

STATEMENT OF SCREENING FOR APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

OF A PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

AT

KILLINEY DART STATION/ BEACH CAR PARK

STATION ROAD

CO. DUBLIN

In Line with the Requirements of Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive



Prepared for

Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council

Prepared by

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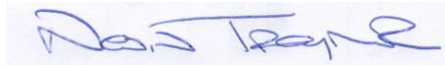
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This report refers, within the limitations stated, to the condition of the site at the time of the report. No warranty is given as to the possibility of future changes in the condition of the site. The report as presented is based on the information sources as detailed in this report, and hence maybe subject to review in the future if more information is obtained or scientific understanding changes.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

This report for the purposes of Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening has been prepared for the Proposed Development (described in Section 3 below). This report contains information required for the competent authority to undertake screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA) in respect of the New Fáilte Ireland Facility Centre for Water Based Activities and refurbishment of existing public toilet facilities at the Killiney DART Station/ Beach Car Park, Station Road, Co. Dublin (hereafter referred to as the Proposed Development) to determine whether it is likely individually or in combination with other plans and projects to have a significant effect on any European sites, in light of best scientific knowledge

Having regard to the provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended (the "Planning Acts") (section 177U), the purpose of a screening exercise under section 177U of the PDA 2000 is to assess, in view of best scientific knowledge, if the proposed development, individually or in combination with another plan or project, and in the absence of mitigation is likely to have a significant effect on a European site. If it cannot be excluded based on objective information that the proposed development, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will have a significant effect on a European site then it is necessary to carry out a Stage 2 appropriate assessment under section 177V of the Planning Acts.

When screening the project, there are two possible outcomes:

- the project poses no potential for a likely significant effect and as such requires no further assessment.
- the project has potential to have likely significant effect (or this is uncertain) unless mitigation measures are applied, and therefore an AA of the project is necessary.

1.2. Legislative Background - The Habitats and Birds Directives

Article 6 of the Habitats Directive is transposed into Irish Law inter alia by the Part XAB of the Planning Acts (section 177U and 177V) govern the requirement to carry out appropriate assessment screening and appropriate assessment, where required, per Section 1.1 above. The Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora) is the main legislative instrument for the protection and conservation of biodiversity in the European Union (EU). Under the Habitats Directive, Member States are obliged to designate Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) which contain habitats or species considered important for protection and conservation in an EU context.

The Birds Directive (Council Directive 2009/147/EC) recognises that certain species of birds should be subject to special conservation measures concerning their habitats. The Directive requires that Member States take measures to classify the most suitable areas as Special Protection Areas (SPAs) for the conservation of bird species listed in Annex 1 of the Directive. SPAs are selected for bird species (listed in Annex I of the Birds Directive), that are regularly occurring populations of migratory bird species, and the SPA areas are of international importance for these migratory birds.

The EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) requires that Member States designate and ensure that particular protection is given to sites (Special Areas of Conservation) which are made up of or support particular habitats and species listed in annexes to this Directive.

Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of this Directive also call for the undertaking of an Appropriate Assessment for plans and projects not directly connected with or necessary to the management of, but which are likely to have a significant effect on any European designated sites (i.e. SACs and SPAs).

The Water Framework Directive (WFD) (2000/60/EC), which came into force in December 2000, establishes a framework for community action in the field of water policy. The WFD was transposed into Irish law by the European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations 2003 (S.I. 722 of 2003). The WFD rationalises and updates existing legislation and provides for water management on the basis of River Basin Districts (RBDs). RBDs are essentially administrative areas for coordinated water management and are comprised of multiple river basins (or catchments), with cross-border basins (i.e. those covering the territory of more than one Member State) assigned to an international RBD. The aim of the WFD is to ensure that waters achieve at least good status by 2027, and that status does not deteriorate in any waters.

1.3 Appropriate Assessment and the Habitats Directive

Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Fauna and Flora – the 'Habitats Directive' - provides legal protection for habitats and species of European importance. Article 2 of the Directive requires the maintenance or restoration of habitats and species of European Community interest, at a favourable conservation status. Articles 3 - 9 provide the legislative means to protect habitats and species of Community interest through the establishment and conservation of an EU-wide network of sites known as *Natura 2000*. *Natura 2000* sites are Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) designated under the Habitats Directive and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) designated under the Conservation of Wild Birds Directive (79/409/EEC).

Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive sets out the decision-making tests for plans or projects affecting *Natura 2000* sites. Article 6(3) establishes the requirement for Appropriate Assessment:

"Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives. In the light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implications for the site and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, the competent national authorities shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public."

Article 6(4) deals with the steps that should be taken when it is determined, as a result of appropriate assessment, that a plan/project will adversely affect a European site. Issues dealing with alternative solutions, imperative reasons of overriding public interest and compensatory measures need to be addressed in this case.

Article 6(4) states:

"If, in spite of a negative assessment of the implications for the site and in the absence of alternative solutions, a plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature, the Member States shall take all compensatory measures necessary to ensure that the overall coherence of *Natura 2000* is protected. It shall inform the Commission of the compensatory measures adopted. Where the site concerned hosts a priority natural habitat type and/or a priority species, the only considerations which may be raised are those relating to human health or public safety, to beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment or, further to an opinion from the Commission to other imperative reasons of overriding public interest."

1.4 Statement of Competency

This AA Screening report was carried out by Noreen McLoughlin, BA, MSc, MCIEEM and Nevin Traynor Environmental Scientist BSc Env. Nevin has an honours degree in Environmental Science from Sligo IT. Nevin has over 25 years' experience as an Environmental Consultant in Ireland. Noreen has an honours degree in Zoology and an MSc in Freshwater Ecology from Trinity College, Dublin and she has been a full member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology

and Environmental Management for over 15 years. Noreen has over 17 years' experience as a professional ecologist in Ireland.

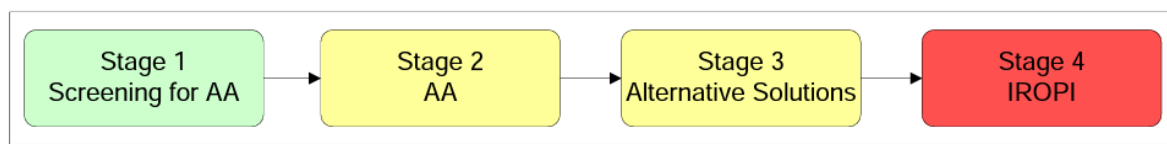
2.0 METHODOLOGY

The Commission's methodological guidance (EC, 2002, 2018, 2021 see Section 2.1 below) promotes a four-stage process to complete the AA and outlines the issues and tests at each stage. An important aspect of the process is that the outcome at each successive stage determines whether a further stage in the process is required. Stages 1 and 2 deal with the main requirements for assessment under Article 6(3). Stage 3 may be part of Article 6(3) or may be a necessary precursor to Stage 4. Stage 4 is the main derogation step of Article 6(4).

