

Article 6 (3) Appropriate Assessment Screening Report

Living Streets: Coastal
Mobility Route





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Table of Contents

1.1	Background	5
1.2	Statement of Authority	5
2.	DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT	6
2.1	Site Location	6
2.2	Characteristics of the Proposed Development	6
2.2.1	Description of the project	6
2.2.1.1	Cycle Track and Cycle Lane Construction Details	7
2.2.1.2	Alterations to current drainage systems	7
2.2.1.3	Demolition works required to existing road and footpaths	7
2.2.1.4	Management of Trees and Grassland	7
2.2.1.5	Traffic	7
2.2.2	Description of the Baseline Ecological Environment	9
3.	IDENTIFICATION OF RELEVANT EUROPEAN SITES	13
3.1	Identification of the European Sites within the Likely Zone of Impact	13
3.2	Likely Cumulative Impact of the Proposed Works on European Sites, in-combination with other plans and projects	31
3.2.1	Projects	31
3.2.2	Plans	34
4.	ARTICLE 6(3) APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT SCREENING STATEMENT AND CONCLUSIONS	39
4.1	Data Collected to Carry Out Assessment	39
4.2	Concluding Statement	39
	BIBLIOGRAPHY	40

TABLE OF FIGURES

<i>Figure 2-1 Site Layout</i>	8
<i>Figure 3-1 European sites within the Likely Zone of Influence</i>	14

TABLE OF PLATES

<i>Plate 2-1 Buildings and Artificial Surfaces (BL3) (Road, Pathways, Cycle Lane, Concrete wall, Residential dwellings) at Seapoint Avenue (Section A) to the south of the works area</i>	10
<i>Plate 2-2 Buildings and Artificial Surfaces (BL3) (Road, Pathways, Cycle Lane, Concrete wall, Public Buildings) at Coal Quay Bridge (Section B) to the south of the works area</i>	10
<i>Plate 2-3 Buildings and Artificial Surfaces (BL3) (Road, Pathways, Cycle Lane, Concrete wall, Public Buildings) on Queen’s Street to the East of Dun Laoghaire Harbour (Section C), in the centre of the works area</i>	11
<i>Plate 2-4 Buildings and Artificial Surfaces (BL3) (Road, Pathways, Cycle Lane, Concrete wall, Public Buildings) to the east of Dun Laoghaire Baths (Section D)</i>	11
<i>Plate 2-5 Buildings and Artificial Surfaces (BL3) (Pathways, Cycle Lane, Concrete wall, Public Buildings) facing Sandycove 40ft swimming area (Section E), to the north of the works area</i>	12
<i>Plate 2-6 Treeline (WL2) dominated by Sycamore (Acer pseudoplatanus) located on Queen’s Street to the east of Dun Laoghaire Harbour</i>	12



TABLE OF TABLES

<i>Table 3-1 Identification of Designated sites within the Likely Zone of Impact.....</i>	15
<i>Table 3-2 Review of Relevant Policies and Objectives</i>	35

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

MKO has been appointed to provide the information necessary to allow the undertaking of an Article 6(3) Screening for Appropriate Assessment for the proposed road upgrade works in Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin.

Screening for Appropriate Assessment is required under Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (the Habitats Directive). Where it cannot be excluded that a project or plan, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, would have a significant effect on a European Site then same shall be subject to an appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives. The current project is not directly connected with, or necessary for, the management of any European Site consequently the project has been subject to the Appropriate Assessment Screening process.

The assessment in this report is based on a desk study and field surveys undertaken on the 18/02/2023. It specifically assesses the potential for the proposed development to result in significant effects on European sites in the absence of any best practice, mitigation, or preventative measures.

This Appropriate Assessment Screening Report has been prepared in accordance with the European Commission's Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly affecting Natura 2000 Sites: Methodological Guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (EC, 2021) and Managing Natura 2000 Sites: the provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC (EC, 2018) as well as the Department of the Environment's Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland - Guidance for Planning Authorities (DoEHLG, 2010) and the Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management. Office of the Planning Regulator, Dublin 7, Ireland OPR (2021).

1.2 Statement of Authority

A baseline ecological survey was undertaken on the 18/02/2023 by Rachel Minogue (BSc) of MKO. This report has been prepared by Rachel Minogue (BSc). RM is a graduate ecologist with MKO with relevant academic qualifications in Environmental Science. This report has been reviewed by Colin Murphy (B.Sc., MSc). Colin is an experienced project ecologist and has over 2 years' professional consultancy experience.

2. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

2.1 Site Location

The site of the proposed works is located in Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin (Grid Reference: O 24225 28865). The proposed works commence at Seapoint Avenue Junction and continues to Sandycove 40ft swimming area. The total works area is 4.5km of roads, 3.6km of which is segregated for cyclists. To the northwest of the proposed works is South Dublin Bay SAC (42m). To the north of the proposed works is Dublin Bay and Dun Laoghaire Harbour. To the east, west, and south is existing roads, dart lines and residential/ public buildings. The site is accessed via the N31.

The site location is seen in Figure 2.1.

2.2 Characteristics of the Proposed Development

2.2.1 Description of the project

The Living Streets: Coastal Mobility Route in Dun Laoghaire is a transportation project aiming to improve mobility and connectivity along the coast. In 2020 DLRCC implemented a temporary one-way traffic system from Blackrock to Sandycove and reallocated the surplus road space to a two-way segregated cycle track. The route runs along the coast road for 3.6km with segregated cycle facilities, and 4.5km in total from Seapoint to Sandycove via Dún Laoghaire. There is a portion of the route from Old Dunleary Road/Coal Quay Bridge through Harbour Road to Queen's Road in Dún Laoghaire that is shared with vehicular traffic and not segregated.

The proposed works will further improve this temporary route and make it permanent. The works consist of the following:

- Introduction of a new 850m long section of segregated two-way cycle track on Crofton Road and Queen St to connect the existing segregated facilities from Coal Quay Bridge to East Pier, and introduction of a new 130m long section of two-way cycle track on Newtown Ave. Together this will create a continuous segregated two-way cycle route for the entire 4.5km route.
- Junction improvement works at Coal Quay Bridge, Crofton Road/Marine Road and Cumberland St junctions.
- Pedestrian improvements including junction tightening and raised crossings at 13 minor junctions along the route.
- Areas of new low-level planting and tree planting, including incorporating SUDs measures such as rain gardens where possible.
- Development of a parklet along the coast on Marine Parade, including in ground planting and new seating areas. Also includes hard landscaping works on Sandycove Avenue West/Sandycove Point.
- New granite kerbs to replace the temporary bolt down kerbs that provide the segregation between cyclists and motorists.
- Decommissioning of some existing road gullies which no longer align with new kerbs. New road gullies and connections are required only where the alignment has been altered.
- Some of the existing footpaths will be broken out and replaced.
- Changes in direction of traffic on Windsor Terrace.

2.2.1.1 Cycle Track and Cycle Lane Construction Details

The proposed section of new two-way cycle track will be constructed in accordance with the National Cycle Manual. For the section along Crofton Road the levels will be raised and a “no dig” approach used to avoid impacting on the roots of trees. Along the majority of the already segregated section, it is only proposed to change the temporary kerbs to a permanent one, with no other works proposed.

2.2.1.2 Alterations to current drainage systems

The impermeable area associated with the existing scenario will be reduced marginally when compared to the proposed scenario. As such, there is no requirement to upgrade the existing drainage network or outfalls within the scheme extents. Existing road gullies will be decommissioned only where they are no longer aligned with kerbs. New gullies and connections will be required in areas where the alignment has changed. Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDs) will be incorporated in the design, new area of planting that act as rain gardens will be included along the route where feasible.

2.2.1.3 Demolition works required to existing road and footpaths.

Where junction improvements are being proposed the existing wearing course on the road surface will need to be removed and replaced. In places where existing road space is being reallocated to landscaping or planting the road will need to be excavated to a min depth of 400mm to provide sufficient soil depth. Some of the existing footpaths will need to be broken out to facilitate the scheme.

