269. Version 2.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
		1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide 1170 Reefs	No		

Lady's Island Lake SAC [000704]	<5km	1150 Coastal lagoons* 1170 Reefs 1220 Perennial vegetation of stony banks	No	No	NPWS (2019) Conservation Objectives: Lady's Island Lake SAC 000704. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
Slaney River Valley SAC [000781]	Within MUL Area	1365 Harbour Seal (<i>Phoca vitulina</i>)	Yes – possible disturbance and displacement from underwater noise from bathymetry survey activities	Yes	NPWS (2011) Conservation Objectives: Slaney River Valley SAC 000781. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

		1095 Sea Lamprey (<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>) 1096 Brook Lamprey (<i>Lampetra planeri</i>) 1099 River Lamprey (<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>) 1103 Twaite Shad (<i>Alosa fallax fallax</i>) 1106 Salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) 1130 Estuaries 1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide 1330 Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glaucopuccinellietalia maritimae</i>) 1355 Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) 1410 Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) 3260 Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation 1029 Freshwater Pearl Mussel (<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>) 91A0 Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles 91E0 Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i>)*	No		
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Raven Point Nature Reserve SAC [000710]	Within MUL Area	1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide 1210 Annual vegetation of drift lines 1330 Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>) 2110 Embryonic shifting dunes 2120 Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) 2130 Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes)* 2170 Dunes with <i>Salix repens</i> ssp. <i>argentea</i> (<i>Salicion arenariae</i>) 2190 Humid dune slacks	No	No	NPWS (2011) Conservation Objectives: Raven Point Nature Reserve SAC 000710. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
Long Bank SAC [002162]	Within MUL Area	1110 Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time	No	No	NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives: Long Bank SAC 002162. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
Blackwater Bank SAC [002953]	Within MUL Area	1351 <i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise)	Yes – possible disturbance and displacement from underwater noise from bathymetry survey activities	Yes	NPWS (2024) Conservation Objectives: Blackwater Bank SAC 002953. Version 3.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
		1110 Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time	No		

Kilmuckridge-Tinnaberna Sandhills SAC [001741]	Within MUL Area	Embryonic shifting dunes [2110] Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120] Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130]	No	No	NPWS (2014) Conservation Objectives: Kilmuckridge-Tinnaberna Sandhills SAC 001741. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
Cahore Polders and Dunes SAC [000700]	Within MUL Area	Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210] Embryonic shifting dunes [2110] Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120] Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130] Humid dune slacks [2190]	No	No	NPWS (2016) Conservation Objectives: Cahore Polders and Dunes SAC 000700. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
Kilpatrick Sandhills SAC [001742]	<5km	Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210] Embryonic shifting dunes [2110] Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120] Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130] Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (<i>Calluno-Ulicetea</i>) [2150]	No	No	NPWS (2017) Conservation Objectives: Kilpatrick Sandhills SAC 001742. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

Buckroney-Brittis Dunes and Fen SAC [000729]	<5km	Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210] Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220] Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410] Embryonic shifting dunes [2110] Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120] Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130] Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (<i>Calluno-Ulicetea</i>) [2150] Dunes with <i>Salix repens</i> ssp. <i>argentea</i> (<i>Salicion arenariae</i>) [2170] Humid dune slacks [2190] Alkaline fens [7230]	No	No	NPWS (2017) Conservation Objectives: Buckroney-Brittis Dunes and Fen SAC 000729. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
Magherabeg Dunes SAC [001766]	<5km	Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210] Embryonic shifting dunes [2110] Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120] Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130] Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>) [7220]	No	No	NPWS (2017) Conservation Objectives: Magherabeg Dunes SAC 001766. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
Wicklow Reef SAC [002274]	<5km	Reefs [1170]	No	No	NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives: Wicklow Reef SAC 002274. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts,

					Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
The Murrough Wetlands SAC [002249]	Within MUL Area	Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210] Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220] Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glaucopuccinellietalia maritima</i>) [1330] Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410] Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i> [7210] Alkaline fens [7230]	No	No	NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives: The Murrough Wetlands SAC 002249. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
Helvick Head SAC [000665]	5-10	Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230] European dry heaths [4030]	No	No	NPWS (2016) Conservation Objectives: Helvic Head SAC 000665. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
Bray Head SAC [000714]	5-10	Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230] European dry heaths [4030]	No	No	NPWS (2017) Conservation Objectives: Bray Head SAC 000714. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC [003000]	5-10	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]	Yes – possible disturbance and	Yes	NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives:

			displacement from underwater noise from bathymetry survey activities		Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC 003000. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
		Reefs [1170]	No		
Lambay Island SAC [000204]	25-50	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351] <i>Halichoerus grypus</i> (Grey Seal) [1364] <i>Phoca vitulina</i> (Harbour Seal) [1365]	Yes – possible disturbance and displacement from underwater noise from bathymetry survey activities	Yes	NPWS (2024) Conservation Objectives. Lambay Island SAC 000204. Version 2.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
		Reefs [1170] Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230]	No		
Codling Fault Zone SAC [003015]	25-50	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]	Yes – possible disturbance and displacement from underwater noise from bathymetry survey activities	Yes	NPWS (2025) Conservation Objectives. Codling Fault Zone SAC 003015. Version 2.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
		Submarine structures made by leaking gases [1180]	No		

SPAs					
Mid-Waterford Coast SPA [004193]	<5km	Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017]	Yes – possible disturbance and displacement from underwater noise from bathymetry survey activities	No	NPWS (2024) Conservation Objectives. Mid-Waterford Coast SPA 004193. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
		Peregrine (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>) [A103] Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) [A184] Chough (<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>) [A346]	No		
Tramore Back Strand SPA [004027]	Within MUL Area	Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046] Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140] Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142] Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149] Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156] Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157] Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	Yes - possible visual and above water noise disturbance and displacement from survey vessel activity	Yes	NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives. Tramore Back Strand SPA 004027. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
Seas off Wexford SPA [004237]	Within MUL Area	Red-throated Diver (<i>Gavia stellata</i>) [A001] Fulmar (<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>) [A009] Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017] Shag (<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>) [A018] Manx Shearwater (<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>) [A013] Gannet (<i>Morus bassanus</i>) [A016] Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) [A188] Guillemot (<i>Uria aalge</i>) [A199] Razorbill (<i>Alca torda</i>) [A200] Puffin (<i>Fratercula arctica</i>) [A204]	Yes – possible disturbance and displacement from underwater noise from bathymetry survey activities	Yes	NPWS (2024) Conservation Objectives. Seas off Wexford SPA 004237. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts,

		Common Scoter (<i>Melanitta nigra</i>) [A065] Roseate Tern (<i>Sterna dougallii</i>) [A192] Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193] Arctic Tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) [A194] Sandwich Tern (<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>) [A863] Little Tern (<i>Sternula albifrons</i>) [A885]	Yes – possible disturbance and displacement from underwater noise from bathymetry survey activities. Possible visual and above water noise disturbance and displacement from survey vessel activity		Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
		Mediterranean Gull (<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>) [A176] Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179] Lesser Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>) [A183] Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) [A184]	No		
Bannow Bay SPA [004033]	Within MUL Area	Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046] Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048] Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) [A054] Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130] Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140] Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142] Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143] Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149] Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156] Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157] Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160] Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162]	Yes - possible visual and above water noise disturbance and displacement from survey vessel activity	Yes	NPWS (2012) Conservation Objectives. Seas off Wexford SPA 004237. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

		Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]			
Keeragh Islands SPA [004118]	Within MUL Area	Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017]	Yes – possible disturbance and displacement from underwater noise from bathymetry survey activities	Yes	NPWS (2025) Conservation Objectives. Keeragh Islands SPA 004118. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
Ballyteige Burrow SPA [004020]	Within MUL Area	Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046] Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048] Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140] Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142] Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156] Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	Yes - possible visual and above water noise disturbance and displacement from survey vessel activity	Yes	NPWS (2014) Conservation Objectives. Ballyteige Burrow SPA 004020. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
Saltee Islands SPA [004002]	<5km	Fulmar (<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>) [A009] Gannet (<i>Morus bassanus</i>) [A016] Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017] Shag (<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>) [A018] Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) [A188] Guillemot (<i>Uria aalge</i>) [A199] Razorbill (<i>Alca torda</i>) [A200] Puffin (<i>Fratercula arctica</i>) [A204]	Yes – possible disturbance and displacement from underwater noise from bathymetry survey activities	Yes	NPWS (2011) Conservation Objectives. Saltee Islands SPA 004002. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht
		Lesser Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>) [A183] Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) [A184]	No		

