

## Maritime Usage Licence and Planning Advisory Directorate

### Appropriate Assessment Screening and Determination Report

|                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                  |                                               |                                   |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>To:</b>                                                                                                   | Dr Ciar O' Toole, Senior Marine Advisor                                                                                                          | <b>From:</b>                                  | Ross Fitzgerald<br>Marine Analyst |
| <b>Date:</b>                                                                                                 | 25/06/2026                                                                                                                                       | <b>Maritime Usage Licence Application No:</b> | LIC230014MA                       |
| <b>Applicant:</b>                                                                                            | Shannon Foynes Port Company, Mill House, Foynes, Co. Limerick, V94 R232                                                                          |                                               |                                   |
| <b>Type of maritime usage activity in accordance with Schedule 7 of the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021:</b> | <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> |                                               |                                   |
| <b>Location of proposed maritime usage:</b>                                                                  | Foynes, Co. Limerick                                                                                                                             |                                               |                                   |
| <b>Licence application received:</b>                                                                         | 20/10/2025                                                                                                                                       |                                               |                                   |

## **1. Background**

The Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (MARA) issued a Maritime Usage Licence (MUL) to Shannon Foynes Port (the applicant) on 14/10/2024. The MUL granted (ref. LIC230014) was for marine environmental surveys for the purposes of site investigation or in support of an application under Part XXI of the Act of 2000 under Schedule 7(3) of the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021 (the MAP Act). The original application made to MARA was for site investigations to support the planning and preliminary engineering design of the Foynes Deep Water Berth Development on Foynes Island and an access bridge from Foynes Port to the south-east corner of Foynes Island.

To date, the marine geophysical surveys licensed under LIC230014 have been completed. The geotechnical and sediment sampling licenced under LIC230014 comprises two phases. Phase 1 was completed in February 2025 and included the following:

- Area A
  - Drilling of 26 of the 71 boreholes originally programmed. Presence of reef and accessibility meant a number of boreholes could not be completed
  - Collection of 16 grab samples
  - Drop down video survey
- Area B
  - Drilling of three of the eight boreholes. Presence of reef and accessibility meant a number of boreholes could not be completed
  - Collection of eight benthic faunal samples

Phase 1 boreholes were between 7 and 33 metres in depth. The boreholes had a diameter of 180mm. Phase 2 is to be completed and involves:

- Area A - drilling of 62 boreholes
- Area B – drilling of 22 boreholes

The applicant submitted an application for a material amendment to LIC230014 on 20/10/2025, in accordance with Section 125 of the MAP Act, for further marine environmental surveys for the purposes of site investigation or in support of an application under Part XXI of the Act of 2000 under Schedule 7(3) of the MAP Act. This requested consent for further geophysical and geotechnical surveys in two additional areas adjacent to the original licence area to further support the planning and preliminary engineering design of the Foynes Deep Water Berth Development on Foynes Island and to inform additional proposed improvements to Foynes Yacht Club (as part of the Community Gain elements of the project).

## **2. Description of material amendment and local site characteristics**

### *2.1 Brief description of the material amendment*

The proposed material amendment is located in the vicinity of Foynes Island (see Figure 1) and has a total area of approximately 15.72ha., which is additional to that granted under LIC230014 (Areas A and B, Figure 1). Additional geophysical and geotechnical site investigations are proposed in two discreet areas, labelled “Area C” (15.30ha.) and “Area D” (0.42ha.) in Figure 1. Table 1 summarises the proposed material amendment activities. The proposed material amendment will not require access to Foynes Island itself and will be conducted entirely from vessels within the marine environment.

### *2.2 Brief description of the site characteristics*

The substrate in the proposed material amendment area is dominated by mixed sediment and fine sandy or muddy habitat with depths up to 50 m below chart datum and provides a number of typically estuarine seabed habitats. The proposed material amendment area overlaps the Lower River Shannon SAC and the River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA. The Lower River Shannon SAC includes designation for several protected habitats, such as estuaries, reefs, mudflats, and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide. The Shannon Estuary is also a busy commercial channel, with Shannon Foynes Port, Aughinish Alumina and Limerick Port.

