

# SCREENING STATEMENT FOR APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

Limerick City Outdoor Dining Experience

Prepared for Limerick City and County Council

MEC Ltd.

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# 1 Introduction

Minogue & Associates has been commissioned by Limerick City and County Council to undertake a Screening Statement in support of an Appropriate Assessment (AA), under Article 6 of the EU Habitats Directive, of the proposed '*Limerick City Outdoor Dining Experience (LCODE)*' development in the areas of Bedford Row, Thomas Street and Augustinian Lane, Limerick City.

## 1.1 Approach to Habitats Directive Screening for Appropriate Assessment

This Screening Report for Appropriate Assessment forms Stage 1 of the Habitats Directive Assessment process and is being undertaken in order to comply with the requirements of the Habitats Directive Article 6(3). The function of this Screening Report is to determine if it can or cannot be excluded, on the basis of objective information, that the project, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will have a significant effect on a European Site. This Screening Report has been prepared to provide information to the competent authority to assist them in their determination as to whether a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment is required for the project.

## 1.2 Legislative Context

This Screening Report for Appropriate Assessment is being prepared in order to enable the competent authority to comply with Article 6(3) of Council Directive 92/43/EEC (The Habitats Directive). It is prepared to assess whether or not the project alone or in combination with other plans and projects is likely to have a significant effect on any European Site in view of best scientific knowledge and in view of the conservation objectives of the European Sites and specifically on the habitats and species for which the sites have been designated.

### 1.2.1 Requirement for an Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive

According to Regulation 42(1) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 – 2015, the competent Authority has a duty to:

- Determine whether the proposed Project is directly connected to or necessary for the management of one of more European Sites; and, if not,
- Determine if the Project, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, would be likely to have a significant effect on the European Site(s) in view of best scientific knowledge and the Conservation Objectives of the site(s).

This Report contains a Screening for Appropriate Assessment and is intended to assess and address all issues regarding the construction and operation of the Project and to inform and allow the competent authority to comply with the Habitats Directive. Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive defines the requirements for assessment of projects and plans for which likely significant effects on European Sites may arise. The European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011 – 2015 (the Habitats Regulations) transpose into Irish law Directive 2009/147/EC (the Birds Directive) and Council Directive 92/43/EEC (the Habitats Directive) lists habitats and species that are of international importance for conservation and require protection. The Habitats legislation requires competent authorities, to carry out a Screening for Appropriate Assessment of plans and projects that, alone or in combination with

other plans or projects, would be likely to have significant effects on European Sites in view of best scientific knowledge and the Site's conservation objectives. This requirement is transposed into Irish Law by Part 5 of the Habitats Regulations and Part XAB of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended).

### 1.3 Stage 1 Screening Method

The function of this report is to identify whether the project will have a likely significant effect on European Sites. In this context "likely" means a risk or possibility of effects occurring that **cannot** be ruled out based on objective information and "significant" means an effect that would undermine the conservation objectives of the European sites, either alone or in-combination with other plans and projects (Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR), 2021) .

The function of the Screening exercise is to identify whether or not the proposal will have the potential to result in likely significant effect on European Sites. In this context "likely" refers to the presence of doubt with regard to the absence of significant effects (ECJ case C-127/02) and "significant" means not trivial or inconsequential but an effect that has the potential to undermine the site's conservation objectives (English Nature, 1999; ECJ case C-127/02 &). In other words, any effect that compromises the conservation status of a European Sites and interferes with achieving its conservation objectives would constitute a significant effect.

The nature of the likely interactions between the Plan and the Conservation Objectives of European Sites will depend upon the:

- the ecological characteristics of the species or habitat, including their structure, function, conservation status and sensitivity to change; *and/or*
- the character, magnitude, duration, consequences and probability of the impacts arising from land use activities associated with the plan, in combination with other plans and projects.

The European Commission Guidelines (2001) outline the stages involved in undertaking a Screening assessment of a plan or project that has the potential to have likely significant effects on European Sites. The methodology adopted for the Screening of the Plan is informed by these guidelines and was undertaken in the following stages:

- A brief description of the Plan is provided and determine whether it is necessary for the conservation management of European Sites;
- Identification of European Sites occurring within the zone of influence of the Plan;
- Identification of potential likely significant effects to European Sites; and

Identification of other plans or projects that, in combination with the Plan, have the potential to affect European Sites.

## 1.4 Project Description

This planning application is for development of the 'Limerick City Outdoor Dining Experience' development at Bedford Row, Thomas Street and Augustinian Lane, Limerick City. The Project would be developed under the Failte Ireland Outdoor Dining Enhancement Scheme.