2.1 Stages of Appropriate Assessment

The AA process is a four-stage process. Each stage requires different considerations, assessments, and tests to ultimately arrive at the relevant conclusion for each stage. An important aspect of the process is that the outcome at each successive stage determines whether a further stage in the process is required (See Figure 1).

Figure 1. Overview of Screening and Appropriate Assessment (OPR, 2021).



The four stages of an AA can be summarised as follows:

- **Stage 1: Screening.** The first stage of the AA process is to determine the likelihood of significant effects of the Proposed Development, this address:
 - whether a plan or project is directly connected to or necessary for the management of the site, or
 - Whether a plan or project, alone or in combination with other plans and projects, is likely to have significant effects on a European site in view of its conservation objectives.
- **Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment.** The second stage of the AA requires the competent authority to determine whether the project or plan (either alone or in combination with other projects or plans) will have an adverse effect on the integrity of the European site, having regard to the conservation objectives of the site and its ecological structure and function. (Figure 1). The applicant must provide a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) to the competent authority to inform the AA, which is a statement, for the purposes of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive of the implications of a proposed development, on its own or in combination with other plans or projects, for one or more than one European site, in view of the conservation objectives of the site or sites. It must include a report of a scientific examination of evidence and data, carried out by competent persons to identify and classify any implications for one or more than one European site in view of the conservation objectives of the site or sites. The competent authority must consult with the public in relation to any plan or project that requires AA. If the competent authority determines that the plan or project would have an adverse effect on the integrity of any European site, it can only grant consent after proceeding through stages 3 and 4.
- **Stage 3: Assessment of alternative solutions.** If the outcome of Stage 2 is negative i.e., adverse impacts to the sites cannot be scientifically ruled out, despite mitigation, the plan or project should proceed to Stage 3 or be abandoned. This stage examines alternative solutions to the proposal.

- **Stage 4: Assessment where no alternative solutions exist and where adverse impacts remain.** The final stage is the main derogation process examining whether there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI) for allowing a plan or project to adversely affect a European site, where no less damaging solution exists.

To ensure that the Proposed Development complies fully with the requirements of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive and all relevant Irish transposing legislation, Traynor Environmental Ltd compiled this report to enable Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council to carry out AA screening in relation to the Proposed Development to determine whether the Proposed Development, individually or in combination with another plan or project will have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site.

2.2 Guidance

This report has been compiled in accordance with guidance contained in the following documents:

- European Commission (2018). *Managing Natura 2000 Sites: The Provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC*.
- European Commission (2021). *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*.
- Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government (2009). *Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland: Guidance for Planning Authorities*.
- Office of the Planning Regulator (2021). *Practice Note PN01: Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management*.
- Office of the Planning Regulator (2021). *Appropriate Assessment Screening Guidance for Development Management*.
- Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (as amended).
- Directive 2009/147/EC on the Conservation of Wild Birds (codified version).
- European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 477 of 2011), as amended.
- The AA has also been undertaken in consideration of the European Union (CJEU) judgment on Case C323/17 (People over Wind, Peter Sweetman v Coillte Teoranta), which concluded that "it is not appropriate, at the screening stage, to take account of the measures intended to avoid or reduce the harmful effects [mitigation] of the plan or project on that site.". Other caselaw relevant to Screening are Waddenze (C127/02), Holohan and Others v An Bord Pleanála (C461/17) and Court of Appeal case C1/2009/0041/QBACF Citation No [2009] EWCA Civ. 1061.
- Most recent and pertinent case law pertaining to AA screening comes from *Eco Advocacy v. An Bord Pleanála* Case C-721/21. This case recently determined that "standard design measures" can be included at design stage if they are an inherent part of the plan, namely a measure: 'incorporated into that plan or project as standard features, inherent in such a plan or project, irrespective of any effect on the site'.

2.3 Data Sources

Sources of information that were used to collect data on the Natura 2000 network of sites, and the environment within which they are located, are listed below:

Desktop Study

- The following mapping and Geographical Information Systems (GIS) data sources, as required:
 - National Parks & Wildlife (NPWS) protected site boundary data.
- Online data available on Natura 2000 sites as held by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) from www.npws.ie including:

- National Biodiversity Data Centre records.
 - Online database of rare, threatened, and protected species.
 - Publicly accessible biodiversity datasets.
- Status of EU Protected Habitats in Ireland. (National Parks & Wildlife Service, 2019); and
- Relevant Development Plans. Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Development Plan 2022-2028.
- Dún Laoighaire-Rathdown County Council- Plans of the Development and Further Information on planning history in the area for the assessment of cumulative impacts.

3.0 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

The project description is as follows:

Proposed Development: New Fáilte Ireland Facility Centre for Water Based Activities and refurbishment of existing public toilet facilities at the Killiney DART Station/ Beach Car Park, Station Road, Co. Dublin

Proposed development consists of a new Fáilte Ireland Facility Centre for Water Based Activities and refurbishment of existing public toilet facilities with associated site works and utility connections.

The new Fáilte Ireland Facility Centre for Water Based Activities includes:

- 1 no. accessible Changing Places WC with shower;
- 1 no. wheelchair Accessible WC with shower;
- 2 no. FI WCs;
- 3 no. shower/changing cubicles;
- 1 no. Cleaner's Store;
- 3 no. external showers;
- Sheltered Induction/ Training/ Social Area;
- Lockers and seating

The refurbished existing public toilet facilities include:

- 6 no. unisex WC cubicles;
- 1 no. unisex Ambulant WC cubicle;
- 1 no. wheelchair Accessible WC.

Also included are associated plant/ mechanical and electrical spaces, solar panels, pedestrian access route, landscaping, and minor changes to number and location of car parking spaces.

