

Appropriate Assessment Screening for the proposed development of an All-Weather Pitch at Oatlands College, Mount Merrion, Blackrock, Co. Dublin.



18th April 2023

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On behalf of: Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council.

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Introduction

The following Appropriate Assessment (AA) (Screening Stage) has been prepared by **Altemar Ltd.** at the request of Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council for the proposed development of an All-Weather Pitch at Oatlands College, Mount Merrion, Blackrock, Co. Dublin.

An Appropriate Assessment is an assessment of the potential effects of a proposed project or plan, on its own, or in combination with other plans or projects, on one or more European sites. European sites are those sites designated as Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) or Special Protection Areas (SPA).

The AA (screening stage) examines the likely significant effects of a plan or project, either on its own, or in combination with other plans and projects, upon a European site and considers whether, on the basis of objective scientific evidence, it can be concluded that there are no likely significant effects on any European site, in view of best scientific knowledge and the conservation objectives of the relevant European sites.

Altemar Ltd.

Since its inception in 2001, Altemar has been delivering ecological and environmental services to a broad range of clients. Operational areas include residential, infrastructural, renewable, oil & gas, private industry, local authorities, EC projects and State/semi-State Departments. Bryan Deegan is the managing director of Altemar. Bryan is an environmental scientist and marine biologist with 28 years' experience working in Irish terrestrial and aquatic environments, providing services to the State, Semi-State and industry. Bryan Deegan (MCIEEM) holds a MSc in Environmental Science, BSc (Hons.) in Applied Marine Biology, NCEA National Diploma in Applied Aquatic Science and a NCEA National Certificate in Science (Aquaculture). Bryan Deegan carried out all elements of this Appropriate Assessment Screening.

Hugh Delaney is an ecologist (ornithologist primarily) having completed work on numerous sites with ecological consultancies over 10+ years. Hugh is local to the Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown area in Dublin and is especially familiar with the bird life and its ecology in the environs going back over 30 years.

Background to the Appropriate Assessment

The Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (together with the Birds Directive (2009/1477/EC)) forms the cornerstone of Europe's nature conservation policy. The Directive protects over 1000 animals and plant species and over 200 "habitat types" which are of European importance. In the Habitats Directive, Articles 3 to 9 provide the legislative means to protect habitats and species of European Community interest through the establishment and conservation of an EU-wide network of conservation sites (NATURA, 2000). These are Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) designated under the Habitats Directive and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) designated under the Birds Directive), Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive set out the decision-making tests for plans and projects likely to affect European sites (Annex 1.1). Article 6(3) establishes the requirement for Appropriate Assessment:

"Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the [EUROPEAN] site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans and projects, shall be subjected to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives. In light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implication for the site and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, the component 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."

As outlined in "Managing European sites, The provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC" (European Commission, 21 November 2018) *"The purpose of the appropriate assessment is to assess the implications of the plan or project in respect of the site's conservation objectives, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects. The conclusions should enable the competent authorities to ascertain whether the plan or project will adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned. The focus of the appropriate assessment is therefore specifically on the species and/or the habitats for which the European site is designated."*

As outlined in the EC guidance document on Article 6(4) (January 2007)¹:

“Appropriate assessments of the implications of the plan or project for the site concerned must precede its approval and take into account the cumulative effects which result from the combination of that plan or project with other plans or projects in view of the site's conservation objectives. This implies that all aspects of the plan or project which can, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, affect those objectives must be identified in the light of the best scientific knowledge in the field.

Assessment procedures of plans or projects likely to affect European sites should guarantee full consideration of all elements contributing to the site integrity and to the overall coherence of the network, both in the definition of the baseline conditions and in the stages leading to identification of potential impacts, mitigation measures and residual impacts. These determine what has to be compensated, both in quality and quantity. Regardless of whether the provisions of Article 6(3) are delivered following existing environmental impact assessment procedures or other specific methods, it must be ensured that:

- *Article 6(3) assessment results allow full traceability of the decisions eventually made, including the selection of alternatives and any imperative reasons of overriding public interest.*
- *The assessment should include all elements contributing to the site's integrity and to the overall coherence of the network as defined in the site's conservation objectives and Standard Data Form, and be based on best available scientific knowledge in the field. The information required should be updated and could include the following issues:*
 - *Structure and function, and the respective role of the site's ecological assets;*
 - *Area, representativity and conservation status of the priority and nonpriority habitats in the site;*
 - *Population size, degree of isolation, ecotype, genetic pool, age class structure, and conservation status of species under Annex II of the Habitats Directive or Annex I of the Birds Directive present in the site;*
 - *Role of the site within the biographical region and in the coherence of the European network; and,*
 - *Any other ecological assets and functions identified in the site.*
- *It should include a comprehensive identification of all the potential impacts of the plan or project likely to be significant on the site, taking into account cumulative impacts and other impacts likely to arise as a result of the combined action of the plan or project under assessment and other plans or projects.*
- *The assessment under Article 6(3) applies the best available techniques and methods, to estimate the extent of the effects of the plan or project on the biological integrity of the site(s) likely to be damaged.*
- *The assessment provides for the incorporation of the most effective mitigation measures into the plan or project concerned, in order to avoid, reduce or even cancel the negative impacts on the site.*
- *The characterisation of the biological integrity and the impact assessment should be based on the best possible indicators specific to the European assets which must also be useful to monitor the plan or project implementation.”*

¹ European Commission. (2007).Guidance document on Article 6(4) of the 'Habitats Directive' 92/43/EEC – Clarification of the concepts of: alternative solutions, imperative reasons of overriding public interest, compensatory measures, overall coherence, opinion of the commission;

Stages of the Appropriate Assessment

This Appropriate Assessment screening was undertaken in accordance with the European Commission Methodological Guidance on the provision of Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC (EC, 2001), Part XAB of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, in addition to the December 2009 publication from the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government; 'Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland: Guidance for Planning Authorities' and the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011. In order to comply with the above Guidelines and legislation, the Appropriate Assessment process must be structured as follows:

1) Screening stage:

- Description of plan or project, and local site or plan area characteristics;
- Identification of relevant European sites, and compilation of information on their qualifying interests and conservation objectives
- Identification and description of individual in combination effects likely to result from the proposed project;
- Assessment of the likely significance of the effects identified above. Exclusion of sites where it can be objectively concluded that there will be no likely significant effects; and,
Conclusions

2) Appropriate Assessment (Natura Impact Statement):

- Description of the European sites that will be considered further;
- Identification and description of potential adverse impacts on the conservation objectives of these sites likely to occur from the project or plan; and,
- Mitigation Measures that will be implemented to avoid, reduce or remedy any such potential adverse impacts
- Assessment as to whether, following the implementation of the proposed mitigation measures, it can be concluded, beyond all reasonable scientific doubt, that there will be no adverse impact on the integrity of the relevant European Site in light of its conservation objectives"
- Conclusions.

If it can be demonstrated during the AA screening phase (Stage 1), that the proposed project will not have a significant effect, whether alone or in combination with other plans or projects, on the conservation objectives of a European site, then no further AA (Stage 2) will be required. It is important to note that there is a requirement to apply a precautionary approach to AA screening. Therefore, where effects are possible, certain or unknown at the screening stage, AA will be required.

In addition, it should be noted that Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive must be interpreted as meaning that, in order to determine whether it is necessary to carry out, subsequently, an AA of the implications, for a site concerned, of a plan or project, it is not appropriate, at the screening stage, to take account of the measures intended to avoid or reduce the harmful effects of the plan or project on that site.

Stage 1 Screening Assessment

Management of the Site

The plan or project is not directly connected with, or necessary to the management of European sites.

Description of the Proposed Project

Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council intend to apply for planning permission for the proposed development of an All-Weather Pitch at Oatlands College, Mount Merrion, Blackrock, Co. Dublin.

The proposed all-weather pitch (135m x 86m) shall include third generation synthetic surfacing, floodlighting, fencing, retaining walls, ballstop netting, temporary changing facilities, tree planting and all ancillary works. The site as outlined in red on the site location plan is approximately 1.65 Hectares.

The proposed site outline, location, general arrangement plan, and elevations are demonstrated in Figures 1-4.

