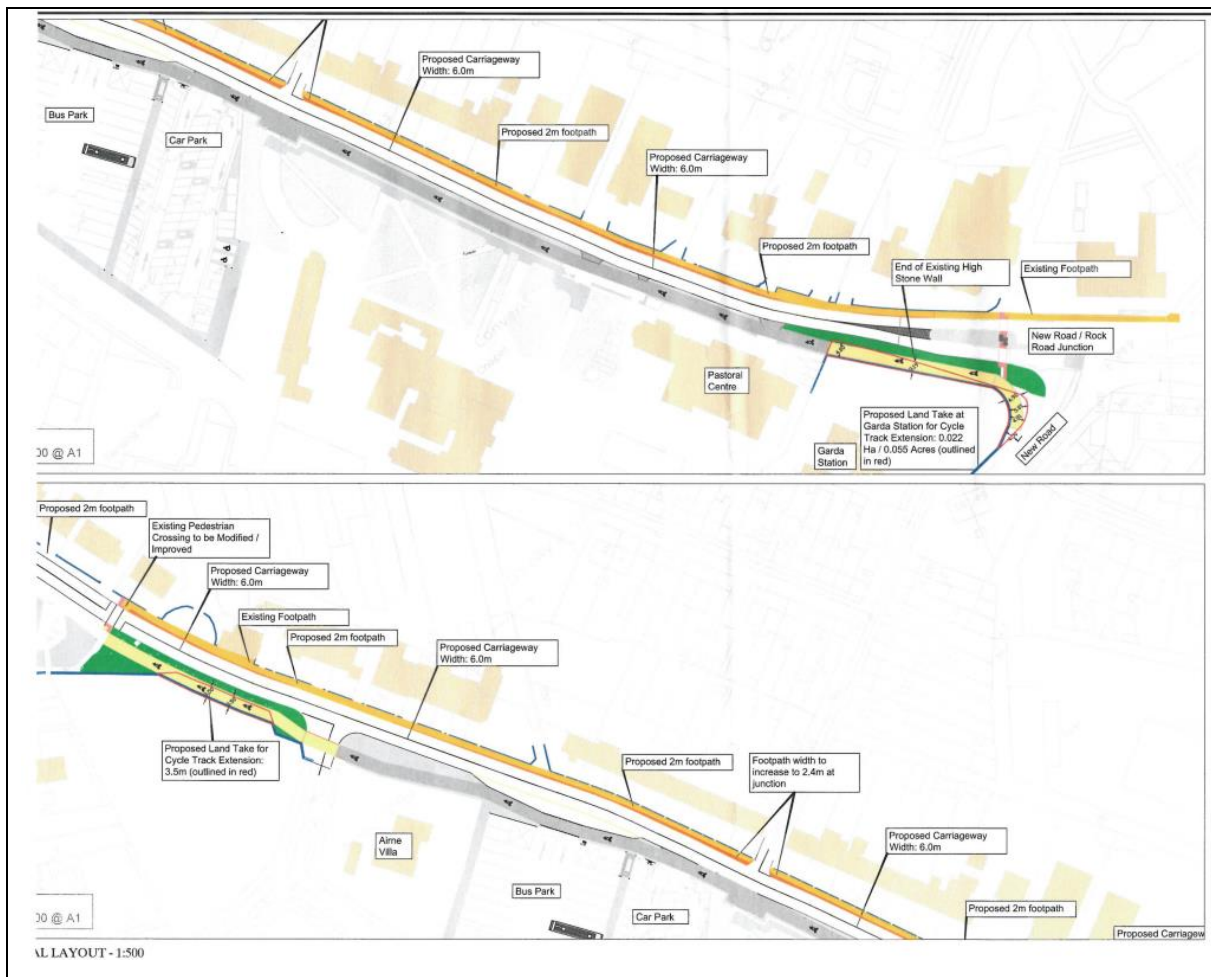


# Urban Improvement Works Rock Road, Killarney, Co. Kerry Appropriate Assessment Screening Report



**May 2019**

<p>Brief description of development</p>	<p>The proposed development seeks to provide urban improvement works along the Rock Road, Killarney. As part of this the following would be provided:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upgrading 484m of the Public Footpath to a width of 2ms</li> <li>• Cycle track extension to that permitted on the southern side of the road (in both directions)</li> <li>• Undergrounding of ESB Overhead Networks</li> <li>• Provision of Decorative Public Lights</li> </ul> <p>The proposed works would link in with the permitted Rock Road bus / carpark proposal bus/car park new footpath / cycle lane along the southern side of Rock road – which is currently under construction. As part of this the footpath on the northern site of the Rock Road will be increased to 2m in width and the permitted footpath and cycleway on the southern side will be extended in both directions.</p> <p>Rock Road is a busy approach road to Killarney Town. Kerry County Council also has (separate) plans for a small-scale infill Housing project (10no. 1&amp; 2 bed apartments) on lands adjoining the proposed works to the northwest. The proposal would support more sustainable travel movements / active travel.</p>
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Is the proposed development directly connected with or necessary to the nature conservation management of a Natura 2000 site

No

**Proposed development site location relative to that of Natura 2000 Sites**

Description of the site location and geographical scope relative to Natura 2000 sites, having particular regard to Natura 2000 sites located within 15Km of the proposed site or within the same water catchment as the proposed site

This proposed site is located on the northern edge of Killarney Town Centre. The closest Natura 2000 sites are those associated with Killarney National Park, which are approx 600m away and downstream from the site:

- Killarney National Park, MacGillycuddy Reeks and River Caragh Catchment SAC (Site Code 000365)
- Killarney National Park SPA (Site Code 004038).

Lough Leane, the River Laune and Castlemaine Harbour are all water bodies located downstream of the proposed site and which are designated as Natura 2000 Sites (Killarney National Park, Macgillycuddy's Reeks & Caragh River Catchment SAC, Killarney National Park SPA, Castlemaine Harbour SAC and Castlemaine Harbour SPA).

Natura 2000 sites located in the wider vicinity include:-

