

Appropriate Assessment Screening Report

Reconnect the Quay – Wicklow Town



For: Wicklow County Council
Town Hall, Market Square, Wicklow A67 Y018

Author: Alan Lauder BSc(hons)
alan@alcnature.com

Document Control

Version	Date	Changes	Confidentiality	Prep	Rev	Auth
FINAL	05/10/2022	AL	Not confidential	AL		AL

Field Investigations and Data

Where field investigations have been carried out, these have been restricted to a level of detail required to achieve the stated objectives of the work. Where any data supplied by the client or from other sources have been used it has been assumed that the information is correct. No responsibility can be accepted by Alan Lauder Consulting for inaccuracies in the data supplied by any other party.

Declaration of Compliance

“The information which we have prepared and provided is true and has been prepared and provided in a manner consistent with the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management’s Code of Professional Conduct. We confirm that the opinions expressed within this document are our true and professional *bona fide* opinions.”

Copyright

The contents and layout of this report are subject to copyright owned by Alan Lauder and associated trading names “Alan Lauder Consulting” and “ALCnature” (© Alan Lauder 2022).

Third Party Disclaimer

Any disclosure of this report to a third party is subject to this disclaimer. The report was prepared by Alan Lauder Consulting at the instruction of, and for use by, our client named on the front of the report. It does not in any way constitute advice to any third party who is able to access it by any means. No other warranty, expressed or implied is made as to the professional advice included in this report.

Contents

1. Introduction.....	3
2. Legislation and Background.....	3
3. Guidance.....	3
4. Methodology	4
4.1 Site Visits and Desk Study	4
4.2 Authors Qualifications and Expertise.....	4
4.3 AA Screening Methodology	4
4.4 Stage Two – Appropriate Assessment.....	5
5. Overview of Proposed Project and its Receiving Environment	5
5.1 Description of Proposed Project	5
5.2 Description of the Receiving Environment.....	6
6. Provision of Information for Stage One Screening	6
6.1 Zone of Influence of the Proposed Project.....	6
6.2 Relevant European Sites and Qualifying Interests	7
6.3 Results of site-specific survey work	9
7. Assessment of Likely Significant Effects on European Sites	11
7.1 Likely Direct, Indirect or Secondary Impacts	11
7.2 Likely Changes to European Sites.....	16
8. Effect of the Project in Combination with Other Plans or Projects	16
8.1 Conclusions on Information Provided for Stage One Screening Assessment.....	16
8.2 Appraising the likely significant effects of the proposed project on relevant European sites	16
Appendix 1 – Project proposal & layout summary	17

1. Introduction

This report, which contains information required for the competent authority to undertake a Stage One Screening Assessment (“AA screening”) in respect of the proposed “Reconnect the Quay” project, a proposal to reconnect Wicklow town centre to the port through its network of laneways. This report was prepared by Alan Lauder of *Alan Lauder Consulting* on behalf of their client, Wicklow County Council.

This report provides information and appraises the potential for this project to have significant effects, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, on any Natura 2000 sites (hereafter ‘European sites’)

2. Legislation and Background

Article 6(3) of Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (as amended) (hereafter ‘the Habitats Directive’) requires that, any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of a European site, but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to AA of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives.

The possibility of there being a significant effect on a European site will generate the need for an AA to be carried out by the competent authority for the purposes of Article 6(3). Accordingly, a screening for AA in respect of an application for consent for proposed development must be carried out by the competent authority in order to assess, in view of best scientific knowledge, if the proposed project, individually or in combination with another plan or project is likely to have a significant effect on any European site.

A Stage Two AA is required if it cannot be excluded, on the basis of objective information, that a proposed development, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will have a significant effect on a European site. The Screening (Stage One) operates to determine whether an AA (Stage Two) must be undertaken on the implications of the plan or project for the conservation objectives of relevant European sites.

This document comprises information to enable the competent authority to perform a Stage One Screening for AA.

