Appropriate Assessment Screening Report

for proposed

Traveller Accommodation Upgrade

at

Tig Mo Croí, Glenamuck

in accordance with the requirements of
Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive

by

CAAS Ltd

for

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council

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On client request, the **site area and plan** were updated to align with **final** confirmed **Part 8 details** on 5 June 2025. The r**eport is otherwise** unchanged.

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1. Introduction

1.1. Background

CAAS has been appointed by Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council to prepare an Appropriate Assessment (AA) screening report for a proposed development at Tig Mo Croí, Glenamuck. This Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening Report (also known as *Stage One* AA) has been prepared to assess whether or not a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) (also known as *Stage Two* AA) is required for the proposed development. AA is a procedure carried out in accordance with the requirements of Article 6(3) of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (as amended) (hereafter referred to as the "Habitats Directive").

1.2. Report Structure

This report sets out the legislative context for the assessment process with reference to relevant guidelines and highlight the experience and qualifications of the author (See Appendix IV for author qualifications). It then details the proposed development and the works associated with this which are then interrogated to identify any possible effects which may be ecologically relevant for European sites. Following this, the metrics for the assessment of 'significance' of these effects are explained and applied to each of the European sites with ecological connectivity to the proposed development area. This assessment is undertaken in view of the Conservation Objectives and known sensitivities of the Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests for each European site. Other plans and projects are then considered to identify whether there are likely in combination effects, which may result in any likelihood of significant effects on European sites.

1.3. Legislative Context

The Habitats Directive provides legal protection for habitats and species of European importance. The overall aim of the Habitats Directive is to maintain or restore the "favourable conservation status" of habitats and species of European Community Interest. These habitats and species are listed in the Habitats and Birds Directives (Habitats Directive as above and Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds) with Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) designated to afford their protection. Qualifying Interests (QIs) are the habitats and species for which SACs are designated and Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) are the species for which SPAs are designated. SACs and SPAs are known and referred to as European sites.

Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive set out the decision-making tests for plans and projects likely to affect such sites. Article 6(3) establishes the requirement for AA. These requirements are implemented in the Republic of Ireland by the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (as amended) and the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive States:

> *'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'.*

For the purposes of this assessment, the above definition relates to a project. The AA process relates to the protection of species listed in Annex I and Annex II of the Habitats Directive which form the Natura 2000 network (Article 3(1)). Species breeding and resting places of species listed in Annex IV of the Habitats Directive are nationally protected in Ireland as per Articles 15 and 16 of the Habitats Directive. The actual species listed in Annex IV do not form part of the Natura 2000 network as they are not mentioned in Article 3(1) of the Directive which defines the Natura 2000 network.

Article 3(1) of the Habitats Directive States:

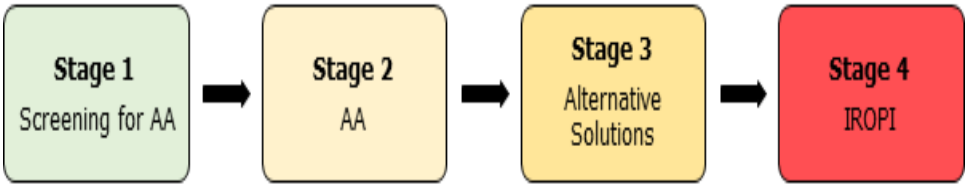
> *'A coherent European ecological network of special areas of conservation shall be set up under the title Natura 2000. This network, composed of sites hosting the natural habitat types listed in Annex I and habitats of the species listed in Annex II, shall enable the natural habitat types and the species' habitats concerned to be maintained or, where appropriate, restored at a favourable conservation status in their natural range'.*

AA is an assessment of the likelihood of significant effects arising from a plan or project, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, in order to assess whether the plan or project will result in adverse effects on any European site concerned, in view of the European site's Conservation Objectives. European sites are comprised of both SACs and SPAs and provide for the protection and long-term survival of Europe's most valuable and threatened species and habitats. Where a formal consent process applies, the AA process is concluded by the relevant competent authority making an AA determination, in accordance with article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive.

1.4. Overview of the Habitats Directive and Appropriate Assessment Process

The Habitats Directive itself promotes a hierarchy of avoidance, mitigation and compensatory measures. This approach aims to avoid any effects on European sites by identifying possible effects early in the plan or project making process and avoiding such effects. Second, the approach involves the application of mitigation measures, if necessary, during the AA process to the point where no adverse impacts on the site(s) remain. If potential significant effects on European sites remain, and no further practicable mitigation is possible, the approach requires the consideration of alternative solutions. If no alternative solutions are identified and the plan or project is required for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, then compensation measures are required for any remaining adverse effects.

There are four main stages in the AA process:



Stage one: Appropriate Assessment Screening
The process that identifies the likely impacts upon a European site of a project or plan, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans and considers whether these impacts are likely to be significant. An Appropriate Assessment Screening Report (AASR) can be compiled to inform the competent authority on conducting Screening for AA.

Stage two: Appropriate Assessment (AA)
The consideration of the impact on the integrity of the European site of the project or plan, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, with respect to the site's structure and function and its conservation objectives. Additionally, where there are adverse effects mitigation measures are required to avoid or minimise potential effects. The details of these mitigation measures are then assessed in the context of the ecological integrity of the plan/project characteristics to ensure no significant adverse effects on European sites. If this assessment process shows there are no residual significant effects, then the process may end at this stage, stage two, of the AA process which are formalised in Natura Impact Statements (NIS) reports which support the overall AA process. However, if the likelihood of significant impacts remains, then the process must proceed to Stage Three.

Stage three: Assessment of Alternative Solutions
The process that examines alternative ways of achieving the objectives of the project or plan that avoids adverse impacts on the integrity of the European site.

Stage four: Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest (IROPI)
An assessment of compensatory measures, where no alternative solutions exist and where adverse impacts remain, but in the light of an assessment of IROPI, it is deemed that the project or plan should proceed.

1.5. Approach

This AASR has been prepared in line with the relevant legislation (ref s1.3), is based on best scientific knowledge, and has utilised ecological expertise, with consideration of the relevant guidance, including the following:

- *Guidance for EIA and AA screening of active travel projects funded by the NTA*, National Transport Authority, 2023;
- *Practice Note PN01: Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management,* Office of the Planning Regulator, 2021;
- *Assessment of plans and projects in relation to Natura 2000 sites – Methodological guidance*

on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, European Commission Notice, Journal of the European Union, 2021;

- *Commission Notice: Managing Natura 2000 sites - The provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC",* European Commission 2018; and
- *Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland. Guidance for Planning Authorities,* Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2009.

