

Ms Leanne Doyle
Maritime Usage Licencing Team
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Drinagh,
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Ireland

Tuesday 2 June 2026

Ref: C56 1179/ENV /Lt/002

Re: **MUL 260036, Ringaskiddy– C56/1176**
Request for Additional Information

Dear Ms Doyle,

I refer to your request for additional information in relation to the above maritime usage licence application

1. The additional information on the tern conservation project and how this issue will be managed is set out as follows below.

In 2017, PoCC proposed a number of conservation measures to be implemented in Ringaskiddy, in order to protect the Tern. The measures included the introduction of purpose-built pontoons in Cork Harbour with the aim of providing a protected breeding site for the bird and its offspring. The pontoons provide the ideal nesting substrate and are designed to exclude predators, particularly otter and grey heron which have taken many young birds in previous years. In consultation with the NPWS, the pontoons are moved 50 m eastward annually to allow for improved habituation of the terns to their environment. The species is mobile and utilises the foraging grounds of Cork Harbour.

Works may occur at any time of year subject to tendering. PoCC has reviewed the requirements and consulted with a Senior Ecologist and considering the possible sensitivities and standard construction practice, proposes a minimum separation distance of 100m during the breeding season and 50m at other times. Where required boreholes will be relocated to provide the required separation distance and, if necessary, the SI works closest to the Tern colony will be completed once the colony has been moved or prior if applicable. A drawing of the tern colony in relation to the proposed SI works is included in Attachment A.

The SI works for CORE1 MUL are predicted to generate approximately 60-65 dBA at 10m and 48 dBA at 100m (BS5228 -1 2009) intermittently and for a period of short duration.

2. A drawing outlining the distances of the proposed site investigation area from the Cork Harbour SPA is included in Attachment B.
3. The expected scale and duration of underwater noise emissions including the likely frequency range from the proposed site investigation measured in Hz and sound pressure level measured in dB re1UPa@1m are as follows:

The proposed site investigations are expected to generate temporary, localised and intermittent underwater noise emissions only. The principal noise-generating activities will be marine borehole drilling and vibrocore sampling, with grab and benthic sampling expected to generate negligible noise above normal vessel and deck-operation noise.

Activity	Expected frequency range	Estimated source level
Borehole drilling	approx. 30 Hz–2 kHz	142–155 dB re 1μPa @ 1m
Standard penetration testing, if required	approx. 20 Hz–24 kHz	151–160 dB re 1μPa @ 1m
Vibrocore sampling	approx. 20 Hz–2 kHz, dominant low-frequency vibration	150–165 dB re 1μPa @ 1m
Grab / benthic sampling	low-level, short-duration, mainly handling noise	<140 dB re 1μPa @ 1m
Support vessel / positioning	approx. 20 Hz–1 kHz	145–170 dB re 1μPa @ 1m, depending on vessel size and manoeuvring

The noise emissions will be non-impulsive to intermittent, with the exception of any SPT testing, which may include short impulsive events. Individual vibrocore and grab/benthic samples are expected to last minutes per location, while borehole drilling may occur over several hours per borehole, depending on ground conditions and required depth. The overall duration of underwater noise will therefore be limited to active investigation periods only and will not be continuous for the full site investigation programme.

For assessment purposes, a conservative worst-case underwater noise source level of up to 165 dB re 1μPa @ 1m may be adopted for vibrocore/SPT activities, with borehole drilling typically expected to be lower, in the order of 142–155 dB re 1μPa @ 1m. Published measurements for geotechnical drilling recorded 142–145 dB re 1μPa rms @ 1m over 30–2,000 Hz, while SPT recorded 151–160 dB re 1μPa²s @ 1m over 20–24,000 Hz.

4. Additional information regarding the ecological clerk of works during the work to monitor potential disturbance to diving birds with regard to potential impacts from above water noise and visual disturbance and underwater noise during the proposed site investigations

An Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) will be appointed to oversee all marine site investigation activities, including borehole drilling, vibrocore sampling, grab/benthic sampling, and support vessel operations, with specific regard to potential disturbance impacts on diving birds from above-water noise, visual presence, and underwater noise generation.

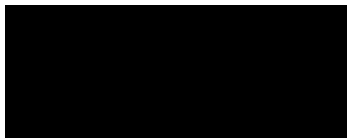
The ECoW will undertake pre-works checks and maintain continuous monitoring throughout operations to identify the presence, behaviour, and distribution of sensitive bird species within and adjacent to the works area. Monitoring will focus on disturbance indicators such as displacement, flushing, interruption of foraging/diving activity, and avoidance behaviour. Observations will be recorded systematically, including species, numbers, distance from activities, behaviour, sea state, and operational activity occurring at the time.