3. Guidance

This AA screening report has been prepared with reference to the following guidance documents where relevant:

- Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland - Guidance for Planning Authorities. (Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2010 revision)
- Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive: Guidance for Planning Authorities. Circular NPW 1/10 & PSSP 2/10
- Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly Affecting Natura 2000 sites: Methodological Guidance on the Provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (European Commission Environment Directorate-General, 2001)
- Managing Natura 2000 Sites: The Provisions of Article 6 of the Habitat’s Directive 92/43/EEC (EC Environment Directorate-General, 2000 updated draft April 2015)

- Guidance Document on Article 6(4) of the 'Habitats Directive' 92/43/EEC. Clarification of the Concepts of Alternative Solutions, Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest, Compensatory Measures, Overall Coherence. Opinion of the European Commission (European Commission, January 2007)
- Guidelines for Good Practice Appropriate Assessment of Plans under Article 6(3) Habitats Directive. Findings of an international workshop on Appropriate Assessment in Oxford, December 2009

4. Methodology

4.1 Site Visits and Desk Study

The information collected for this report, to assist the competent authority to screen the proposal for AA, was based on a desktop study and detailed site inspection. A site visit was carried out on 07 October 2022 to examine the project locations and characteristics of potential areas to be utilised by the operations and to inspect the areas for the likely presence of any protected species and qualifying interests.

Information relied upon included the following information sources, which included maps and ecological data:

- Ordnance Survey of Ireland mapping and aerial photography available from www.osi.ie
- Online data available on European sites as held by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) from www.npws.ie
- Information on the status of EU protected habitats and species in Ireland (National Parks & Wildlife Service)

4.2 Authors Qualifications and Expertise

This report has been prepared Alan Lauder (Owner/Principal Consultant) at Alan Lauder Consulting¹.

Alan gained an honours degree in Ecology from The University of Stirling in 1989 and is an experienced ecologist, nature conservation and habitat management specialist with over 33 years professional post-graduate experience. His relevant professional experience includes extensive planning related casework for state and non-governmental organisations within Scotland and Ireland, input to and preparation of site designations, Environmental Impact Statements & Assessments. He has extensive knowledge of survey and conservation management of a wide range of habitats and is a highly experienced wetland management specialist with over 30 years managing designated sites and nature reserves in Scotland and Ireland. He is also a highly experienced ornithologist with considerable, recognised expertise in woodland, wetland and upland bird ecology, mammal survey including otter and bats and the ecology and management of macro-invertebrates, notably butterflies and Odonata. Alan currently carries out a wide range of relevant work including management planning for designated sites, ecological assessment and advisory works for a wide range of commercial and state clients. He has attended a range of relevant training courses throughout his career including training in Appropriate Assessment from CIEEM (2016).

4.3 AA Screening Methodology

The above referenced guidance documents set out a staged process for carrying out AA, the first stage of which is referred to as Screening. This stage identifies the likely significant impacts on a Natura site, if any, which

¹ More information at www.alanlauderconsulting.com

could arise from a proposed project either alone or in combination with other plans and projects. If the conclusions at the end of screening are that there is no likelihood of significant effects occurring on any European sites, as a result of the proposed plan or project, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects, then there is no requirement to undertake AA.

However, even if screening makes a finding of no significant effects, and therefore concludes that AA is not required, these findings must be clearly documented in order to provide transparency of decision-making, and to ensure the application of the ‘precautionary principle’ where this may be required.

Screening for AA involves the following:

1. Determining whether a project or plan is directly connected with or necessary to the conservation management of any European sites
2. Describing the details of the project/plan proposals and other plans or projects that may cumulatively affect any European sites
3. Describing the characteristics of relevant European sites
4. Appraising likely significant effects of the proposed project on relevant European sites.

4.4 Stage Two – Appropriate Assessment

Appropriate assessment will only proceed if there is assessed to be a likelihood of significant adverse effects occurring on any European sites, as a result of the proposed project, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects and where there is no requirement to apply the ‘precautionary principle’.

5. Overview of Proposed Project and its Receiving Environment

5.1 Description of Proposed Project

The client project summary is contained at Appendix 1. This plan details the proposed project works to be considered as part of this screening report including the locations of visual enhancements to the environs of Wicklow Town quays connecting streets.

Reconnect Wicklow – reconnect Wicklow centre to the port through its network of laneways. This project seeks to reanimate and revitalise the important links between the harbour, main street and the market square while at the same time highlighting Wicklow’s heritage. It sits in the urban setting of Wicklow Town and connects the main streets and market square with the quayside. To achieve this it includes several elements:

- A diversity bench with a fabric canopy will be placed by the Scouts Hall, at striking vantage point along the Vartry River, lit from behind by colour changing LED’s providing a ‘Rainbow’ coloured display.
- Parklet planting which will frame the “Red Door” will include sea kale herbs as well as pollinator plants.
- The revitalisation of the Doctors Steps with dynamic colourful murals and an LED lit stainless steel handrail thereby providing a safe and attractive enhancement of this derelict under used link to the South Quay.
- At Salthouse Lane, a quote from Seamus Heaney’s poem ‘The Shipping Forecast’ inspires the mural which honours the sailors and fishermen, also, mounted on this mural will be a back lit fabricated plate of a ship. The maritime theme is continued as you walk up the lane with another mural remembering

the tradition and work of local fishermen. At the top of the lane as you join the Main Street, a mural will show the Vikings crashing into Wicklow creating a strong visual link to our ancient history.