1.5.1. Source-pathway-receptor model

Ecological impact assessment of potential effects on European sites is conducted following a standard source-pathway-receptor model, where, in order for an effect to be established, all three elements of this mechanism must be in place. The absence or removal of one of the elements of the mechanism is sufficient to conclude that a potential effect is not of any relevance or significance.

- Source(s) – e.g., pollutant run-off from subject development;
- Pathway(s) – e.g., groundwater connecting to nearby qualifying wetland habitats; and,
- Receptor(s) – e.g., qualifying habitats and species of European sites.

In the context of this report, a receptor is a QI or SCI, or an ecological feature that is known to be utilised by the QIs or SCIs of a European site. A source is any identifiable element of the subject development that is known to interact with the QI, SCI, or any ecological processes underpinning a QI or SCI. A pathway is any connection or link between the source and the receptor[1], for example a river. This report provides information on whether direct, indirect and cumulative potential significant effects could arise from the subject development.

1.5.2. Zone of Influence

The Zone of Influence (ZoI) is defined in the relevant guidance[2,3] as the geographical area, relative to the subject development, over which it could have effects on the ecological receiving environment in any way that could result in potential significant effects on the Qualifying Interests or Special Conservation Interests of a given European site.

The ZoI is established and informed by the nature of the subject development, connectivity to European sites, and the receptors involved, i.e., the QIs and SCIs of European sites, their supporting habitats, and their sensitivities and pressures.

1.5.3. Ecological desktop study

This AASR is supported by desktop research from national databases including: the National Biodiversity Data Centre[4]; the National Parks and Wildlife Service[5]; and the Environmental Protection Agency[6], alongside data collected for the most recent Article 12 and 17 conservation status reporting

[1] Qualifying interest or special conservation interests of the European site in question and the known sensitivities of these key ecological receptors

[2] *Practice Note PN01: Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management, Office of the Planning Regulator, 2021.*

[3] CIEEM (2018) Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland: Terrestrial, Freshwater, Coastal and Marine version 1.2. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester.

[4] National Biodiversity Data Centre datasets available here.

[5] National Parks and Wildlife Service datasets available here and here.

[6] Environmental Protection Agency datasets available here.

cycle, 2019; and, *The Status of Protected EU Habitats and Species in Ireland* report (NPWS, 2019).

When European sites are identified as having potential for effect as a result of the implementation of the proposed development, the following information is examined as required:

- Review of the NPWS site synopses and Conservation Objectives for European sites within the zone(s) of influence for which potential pathways from the subject development area have been identified;
- Examination of available data on distribution, trends and abundances of protected species and habitats, where relevant;
- Background information on threats to individual sites and vulnerability of habitats and species included the following:
    - Ireland's Article 17 Report to the European Commission "Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland" (NPWS, 2019);
    - Ireland's Article 12 Report to the European Commission "Bird species' status and trends reporting format for the period 2008-2012-" (NPWS, 2012)
    - Site Synopses; and
    - Natura 2000 Standard Data forms

2. Description of Proposed Development

2.1. Receiving Environment Overview

The proposed development is located on the Glenamuck Road, Glenamuck, County Dublin. A site visit was conducted by an ecologist on the 20th of February 2024. The proposed site is an existing small residential development that is composed of mostly hard surface concrete with small areas of Laurel (*Prunus Laurocerasus*) box hedging (see images in Appendix I). Laurel or Cherry laurel is an invasive species; however, it is not subject to restrictions in Ireland as per the Third Schedule of Regulation 49 (S.I. No. 477/2011[7]). There are no other areas of vegetation (e.g., trees, hedgerows, amenity grassland) within the proposed development site.

There are no hydrological features or habitats on site, and there is no surface connectivity to any watercourses in the surrounding area (Figure 2.2). There is underground surface water and wastewater drainage infrastructure already installed on site that is servicing the existing residential development.

In the winder context, the proposed site is bordered by the Glenamuck Road to the north, and surrounded by a mixture of residential areas, agricultural areas and wooded areas (Figure 2.1).

2.2. The Proposed Development

The proposed development comprises an upgrade to an existing traveller accommodation and primarily involving extensions to 3 existing dwelling units and associated site works. An existing single-story 3-bed dwelling on the site will be retained.

The proposed development will include

- Extensions to 3 existing dwelling units to include 4 bedrooms and 1 bathroom per unit
- 6 car spaces
- Associated ancillary development including 6 concrete walls and 4 gates as shown on figure 2
- Removal of 3 mobile homes.

The proposed development will be carried out within the 0.33 ha site area shown in Figure 1. The proposed extensions are 198 m^2 combined.

There will be no removal of any vegetation as part of the proposed development. The proposed development will also not require any changes to the surface water drainage or wastewater drainage infrastructure that are already existing on site (Figure 2.4 and Figure 2.5), as it will not result in any changes in water supply demand or drainage capacity.

[7] European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (as amended) S.I. No. 477/2011

Figure 2.1. Location of proposed development site [8]

[8] Source: Google maps (site boundary is approximate)

