

Blackrock Dart – Park Active Travel Scheme

Flood Risk Assessment Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council

June 2024



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1. Introduction

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council intends to apply for Part 8 planning permission to carry out a proposed scheme comprising the construction of Active Travel Facilities in Blackrock, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County.

The Active Travel Scheme will improve connectivity between Blackrock DART Station and Blackrock Park as well as providing a safe and attractive pedestrian and cycle link catering for all pedestrian and cycle users including, commuter, leisure, and family cycling groups.

The proposed project is located immediately to the west of Blackrock DART Station between Bath Place and Blackrock Park.

WS Atkins Ireland Limited (Atkins) was commissioned by Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council (DLRCC) to prepare a Stage 2 Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) report for the Blackrock Dart-Park Active Travel Scheme.

1.1. Project Details

The proposed development commences at Bath Place (in the location of Blackrock Dart Station) passing through the grounds of the existing Deepwell House (protected structure: RPS No. 110). It includes the provision of 130m of a two-way cycle track varying in width from 3m to 3.65m, a 2m wide footpath and associated 1m and 3m grass verges, linking into the existing pedestrian and cycle path facilities in Blackrock Park by means of a new prefabricated bridge over the Priory Stream which is proposed to replace the existing narrow pedestrian bridge. A new sustainable urban drainage system will collect surface water run-off from the proposed development and will regulate discharge into the Priory Stream. The proposed development includes for a new public lighting system and landscaping which will be located within the proposed grass verges. The proposed development includes the retention of the existing masonry wall along the northern boundary and its extension at both ends to close off access to the existing laneway, whilst removing two sections of the existing wall to form openings for the proposed route. Where required, the height of the existing masonry wall will be raised to maintain a minimum height of 2.0m in relation to the finished scheme levels. The southern boundary of the proposed development includes the construction of a new boundary wall which will replicate the style of the existing boundary wall to the north and will be constructed at a height of 3.0m above the proposed back of verge level or existing private garden level, whichever is higher. Landscaping will be included as part of the route which will be inclusive of 2No. pillars located at the Bath Place entrance of the scheme. Ancillary works include but are not limited to landscaping and removal for future relocation of the existing folly.

Figures 1-1 and 1-2 below illustrate the project location.



Figure 1-1 - Scheme Location





Figure 1-2 – Scheme Extents

1.2. Relevant Guidance

This FRA has been undertaken in consideration with '*The Planning System and Flood Risk Management – Guidelines for Planning Authorities*' DOEHLG November 2009, which is the latest guidance document.

The guidance has been issued to ensure that flood risk is a key consideration for developers, planning and regional authorities, and the public in preparing and submitting development proposals. The principles of the guidance are as follows:

- Avoid the risk, where possible
- Substitute less vulnerable users, where avoidance is not possible, and
- Mitigate and manage the risk, where avoidance and substitution are not possible

A staged approach is recommended within the guidance document in relation to identifying and assessing flood risk. The three stages of appraisal and assessment are as follows:

- Stage 1 Flood risk identification
- Stage 2 Initial flood risk assessment
- Stage 3 Detailed flood risk assessment

1.3. Flood Risk

Flood risk can be quantified by relating the probability of the flood event occurring to the consequence of the flood. Probability, in flood event terms, is gauged by potential annual occurrence/return period and flood consequence is dependent on the nature of the flood hazard and the vulnerability of the inundated area. The source-pathway-receptor model considers the components of flood risk.

Source



Receptor

The source is the hazard with the potential to cause harm through flooding (e.g., rainfall, high sea levels). The pathway is the mechanism by which the source can affect the receptor (e.g., inadequate drainage, overtopping of coastal defences) and finally, the receptor is anything which is affected by the flood event (e.g., people, infrastructure, property).

1.4. Causes of Flooding

The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines requires an FRA to consider all potential causes of flooding including the following:



- Coastal flooding
- Inland flooding
 - Overland flow
 - River flooding
 - Flooding from artificial drainage systems
 - Groundwater flooding
 - Estuarial flooding
 - Failure of infrastructure

1.5. Floodplains

A river flood plain is a low-lying area which receives excess flood water when the flow within the watercourse exceeds the capacity of the channel. A coastal flood plain is an area which, during high tide or increased sea levels, becomes inundated with sea water.

1.6. Assessing Flood Risk

In the context of the 'Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines, DOEHLG, 2009' three flood zones are designated in the consideration of flood risk to a particular site. The three flood zones are described in Table 1-1 below.