- Quarantine man is to be a nod to the past and the present, an enduring beacon of light shining towards the Town, the Quay and out to sea. This fabrication, similar but larger to the back lit ship, will instead emit light outwards through various designed slots.
- At Market Street, a fun mural is proposed to welcome all visitors. Discussions with the Wicklow Town Team led to a proposed ‘Wicklow Town History/Timeline’ themed mural.

The concept drawings indicating the extent, layout and approach of the project are shown in appendix 1.

5.2 Description of the Receiving Environment

The project footprint is a series of locations within the urban fabric of Wicklow Town. A series of locations within a maximum urban extent of approximately 1.5 ha. Figure 1 shows the location the area of operation and its proximity to European sites.

The project areas are entirely within the built environment of Wicklow Town which lies adjacent to Wicklow Harbour, at the mouth of the Vartry River.

The nearest European sites are The Murrough SAC, The Murrough SPA and Wicklow Head SPA. While the project sits close to these sites and adjacent to the coastal marine environs of Wicklow Town, the project itself lies over a series of very small urban streets and locations within a 1.5ha area of Wicklow Town itself. It neither utilises, nor is in close proximity to natural, or semi-natural, habitats.

6. Provision of Information for Stage One Screening

6.1 Zone of Influence of the Proposed Project

While there is no recommended distance from a proposal for which European sites are considered as being relevant for AA, national guidance (DCHG, 2010²) recommends that the distance should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis with reference to the nature, size and location of the project, the sensitivities of the ecological receptors and the potential for in combination effects. As a general rule, it is often considered appropriate to look at European Sites which fall within 15 km of a project for typical moderate scale development projects such as buildings and energy developments, however, those which might introduce significant ecological or environmental factors such as significant permanent traffic changes or pollution risk for example, may require sites to be examined at greater distance through potential catchment effects. Similarly, where large scale territories or ranging of important birds may take them beyond the boundaries of a designated site then a development in excess of 15 km may have the potential to impact upon qualifying interests of a European site.

In this case the proposed project:

1. Is small in total area (<1.5 ha.)
2. Is outside the boundary of the nearest European sites (at >100, >1.5km and >1.7km from The Murrough SPA, The Murrough Wetlands SAC and Wicklow Head SPA respectively)

² Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland - Guidance for Planning Authorities. (Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2010 revision)

3. There are no clear or direct ecological pathways or linkages between the project footprint and any European Site

6.2 Relevant European Sites and Qualifying Interests

Given the notes regarding the nature of the project (Section 5) and its zone of influence (6.1) only the following sites are considered relevant:

1. The Murrough Wetlands SAC [Site Code: 002249]
2. The Murrough SPA [Site Code: 004186]

Other sites within 15km (see Figure 4) have not been considered as relevant as the scale and nature of the project is very small scale and highly localised, whereby sources of risk are very low or localised and receptors are either not present or separated from any potential source of risk by significant distance thereby not creating a clear pathway.