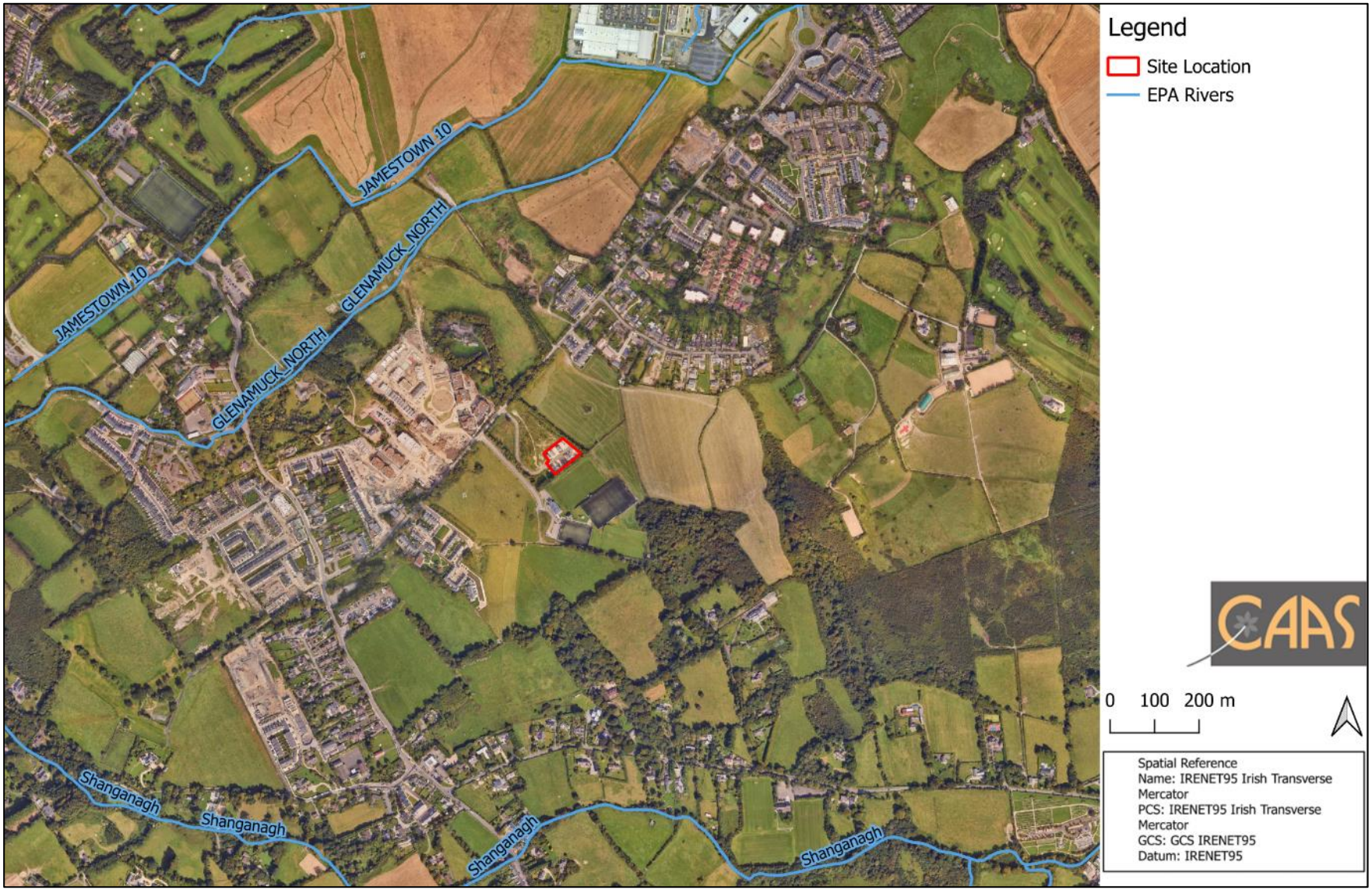


Figure 2.2. Location of EPA rivers relative to the proposed development [9]

[9] Source: EPA datasets – available here

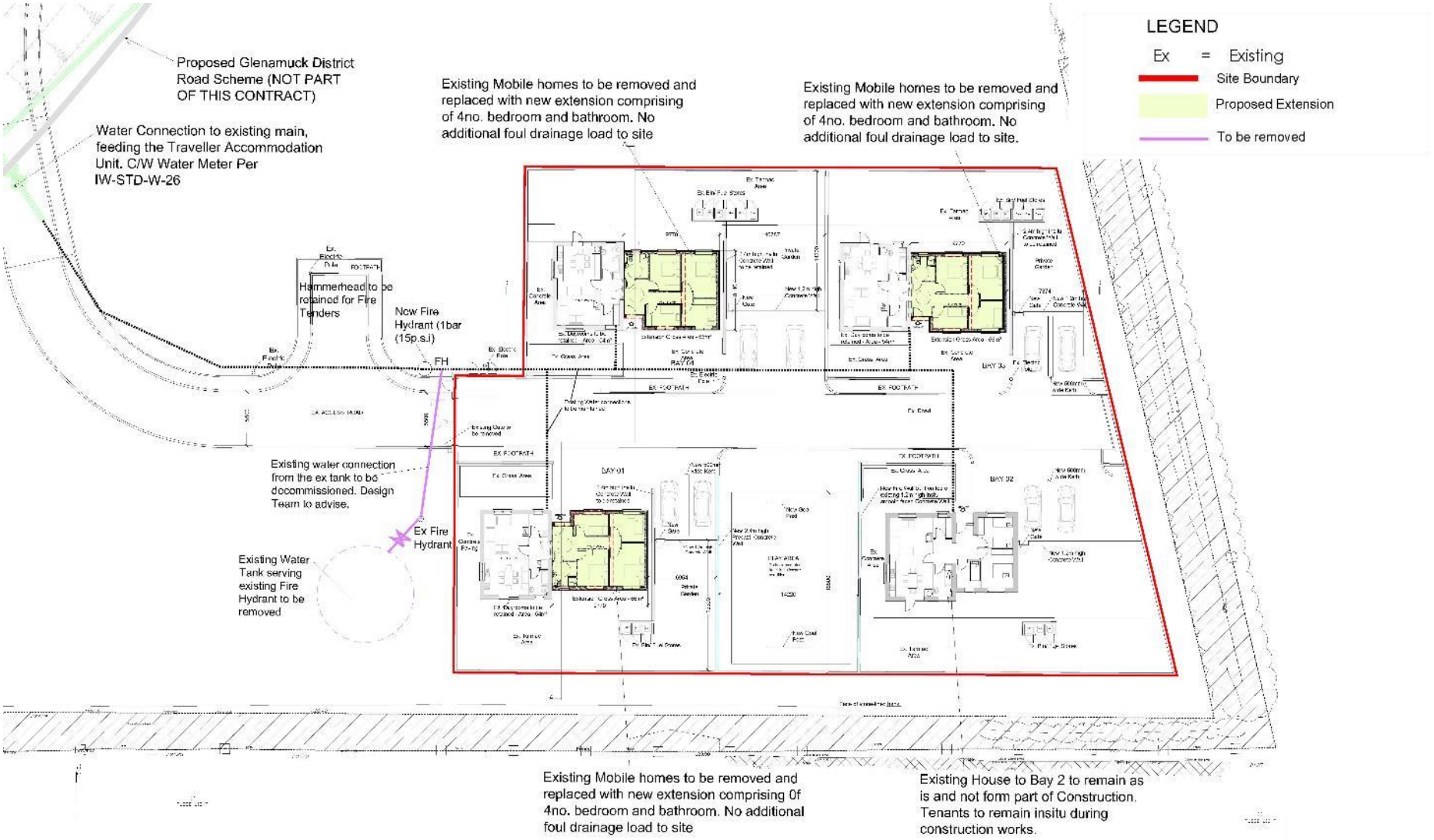


Figure 2.3 Proposed site plan [10]