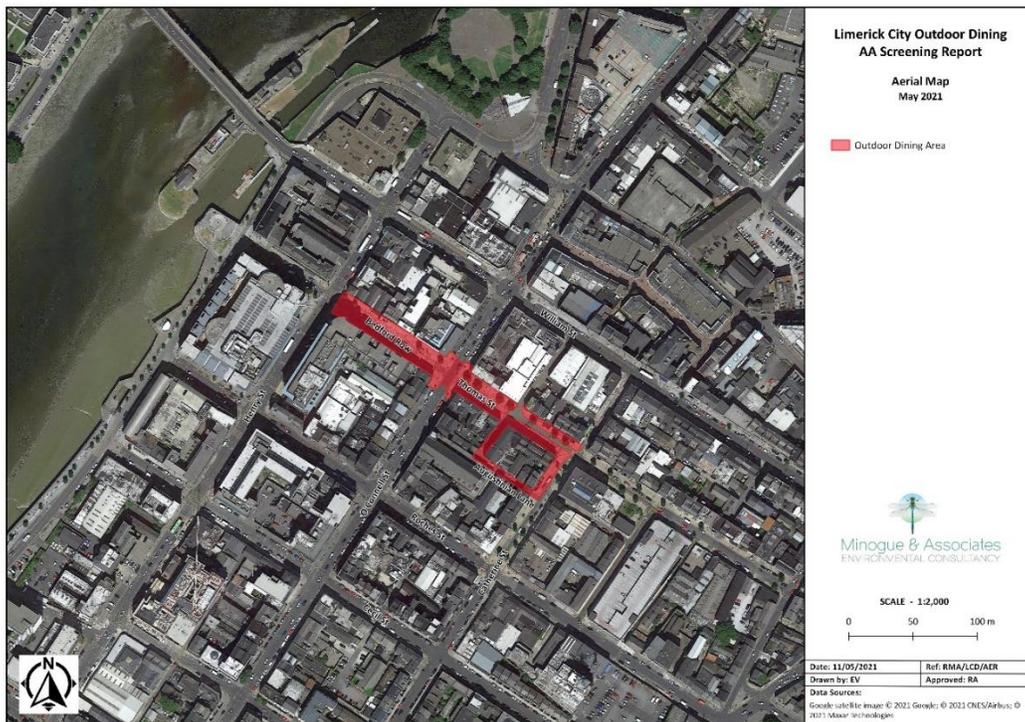
The proposed development comprises of the removal of elements of existing surplus or damaged street furniture as well as potential building mounted elements from parts of the site to accommodate pergola structures and other proposed features.

The proposed development would therefore entail the following physical changes:

- Covered pergola structures with retractable roofs, toughened glass screens, containerised small trees, bin screen, smart bollards, water bottle refill station, smart solar compacting bins, catenary lighting, uplighting of Bow-way and all ancillary site works.
  - Ancillary wastes will be managed as part of an integrated Waste Management Plan and will be separated to the appropriate waste streams for disposal to suitably licensed facilities in the region.

The overall footprint of the proposed development is approximately 0.40 hectares. Under the proposed development the existing City Centre public realm setting, and outdoor dining experience will be up-graded through new sheltered dining areas and street furniture; increased lighting would be provided including feature catenary lighting in Augustinian Lane and feature up lighting of the Bow-way and 'Smart bollards' would be set up to provide Wi-Fi, pedestrian management, as well as additional lighting and art projections. **Figure 1.1** shows the aerial map of the proposed development site.

FIGURE 1-1 SITE LOCATION AND BOUNDARY



The following section provides a description of the proposed development.

### 1.4.1 Bedford Row and Thomas Street

#### **Covered Pergolas**

A network of self-standing pergolas would be set up that will extend along the frontages of restaurants and cafes along the street, which would extend covered outdoor dining space into the street. These would feature a retractable roof and side shades, integrated lighting and optional attachments including heaters and additional lighting. The approximate area covered by the pergolas is estimated at 450 sq m. These structures would need reinforced concrete foundations as well as a metered electrical connection extending to the associated premises. Rainwater management is integrated into the pergola with internal guttering system.

#### **Toughened Glass Screens**

Toughened glass screens of varying heights from approximately 1m to 2m depending on locational requirements would be installed to form an enclosure and partitions within and around the pergolas. They will be root fixed requiring a small foundation or bolted to existing surface as situations allow.

#### **Containerised Small Trees and Shrubs**

A series of small multistem trees (Amalanchier etc) and shrubs in large containers would be placed along the site.

#### **Smart Bollards**

'Smart' modular luminaire in the form of a slim cylindrical column with integrated smart components including Wi-Fi, pedestrian/traffic management, environmental sensors and projectors would be installed along the site. These units could require localised excavation for a reinforced concrete foundation as well as an electrical connection and associated ancillary works.

#### **Water Bottle Refill Stations**

Stainless steel potable water faucet for refilling water bottles would be put up. These could require a localised excavation for a small foundation and a potable water connection.

#### **Smart Solar Compacting Bin**

Solar powered compacting waste storage unit with removable 120L wheely bin would be bolted to existing surface.

### 1.4.2 Augustinian Lane

#### **Containerised Small Trees and Shrubs**

A series of small multistem trees (Amalanchier etc) and shrubs in large containers would be placed along the site.

#### **Bin Screen**

Hardwood clad screens would be set up to enclose and secure waste containers and other unavoidable clutter associated with businesses in Augustinian Lane. The screen would also act as a secondary secure threshold for the rear of business premises.

These units could require a localised excavation for a small foundation or are bolted to existing surface as situation dictates.