2.2.1.4 Management of Trees and Grassland

All existing trees along the route will be retained and there will be new ones planted. Areas of new low-level planting will also be included along with the development of a parklet along the coast on Marine Parade. At detailed design stage a tree protection plan will be developed in collaboration with a suitable qualified arborist to ensure that the trees are not negatively impacted by the works. This will likely involve a no dig construction methodology and inclusion of aeration pipes to feed air to the roots.

2.2.1.5 Traffic

As part of the scheme the direction of traffic along Windsor Terrace will be reversed, this change is likely to increase the volume of traffic travelling northbound along the seafront. This is being done to reduce delays for busses at the nearby Park Road/George’s St Lower junction. While the level of traffic will increase compared to the existing scenario it will still be significantly less than the levels experienced before the introduction of the temporary one-way system. The route will be traffic calmed to ensure vehicle speeds remain low.



Map Legend

- Site Layout

Drawing Title

Site Location

Project Title

Living Streets: Coastal Mobility Route

Drawn By	Checked By
RM	CM
Project No.	Drawing No.
220948	Figure 2.1
Scale	Date
1:52,966	20/02/2023

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2.2.2 Description of the Baseline Ecological Environment

Habitats recorded within the footprint of the proposed works are classified as **Buildings and Artificial Surfaces (BL3)**, and **Treeline (WL2)**.

Residential buildings, public buildings, associated tarred areas for access (roads and footpaths), car parking, and concrete walls have been classified as **Building and Artificial Surfaces (BL3)**. This was the most predominant habitat type recorded within the proposed works areas (Sections A- E), See Plates 2.1- 2.5.

A **Treeline (WL2)** dominated by Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) is present along Queen's Road to the east of Dun Laoghaire Harbour (Plate 2.6), and along Crofton Street, to the east of the dart line in Dun Laoghaire.

The Monkstown Stream (Brewery Stream) flows in a northly direction, crossing the proposed works area between Longford Terrace and Old Dunleary Road. However, this stream is culverted and there is no direct surface water connectivity between the proposed works and this stream. No faunal species or evidence of faunal species associated with any European Designated sites were recorded within the proposed development site. No habitats listed under Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive were identified within the site boundary. None of the habitats within the Proposed Development site provide supporting habitat for any QI/SCI species associated with nearby European Site



Plate 2-1 Buildings and Artificial Surfaces (BL3) (Road, Pathways, Cycle Lane, Concrete wall, Residential dwellings) at Seapoint Avenue (Section A) to the south of the works area.



Plate 2-2 Buildings and Artificial Surfaces (BL3) (Road, Pathways, Cycle Lane, Concrete wall, Public Buildings) at Coal Quay Bridge (Section B) to the south of the works area.



Plate 2-3 Buildings and Artificial Surfaces (BL3) (Road, Pathways, Cycle Lane, Concrete wall, Public Buildings) on Queen's Street to the East of Dun Laoghaire Harbour (Section C), in the centre of the works area.

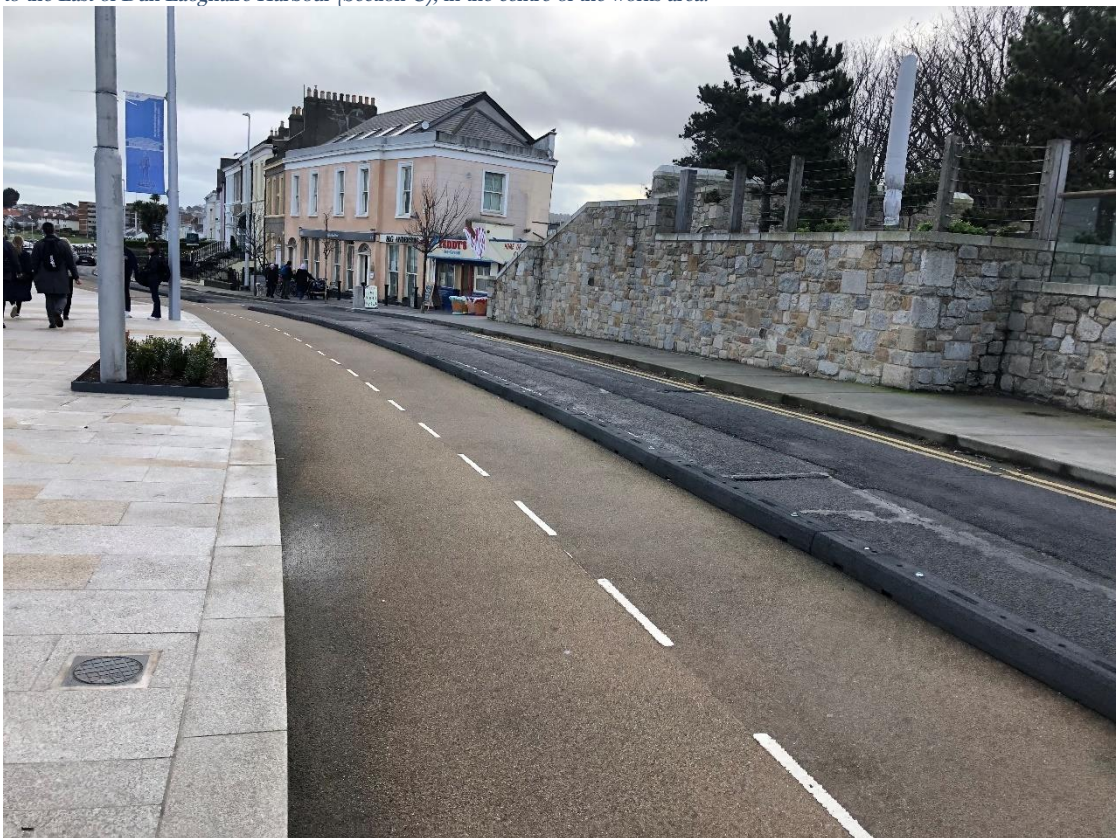


Plate 2-4 Buildings and Artificial Surfaces (BL3) (Road, Pathways, Cycle Lane, Concrete wall, Public Buildings) to the east of Dun Laoghaire Baths (Section D).



Plate 2-5 Buildings and Artificial Surfaces (BL3) (Pathways, Cycle Lane, Concrete wall, Public Buildings) facing Sandycove 40ft swimming area (Section E), to the north of the works area.



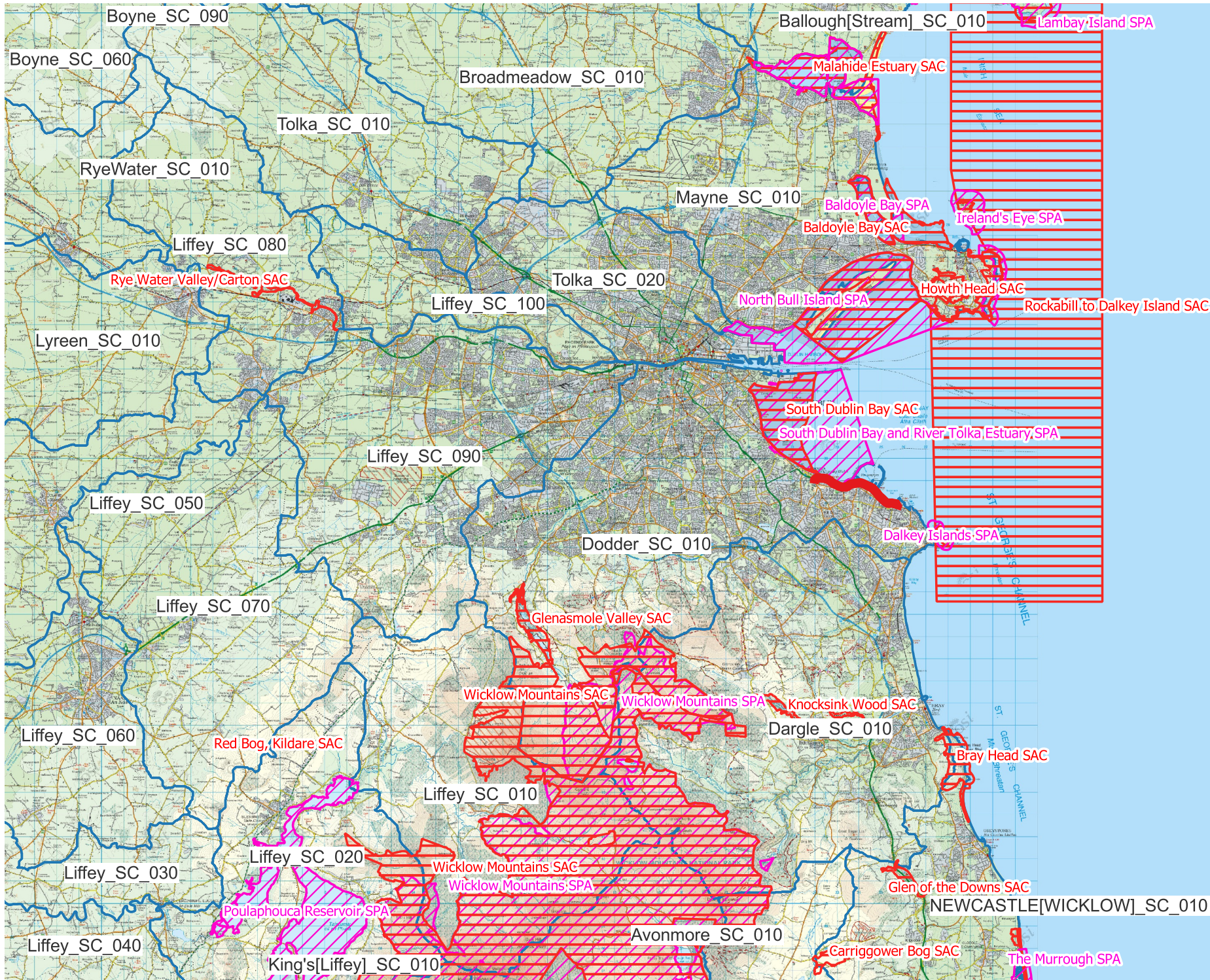
Plate 2-6 Treeline (WL2) dominated by Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) located on Queen's Street to the east of Dun Laoghaire Harbour.