- SAC 000343 - Castlemaine Harbour

**Proposed development site location relative to that of Natura 2000 Sites**

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SAC 000382 – Sheheree (Ardagh) Bog</li> <li>• Killarney National Park, Macgillicuddy's Reeks &amp; Caragh River Catchment SAC (000365)</li> <li>• SAC 002170 – Blackwater River (Cork / Waterford)</li> <li>• SAC 001890 – Mullaghanish Bog</li> <li>• SAC 000106 – St Gobnet's Well</li> <li>• SAC 000364 – Kilgarvan Ice House</li> <li>• SAC 002041 – Old Domestic Dwelling, Curraglass Woods</li>   <li>• SPA 004029 - Castlemaine Harbour</li> <li>• SPA 004162 Mullaghanish to Musheragh Mountains SPA</li> <li>• SPA 004161 – Stacks to Mullagherisk Mountains, West Limerick Hills &amp; Mount Eagle' SPA</li> <li>• SPA 004108 – Erik Bog SPA</li> </ul> <p>Following a review of maps and hydrological data, no other Natura 2000 sites have been identified as being likely to be impacted by this proposal.</p>
<p>Qualifying interests of the Natura 2000 sites concerned (i.e. the habitats and species for which the sites are designated) and the sites' conservation objectives.</p>	<p>Full details on qualifying interests, selection species, special conservation interests and sites' conservation objectives are available at <a href="http://www.npws.ie">www.npws.ie</a>.</p> <p>Key details considered to be of particular relevance to this current report are outlined below:-</p> <p><b>Killarney National Park, Macgillicuddy's Reeks &amp; Caragh River Catchment SAC (000365)</b></p> <p>Objective: 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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• [1024] <i>Geomalacus maculosus</i></li> <li>• [1029] <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i></li> <li>• [1065] <i>Euphydryas (Eurodryas, Hypodryas) aurinia</i></li> <li>• [1095] <i>Petromyzon marinus</i></li> <li>• [1096] <i>Lampetra planeri</i></li> <li>• [1099] <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i></li> <li>• [1103] <i>Alosa fallax</i></li> <li>• [1106] <i>Salmo salar</i> (only in fresh water)</li> <li>• [1303] <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i></li> <li>• [1355] <i>Lutra lutra</i></li> <li>• [1421] <i>Trichomanes speciosum</i></li> <li>• [1833] <i>Najas flexilis</i></li> <li>• [3110] Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>)</li> <li>• [3130] Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the <i>Littorelletea uniflorae</i> and/or of the <i>Isoëto-Nanojuncetea</i></li> <li>• [3260] Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i></li> </ul>