Monitoring methodology will align with relevant Irish and European guidance, including the European Commission Birds Directive (Directive 2009/147/EC), guidance published by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS, 2014) in Guidance to Manage the Risk to Marine Mammals from Man-made Sound Sources in Irish Waters, and relevant offshore ecological monitoring best practice guidance from the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC), ensuring all works are undertaken in a manner that minimises ecological disturbance and supports compliance with environmental commitments.

5. Details of disposal of the drill arisings and likely composition from geotechnical drill arisings are included below and in Attachment C. A clearer version of Figure 1-4 is included in Attachment D.

The sea bed of the Ringaskiddy Basin has been well documented and characterized from previous maintenance and dredge campaigns and from the capital dredging of the Ringaskiddy Redevelopment Project. Drill arisings are expected to be similar to previous campaign samples and are anticipated to be of fine sediment, silts, gravels and sand. All drill arisings will be sent to the laboratory in use and samples will be classified and disposed to a suitably authorised facility under standard laboratory protocols for hazardous and non-hazardous waste.

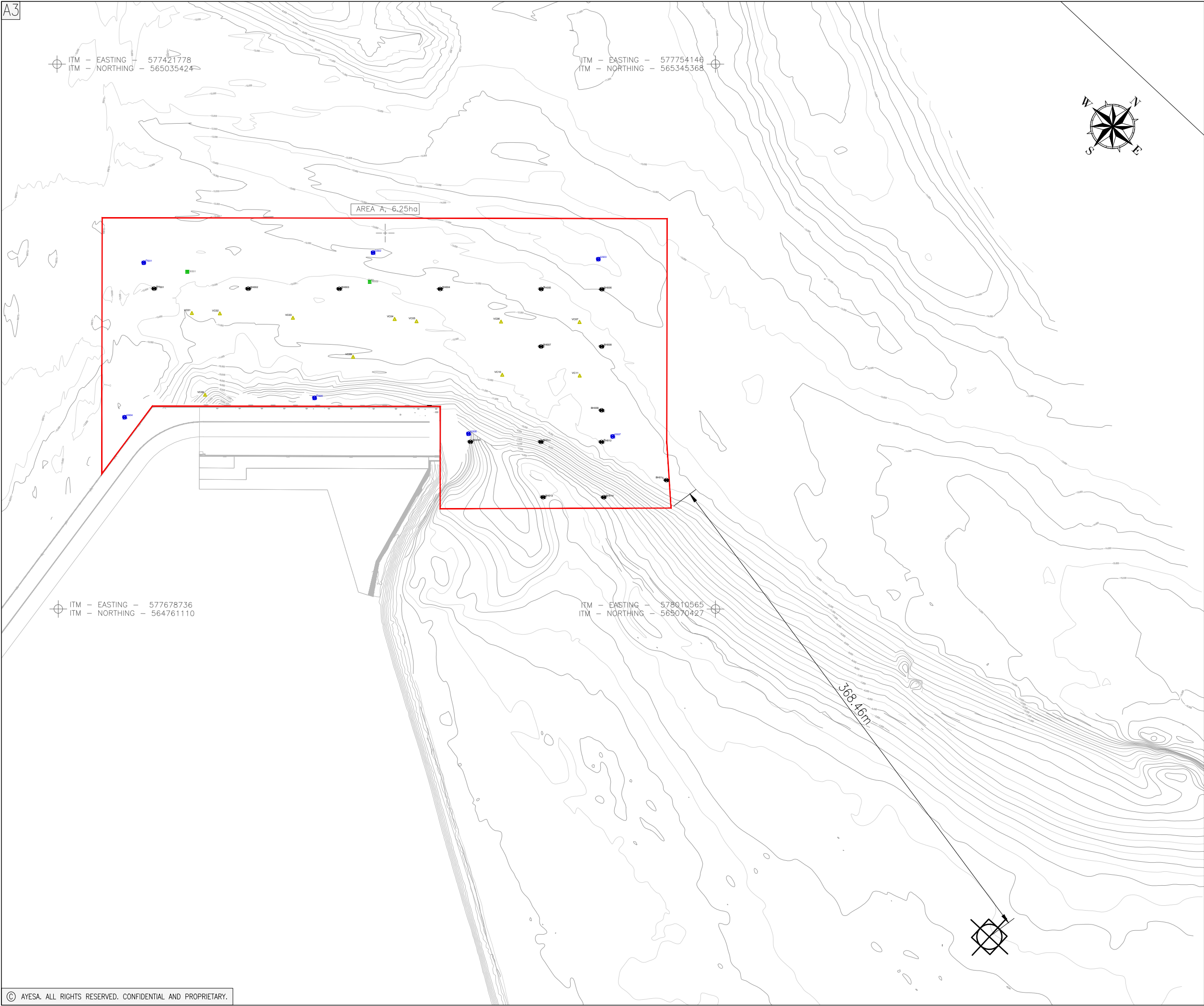
Yours sincerely
For Ayesa,



Lynn Morrissey
Principal Consultant

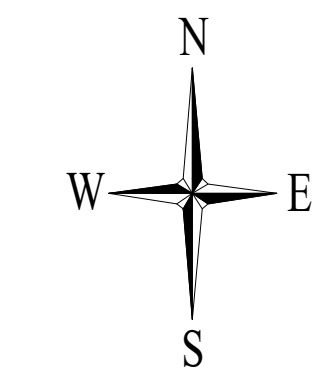
Attachment A Tern Colony Location