3. IDENTIFICATION OF RELEVANT EUROPEAN SITES

3.1 Identification of the European Sites within the Likely Zone of Impact

The following methodology was used to establish any European Sites upon which there is a potential for a likely significant effect to occur either individually or in combination with other plans and projects as a result of the proposed development:

- › Initially the most up to date GIS spatial datasets for European designated sites and water catchments were downloaded from the NPWS website (www.npws.ie) and the EPA website (www.epa.ie) on the 19/01/2023.
- › All European Sites that could potentially be affected were identified using a source-pathway - receptor model. To provide context for the assessment, European Sites surrounding the development site are shown on Figure 3.1. Information on these sites according to the site-specific conservation objectives is provided in Table 3-1. Sites that were further away from the proposed development were also considered and no complete source-pathway-receptor chain for significant effect was identified for any other European Site.
- › The catchment mapping was used to establish or discount potential hydrological connectivity between the site of the proposed development and any European Sites. The hydrological catchments are also shown in Figure 3.1.
- › In relation to Special Protection Areas, in the absence of any specific European or Irish guidance in relation to such sites, the Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) Guidance, 'Assessing Connectivity with Special Protection Areas (SPA)' (2016) was consulted. This document provides guidance in relation to the identification of connectivity between proposed development and Special Protection Areas. The guidance takes into consideration the distances species may travel beyond the boundary of their SPAs and provides information on dispersal and foraging ranges of bird species which are frequently encountered when considering plans and projects.
- › Table 3.1 provides details of all relevant European Sites as identified in the preceding steps and assesses the potential for likely significant effects on each.
- › The assessment considers any likely direct or indirect impacts of the proposed development, both alone and in combination with other plans and projects, on European Sites by virtue of criteria including the following: size and scale, land-take, distance from the European Site or key features of the site, resource requirements, emissions, excavation requirements, transportation requirements and duration of construction, operation and decommissioning were considered in this assessment.
- › The site synopses and conservation objectives of these sites, as per the NPWS website (www.npws.ie), were consulted and reviewed at the time of preparing this report 19/01/2023.
- › The potential for the proposed development to result in cumulative impacts on any European Sites in combination with other plans and projects was considered in the assessment that is presented in Table 3.1. Plans and projects considered include those in Sections 3.2.1 and 3.2.2 of this report.



Map Legend

- █ Site Layout
- Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
- Special Protection Area (SPA)
- EPA Hydrological Subcatchments

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Drawing Title	
European Designated Sites Within the Likely Zone of Influence	
Project Title	
Living Streets: Coastal Mobility Route	
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Table 3-1 Identification of Designated sites within the Likely Zone of Impact

European Sites and distance from proposed development	Qualify Interests/Special Conservation Interests for which the European site has been designated (Sourced from NPWS online Conservation Objectives, www.npws.ie on the 19/01/2023.	Conservation Objectives	Identification of Source-Pathway-Receptor chain and Likely Zone of Impact Determination
<p>South Dublin Bay SAC [00210]</p> <p>Distance: 27m</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [1140] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide. [1210] Annual vegetation of drift lines [1310] Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand. [2110] Embryonic shifting dunes 	<p>Detailed conservation objectives for this site, (Version 1, 22 August 2013), were reviewed as part of the assessment and are available at www.npws.ie</p>	<p>There is no potential for direct effects as the proposed works area is located entirely outside the boundary of this SAC.</p> <p>The proposed works area is located 27m southeast of South Dublin Bay SAC. The works are separated from the SAC by road, and dart line developments.</p> <p>The Monkstown Stream (Brewery Stream), which is a culverted watercourse that flows in a northerly direction, crossing the proposed works area between Longford Terrace and Old Dunleary Road. The Monkstown Stream (Brewery Stream) discharges into a location approximately 215m from South Dublin Bay SAC. Although there is no direct connectivity between the Monkstown Stream (Brewery Stream) and the proposed works area, taking a highly precautionary approach, there is a potential pathway for indirect connectivity via the existing storm water drainage.</p> <p>However, based on the nature and scale of the proposed works and the fact there is no requirement to upgrade the existing drainage network or outfalls within the scheme extents, there is no potential for significant indirect effects, in the absence of mitigation, during the construction of the proposed works on this designated European site.</p>

European Sites and distance from proposed development	Qualify Interests/Special Conservation Interests for which the European site has been designated (Sourced from NPWS online Conservation Objectives, www.npws.ie on the 19/01/2023.	Conservation Objectives	Identification of Source-Pathway-Receptor chain and Likely Zone of Impact Determination
			<p>No significant effect on this European Site was identified, when considered in the absence of any mitigation, individually or cumulatively with other plans or projects and the site is not within the Likely Zone of Impact and is not considered further in this Screening assessment</p>
<p>Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC [003000] Distance: 1.6km</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1170] Reefs • [1351] Harbour porpoise <i>Phocoena phocoena</i> 	<p>Detailed conservation objectives for this site, (Version 1, 07 May 2013), were reviewed as part of the assessment and are available at www.npws.ie</p>	<p>There is no potential for direct effects as the proposed works area is located entirely outside the boundary of this SAC.</p> <p>The proposed works area is located 1.6km southwest of Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC. The works are separated from the SAC by road and dart line developments, and 1.6km of open waters in Dublin Bay.</p> <p>Therefore, due to the small nature and scale of the proposed works, and the buffering distance of 1.6km from the works area to this SAC, there is no potential for significant indirect effects, in the absence of mitigation, during the construction of the proposed works on this designated European site.</p> <p>No significant effect on this European Site was identified, when considered in the absence of any mitigation, individually or cumulatively with other plans or projects and the site is not within the Likely Zone of Impact and is not considered further in this Screening assessment</p>