**Proposed development site location relative to that of Natura 2000 Sites**

Vegetation

- [4010] Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix*
- [4030] European dry heaths
- [4060] Alpine and Boreal heaths
- [5130] *Juniperus communis* formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands
- [6130] Calaminarian grasslands of the *Violetalia calaminariae*
- [6410] *Molinia* meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (*Molinion caeruleae*)
- [7130] Blanket bogs (\* if active only)
- [7150] Depressions on peat substrates of the *Rhynchosporion*
- [91A0] Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles
- [91E0] \* Alluvial forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior* (*Alno-Padion*, *Alnion incanae*, *Salicion albae*)
- [91J0] \* *Taxus baccata* woods of the British Isles

**Killarney National Park SPA (004038)**

Objective: To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA

- Merlin (*Falco columbarius*) [A098]
- Peregrine

**Castlemaine Harbour SPA (004029)**

Objective: To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA

- Red-throated Diver (*Gavia stellata*) [A001]
- Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) [A017]
- Light-bellied Brent Goose (*Branta bernicla hrota*) [A046]
- Wigeon (*Anas penelope*) [A050]
- Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) [A053]
- Pintail (*Anas acuta*) [A054]
- Scaup (*Aythya marila*) [A062]
- Common Scoter (*Melanitta nigra*) [A065]
- Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*) [A130]
- Ringed Plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*) [A137]
- Sanderling (*Calidris alba*) [A144]
- Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*) [A157]
- Redshank (*Tringa totanus*) [A162]
- Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*) [A164]
- Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*) [A169]
- Chough (*Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*) [A346]

**Proposed development site location relative to that of Natura 2000 Sites**

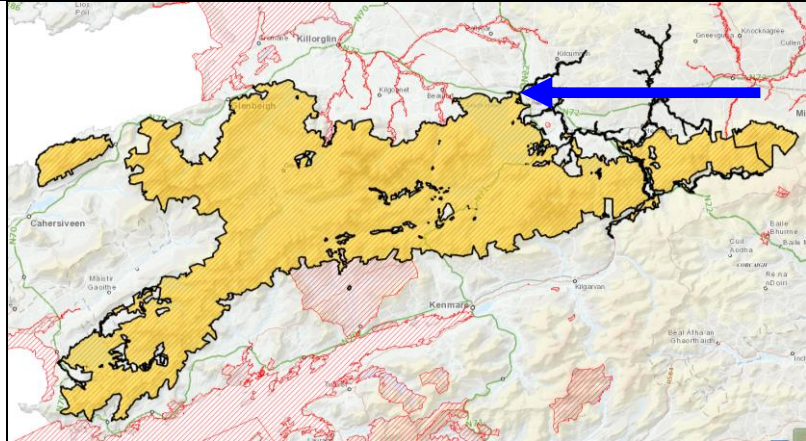
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wetlands &amp; Waterbirds [A999]</li> </ul> <p><b>Castlemaine Harbour SAC (000343)</b></p> <p>Objective: To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sea lamprey (<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>) [1095]</li> <li>• River lamprey (<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>) [1099]</li> <li>• Salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) [1106]</li> <li>• Estuaries [1130]</li> <li>• Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]</li> <li>• Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210]</li> <li>• Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220]</li> <li>• Salicornia and other annuals colonizing mud and sand [1310]</li> <li>• Spartina swards (<i>Spartinion maritimae</i>) [1320]</li> <li>• Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) [1330]</li> <li>• Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) [1355]</li> <li>• Petalwort (<i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i>) [1395]</li> <li>• Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410]</li> <li>• Embryonic shifting dunes [2110]</li> <li>• Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120]</li> <li>• Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130]</li> <li>• Dunes with <i>Salix repens</i> ssp. <i>argentea</i> (<i>Salix arenariae</i>) [2170]</li> <li>• Humid dune slacks [2190]</li> </ul> <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>Following review of same and having due regard to the nature and location of the proposal it is considered that the Killarney National Park, MacGillycuddy Reeks and Caragh River Catchment SAC is the most likely to be impacted by this proposal. Further information on this Natura 2000 site is set out in the following section.</p>
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**Natura 2000 Site: Killarney National Park, MacGillycuddy's Reeks & Caragh River Catchment SAC (Site Code 000365)**