Flood Zone	Description
Flood 'Zone A'	where the probability of flooding is the highest (greater than 1% or 1 in 100 year for watercourse flooding or 0.5% or 1 in 200 for coastal flooding).
Flood 'Zone B'	where the probability of flooding is moderate (between 0.1% or 1 in 1000 year and 1% or 1 in 100 year for watercourse flooding, and between 0.1% or 1 in 1000 year and 0.5% or 1 in 200 for coastal flooding).
Flood 'Zone C'	where the probability of flooding is low or negligible (less than 0.1% or 1 in 1000 year for both watercourse and coastal flooding).
	Flood Zone 'C' covers all areas which are not in Zones 'A' or 'B'.

Table 1-1 - Flood Zone Description

The planning implications for each of the flood zones are:

Zone A - High probability of flooding. Most types of development would be considered inappropriate in this zone. Development in this zone should be avoided and/or only considered in exceptional circumstances, such as in city and town centres, or in the case of essential infrastructure that cannot be located elsewhere, and where the Justification Test has been applied. Only water-compatible development, such as docks and marinas, dockside activities that require a waterside location, amenity open space, outdoor sports, and recreation, would be considered appropriate in this zone.

Zone B - Moderate probability of flooding. Highly vulnerable development, such as hospitals, residential care homes, Garda, fire, and ambulance stations, dwelling houses and primary strategic transport and utilities infrastructure, would generally be considered inappropriate in this zone, unless the requirements of the Justification Test can be met. Less vulnerable development, such as retail, commercial and industrial uses, sites used for short-let for caravans and camping and secondary strategic transport and utilities infrastructure, and water-compatible development might be considered appropriate in this zone. In general, however, a less vulnerable development should only be considered in this zone if adequate lands or sites are not available in Zone C and subject to a flood risk assessment to the appropriate level of detail to demonstrate that flood risk to and from the development can or will adequately be managed.

Zone C - Low probability of flooding. Development in this zone is appropriate from a flood risk perspective (subject to assessment of flood hazard from sources other than rivers and the coast) but would need to meet the normal range of other proper planning and sustainable development considerations.

2. Site Description

2.1. Existing Site Conditions

The study area is generally comprised of the following existing site conditions:

- Blackrock Park which consists of formal pathways, cycleways and amenity grassland areas
- A bituminous paved laneway which is bounded to the north by the northbound platform of Blackrock DART Station and to the south by the existing stone boundary wall to private lands known as "Deepwell House"
- A section of the private gardens to "Deepwell House" which consists of formal gardens.
- An existing bridge which spans the Priory Stream

2.2. Topography

The topography of the scheme extents ranges between 0.8mOD (meters above ordinance datum) and 5.4mOD (OSI, 2022) within the study area. The proposed scheme runs parallel to the Dart line and the shore of South Dublin Bay.

2.3. Local Hydrology & Existing Drainage

The Priory Stream (IE_EA_09B130400) is located within Water Framework Directive (WFD) Catchment 09 /Liffey and South Dublin Bay Catchment. It flows through the western extents of the proposed active travel scheme. The priory stream within Blackrock Park is canalised with old stone vertical walls and banks within the proposed site and outfalls to South Dublin Bay.

Figure 2-1 below displays the local hydrology and water features adjacent to the proposed active travel scheme, the base map has been extracted from the Envision website which is the EPA's interactive map viewer.



Figure 2-1 - Local Hydrology (EPA Envision)



3. Flood Risk Identification

3.1. Flood Risk Investigation

In accordance with the document "The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities" a Stage 1 Flood Risk Identification is required to be undertaken to identify if there are any flooding or surface water management issues related to the proposed development that may warrant further investigation. Initially, the following possible flood mechanisms for the proposed Active Travel Scheme have been identified:

Source/Pathway	Significant?	Comment/Reason				
Tidal/Coastal flooding	Possible	The proposed site is located circa. 20m from the South Dublin Bay which has flood defence walls along it. The risk of tidal/Coastal flooding is deemed possible as indicated within coastal flood mapping.				
Overland flow	No	The proposed travel scheme will be provided with a conventional drainage system. The risk of overland flow flooding along the proposed route is deemed to be low.				
River flooding	Possible	The Priory Stream is adjacent to the proposed site. There is risk of flooding west of the proposed active travel scheme.				
Flooding from artificial drainage systems	No	There are currently no existing artificial drainage systems along the proposed route.				
Groundwater flooding	No	According to the OPW floodmaps (<i>floodinfo.ie</i>) there are no significant springs or groundwater discharges recorded in the immediate vicinity of the site				
Estuarial flooding	Possible	The proposed site is located circa. 20m from Dublin Bay.				
Failure of infrastructure	Possible	An existing pedestrian bridge located west of the proposed route has been identified, the current proposal is for the bridge to be replaced as part of this project.				