[10] Source: Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council. See accompanying drawing set for full scale version

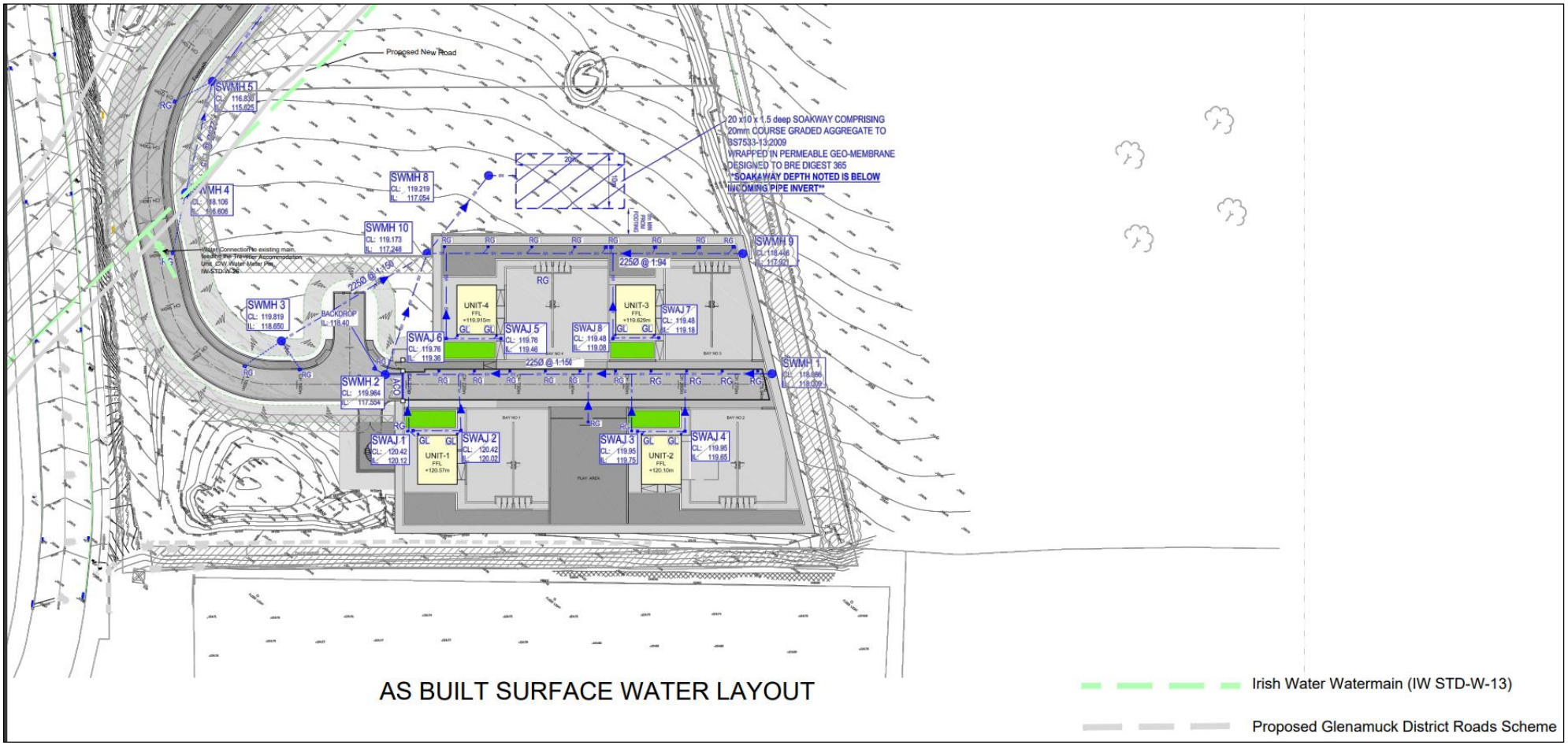


Figure 2.4. Existing surface water drainage layout [10]