This 0.3887ha site is located at Killiney DART/ beach carpark. An extract from the planning drawings can be seen in Figures 1a and 1b

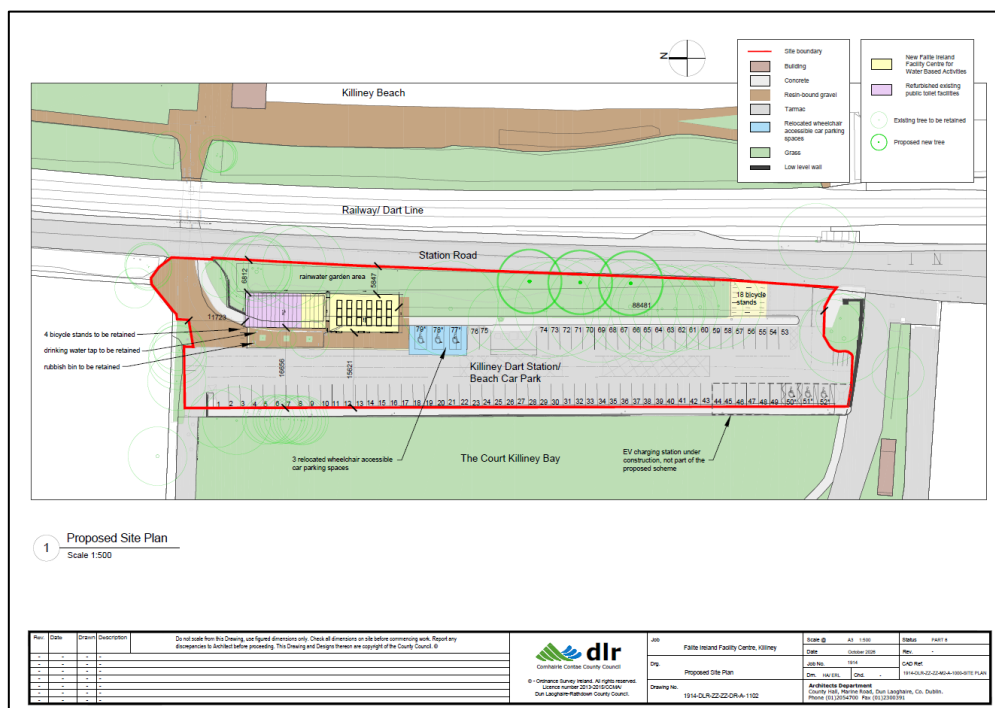


Figure 1A- Site Plan



Figure 1B (1) Proposed Sketch

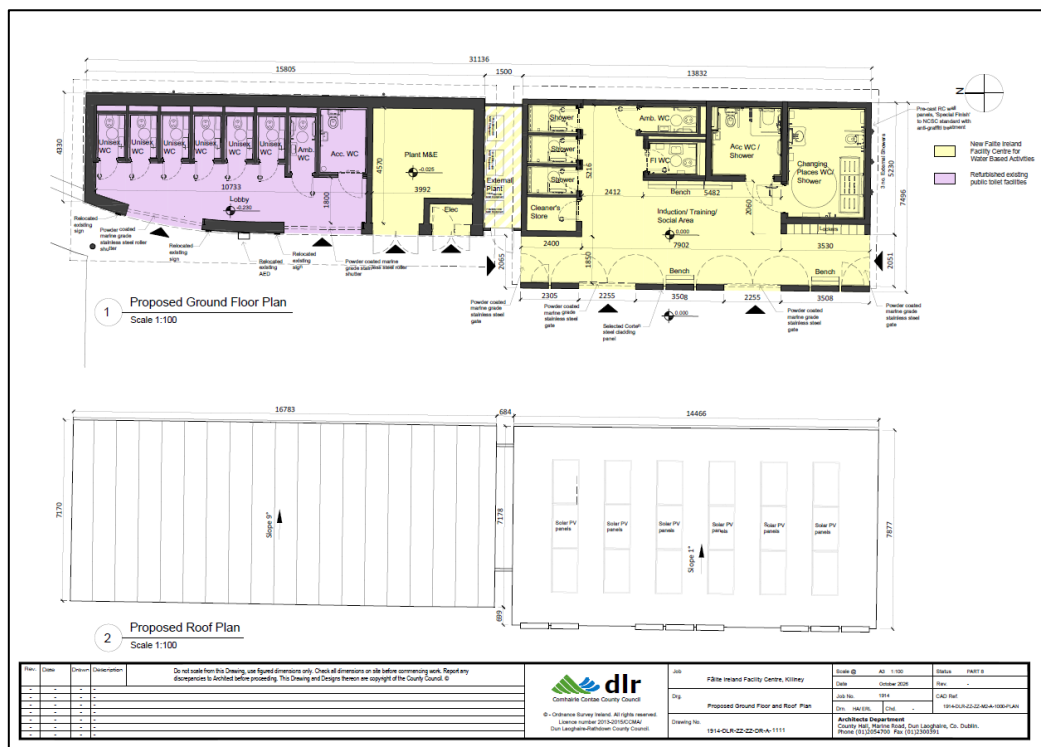


Figure 1B (2) Proposed Ground Floor and Roof Plans

Foul and Surface Water

All surface and foul water from the site, including the shower water will discharge to the public foul water sewer.

3.1 Site Location and Surrounding Environment

The site in question is approximately 0.3887ha and it is located at Killiney DART/ beach carpark, approximately 213m north of the dart entrance. The site lies within a prominent location in Killiney, and it will be accessed via two separate points along station road, north from Killiney beach and south from the DART station. The site of the proposed New Fáilte Ireland Facility Centre for Water Based Activities and refurbishment of existing public toilet facilities is located at the Killiney DART Station/ Beach Car Park, Station Road, Co. Dublin. The site is bounded with the Court Killiney Bay to the west and Station Road, DART line and Killiney beach to the east.

All works are contained within the urban / sub-urban areas of Killiney. The dominant habitats associated with these areas include Buildings and Artificial Surfaces (Fossitt Habitat Code BL3), along with areas of Amenity Grasslands (GA2), and Scattered Trees and Parkland (WD5). The new block will be constructed to the south of the existing toilet block, on an area of amenity grassland. There are a number of sycamore trees in the area, and some of these will be removed to facilitate the proposed development. There are no habitats of biodiversity value within the site.

The coastal habitats of Killiney Beach lie to the east of the site. These habitats include mud flats, sand flats, marshes, coastal grasslands and sand dunes, as well as open water habitats. Other habitats present locally include hedgerows, treelines and scattered trees.

Site location maps can be seen in Figures 2, 3 and 4, whilst an aerial photograph of the site and the surrounding habitats can be seen in Figure 5.