Drainage

A Part 8 Report has been prepared by Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council to accompany this planning application. This report details the following drainage strategy for the proposed development:

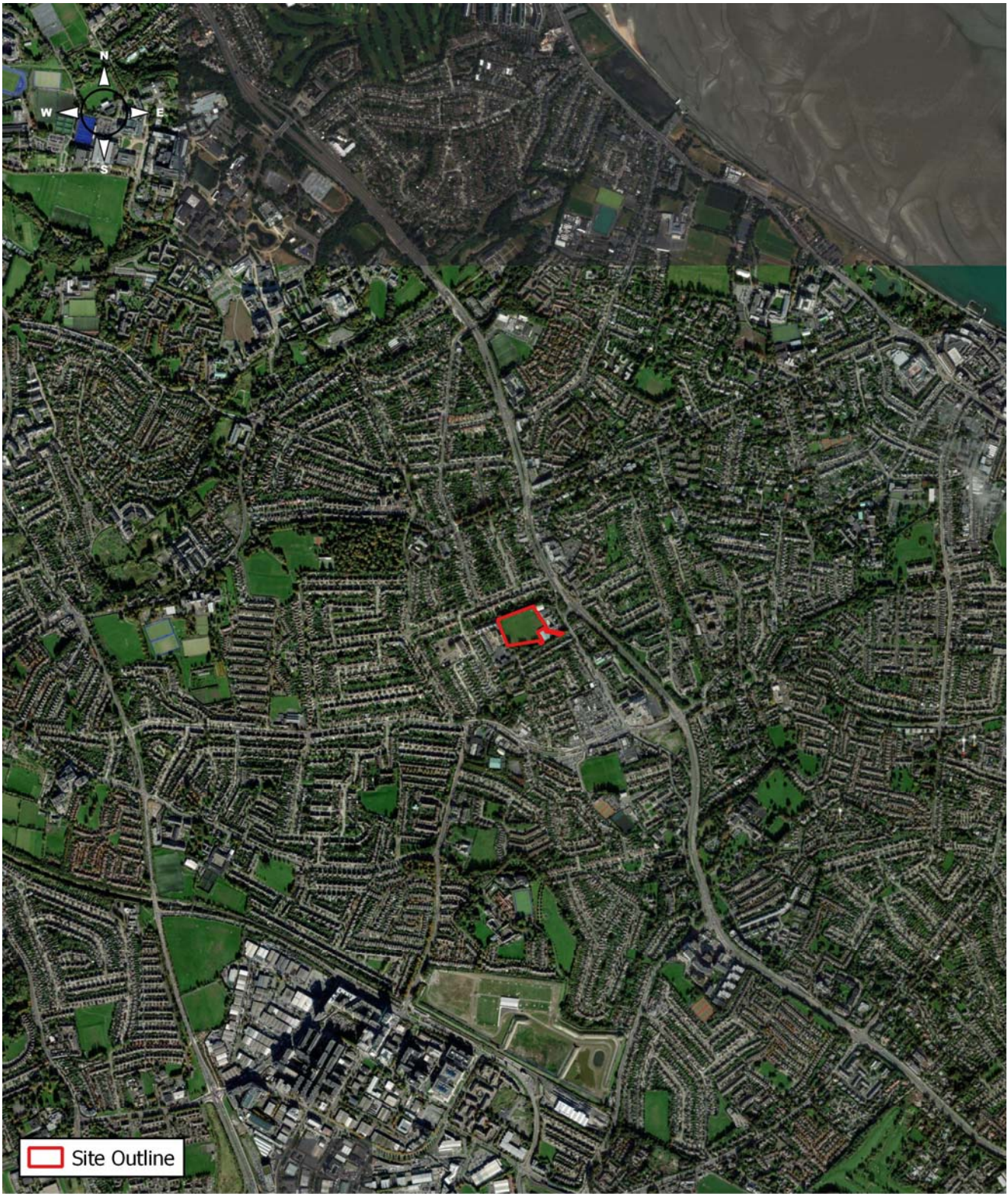
'The proposed drainage for the all-weather pitch includes installation of 100mm perforated lateral drains at 8m centres and directed to an attenuation system via collector drains (225mm diameter) that will be installed around the perimeter of the pitch. The attenuation system is to be located along the southern boundary of the pitch and has been designed so that attenuation will be provided to store volumes for a 1.0% AEP (1:100 year) storm event including an allowance for 20% climate change (attenuation volume = 424m³). The attenuation system outflow will be controlled by a hydrobrake connected to the existing surface water drainage system serving the existing grass pitch. The hydrobrake outflow will be restricted to Q_{bar} which has been calculated based on the site specific soil conditions, as such the proposed discharge into the existing surface water network will match the existing discharge in accordance with the Greater Dublin Strategic Drainage Strategy (GSDSDS).'

The proposed surface water layout is demonstrated in Figure 5. It should be noted that the discharge from the proposed pitch will enter the existing catch pit on site which is connected to the surface water network within Oatlands College, the public surface water network and then the Priory Stream located approximately 400m to the east of the site.

Wintering Bird Assessment

A wintering bird assessment was carried out by Hugh Delaney (ornithologist) (Appendix I). *'In total 37 Bird species were recorded overall at the Oatlands College site, at Stillorgan, South Dublin, during 10 surveys over the course of the winter bird survey period 2022-2023. Species recorded that are red listed as a wintering species of conservation concern (Birdwatch Ireland's birds of conservation concern in Ireland 2020-2026) that were recorded on-site were Redwing, recorded in foraging small numbers (recorded in five visits, maximum count of 30 birds in one visit). Of those species of specific interest in the context of the sites habitat type (notable species foraging on maintained grassland in the area) namely Brent Goose, Curlew, Oystercatcher and Black-tailed Godwit, only Oystercatcher was recorded foraging on-site in small numbers (less than 7 on almost all dates with the exception a peak of 13 birds recorded on January 3rd). Brent Geese were recorded passing site only (all flightlines were off-site to the east and south of site area, average flight heights c.25m). Checking for signs of Brent Geese scat on foraging area did not reveal any on all visits. Gulls species recorded foraging on-site were Black-headed Gull, Herring Gull and Common Gull, foraging in small numbers (less than 30 birds with Herring Gull being most regular).*

Results suggest that the site is not a significant ex-situ foraging or roosting site for species of qualifying interest from nearby Special protection areas (SPA's). The site is frequently used by the adjacent secondary and primary schools (all week days and often weekends) this was noted as a likely negative in terms of species numbers and diversity foraging on-site and foraging periods unharrassed. A selection of passerines typical of parkland in suburban Dublin were recorded and remained consistent throughout the surveys.'



Site Outline

0 0.5 1 1.5 2 km

Project: All Weather Pitch
 Location: Blackrock, Co. Dublin
 Date: 05th April, 2023
 Drawn By: Bryan Deegan (Altemar)

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 Marine & Environmental Consultancy



Figure 1. Site outline and location



0 100 200 300 m

Project: All Weather Pitch
 Location: Blackrock, Co. Dublin
 Date: 05th April, 2023
 Drawn By: Bryan Deegan (Altamar)