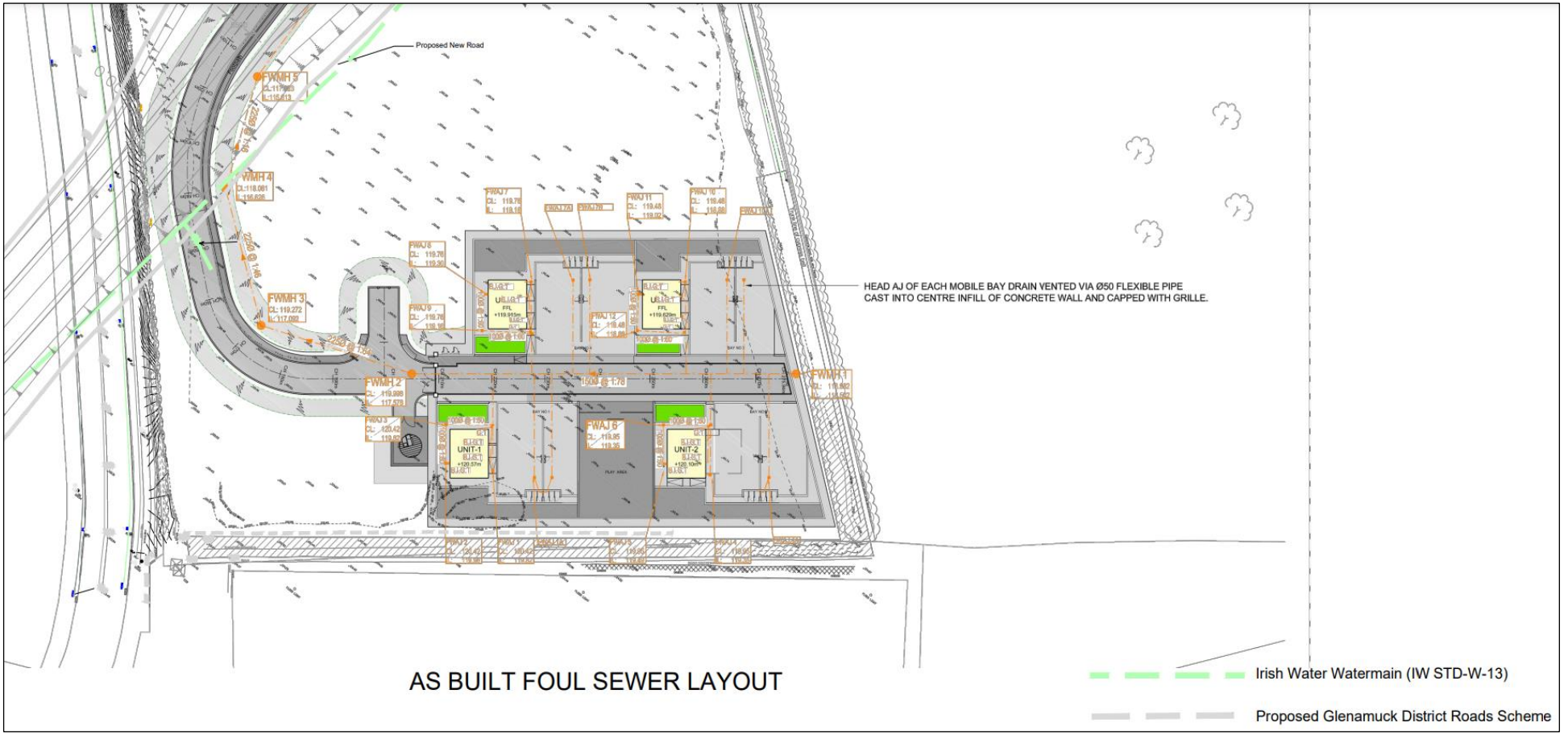


Figure 2.5. Existing wastewater drainage layout [10]

3. Screening for Appropriate Assessment

3.1. Introduction

This stage of the process identifies any likely significant effects on European sites arising from the project, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans. A series of questions are asked in order to determine:

- Whether the project can be excluded from AA requirements because it is directly connected with or necessary to the management of a European site.
- Whether the project will have a potentially significant effect on a European site, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, in view of the site's conservation objectives or if residual uncertainty exists regarding potential impacts.

3.1.1. Is the development necessary to the management of European sites?

Under the Habitats Directive, projects that are directly connected with or necessary to the management of a European site do not require AA. For this exception to apply, management is required to be interpreted narrowly as nature conservation management in the sense of Article 6(1) of the Habitats Directive. This refers to specific measures to address the ecological requirements of annexed habitats and species (and their habitats) present on a site(s). The relationship should be shown to be direct and not a by-product of the project, even if this might result in positive or beneficial effects for a site(s).

The primary purpose of the proposed development is not the nature conservation management of the sites, but to provide for Traveller Accommodation Upgrades at Tig Mo Croí, Glenamuck, and all associated site works. Therefore, in the context of the Habitat's Directive, the proposed development would not be considered to be directly connected with or necessary to the management of European designated sites.

3.1.2. Zone of Influence

Considering the nature of the proposed development, the small size of the proposed site,the small scale of the proposed works (as described in s2.2), the context of the current site use and the characteristics of the surrounding area (s2.1 and Figure 2.2) (including urban drainage); a ZoI of 200 m radius for potential effects is considered appropriate for the proposed development. There are no European sites within 200 m of the proposed development, and there are no direct or indirect connections to European sites.