Figure 2 – Site Location Map (Site Pinned)

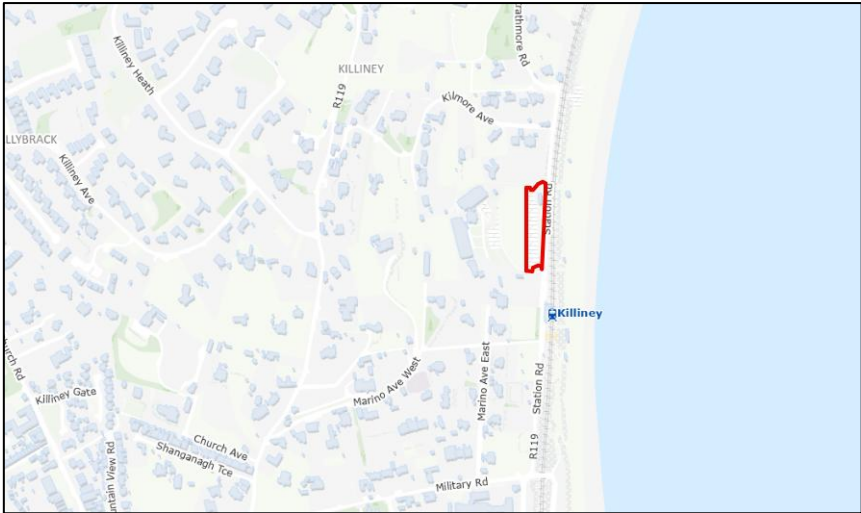


Figure 3 – Site Location Map (Application Site Outlined in Red)

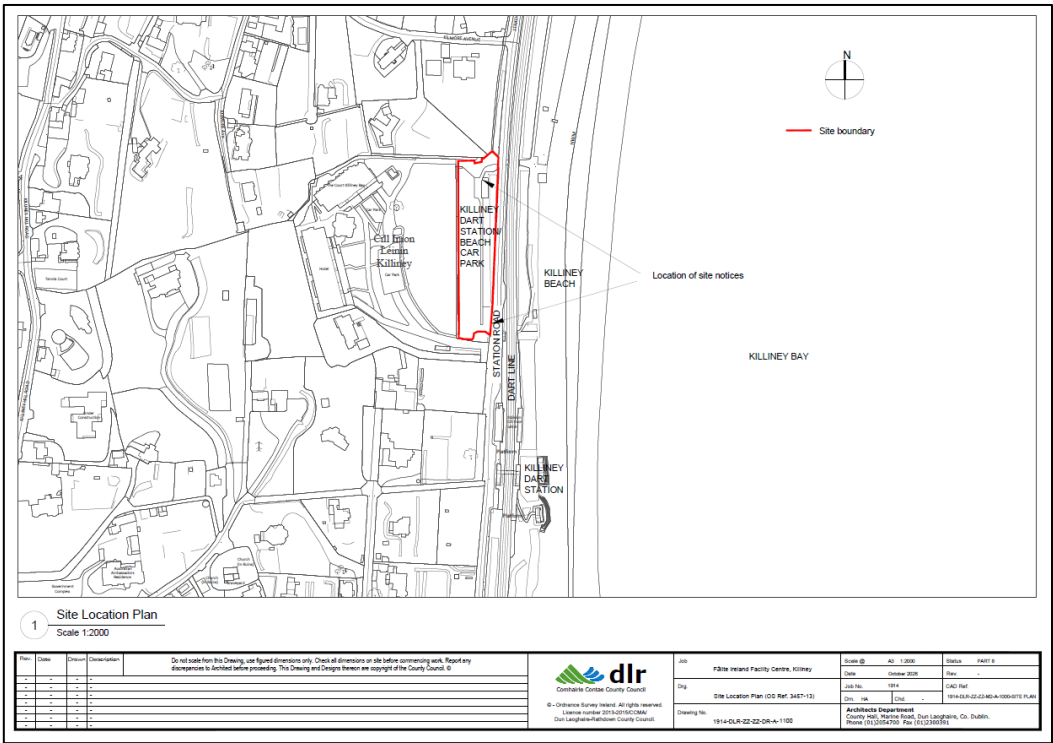


Figure 4 – Site Location Map in the Context of Proposed Future Residential and Link Road Developments (Site Outlined in Red)

3.2 Habitats within the Site

All works are contained within the urban / sub-urban areas of Killiney. The dominant habitats associated with these areas include Buildings and Artificial Surfaces (Fossitt Habitat Code BL3), along with areas of Amenity Grasslands (GA2), and Scattered Trees and Parkland (WD5). The coastal habitats of Killiney Beach lie to the east of the site. The new block will be constructed to the south of the existing toilet block, on an area of amenity grassland. There are a number of sycamore trees in the area, and some of these will be removed to facilitate the proposed development. There are no habitats of biodiversity value within the site.

3.3 Water Features and Quality

The proposed works area lies within the Ovoca-Vartry Hydrometric Area (10) and Catchment (10), the Dargle Sub-Catchment (010) and the Kill of the Grange Stream Sub-Basin (010). There are no watercourses within or adjacent to the area of proposed works. The closest watercourse to the site is the Kill-O-the-Grange Stream and this is c1km south of the application site. This stream discharges into Dublin Bay at Ballybrack. The site is adjacent to Killiney Beach, and it is approximately 42m west of the high tide mark.

The EPA have classified the ecological status of the Kill of the Grange Stream as poor. The ecological status of Dublin Bay is noted to be good. Under the requirements of the Water Framework Directive, this is unsatisfactory, as the objective is to achieve at least Good Ecological Status and prevent any deterioration in water quality. The current River Basin Management Plan seeks to achieve these objectives by 2027.

The site is within the Kilcullen Groundwater Body and the current status of this groundwater body is noted to be good.

4.0 IDENTIFICATION OF NATURA 2000 SITES

4.1 Description of Natura Sites Potentially Significantly Affected

In accordance with the guidelines issued by the Department of the Environment and Local Government, a list of Natura 2000 sites within 15km of the proposed development has been identified and described according to their site synopses, qualifying interests and conservation objectives. In addition, any other sites further than this, but potentially within its zone of influence can also be considered. The zone of influence may be determined by an assessment of the connectivity between the application site and the designated areas by virtue of hydrological connectivity, atmospheric emissions, flight paths, ecological corridors etc.