Table 3-1 - Possible Flooding Mechanisms

Table 3-1 above indicates that there is a possible risk of coastal flooding and estuarial flooding due to the proximity to the South Dublin Bay and the possibility of fluvial flooding from the Priory Stream.

3.1.1. OPW Flood Maps

The Office of Public Works (OPW) interactive map viewer (<u>http://www.floodinfo.ie/map/floodmaps</u>) was consulted in relation to the proposed site to indicate the predicted flood extents for both rivers and coastal areas over various return periods. A Fluvial flood extents map (drawing No. e09car_exfcd_f2_07), Pluvial flood extents map (drawing No. e09car_excd_f2_07), pluvial flood extents map (drawing No. e09car_excd_f2_07), specific to the site have been included in Appendix A, B and C respectively of this report.

The above maps provide an overview of the flood risk zones around the proposed site area. It can be observed based on the Fluvial and Tidal flood maps that the Priory Stream has not be modelled within the extents of the flood risk study. Furthermore the pluvial flood map does not extend to the proposed travel scheme area.

3.1.2. Irish Coastal Protection Strategy Study Flood Maps

The maps from Irish Coastal Protection Strategy Study (ICPSS), completed in 2013 were studied to review the risk of flooding to the proposed travel scheme area. The maps based on the current day, mid-range future and high end future scenarios are included within Appendix D and illustrate that the scheme area lies within the 1 in 200 year tidal flood extents.



3.1.3. Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Development Plan 2022 – 2028

The Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Development plan was consulted to review the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment for the proposed site. The Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Development Plan Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Map (SFRA) was consistent with findings from the ICPSS flood maps as it indicated that the site is located within Flood Zone A where the probability of flooding is the highest (greater than 1% or 1 in 100 year for watercourse flooding or 0.5% or 1 in 200 for coastal flooding). The extracted map from the development plan also shows that there is a potential of wave overtopping but it should be noted that there are flood defence walls along the South Dublin Bay which would prevent any waves from affecting the proposed active travel scheme. An extract from the Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Development Plan SFRA Map is shown in Figure 3-1 below.



Figure 3-1 - Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County SFRA Map



3.1.4. Groundwater Flooding

Groundwater flooding occurs when the level of water stored in the ground rises as a result of prolonged rainfall to meet the ground surface and flows over it. Groundwater flooding tends to be very local and results from interactions of site-specific factors such as tidal variations. While water level may rise slowly, it may be in place for extended periods of time.

Groundwater flooding can occur during lengthy periods of heavy rainfall, typically during late winter/early spring when the groundwater table is already high. If the groundwater level rises above ground level, it can pond at local low points and cause periods of flooding.

As shown in Figure 3-2 below the groundwater vulnerability at the proposed site location is indicated as extreme. The maps indicate the groundwater vulnerability to an area when the groundwater table may be high. However, this map is only indicative of groundwater vulnerability and does not reflect the risk of groundwater flooding of the proposed site.



Figure 3-2 - Groundwater Vulnerability Map



3.1.5. Ordnance Survey Historic Mapping

The GeoHive map viewer (http://map.geohive.ie/mapviewer.html) was consulted to review available historic mapping for the proposed scheme which can contain evidence of historical flooding incidences or occurrences. The maps consulted were the pre-1900's historic 6-inch colour and 25-inch maps. The maps did not show any evidence of historic flooding along the Priory stream. The historic 6-inch maps and 25-inch maps are shown below in Figure 3-3 and Figure 3-4 respectively.



Figure 3-3 - Historic 6-inch Colour Map



Figure 3-4 - Historic 25-inch B & W Map



3.1.6. Historic Flood Events

The Office of Public Works (OPW) interactive map viewer <u>http://www.floodinfo.ie/map/floodmaps</u> was consulted to view any historic flood events located within the proposed site. Flood events identified fell outside the proposed active travel scheme route. Refer to extract in Figure 3-5 below.



Figure 3-5 - Historic Flood Events

3.1.7. Potential receptors

A receptor of flooding can include people, their property, and the environment. The vulnerability of a potential receptor must be identified and reviewed for all sites which are at risk of flooding.

In accordance with the planning guidelines, it is deemed that the proposed active travel scheme should be classified as "water compatible".

3.2. Conclusion of Flood Risk Identification

The purpose of the Stage 1 Flood Risk Identification process is to establish whether a flood risk issue currently exists or may exist in the future. If a potential flood risk issue is identified the risk will be investigated in further detail by undertaking a Stage 2 – Initial Flood Risk Assessment. However, if no potential flood risk is identified then the overall assessment can conclude at this point.

