TECHNICAL NOTE

Fingal Coastal Way

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Marine Strategy Framework Directive Objectives Response	5188509	September 2026

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TECHNICAL
NOTE

Attachment 4.6 – Marine Strategy Framework Directive Objectives Response

1. Marine Strategy Framework Directive Objectives

The Marine Strategy Framework Directive (Directive 2008/56/EC) establishes a framework for the protection of the marine environment and requires Member States to take the necessary measures to achieve or maintain Good Environmental Status (GES) of marine waters through an ecosystem-based approach to the management of human activities. It is the EU's primary tool for protecting and conserving the health of our coasts, seas and oceans.

The proposed maritime usage comprises temporary Ground Investigation (GI) works at Rogerstown Estuary to inform the design of the Fingal Coastal Way Scheme. The proposed works are limited in duration, localised in extent and investigative in nature, and are required to collect geotechnical and environmental information to support the future design and assessment of the project. They have been designed in accordance with the GES principles and are considered consistent with the objectives of the MSFD for the following reasons summarised in the table below.

Table 1 - MSFD Compliance

Objectives Grouping	Compliance Commentary
Protection of Marine Biodiversity and Habitats	The proposed works are located within and adjacent to the Rogerstown Estuary Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Area (SPA). Appropriate environmental controls and mitigation measures have been incorporated into the investigation methodology to minimise disturbance to protected habitats and species. ▪ The works will not involve dredging, reclamation, extraction of marine resources or the installation of permanent structures within the maritime area. ▪ The works will support the maintenance of biodiversity through the implementation of measures designed to avoid or minimise impacts on protected habitats and species. **The proposed works will not result in any permanent alteration of hydrographical conditions within the estuary.**
Water Quality & Seafloor Integrity	Pollution prevention measures, including controls on fuels, drilling operations, waste management and emergency spill response procedures, will be implemented throughout the works. These measures are designed to protect surface water quality and prevent contamination of the estuarine environment. **The investigations will not result in significant alterations to seabed morphology, hydrological processes or water column characteristics. Any localised disturbance associated with boreholes or sampling activities will be reinstated following completion of the works.**
Non-Indigenous Species and Marine Litter	The risk of introducing or spreading invasive non-native species will be managed through implementation of recognised biosecurity measures, including the cleaning and inspection of plant, equipment and footwear before entering and leaving the site. **All waste generated during the investigation works will be appropriately managed and removed from site, ensuring no contribution to marine litter.**

Objectives Grouping	Compliance Commentary
Underwater Noise	**Underwater noise generated during the proposed works will be temporary, localised and limited to routine construction and investigation activities. Due to the small scale and short duration of the works, significant impacts on marine fauna are not anticipated.**
Climate Change and Air Quality	The proposed GI works are temporary and will generate only minor emissions associated with plant and equipment use. As such, the works will not make a significant contribution to greenhouse gas emissions or air pollution. **Furthermore, the information obtained through the investigations will support the design of the Fingal Coastal Way scheme, including the consideration of climate change adaptation and coastal resilience within the future project design.**

2. Compliance with Ireland’s Marine Strategy

The proposed Ground Investigation works support Ireland's Marine Strategy through the application of an ecosystem-based approach and the collection of baseline environmental and geotechnical information necessary to inform sustainable development within the maritime area.

Given the temporary nature of the works, their limited footprint, and the implementation of appropriate environmental mitigation measures, the proposed maritime usage will not adversely affect the achievement or maintenance of Good Environmental Status (GES) within Rogerstown Estuary or the wider marine environment.

Accordingly, the proposed maritime usage is considered consistent with the objectives of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and Ireland's Marine Strategy.