European Sites and distance from proposed development	Qualify Interests/Special Conservation Interests for which the European site has been designated (Sourced from NPWS online Conservation Objectives, www.npws.ie on the 19/01/2023.	Conservation Objectives	Identification of Source-Pathway-Receptor chain and Likely Zone of Impact Determination
<p>North Dublin Bay SAC [000206]</p> <p>Distance: 5.3km</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [1140] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide. [1210] Annual vegetation of drift lines [1310] Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand. [1330] Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>) [1395] Petalwort <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> [1410] Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [2110] Embryonic shifting dunes [2120] Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2130] Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) * [2190] Humid dune slacks 	<p>Detailed conservation objectives for this site, (Version 1, 06 November 2013), were reviewed as part of the assessment and are available at www.npws.ie</p>	<p>There is no potential for direct effects as the proposed works area is located entirely outside the boundary of this SAC.</p> <p>The proposed works area is located 5.3km south of North Dublin Bay SAC. The works are separated from the SAC by existing residential, road and dart line developments, and 5.3km of open waters in Dublin Bay.</p> <p>Therefore, due to the small nature and scale of the proposed works, and the buffering distance of 5.6km from the works area to this SAC, there is no potential for significant indirect effects, in the absence of mitigation, during the construction of the proposed works on this designated European site.</p> <p>No significant effect on this European Site was identified, when considered in the absence of any mitigation, individually or cumulatively with other plans or projects and the site is not within the Likely Zone of Impact and is not considered further in this Screening assessment</p>
<p>Howth Head SAC [000202]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [1230] Vegetated Sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [4030] European dry heaths 	<p>Detailed conservation objectives for this site, (Version 1, 06 December 2016), were</p>	<p>There is no potential for direct effects as the proposed works area is located entirely outside the boundary of this SAC.</p>

European Sites and distance from proposed development	Qualify Interests/Special Conservation Interests for which the European site has been designated (Sourced from NPWS online Conservation Objectives, www.npws.ie on the 19/01/2023.	Conservation Objectives	Identification of Source-Pathway-Receptor chain and Likely Zone of Impact Determination
Distance: 8.1km		reviewed as part of the assessment and are available at www.npws.ie	<p>The proposed works area is located 8.1km southwest of this SAC. Due to the to the small nature and scale of the proposed works, the terrestrial nature of the QI habitats, and the buffering distance of 8.1km from the proposed works area to this SAC, there is no potential for significant indirect effects, in the absence of mitigation, during the construction of the proposed works on this designated European site.</p> <p>No significant effect on this European Site was identified, when considered in the absence of any mitigation, individually or cumulatively with other plans or projects and the site is not within the Likely Zone of Impact and is not considered further in this Screening assessment.</p>
Ballyman Glen SAC [000713] Distance: 9.4km	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [7220] Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion)* [7230] Alkaline fens 	Detailed conservation objectives for this site, (Version 1, 17 July 2019), were reviewed as part of the assessment and are available at www.npws.ie	<p>There is no potential for direct effects as the proposed works area is located entirely outside the boundary of this SAC.</p> <p>The proposed works are located 9.4km north of Ballyman Glen SAC. There are no hydrological linkages between the proposed works area and this SAC. Therefore, due to the buffering distance of 9.4km from the proposed works and this SAC, and the absence of a complete source-pathway-receptor chain, there is no potential for significant indirect effects, in the absence of mitigation, during the construction of the proposed works on this designated European site.</p>

European Sites and distance from proposed development	Qualify Interests/Special Conservation Interests for which the European site has been designated (Sourced from NPWS online Conservation Objectives, www.npws.ie on the 19/01/2023.	Conservation Objectives	Identification of Source-Pathway-Receptor chain and Likely Zone of Impact Determination
			<p>No significant effect on this European Site was identified, when considered in the absence of any mitigation, individually or cumulatively with other plans or projects and the site is not within the Likely Zone of Impact and is not considered further in this Screening assessment.</p>
<p>Knocksink Wood SAC [000725]</p> <p>Distance: 9.8km</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7220] Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion)* • [91A0] Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles • [91E0] Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae)* 	<p>Detailed conservation objectives for this site, (Version 1, 13 December 2021), were reviewed as part of the assessment and are available at www.npws.ie</p>	<p>There is no potential for direct effects as the proposed works area is located entirely outside the boundary of this SAC.</p> <p>The proposed works are located 9.8km north of Knocksink Wood SAC. There are no hydrological linkages between the proposed works area and this SAC. Therefore, due to the buffering distance of 9.8km from the proposed works and this SAC, and the absence of a complete source-pathway-receptor chain, there is no potential for significant indirect effects, in the absence of mitigation, during the construction of the proposed works on this designated European site.</p> <p>No significant effect on this European Site was identified, when considered in the absence of any mitigation, individually or cumulatively with other plans or projects and the site is not within the Likely Zone of Impact and is not considered further in this Screening assessment.</p>
<p>Wicklow Mountains SAC [002122]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [1355] Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> 	<p>Detailed conservation objectives for this site, (Version 1, 31 July 2017), were</p>	<p>There is no potential for direct effects as the proposed works area is located entirely outside the boundary of this SAC.</p>

European Sites and distance from proposed development	Qualify Interests/Special Conservation Interests for which the European site has been designated (Sourced from NPWS online Conservation Objectives, www.npws.ie on the 19/01/2023.	Conservation Objectives	Identification of Source-Pathway-Receptor chain and Likely Zone of Impact Determination
<p>Distance: 10km</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [3110] Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>) • [3130] Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the <i>Littorelletea uniflorae</i> and/or <i>Isoeto-Nanojuncetea</i> • [3160] Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds • [4010] Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> • [4030] European dry heaths • [4060] Alpine and Boreal heaths • [6130] Calaminarian grasslands of the <i>Violetalia calaminariae</i> • [6230] Species-rich <i>Nardus</i> grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas • [6230] Species-rich <i>Nardus</i> grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe) * • [7130] Blanket bogs (* if active bog) 	<p>reviewed as part of the assessment and are available at www.npws.ie</p>	<p>The proposed works are located 10km north of Wicklow Mountains SAC. There are no hydrological linkages between the proposed works area and this SAC. Therefore, due to the buffering distance of 10km from the proposed works and this SAC, and the absence of a complete source-pathway-receptor chain, there is no potential for significant indirect effects, in the absence of mitigation, during the construction of the proposed works on this designated European site.</p> <p>No significant effect on this European Site was identified, when considered in the absence of any mitigation, individually or cumulatively with other plans or projects and the site is not within the Likely Zone of Impact and is not considered further in this Screening assessment.</p>

European Sites and distance from proposed development	Qualify Interests/Special Conservation Interests for which the European site has been designated (Sourced from NPWS online Conservation Objectives, www.npws.ie on the 19/01/2023.	Conservation Objectives	Identification of Source-Pathway-Receptor chain and Likely Zone of Impact Determination
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [8110] Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (<i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsietalia ladani</i>) [8210] Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220] Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [91A0] Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles 		
Bray Head SAC [000714] Distance: 10.2km	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [1230] Vegetated Sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [4030] European dry heaths 	Detailed conservation objectives for this site, (Version 1, 11 April 2017), were reviewed as part of the assessment and are available at www.npws.ie	<p>There is no potential for direct effects as the proposed works area is located entirely outside the boundary of this SAC.</p> <p>The proposed works area is located 10.2km northwest of this SAC. Due to the to the small nature and scale of the proposed works, the terrestrial nature of the QI habitats, and the buffering distance of 10.2km from the proposed works area to this SAC, there is no potential for significant indirect effects, in the absence of mitigation, during the construction of the proposed works on this designated European site.</p> <p>No significant effect on this European Site was identified, when considered in the absence of any mitigation, individually or cumulatively with other plans or projects and</p>

European Sites and distance from proposed development	Qualify Interests/Special Conservation Interests for which the European site has been designated (Sourced from NPWS online Conservation Objectives, www.npws.ie on the 19/01/2023.	Conservation Objectives	Identification of Source-Pathway-Receptor chain and Likely Zone of Impact Determination
			<p>the site is not within the Likely Zone of Impact and is not considered further in this Screening assessment.</p>
<p>Baldoyle Bay SAC [000199]</p> <p>Distance: 10.8km</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [1140] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide. [1310] Salicornia and other annuals colonizing mud and sand. 1330] Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>) [1410] Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) 	<p>Detailed conservation objectives for this site, (Version 1, 19 November 2012), were reviewed as part of the assessment and are available at www.npws.ie</p>	<p>There is no potential for direct effects as the proposed works area is located entirely outside the boundary of this SAC.</p> <p>The proposed works area is located 10.8km southwest of Baldoyle Bay SAC. The works are separated from the SAC by existing residential, road and dart line developments, and 10.8km of open waters in Dublin Bay.</p> <p>Therefore, due to the small nature and scale of the proposed works, and the buffering distance of 10.8km from the works area to this SAC, there is no potential for significant indirect effects, in the absence of mitigation, during the construction of the proposed works on this designated European site.</p> <p>No significant effect on this European Site was identified, when considered in the absence of any mitigation, individually or cumulatively with other plans or projects and the site is not within the Likely Zone of Impact and is not considered further in this Screening assessment.</p>
<p>Ireland's Eye SAC [002193]</p> <p>Distance: 12.6km</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [1220] Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1230] Vegetated Sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts 	<p>Detailed conservation objectives for this site, (Version 1, 27 January 2017), were reviewed as part of the assessment and are available at www.npws.ie</p>	<p>There is no potential for direct effects as the proposed works area is located entirely outside the boundary of this SAC.</p>