In relation to the proposed Blackrock Dart - Park Active Travel Scheme the basis of this Stage 1 - Flood Risk Identification findings discussed above in this report have identified that proposed site location is within Flood Zone A & B and at risk from Coastal/Tidal flooding.

3.3. Recommendations

The volume of displaced water due to the construction of the proposed new Active Travel Scheme and its associated boundary wall should be investigated further.

While the proposed active travel scheme is deemed to be "water compatible", the possible displacement of water due to raised levels and associated boundary wall will require a Stage 2 Flood Risk Assessment to be carried out to determine any potential impact on the surrounding areas.



4. Stage 2 - Initial Flood Risk Assessment

In accordance with the planning guidelines, a *Stage 2 - Initial Flood Risk Assessment* is required to be undertaken to confirm the sources of flooding to the development site, to review the adequacy of existing information and to estimate the extents of possible flooding. The potential source identified to the Blackrock Dart – Park Active Travel Scheme at the initial flood risk stage is coastal/Tidal flooding from the Irish Sea (South Dublin Bay).

4.1. Assessment of Flood Levels

4.1.1. Coastal Flooding

The maps from Irish Coastal Protection Strategy Study (ICPSS), completed in 2013 were studied to estimate the flood extents. The closest node to the travel scheme is Point 24, approximately 1,250m from the proposed travel scheme, refer to Appendix D maps.

An existing built wall will preserve the Dart lines and the proposed travel scheme from the tidal spills and protect up to a limit from coastal flooding. The levels of flooding from the ICPSS maps for Point 24 can be seen in Table 4-1.

Scenario	Water Level (OD) 10% AEP	Water Level (OD) 0.5% AEP	Water Level (OD) 0.1% AEP		
Current Day	2.58	2.98	3.19		
Mid-Range Future (+500mm sea level rise)	3.08	3.48	3.69		
High End Future (+1000mm sea level rise)	3.58	3.98	4.19		

Table 4-1-Coastal Flood Level 0.5% AEP

Upon comparison with the flood levels above, the existing bridge with a soffit level of 2.34mOD and bridge deck level of 2.51mOD, refer to Appendix E, is at a risk of flooding from a 1 in 10-year event (high probability) based on the current day scenario (2.58mOD) and all other scenarios. In order to ensure that there is no displacement or change to flood water levels from the existing conditions, it is recommended that the soffit level of the proposed bridge deck should be either set at the existing level or higher than the existing.

4.2. Surface Runoff Investigation

4.2.1. Surface Runoff over Active Travel Scheme

The proposed development finished levels indicate that the levels will be higher than the existing levels from chainage 90.00 to 115.00 (25m) which can be seen in Appendix F. This provides the surface water a chance to percolate into the ground surface. The amount of water percolating can be calculated and can be discharged to the existing streams.

According to Long section (Appendix F), the level difference of the existing and proposed surface was calculated to get the area. These levels are assumed to be consistent for the whole width of the travel scheme which gives the volume under the cycle & pedestrian track, calculated as being **52.5 cu.m.** This volume is considered for water that can seep into the ground and will need relocation.

This kind of surface runoff should be captured using suitable Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) where feasible and designed in accordance with CIRIA report C753 'The SuDS Manual V-6'. The runoff can then be diverted and discharged into the Priory stream.

4.2.2. Surface Runoff behind Boundary Wall

The area behind the proposed boundary wall can be classified as a garden which can be seen in Error! Reference s ource not found.. The garden also contains concrete walking paths which runs along and diverts to the southeast of the proposed wall. The diverted walking paths slope down towards a small water pond.



Based on the topographical survey levels, it can be observed that all the surface runoffs will flow into and be contained in the pond. The rest of the area being an open garden is capable enough to infiltrate the surface runoff and no additional treatment is needed.

4.3. Application of Flood Risk Management Guidelines

4.3.1. Classification of proposed development

The proposed development is classified as a 'water compatible development' as per the vulnerability classification in the planning guidelines in Figure 4-1.

Table 4-2 illustrates the types of development that would be appropriate to each flood zone and those that would be required to meet the justification test.