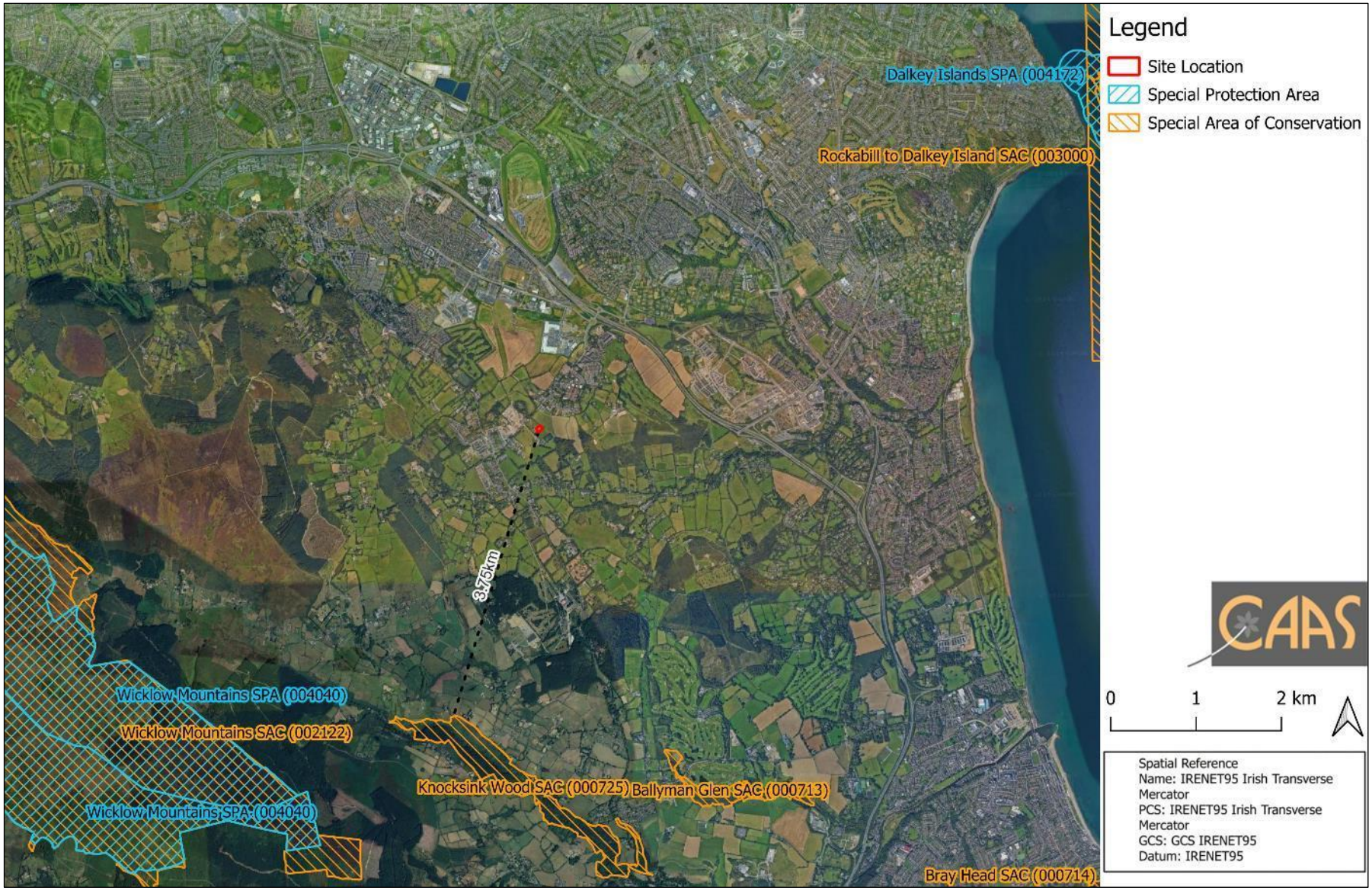


Figure 3.1 Proposed development in the context of closest European sites

3.2. Characterising likely significant effects

An important element of the AA process is the identification of the "'Conservation Objectives", "Qualifying Interests" (QIs) and/ or "Special Conservation Interests" (SCIs) of European sites requiring assessment. QIs are the habitat features and species listed in Annexes I and II of the Habitats Directive for which each Special Area of Conservation (SAC) has been designated and afforded protection under the Habitats Directive. SCIs are bird species listed within Annexes I and II of the Birds Directive for which each Special Protection Area (SPA) has been designated and afforded protection under the Habitats Directive. Under the requirements of the Habitats Directive, the threats and pressures on the ecological / environmental conditions that are required to support QIs and SCIs, with specific regard to the COs of each site, are considered as part of the assessment.

Site-Specific Conservation Objectives (SSCOs) have been designed to define favourable conservation status for a particular habitat or species at that site. According to the European Commission interpretation document 'Managing Natura 2000 sites: The provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC', paragraph 4.6(3):

> *"The integrity of a site involves its ecological functions. The decision as to whether it is adversely affected should focus on and be limited to the site's conservation objectives."*

Favourable conservation status of a habitat is achieved when:

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

The favourable conservation status of a species is achieved when:

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

The terminology used for characterisation of potential effects[11] in this AASR is as follows: -

- **Direct and Indirect Impacts** - An impact can be caused either as a direct or as an indirect consequence of a Plan/Project.
- **Magnitude** - Magnitude measures the size of an impact, which is described as high, medium, low, very low or negligible.
- **Extent** - The area over that the impact occurs – this should be predicted in a quantified manner.

[11] Parameters used have been adapted from the following guidance documents on the conduction Appropriate Assessments and Ecological Impact Assessments:

- Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (2009) Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland. Guidance for Planning Authorities
- CIEEM (2018) Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland: Terrestrial, Freshwater, Coastal and Marine version 1.2. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester; and,

- **Duration** - The time that the effect is expected to last prior to recovery or replacement of the resource or feature.
  - Temporary: Up to 1 Year;
  - Short Term: The effects would take 1-7 years to be mitigated;
  - Medium Term: The effects would take 7-15 years to be mitigated;
  - Long Term: The effects would take 15-60 years to be mitigated; and
  - Permanent: The effects would take 60 or more years to be mitigated.
- **Likelihood** – The probability of the effect occurring taking into account all available information.
  - Certain/Near Certain: >95% chance of occurring as predicted;
  - Probable: 50-95% chance as occurring as predicted;
  - Unlikely: 5-50% chance as occurring as predicted; and
  - Extremely Unlikely: <5% chance as occurring as predicted.

The Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) guidelines for ecological impact assessment (2016) define: an ecologically significant impact as an impact (negative or positive) on the integrity of a defined site or ecosystem and/or the conservation status of habitats or species within a given geographic area; and the integrity of a site as the coherence of its ecological structure and function, across its whole area, which enables it to sustain the habitat, complex of habitats and/or the levels of populations of the species for which it was classified.

The Habitats Directive requires the focus of the assessment at this screening stage to be on the integrity of the site as indicated by its Conservation Objectives. It is an aim of NPWS to draw up conservation management plans for all areas designated for nature conservation. These plans will, among other things, set clear objectives for the conservation of the features of interest within a site.

Detailed SSCOs have been prepared for a number of European sites. These detailed SSCOs aim to define favourable conservation condition for the qualifying habitats and species at that site by setting targets for appropriate attributes which define the character habitat. The maintenance of the favourable condition for these habitats and species at the site level will contribute to the overall maintenance of favourable conservation status of those habitats and species at a national level.

> **Favourable conservation status** of a **species** can be described as being achieved when: '*population data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself, and the natural range of the species is neither being reduced or likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future, and there is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis.*'
>
> **Favourable conservation status** of a **habitat** can be described as being achieved when: '*its natural range, and area it covers within that range, is stable or increasing, and the ecological factors that are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future, and the conservation status of its typical species is favourable*'.

Where detailed SSCOs have not been prepared for any European site, the below **First Order Site-specific Conservation Objectives** apply:

European site type	First Order Site-specific Conservation Objective[12]
SAC	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected
SPA	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for the SPA

3.3. Identification of potential significant effects of the proposed development

This section identifies whether the changes brought about by the proposed development may have sources with pathways for introducing direct, indirect or secondary potential effects (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) on European sites.

As the proposed development is for a residential upgrade, considerations for identifying potential sources with pathways for effect to European sites for the assessment have been given to the presence of any hydrological pathways (i.e., surface and/or groundwater) connecting the proposed development to European sites via direct surface water connectivity (i.e., stream, river, lake etc.), surface water drainage/underground urban drainage connectivity, and/or wastewater drainage connectivity (i.e., use of septic tank or connection to wastewater mains and local WWTP). Consideration has also been given to any direct connectivity of the proposed development site with European sites where, for example, a proposed development may increase visitor numbers or access to European site. SCI species of SPAs that are known to utilise (i.e., forage and or roost) isolated / ex-situ resources across the landscape (i.e., outside of the designated SPA boundary) could intersect with potential foraging habitat within or surrounding a proposed development for example, and this is considered also in the identification of relevant European sites for assessment. Invasive species could also present a source for impact from the construction phase of residential development either from spread of seed from any invasive species present in the receiving environment or transfer to the site.

As mentioned in s2.1, there is no direct surface hydrological connection between the proposed development site and any European site. At its closest point, the Glenamuck North Stream, which does connect to Dublin Bay and associated European sites, is approximately 490 m north west of the proposed development boundary (Figure 2.2). Therefore, there are no sources or pathways to consider for potential effects via direct surface hydrological connectivity with any European sites.