ALTEMAR
 Marine & Environmental Consultancy



Figure 2. Site outline



Figure 3. General Arrangement Plan

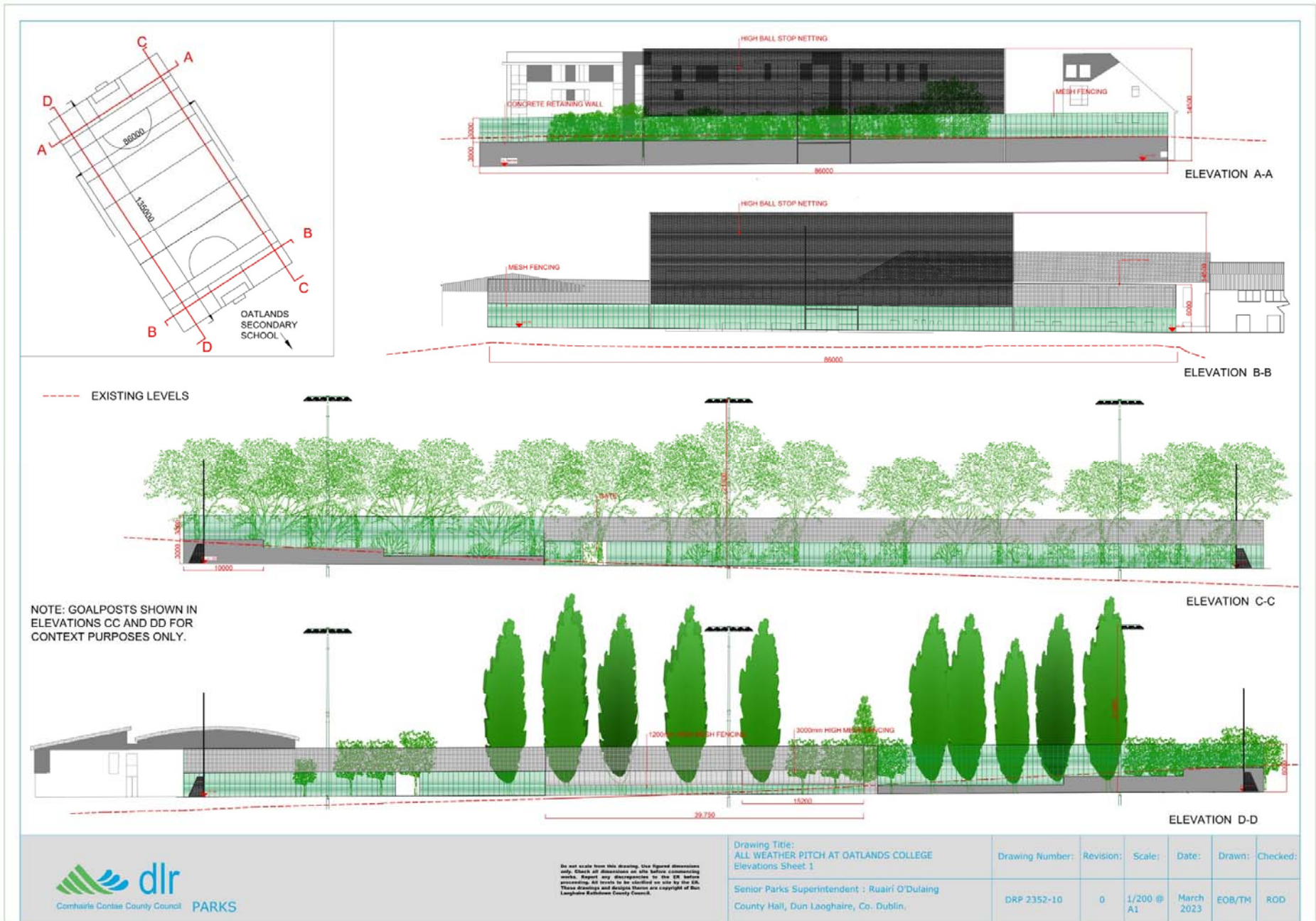


Figure 4. Proposed elevations

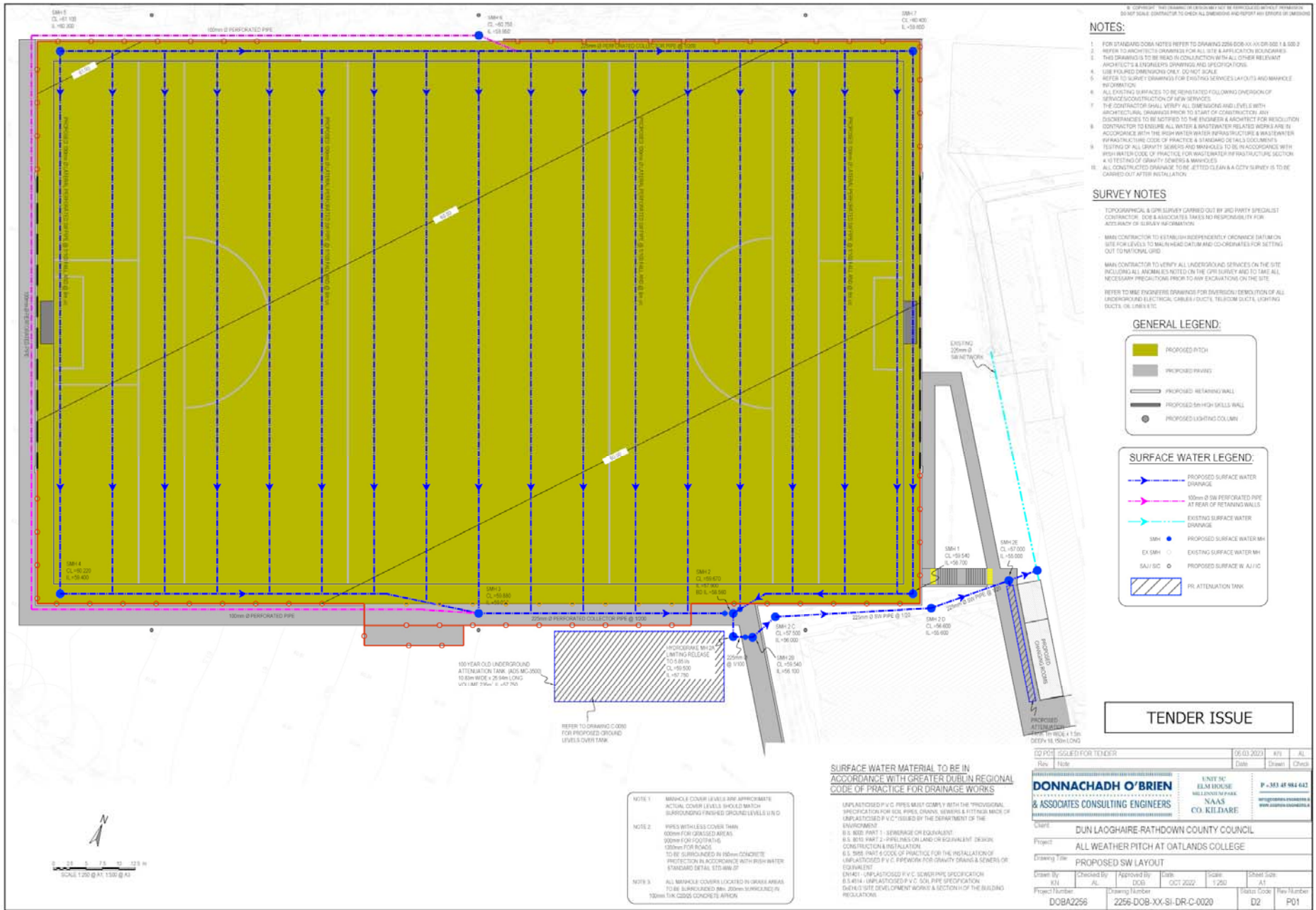


Figure 5. Proposed surface water layout

Identification of Relevant European Sites

The proposed development site is not within a European site. As outlined in Office of the Planning Regulator (2021) “The zone of influence of a proposed development is the geographical area over which it could affect the receiving environment in a way that could have significant effects on the Qualifying Interests of a European site. This should be established on a case-by-case basis using the Source- Pathway-Receptor framework and not by arbitrary distances (such as 15 km).”

A key factor in the consideration as to whether or not a particular European site is likely to be affected by the proposed development is its distance from the development location. It is generally, but not necessarily, the case that the greater the distance from the plan or project the smaller the likelihood of impacts. In this case, the nearest European sites to the proposed development are 1.8 km away (South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA and South Dublin Bay SAC). The proposed development site is a greenfield site utilised as an amenity sports grounds for Oatlands College. Given the nature of the proposed works, and the distance to the nearest watercourse (0.4 km to the Priory Stream), the ZoI of the proposed project would be seen to be restricted to the site outline, with potential for minor localised noise and lighting impacts during construction which do not extend significantly beyond the site outline nor are they likely to have any significant effects on any European sites. Surface water is connected to the Oatlands College surface water network which has a limited diameter of 150mm within the College, just prior to the connection to the public surface network which eventually discharges to the Priory Stream.

In the interest of carrying out a thorough assessment in line with both the Habitats Directive, and the precautionary principle, the ZoI was expanded for this assessment to include designated sites within 15km of the proposed development site, and sites beyond 15km with the potential for a hydrological connection. This was done in the interest of ensuring that any pathways, however indirect or remote, were taken into account. All Natura 2000 sites within 15km, and beyond 15km with the potential for a hydrological pathway are listed in Table 1. The qualifying interests, and the potential impact of the development on each European site and qualifying interest, are screened in/out in Table 2. SPA’s and SAC’s within 15km are seen in Figures 6 & 7. Watercourses within 1km of the subject site are demonstrated in Figure 8.

Table 1. Proximity to designated sites of conservation importance

Code	NATURA 2000 Site	Distance	Direct Hydrological / Biodiversity Connection
	<i>Special Areas of Conservation</i>		
IE000210	South Dublin Bay SAC	1.8 km	No
IE000206	North Dublin Bay SAC	6.7 km	No
IE003000	Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC	7.4 km	No
IE002122	Wicklow Mountains SAC	8 km	No
IE001209	Knocksink Wood SAC	8.8 km	No
IE000713	Ballyman Glen SAC	9.6 km	No
IE0000202	Howth Head SAC	11 km	No
IE001209	Glenasmole Valley SAC	11.4 km	No
IE000199	Baldoyle Bay SAC	12.4 km	No
IE000714	Bray Head SAC	13 km	No
	<i>Special Protection Areas</i>		
IE004024	South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA	1.8 km	No
IE0004006	North Bull Island SPA	6.7 km	No
IE004172	Dalkey Islands SPA	7.2 km	No
IE004040	Wicklow Mountains SPA	8.1 km	No
IE0004016	Baldoyle Bay SPA	12.4 km	No
IE0004113	Howth Head Coast SPA	12.6 km	No
IE0004117	Ireland’s Eye SPA	14.8 km	No

Table 2. Initial screening of European sites within 15km and European sites within 15km with potential of hydrological connection to the proposed development

Natura Code	Name	Screened In/Out	Details/Reason
Special Areas of Conservation			
IE0000210	South Dublin Bay SAC	OUT	<p>Conservation Objectives</p> <p>The maintenance of habitats and species within Natura 2000 sites at favourable conservation condition will contribute to the overall maintenance of favourable conservation status of those habitats and species at a national level.</p> <p>Qualifying Interests</p> <p>Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210] Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] Embryonic shifting dunes [2110]</p> <p>Potential Impact</p> <p>The development site is located within a suburban environment 1.8 km from the South Dublin Bay SAC (Figure 6). There is no direct hydrological connection to this SAC.</p> <p>There is an indirect hydrological pathway to this SAC via surface water drainage. It is important to note that due to the 150mm restriction in the Oatlands drainage network onsite filtering of surface water will be required during construction or operation. However, In the absence of mitigation, any pollutants, dust or silt laden run off will settle, be dispersed, or diluted within the surface water network prior to reaching the marine environment. In the absence of mitigation to protect designated sites, any pollutants, dust or silt laden run off will settle, be dispersed, or diluted within the surface water network. No significant impacts on the qualifying interests of this SAC are foreseen.</p> <p>No potential impact is foreseen. There is no direct pathway from this site to the SAC. The construction and operation of the proposed development will not impact on the conservation interests of the site.</p> <p>No significant effects likely</p>
IE0000206	North Dublin Bay SAC	OUT	<p>Conservation Objectives</p> <p>The maintenance of habitats and species within Natura 2000 sites at favourable conservation condition will contribute to the overall maintenance of favourable conservation status of those habitats and species at a national level.</p> <p>Qualifying Interests</p> <p>Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210] Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) [1330] Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410] Embryonic shifting dunes [2110]</p>