#### **Catenary Lighting**

Building and/or post hung tensile catenary lighting system at first and second floor levels along the Lane. Posts could require localised excavation for a reinforced concrete foundation as well as provision of an electrical connection and associated ancillary works.

#### **Bow-way Uplighting**

Building mounted uplighters/projectors within the Bow-way. These would require provision of an electrical connection and associated ancillary works.

### 1.4.3 Excavation

The proposed development will require localised excavation of existing hard surfaces for installation of pergola structures and other features that require foundation and services. The spoil material will be removed from site to an authorised waste facility.

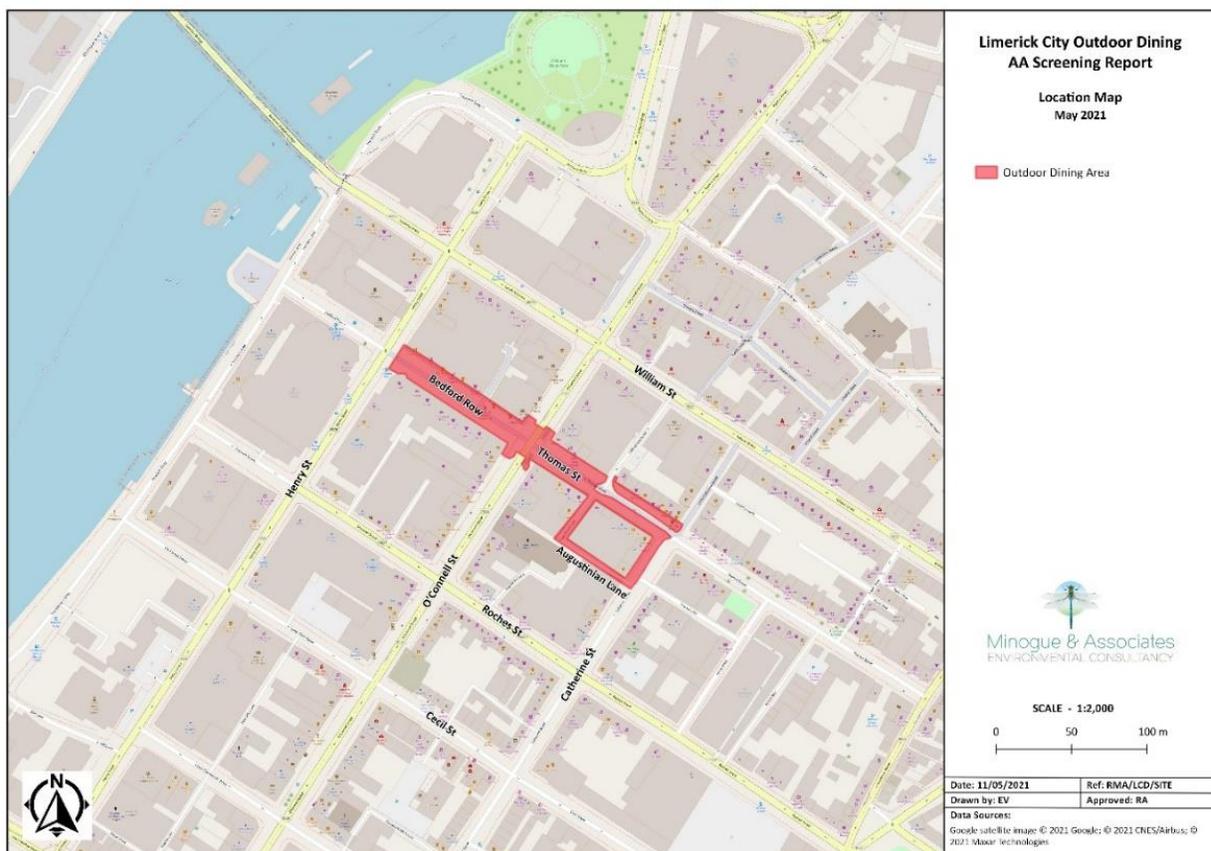
The project is not necessary for the conservation management of Natura 2000 sites.

## 1.5 Site Description

### Site Overview

The proposed development is situated on a site in Limerick City, Co. Limerick. Encompassing the areas of Bedford Row, Thomas Street and Augustinian Lane. The overall footprint of the development site is approximately 0.40 hectares. **Figure 1.2** shows the site location in relation to the surrounding main streets.

FIGURE 1-2 MAIN STREETS IN THE SURROUNDING OF THE SITE



The habitats on the site were identified and classified in line with the Guide to Habitat in Ireland (2000) as follows.

- BL3-Built land and artificial surfaces (comprise the existing buildings of Bedford Row, Thomas Street and Augustinian Lane and artificial surfaces of the road network).

## 2.5 Evaluation

The habitats occurring under the footprint of the project are dominated by built artificial surfaces and have little ecological value. Given the urban nature of the development lands, the opportunity for large mammal use is not identified as high. A review of Biodiversity Ireland records within a 2km Grid shows the occurrence of protected bird species like Common Goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*), Eurasian Teal (*Anas crecca*), Northern Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*), Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*). There are also records of occurrence of the European Otter (*Lutra lutra*), owing to the proximity of River Shannon to the project site.