For significant effects to arise, there must be a potential impact facilitated by having a *source*, i.e., the proposed development and activities arising out of its construction or operation, a *receptor*, i.e., the European site and its qualifying interests and a subsequent *pathway* or *connectivity* between the source and receptor, e.g., a water course. The likelihood for significant effects on the European site will largely depend on the characteristics of the source (e.g., nature and scale of the construction works), the characteristics of the existing pathway and the characteristics of the receptor, e.g., the sensitivities of the Qualifying Interests (habitats or species) to changes in water quality.

A total of eighteen Natura 2000 sites were identified within 15km / Zone of Influence of the proposed works area. These designated areas and their closest points to the proposed development site are summarised in Table 1 and a map and aerial photograph showing their locations relative to the application site are shown in Figures 6. A full description of these sites can be read on the website of the National Parks and Wildlife Service (npws.ie).

Table 1 – Natura 2000 Sites Within 15km of the Proposed Site

Site Name & Code	Distance from Site	Qualifying Interests	Screened In / Out
Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC 003000	1.5km east	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reefs <i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) 	<p>Screened Out - There is no potential for direct effects as the proposed works area is located entirely outside the boundary of this SAC.</p> <p>There are no watercourses on the site, therefore there are no source-pathway-receptor linkages between the site and this SAC and significant effects arising from pollution during the construction and operation of proposed development can be ruled out.</p> <p>There will be no direct or indirect impacts or significant effects upon the QIs of this SAC.</p>

Dalkey Island SPA 004172	2.1km north-east	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roseate Tern (<i>Sterna dougallii</i>) Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) Arctic Tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) 	<p>Screened Out - There is no potential for direct effects as the proposed works area is located entirely outside the boundary of this SPA.</p> <p>There are no watercourses on the site, therefore there are no source-pathway-receptor linkages between the site and this SPA and significant effects arising from pollution during the construction and operation of proposed development can be ruled out.</p> <p>The site does not support any ex-situ habitat that could be used by the QIs of this SPA and significant effects upon these species will not arise.</p>
South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA 004024	4.9km north	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) Roseate Tern (<i>Sterna dougallii</i>) Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) Arctic Tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) Wetland and Waterbirds 	<p>Screened Out - There is no potential for direct effects as the proposed works area is located entirely outside the boundary of this SPA.</p> <p>There are no watercourses on the site, therefore there are no source-pathway-receptor linkages between the site and this SPA and significant effects arising from pollution during the construction and operation of proposed development can be ruled out.</p> <p>The site does not support any ex-situ habitat that could be used by the QIs of this SPA and significant effects upon these species will not arise.</p>

South Dublin Bay SAC 000210	5km north	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide • Annual vegetation of drift lines • Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand • Embryonic shifting dunes 	<p>Screened Out - There is no potential for direct effects as the proposed works area is located entirely outside the boundary of this SAC.</p> <p>There are no watercourses on the site, therefore there are no source-pathway-receptor linkages between the site and this SAC and significant effects arising from pollution during the construction and operation of proposed development can be ruled out.</p> <p>There will be no direct or indirect impacts or significant effects upon the QIs of this SAC.</p>
Ballyman Glen SAC 000713	6.3km south-west	Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) Alkaline fens	<p>Screened Out - There is no potential for direct effects as the proposed works area is located entirely outside the boundary of this SAC.</p> <p>There are no watercourses on the site, therefore there are no source-pathway-receptor linkages between the site and this SAC and significant effects arising from pollution during the construction and operation of proposed development can be ruled out.</p> <p>There will be no direct or indirect impacts or significant effects upon the QIs of this SAC.</p>
Bray Head SAC 000714	6.9km south	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts European dry heaths	<p>Screened Out - There is no potential for direct effects as the proposed works area is</p>

			<p>located entirely outside the boundary of this SAC.</p> <p>There are no watercourses on the site, therefore there are no source-pathway-receptor linkages between the site and this SAC and significant effects arising from pollution during the construction and operation of proposed development can be ruled out.</p> <p>There will be no direct or indirect impacts or significant effects upon the QIs of this SAC.</p>
Knocksink Wood SAC 000725	7.5km south-west	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) • Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (Alno-Padion, <i>Alnus incanae</i>, <i>Salix albae</i>) 	<p>Screened Out - There is no potential for direct effects as the proposed works area is located entirely outside the boundary of this SAC.</p> <p>There are no watercourses on the site, therefore there are no source-pathway-receptor linkages between the site and this SAC and significant effects arising from pollution during the construction and operation of proposed development can be ruled out.</p> <p>There will be no direct or indirect impacts or significant effects upon the QIs of this SAC.</p>
North-West Irish Sea SPA 004236	9.6km north	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Red-throated Diver(<i>Gavia stellata</i>) • Great Northern Diver(<i>Gavia immer</i>) • Fulmar(<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>) • Manx Shearwater(<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>) 	<p>Screened Out - There is no potential for direct effects as the proposed works area is located entirely outside the boundary of this SPA.</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cormorant(<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) • Shag(<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>) • Common Scoter(<i>Melanitta nigra</i>) • Little Gull(<i>Larus minutus</i>) • Black-headed Gull(<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) • Common Gull(<i>Larus canus</i>) • Lesser Black-backed Gull(<i>Larus fuscus</i>) • Herring Gull(<i>Larus argentatus</i>) • Great Black-backed Gull(<i>Larus marinus</i>) • Kittiwake(<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) • Roseate Tern(<i>Sterna dougallii</i>) • Common Tern(<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) • Arctic Tern(<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) • Little Tern(<i>Sterna albifrons</i>) • Guillemot(<i>Uria aalge</i>) • Razorbill(<i>Alca torda</i>) • Puffin(<i>Fratercula arctica</i>) 	<p>There are no watercourses on the site, therefore there are no source-pathway-receptor linkages between the site and this SPA and significant effects arising from pollution during the construction and operation of proposed development can be ruled out.</p> <p>The site does not support any ex-situ habitat that could be used by the QIs of this SPA and significant effects upon these species will not arise.</p>
Wicklow Mountains SAC 002122	9.7km west	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>) • Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds • Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> • European dry heaths • Alpine and Boreal heaths • Calaminarian grasslands of the <i>Violetalia calaminariae</i> • Species-rich <i>Nardus</i> grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas 	<p>Screened Out - There is no potential for direct effects as the proposed works area is located entirely outside the boundary of this SAC.</p> <p>There are no watercourses on the site, therefore there are no source-pathway-receptor linkages between the site and this SAC and significant effects arising from pollution during the construction and operation of proposed development can be ruled out.</p>