European Sites and distance from proposed development	Qualify Interests/Special Conservation Interests for which the European site has been designated (Sourced from NPWS online Conservation Objectives, www.npws.ie on the 19/01/2023.	Conservation Objectives	Identification of Source-Pathway-Receptor chain and Likely Zone of Impact Determination
			<p>The proposed works area is located 12.6km northwest of this SAC. Therefore, due to the to the small nature and scale of the proposed works, the terrestrial nature of the QI habitats, and the buffering distance of 12.6km from the proposed works area to this SAC, there is no potential for significant indirect effects, in the absence of mitigation, during the construction of the proposed works on this designated European site.</p> <p>No significant effect on this European Site was identified, when considered in the absence of any mitigation, individually or cumulatively with other plans or projects and the site is not within the Likely Zone of Impact and is not considered further in this Screening assessment.</p>
<p>Glenasmole Valley SAC [001209]</p> <p>Distance: 13.9km</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6210 Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) (* important orchid sites) 6410 Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty, or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>) 7220 Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) 	<p>Detailed conservation objectives for this site, (Version 1, 10 December 2021), were reviewed as part of the assessment and are available at www.npws.ie</p>	<p>There is no potential for direct effects as the proposed works area is located entirely outside the boundary of this SAC.</p> <p>The proposed works are located 13.9km northeast of Glenasmole Valley SAC. There are no hydrological linkages between the proposed works area and this SAC. As such, due to the buffering distance of 13.9km from the proposed works and this SAC, and the absence of a complete source-pathway-receptor chain, there is no potential for significant indirect effects, in the absence of mitigation, during the</p>

European Sites and distance from proposed development	Qualify Interests/Special Conservation Interests for which the European site has been designated (Sourced from NPWS online Conservation Objectives, www.npws.ie on the 19/01/2023.	Conservation Objectives	Identification of Source-Pathway-Receptor chain and Likely Zone of Impact Determination
			<p>construction of the proposed works on this designated European site.</p> <p>No significant effect on this European Site was identified, when considered in the absence of any mitigation, individually or cumulatively with other plans or projects and the site is not within the Likely Zone of Impact and is not considered further in this Screening assessment.</p>
Special Protection Area (SPA)			
<p>South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA [004024]</p> <p>Distance: 26.4m</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [A046] Light-bellied Brent Goose <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> • [A130] Oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> • [A137] Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> • [A141] Grey Plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> • [A143] Knot <i>Calidris canutus</i> • [A144] Sanderling <i>Calidris alba</i> • [A149] Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i> • [A157] Bar-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa lapponica</i> • [A162] Redshank <i>Tringa tetanus</i> 	<p>Detailed conservation objectives for this site, (Version 1, 09 March 2015), were reviewed as part of the assessment and are available at www.npws.ie</p>	<p>There is no potential for direct effects as the proposed works area is located entirely outside the boundary of this SPA.</p> <p>The Monkstown Stream (Brewery Stream) flows in a northerly direction, crossing the proposed works area between Longford Terrace and Old Dunleary Road. Although there is no direct connectivity between the Monkstown Stream (Brewery Stream) and the proposed works area, taking a highly precautionary approach, there is a potential pathway for indirect connectivity via the existing storm water drainage.</p> <p>However, based on the nature and scale of the proposed works and the fact there is no requirement to upgrade the existing drainage network or outfalls within the scheme extents, there is no potential for significant indirect effects, in</p>

European Sites and distance from proposed development	Qualify Interests/Special Conservation Interests for which the European site has been designated (Sourced from NPWS online Conservation Objectives, www.npws.ie on the 19/01/2023.	Conservation Objectives	Identification of Source-Pathway-Receptor chain and Likely Zone of Impact Determination
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [A179] Black-headed Gull <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> [A192] Roseate Tern <i>Sterna dougallii</i> [A193] Common Tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i> [A194] Arctic Tern <i>Sterna paradisaea</i> [A999] Wetlands 		<p>the absence of mitigation, during the construction of the proposed works on this designated European site.</p> <p>Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina alpina</i>) has a core range of 500m (SNH 2016). This SPA is located 26.4m from the proposed works site, as such is within the core foraging range for this SCI species.</p> <p>However, there is no suitable foraging or roosting habitat for the listed SCI species within the boundary of the proposed works. Further, due to the existing urban environment of the proposed works area, and the buffering distance of 26.4m, there is no potential for ex situ disturbance or displacement related impacts on these SCI species, in the absence of mitigation during the construction of the proposed works.</p> <p>No significant effect on this European Site was identified, when considered in the absence of any mitigation, individually or cumulatively with other plans or projects and the site is not within the Likely Zone of Impact and is not considered further in this Screening assessment.</p>
<p>Dalkey Islands SPA</p> <p>Distance: 1.6km</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [A192] Roseate Tern <i>Sterna dougallii</i> [A193] Common Tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i> 	<p>Detailed conservation objectives for this site, (Version 1, 12 October 2022), were reviewed as part of the assessment and are available at www.npws.ie</p>	<p>There is no potential for direct effects as the proposed works area is located entirely outside the boundary of this SPA.</p> <p>There is no suitable foraging or roosting habitat for the listed SCI species within the boundary of the proposed works.</p>

European Sites and distance from proposed development	Qualify Interests/Special Conservation Interests for which the European site has been designated (Sourced from NPWS online Conservation Objectives, www.npws.ie on the 19/01/2023.	Conservation Objectives	Identification of Source-Pathway-Receptor chain and Likely Zone of Impact Determination
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [A194] Arctic Tern <i>Sterna paradisaea</i> 		<p>Further, due to the existing urban environment of the proposed works area, and the buffering distance of 1.6km, there is no potential for ex situ disturbance or displacement related impacts on these SCI species, in the absence of mitigation, during the construction of the proposed works.</p> <p>No significant effect on this European Site was identified, when considered in the absence of any mitigation, individually or cumulatively with other plans or projects and the site is not within the Likely Zone of Impact and is not considered further in this Screening assessment.</p>
<p>North Bull Island SPA</p> <p>Distance: 5.3km</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [A046] Light-bellied Brent Goose <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> [A048] Shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> [A052] Teal <i>Anas crecca</i> [A054] Pintail <i>Anas acuta</i> [A056] Shoveler <i>Anas clypeata</i> [A130] Oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> [A140] Golden Plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> [A141] Grey Plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> [A143] Knot <i>Calidris canutus</i> [A144] Sanderling <i>Calidris alba</i> 	<p>Detailed conservation objectives for this site, (Version 1, 09 March 2015), were reviewed as part of the assessment and are available at www.npws.ie</p>	<p>There is no potential for direct effects as the proposed works area is located entirely outside the boundary of this SPA.</p> <p>This SPA is outside the maximum core range of 3km for the Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina alpina</i>), and 2km for the Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>)(SNH 2016).</p> <p>There is no suitable foraging or roosting habitat for the listed SCI species within the boundary of the proposed works. Further, due to the existing urban environment of the proposed works area, and the buffering distance of 5.3km, there is no potential for ex situ disturbance or displacement related impacts on these SCI species, in the absence of mitigation, during the construction of the proposed works.</p>