Natura Code	Name	Screened In/Out	Details/Reason
			<p>Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120] Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130] Humid dune slacks [2190] Petalwort (<i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i>) [1395]</p> <p>Potential Impact</p> <p>The development site is located within a suburban environment 6.7 km from the North Dublin Bay SAC (Figure 6). There is no direct hydrological connection to this SAC.</p> <p>There is an indirect hydrological pathway to this SAC via surface water drainage. It is important to note that due to the 150mm restriction in the Oatlands drainage network onsite filtering of surface water will be required during construction or operation. However, In the absence of mitigation, any pollutants, dust or silt laden run off will settle, be dispersed, or diluted within the surface water network prior to reaching the marine environment. No significant impacts on the qualifying interests of this SAC are foreseen.</p> <p>No potential impact is foreseen. There is no direct pathway from this site to the SAC. The construction and operation of the proposed development will not impact on the conservation interests of the site.</p> <p>No significant effects likely</p>
IE0003000	Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC	OUT	<p>Conservation Objectives</p> <p>The maintenance of habitats and species within Natura 2000 sites at favourable conservation condition will contribute to the overall maintenance of favourable conservation status of those habitats and species at a national level.</p> <p>Qualifying Interests</p> <p>Reefs [1170] Harbour Porpoise (<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>) [1351]</p> <p>Potential Impact</p> <p>The development site is located within a suburban environment 7.4 km from this SAC (Figure 6). There is no direct hydrological pathway from the proposed development site to the SAC.</p> <p>There is an indirect hydrological pathway to this SAC via surface water drainage. It is important to note that due to the 150mm restriction in the Oatlands drainage network onsite filtering of surface water will be required during construction or operation. However, In the absence of mitigation, any pollutants, dust or silt laden run off will settle, be dispersed, or diluted within the surface water network prior to reaching the marine environment. No significant impacts on the qualifying interests of this SAC are foreseen.</p> <p>No potential impact is foreseen. There is no direct pathway from this site to the SAC. The construction and operation of</p>

Natura Code	Name	Screened In/Out	Details/Reason
			<p>the proposed development will not impact on the conservation interests of the site.</p> <p>No significant effects likely</p>
IE0002122	Wicklow Mountains SAC	OUT	<p>Conservation Objectives</p> <p>The maintenance of habitats and species within Natura 2000 sites at favourable conservation condition will contribute to the overall maintenance of favourable conservation status of those habitats and species at a national level.</p> <p>Qualifying Interests</p> <p>Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>) [3110] Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160] Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010] European dry heaths [4030] Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060] Calaminarian grasslands of the <i>Violetalia calaminariae</i> [6130] Species-rich <i>Nardus</i> grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe) [6230] Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130] Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (<i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsietalia ladani</i>) [8110] Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8210] Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220] Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0] Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) [1355]</p> <p>Potential Impact</p> <p>The proposed development site is located in a suburban environment 8 km from this SAC. No potential impact is foreseen. There is no direct or indirect pathway from the proposed development site to the SAC. The construction and operation of the proposed development will not impact on the conservation interests of the site.</p> <p>No significant effects likely</p>
IE001209	Knocksink Wood SAC	OUT	<p>Conservation Objectives</p> <p>The maintenance of habitats and species within Natura 2000 sites at favourable conservation condition will contribute to the overall maintenance of favourable conservation status of those habitats and species at a national level.</p> <p>Qualifying Interests</p> <p>Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>) [7220] Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0] Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i>, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>) [91E0]</p> <p>Potential Impact</p>

Natura Code	Name	Screened In/Out	Details/Reason
			<p>The proposed development site is located in a suburban environment 8.8 km from this SAC. No potential impact is foreseen. There is no direct or indirect pathway from the proposed development site to the SAC. The construction and operation of the proposed development will not impact on the conservation interests of the site.</p> <p>No significant effects likely</p>
IE000713	Ballyman Glen SAC	OUT	<p>Conservation Objectives</p> <p>The maintenance of habitats and species within Natura 2000 sites at favourable conservation condition will contribute to the overall maintenance of favourable conservation status of those habitats and species at a national level.</p> <p>Qualifying Interests</p> <p>Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>) [7220] Alkaline fens [7230]</p> <p>Potential Impact</p> <p>The proposed development site is located in a suburban environment 9.6 km from this SAC. No potential impact is foreseen. There is no direct or indirect pathway from the proposed development site to the SAC. The construction and operation of the proposed development will not impact on the conservation interests of the site.</p> <p>No significant effects likely</p>
IE0000202	Howth Head SAC	OUT	<p>Conservation Objectives</p> <p>The maintenance of habitats and species within Natura 2000 sites at favourable conservation condition will contribute to the overall maintenance of favourable conservation status of those habitats and species at a national level.</p> <p>Qualifying Interests</p> <p>Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230] European dry heaths [4030]</p> <p>Potential Impact</p> <p>The development site is located within a suburban environment 11 km from this SAC (Figure 6). There is no direct hydrological pathway from the proposed development site to the SAC.</p> <p>Out of an abundance of caution, it is considered that there is an indirect hydrological pathway to this SAC via surface water drainage. After attenuation onsite, surface water drainage will be directed to an existing public surface water network, which in turn outfalls to the Priory Stream and the marine environment at Dublin Bay. In the absence of mitigation, any pollutants, dust or silt laden run off will settle, be dispersed, or diluted within the surface water network. No significant impacts on the qualifying interests of this SAC are foreseen.</p>

Natura Code	Name	Screened In/Out	Details/Reason
			<p>No potential impact is foreseen. There is no direct pathway from this site to the SAC. The construction and operation of the proposed development will not impact on the conservation interests of the site.</p> <p>No significant effects likely</p>
IE0001209	Glenasmole Valley SAC	OUT	<p>Conservation Objectives</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Qualifying Interests</p> <p>Semi-Natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) (* important orchid sites) [6210] Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>) [6410] Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>) [7220]</p> <p>Potential Impact</p> <p>The proposed development site is located within a suburban environment 11.4 km from this SAC. No potential impact is foreseen. There is no direct or indirect pathway from the proposed development site to the SAC. The construction and operation of the proposed development will not impact on the conservation interests of the site.</p> <p>No significant effects likely</p>
IE0000199	Baldoyle Bay SAC	OUT	<p>Conservation Objectives</p> <p>The maintenance of habitats and species within Natura 2000 sites at favourable conservation condition will contribute to the overall maintenance of favourable conservation status of those habitats and species at a national level.</p> <p>Qualifying Interests</p> <p>Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) [1330] Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410]</p> <p>Potential Impact</p> <p>The development site is located within a suburban environment 12.4 km from this SAC (Figure 6). There is no direct hydrological pathway from the proposed development site to the SAC.</p> <p>Out of an abundance of caution, it is considered that there is an indirect hydrological pathway to this SAC via surface water drainage. After attenuation onsite, surface water drainage will be directed to an existing public surface water network, which in turn outfalls to the Priory Stream and the marine environment at Dublin Bay. In the absence of mitigation, any pollutants, dust or silt laden run off will settle, be dispersed,</p>

Natura Code	Name	Screened In/Out	Details/Reason
			<p>or diluted within the surface water network. No significant impacts on the qualifying interests of this SAC are foreseen.</p> <p>No potential impact is foreseen. There is no direct pathway from this site to the SAC. The construction and operation of the proposed development will not impact on the conservation interests of the site. No significant effects likely</p>
IE0000714	Bray Head SAC	OUT	<p>Conservation Objectives</p> <p>The maintenance of habitats and species within Natura 2000 sites at favourable conservation condition will contribute to the overall maintenance of favourable conservation status of those habitats and species at a national level.</p> <p>Qualifying Interests</p> <p>Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230] European dry heaths [4030]</p> <p>Potential Impact</p> <p>The development site is located within a suburban environment 13 km from this SAC (Figure 6). There is no direct hydrological pathway from the proposed development site to the SAC.</p> <p>Out of an abundance of caution, it is considered that there is an indirect hydrological pathway to this SAC via surface water drainage. After attenuation onsite, surface water drainage will be directed to an existing public surface water network, which in turn outfalls to the Priors Stream and the marine environment at Dublin Bay. In the absence of mitigation, any pollutants, dust or silt laden run off will settle, be dispersed, or diluted within the surface water network. No significant impacts on the qualifying interests of this SAC are foreseen.</p> <p>No potential impact is foreseen. There is no direct pathway from this site to the SAC. The construction and operation of the proposed development will not impact on the conservation interests of the site.</p> <p>No significant effects likely</p>
Special Protection Areas			
IE0004024	South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA	OUT	<p>Conservation Objectives</p> <p>The maintenance of habitats and species within Natura 2000 sites at favourable conservation condition will contribute to the overall maintenance of favourable conservation status of those habitats and species at a national level.</p> <p>Qualifying Interests</p> <p>Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046] Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130] Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137] Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143] Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144] Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149] Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157]</p>

Natura Code	Name	Screened In/Out	Details/Reason
			<p>Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162] Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179] Roseate Tern (<i>Sterna dougallii</i>) [A192] Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193] Arctic Tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) [A194] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]</p> <p>Potential Impact</p> <p>The development site is located within a suburban environment 1.8 km from this SPA (Figure 7). There is no direct hydrological connection to this SPA.</p> <p>There is an indirect hydrological pathway to this SPA via surface water drainage. It is important to note that due to the 150mm restriction in the Oatlands drainage network onsite filtering of surface water will be required during construction or operation. However, In the absence of mitigation, any pollutants, dust or silt laden run off will settle, be dispersed, or diluted within the surface water network prior to reaching the marine environment. No significant impacts on the qualifying interests of this SPA are foreseen.</p> <p>Given the minimum distance to this SPA across a substantial suburban environment (1.8 km), no significant noise or vibration impacts on the qualifying interests of this SPA are foreseen. As outlined in the wintering bird assessment the site is not an <i>ex-situ</i> site for significant numbers of wintering birds. The proposed development will not impact on flightlines of wintering birds.</p> <p>No potential impact is foreseen. There is no direct pathway from this site to the SAC. The construction and operation of the proposed development will not impact on the conservation interests of the site.</p> <p>No significant effects likely</p>
IE0004006	North Bull Island SPA	OUT	<p>Conservation Objectives</p> <p>The maintenance of habitats and species within Natura 2000 sites at favourable conservation condition will contribute to the overall maintenance of favourable conservation status of those habitats and species at a national level.</p> <p>Qualifying Interests</p> <p>Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046] Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048] Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052] Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) [A054] Shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>) [A056] Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130] Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140] Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143] Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144] Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149] Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156] Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157] Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160]</p>