Regarding potential connectivity to European sites via surface water drainage, there is existing surface water drainage on site and there will be no changes to surface water drainage outflow or infrastructure as a result of the proposed development. The proposed development will continue to utilise the existing surface water infrastructure on site and there will be no increase in hard surface area as a result of the development. Therefore, there are also no sources with pathways to consider for potential effects to European sites via surface water drainage.

Similarly, regarding wastewater, there is existing wastewater drainage infrastructure on site, and there will be no changes to wastewater outflow or infrastructure as a result of the proposed

[12] NPWS Conservation Management Planning website, accessed May 2024

development. The proposed development does not require any alterations or additions to the current wastewater infrastructure on site, and there will be no increase in the units of usage for wastewater on site as a result of the implementation of the proposed development. Therefore, there are no sources with pathways to consider for potential effects to European sites via wastewater drainage.

The proposed development site itself is composed almost entirely of hard surface concrete and walls (2.1 and Appendix I) which is unsuitable habitat for ex-situ foraging SCI species. The areas of amenity and agricultural grassland surrounding the site (Figure 2.1) have potential to provide ex-situ foraging habitat for SCI species of SPAs (e.g., SPAs in the Dublin Bay area north of the site) and thus could be considered for disturbance effects to SCI species. However, the construction phase of the proposed development will be contained within small site of .33 ha, with proposed upgrades being only 210 m^2 combined. In addition, construction will be over a short period of months. Thus, considering the minor scale of the development and associated works (s2.2), and small-time scale, in combination with the unsuitable habitat for ex-situ foraging in the site itself, there are no sources with pathways for effect regarding disturbance for potential ex-situ foraging habitat that may be present in the surrounding agricultural / amenity lands as a result of the proposed development.

Cherry laurel (*Prunus Laurocerasus*) has been recorded on site during an ecological site visit carried out on 20th of February 2024. This species is not subject to restrictions as per the Third Schedule of Regulation 49 (S.I. No. 477/2011[13]) and there are no proposals to include the species as part of the proposed development. There were no other invasive species recorded within the receiving environment of the proposed site. Therefore, there are no sources for effects to European sites regarding invasive species a result of the proposed development.

In summary, due to the lack of any direct hydrological connectivity (Figure 2.2), minor scale of the proposed development (s2.2 and Figure 2.3) and distance to any European sites (Figure 3.1), and lack of effects for disturbance, there no European sites identified as having pathways with sources for potential effects resulting from the implementation of the proposed development.

3.3.1. Summary of likely significant effects

In summary of the above, there are no likely significant effects arising from either the construction or operational phases of the proposed development to any European sites.

3.4. Other plans and projects

Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive requires an assessment of a plan or project to consider other plans or projects that might, in combination with the plan or project, have the potential to have significant effects on European sites.

The plans or projects considered for in-combination effects were chosen based on the following criteria, in the context of the characteristics and the associated sources for potential effects of the proposed development (as discussed in s2 and s3.3 respectively):

- Having direct or indirect connectivity to a European site;
- Being in close proximity to a European site;

[13] European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (as amended) S.I. No. 477/2011

- Being of a substantial scale relative to the conditions and/or current works taking place in the surrounding landscape;
- Having widely dispersed emissions or far-reaching sources for effects;
- Having sources for effects on ecological connectivity.

Considering the above factors for Local Authority and An Bord Pleanála planning applications; the Dept of Housing, Local Government and Heritage planning[14] and An Bord Pleanála[15] databases were searched using a radius of 200 m from the proposed development boundary, over the past 5 years[16]. All developments in these parameters were considered.

Any potential sources for effects from the proposed development have been examined in combination with the potential sources for effects from the plans and projects resulting from the above detailed search parameters for potential additive or interactive effects on the European sites. The resulting plans from the above search criteria are discussed in 3.4.1 below, while the resulting projects from this search that are most relevant for this scheme are discussed in s 3.4.2 below, and a comprehensive list displayed in Appendices V and VI.

3.4.1. Plans considered for in-combination effects arising from the proposed development

- Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Development Plan 2022-2028

Considering the land use zoning of the above plan, and that the proposed development has a small-scale, temporary construction phase and the operational phase is consistent with the current site use, it is not foreseen that proposed development will have any likely significant in-combination effects with the above plan.

3.4.2. Projects considered for in-combination effects arising from the proposed development

There are a large number other proposed schemes in the vicinity including works which are at planning stage or underway on various sites. The database search found that the vast majority of projects within the area are relating to the altering of existing structures, small private home extensions, change of use, along more medium scale developments. All projects resulting from this search are provided in Appendices II and III.

Due to undergoing their own AA process, none of the projects identified introduce any adverse significant effects on European sites. Therefore, given the nature and scale of the proposed development, and the lack of any potential for significant effects as assessed here, there are no in combination effects with the projects or plans examined that have been identified to have likely potential significant effects on any European site.

[14] Local Authority planning applications - available here, accessed; 11th June 2024

[15] An Bord Pleanála planning application - aavailable here, accessed; 11th June 2024

[16] Planning applications have a standard lifespan of 5 years as per Section 40 (3)(b) of the Planning & Development Act 2000, as amended; therefore, these are viewed to be the 'live' applications, all other projects are considered as part of the site other than refused and withdrawn applications, as these would not have any in-combination effects

4. Conclusion

This Appropriate Assessment Screening Report has considered potential effects within the Zone(s) of Influence, resulting from the source pathway receptor model, which may arise during the construction and operational phases as a result of the implementation of the proposed Traveller Accommodation Upgrade at Tig Mo Croí, Glenamuck Road. Through an assessment of the potential sources and potential pathways for significant effects; an evaluation of the project characteristics; taking account of the processes involved and the distance of separation from European sites, it has been evaluated by this report, that there is no likelihood of significant effects occurring to the Qualifying Interests, Special Conservation Interests or the Conservation Objectives of any designated European site as a result of the implementation of the proposed development.

Given the small, localised scale of the proposed development, and the nature of the proposed development in the context of the local environment, plans and projects; the proposed development will not lead to any significant effects in-combination with effects arising from any other plans or projects.

It is concluded by this AA Screening Report that the proposed development is not foreseen to have any likelihood of significant effects on any European sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects – and therefore any potential for significant effects on any European site as a result of the proposed development can be ruled out. This conclusion is made in view of the conservation objectives of the habitats or species for which these sites have been designated. Consequently, the proposed development does not need to be subject to Stage Two Appropriate Assessment and a Natura Impact Statement is not required.

