

Environmental Impact Assessment

Screening according to Schedule III of S.L. 549.46

ERA Reference no.: EA 00018/25
PA Reference no.: N/A
Project Title: Proposed soakaway for flood relief purposes.
Location: Triq Wied is-Sewda, Zebbug.
Screening date: 04 August 2025

I. BACKGROUND

1. Outline of Proposal

1.1 The proposal includes the installation of a soakaway (as shown in figure 1) in Triq Wied is-Sewda, Haz-Zebbug to mitigate flooding caused by heavy rainfall in the aforementioned road.

1.2 The proposed works are envisaged to take c. one week for completion.

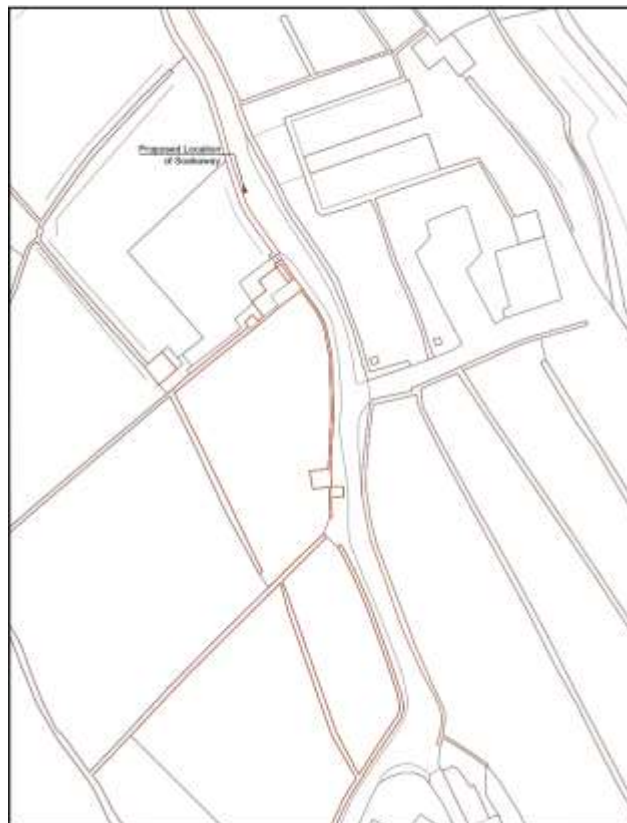


Figure 1: Block plan of the location for the proposed development (Source: PDS submitted directly to ERA via email on 09/07/2024)