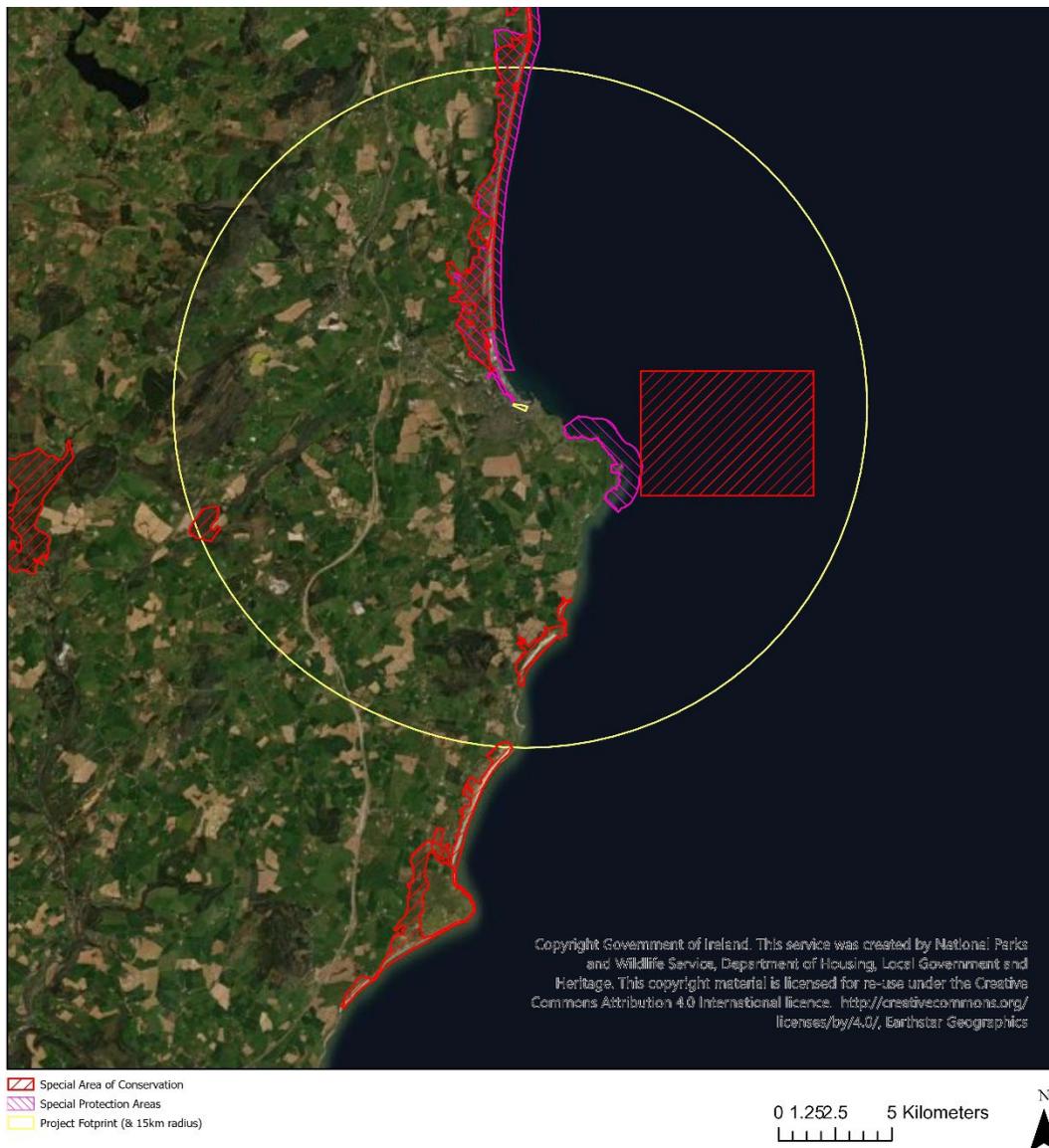


Figure 1 European Sites within 15km radius of Project Footprint

The relevant sites, their interest features, distance and direction from the proposed project are presented in Table 6.2.1.

Sites at greater distance have not been selected as relevant as the scale and nature of the project is small scale, and highly localised whereby sources of risk are localised and receptors relevant to other sites are either not present or separated from any potential source of risk by significant distance thereby not creating a clear pathway.

Table 6.2.1 Relevant European Sites and Qualifying Features of Interest

Site name	Qualifying Interest Features	Distance	Direction
The Murrough Wetlands SAC	<p>The site is designated for the following habitats and species (* denotes a priority habitat);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210] • Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220] • Atlantic salt meadows <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</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] 	1.6 km	North
Site name	Qualifying Interest Features	Distance	Direction
The Murrough Wetlands SPA	<p>The site is designated for the following habitats and species (* denotes a priority habitat);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Red-throated Diver <i>Gavia stellata</i> [A001] • Greylag Goose <i>Anser anser</i> [A043] • Light-bellied Brent Goose <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> [A046] • Wigeon <i>Anas penelope</i> [A050] • Teal <i>Anas crecca</i> [A052] • Black-headed Gull <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> [A179] • Herring Gull <i>Larus argentatus</i> [A184] • Little Tern <i>Sterna albifrons</i> [A195] • Wetland and Waterbirds [A999] 	c. 100m	North

Table 6.2.2 outlines the qualifying interests or features associated with the site in addition to identified sensitivities of each outlined within their Natura 2000 forms or statutory instruments.