## 2 European Site Baseline

### 2.1 Identification of European Sites

Current guidance on undertaking EU Habitats Directive Article 6 Assessments advises that all European Sites occurring within a 15km radius of a project site should be included within a Screening Assessment (Scott Wilson *et al.*, 2006; DOEHLG, 2010).

Other designated conservation areas occurring outside of this 15km buffer distance are not included as part of this Screening exercise as no pathways link these sites to the proposed development and as such they are not considered to occur within the sphere of influence of the proposed development. Six European Sites, occur within the surrounding 15km radius of the site. These sites are listed in **Table 2.1** below and shown in **Figures 2.1 and 2.2**.

TABLE 2-1 EUROPEAN SITES WITHIN 15KM OF PROJECT SITE

Site Type	Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)
SAC	002165	Lower River Shannon SAC	00.11
SAC	001013	Glenomra Wood SAC	10.42
SAC	000439	Tory Hill SAC	13.50
SAC	002316	Ratty River Cave SAC	14.71
SAC	000030	Danes Hole, Poulnalecka SAC	14.84
SPA	004077	River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA	00.43

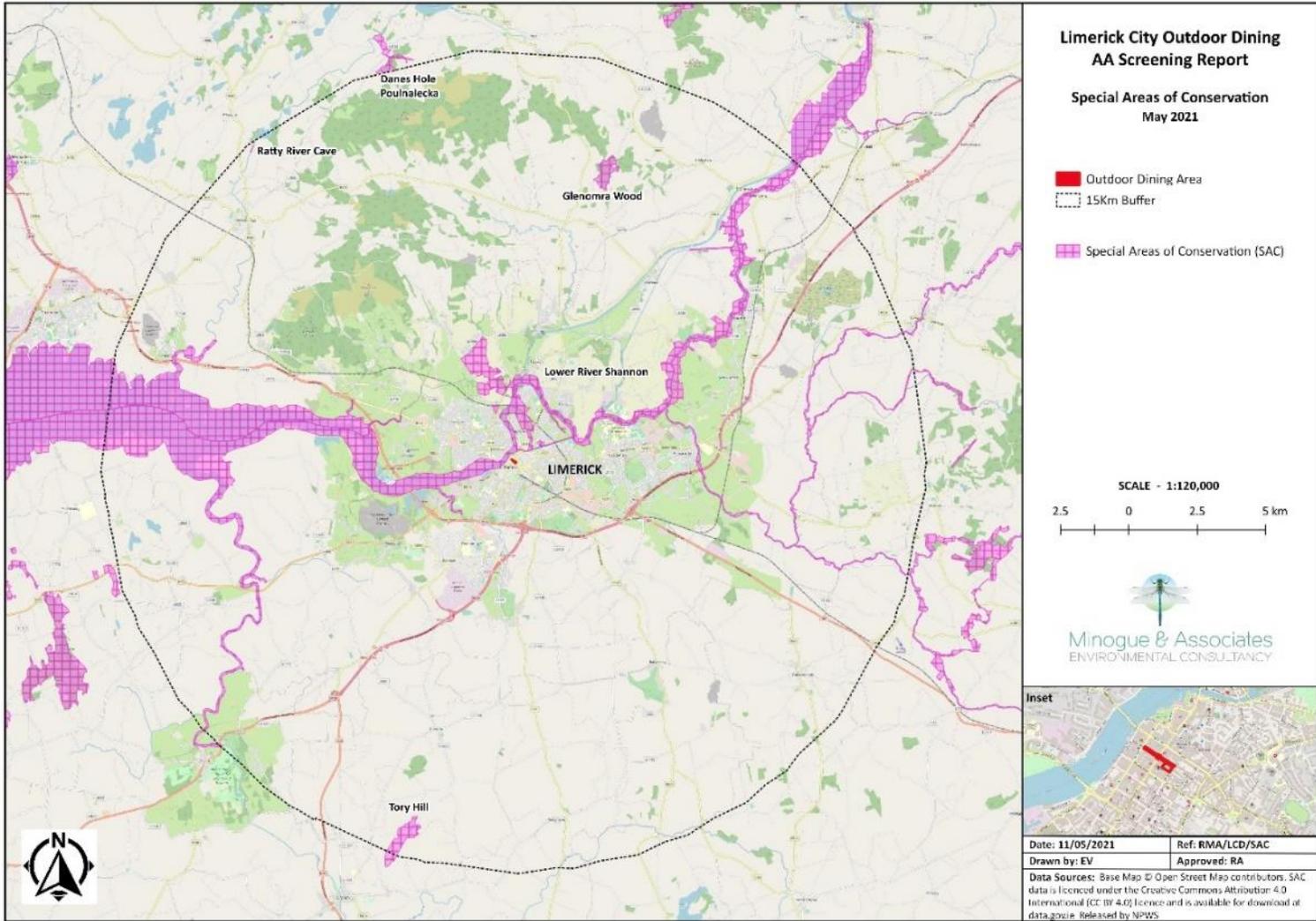


FIGURE 2-1 SPECIAL AREAS OF CONSERVATION WITHIN 15KM FROM THE SITE

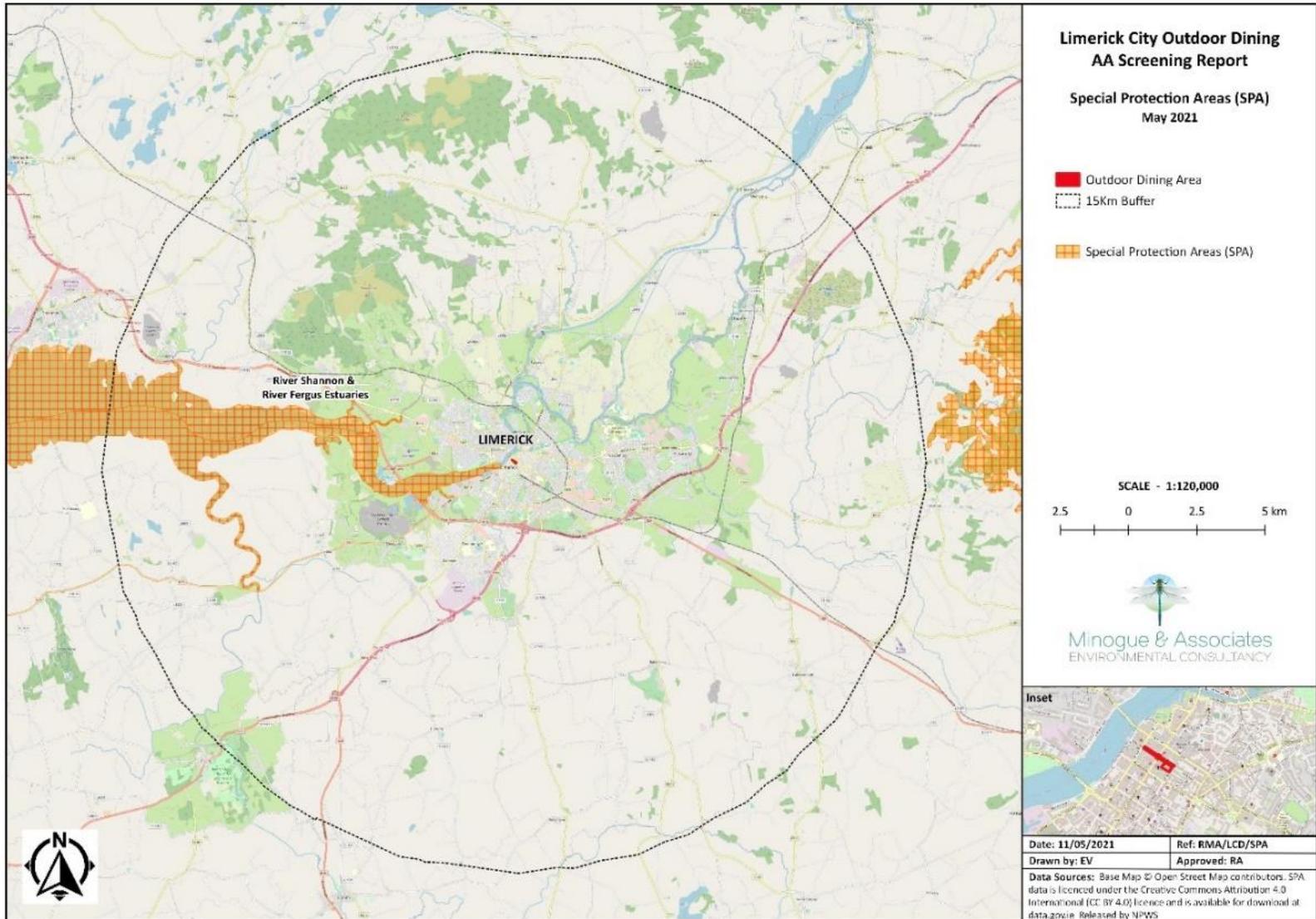


FIGURE 2-2 SPECIAL PROTECTION AREAS WITHIN 15KM FROM THE SITE

## 2.2 Identification of European Sites within the Sphere of Influence of the Project

Established guidelines (referred to above) state that for projects the distance at which European Sites could occur within the sphere of influence of a project can be much less than 15km. The extent of a project's sphere of influence depends upon the nature of project, the approach to the project; and the potential for impact pathways to link the project to European Sites. A source-pathway-receptor model has been used to establish which European Sites could occur within the sphere of influence of potential impacts. Under such a model the project, as described above, represents the source. Potential impact pathways are restricted to hydrological and aerial pathways (demolition activities associated with the proposed development) as these represent the principal emissions generated by activities at the project site.

The receptors represent European Sites and their associated qualifying features of interest. European Sites and their associated qualifying features are likely to occur in the zone of influence of the project only where the above pathways establish a link between the study area and European Sites or where the project site is likely to play an important role in supporting populations of mobile species that are listed as special conservation interests/qualifying species for surrounding European Sites.

Consequently, it is considered that the area of influence of the proposed project is restricted to Lower River Shannon SAC and River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA.