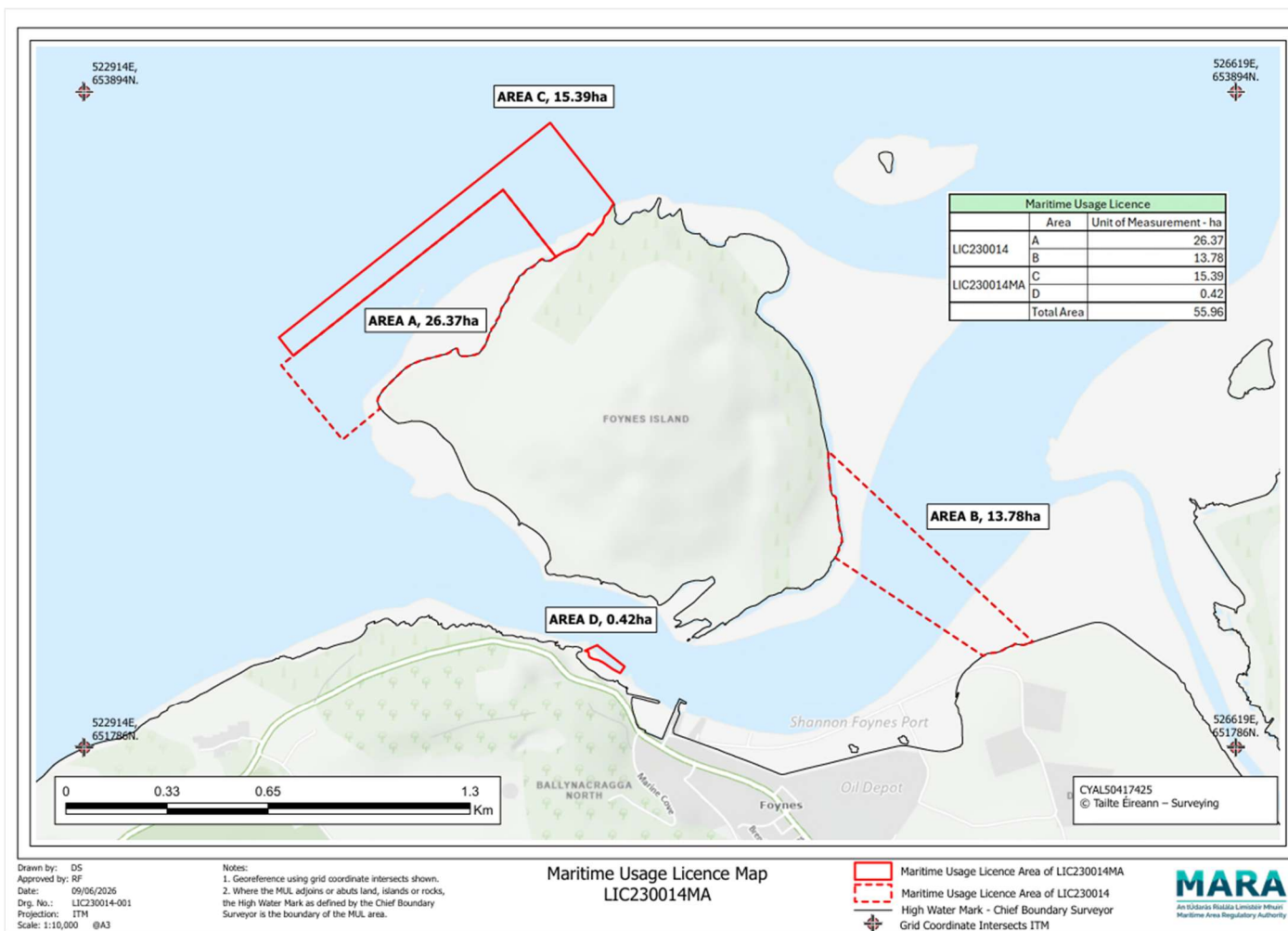


Figure 1 – Location of the proposed material amendment

Table 1 – Summary of proposed activities

| Proposed activities                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Estimated timeframe for activities & maximum quantity (where relevant)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Geophysical</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multibeam Echosounder</li> <li>• Sound Velocity Profiler</li> <li>• Sub-bottom Profiling (SBP) – <i>Chirper</i></li> <li>• Side-scan Sonar (dual frequency, low and high)</li> <li>• Sub-bottom Profiling (SBP) – <i>Sparker</i></li> <li>• Magnetometer (caesium)</li> </ul> | <p>Will cover the full area of the development footprint under water (where accessible)</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <p>Geotechnical</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Area C</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <p>6no. boreholes (up to 250mm diameter) deployed from jack-up barge. Cable percussive, or rotary drilling if rock is to be penetrated</p> <p>18no. subtidal grab (0.1m<sup>2</sup>) samples</p> <p>2no. intertidal stove-pipe core (0.028m<sup>2</sup>) and surface scrape samples</p> <p>Drop down video at 5-10 locations within and adjacent to known reef area</p> <p>1no. vibrocore (2m deep, 75mm diameter)</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Area D</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <p>1no. borehole (up to 250mm diameter) deployed from jack-up barge. Cable percussive, or rotary drilling if rock is to be penetrated</p> <p>3no. subtidal grab (0.1m<sup>2</sup>) samples</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |

### **3. Identification of relevant European sites**

The proposed material amendment 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 any European sites, in view of best scientific knowledge and the conservation objectives of the sites. The applicant submitted a Supporting Information for Screening of Appropriate Assessment (SISAA) report in support of the application which was referred to during this assessment.

The proposed material amendment 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 2 have been considered for appropriate assessment, given the nature, scale and Zone of Influence of the material amendment, the conservation objectives of the European sites and using the Source-Pathway-Receptor model.