European Sites and distance from proposed development	Qualify Interests/Special Conservation Interests for which the European site has been designated (Sourced from NPWS online Conservation Objectives, www.npws.ie on the 19/01/2023.	Conservation Objectives	Identification of Source-Pathway-Receptor chain and Likely Zone of Impact Determination
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [A149] Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i> • [A156] Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa</i> • [A157] Bar-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa lapponica</i> • [A160] Curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i> • [A162] Redshank <i>Tringa tetanus</i> • [A169] Turnstone <i>Arenaria interpres</i> • [A179] Black-headed Gull <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> • [A999] Wetlands 		<p>No significant effect on this European Site was identified, when considered in the absence of any mitigation, individually or cumulatively with other plans or projects and the site is not within the Likely Zone of Impact and is not considered further in this Screening assessment.</p>
<p>Howth Head Coast SPA [004113]</p> <p>Distance:9km</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [A188] Kittiwake <i>Rissa tridactyla</i> 	<p>Detailed conservation objectives for this site, (Version 1, 12 October 2022), were reviewed as part of the assessment and are available at www.npws.ie</p>	<p>There is no potential for direct effects as the proposed works area is located entirely outside the boundary of this SPA.</p> <p>There is no suitable foraging or roosting habitat for the listed SCI species within the boundary of the proposed works. Further, due to the existing urban environment of the proposed works area, and the buffering distance of 9km, there is no potential for ex situ disturbance or displacement related impacts on these SCI species, in the absence of mitigation, during the construction of the proposed works.</p>

European Sites and distance from proposed development	Qualify Interests/Special Conservation Interests for which the European site has been designated (Sourced from NPWS online Conservation Objectives, www.npws.ie on the 19/01/2023.	Conservation Objectives	Identification of Source-Pathway-Receptor chain and Likely Zone of Impact Determination
			<p>No significant effect on this European Site was identified, when considered in the absence of any mitigation, individually or cumulatively with other plans or projects and the site is not within the Likely Zone of Impact and is not considered further in this Screening assessment.</p>
<p>Baldoyle Bay SPA Distance: 10.8km</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [A046] Brent Goose <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> • [A048] Shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> • [A137] Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> • [A140] Golden Plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> • [A141] Grey Plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> • [A157] Bar-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa lapponica</i> • [A999] Wetlands 	<p>Detailed conservation objectives for this site, (Version 1, 27 February 2013), were reviewed as part of the assessment and are available at www.npws.ie</p>	<p>There is no potential for direct effects as the proposed works area is located entirely outside the boundary of this SPA.</p> <p>The Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) has a maximum range of 11km (SNH 2026). This SAC is located 10.8km from the proposed works site, as such is within the maximum range for this SCI species.</p> <p>However, there is no suitable foraging or roosting habitat for the listed SCI species within the boundary of the proposed works. Further, due to the existing urban environment of the proposed works area, and the buffering distance of 10.8km, there is no potential for ex situ disturbance or displacement related impacts on these SCI species, in the absence of mitigation, during the construction of the proposed works.</p> <p>No significant effect on this European Site was identified, when considered in the absence of any mitigation, individually or cumulatively with other plans or projects and</p>

European Sites and distance from proposed development	Qualify Interests/Special Conservation Interests for which the European site has been designated (Sourced from NPWS online Conservation Objectives, www.npws.ie on the 19/01/2023.	Conservation Objectives	Identification of Source-Pathway-Receptor chain and Likely Zone of Impact Determination
the site is not within the Likely Zone of Impact and is not considered further in this Screening assessment			
Wicklow Mountains SPA [004040] Distance: 11.2km	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [A098] Merlin <i>Falco columbarius</i> [A103] Peregrine <i>Falco peregrinus</i> 	Detailed conservation objectives for this site, (Version 1, 12 October 2022), were reviewed as part of the assessment and are available at www.npws.ie	<p>There is no potential for direct effects as the proposed works area is located entirely outside the boundary of this SPA.</p> <p>The proposed works are outside the core range of 5km for the Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>) However, the Peregrine (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>) has been recorded to have a maximum range of 18k in Britain (SNH 2016). The SPA is located 11.2km from the proposed works site, as such is within the maximum range recorded for this SCI species.</p> <p>However, there is no suitable foraging or roosting habitat for the Peregrine (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>) the within the boundary of the proposed works. Further, due to the existing urban environment of the proposed works area, and the buffering distance of 11.2km, there is no potential for ex situ disturbance or displacement related impacts on these SCI species, in the absence of mitigation, during the construction of the proposed works.</p> <p>No significant effect on this European Site was identified, when considered in the absence of any mitigation, individually or cumulatively with other plans or projects and the site is not within the Likely Zone of Impact and is not considered further in this Screening assessment</p>

European Sites and distance from proposed development	Qualify Interests/Special Conservation Interests for which the European site has been designated (Sourced from NPWS online Conservation Objectives, www.npws.ie on the 19/01/2023.	Conservation Objectives	Identification of Source-Pathway-Receptor chain and Likely Zone of Impact Determination
Ireland's Eye SPA [004117] Distance: 12.2km	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [A017] Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> • [A184] Herring Gull <i>Larus argentatus</i> • [A188] Kittiwake <i>Rissa tridactyla</i> • [A199] Guillemot <i>Uria aalge</i> • [A200] Razorbill <i>Alca torda</i> 	Detailed conservation objectives for this site, (Version 1, 12 October 2022), were reviewed as part of the assessment and are available at www.npws.ie	<p>There is no potential for direct effects as the proposed works area is located entirely outside the boundary of this SPA.</p> <p>There is no suitable foraging or roosting habitat for the listed SCI species within the boundary of the proposed works. Further, due to the existing urban environment of the proposed works area, and the buffering distance of 12.2km, there is no potential for ex situ disturbance or displacement related impacts on these SCI species, in the absence of mitigation, during the construction and operation of the proposed works.</p> <p>No significant effect on this European Site was identified, when considered in the absence of any mitigation, individually or cumulatively with other plans or projects and the site is not within the Likely Zone of Impact and is not considered further in this Screening assessment.</p>

3.2

Likely Cumulative Impact of the Proposed Works on European Sites, in-combination with other plans and projects

A search and review in relation to plans and projects that may have the potential to result in cumulative and/or in-combination impacts on the ecology of the site was conducted. This assessment focuses on the potential for cumulative in-combination effects on the existing habitats where potential for significant effects was identified. This included a review of online Planning Registers, development plans and other available information and served to identify past and future plans and projects, their activities and their predicted environmental effects.

3.2.1

Projects

The potential for the Proposed Development to contribute to a cumulative effect on Designated Sites was considered. The National Planning Application Web Viewer was consulted on the 19/01/2023. Additional projects identified in the surrounding area in the last 5 years include:

- Living Street Dun Laoghaire: this is a transportation project that aims to provide safer and more attractive infrastructure for active travel and enhance the public realm to provide for better quality of life in public spaces on George's Street Upper and Lower.
- BusConnects Network Redesign: The National Transport Authority published the new Dublin Area Bus Network in September 2020. The implementation of the New Network will take place on a phased basis over a number of years, the first phase of the new BusConnects network for Dublin was launched in June 2021 and it is expected to be fully implemented by the end of 2024.
- ABP-313509-22: BusConnects Belfield/Blackrock to City Centre Core Bus Corridor Scheme which has an overall length of approximately 8.3km including roadworks to facilitate bus, cycling and urban realm improvements along with any associated ancillary/accommodation works for the scheme. This case is due to be decided by 6th of April 2023.
- Greater Dublin Area Cycle Network Plan: In 2013 the Greater Dublin Area (GDA) Cycle Network Plan was published. Its core objective is to ensure investment into cycle infrastructure is made as efficiently as possible, and to help the NTA and local authorities within the GDA to enhance understanding as to the bicycle facilities currently available, identify gaps in connections and infrastructure, assess the state of existing facilities and where improvement measures will be most advantageous to the public. The updated GDA Cycle Network Plan was published in November 2021 as part of the 'Supporting Documents' for the public consultation on the Greater Dublin Area Transport Strategy 2022-2024. In the plan, CMR has been identified as a primary route and greenway as part of this plan. Each district centre has its cycle network enhanced in the vicinity as well as outward connections.
- ABP-31232521: Permission for a Strategic Housing Development consisting of a new residential and mixed use scheme of 493 residential units and associated residential amenities, a childcare facility and café in the form of (a) a combination of new apartment buildings (b) the subdivision, conversion and re-use of 'St. Teresa's House' (Block H); and (c) the dismantling, relocation and change of use from residential to café of 'St. Teresa's Lodge' (Block G) within the site development area. A detailed development description is now set out as follows: The proposal provides for the demolition (total c. 207 sq m GFA) of (a) a single storey return (approx. 20 sq m) along the boundary with The Alzheimer's Society of Ireland; (b) the ground floor switch room (approx. 24.9sq.m.), (c) ground floor structures northwest of St. Teresa's House (26.8sq.m), (d) basement boiler room northwest of St. Teresa's House (17.0 sq.m), (e) ground floor structures northeast of St. Teresa's house (22.0sq.m.) (f) basement stores northeast of St. Teresa's house (67.8 sq.m.) and (g) a non - original ground floor rear extension (approx. 28.5 sq m) associated with the Gate Lodge. The new development will provide for the construction of a new mixed-use scheme of 487 no.