		<p>(and submountain areas, in Continental Europe)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blanket bogs (* if active bog) Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (Androsacetalia alpinae and Galeopsietalia ladani) Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles <i>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter) 	<p>There will be no direct or indirect impacts or significant effects upon the QIs of this SAC.</p>
Wicklow Mountains SPA 004040	9.8km west	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>) Peregrine (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>) 	<p>Screened Out - There is no potential for direct effects as the proposed works area is located entirely outside the boundary of this SPA.</p> <p>There are no watercourses on the site, therefore there are no source-pathway-receptor linkages between the site and this SPA and significant effects arising from pollution during the construction and operation of proposed development can be ruled out.</p> <p>The site does not support any ex-situ habitat that could be used by the QIs of this SPA and significant effects upon these species will not arise.</p>
North Bull Island SPA 004006	10km north	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) Shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>) 	<p>Screened Out - There is no potential for direct effects as the proposed works area is located entirely outside the boundary of this SPA.</p> <p>There are no watercourses on the site, therefore there are no</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) • Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) • Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) • Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) • Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) • Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) • Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) • Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) • Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) • Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) • Turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>) • Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) • Wetland and Waterbirds 	<p>source-pathway-receptor linkages between the site and this SPA and significant effects arising from pollution during the construction and operation of proposed development can be ruled out.</p> <p>The site does not support any ex-situ habitat that could be used by the QIs of this SPA and significant effects upon these species will not arise.</p>
North Dublin Bay SAC 000206	10km north	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide • Annual vegetation of drift lines • Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand • Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glaucopuccinellietalia maritimae</i>) • Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia arenaria</i>) • Embryonic shifting dunes • Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) • Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) • Humid dune slacks • <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> (Petalwort) 	<p>Screened Out - There is no potential for direct effects as the proposed works area is located entirely outside the boundary of this SAC.</p> <p>There are no watercourses on the site, therefore there are no source-pathway-receptor linkages between the site and this SAC and significant effects arising from pollution during the construction and operation of proposed development can be ruled out.</p> <p>There will be no direct or indirect impacts or significant effects upon the QIs of this SAC.</p>

Howth Head SAC 000202	11.6km north	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vegetated sea cliffs off the Atlantic and Baltic Coasts European dry heaths 	<p>Screened Out - There is no potential for direct effects as the proposed works area is located entirely outside the boundary of this SAC.</p> <p>There are no watercourses on the site, therefore there are no source-pathway-receptor linkages between the site and this SAC and significant effects arising from pollution during the construction and operation of proposed development can be ruled out.</p> <p>There will be no direct or indirect impacts or significant effects upon the QIs of this SAC.</p>
Howth Head Coast SPA 004113	12km north	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kittiwake <i>Rissa tridactyla</i> 	<p>Screened Out - There is no potential for direct effects as the proposed works area is located entirely outside the boundary of this SPA.</p> <p>There are no watercourses on the site, therefore there are no source-pathway-receptor linkages between the site and this SPA and significant effects arising from pollution during the construction and operation of proposed development can be ruled out.</p> <p>The site does not support any ex-situ habitat that could be used by the QIs of this SPA and significant effects upon these species will not arise.</p>
The Murrough SPA 004186	12.2km south	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Red-throated Diver (<i>Gavia stellata</i>) 	<p>Screened Out - There is no potential for direct effects as the proposed works area is</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greylag Goose (<i>Anser anser</i>) • Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) • Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) • Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) • Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) • Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) • Little Tern (<i>Sterna albifrons</i>) • Wetland and Waterbirds 	<p>located entirely outside the boundary of this SPA.</p> <p>There are no watercourses on the site, therefore there are no source-pathway-receptor linkages between the site and this SPA and significant effects arising from pollution during the construction and operation of proposed development can be ruled out.</p> <p>The site does not support any ex-situ habitat that could be used by the QIs of this SPA and significant effects upon these species will not arise.</p>
Glen of the Downs SAC 000719	12.6km south	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles 	<p>Screened Out - There is no potential for direct effects as the proposed works area is located entirely outside the boundary of this SAC.</p> <p>There are no watercourses on the site, therefore there are no source-pathway-receptor linkages between the site and this SAC and significant effects arising from pollution during the construction and operation of proposed development can be ruled out.</p> <p>There will be no direct or indirect impacts or significant effects upon the QIs of this SAC.</p>
Baldoyle Bay SAC 000199	14.9km north	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide • <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand 	<p>Screened Out - There is no potential for direct effects as the proposed works area is located entirely outside the boundary of this SAC.</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima) • Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) 	<p>There are no watercourses on the site, therefore there are no source-pathway-receptor linkages between the site and this SAC and significant effects arising from pollution during the construction and operation of proposed development can be ruled out.</p> <p>There will be no direct or indirect impacts or significant effects upon the QIs of this SAC.</p>
Baldoyle Bay SPA 004016	14.9km north	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) • Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) • Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) • Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) • Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) • Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) • Wetland and Waterbirds 	<p>Screened Out - There is no potential for direct effects as the proposed works area is located entirely outside the boundary of this SPA.</p> <p>There are no watercourses on the site, therefore there are no source-pathway-receptor linkages between the site and this SPA and significant effects arising from pollution during the construction and operation of proposed development can be ruled out.</p> <p>The site does not support any ex-situ habitat that could be used by the QIs of this SPA and significant effects upon these species will not arise.</p>

