

**Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination under the
 European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011 (as amended)
 (For Proposed Local Authority Development)**

Project Title: St Patrick's Girls N.S. - Safe Routes to School

Description of the Proposed Development:

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, in conjunction with An Taisce and the National Transport Authority (NTA), is proposing to improve road safety adjacent to St Patrick's Girls N.S., Foxrock Avenue, Hollypark, Foxrock, Dublin 18 as part of the NTA Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Programme. The purpose of the scheme is to make the areas immediately adjacent to the school including school entrance and access routes safer so that children can be encouraged and facilitated to walk and cycle to school, safely.

The proposed scheme consists of the following:

- Provision of wider footpaths in front of the school.
- Girls National School entrance: provision of a front-of-school treatment including a raised table, shared surface, revised paving treatment, removal of railings, installation of pencil bollards, and vehicular access control by bollards.
- The school zone will be marked with an anti-skid buff-coloured finish on the approaches.
- The existing school warden crossing will be upgraded to a zebra crossing.
- St Patrick's Boys N.S. entrance: provision of wider footpaths; provision of four disabled parking spaces; and placemaking measures including landscaping, pencil bollards, seating, and micro-art. The existing school warden crossing will also be upgraded.
- Provision of junction tightening and continuous footpaths along the junctions near the schools.
- Introduction of a one-way system during drop-off and collection on New Grange Road.
- Provision of a new zebra crossing at Park Avenue.

The St Patrick's Girls National School has a single vehicular entrance from Foxrock Avenue and a separate pedestrian entrance just besides, which is shared with LFI Samuel Beckett Primary School. The school grounds are also shared with St. Patrick's BNS, whose entrance is from New Grange Road.

The design features will be consistent with those proposed nationally under the NTA SRTS Programme.

Legislative Context:

This determination has considered the relevant legislative context as set out in the AA Screening report including, but not limited to:

- Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora).
- Birds Directive (Council Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds).
- European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (as amended) (S.I. No. 477 of 2011).
- Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended.
- Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended.

AA Screening Report:

The Active Travel Section, Infrastructure and Climate Change Department of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council (DLRCC) commissioned Traynor Environmental Ltd. to prepare an AA Screening Report (AASR) for the proposed St Patrick's Girls National School Safe Routes to School Scheme (SRTS).

The AASR has been examined and evaluated by Miguel Sarabia, T/Senior Planner, Planning &

Economic Department, and is satisfied that the AA Screening Report gives full consideration to the relevant Directives and legislation and agrees with the contents and conclusion set out in the AASR and the reasons therein.

The likelihood for significant effects on the Natura 2000 site(s) will largely depend on the characteristics of the source (e.g., nature and scale of the construction works), the characteristics of the existing pathway and the characteristics of the receptor. The AASR has considered potential effects which may arise during the construction and operation phases because of the proposed development.

The AASR assessed all European Sites with potential source-pathway-receptor connectivity to the proposed development. Nineteen European sites were identified: South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA, South Dublin Bay SAC, Dalkey Island SPA, Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC, North Bull Island SPA, North Dublin Bay SAC, North-West Irish Sea SPA, Howth Head SAC, Knocksink Wood SAC, Howth Head Coast SPA, Ballyman Glen SAC, Bray Head SAC, Glenasmole Valley SAC, Baldoyle Bay SAC, Baldoyle Bay SPA, Wicklow Mountains SAC, Wicklow Mountains SPA, Ireland's Eye SPA, Ireland's Eye SAC. The closest of these are the South Dublin Bay SAC and the South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA which are located 2km north of the subject site, respectively. The AASR considers the site-specific conservation objectives.

The report states the proposed development site has no hydrological or ecological connectivity to any Natura 2000 site. The proposed works will have no significant effect upon the Natura 2000 sites identified. There are no individual elements of the proposed project that are likely to give rise to negative effects on these sites. There is a sufficient distance between the application site and all Natura 2000 sites to ensure that potential direct and indirect impacts will be avoided. There will be no significant effects upon the Qualifying Interests of any designated site.

The AASR concludes that, on the basis of objective information and in view of best scientific knowledge and applying the precautionary principle, the proposed development, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, and without relying on any mitigation measures, is not likely to have a significant effect on any European Site(s), in view of the sites' conservation objectives, and there is no reasonable scientific doubt in relation to this conclusion. Therefore, this proposed project does not need to proceed to Stage II of the Appropriate Assessment Process, i.e., a Natura Impact Statement (NIS).

The main reasons for this conclusion are as follows:



- The proposed development will not result in land use activities that have the potential to result in negative impacts to the qualifying features of interest of European Sites (South Dublin Bay) occurring in the surrounding area.
- All Natura 2000 Sites are located at a sufficient distance from the proposed works area to be screened out, as there is no potential for direct effects given that the proposed works area lies entirely outside the boundaries of the European Sites.
- There are no watercourses on the site, therefore there are no source-pathway-receptor linkages between the application site and this SAC and significant effects arising from pollution during the construction and operation of proposed development can be ruled out.
- The in-combination assessment concludes that there are no likely effects at all predicted when considering the Proposed Scheme in combination with other projects or plans.

Determination:

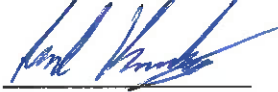
Having regard to the foregoing, on the basis of objective information and in view of best scientific knowledge and applying the precautionary principle, for the reasons set out above and in the AA Screening Report, it has been concluded that the proposed development (St Patrick's G.N.S Safe

Routes to School Scheme), individually or in combination with other plans or projects¹, without relying on any mitigation measures, will not have a significant effect on any European Sites, in view of the sites' conservation objectives, and that there is no reasonable scientific doubt in relation to this conclusion.

Consequently, a Stage Two AA and a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) is not required.

Signature: 
Name MIGUEL SARABIA  / Senior Planner, Planning Department
Position / Department

Signatory (Approved Officer):


Name Paul Kennedy Director of Services, Planning & Economic Department
Position / Department

Delegation No. 2617 10/03/25

Date: 23/06/26

The proposed St Patrick's G.N.S Safe Routes to School Scheme is being promoted by the Active Travel Section, Infrastructure and Climate Change Department. This Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination in respect of the proposed St Patrick's G.N.S Safe Routes to School Scheme has been made by Paul Kennedy, Director of Services of the Planning and Economic Department to apply appropriate functional separation in the carrying out of a Screening Determination for Appropriate Assessment.

¹ Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be:

- No alternative solution available,
- Imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the plan to proceed; and
- Adequate compensatory measures in place.