With regard to potential impact pathways, it is considered that a potential impact pathway linking the project to European Sites relates to hydrological pathways, in this instance potential surface water flows or drains post rainfall that would drain into the Lower River Shannon SAC and River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA through the existing drainage systems. As the works and development are so minor there are no other potential pathways or risk of significant effects.

All other European Sites are located at a remote distance from the project and are not linked to the project via potential impact pathways. Furthermore, due to the distance between these European Sites and the project there will be no potential for the project to result in disturbance to any of the qualifying features of interest associated with these European Sites.

## 2.3 Description of Lower River Shannon Special Area of Conservation (Site code:002165)

Qualifying Features of Interest

- Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time [1110]
- Estuaries [1130]
- Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]
- Coastal lagoons [1150]
- Large shallow inlets and bays [1160]

- Reefs [1170]
- Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220]
- Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230]
- Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310]
- Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*) [1330]
- Mediterranean salt meadows (*Juncetalia maritimi*) [1410]
- Water courses of plain to montane levels with the *Ranunculion fluitantis* and *Callitricho-Batrachion* vegetation [3260]
- Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (*Molinion caeruleae*) [6410]
- Alluvial forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior* (*Alno-Padion*, *Alnion incanae*, *Salicion albae*) [91E0]
- *Margaritifera margaritifera* (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) [1029]
- *Petromyzon marinus* (Sea Lamprey) [1095]
- *Lampetra planeri* (Brook Lamprey) [1096]
- *Lampetra fluviatilis* (River Lamprey) [1099]
- *Salmo salar* (Salmon) [1106]
- *Tursiops truncatus* (Common Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349]
- *Lutra lutra* (Otter) [1355]

\*

### 2.3.1 Conservation Management Objectives of River Shannon SAC

Conservation management objectives have been formulated for the majority of the qualifying features of interest of the Lower River Shannon SAC (NPWS, 2012). These conservation objectives are as follows:

- To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Mudflats and Sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide, Estuaries, Sandbanks, which are slightly covered by sea water all the time, Large shallow inlets and Bays, Reefs, Perennial vegetation of stony banks, Vegetated sea cliff, *Salicornia* and other annuals colonizing mud and sand, Water courses of plain to montane levels with the *Ranunculion fluitantis* and *Callitricho-Batrachion* vegetation, *Molinia* meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt laden soils (*Molinion caeruleae*) in the Lower River Shannon SAC

- To restore the favourable conservation condition of Coastal lagoons, Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia*) Mediterranean salt meadows (*Juncetalia maritimi*), Alluvial forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior* (*Alno-Padion*, *Alnion incanae*, *Salicion albae*) in the Lower River Shannon SAC
- To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Brook Lamprey, River Lamprey, Bottlenose Dolphin in the Lower River Shannon SAC,
- To restore the favourable conservation condition of Freshwater Pearl Mussel, Sea Lamprey, Atlantic Salmon in the Lower River Shannon SAC, Otter in the Lower River Shannon SAC.

## 2.4 Description of River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries Special Protection Area (Site code:004077)

### Qualifying Features of Interest

- Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) [A017]
- Whooper Swan (*Cygnus cygnus*) [A038]
- Light-bellied Brent Goose (*Branta bernicla hrota*) [A046]
- Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*) [A048]
- Wigeon (*Anas penelope*) [A050]
- Teal (*Anas crecca*) [A052]
- Pintail (*Anas acuta*) [A054]
- Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*) [A056]
- Scaup (*Aythya marila*) [A062]
- Ringed Plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*) [A137]
- Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*) [A140]
- Grey Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*) [A141]
- Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*) [A142]
- Knot (*Calidris canutus*) [A143]
- Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*) [A149]
- Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*) [A156]
- Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*) [A157]
- Curlew (*Numenius arquata*) [A160]
- Redshank (*Tringa totanus*) [A162]

- Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*) [A164]
- Black-headed Gull (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*) [A179]
- Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]

#### 2.4.1 Conservation Management Objectives of River Shannon and Fergus SPA

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Cormorant, Whooper Swan, Light bellied Brent Goose, Wigeon, Teal, Pintail, Shoveler, Scaup, Ringed Plover, Golden Plover, Grey Plover, Lapwing, Knot, Dunlin, Black-tailed Godwit, Bar-tailed Godwit, Curlew, Redshank, Greenshank, Black-headed Gull in the River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of the wetland habitat in the River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA as a resource for the regularly-occurring migratory waterbirds that utilise it.

Details of the attributes and targets which define the favourable conservation status of these qualifying features of interest are outlined in the Conservation Objectives for this SPA (see NPWS, 2012).

Favourable conservation status of a habitat is achieved when:

- its natural range, and area it covers within that range, are stable or increasing, and
- the specific structure and functions which are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future, and
- the conservation status of its typical species is favourable.

The favourable conservation status of a species is achieved when:

- population dynamics data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself on a long-term basis as a viable component of its natural habitats, and
- the natural range of the species is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future, and
- there is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis.