apartment units in the form of 11 no. new residential development blocks. Each new residential unit has associated private open space in the form of a terrace / balcony. The development also provides for Block H, which relates to the subdivision and conversion of ‘St. Teresa’s House’ (3 storeys) into 6 no. apartments including the demolition of non-original additions and partitions. It is also proposed to dismantle and relocate ‘St. Teresa’s Lodge’ from its current location to a new location, 180 m southwest within the development adjacent to Rockfield Park. St. Teresa’s Lodge (Block G) will be deconstructed in its original location and reconstructed in a new. The current proposal seeks a new extension of this building (approx. 26.8 sq m) and a change of use from residential to café use to deliver a Part M compliant single storey building of approx. 67.4 sq m Total Open space (approx. 15,099.7 sq m) is. Basement areas are proposed below Blocks A1, B1 to B4 and D1 (c. 7,295 sq. m GFA). A total of 252 residential car parking spaces 1056 bicycle spaces; and 20 motorcycle spaces at basement level are proposed. 8 no. car spaces for creche use are proposed at surface level. The proposal also provides for Bin Storage areas, Bike Storage areas, ESB substations and switch rooms with a combined floor area of 356.2 sq m at surface level. The development also comprises works to the existing entrance to St. Teresa’s; the adjoining property at ‘Carmond’; and residential development at St. Vincent’s Park from Temple Hill (N31/R113). Works include the realignment and upgrade of the existing signalised junction and associated footpaths to provide for improved and safer vehicular access/egress to the site and improved and safer access/egress for vehicular traffic to/from the property at ‘Carmond’ and the adjoining residential development at St Vincent’s Park. Emergency vehicular access and pedestrian/cyclist access is also proposed via a secondary long established existing access point along Temple Hill. There are no works proposed to the existing gates (Protected Structure) at this location. The associated site and infrastructural works include provision for water services; foul and surface water drainage and connections; attenuation proposals; permeable paving; all landscaping works including tree protection; green roofs; boundary treatment; internal roads and footpaths; and electrical services including solar panels at roof level above Blocks A1, B1 - B4, C1-C3, D1, E1, E2.

- D17A/0137: Permission for the demolition of the garage buildings on site and the construction of a residential development of 2-4 storeys in height over 3 blocks. Overall, the residential scheme shall provide for 51 no. residential units; 42 no. apartment units and 9 no. houses. Basement level shall provide for 67 no. car parking spaces; 50 no. bicycle spaces; 3 no. motorcycle spaces; plant areas; CHP boiler room; bin storage area; bin hoist and surface water attenuation tank. The development proposal shall also provide for c.1925 sqm of communal open space including play area; basement ramp adjacent to vehicular access off Newtown Avenue to north; new pedestrian accesses off Newtown Avenue to north/east; 4 no. visitor car parking spaces and 22 no. bicycle parking spaces at grade; bin holding area; ESB substation and metering rooms; amendments to existing western and southern site boundary walls; closing up of an existing vehicular entrance to the south-east off Newtown Avenue and all other site development works and site services required to facilitate the proposed development. The application received grant permission in April 2017.
- D15A/0036/E: Permission for development on site of c1.27 hectares. The development will consist of the construction of a residential scheme comprising 10 no. 4-bedroom 2 plus dormer storey house, 2 no. 5-bedroom 2 plus dormer storey houses as well as 6 no. 1-bedroom apartments, 26 no. 2-bedroom apartments and 4 no. 3-bed apartments in two three-storey blocks. The gross total floor area of the residential units is 6097 sqm. The scheme will be accessed via a new vehicular access off Newtownpark Avenue. A total of 81 car parking spaces at basement and surface level will be provided as well as an electricity sub-station, bicycle parking spaces, open space, landscaping, boundary treatment works, site development works and other ancillary works. The proposed development is situated within the curtilage of Protected Structures. The application received its grant extension in June 2021.
- ABP-308946: Demolition of a single storey shed, construction of 140 no. apartments and associated site works. The application was granted permission with conditions in April 2021.
- ABP-308877: 101 no. apartments and associated site works. The application was granted permission with conditions in April 2021.

No pathway or mechanism for the proposed works to result in any significant effect on any European Site was identified when considered on its own during the assessment process and



therefore there is no potential for it to contribute to any such effects when considered in-combination with any other development.

3.2.2 Plans

The following development plans been reviewed and taken into consideration as part of this assessment:

- > Dún Laoghaire- Rathdown County Development Plan 2022-2028
- > Dún Laoghaire- Rathdown County Biodiversity Action Plan 2021-2025.
- > Blackrock Local Area Plan 2015-2025
- > Dublin City Development Plan 2022-2028
- > National Biodiversity Action Plan 2017-2021

The review focused on policies and objectives that relate to Natura 2000 sites and natural heritage. Policies and objectives relating to sustainable land use were also reviewed.

Table 3-2 Review of Relevant Policies and Objectives

Land Use and Spatial Plans	Key Policies/Issues/Objectives Directly Related to European Sites in The Zone of Influence	Assessment of Potential Impact on European Sites
Dún Laoghaire- Rathdown County Development Plan 2022-2028		
<p>Policy Objective GIB18: Protection of Natural Heritage and the Environment: It is a Policy Objective to protect and conserve the environment including, in particular, the natural heritage of the County and to conserve and manage Nationally and Internationally important and EU designated sites - such as Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Special Areas of Conservations (SACs), proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs) and Ramsar sites (wetlands) - as well as non-designated areas of high nature conservation value known as locally important areas which also serve as ‘Stepping Stones’ for the purposes of Article 10 of the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>Policy Objective GIB19: Habitats Directive: It is a Policy Objective to ensure the protection of natural heritage and biodiversity, including European Sites that form part of the Natura 2000 network, in accordance with relevant EU Environmental Directives and applicable National Legislation, Policies, Plans and Guidelines</p> <p>Policy Objective GIB21: Designated Sites: It is a Policy Objective to protect and preserve areas designated as proposed Natural Heritage Areas, Special Areas of Conservation, and Special Protection Areas. It is Council policy to promote the maintenance and as appropriate, delivery of ‘favourable’ conservation status of habitats and species within these areas.</p> <p>Policy Objective GIB23: County Wide Ecological Network: It is a Policy Objective to protect the Ecological Network which will be integrated into the updated Green Infrastructure Strategy and will align with the DLR County Biodiversity Action Plan. Creating this network throughout the County will also improve the ecological coherence of the Natura 2000 network in accordance with Article 10 of the Habitats Directive. The network will also include non- designated sites.</p> <p>Policy Objective EI6: Sustainable Drainage Systems: It is a Policy Objective to ensure that all development proposals incorporate Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS).</p>		<p>The Development plan was comprehensively reviewed, with particular reference to Policies and Objectives that relate to the Natura 2000 network and other natural heritage interests. No potential for cumulative impacts when considered in conjunction with the current proposal were identified.</p> <p>There will be no impact on any European Designated Sites as a result of the proposed works.</p>
Dún Laoghaire- Rathdown County Biodiversity Action Plan 2021-2025.		
<p>Objective 3: Conserve and restore Biodiversity and ecosystems and support ecosystem services in DLR, including coastal and marine.</p> <p>Action 1.7: Identify important biodiversity areas most vulnerable to climate change, including terrestrial, watercourses, coastal and marine areas, and establish measures and projects that assist protection of vulnerable areas.</p> <p>Action 2.7: Produce guidance on net gains for biodiversity¹⁰, including guidance for strategies, planning, mitigation measures, and investment in green infrastructure.</p>		<p>The Development plan was comprehensively reviewed, with particular reference to Policies and Objectives that relate to the Natura 2000 network and other natural heritage interests. No potential for cumulative impacts when considered in conjunction with the current proposal were identified.</p>