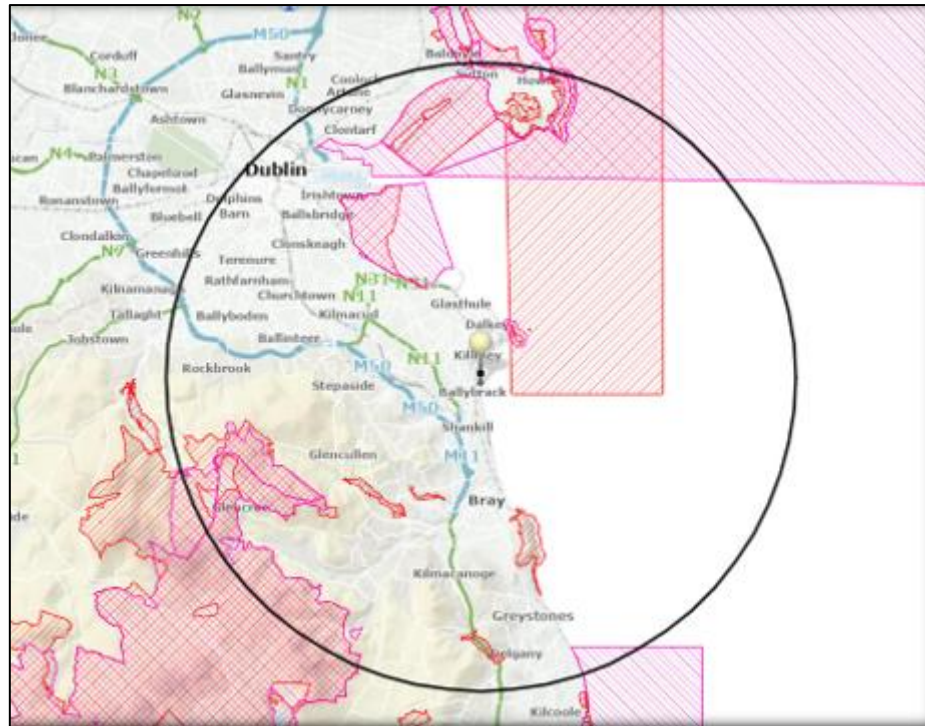


Figure 6 - Location of the proposed development boundary and Natura 2000 sites located within a 15km radius of the site.

5.0 IDENTIFICATION OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS & ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Proposed Development is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the sites considered in the assessment and therefore potential impacts must be identified and considered.

5.1. Assessment of Likely Significant Effects

The proposed development of the New Fáilte Ireland Facility Centre for Water Based Activities and refurbishment of existing public toilet facilities at the Killiney DART Station/ Beach Car Park, Station Road, Co. Dublin. The proposed works area has no hydrological, ecological or other environmental connectivity to any Natura 2000 site. Having regard to the nature, scale and location of the proposed works, there are no identified source–pathway–receptor linkages by which the development could give rise to direct, indirect or in-combination effects on any Natura 2000 site within the potential Zone of Influence of the application site. There are no individual elements of the proposed project that are likely to result in significant effects on any Natura 2000 site or on the Qualifying Interests or Special Conservation Interests for which these sites have been designated. Having regard to the absence of any identified impact pathway or ecological connectivity between the proposed works area and the Natura 2000 sites identified, it can be concluded, on the basis of objective scientific information, that the proposed development, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will not have a significant effect on any Natura 2000 site. No mitigation measures are required to avoid or reduce effects on any Natura 2000 site.

The consideration of all potential direct and indirect impacts that may result in significant effects on the conservation objectives of a European site, considering the size and scale of the Proposed Development are presented in Table 3.

Table 3 Assessment of Likely Significant Effects

Identification of all potential direct and indirect secondary impacts that may result in significant effects on the conservation objectives of a European site, considering the size and scale of the project.	
Impacts:	Significance of Impacts:
Construction phase e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Surface water runoff from soil excavation - Dust, Noise, Vibration - Lighting disturbance - Impact on groundwater/dewatering - Storage of excavated/construction materials - Access to site - Construction Compound Area 	<p>Size and scale: Having regard to the small size and scale of the proposed works and the absence of any identified impact pathway between the works area and the Natura 2000 sites identified, the proposed development is not likely to result in direct, indirect or cumulative impacts on these designated sites.</p> <p>Land-take: There will be no land-take from the Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC. There will be no interference with the boundaries of any Natura 2000 site. There will be no loss of designated habitat or any habitat outside the Natura 2000 network that provides a recognised ecological connection to a designated site.</p> <p>Distance from Natura 2000 site or key features of the site: There are Eighteen Natura 2000 sites within 15km of the application site. The closest of these is the Rockabill to Dalkey Islands SPA, located approximately 1.5 km east of the site. There is no hydrological connectivity between the proposed works area and this SPA or any other SAC or SPA within 15 km of the site. The Natura 2000 sites identified are therefore not considered to be within a source–pathway–receptor relationship with the proposed works.</p> <p>Resource requirements (water abstraction etc.): No resources will be taken from any Natura 2000 site and there are no resource requirements that will impact upon any Natura 2000 site.</p>
Operational phase e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Direct emission to air and water - Surface water runoff containing contaminant or sediment. - Lighting disturbance - Noise/vibration 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Changes to water/groundwater due to drainage or abstraction - Presence of people, vehicles, and activities - Physical presence of structures (e.g. collision risks) - Potential for accidents or incidents - Requirements for Backwashing process. 	<p>Emissions: Neither the construction nor the operation of the proposed development will result in any direct emissions into the Rockabill to Dalkey Islands SPA. There are no watercourses on the site and therefore there will be no direct run-off from the site into any watercourse during construction or operation. The construction works will generate temporary emissions such as noise, dust, airborne pollutants and vibration. However, having regard to the nature and scale of the works, the separation distance involved and, in particular, the absence of any identified source–pathway–receptor connection to a Natura 2000 site, these emissions are not considered likely to result in significant effects on any Natura 2000 site.</p> <p>Excavation requirements: Construction and demolition waste and excavated material arising from the site will be removed to an appropriately authorised facility by a suitably registered contractor. There will be no disposal of material within any Natura 2000 site and no excavation works will take place within any Natura 2000 site.</p> <p>Transportation requirements: There will be no additional transportation requirements resulting from the proposed development and associated works that will have any impact upon the Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC.</p> <p>In-Combination / Cumulative Impacts: The proposed works have been considered in combination with other existing and proposed developments within the wider Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown area. Having regard to the nature and scale of the proposed development and the absence of any identified impact pathway to a Natura 2000 site, no potential for significant in-combination effects has been identified.</p> <p>Plans and projects that have the potential to significantly affect a Natura 2000 site are subject to Appropriate Assessment, where required, under Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive. The proposed development is not considered likely to contribute to any significant in-combination effect on a Natura 2000 site.</p> <p>Duration of construction, operation, decommissioning etc: The proposed works are expected to be completed within a matter of months. The works will therefore be temporary in nature. The operation of the proposed facility will not result in any identified impact pathway to a Natura 2000 site.</p>
Describe any likely changes to the European site:	
Examples of the type of changes given consideration:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reduction or fragmentation of habitat area - Disturbance to QI species - Habitat or species fragmentation - Reduction or fragmentation in species density - Changes in key indicators of 	<p>Reduction of habitat area: The proposed development lies outside of the boundaries of the Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC. There will be no impacts upon any protected habitats or species arising from the proposed works. There will be no loss of any habitat of biodiversity value arising from the proposed works.</p> <p>Disturbance to key species: The bird species identified as qualifying interests of the SPAs within 15 km of the site are predominantly waterbird species associated with estuarine, intertidal and coastal habitats within the wider Dublin area. These species will not be directly affected by the construction or operation of the proposed works.</p> <p>Habitat or species fragmentation: There will be no habitat or species fragmentation within any SAC or SPA. No ecological corridors between the</p>