Table 6.2.2 of European Site with Associated Conservation Objectives and Identified Threats and Pressures

The Murrough Wetlands SAC	
Conservation Objectives	Identified Threats and Pressures
<p>To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected: * denotes priority habitat</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210] • Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220] • Atlantic salt meadows <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</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] 	<p>(from Natura 2000 form). Threats include:</p> <p>Railways lines, disposal of industrial waste, sand and gravel extraction, fertilisation, walking, horse riding and non-motorised vehicles, sea defences or coastal protection works, tidal barrages, silviculture, forestry, mediation of water flow (tidal and marine currents), erosion, paths, track, cycling tracks.</p>
The Murrough SPA	
Conservation Objectives	Identified Threats and Pressures
<p>To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species and habitats listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Red-throated Diver <i>Gavia stellata</i> [A001] • Greylag Goose <i>Anser anser</i> [A043] • Light-bellied Brent Goose <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> [A046] • Wigeon <i>Anas penelope</i> [A050] • Teal <i>Anas crecca</i> [A052] • Black-headed Gull <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> [A179] • Herring Gull <i>Larus argentatus</i> [A184] • Little Tern <i>Sterna albifrons</i> [A195] • Wetland and Waterbirds [A999] 	<p>(from Natura 2000 form). Threats include:</p> <p>Fertilisation, walking, horse riding and non-motorised vehicles, railways lines.</p>

Threats and pressures may arise during the course of a project which are assessed to are either; likely to have significant adverse impact or unlikely to have significant adverse impact. This may vary due to the nature, extent, design, location or manner of operation of an activity.

6.3 Results of site-specific survey work

Table 6.3.1 below details the results of survey work undertaken.

Table 6.3.1 Site specific survey work

Feature (* denotes an EU priority species/habitat)	Status	Designated site	Survey type	Date surveyed	Results
[1210] Annual vegetation of drift lines	QI/Annex I habitat (SAC)	The Murrrough Wetlands SAC	Walkover habitat survey for presence/absence/extent	07/10/2022	Not present on or near project site
[1220] Perennial vegetation of stony banks	QI/Annex I habitat (SAC)	The Murrrough Wetlands SAC	Walkover habitat survey for presence/absence/extent	07/10/2022	Not present on or near project site
[1330] Atlantic salt meadows <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>	QI/Annex I habitat (SAC)	The Murrrough Wetlands SAC	Walkover habitat survey for presence/absence/extent	07/10/2022	Not present on or near project site
[1410] Mediterranean salt meadows <i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>	QI/Annex I habitat (SAC)	The Murrrough Wetlands SAC	Walkover habitat survey for presence/absence/extent	07/10/2022	Not present on or near project site
[7210] Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i>	QI/Annex I habitat (SAC)	The Murrrough Wetlands SAC	Walkover habitat survey for presence/absence/extent	07/10/2022	Not present on or near project site
[7230] Alkaline fens	QI/Annex I habitat (SAC)	The Murrrough Wetlands SAC	Walkover habitat survey for presence/absence/extent	07/10/2022	Not present on or near project site
[A001] Red-throated Diver <i>Gavia stellata</i>	QI/Annex II (SPA)	The Murrrough SPA	Walkover habitat survey for presence/absence/extent	07/10/2022	Suitable habitat not present on or near project site
[A043] Greylag Goose <i>Anser anser</i>	QI/Annex II (SPA)	The Murrrough SPA	Walkover habitat survey for presence/absence/extent	07/10/2022	Suitable habitat not present on or near project site
[A046] Light-bellied Brent Goose <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>	QI/Annex II (SPA)	The Murrrough SPA	Walkover habitat survey for presence/absence/extent	07/10/2022	Suitable habitat not present on or near project site
[A050] Wigeon <i>Anas penelope</i>	QI/Annex II (SPA)	The Murrrough SPA	Walkover habitat survey for presence/absence/extent	07/10/2022	Suitable habitat not present on or near project site
[A052] Teal <i>Anas crecca</i>	QI/Annex II (SPA)	The Murrrough SPA	Walkover habitat survey for presence/absence/extent	07/10/2022	Occurs occasionally nearby in harbour
[A179] Black-headed Gull <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	QI/Annex II (SPA)	The Murrrough SPA	Walkover habitat survey for presence/absence/extent	07/10/2022	Occurs regularly over site and in harbour area
[A184] Herring Gull <i>Larus argentatus</i>	QI/Annex II (SPA)	The Murrrough SPA	Walkover habitat survey for	07/10/2022	Occurs regularly over site and in harbour area