Vulnerability class	Land uses and types of development which include*:
Highly vulnerable development (including essential infrastructure)	Garda, ambulance and fire stations and command centres required to be operational during flooding; Hospitals; Emergency access and egress points; Schools; Dwelling houses, student halls of residence and hostels; Residential institutions such as residential care homes, children's homes and social services homes; Caravans and mobile home parks; Dwelling houses designed, constructed or adapted for the elderly or, other people with impaired mobility; and Essential infrastructure, such as primary transport and utilities distribution, including electricity generating power stations and sub-stations, water and sewage treatment, and potential significant sources of pollution (SEVESO eites UPC sites etc) in the event of flooding.
Less vulnerable development	Buildings used for: retail, leisure, warehousing, commercial, industrial and non-residential institutions; Land and buildings used for holiday or short-let caravans and camping, subject to specific warning and evacuation plans; Land and buildings used for agriculture and forestry; Waste treatment (except landfill and hazardous waste); Mineral working and processing; and Local transport infrastructure.
Water- compatible development	Flood control infrastructure; Docks, marinas and wharves; Navigation facilities; Ship building, repairing and dismantling, dockside fish processing and refrigeration and compatible activities requiring a waterside location; Water-based recreation and tourism (excluding sleeping accommodation); Lifeguard and coastguard stations; Amenity open space, outdoor sports and recreation and essential facilities such as changing rooms; and Essential ancillary sleeping or residential accommodation for staff required by uses in this category (subject to a specific warning and evacuation plan).

Figure 4-1-Vulnerability Classification



Table 4-2-Matrix of Development Vulnerability and Flood Zone

	Flood Zone A	Flood Zone B	Flood Zone C
Highly vulnerable development	Justification Test	Justification Test	Appropriate
Less vulnerable development	Justification Test	Appropriate	Appropriate
Water-compatible development	Appropriate	Appropriate	Appropriate

4.4. Conclusion of Initial Flood Risk Assessment

In relation to the Irish sea and the proposed travel scheme, the proposed levels for the development were compared against the 1 in 200-year flood event. Based on the stage 2-*Initial flood risk assessment* findings discussed above in section 4.3, it is noted that the proposed development is an Amenity open space which fall under the water compatible development vulnerability class. According to Table 4-2, the flood risk study shall not require a justification test.



5. Conclusion and Recommendations

5.1. Conclusion

Atkins were commissioned by Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council to prepare a Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) as part of providing Engineering-led Multi-disciplinary Consultancy and Design services for the concept development and option selection, preliminary design and statutory processes of active travel provisions and associated works on the Blackrock Dart-Park Active Travel Scheme.

The Blackrock Dart-Travel Active Travel Scheme is classified as a 'water compatible development' as per the planning guidelines.

The travel scheme as outlined to in section 3.1.2 is determined to be at a risk of flooding. Based on the Stage 1-*Flood risk identification* findings, the flood risk study identified the proposed site location within Flood Zone A & B due to Coastal/Tidal flooding which requires a Stage 2-*Initial Flood Risk Assessment*. For the Stage 2 – Initial Flood Risk Assessment, in relation to the travel scheme, the proposed levels for the development were compared against the 1 in 100-year flood event. It is noted that the levels within the proposed development are above the 1 in 100-year flood event and no justification test is required.

5.2. Recommendations

The following recommendations should be considered;

- The design for the proposed storm-water drainage is to take into consideration all other standards for drainage design, from the '*Greater Dublin Strategic Drainage Study Volume 2 New Developments.*'
- Suitable Sustainable Urban Drainage systems (SUDs) are to be used within the proposed development to reduce surface water runoff from the site where feasible and designed in accordance with CIRIA report C753 'The SuDS Manual V-6'.

Appendices

Appendix A. Fluvial Flooding Extent Maps





Appendix B. Pluvial Flood Extents



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Appendix C. Tidal Flood Extents



Appendix D. Irish Coastal Protection Study Maps







Appendix E. Existing Bridge Levels



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Appendix F. Blackrock Travel Scheme - Longsection



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Atkins Sensitive - Medium Risk Atkins Private - High Risk

Risk Level Atkins Base Line - Low Risk

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GENERAL NOTES

- 1. ALL DIMENSIONS ARE IN MILLIMETRES UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE
- 2. ONLY WRITTEN DIMENSIONS SHALL BE USED. NO DIMENSIONS SHALL BE SCALED FROM THE DRAWINGS
- 3. ALL LEVELS ARE IN METRES AND ARE TO MALIN HEAD DATUM
- 4. ALL COORDINATES ARE IN METRES AND ARE TO IRISH TRANSVERSE MERCATOR
- 5. DRAWINGS ARE TO BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE SPECIFICATION

FOR INFORMATION

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LONGSECTION Driginal Scale Reviewed DG AS ----Date ____ SHOWN ate 12.04.23 Date ACKROCK DART-PARK Date Status rawing Number TIVE TRAVEL SCHEME



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