Name	Killarney National Park, Macgillycuddy's Reeks & Caragh River Catchment SAC (Site Code 000365)
Site designation status	Special Area of Conservation

**Natura 2000 Site: Killarney National Park, MacGillycuddy's Reeks & Caragh River Catchment SAC (Site Code 000365)**

Natura 2000 site highlighted in yellow. Killarney located by the blue arrow.



Natura 2000 Site Description

This very large site encompasses the mountains, rivers and lakes of the Iveragh peninsula, and the Paps Mountains which stretch eastward from Killarney towards Millstreet. It is the most mountainous region in Ireland and includes Carrauntoohil (1039m), the highest peak in the country.

The underlying geology is almost entirely Old Red Sandstone. The dramatic sandstone ridges and valleys have been shaped by glacial processes and many of the lakes are impounded by glacial moraines. Located close to the Atlantic in the south-west of Ireland, the site is subject to strong oceanic influences. Generally, the Lusitanian flora and fauna is well represented, while the high peaks and cliffs support arctic-alpine relicts. The site is of great ecological interest, with at least ten habitats which are listed on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive.

Qualifying species

- *Alosa fallax* (Killarney shad),
- *Trichomanes speciosum* (Killarney Fern),
- *Najas flexilis* (Slender Naiad),
- *Geomalacus maculosus* (Kerry spotted slug)
- *Euphydryas aurinia* (Marsh Fritillary)
- *Rhinolophus hipposideros* (Lesser Horseshoe Bat)
- *Petromyzon marinus* (Sea Lamprey)
- *Lampetra planeri* (European Brook Lamprey)
- *Salmo salar* (Atlantic Salmon)
- *Lampetra fluviatilis* (River Lamprey)
- *Margaritifera margaritifera* (Freshwater Pearl Mussel)
- *Lutra lutra* (European Otter)

Qualifying habitats

- Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion;
- Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (*Littorelletalia uniflorae*);
- Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the *Littorelletea uniflorae* and/or of the *Isoëto-Nanojuncetea*;
- Water courses of plain to montane levels with the *Ranunculion fluitantis* and *Callitriche-Batrachion*