Attachment B Investigation Site in relation to Cork Harbour SPA
Attachment C Figure 1.4 Updated

Attachment A Tern Colony Location



SAFETY, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL					
REFER TO THE PROJECT DESIGN RISK REGISTER FOR ALL SAFETY, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL RISK, INCLUDING CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE AND DEMOLITION.					
GENERAL NOTES					
1. DO NOT SCALE OFF DRAWING.					
2. IRISH TRANSVERSE MERCATOR (ITM) USED AS MAP PROJECTION.					
LEGEND:					
PROPOSED MUL BOUNDARY BH BOREHOLE LOCATION VC VIBROCORE LOCATION GS GRAB SAMPLE BS BENTHIC SAMPLE TERN PONTOONS					
P01	21.05.26	ISSUE FOR REVIEW		DOB	AA
REV	DATE	DESCRIPTION		CHK	APP
CLIENT					
 PORT of CORK SEAPORTER MULTI-MODAL PORT					
ENGINEER					
					
PROJECT					
PORT OF CORK ORE ENHANCEMENT WORKS					
DRAWING TITLE					
PROPOSED MUL MAP 4					
STATUS				SUITABILITY	
FOR APPROVAL				S3	
Date: 21.05.26	Scale: 1:1500	Drawn: JN	Chk: DOB	App: AA	
Project No: 1179	Drg. No: CORE1-AYE-RE-XX-DR-MA-0224			Rev: P03	

Attachment B Investigation Site in relation to Cork Harbour SPA



SAFETY, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL	
REFER TO THE PROJECT DESIGN RISK REGISTER FOR ALL SAFETY, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL RISK, INCLUDING CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE AND DEMOLITION.	
CONSTRUCTION:	
1.	
2.	
3.	
MAINTENANCE, CLEANING AND OPERATION :	
1.	
2.	
3.	
DECOMMISSIONING OR DEMOLITION :	
1.	
2.	
3.	
1.	
2.	
3.	