## 2.5 Identification of potential impacts to Natura 2000 sites and assessment of significance.

Most of the qualifying features of the Lower River Shannon SAC are wetland and freshwater habitat dependent and the project site does not correspond to these features. The River Shannon and Fergus Estuaries SPA qualifying features relate to primarily to migratory water birds, and wetland and waterbirds –again these supporting habitats are not located at the project site. However, as outlined previously given the sites proximity to the River Shannon and potential hydrological links associated with the project, more detailed commentary is provided below in Table 3 Screening Assessment.

### 3 Assessment of potential effects in combination with other projects.

**Table 3.1** provides a Screening exercise, in line with the EC 2001 Guidelines Assessment Criteria, to examine the potential for the project to adversely impact upon the conservation status of European Sites. The Screening outlined in Table 3 has been informed by the relationship between the project and European Site as outlined in Section 2 above as well as the project description. A conclusion of this Screening exercise is provided in the table below.

**TABLE 3-1 SCREENING ASSESSMENT**

<b>Assessment Criteria</b>	
<i>Describe any likely direct, indirect or secondary impacts of the project (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) on the qualifying features of the Lower River Shannon SAC and River Shannon and Fergus Estuaries SPA occurring within the sphere of influence of the project by virtue of</i>	
Size and Scale	The footprint of the project is 0.40ha of existing built land and artificial surfaces. The project will largely use the existing site footprint with some additional built features to the rear of the site that will be built upon existing hard surfaces.
Land-take	The project will not involve any land take from Annex 1 Habitats listed as Qualifying Features of interest for the Lower River Shannon SAC or wetland habitats supporting qualifying features of the River Shannon and River Fergus SPA.
Distance from European Sites or key features of the site	The site is located approximately 0.1km from the Lower River Shannon SAC and 0.43km from River Shannon and Fergus Estuaries SPA.
Resource requirements	No resources associated with the Lower River Shannon SAC or River Shannon and Fergus Estuaries SPA (e.g. water or mud/sand for abstraction etc.) will be required for, or utilized by the project.
Emissions	There are no significant emissions related to the project in terms of noise, vibration, dust and construction traffic.
Excavation requirements	The project will not involve any excavations from European Sites.
Transportation requirements	The project will not result in changes to baseline traffic conditions that could result in likely significant effects to qualifying habitats and species.
Duration of the project	The duration of works is planned for 2 weeks. The design life on powder coated aluminium box section or equivalent structures should be minimum 50 years.
Other	See Below

<b>Describe any likely changes to the European site arising as a result of:</b>	
Reduction of habitat area	The project will not result in a reduction in area of any Annex 1 qualifying habitats of the Lower River Shannon SAC or wetland habitats listed in the SPA occurring within the sphere of influence of the project.
Disturbance of key species	As noted above the project will not have the potential to result in disturbance to species of conservation concern (ie: otters) due to the proposed nature of the project, distance from sites and the proposed development activity taking place in a long established city centre, urban area.
Habitat or species fragmentation	The project will not result in the fragmentation of habitats as it relates to works on existing built land and artificial surfaces.
Reduction in species density	As the project will not have the potential to result in the deterioration in water resources or the disturbance of species of conservation concern it will not have the potential to result in a reduction in densities of these species. Surface water run off from the pergolas will drain to the existing surface and stormwater drainage system and the waters discharging from it to the River Shannon European Sites represent a minor fraction of the overall volume of water draining into the River Shannon.
Changes in key indicators of conservation status	The key indicators of conservation status for the qualifying features of interest occurring within the sphere of influence of the project are outlined in the Conservation Objectives for the Lower River Shannon SAC (see NPWS, 2012) <sup>1</sup> . For reasons outlined in the sections above the project will not have the potential to result in changes to these key indicators of the conservation status of Annex 1 habitats and Annex 2 species.
Climate change	No significant change is identified as the project relates to an existing built land and artificial surfaces, with demolition and new construction on the project site.
<b>Describe any likely impacts on the European Site as a whole in terms of:</b>	
Interference with key relationships that define the structure and function of the site	For reasons outlined in the sections above the project will not have the potential to interfere with the key relationships that define the structure and function of the Lower River Shannon SAC or River Shannon and River Fergus SPA.
In-Combination Effects	A number of other projects within the O'Connell Street area going through the planning process or are under construction currently, the principal one is as follows:

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<sup>1</sup> NPWS (2012) Conservation Objectives: Lower River Shannon SAC 002165

- The O’Connell Street revitalization works will run from Denmark Street to the Crescent.
- Additionally, there are some projects in the areas surrounding the project site that have undergone the planning process in the recent years. The details of these projects are as follows:

Planning Reference	Outline of development	Planning status
<b>19325 (2019) 6 and &amp; Henry Street, Bedford Row</b>	1) a change of use from public house to restaurant at basement level; 2) provision of a new kitchen at basement levels; 3) provision of extra customer toilet facilities at basement level; 4) elevational changes to include new doors, windows and new timber shop front detail at ground floor level; 5) new high quality awnings and signage; 6) provision of air ducting/extraction and all associated site development works	Granted planning permission with conditions
<b>1849 (2018) 11 and 12 Bedford Row</b>	(1) change of use of section of existing ground floor retail unit to ancillary Café use. (2) provision of a new accessible entrance door to existing ground floor retail unit. (3) erection of retractable awning to front façade over existing ground floor retail unit. (4) erection of signage, to existing ground floor retail unit. (5) all associated works	Granted planning permission with conditions
<b>17278 (2017) 11 and 12 Bedford Row</b>	1. Change of use of: (a) existing offices & storage areas located at first, second & third floor levels over existing ground floor retail unit to new guest house accommodation comprising of 12no. bedrooms, (b) existing WC & storage areas at lower ground floor level, to include provision of new separate dining & lounge room areas, gymnasium, steam room, WC facilities & storage areas to serve the proposed new guest house accommodation (c) section of ground & upper ground floor retail unit to circulation route to serve new guest house accommodation 2. Construction of: (a) new stairwell & lift shaft to service all floors of new guest house accommodation, (b) new accessible en-	Granted planning permission with conditions

	<p>suite bathroom extension at first floor level, 3. All associated elevational treatment, 4. Erection of signage &amp; all associated works in accordance with plans and documents submitted.</p>	
<p><b>198006 (2019)</b>  <b>O'Connell Street</b>  <b>Limerick, in the area defined by the junctions with Denmark Street/Arthur's Quay and Cecil Street/Lower Cecil Street</b></p>	<p>O'Connell Street Revitalisation Project comprising reduction in the width of 2 no. traffic lanes on O'Connell Street between Denmark Street and Cecil Street to a maximum of 3.0m each, and subsequent increase in footpath widths, replacement of one of the two southbound vehicular lanes on O'Connell Street with a southbound bus lane between William Street and Cecil Street, Introduction of a shared surface, where the footpath and the carriageway will be at the same level, on O'Connell Street from north of Denmark Street to south of Roches Street. A shared surface is also proposed outside the proposed International Rugby Experience museum just north of Cecil Street, conversion of all junctions within the proposed development boundary to raised table junctions, which will act as traffic calming measures, relocation of parking and other kerbside vehicular spaces from O'Connell Street to adjacent side streets. This space will be adapted to provide wider footpaths and additional pedestrian areas to facilitate people gathering, on-street trading, and "spill out zones" from shops and cafes on the street, provision of street furniture on O'Connell Street including seating areas, trees, planting, bicycle stands, and lighting, as well as features such as sculptures, pedestrian plazas and water installations.</p>	<p>Granted planning permission with conditions</p>
<p><b>18399 (2018)</b>  <b>58-59 Thomas Street</b></p>	<p>a change of use from offices to one bed apartment on the second floor and all associated works both above and below ground</p>	<p>Granted planning permission with conditions</p>
<p><b>18824 (2018)</b>  <b>57 Thomas Street</b></p>	<p>the change of use from retail shop to café/ice-cream parlour</p>	<p>Granted planning permission with conditions</p>

<b>18204 (2018)</b> <b>51 Thomas Street</b>	a change of use from offices to one bed apartments on the first, second and third floors (three apartments in total). Permission is sought for modifications to the elevations to include the replacement of the existing windows first to third floor inclusively, replacement of ground floor entrance door and all associated works both above and below ground	Granted planning permission with conditions
<b>17581 (2017)</b> <b>49/50 Thomas Street and Augustinian Lane</b>	Retention permission for 3 no. vent, air handling unit and associated development works	Granted planning permission with conditions
The project however will not have the potential to combine with other land use activities to result in likely significant effects to qualifying habitats or species of the European sites.		
<b>Describe from the above the elements of the project or plan or combination of elements, where the above impacts are likely to be significant or where the scale of magnitude of impacts is not known.</b>		
Due to the minor scale, nature and design of the outdoor dining elements as described in Section 1.4 combined with the location within an established urban environment of built land and artificial surfaces, no significant effects are identified on the conservation management objectives of the River Shannon SAC or the River Shannon and Fergus Estuaries SPA.		

## 4 Conclusion

During the preparation of this Screening Report for Appropriate Assessment of the proposed outdoor dining experience in Bedford Row, Thomas Street and Augustinian Lane, Limerick City it was found that 6 European Sites were within a 15km radius of the project site. Two European Sites, the Lower River Shannon and the River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA were identified as occurring within the same surface water catchment as the project site. An examination of the projects potential to result in pollution to the Shannon catchment and resultant impacts to water quality was completed as part of this screening exercise. This was based on an examination of the project’s potential to undermine the water quality status of the River Shannon or groundwater baseflows that eventually discharge to the Shannon catchment. It has been found for the reasons set out in Section Three above that the project will not have the potential to result in negative impacts to the water quality of the Lower River Shannon SAC and will not perturb the conservation status of qualifying habitats, species or special conservation interests of the Lower River Shannon SAC or the River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA.

In light of the findings of this report it is the considered view of the authors of this Screening Report for Appropriate Assessment that it can be concluded by Limerick City and County Council that the project is not likely, alone or in-combination with other plans or projects, to have a significant effect on any European Sites in view of their Conservation Objectives and on the basis of best scientific evidence and there is no reasonable scientific doubt as to that conclusion.

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