Feature (* denotes an EU priority species/habitat)	Status	Designated site	Survey type	Date surveyed	Results
			presence/absence/extent		
[A195] Little Tern <i>Sterna albifrons</i>	QI/Annex II (SPA)	The Murrough SPA	Walkover habitat survey for presence/absence/extent	07/10/2022	Suitable habitat not present on or near project site
[A999] Wetland and Waterbirds	QI (SPA)	The Murrough SPA	Walkover habitat survey for presence/absence/extent	07/10/2022	Harbour area supports some species which comprise this feature but in relatively insignificant numbers compared to wider SPA

7. Assessment of Likely Significant Effects on European Sites

The following assessment is in line with the structure detailed in Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly Affecting Natura 2000 Sites: Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive (EC, 2001).

7.1 Likely Direct, Indirect or Secondary Impacts

Table 7.1.1 indicates the likely effects of the proposed project on relevant European Sites. No elements of the proposed project are considered as having potential to give rise to a Likely Significant Impact (LSI) on a European Site.

Table 7.1.1 Likely effects of the proposed project on the European Sites

Size and Scale	small area (<1.5ha.) of developed urban landscape lying outside the boundaries of any European Site
Land-take	No land take is proposed from any European Site.
Distance from the European Sites or Key Features of the Site	c. 100m at closest point (The Murrough Wetlands SPA)
Resource Requirements	None required from any European Sites
Emissions	No emissions are likely to arise from the proposed project. Emissions during construction/development related only to vehicle emissions within legal limits.
Excavation Requirements	No excavation on European sites
Transportation Requirements	Vehicles related to construction/development activities. Reduced long term traffic volumes as a result of facilitating better pedestrian access are proposed by the project.
Duration of Construction, Operation, Decommissioning	Short term, exact duration unknown (<6 months)

Cumulative Effects with other Projects or Plans	None – see Section 8 of this report
--	-------------------------------------

Table 7.1.1 identifies that the predicted direct, indirect or secondary impacts are unlikely due to the distance from European Sites and absence of pathways connecting the project footprint with European Sites and their qualifying interests, as outlined in Table 7.1.2 below

Table 7.1.2 below provides an analysis of all qualifying interest features on the relevant sites in the context of their receptors and pathways and analysis of any Likely Significant Adverse Effects (LSE). Table 7.1.2 below provides an analysis of all qualifying interest features on the site in the context of their receptors and pathway, a brief analysis of any works incurring a Likely Significant adverse impact (LSI).

Table 7.1.2 Analysis of relevant European sites/qualifying interests

The Murrough Wetlands SAC			
Qualifying Interest or feature (* denotes priority habitat)	Potential receptor/pathway	Analysis of likelihood of impact	LSI ³
Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210]	Not present in the project footprint	No impact likely as habitats are not present and there is no indirect pathway	NO
Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220]	Not present in the project footprint	No impact likely as habitats are not present and there is no indirect pathway	NO
Atlantic salt meadows <i>Glaucopuccinellietalia maritimae</i> [1330]	Not present in the project footprint	No impact likely as habitats are not present and there is no indirect pathway	NO
Mediterranean salt meadows <i>Juncetalia maritimi</i> [1410]	Not present in the project footprint	No impact likely as habitats are not present and there is no indirect pathway	NO
Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i> [7210]	Not present in the project footprint	No impact likely as habitats are not present and there is no indirect pathway	NO
Alkaline fens [7230]	Not present in the project footprint	No impact likely as habitats are not present and there is no indirect pathway	NO