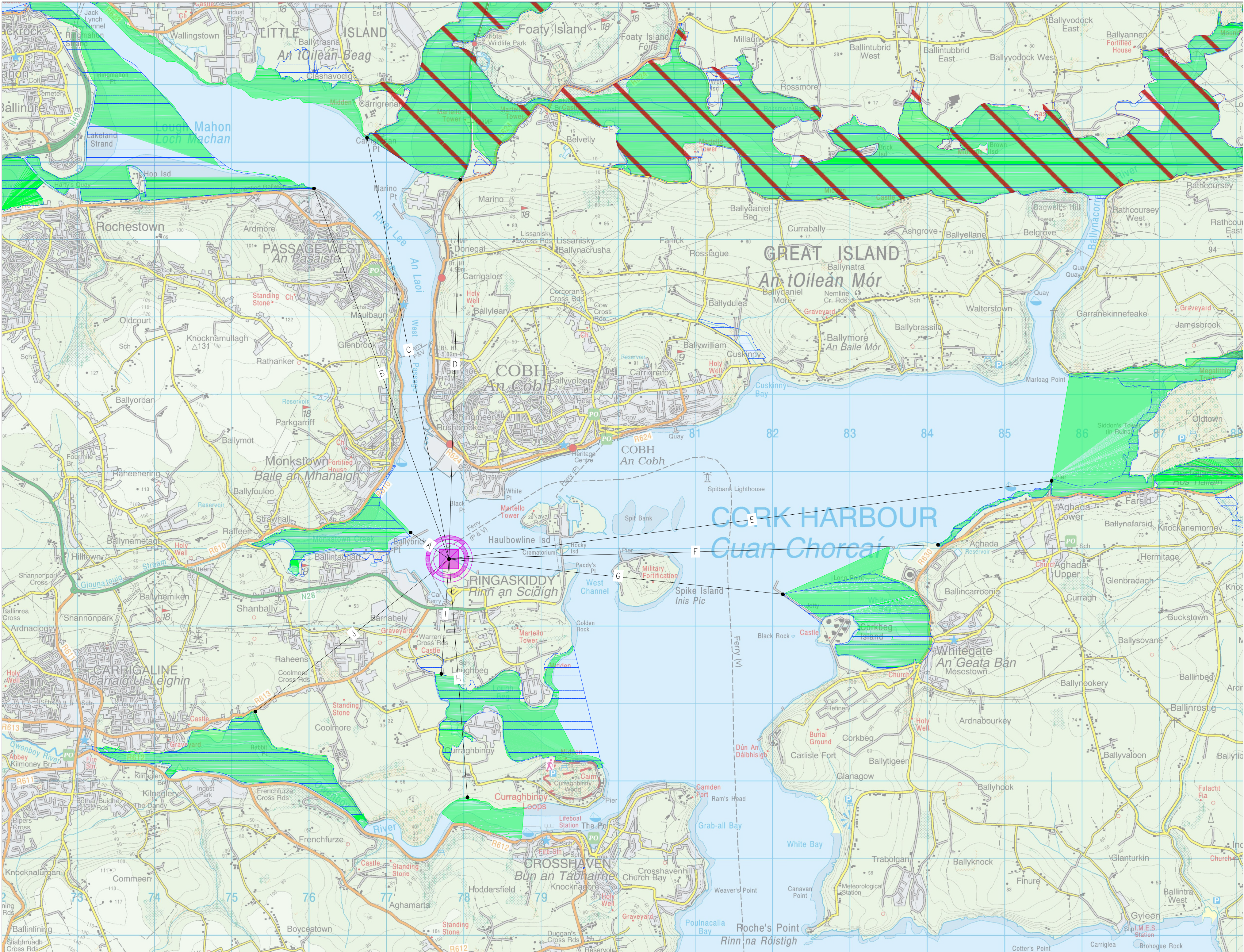
- DO NOT SCALE OFF DRAWING.
- ALL DIMENSIONS IN MILLIMETRES (mm) UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