Tacumshin Lake SPA [004092]	Within MUL Area	Bewick's Swan (<i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i>) [A037] Whooper Swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>) [A038] Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052] Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) [A054] Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140] Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142] Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156] Wigeon (<i>Mareca penelope</i>) [A855] Shoveler (<i>Spatula clypeata</i>) [A857]	Yes - possible visual and above water noise disturbance and displacement from survey vessel activity.	Yes	NPWS (2025) Conservation Objectives. Tacumshin Lake SPA 004092. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht
		Little Grebe (<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>) [A004] Tufted Duck (<i>Aythya fuligula</i>) [A061] Coot (<i>Fulica atra</i>) [A125] Gadwall (<i>Mareca strepera</i>) [A889] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	Yes – possible disturbance and displacement from underwater noise from bathymetry survey activities. Possible visual and above water noise disturbance and displacement from survey vessel activity		
Lady's Island Lake SPA [004009]	Within MUL Area	Roseate Tern (<i>Sterna dougallii</i>) [A192] Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193] Arctic Tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) [A194] Sandwich Tern (<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>) [A863] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	Yes – possible disturbance and displacement from underwater noise from bathymetry survey activities. Possible visual and above water noise	Yes	NPWS (2025) Conservation Objectives. Lady's Island Lake SPA 004009. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts,

			disturbance and displacement from survey vessel activity		Heritage and the Gaeltacht
		Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179] Gadwall (<i>Mareca strepera</i>) [A889]	No		

Wexford Harbour and Slobbs SPA [004076]	Within MUL Area	Grey Heron (<i>Ardea cinerea</i>) [A028] Bewick's Swan (<i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i>) [A037] Whooper Swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>) [A038] Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046] Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048] Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052] Mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>) [A053] Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) [A054] Hen Harrier (<i>Circus cyaneus</i>) [A082] Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130] Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140] Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142] Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143] Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144] Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149] Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156] Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157] Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160] Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162] Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179] Lesser Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>) [A183] Greenland White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>) [A395] Wigeon (<i>Mareca penelope</i>) [A855]	Yes - possible visual and above water noise disturbance and displacement from survey vessel activity	Yes	NPWS (2012) Conservation Objectives. Wexford Harbour and Slobbs SPA 004076. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht
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		Little Grebe (<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>) [A004] Great Crested Grebe (<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>) [A005] Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017] Scaup (<i>Aythya marila</i>) [A062] Goldeneye (<i>Bucephala clangula</i>) [A067] Red-breasted Merganser (<i>Mergus serrator</i>) [A069] Coot (<i>Fulica atra</i>) [A125] Little Tern (<i>Sternula albifrons</i>) [A885] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	Yes – possible disturbance and displacement from underwater noise from bathymetry survey activities. Possible visual and above water noise disturbance and displacement from survey vessel activity		
The Raven SPA [004019]	Within MUL Area	Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144] Greenland White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>) [A395]	Yes - possible visual and above water noise disturbance and displacement from survey vessel activity	Yes	NPWS (2012) Conservation Objectives. The Raven SPA 004019. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht
		Red-throated Diver (<i>Gavia stellata</i>) [A001] Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017]	Yes – possible disturbance and displacement from underwater noise from bathymetry survey activities		

		Common Scoter (<i>Melanitta nigra</i>) [A065] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	Yes – possible disturbance and displacement from underwater noise from bathymetry survey activities. Possible visual and above water noise disturbance and displacement from survey vessel activity		
Cahore Marshes SPA [004143]	<5km	Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140] Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142] Greenland White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>) [A395] Wigeon (<i>Mareca penelope</i>) [A855] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	No	No	NPWS (2025) Conservation Objectives. Cahore Marshes SPA 004143. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht
Wicklow Head SPA [004127]	<5km	Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) [A188]	Yes – possible disturbance and displacement from underwater noise from bathymetry survey activities	Yes	NPWS (2024) Conservation Objectives. Wicklow Head SPA 004127. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