**Natura 2000 Site: Killarney National Park, MacGillycuddy's Reeks & Caragh River Catchment SAC (Site Code 000365)**

	<p>vegetation;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• European dry heaths;</li> <li>• <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands;</li> <li>• Calaminarian grasslands of the <i>Violetalia calaminariae</i>;</li> <li>• <i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>);</li> <li>• Blanket bog;</li> <li>• Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in British Isles;</li> <li>• Alpine and Boreal heaths; <i>Taxus baccata</i> woods of the British Isles;</li> <li>• Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i>, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>);</li> <li>• Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i></li> </ul>
Unit size	3488.49Ha
Non-qualifying species and habitats of interest	<p>An additional twenty-two Red Data Book plant species have been recorded, but only twelve of these have been seen recently. These are Pillwort (<i>Pilularia globulifera</i>), Kerry Lily (<i>Simethis planifolia</i>), Irish Lady's Tresses (<i>Spiranthes romanzoffiana</i>), Slender Cottongrass (<i>Eriophorum gracile</i>), Slender Cudweed (<i>Logfia minima</i>), Betony (<i>Stachys officinalis</i>), Heath Cudweed (<i>Omalotheca sylvatica</i>), Alder Buckthorn (<i>Frangula alnus</i>), Alpine Saw-wort (<i>Saussurea alpina</i>), Hoary Whitlowgrass (<i>Draba incana</i>), Smooth Brome (<i>Bromus racemosus</i>) and Holly Fern (<i>Polystichum lonchitis</i>). The first seven of these species are legally protected (Flora Protection Order, 1999). The site is very important for oceanic bryophytes, particularly the woodland species. It also contains good representative examples of the Northern Atlantic Hepatic Mat community and other oceanic montane communities. Killarney Oak woods and mountains have been nominated as a site of international importance for bryophytes. Additional plant species of interest include a fern (<i>Dryopteris affinis</i> subsp. <i>stilluppensis</i>) and a Whitebeam (<i>Sorbus anglica</i>), both at their only Irish locations.</p> <p>The Killarney Woods are notable for the number of rare species of Myxomycete fungus that have been recorded, namely <i>Collaria arcyronema</i>, <i>Craterium muscorum</i>, <i>Cribraria microcarpa</i> (only known Irish site), <i>C. rufa</i>, <i>C. violacea</i>, <i>Diderma chondrioderma</i>, <i>D. lucidum</i>, <i>D. ochraceum</i>, <i>Fuligo muscorum</i>, <i>Licea marginata</i>.</p> <p>The site has six bird species which are listed on Annex I of the EU Birds Directive. A small flock of Greenland White-fronted Geese, which winters on the boglands within the</p>

**Natura 2000 Site: Killarney National Park, MacGillycuddy's Reeks & Caragh River Catchment SAC (Site Code 000365)**

	<p>National Park, is now the only regular flock in the south-west. The site has one of the highest concentrations of breeding Peregrines in the country, as well as some breeding Merlin. Chough is found both in the coastal areas and inland areas of the site, with possibly up to 30 pairs breeding. Kingfisher is a species associated with the lakes and rivers, especially in the National Park and probably breeds. Finally, a few pairs of Common Tern breed within the site. The woodlands provide habitat for a variety of breeding birds, most notably Garden Warbler, Blackcap, and probably a few pairs each of the rare Redstart and Wood Warbler. Lough Leane is a site for wintering wildfowl with the following the average counts for the two winters 1995/96 and 1996/97: Teal (208), Mallard (350), Pochard (81), Tufted Duck (323) and Coot (169).</p> <p>Also of note is the glacial relict, Arctic Charr (<i>Salvelinus alpinus</i>), a Red Data Book fish species, a unique form of which is found in Lough Coomasaharn.</p> <p>Other invertebrate species of note include: three chironomids of international importance found in the River Flesk; a wood ant (<i>Formica lugubris</i>) at one of only four Irish sites; a snail (<i>Limnaea involuta</i>), in Lough Crincaum, at its only known location; two dragonflies (<i>Cordulea aenea</i> and <i>Somatochlora arctica</i>), the former at one of only two known sites in Ireland and the latter at its only known Irish location; and several other aquatic and woodland species at their only known Irish locations.</p>
Unit size	72,960Ha
Condition / threats	<p>Grazing from sheep and deer is a threat to certain habitats within the site. Most of the lakes are very acid sensitive and therefore vulnerable to afforestation within the catchment areas. Most are also oligotrophic and so are vulnerable to nutrient pollution. The bogs are sensitive to grazing and are also threatened by turbary, burning and afforestation. The site is also under threat from invasive non-native species, including zebra mussels and rhododendron. A rhododendron removal programme is underway in the National Park.</p>