<p>conservation status value (water quality etc.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Changes to areas of sensitivity or threats to QI - Interference with the key relationships that define the structure or ecological function of the site. - Climate change 	<p>site and this SAC or SPAs will be damaged or destroyed. There will be no loss of any habitat of biodiversity value.</p> <p>Reduction in species density: There will be no reduction in species density within any SAC or SPA arising from the proposed works. There will be no reduction in bird density within any SPA arising from the development. There will be no loss of non-designated supporting habitat identified as being used by qualifying interest bird species.</p> <p>Changes in key indicators of conservation value (water quality etc.): There will be no negative impacts on surface water or groundwater quality within any SAC or SPA. There will be no deterioration in water quality within any designated site or in any watercourse that could provide a pathway to a Natura 2000 site.</p>
Describe any likely impacts on the nearby Natura 2000 sites as a whole in terms of:	
Interference with the key relationships that define the structure or function of the site: It is not considered likely that there will be any impacts on the key relationships that define the structure or function of the Natura 2000 sites identified.	
Provide indicators of significance as a result of the identification of effects set out above in terms of:	
<p>Loss - Estimated percentage of lost area of habitat: None</p> <p>Fragmentation: None</p> <p>Disruption & disturbance: None</p> <p>Change to key elements of the site (e.g. water quality etc.): None</p>	

5.2 Assessment of Potential In-Combination Effects

In-combination effects are changes in the environment that result from numerous human-induced, small-scale alterations. In-combination effects can be thought of as occurring through two main pathways: first, through persistent additions or losses of the same materials or resource, and second, through the compounding effects as a result of the coming together of two or more effects.

As part of the Screening for Appropriate Assessment, it is necessary to consider the Proposed Development both alone and in combination with other relevant plans and projects that may affect the same European sites. This stage of the assessment seeks to identify any potential for likely significant effects arising from the cumulative impacts of the Proposed Development when considered alongside other existing, permitted, proposed or approved developments within the surrounding area.

A review of relevant plans and projects within the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown area was undertaken, including projects identified through Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council planning records. The following projects were considered relevant in the assessment of potential in-combination effects:

- D26A/0194/WEB (Rathvendon, Kilmore Avenue, Killiney, Co. Dublin) - The proposal will involve increasing the width of the existing gate entrance,
- D25A/0851/WEB (Currabinny, Kilmore Avenue, Killiney, Co. Dublin) - Retention Planning Permission for existing porch to front & balcony
- Community-Based Home (Watson Road, Killiney) - The development provides safe, secure and high-quality accommodation within the local community, with the appropriate supports in place to enable residents to live with greater independence, dignity and choice.

Having regard to the nature, scale and location of the Proposed Development, and considering the characteristics of the above plans and projects, no pathways were identified by which the Proposed Development could act in combination with these projects to result in likely significant effects on any European site. Therefore, it is concluded that the Proposed Development, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects, will not result in likely significant effects on any European site.

The DLR County Development Plan 2022- 2028 and DLR Biodiversity Plan have been considered in this review. These proposed works in combination with other projects will have no significant effect upon the Natura 2000 sites identified. The application site has no hydrological or ecological connectivity to any Natura 2000 site. The Dún Laoghaire County Council Climate Action Plan (CCAP) 2024-2029 has also been taken into consideration.

5.3 Finding of no Significant Effects

5.3.1 Name of project or plan

Proposed New Fáilte Ireland Facility Centre for Water Based Activities and refurbishment of existing public toilet facilities at the Killiney DART Station/ Beach Car Park, Station Road, Co. Dublin.

5.3.2 Name and location of the Natura 2000 site(s)

There are eighteen Natura 2000 sites within 15km of this proposed development. The closest of these is the Rockabill to Dalkey SPA which is 1.5km east of the site. There is no hydrological connectivity between the proposed works area and this SPA, or any other SPA/SPA within 15km of the site.

5.3.3 Is the project or plan directly connected with or necessary to the management of the Natura 2000 site(s)

No

5.3.4 Are there other projects or plans that together with the projects or plan being assessed could affect the site.

No.

5.4 Assessment of Significance Effects.

5.4.1 Describe how the project is likely to affect the Natura 2000 site

Having regard to the location, nature and scale of the proposed development, it is considered that there is no potential for significant effects either from the proposed development on its own or in combination with other plans and projects.

5.4.2 Explain why these effects are not considered significant.

Not applicable as there is no potential for significant negative effects.

5.4.3 Describe how the project is likely to affect species designated under Annex II of the Habitats Directive.

No significant effects likely.

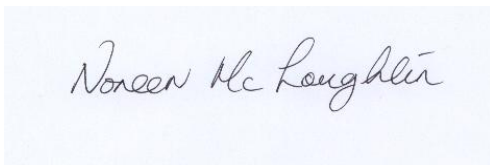
6.0 APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT CONCLUSION

In accordance with Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive, the relevant case law, established best practice and the precautionary principle, this AA Screening Report has examined the details of the project in relation to the relevant Natura 2000 sites within 15km of the proposed works area.

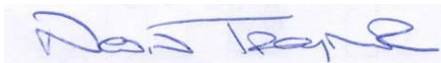
At this stage of the AA process, it is for the competent authority, i.e., Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, to carry out the screening for AA and to reach one of the following determinations:

- I. AA of the proposed development is required if it cannot be excluded, on the basis of objective information, that the proposed development, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will not have a significant effect on any European sites;
- II. AA of the proposed development is not required if it can be excluded, on the basis of objective information, that the proposed development, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will not have a significant effect on any European sites.

It is of the opinion of the author that an AA of the proposed development is not required as it can be excluded, on the basis of objective information provided in this report, that the proposed development, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will not have a significant effect on any European sites. Therefore, this proposed project does not need to proceed to Stage II of the Appropriate Assessment Process, i.e., a Natura Impact Statement (NIS).



Noreen McLoughlin, MSc, MCIEEM.



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