The Murrough SPA [004186]	Within MUL Area	Greylag Goose (<i>Anser anser</i>) [A043] Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046] Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052] Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179] Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) [A184] Wigeon (<i>Mareca penelope</i>) [A855]	Yes - possible visual and above water noise disturbance and displacement from survey vessel activity	Yes	NPWS (2024) Conservation Objectives. The Murrough SPA 004186. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht
		Red-throated Diver (<i>Gavia stellata</i>) [A001]	Yes – possible disturbance and displacement from underwater noise from bathymetry survey activities		
		Little Tern (<i>Sternula albifrons</i>) [A885] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	Yes – possible disturbance and displacement from underwater noise from bathymetry survey activities. Possible visual and above water noise disturbance and displacement from survey vessel activity		

Helvick Head to Ballyquin SPA [0041952]	5-10	Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017] Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) [A188]	Yes – possible disturbance and displacement from underwater noise from bathymetry survey activities	Yes	NPWS (2025) Conservation Objectives. Helvick Head to Ballyquin SPA 0041952. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht
		Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) [A184] Peregrine (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>) [A103] Chough (<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>) [A346]	No		
Dungarvan Harbour SPA [004032]	5-10	Great Crested Grebe (<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>) [A005] Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046] Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048] Red-breasted Merganser (<i>Mergus serrator</i>) [A069] Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130] Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140] Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142] Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143] Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149] Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156] Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157] Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160] Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162] Turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>) [A169] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	No	No	NPWS (2012) Conservation Objectives. Dungarvan Harbour SPA 004032. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

North-west Irish Sea SPA [004236]	10-25	Great Crested Grebe (<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>) [A005] Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046] Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048] Red-breasted Merganser (<i>Mergus serrator</i>) [A069] Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130] Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140] Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142] Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143] Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149] Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156] Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157] Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160] Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162] Turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>) [A169] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	No	No	NPWS (2023) Conservation Objectives. North-west Irish Sea SPA 004236. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht
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Ballymacoda Bay SPA [004023]	25-50	Lesser Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>) [A183] Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052] Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137] Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140] Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142] Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144] Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149] Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156] Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157] Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160] Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162] Turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>) [A169] Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179] Common Gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) [A182] Wigeon (<i>Mareca penelope</i>) [A855] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	No	No	NPWS (2015) Conservation Objectives. Ballymacoda Bay SPA 004023. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht
Ballycotton Bay SPA [004022]	25-50	Lesser Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>) [A183] Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052] Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137] Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140] Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142] Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156] Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157] Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160] Turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>) [A169] Common Gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) [A182] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	No	No	NPWS (2014) Conservation Objectives. Ballycotton Bay SPA 004022. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

Ireland's Eye SPA [004117]	25-50	Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) [A188] Guillemot (<i>Uria aalge</i>) [A199] Razorbill (<i>Alca torda</i>) [A200]	Yes – possible disturbance and displacement from underwater noise from bathymetry survey activities	Yes	NPWS (2024) Conservation Objectives. Ireland's Eye SPA 004117. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht
		Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017] Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) [A184]	No		
Lambay Island SPA [004069]	25-50	Fulmar (<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>) [A009] Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) [A188] Puffin (<i>Fratercula arctica</i>) [A204] Razorbill (<i>Alca torda</i>) [A200]	Yes – possible disturbance and displacement from underwater noise from bathymetry survey activities	Yes	NPWS (2024) Conservation Objectives. Lambay Island SPA 004069. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht
		Guillemot (<i>Uria aalge</i>) [A199] Lesser Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>) [A183] Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017] Shag (<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>) [A018] Greylag Goose (<i>Anser anser</i>) [A043] Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) [A184]	No		

Assessment of likely significant effects

Table 2: Identification of potential direct and indirect impacts that may have an effect on the conservation objectives of European sites, taking into account the nature and scale of the proposed maritime usage.