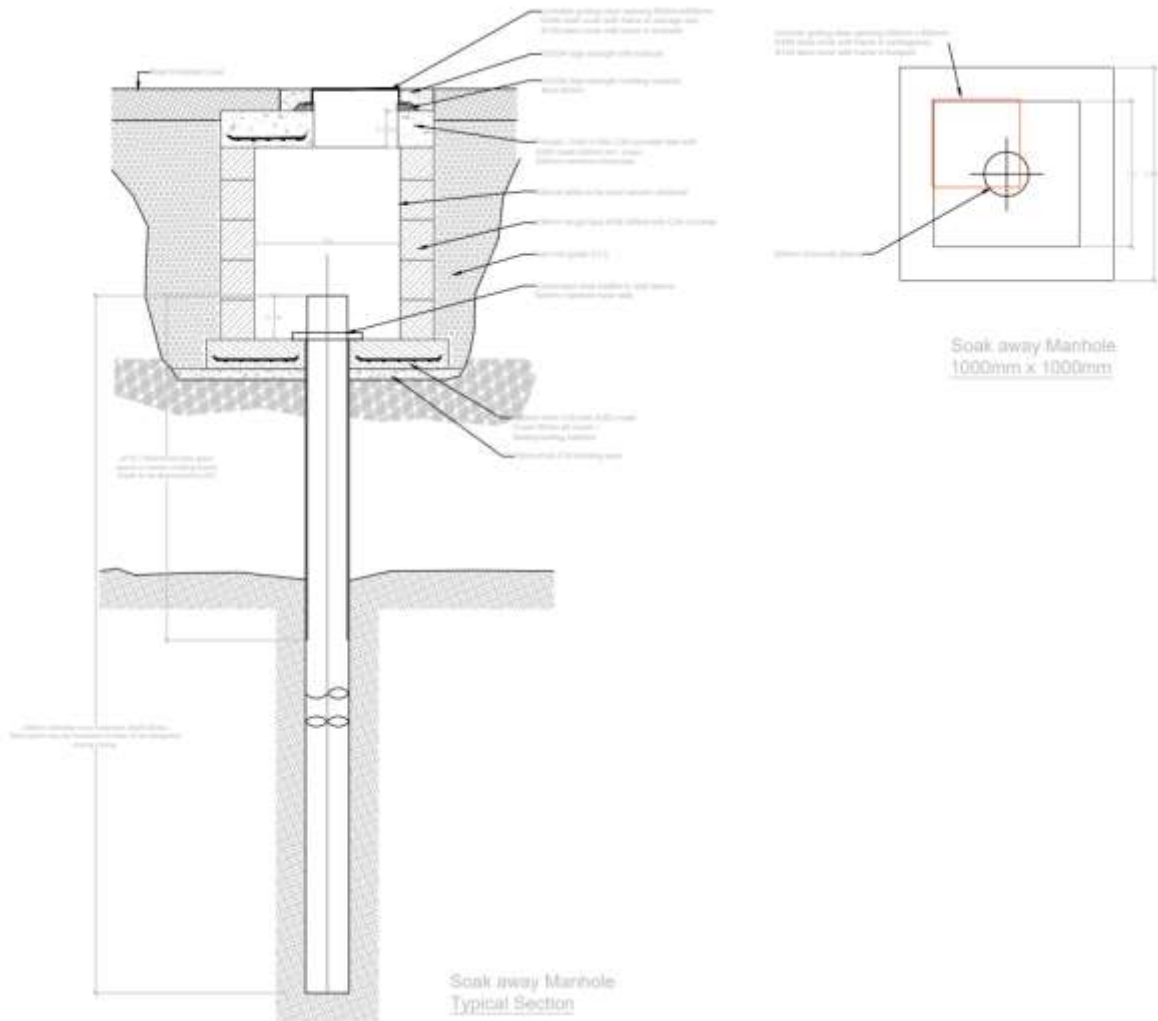


Figure 2: Section of the proposed development (Source: Email sent directly to ERA on 30/07/2025).

2. Site context

2.1 The site is situated approximately 400m northeast of Triq l-Imdina in the northern rural areas of Zebbug. The development is proposed to be located on an existing paved road and is primarily surrounded by agricultural land with a farmhouse adjacent (to the east) of the site (Figures 3-4).

2.2 The proposal is situated within Agricultural Areas as per Policy SMAG 01 and within a Valley Protection Zone as per SMCO 07 of Policy Map ZG 5 of the South Malta Local Plan (2006).



Figure 3: Close-up aerial ortho-photo showing the locations of the sites (Source: PA Geoserver 2018).

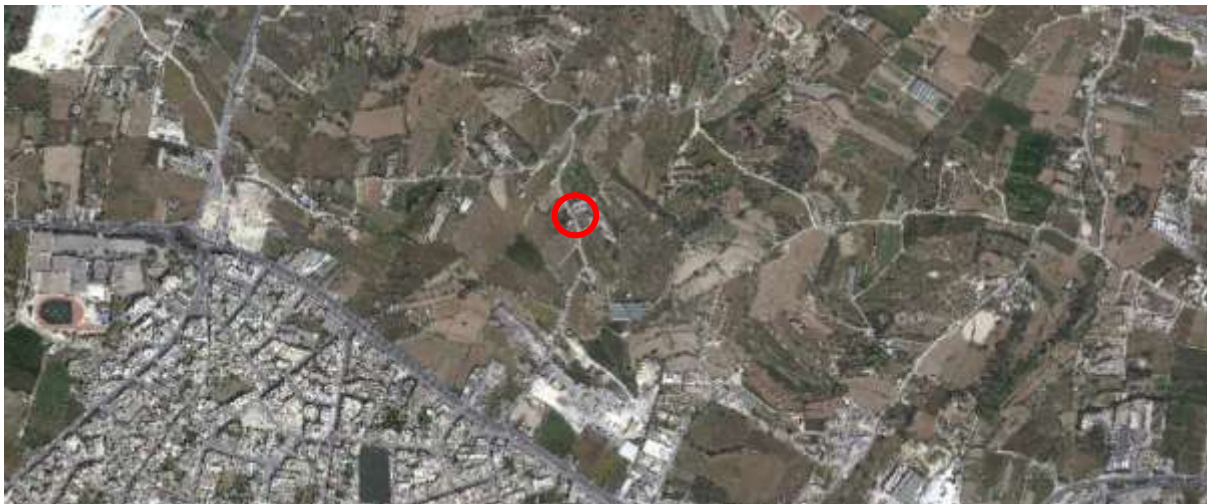


Figure 4: Aerial ortho-photo showing the locations of the sites (Source: PA Geoserver, 2018).

3. Screening Criteria

3.1 EIA Screening (citations refer to S.L. 549.46, except where otherwise specified):

The proposed development falls within the scope of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (S.L. 549.46), notably in terms of the following Category II criteria in Schedule I:

- 4.1.2.6 – *Canalization of flood-relief works.*

Therefore, the proposal was screened in terms of the EIA Regulations.

4. Documents used for screening

- Project Description Statement (PDS) referred directly to ERA via email on 9th July 2025.

II. ASSESSMENT OF PROPOSAL

5. Assessment of Impacts and Ancillary Considerations

(Screening in terms of Schedule III of the EIA Regulations, S.L. 549.46)

The proposed infrastructure is entirely situated underground, below the existing road and no changes to the road surface are proposed. In this regard, no significant impacts in terms of land use are expected. In fact, the installation of a soakaway is positive, given that it will reduce the negative impacts of flooding following intense rainfall.

Waste generation from the proposal is not significant as long as efforts are undertaken to maximise the reuse of the excavated material and all waste is managed in accordance with the Waste Management Regulations (S.L. 549.63).

Noise, vibrations, airborne dust and emissions from heavy machinery are expected to be generated during the construction phase, notably throughout boring. No significant impacts are envisaged as these will be temporary and underground. No operational impacts are envisaged.

III. ERA CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDED WAY FORWARD

The above screening concludes that the environmental impacts of the proposed infrastructure are unlikely to be significant. ERA does not object to the proposal from an environmental point of view, and no further assessment in terms of Regulation 15 of the EIA Regulations (S.L. 549.46) is required. The conditions annexed to this document (Annex II) are being referred.

Screening Disclaimer

The above screening results, the ensuing conclusions and recommendations are without prejudice to any required changes or updates should the development proposal be eventually modified or should the information/assumptions provided turn out to be incorrect. Any deviations of the proposal from this submission would need to be re-assessed and the merits of this screening would need to be re-opened.