Appendix I Images from ecological site visit

Photo 1 West view of Tig Mo Croi

Photo 2 Typical hard surface layout on existing Tig Mo Croi site

Appendix II Local Authority planning applications in the vicinity[17] of the proposed development

Project Details	Decision	Description	Distance from Proposed Development (m)	Status	Characteristics of the potential interactions between the projects; sources and pathways	Likelihood of significant in-combination effects
Project Code: ABP30397819 Grant Date: 2019-06-26 Project Area (sq m): 42876.90	Grant Permission	Permission for a strategic housing development consisting of: 1. The construction of 203 residential units comprising; 30 houses (20 No. 3 bedroom and 10 No. 4 bedroom, up to 3 storeys), 173 apartments, (31 No. one bed, 124 No. two bed and 18 No. three bed within 12 blocks up to 6 storeys). The apartments incorporate duplex units. 2. The provision of a creche/childcare facility (c 480.4 sqm). 3. The provision of a retail unit (c 83.5 sqm). 4. The provision of a social/amenity facility (c 299.4 sqm). 5. The provision of two ESB substations (c total 45 sqm). 6. The development will include a new access from Glenamuck Road and the provision of access connection points, vehicular, cycle and pedestrian) to future adjacent development lands. 7. Provision of internal roads, cycle paths, foot paths, landscaped public open space and play areas. 8. Parking at surface and basement (268 total spaces for car parking, 312 spaces for bicycles and 24 spaces for motor cycles). 9. The development will include a new access from Glenamuck Road and the provision of access points, (vehicular, cycle and pedestrian) to future development lands and adjacent lands to the west and north west. 10. Provision of attenuation and all ancillary site development works, boundary treatments, lighting and services provision above and below ground. The application may also be inspected online at the following website set up by the applicant: www.glenamuckshd.ie	138.29	Permission (SHD)	This is a medium-scale project with a temporary construction phase and the operational phase will have localised effects that will be in keeping with the context and character of the surrounding environment. Considering the above, in combination with the lack of any potential for effects to European sites arising from the proposed development, it is not considered that there is any potential for significant in-combination effects to any European sites. The consent process for this project was subject to applicable EIA and AA requirements.	No

[17] Parameters used: Local Authority planning applications within the last 5 years, within a radius of 200m around the proposed development boundary

Appendix III An Bord Pleanála applications in the vicinity[18] of the proposed development

ABP case ID	Date	Decision	Description	Distance from proposed development (m)	Characteristics of the potential interactions between the projects; sources and pathways	Likelihood of significant in-combination effects
303945	2019-12-18	Approve with Conditions	Glenamuck District Roads Scheme which will connect the existing R117 Enniskerry Road with the Glenamuck Road and new link distributor road which will connect to the Ballycorus Road and the R117 Enniskerry Road (alternative north-south route).	24	This is a large-scale project for the Glenamuck area. Part of 303945 passes nearby the proposed development site Figure 2.4, and extends through the wider Glenamuck area. This project has undergone extensive EIAR and AA assessment processes and upon the application of mitigation measures if the NIS it concluded that there will be no adverse effects to European sites as a result of the implementation of 303945. Considering the above, in combination with the lack of any potential for effects on European sites arising from the proposed development, it is not considered that there is any potential for significant in-combination effects on any European sites.	No
303978	2019-06-26	Grant Perm. w Conditions	30 no. houses and 173 no. apartments with all associated site works.	139	This is a small-scale project that will be keeping with the context and character of the surrounding environment. Considering the above, in combination with the lack of any potential for effects on European sites arising from the proposed development, it is not considered that there is any potential for significant in-combination effects on any European sites. The consent process for this project was subject to applicable EIA and AA requirements.	No
306999	2020-09-22	Grant permission with conditions	Phase 2B of residential development comprising of 56 residential units.	179	This is a small-scale project that will be keeping with the context and character of the surrounding environment. Considering the above, in combination with the lack of any potential for effects on European sites arising from the proposed development, it is not considered that there is any potential for significant in-combination effects on any European	No

[18] Parameters used: An Bord Pleanála applications within a radius of 200m around the proposed scheme boundary

ABP case ID	Date	Decision	Description	Distance from proposed development (m)	Characteristics of the potential interactions between the projects; sources and pathways	Likelihood of significant in-combination effects
					sites. The consent process for this project was subject to applicable EIA and AA requirements.	

Appendix IV Contributor Details

Technical assistant - Callum O'Regan is an ecologist who holds a B.Sc. degree in Zoology from University College Cork and obtained a Master's degree in Conservation Behaviour from Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology in 2021. Callum has skills in data management and analysis, report writing and mapping. Callum has also worked on the preparation of a number of reports including Ecological Impact Assessments (EcIAs) and Appropriate Assessment Screenings for private and public projects of various sizes and complexities.

Author - Karen Dylan Shevlin is a lead ecologist with over 9 years' experience working in multiple capacities in ecology in Irish and international research institutions and organisations, and holds a MSc (Dist.) in Biodiversity and Conservation from Trinity College Dublin (2013). Karen has significant skills in leading ecological surveys of bats, birds, insects, habitats and mammals, alongside data analysis, mapping and compiling reports. Karen has worked on producing AA screenings, NISs, and EIARs for a range of public and private projects ranging from smaller facilities upgrades projects to major wind turbine sites. Karen is also a specialist in ecological theory and the impacts/effects that altering natural dynamics may have on the surrounding environment. This combination of skills and knowledge provides the backbone of the assessment process, and ensure that all of the baseline and detailed data gathered in the field is interpreted in a manner that is grounded in best scientific knowledge.

Reviewer - Paul Fingleton has an MSc in Rural and Regional Resources Planning (with specialisation in EIA) from the University of Aberdeen. Paul is a member of the International Association for Impact Assessment as well as the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment. He has over twenty-five years' experience working in the area of Environmental Assessment. Over this period, he has been involved in a diverse range of projects including contributions to, and co-ordination of, numerous complex EIARs and EIA screening reports. He has also contributed to and supervised the preparation of numerous AAs and AA screenings.

Paul is the lead author of the current EPA Guidelines and accompanying Advice Notes on EIARs. He has been involved in all previous editions of these statutory guidelines. He also provides a range of other EIA related consultancy services to the EPA. Paul is regularly engaged by various planning authorities and other consent authorities to provide specialised EIA advice.