Natura Code	Name	Screened In/Out	Details/Reason
			<p>Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162] Turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>) [A169] Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]</p> <p>Potential Impact</p> <p>The development site is located within a suburban environment 6.7 km from this SPA (Figure 7). There is no direct hydrological connection to this SPA.</p> <p>There is an indirect hydrological pathway to this SPA via surface water drainage. It is important to note that due to the 150mm restriction in the Oatlands drainage network onsite filtering of surface water will be required during construction or operation. However, In the absence of mitigation, any pollutants, dust or silt laden run off will settle, be dispersed, or diluted within the surface water network prior to reaching the marine environment. No significant impacts on the qualifying interests of this SPA are foreseen. As outlined in the wintering bird assessment the site is not an <i>ex-situ</i> site for significant numbers of wintering birds. The proposed development will not impact on flightlines of wintering birds.</p> <p>Given the minimum distance to this SPA across a substantial suburban environment (6.7 km), no significant noise or vibration impacts on the qualifying interests of this SPA are foreseen.</p> <p>No potential impact is foreseen. There is no direct pathway from this site to the SAC. The construction and operation of the proposed development will not impact on the conservation interests of the site.</p> <p>No significant effects likely</p>
IE0004172	Dalkey Islands SPA	OUT	<p>Conservation Objectives</p> <p>To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA.</p> <p>Qualifying Interests</p> <p>Roseate Tern (<i>Sterna dougallii</i>) [A192] Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193] Arctic Tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) [A194]</p> <p>Potential Impact</p> <p>The proposed development site is located within an urban environment 7.2 km from this SPA (Figure 7). There is no direct hydrological pathway from the proposed development to this SPA.</p> <p>There is an indirect hydrological pathway to this SPA via surface water drainage. It is important to note that due to the 150mm restriction in the Oatlands drainage network onsite filtering of surface water will be required during construction or operation. However, In the absence of mitigation, any pollutants, dust or silt laden run off will settle, be dispersed, or diluted within the surface water network prior to reaching</p>

Natura Code	Name	Screened In/Out	Details/Reason
			<p>the marine environment. No significant impacts on the qualifying interests of this SPA are foreseen.</p> <p>Given the minimum distance to this SPA across a substantial suburban environment (7.2 km), no significant noise or vibration impacts on the qualifying interests of this SPA are foreseen.</p> <p>No potential impact is foreseen. There is no direct pathway from this site to the SPA. The construction and operation of the proposed development will not impact on the conservation interests of the site.</p> <p>No significant effects likely</p>
IE0004040	Wicklow Mountains SPA	OUT	<p>Conservation Objectives</p> <p>To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA.</p> <p>Qualifying Interests</p> <p>Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>) [A098] Peregrine (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>) [A103]</p> <p>Potential Impact</p> <p>The proposed development site is located within an urban environment 8.1 km from this SPA. No potential impact is foreseen. There is no direct or indirect hydrological pathway from the proposed development site to the SPA. The construction and operation of the proposed development will not impact on the conservation interests of the site.</p> <p>No significant effects likely</p>
IE0004016	Baldoyle Bay SPA	OUT	<p>Conservation Objectives</p> <p>The maintenance of habitats and species within Natura 2000 sites at favourable conservation condition will contribute to the overall maintenance of favourable conservation status of those habitats and species at a national level.</p> <p>Qualifying Interests</p> <p>Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046] Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048] Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137] Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140] Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]</p> <p>Potential Impact</p> <p>The proposed development site is located within a suburban environment 12.4 km from this SPA (Figure 7). There is no direct hydrological pathway from the proposed development to this SPA.</p> <p>Out of an abundance of caution, it is considered that there is an indirect hydrological pathway to this SPA via surface water drainage. After attenuation onsite, surface water drainage will be directed to an existing public surface water network,</p>

Natura Code	Name	Screened In/Out	Details/Reason
			<p>which in turn outfalls to the Priory Stream and the marine environment at Dublin Bay. In the absence of mitigation, any pollutants, dust or silt laden run off will settle, be dispersed, or diluted within the surface water network. No significant impacts on the qualifying interests of this SPA are foreseen.</p> <p>Given the minimum distance to this SPA across a substantial suburban environment (12.4 km), no significant noise or vibration impacts on the qualifying interests of this SPA are foreseen.</p> <p>No potential impact is foreseen. There is no direct pathway from this site to the SPA. The construction and operation of the proposed development will not impact on the conservation interests of the site.</p> <p>No significant effects likely</p>
IE004113	Howth Head Coast SPA	OUT	<p>Conservation Objectives</p> <p>To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA.</p> <p>Qualifying Interests</p> <p>Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) [A188]</p> <p>Potential Impact</p> <p>The proposed development site is located within a suburban environment 12.6 km from this SPA (Figure 7). There is no direct hydrological pathway from the proposed development to this SPA.</p> <p>Out of an abundance of caution, it is considered that there is an indirect hydrological pathway to this SPA via surface water drainage. After attenuation onsite, surface water drainage will be directed to an existing public surface water network, which in turn outfalls to the Priory Stream and the marine environment at Dublin Bay. In the absence of mitigation, any pollutants, dust or silt laden run off will settle, be dispersed, or diluted within the surface water network. No significant impacts on the qualifying interests of this SPA are foreseen.</p> <p>Given the minimum distance to this SPA across a substantial suburban environment (12.6 km), no significant noise or vibration impacts on the qualifying interests of this SPA are foreseen.</p> <p>No potential impact is foreseen. There is no direct pathway from this site to the SPA. The construction and operation of the proposed development will not impact on the conservation interests of the site.</p> <p>No significant effects likely</p>
IE0004117	Ireland's Eye SPA	OUT	<p>Conservation Objectives</p> <p>To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA.</p>

Natura Code	Name	Screened In/Out	Details/Reason
			<p>Qualifying Interests</p> <p>Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017] Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) [A184] Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) [A188] Guillemot (<i>Uria aalge</i>) [A199] Razorbill (<i>Alca torda</i>) [A200]</p> <p>Potential Impact</p> <p>The proposed development site is located within a suburban environment 14.8 km from this SPA (Figure 7). There is no direct hydrological pathway from the proposed development to this SPA.</p> <p>Out of an abundance of caution, it is considered that there is an indirect hydrological pathway to this SPA via surface water drainage. After attenuation onsite, surface water drainage will be directed to an existing public surface water network, which in turn outfalls to the Priory Stream and the marine environment at Dublin Bay. In the absence of mitigation, any pollutants, dust or silt laden run off will settle, be dispersed, or diluted within the surface water network. No significant impacts on the qualifying interests of this SPA are foreseen.</p> <p>Given the minimum distance to this SPA across a substantial suburban environment (14.8 km), no significant noise or vibration impacts on the qualifying interests of this SPA are foreseen.</p> <p>No potential impact is foreseen. There is no direct pathway from this site to the SPA. The construction and operation of the proposed development will not impact on the conservation interests of the site.</p> <p>No significant effects likely</p>