³ Likely Significant Adverse Impact

The Murrough SPA			
Qualifying Interest or Feature	Potential receptor/pathway	Analysis of likelihood of impact	LSE
Red-throated Diver <i>Gavia stellata</i> [A001]	Not present in the project footprint	No impact likely – species resides offshore	NO
Greylag Goose <i>Anser anser</i> [A043]	Not present in the project footprint	No impact likely all species are either absent from the vicinity of the project or are not dependent upon the area	NO
Light-bellied Brent Goose <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> [A046]	Not present in the project footprint		
Wigeon <i>Anas penelope</i> [A050]	Not present in the project footprint		
Teal <i>Anas crecca</i> [A052]	Not present in the project footprint		
Black-headed Gull <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> [A179]	Regularly uses harbour areas for roost and feeding		
Herring Gull <i>Larus argentatus</i> [A184]	Can nest nearby, regularly uses harbour areas for roost and feeding	No impact likely – may nest occasionally on nearby buildings but is generally unaffected by activity at street level	NO
Little Tern <i>Sterna albifrons</i> [A195]	Not present in the project footprint	No impact likely – main colony and feeding areas at significant separation distance	NO
Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	None – no species dependent upon the project area or close vicinity	No impact likely all species are either absent from the vicinity of the project, not dependent upon the area or will be unaffected by planned activity levels	NO

All sites (Site integrity)			
Qualifying Interest or feature	Receptor/pathway	Analysis of likelihood of impact	LSE
Site integrity ⁴	None	The project is low key and small scale and there are no ecological pathways to disrupt or affect site integrity	NO

⁴ Site integrity refers to the ecological context of the site as a whole including its constituent features which support designated qualifying interests, by definition in case law of ‘the lasting preservation of the constitutive characteristics of the site concerned that are connected to the presence of a priority natural habitat whose preservation was the objective justifying the designation of that site’ (See case C-258/11 Peter Sweetman, Ireland, Attorney General, Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Local Government v An Bord Pleanala (Sweetman) at para 43; also Article 6(1) Habitats Directive’s reference to the ‘ecological requirements’ of designated features; and Commission Note on Setting Conservation Objectives for Natura 2000 Sites, 23/11/2012, p. 5, part 4, 2nd para)

7.2 Likely Changes to European Sites

Any potential changes to the European Sites are described in Table 7.2.1.

Table 7.2.1 Likely Changes to European Sites

Reduction of Habitat Area	No reduction in habitat area.
Disturbance to Key Species	No disturbance is likely as levels are unlikely to exceed existing or exacerbate background levels
Habitat or Species Fragmentation	None likely
Reduction in Species Density	None likely – no QI is dependent upon the project area for presence within the European sites
Changes in Key Indicators of Conservation Value	None predicted – no pathways for significant effects
Climate Change	None predicted – no pathways for significant effects

8. Effect of the Project in Combination with Other Plans or Projects

The proposed project is small scale and low key, wholly within the urban fabric of Wicklow Town. Several other developments occur within the town at the same time but none interact with this development specifically, or could combine to create significant adverse impacts, at any time in the foreseeable future.

8.1 Conclusions on Information Provided for Stage One Screening Assessment

Determination of whether a project or plan is directly connected with or necessary to the conservation management of any European sites

This project does not form part of the activities to manage the site for conservation

8.2 Appraising the likely significant effects of the proposed project on relevant European sites

An analysis of the project and its potential to interact with or impact upon the relevant SAC and SPA qualifying interests is provided in Section 7. In light of the analysis provided here using all available information, it is concluded that The project is not likely to have significant adverse impacts on the features of conservation interest or integrity of the relevant European sites.

In view of the analysis provided here it is recommended that this project is screened out for Appropriate Assessment.

Town and Village - Reconnect the Quay

Concept Drawing - Part 8 (Wicklow County Council and Wicklow Town Team)

PROJECT DETAILS

Reconnecting Wicklow Town Centre and the South Quay through its network of laneways. The project seeks to reanimate and revitalise these important central links between South Quay, harbour and port, Main Street and the Market Square. The works will focus on the following: Public benches, canopy (at Scout Hall), decorative pedestrian street lighting along the three links, a parklet design garden and colourful marine themed murals.



- The Red Door**
- Planters
 - Seating
 - Parklet Design Garden



- Salthouse Lane:**
- Mural at top, middle and bottom of lane
 - Decorative Pedestrian Street Lighting



- Scout Hall:**
- Diversity Bench
 - Canopy
 - Mural



- Market Street**
- Mural



- Doctor's Steps**
- Painting Walls
 - Stencil/Murals
 - LED Stainless Steel Down lit hand Rail Reinstated
 - Decorative Archway at Top of Steps.



- Quarantine Hill**
- Mural (Bottom of Hill)
 - Back Lit, Wall Mounted Tall Ship Fabrication (Town Hall)
 - Pedestrian Street Lighting