**Specialist reports, advice and recommendations received (if any)**

Brief overview of any specialist reports, advice, and recommendations received.	-
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**Consideration of the potential for significant impacts on Natura 2000 sites, having particular regard to potential significance indicators, status information, qualifying interests and conservation objectives for Natura 2000 sites. In line with the precautionary principle, where doubt exists, it should be assumed that effects could be significant.**

<p><b>Potential significance indicators include:</b></p>	<p><b>Significance will vary depending on:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Magnitude of impact</li> <li>• Type</li> <li>• Extent</li> <li>• Distance</li> <li>• Duration</li> <li>• Intensity</li> <li>• Timing</li> <li>• Probability</li> <li>• Cumulative effects</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduction, degradation or fragmentation of key habitat (land clearance etc)</li> </ul>	<p>Direct or indirect habitat loss / degradation of qualifying or key habitat unlikely. It is noted that the proposal is small in scale and is distant from Natura 2000 sites.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hydrological disruptions (loss of groundwater supplies, altered run-off rates etc)</li> </ul>	<p>Not likely</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Changes in water quality (toxicity / chemistry, turbidity, nutrients, silt content)</li> </ul>	<p>Small scale construction project removed from water sensitive Natura 2000 sites. No significant impacts likely</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilitation of changes, that may promote invasive species colonisation (including introduction, dispersal and / or creation of favourable habitat)</li> </ul>	<p>Disturbed ground can create favourable habitat for the colonisation of invasive species. It is noted that there are currently no invasive non-native plant species within the proposed site. It is also noted that a substantial buffer exists between development and Natura 2000 sites in this instance. No significant effects likely.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Noise, vibration and or light disturbance</li> </ul>	<p>None likely – proposal is sufficiently removed from Natura 2000 sites.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Movement related disturbances, including increased access to / within ecologically sensitive areas (human, traffic, machinery etc)</li> </ul>	<p>None likely – proposal is sufficiently removed from Natura 2000 sites.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dust</li> </ul>	<p>None likely.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Other potential indicators</li> </ul>	<p>-</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interactive / cumulative / in combination impacts including potential climate change impacts and those with other plans and projects</li> </ul>	<p>It is noted that there are a number of existing and proposed developments in the area as would be expected in an edge of town centre location. Any waste material will be disposed of at an authorised place of disposal. No interactive / cumulative / in combination impacts likely with this or other existing or permitted proposals in the area.</p>
<p><b>Overview / Key points</b></p>	<p>This is a small-scale construction project located away</p>

**Consideration of the potential for significant impacts on Natura 2000 sites, having particular regard to potential significance indicators, status information, qualifying interests and conservation objectives for Natura 2000 sites. In line with the precautionary principle, where doubt exists, it should be assumed that effects could be significant.**

	<p>from Natura 2000 designations. The proposal seeks to provide improved traffic calming, footpaths, cycleways and to improve the public lighting within an urban setting at Rock road, Killarney, Kerry.</p> <p>There are no connecting pathways between the proposed site (source) and Natura 2000 sites (receptors) as could potentially impact on same.</p>
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**Determination of which species and habitats could be significantly affected by the activities**

This AA screening exercise has determined that no species or habitats listed for protection within the conservation objectives of Natura 2000 sites, or their qualifying interests are likely to be significantly affected by way of the project either by itself or in combination with other plans and projects.

**Conclusion**

It is considered that the potential for significant effects to Natura 2000 sites can be ruled out and therefore that an Appropriate Assessment is not required in this instance.

**Reason for conclusion**

- This is a standard small-scale urban road improvement project. The works are not complex in nature or scale.
- The proposed works are located at a distance from Natura 2000 sites and annexed habitat associated with same. There is therefore no potential for impacts on Qualifying Interest habitats or species associated with Natura 2000 Sites.

<b>Completed by:</b>	<b>Eoin Kelleher, Planner and Ecologist, Planning Department 13/05/2019</b>
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**Eoin Kelleher**  
**Executive Planner and Ecologist**  
**Environmental Assessment Unit**

**13/05/2019**