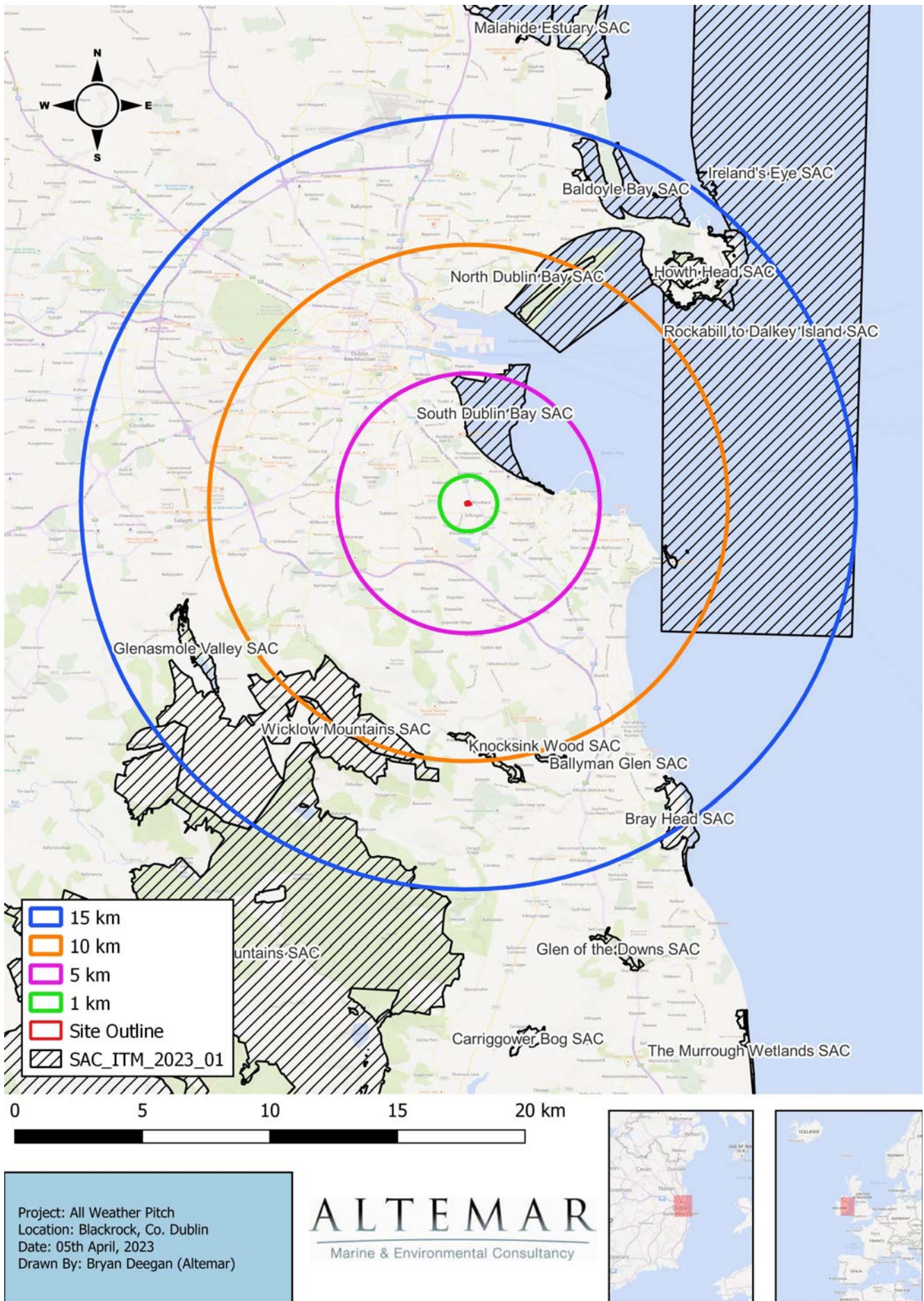


Figure 6. Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) located within 15km of the proposed development

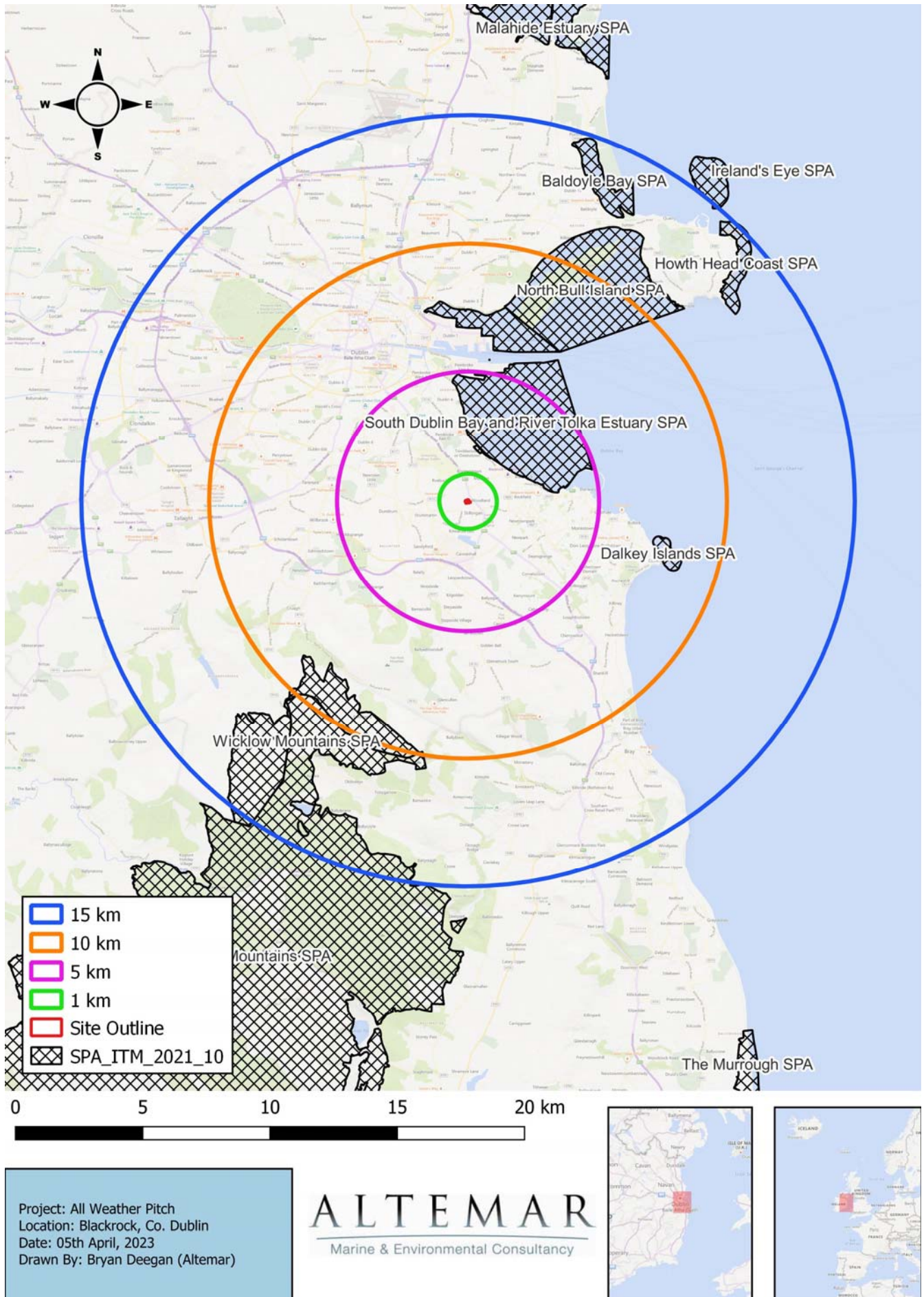


Figure 7. Special Protection Areas (SPA) within 15km of proposed development



Figure 8. Watercourses within 1km of the proposed development

In-Combination Effects

There are several proposed developments located in the area immediately surrounding the subject site. The following is a list of planning applications as identified on the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage's 'National Planning Application Database' portal²:

Table 2. Planning application details and reference numbers of sites proximate to the proposed development

Ref. No.	Address	Proposal
LRD23A/0165	Former Stillorgan Leisureplex, Old Dublin Road, Stillorgan, Co.Dublin, A94 NY56 and 62 and 63 St. Laurences Park, Stillorgan, Co. Dublin	<p>Planning Permission for a Large Scale Residential Development consisting of alterations to the Strategic Housing Development permitted under ABP-305176-19, which is currently under construction, on a site the former Stillorgan Leisureplex. The subject site also includes 62 and 63 St. Laurence's Park buildings now demolished, and no development is proposed in this location as part of the subject development). The proposed alterations primarily comprise revisions to the landscape proposals to the Lower Kilmacud Road and Old Dublin Road and revisions to the elevations, as described in the following:</p> <p>Revisions to the landscape proposals at Lower Kilmacud Road and Old Dublin Road including the reorientation of steps and revisions to the hard and soft landscaping.</p> <p>Reorientation of 3 no. balconies from the eastern to northern elevation on the block fronting the Lower Kilmacud Road (Block B).</p> <p>Change in soffit colour to balconies to the Lower Kilmacud Road and Old Dublin Road elevations (Blocks A & B).</p> <p>Change in architectural treatment from render finish to brick on the northern elevation addressing St. Laurence's Park (Block D).</p> <p>Change in architectural treatment from metal cladding to render finish on the elevations of set back levels fronting St. Laurence's Park (Block D) and Old Dublin Road (Block A) (level 03 and 04 to St. Laurence's Park; level 05 to Old Dublin Road).</p> <p>Adjustments to lift overruns and addition of ventilation overruns in various locations.</p> <p>Extent of glazed balustrade amended at Level 03 on the northern elevation fronting St. Laurence's Park (Block D).</p> <p>Continuous glazed terrace replaced with individual metal frame terraces at Level 05 on the eastern facade (Block C).</p> <p>Parapet height adjusted at roof and set back levels.</p> <p>Additional and consequential amendments to the elevations including updated window treatment and adjustment of window width in certain locations, repositing of louvres, minor increase of wall height fronting St. Laurence's Park, removal and addition of doors and revised substation access.</p> <p>No Alterations are proposed to overall unit numbers (232 no. permitted) or floor area of the permitted development.</p>
ABP30517619	Stillorgan Leisureplex, Old Dublin Road, Stillorgan, Co. Dublin, A94 NY56	<p>Permission for a 'Build-To-Rent' strategic housing development. consisting of: Demolition of existing buildings on site consisting of the Stillorgan Leisureplex and associated structures; Construction of a mixed-use development generally ranging in height from 4 no. storeys to 8 no. storeys from street level, stepping down to 2 no. storeys in part to the Lower Kilmacud Road. Two basement levels are proposed; The development will have a total of 232 no. Build-To-Rent apartment units, (109 no. 2 bedroom units, 113 no. 1 bedroom units and 10 no. studio units) with associated balconies and terraces; The development will provide for 2 no. retail (shop) units (c. 1049 sq.m.) and 4 no. restaurant/ café units (c. 806 sq.m.); Provision of a public plaza (827 sq.m.) onto the corner of the Lower Kilmacud Road and the Old Dublin Road; Public Realm improvements including footpaths, parking, loading bays and landscaping works to the Lower Kilmacud Road, Old Dublin Road and St. Laurence's Park; The proposed development will also include the provision of communal and private open space including courtyard areas, terraces and balconies and roof terraces and the provision of tenant amenity space (c. 1021 sq.m) including resident lounge area, communal kitchen and dining, co-working space, cinema, gym and concierge service; Parking at basement levels for 162 cars, 458 bicycles and 10 motorcycles; 60 no. bicycle parking spaces will be provided at ground level; Vehicular access to the basements is from the</p>