**Table 2 - 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                                                                                                                                                                |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Lower River Shannon SAC [002165] | Within SAC boundary                  | <p>Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time [1110]</p> <p>Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]</p> <p>Coastal lagoons [1150]</p> <p>Large shallow inlets and bays [1160]</p> <p>Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220]</p> <p>Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230]</p> <p><i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310]</p> <p>Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glaucopuccinellietalia maritima</i>) [1330]</p> <p>Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410]</p> <p>Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculus fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260]</p> | No                                    | Yes                       | <p><u>NPWS (2012)</u></p> <p>Conservation Objectives: Lower River Shannon SAC [002165]. Version 1.0.</p> <p>National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.</p> |

|  |  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |  |  |
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|  |  | <p><i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>) [6410]</p> <p>Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i>, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>) [91E0]</p> <p><i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) [1029]</p>                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |  |  |
|  |  | <p><b>Estuaries [1130]</b></p> <p><b>Reefs [1170]</b></p> <p><b><i>Petromyzon marinus</i> (Sea Lamprey) [1095]</b></p> <p><b><i>Lampetra planeri</i> (Brook Lamprey) [1096]</b></p> <p><b><i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> (River Lamprey) [1099]</b></p> <p><b><i>Salmo salar</i> (Salmon) [1106]</b></p> <p><b><i>Tursiops truncatus</i> (Common Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349]</b></p> <p><b><i>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter) [1355]</b></p> | <p>Yes – possible physical disturbance and habitat loss</p> <p>Yes – possible increased suspended sediment concentration from geotechnical surveys, possible disturbance from underwater noise</p> <p>Yes - possible disturbance from underwater noise</p> <p>Yes – possible visual and above water noise disturbance</p> |  |  |