Land Use and Spatial Plans	Key Policies/Issues/Objectives Directly Related to European Sites in The Zone of Influence	Assessment of Potential Impact on European Sites
<p>Action 2.8: Develop guidance related to Biodiversity, Ecosystem Services and Planning, to help those involved in Planning to ensure that development within the County protects and enhances our valuable biodiversity.</p> <p>Action 2.9: Develop best practice guidance for Biodiversity and Greenway Developments to reduce the impacts of greenways on existing biodiversity and for the protection of existing biodiversity, enhancement of biodiversity and for biodiversity gains.</p> <p>Action 3.4: Identify opportunities where ecosystems can be restored and enhanced, including terrestrial, river, coastal and marine ecosystems.</p> <p>Action 3.5: Develop and implement appropriate re-wilding projects in DLR and extend our local biodiversity areas within DLR.</p> <p>Action 3.7: Carry out ecological surveys and assessment of our habitats, including hedgerows, rivers, and streams, to provide information regarding areas that require restoration in order to deliver Nature Recovery and Restoration and expansion of our Ecological Network.</p> <p>Action 3.11 Continue the Red Squirrel Project and extend project to Fernhill.</p> <p>Action 3.13: Protect and enhance Booterstown Marsh, an important, unique coastal area within DLR and an EU Natura 2000 site.</p> <p>Action 5.13 Work with our colleagues across our own organisation in DLRCC and collaborate on biodiversity projects, including Nature-based Solution projects.</p>		<p>There will be no impact on any European Designated Sites as a result of the proposed works.</p>
<p>Blackrock Local Area Plan 2015-2025</p>		
<p>POLICY BK02- Natural Heritage and Conservation: It is Council Policy to protect, conserve and enhance the natural heritage and environment within and adjacent to Blackrock whilst optimizing these natural assets in the promotion of Blackrock as a heritage and visitor destination.</p> <p>Objective NHC1: It is an objective of the Council to ensure the protection and preservation of the ecological integrity of the designated SPA, cSAC and pNHA within and abutting the Blackrock LAP boundary in the consideration and implementation of development proposals within the Plan area. Any relevant development proposals shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment Screening in accordance with the requirements of the European Communities (Birds & Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (SI.477 of 2011).</p>		<p>The Development plan was comprehensively reviewed, with particular reference to Policies and Objectives that relate to the Natura 2000 network and other natural heritage interests. No potential for cumulative impacts when considered in conjunction with the current proposal were identified.</p> <p>There will be no impact on any European Designated Sites as a result of the proposed works.</p>

Land Use and Spatial Plans	Key Policies/Issues/Objectives Directly Related to European Sites in The Zone of Influence	Assessment of Potential Impact on European Sites
	<p>Objective NHC3: It is an objective of the Council to have regard to the EU guidance document ‘The Implementation of the Birds and Habitats Directive in Estuaries and Coastal Zones’ (EU 2011) when assessing development in or near coastal areas which is likely to have significant effects on the integrity of any designated sites, coastal and marine fauna, flora, and amenities.</p> <p>Objective NHC7: It is an objective of the Council to support the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) in the maintenance and, as appropriate, the achievement of favourable conservation status of Natura 2000 sites and their associated habitats and species to which the European Communities (Birds & Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (SI.477 of 2011) exchange of wild species.</p> <p>Objective NHC9: It is an objective of the Council to protect the natural character and ecological value of rivers and streams within the Local Area Plan boundary. In that regard the Council shall ensure, that in the event of lighting being proposed along a watercourse corridor, that an Ecological Impact Assessment (and where necessary an Appropriate Assessment) including bat and otter surveys, shall be conducted. All water courses shall be maintained in their open natural state in order to prevent habitat loss, preserve biological diversity and aid in pollution detection.</p> <p>Objective EI12: It is an objective of the Council that all proposed flood protection or alleviation works will comply with the requirements of Article 6 of the EU Habitats Directive to ensure there are no likely significant effects on the integrity, defined by the structure and function, of any Natura 2000 sites and that the requirements of Article 6 of the EU Habitats Directive are met.</p> <p>Objective SF1- Seafront: It is an objective of the Council to improve access to and recreational amenity facilities at the seafront at Blackrock, in accordance with Objective PR1 and PR2 Section 3.6 Public Realm Strategy. Any development proposals shall take into account and provide for the possible future construction of the S2S project and shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment Screening in accordance with the requirements of the European Communities (Birds & Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (SI.477 of 2011) to ensure the protection and preservation of all designated SPAs, SACs, and pNHAs of Dublin Bay and the surrounding area.</p>	
<p>Dublin City Council Development Plan 2022-2028</p>		
	<p>Policy G19- European Union Natura 2000 Sites: To conserve, manage, protect, and restore the favourable conservation condition of all qualifying interest/special conservation interests of all European sites designated, or proposed to be designated, under the EU Birds and Habitats Directives, as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) (European / Natura 2000 sites).</p>	<p>The Development plan was comprehensively reviewed, with particular reference to Policies and Objectives that relate to the Natura 2000 network and other natural heritage interests. No potential for cumulative impacts when considered in conjunction with the current proposal were identified.</p>

Land Use and Spatial Plans	Key Policies/Issues/Objectives Directly Related to European Sites in The Zone of Influence	Assessment of Potential Impact on European Sites
	<p>Policy G113- Areas of Ecological Importance for Protected Species: To ensure the protection, conservation, and enhancement of all areas of ecological importance for protected species, and especially those listed in the EU Birds and Habitats Directives, including those identified as supporting the favourable conservation condition of any European sites, in accordance with development standards set out in this plan.</p>	<p>There will be no impact on any European Designated Sites as a result of the proposed works.</p>
<p>National Biodiversity Action Plan 2017-2021</p>		
	<p>Target 6.1: Natura 2000 network designated and under effective conservation management by 2020.</p> <p>Target 6.2 - Sufficiency, coherence, connectivity, and resilience of the protected areas network substantially enhanced by 2020.</p>	<p>The Development plan was comprehensively reviewed, with particular reference to Policies and Objectives that relate to the Natura 2000 network and other natural heritage interests. No potential for cumulative impacts when considered in conjunction with the current proposal were identified.</p> <p>There will be no impact on any European Designated Sites as a result of the proposed works.</p>

4. ARTICLE 6(3) APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT SCREENING STATEMENT AND CONCLUSIONS

The findings of this Screening Assessment are presented following the European Commission’s Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly affecting Natura 2000 Sites: Methodological Guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (EC, 2021) and Managing Natura 2000 Sites: the provisions of Article 6 of the ‘Habitats’ Directive 92/43/EEC (EC, 2018) as well as the Department of the Environment’s Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland - Guidance for Planning Authorities (DoEHLG, 2010).

4.1 Data Collected to Carry Out Assessment

In preparation of the report, the following sources were used to gather information:

- › Review of NPWS Site Synopses, Conservation Objectives for the European Sites
- › Review of 2019, 2013 and 2007 EU Habitats Directive (Article 17) Reports.
- › Review of online web-mappers: National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), Teagasc, EPA, Water Framework Directive (WFD), Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI), Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI), Irish Wetland Bird Survey I-WeBS & Geohive online Environmental Sensitivity Mapping tool
- › Review of specially requested records from the NPWS Rare and Protected Species Database for the hectads which overlap with the study area.
- › Review of Bird Atlases: (Sharrock, 1976; Lack, 1986; Gibbons et al., 1993; Balmer et al., 2013).
- › Review of other plans and projects within the area.
- › Site Survey carried out on the 18/02/2023.

4.2 Concluding Statement

It is concluded beyond reasonable scientific doubt, in view of best scientific knowledge, on the basis of objective information and in light of the conservation objectives of the relevant European sites, that the proposed development, individually or in combination with other plans and projects, in the absence of mitigation, will not have a significant effect on any European Site designated under the Habitats Directive and Birds Directive.

As a result, an Appropriate Assessment is not required, and a Natura Impact Statement shall not be prepared in respect of the proposed development.

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