² <https://housinggovie.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=9cf2a09799d74d8e9316a3d3a4d3a8de>

Ref. No.	Address	Proposal
		Lower Kilmacud Road and St. Laurence's Park; All hard and soft landscaping, boundary treatments and all associated site development works and services and plant.
D16A/0465	Site of c.1.12ha at Oatlands Monastery, to the rear of Oatlands College, Mount Merrion, Blackrock, Co Dublin and at No. 2 Cherrygarth, Mount Merrion, Blackrock, Co Dublin	Permission for the demolition of the former Oatlands Monastery building (c.1,682 sqm) and other derelict buildings on the site (c.101 sqm), the demolition of the existing single storey dwelling at No. 2 Cherrygarth (c.157 sqm) and the construction of 63 residential units. The development will be accessed through a new entrance at No. 2 Cherrygarth. Residential development will comprise 9 houses, 24 duplexes and 30 apartments. These are broken down as follows: One 3-bed detached two-storey dwelling (c.8.3m in height) to replace the demolished dwelling at No. 2 Cherrygarth, 8 no. 2.5 storey 4/5 bed detached units (between c.9.9 - 10.13 metres in height), 12 no. 3-bed duplex units of 3 storeys (c.12.8 - 15.8 metres in height) with terraces and balconies on the north and south elevations, two apartment blocks of 4 storeys (c.13.5 metres in height) with 4 no. 1-bed units, 20 no. 2-bed units and 6 no. 3-bed units with balconies on the north, east and south elevations. The development will also include 18 on-curtilage car parking spaces associated with the detached dwelling units, 43 at-grade car parking spaces associated with the duplex units, 47 car parking spaces at basement level of the apartment block (c.1,808 sqm), 2,929 sqm of open space, including a children's play area and all associated site development works above and below ground, including site services.

It is considered that in combination effects with other existing and proposed developments in proximity to the application area would be unlikely, neutral, not significant and localised. It is concluded that no significant effects on Natura 2000 sites will be seen as a result of the proposed development alone or combination with other projects.

From a review of the above, it is concluded that no projects in the vicinity of the proposed development would be seen to have a significant in combination effect on Natura 2000 sites.

Conclusions

The proposed development site is located within a suburban environment. The nearest European sites are South Dublin Bay SAC and South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA (1.8 km). There is no direct hydrological connection to any European Site. There is an indirect hydrological pathway to European Sites within the marine environment via the proposed surface water drainage. After attenuation onsite, surface water drainage will be directed to an existing public surface water network, which in turn outfalls to the Priory Stream and the marine environment at Dublin Bay. There is a restricted outflow (150mm) for all surface water from Oatlands College to the surface water network. As a result filtration of surface water will be required. However, in the absence of mitigation, any pollutants, dust or silt laden run off will settle, be dispersed, or diluted within the surface water network. In the absence of mitigation, no significant effects on European sites are likely. The proposed development site is not a site of significance for wintering birds.

Having taken into consideration the surface water drainage from the proposed development, the distance between the proposed development to designated conservation sites, lack of direct hydrological pathway or biodiversity corridor link to conservation sites, and the dilution effect with other effluent and surface runoff, it is concluded that the proposed development would not give rise to any significant effects to designated sites. The construction and operation of the proposed development will not impact on the conservation objectives of qualifying interests of European sites.

This report presents a Stage 1 Appropriate Assessment Screening for the Proposed Development, outlining the information required for the competent authority to screen for appropriate assessment and to determine whether or not the Proposed Development, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects, in view of best scientific knowledge, is likely to have a significant effect on any European or European site.

On the basis of the content of this report, the competent authority is enabled to conduct a Stage 1 Screening for Appropriate Assessment and consider whether, in view of best scientific knowledge and in view of the conservation objectives of the relevant European sites, the Proposed Development, individually or in combination with other plans or projects is likely to have a significant effect on any European site.

Data Used for AA Screening

NPWS site synopses and Conservation objectives of sites within 15km and those with a potential hydrological pathway were assessed. The most recent SAC and SPA boundary shapefiles were downloaded and overlaid on Bing road maps and satellite imagery.

References

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2. Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly Affecting EUROPEAN Sites: Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC;
3. Department of Environment Heritage and Local Government Circular NPW 1/10 and PSSP 2/10 on Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive – Guidance for Planning Authorities March 2010.
4. Guidance document on Article 6(4) of the 'Habitats Directive' 92/43/EEC – Clarification of the concepts of: alternative solutions, imperative reasons of overriding public interest, compensatory measures, overall coherence, opinion of the commission;
5. Guidance document on the implementation of the birds and habitats directive in estuaries and coastal zones with particular attention to port development and dredging; http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/Natura2000/management/docs/guidance_doc.pdf
6. Managing EUROPEAN Sites: the provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, European Commission 2000;
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8. NPWS (2017) Conservation Objectives: Wicklow Mountains SAC 002122. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.
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10. NPWS (2015) Conservation Objectives: South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA 004024. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
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12. NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives: North Dublin Bay SAC 000206. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
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16. NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives: Baldoyle Bay SPA 004016. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
17. NPWS (2012) Conservation Objectives: Baldoyle Bay SAC 000199. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
18. NPWS (2019) Conservation Objectives: Ballyman Glen SAC 000713. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
19. NPWS (2017) Conservation Objectives: Bray Head SAC 000714. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.
20. NPWS (2022) Conservation objectives for Dalkey Islands SPA [004172]. First Order Sitespecific Conservation Objectives Version 1.0. Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
21. NPWS (2022) Conservation objectives for Wicklow Mountains SPA [004040]. First Order Site-specific Conservation Objectives Version 1.0. Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
22. NPWS (2022) Conservation objectives for Howth Head Coast SPA [004113]. First Order Sitespecific Conservation Objectives Version 1.0. Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
23. NPWS (2022) Conservation objectives for Ireland's Eye SPA [004117]. First Order Sitespecific Conservation Objectives Version 1.0. Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

Appendix I-Wintering Bird Assessment

Oatlands College Winter Bird Surveys 2022-2023

Introduction

Between November 2022 and March 2023 10 winter bird surveys (two per month) were undertaken at lands at Oatlands College, in Stillorgan, South County Dublin, by Hugh Delaney, a freelance Ecologist (Birds primarily) having completed work on numerous sites with ecological consultancies over 10+ years. Hugh is local to the Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown area in Dublin and is especially familiar with the bird life and its ecology in the environs going back over 30 years.

Winter Bird Survey Methodology

Winter bird surveys are conducted from soon after sunrise until late in the afternoon, or alternatively started later in the day until sunset, the site is monitored throughout the survey period and all bird species utilizing the site recorded, including species flying through overhead. Checks are also made on suitable habitat nearby or adjacent to the site for comparative purposes and to monitor any interchange of birds between sites. Target species (species of more special interest) utilizing the site will be mapped and estimates of the time these species frequented the site recorded.

Site Location



Fig. 1 Oatlands College site, survey area outlined in red, yellow 'x' primary vantage point position for surveys giving full overview of the site.

Site Description

Site located in urban South County Dublin, site comprising of green playing field area bordered by school buildings to east, tree lines to south and north and apartments to the west.

Specific site survey methodology

Vantage point observations were undertaken primarily at the position marked at the northwest corner of site, giving optimal views of the site area, and also ideally suited to observe species passing over the site, also occasional forays around site made (when not disturbing foraging birds). Early survey visits and later survey visits were made alternatively between surveys to ascertain bird movements early in the day and later in the day. Pitches checked for evidence of Brent Goose scat on each visit.

November 10th, 2022

Sunrise- 07.41hrs/Sunset 16.37hrs. Weather – Wind F4 Southwest, Cloud 7/8, Dry, 14c, Excellent visibility. On-site 07.45hrs – 13.45hrs.

Species recorded – Black-headed Gull, Herring Gull, Oystercatcher, Robin, Wren, Pied Wagtail, Grey Wagtail, Goldcrest, Coal Tit, Long-tailed Tit, Goldfinch, Greenfinch, Bullfinch, Feral Pigeon, Woodpigeon, Jackdaw, Hooded Crow, Magpie.

07.45hrs-12.00hrs – Observing from V.P. from 07.45hrs. Oystercatcher (<1) flew southeast over site (height 20m) at 08.47hrs. Herring Gull (<12) and Black-headed Gull (<15) noted passing over site from 07.50hrs, first birds noted foraging on-site at 10.20hrs with a peak of six Herring Gull foraging on-site at 11.40hrs and two Black-headed Gull foraging on-site from 10.25-11.40hrs. Pied Wagtail (<3) foraging on pitches throughout morning. Grey Wagtail (<2) noted foraging on road bordering south side of site from 11.15hrs-11.25hrs. No other target species recorded.