|                                 |           |                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                  |     |                                                                                                                                                                                          |
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| Kerry Head Shoal SAC [002263]   | 50-75km   | Reefs [1170]                                                                                                                                                     | No                                               | No  | <u>NPWS (2013)</u><br>Conservation Objectives:<br>Kerry Head Shoal SAC [002263]. Version 1.0.<br>National Parks and Wildlife Service,<br>Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. |
| Blasket Islands SAC [002172]    | 100-150km | Reefs [1170]<br>Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230]<br>European dry heaths [4030]<br>Submerged or partially submerged sea caves [8330] | No                                               | Yes | <u>NPWS (2014)</u><br>Conservation Objectives:<br>Blasket Islands SAC [002172]. Version 1.0.<br>National Parks and Wildlife Service,<br>Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.  |
|                                 |           | <b><i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]</b><br><b><i>Halichoerus grypus</i> (Grey Seal) [1364]</b>                                                 | Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise |     |                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Slyne Head Islands SAC [000328] | 100-150km | Reefs [1170]                                                                                                                                                     | No                                               | Yes | <u>NPWS (2024)</u><br>Conservation Objectives:<br>Slyne Head Islands SAC [000328]. Version 2.0.<br>National Parks and Wildlife Service,<br>Department of Arts,                           |
|                                 |           | <b><i>Tursiops truncatus</i> (Common Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349]</b><br><b><i>Halichoerus grypus</i> (Grey Seal) [1364]</b>                                       | Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise |     |                                                                                                                                                                                          |

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|                                   |           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |    |     | Heritage and the Gaeltacht.                                                                                                                                                               |
| Slyne Head Peninsula SAC [002074] | 100-150km | Coastal lagoons [1150]<br>Large shallow inlets and bays [1160]<br>Reefs [1170]<br>Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210]<br>Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220]<br>Atlantic salt meadows ( <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i> ) [1330]<br>Mediterranean salt meadows ( <i>Juncetalia maritimi</i> ) [1410]<br>Embryonic shifting dunes [2110]<br>Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120]<br>Machairs (* in Ireland) [21A0]<br>Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains ( <i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i> ) [3110]<br>Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the <i>Littorelletea uniflorae</i> and/or <i>Isoeto-Nanojuncetea</i> [3130]<br>Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of <i>Chara</i> spp. [3140]<br>European dry heaths [4030] | No | Yes | <u>NPWS (2015)</u><br>Conservation Objectives:<br>Slyne Head Peninsula SAC [002074]. Version 1.0.<br>National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. |

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|                                  |           | <p><i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130]<br/>Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) (* important orchid sites) [6210]<br/><i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>) [6410]<br/>Lowland hay meadows (<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>, <i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i>) [6510] Alkaline fens [7230]<br/><i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> (Petalwort) [1395]<br/><i>Najas flexilis</i> (Slender Naiad) [1833]</p> |                                                  |     |                                                                                                                                                                |
|                                  |           | <p><b><i>Tursiops truncatus</i> (Common Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349]</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise |     |                                                                                                                                                                |
| West Connacht Coast SAC [002998] | 150-200km | <p><b><i>Tursiops truncatus</i> (Common Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349]</b><br/><b><i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise | Yes | <p><u>NPWS (2025)</u><br/>Conservation Objectives: West Connacht Coast SAC [002998]. Version 2.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts,</p> |

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|                                |            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                        |     | Heritage and the Gaeltacht.                                                                                                                                               |
| Duvillaun Islands SAC [000495] | 200-250 km | <i>Halichoerus grypus</i> (Grey Seal) [1364]<br><i>Tursiops truncatus</i> (Common Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349]                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | No<br>Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise | Yes | NPWS (2024)<br>Conservation Objectives: Duvillaun Islands SAC [000495]. Version 2.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. |
| Kenmare River SAC [002158]     |            | Large shallow inlets and bays [1160]<br>Reefs [1170]<br>Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220]<br>Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230]<br>Atlantic salt meadows ( <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i> ) [1330]<br>Mediterranean salt meadows ( <i>Juncetalia maritimi</i> ) [1410]<br>Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120]<br>Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130]<br>European dry heaths [4030] | No                                                     | Yes | NPWS (2026)<br>Conservation Objectives: Kenmare River SAC [002158]. Version 2.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.     |