REFERENCE	DISTANCE (km)
A	0.603
B	5.103
C	5.553
D	4.911
E	7.864
F	6.331
G	4.344
H	3.091
I	1.490
J	3.190

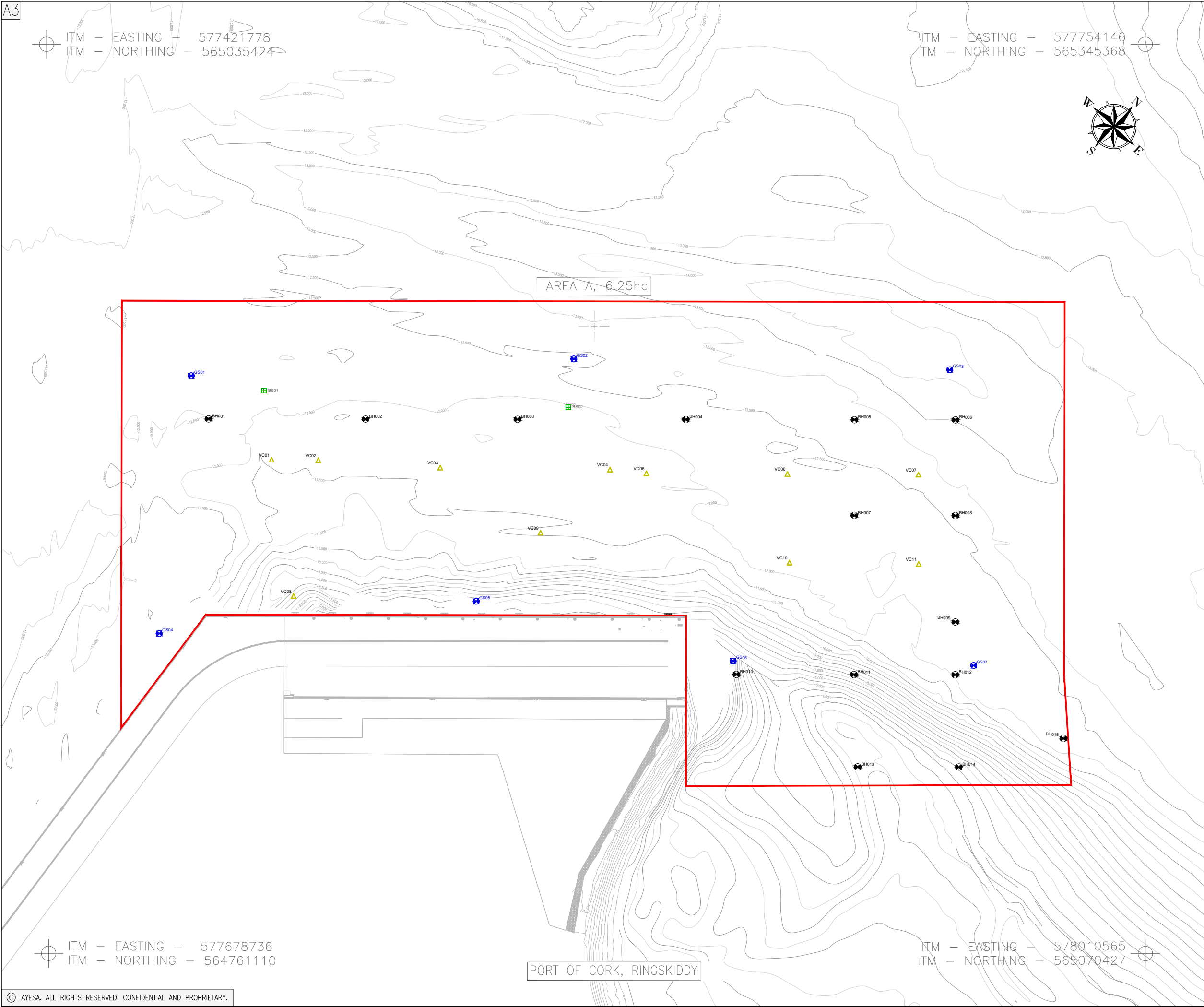
DRAFT

- LEGEND:
- pNHAs
 - SPECIAL PROTECTION AREAS (SPAs)
 - SPECIAL AREAS OF CONSERVATION (SACs)
 - SITE LOCATION

P01 14.04.26	ISSUE FOR PRE-PLANNING	DOB	AA
REV	DATE	DESCRIPTION	CHK
CLIENT			
ENGINEER			
PROJECT PORT OF CORK ORE ENHANCEMENT WORKS			
DRAWING TITLE DESIGNATED SITES			
STATUS ISSUE FOR PRE-PLANNING			CODE S3
Date: 14.04.26	Scale: 1:30000	Drawn: JN	Chk: DOB
AYESA No:	Drq. No:		App: AA
1179	CORE1-AYE-ZZ-XX-DR-PL-1014	P01	



Attachment C Figure 1.4 Updated



SAFETY, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL

REFER TO THE PROJECT DESIGN RISK REGISTER FOR ALL SAFETY, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL RISK, INCLUDING CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE AND DEMOLITION.

GENERAL NOTES

1. DO NOT SCALE OFF DRAWING.

2. IRISH TRANSVERSE MERCATOR (ITM) USED AS MAP PROJECTION.

LEGEND:

PROPOSED MUL BOUNDARY

BH BOREHOLE LOCATION

VC VIBROCORE LOCATION

GS GRAB SAMPLE

BS BENTHIC SAMPLE

P03	13.04.26	ISSUE FOR APPROVAL	DOB	AA
P02	19.03.26	ISSUE FOR APPROVAL	DOB	AA
P01	23.01.26	ISSUE FOR REVIEW	DOB	AA
REV	DATE	DESCRIPTION	CHK	APP

CLIENT



ENGINEER



PROJECT

PORT OF CORK ORE ENHANCEMENT WORKS

DRAWING TITLE

PROPOSED MUL MAP 3

STATUS				FOR APPROVAL	SUITABILITY
					S3
Date: 13.04.26	Scale: 1:1500	Drawn: JN	Chk: DOB	App: AA	
Project No: 1179	Drg. No: CORE1-AYE-RE-XX-DR-MA-0223				Rev: P03