Potential Impacts	Possible significance of Potential impacts (duration, magnitude, etc.)
Disturbance from underwater noise	Potential for sound sources from bathymetry surveys to be at a level and duration that could cause short term, temporary disturbance of marine mammals and diving birds
Visual and above water noise disturbance	Potential for visual and above water noise disturbance from survey vessel activity to be at a level and duration that could cause short term, temporary disturbance of wintering waterbirds

In-combination effects

MARA has developed a stepwise approach for identifying other plans and projects that may impact on European sites in-Combination with the proposed maritime usage. Using professional and scientific judgement, the key steps for assessing cumulative effects are as follows:

1. Defining the Cumulative Effects Spatial Scope (CESS)
2. Defining the Cumulative Effects Temporal Scope (CETS)
3. Impact identification
4. Pathway identification
5. Prediction
6. Identification of Plans or Projects that could act in combination
7. Screening Stage Cumulative Effects Assessment conclusion
8. Managing cumulative impacts - to be carried out as part of Stage 2 AA process

The CESS has been defined as the spatial extent of the proposed maritime usage licence area and the CETS as five years. The definition of the CESS is based on acoustic survey equipment effective deterrence ranges as per JNCC Guidance on Assessing the Significance of Noise Disturbance against Harbour Porpoise SACs Conservation Objectives ([JNCC, 2025](#)). And the CETS is the proposed MUL duration.

A search of relevant databases was undertaken on the 17/09/2025, including, but not limited to: MARA MAC and MUL applications and consents, Foreshore licences, An Coimisiún Pleanála map viewer, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine Aquaculture Viewer

(AQUAMIS), Waterford, Wexford and Wicklow County Council Planning Systems, EPA authorisations, etc. Relevant projects within the CESS and the CETS were considered. Particular attention was given to the projects shown on Table 3 which have the potential to act in-combination with the proposed maritime usage.

Table 3: List of projects which, in particular, were considered to have potential in-combination impacts on European sites

Application Ref.	Project description	Distance from proposed MUL area (km)	Project Status
MUL240023	Iarnród Éireann – marine survey activities	Overlap	Applied
MUL240036	Eirgrid – marine survey activities	Overlap	Determined
An Coimisiún Pleanála, Case Reference: 319864	Planning application: Arklow Bank Wind Park II	Overlap	Applied
FS007546	Codling Wind Park – marine survey activities	Overlap	Determined

The following plans, related to the development of the maritime environment were also considered:

- The Climate Action Plan 2024
- South Coast Designated Maritime Area Plan 2024
- Waterford City & County Development Plan 2022-2028
- Wexford County Development Plan 2022-2028
- Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028
- Water Action Plan 2024
- Uisce Éireann Regional Water Resources Plan – South East
- Uisce Éireann Regional Water Resources Plan – Eastern and Midlands

Likely significant in-combination effects between this application and the plans listed above and projects listed on Table 3 on the conservation objectives of the European sites considered in this report cannot be excluded at this stage.

Were mitigation measures considered during the screening process?

No

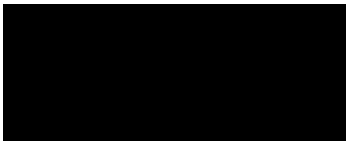
4. Screening Determination Statement

The assessment of significant effects:

On the basis of the information on file, and having regard to:

- The nature and scale of the proposed development
- The distance to the nearest European sites
- The potential for in-combination effects with other plans and projects
- Possible disturbance from underwater noise
- Possible visual and above water noise disturbance

Having considered the legal framework applicable to appropriate assessment, it was concluded that the proposed maritime usage by **Uisce Éireann, Colvill House, 24-26 Talbot St, Dublin 1, D01 NP86**, to carry out marine environmental surveys for the purposes of site investigation or in support of an application under Part XXI of the Act of 2000 along the South-East coast between Dungarvan, Co. Waterford and Greystones, Co. Wicklow (MUL240026), will require Stage 2 appropriate assessment. It cannot be excluded, on the basis of objective scientific information, that the proposed maritime usage, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will have a significant effect on a European site.

Signature and Date of Recommending Officer	 Ross Fitzgerald Marine Analyst	28/10/2025
Signature and Date of Decision Maker	 John Evans Director of Assessment, Research and Data Unit	29/10/2025