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|                                           |  | <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130]<br>Calaminarian grasslands of the <i>Violetalia calaminariae</i> [6130]<br>Submerged or partially submerged sea caves [8330]<br><i>Vertigo angustior</i> (Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail) [1014]<br><i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> (Lesser Horseshoe Bat) [1303]<br><i>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter) [1355]<br><i>Phoca vitulina</i> (Harbour Seal) [1365] |                                                  |     |                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|                                           |  | <b><i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise |     |                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Roaringwater Bay and Islands SAC [000101] |  | Large shallow inlets and bays [1160]<br>Reefs [1170]<br>Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230]<br>European dry heaths [4030]<br>Submerged or partially submerged sea caves [8330]<br><i>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter) [1355]<br><i>Halichoerus grypus</i> (Grey Seal) [1364]                                                                                                                                    | No                                               | Yes | <u>NPWS (2011)</u><br>Conservation Objectives: Roaringwater Bay and Islands SAC [000101]. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. |
|                                           |  | <b><i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise |     |                                                                                                                                                                                             |

|                                                                |  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                             |     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
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| River Shannon<br>and River Foynes<br>Estuaries SPA<br>[004077] |  | <b>Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017]</b><br><b>Whooper Swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>) [A038]</b><br><b>Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046]</b><br><b>Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048]</b><br><b>Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050]</b><br><b>Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052]</b><br><b>Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) [A054]</b><br><b>Shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>) [A056]</b><br><b>Scaup (<i>Aythya marila</i>) [A062]</b><br><b>Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137]</b><br><b>Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140]</b><br><b>Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141]</b><br><b>Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142]</b><br><b>Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143]</b><br><b>Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149]</b><br><b>Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156]</b><br><b>Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157]</b><br><b>Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160]</b><br><b>Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162]</b><br><b>Greenshank (<i>Tringa nebularia</i>) [A164]</b> Black-headed Gull<br><b>(<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179]</b><br><b>Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]</b> | Yes - possible visual &<br>above water noise<br>disturbance | Yes | <u>NPWS (2012)</u><br>Conservation Objectives:<br>River Shannon<br>and River Foynes<br>Estuaries SPA<br>[004077]. Version 1.0.<br>National Parks and<br>Wildlife Service,<br>Department of Arts,<br>Heritage and the<br>Gaeltacht. |
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| Loop Head SPA<br>[004119]               |  | Kittiwake ( <i>Rissa tridactyla</i> ) [A188]<br>Guillemot ( <i>Uria aalge</i> ) [A199]             | No | No | <u>NPWS (2025)</u><br>Conservation Objectives:<br>Loop Head SPA<br>[004119]. Version 1.0.<br>National Parks and<br>Wildlife Service,<br>Department of Arts,<br>Heritage and the<br>Gaeltacht.  |
| Kerry Head SPA<br>[Site code<br>004189] |  | Fulmar ( <i>Fulmarus glacialis</i> ) [A009]<br>Chough ( <i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i> )<br>[A346] | No | No | <u>NPWS (2025)</u><br>Conservation Objectives:<br>Kerry Head SPA<br>[004189]. Version 1.0.<br>National Parks and<br>Wildlife Service,<br>Department of Arts,<br>Heritage and the<br>Gaeltacht. |

#### 4. Assessment of likely significant effects

Table 3 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.)                                                                                                                                                 |
|------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Physical disturbance and habitat loss    | Possible temporal impacts on habitats in terms of physical disturbance due to proposed MUL activities. Potential for habitat loss to reef habitats                                                                     |
| Increase in sedimentation                | An increase in suspended sediments from survey activities could impact on migratory fish species, or the prey species of birds and marine mammals                                                                      |
| Disturbance from underwater noise        | Potential for sound sources from survey activities to be at a level and duration that would cause a significant negative impact on marine mammals and migratory fish                                                   |
| Visual and above water noise disturbance | Potential for survey activities generating noise, vibration and increased human presence or vessel activity to be at an intensity and duration that would cause significant disturbance to bird populations and otter. |

##### In-combination effects

The potential impacts of the proposed material amendment must be considered individually and also in combination with other plans or projects. All types of plans or projects that could, in-combination with this application, have a significant effect, have been considered. This in-combination assessment has been undertaken using professional and scientific judgement and is assessed primarily in terms of potential spatial and temporal impacts.

The spatial scope of the in-combination assessment is the proposed material amendment area and a 3km buffer zone around it. This is based on the fact that the applicant has proposed to carry out geophysical surveys throughout the extent of the proposed material amendment

area and adding a 3km buffer to include the JNCC Effective Deterrent Range<sup>1</sup> (EDR) for assessing the significance of noise disturbance from Sub Bottom Profilers on Harbour porpoise<sup>2</sup>, which has a known sensitivity to underwater noise. The temporal scope of the in-combination assessment is the duration of the existing licence (LIC230014) which the applicant seeks to amend (i.e. to October 2031).

A search of relevant databases, including EPA, *An Coimisiún Pleanála*, Foreshore Unit, MARA and planning authorities was undertaken on 23/06/2026. Table 4 below outlines those activities which are considered to have the potential to act in-combination with the proposed maritime usage.

**Table 4** List of projects which were considered to have potential in-combination impacts on European sites

| Application Ref.                         | Project description                                                                                                                                               | Distance from proposed MUL area (km) | Project Status |
|------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------|
| LIC230014                                | MUL application – site investigation to inform development of deep-water terminal development on Foynes island                                                    | <1                                   | Permitted      |
| MUL250010                                | Gas Networks Ireland – site investigations                                                                                                                        | Overlap                              | Permitted      |
| LIC230004                                | Aughinish Alumina Ltd. – Maintenance dredging                                                                                                                     | <1                                   | Permitted      |
| FS006975                                 | Shannon Foynes Port Company – Maintenance Dredging                                                                                                                | <1                                   | Permitted      |
| Planning Permission application 18301561 | Shannon Foynes Port Company – Port capacity extension                                                                                                             | <1                                   | Permitted      |
| Planning Permission application 2660559  | Uisce Éireann – planning permission for development of a sewerage scheme including new marine outfall with extension to an existing outfall pipe at Colleen Point | <1                                   | Applied        |
| Dumping at Sea S0009-03                  | Shannon Foynes Port Company Dumping at Sea Permit                                                                                                                 | <1                                   | Permitted      |

<sup>1</sup> A fixed radius used to estimate the area around an impulsive noise event from which harbour porpoises are disturbed/deterred.

<sup>2</sup> [JNCC Report 803. Updated Effective Deterrent Ranges \(EDRs\) for assessing the significance of noise disturbance in harbour porpoise Special Areas of Conservation \(SACs\) \(England, Wales & Northern Ireland\)](#)

|                            |                                              |    |           |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------------------|----|-----------|
| Dumping at Sea<br>S0026-02 | Aughinish Alumina Ltd. Dumping at Sea Permit | <1 | Permitted |
| PA91.312146<br>and 318302  | Aughinish Alumina Bauxite Extension          | <3 | Applied   |

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

- The Climate Action Plan 2025.
- The Water Action Plan 2024
- National Biodiversity Action Plan (2023-2027)
- Limerick County Development Plan (2022-2028)
- Clare County Development Plan (2023-2029)
- Strategic Integrated Framework Plan for the Shannon Estuary (2013-2020)

These plans promote sustainable development and integrated management planning in the maritime environment. It is unlikely that any of these plans will result in a negative in-combination effect on the conservation objectives of the Natura 2000 sites. Likely significant in-combination effects between this project and the plans listed here on the conservation objectives of the European sites considered in this report can be excluded.

Likely significant in-combination effects between this application and the 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

## 5. Screening Determination Statement

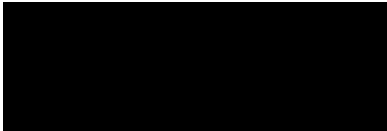
The assessment of significant effects:

Having considered the legal framework applicable to appropriate assessment, the information on file, and having regard to:

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

it was concluded that the proposed material amendment by Shannon Foynes Port Company, Mill House, Foynes, Co. Limerick, V94 R232 to amend their current MUL 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**, at Foynes, Co. Limerick (**LIC230014MA**) will require Stage 2 appropriate assessment.

It cannot be excluded on the basis of objective scientific information, that the proposed project, 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 |                                               |            |
| Signature and Date of Decision Maker       | <br>Dr Ciar O' Toole<br>Senior Marine Advisor | 26/06/2026 |