12.00hrs-13.45hrs – Observing from V.P. from 12.15hrs, Herring Gull (<11) and Black-headed Gull (<2) noted foraging on-site from 12.15-12.25hrs. From 12.25hrs to 13.45hrs pitches in use for school recreational activities. Bullfinch (<2), Greenfinch (<1) and Goldfinch (<6) noted foraging in cover bordering site with small numbers of other passerines. No other target species recorded.

November 26th, 2022

Sunrise- 08.09hrs/Sunset 16.15hrs. Weather – Wind F4 South, Cloud 8/8, Dry, 12c, Excellent visibility. On-site 07.45hrs – 13.45hrs.

Species recorded – Black-headed Gull, Herring Gull, Common Gull, Oystercatcher, Robin, Wren, Pied Wagtail, Long-tailed Tit, Feral Pigeon, Starling, Woodpigeon, Sparrowhawk, Jackdaw, Hooded Crow, Magpie.

10.00hrs-12.00hrs – Observing from V.P. from 10.00hrs, pitches in school recreational use throughout morning, Herring Gull (<15) and Black-headed Gull (<25) noted passing over the site at intervals, no other target species recorded.

12.00hrs-16.00hrs – Observing from V.P. from 12.00hrs, school recreational activities on-site until 13.30hrs, Herring Gulls (<30) and Black-headed Gulls (<18) noted passing over site mainly moving north and east in this period. From 13.45hrs Herring Gull numbers foraging on-site peaked at 34 birds at 15.00hrs (averaging approx. 20 overall on-site at one time), Black-headed Gull (<2) foraging on-site in afternoon from 13.45hrs. Common Gull (<3) foraging on-site from 14.15hrs. Oystercatcher (<1) noted foraging at the east side of site from 14.25hrs to 14.55hrs. A Sparrowhawk passed west over site at 15.34hrs flushing all foraging Gulls off site. No other target species recorded.

December 16th, 2022

Sunrise- 08.35hrs/Sunset 16.06hrs. Weather – Wind F2 Southwest, Cloud 0/8, Dry, 3c, Excellent visibility. On-site 08.30hrs – 14.30hrs.

Species recorded – Black-headed Gull, Herring Gull, Common Gull, Oystercatcher, Robin, Wren, Pied Wagtail, Grey Wagtail, Long-tailed Tit, Blue Tit, Coal Tit, Goldcrest, Blackbird, Mistle Thrush, Redwing, Fieldfare, Song Thrush, Goldfinch, Feral Pigeon, Woodpigeon, Jackdaw, Hooded Crow, Magpie.

08.30hrs-12.00hrs – Observing from V.P. from 08.30hrs, Oystercatcher (<2) foraging in center of site from 10.05-10.40hrs. Herring Gull (<up to 3) and Black-headed Gull (<up to 4) foraging on-site from 09.40-11.50hrs. Pied Wagtail (<2) and Mistle Thrush (<1) also foraging intermittently on-site. Herring Gull (<20) and Black-headed Gull also noted passing over site (averaging 25m height). No other target species recorded.

12.00hrs-14.30hrs – Observing from V.P. from 12.00hrs, Common Gull (<2) foraging on-site from 12.10-12.50hrs. Oystercatcher (<1) foraging on-site at east end from 12.23-12.42hrs. Redwing (<2) and Fieldfare (<1) noted at

north boundary of site at 12.30hrs. Herring Gull (<10) and Black-headed Gull (<4) noted passing over site. No other target species recorded.

December 23rd, 2022

Sunrise- 08.38hrs/Sunset 16.09hrs. Weather – Wind F2 Southeast veering Southwest, Cloud 8/8, Light rain, 7c, Excellent visibility. On-site 10.00hrs – 16.00hrs.

Species recorded – Black-headed Gull, Herring Gull, Common Gull, Oystercatcher, Brent Goose, Robin, Wren, Pied Wagtail, Long-tailed Tit, Blue Tit, Goldcrest, Blackbird, Mistle Thrush, Redwing, Song Thrush, Goldfinch, Chaffinch, Feral Pigeon, Woodpigeon, Jackdaw, Hooded Crow, Magpie.

10.00hrs-12.00hrs – Observing from V.P. from 10.00hrs, Oystercatcher (<5) foraging in center of site from 10.35hrs-11.20hrs, one remaining until 12.15hrs. Brent Geese (<45) were observed moving southwest past site (Off-site) at 10.42hrs, height 25m (it was not established what site these birds are foraging in). Herring Gull (<35) and Black-headed Gull (<20) observed passing over the site. Peak count of five Herring Gull foraging on-site at 11.15hrs and Black-headed Gull (<3) foraging on-site from 11.05-12.20hrs. Redwing (<12) noted foraging on-site from 10.30hrs intermittently into the afternoon.

12.00hrs-16.00hrs – Observing from V.P. from 12.00, Herring Gull peaking at 25 birds foraging on site at 14.10hrs, with Black-headed Gull peaking at 11 foraging on-site at 13.40hrs. Common Gull (<5) foraging on-site intermittently from 13.00-15.15hrs. Oystercatcher (<7) foraging on-site from 12.55hrs-14.20hrs when flushed off-site by dog walkers. Herring Gull (<40) and Black-headed Gull (<25) passing over site during afternoon mainly moving east and north. No other target species recorded.

January 3rd, 2023

Sunrise- 08.40hrs/Sunset 16.19hrs. Weather – Wind F3 South, Cloud 8/8, Showers, 10c, Excellent visibility. On-site 08.30hrs – 14.30hrs.

Species recorded – Herring Gull, Lesser black-backed Gull, Oystercatcher, Brent Goose, Robin, Dunnock, Wren, Pied Wagtail, Long-tailed Tit, Blue Tit, Coal Tit, Goldcrest, Blackbird, Mistle Thrush, Redwing, Song Thrush, Fieldfare, Goldfinch, Linnet, Feral Pigeon, Woodpigeon, Sparrowhawk, Jackdaw, Hooded Crow, Magpie.

08.30hrs-12.00hrs – Observing from V.P. from 10.00hrs. Oystercatcher (<1) arrived on-site at 09.45hrs, joined by 12 more at 10.34hrs, foraging until 10.50hrs when flushed off-site by a Sparrowhawk. Sparrowhawk again over site at 11.11hrs and 11.30hrs. Brent Geese (<35) passed southeast past site at 11.13hrs (off-site), height 25m. Fieldfare (<1) and Redwing (<2) foraging on-site throughout morning. Herring Gull (<15) and Black-headed Gull (<10) noted passing over site, none noted foraging on-site, no other target species recorded.

12.00hrs-14.30hrs – Observing from V.P. from 12.00hrs, at 13.00hrs Brent Geese (<50) passed northeast of site (Off-site – birds appear to be using nearby N11 as a navigational aid), height 25m. At 13.04hrs Oystercatcher (<1) passed south over the site, height 15m. Herring Gull (<4) foraging on-site from 13.15-13.40hrs. Lesser black-backed Gull (<1) over site at 13.08hrs. No other target species recorded.

January 17th, 2023

Sunrise- 08.30hrs/Sunset 16.39hrs. Weather – Wind F1 West, Cloud 5/8, Dry, 1c, Excellent visibility. On-site 10.30hrs – 16.30hrs.

Species recorded – Herring Gull, Black-headed Gull, Common Gull, Oystercatcher, Brent Goose, Robin, Dunnock, Wren, Grey Wagtail, Pied Wagtail, Long-tailed Tit, Blue Tit, Coal Tit, Goldcrest, Blackcap, Blackbird, Mistle Thrush, Redwing, Song Thrush, Bullfinch, Goldfinch, Linnet, Feral Pigeon, Woodpigeon, Sparrowhawk, Jackdaw, Hooded Crow, Magpie.

10.30hrs-12.00hrs – Observing from V.P. from 10.30hrs. Herring Gull (<8) and Black-headed Gull (<5) foraging on-site from 10.45hrs to 11.30hrs when flushed off-site. Oystercatcher (<4) passed southeast over the site at 11.35hrs (height 20m), Redwing (<20) foraging intermittently at the west side of the site from 10.30hrs to

14.00hrs. Grey Wagtail foraging on road at southside of site at 11.00hrs. Blackcap (<1) observed at northwest corner of the site at 11.50hrs. Small numbers of Herring (<10) and Black-headed Gull (<8) noted passing over site, no other target species recorded.

12.00hrs-16.30hrs – Observing from V.P. from 12.00hrs. Oystercatcher (<5) observed foraging on-site from 13.30hrs- 13.55hrs and seven birds from 14.50hrs to 15.20hrs when flushed off-site. Brent Geese were observed passing south off-site (usual flightline east of site) with 15 at 13.10hrs and 40 moving north at 15.40hrs (both 20m). Black-headed Gull foraging intermittently on-site during afternoon with peak counts of 13 at 14.15hrs, peak count of Herring Gull noted foraging on-site were 6 birds at 14.38hrs. Common Gull (<4) noted intermittently foraging on-site. Sparrowhawk noted soaring over site at 13.05hrs. No other target species recorded.

February 2nd, 2023

Sunrise- 08.08hrs/Sunset 17.10hrs. Weather – Wind F5 West, Cloud 8/8, Dry, 10c, Excellent visibility. On-site 10.30hrs – 16.30hrs.

Species recorded – Herring Gull, Black-headed Gull, Great black-backed Gull, Oystercatcher, Robin, Wren, Grey Wagtail, Pied Wagtail, Long-tailed Tit, Blue Tit, Coal Tit, Goldcrest, Blackbird, Mistle Thrush, Redwing, Song Thrush, Greenfinch, Goldfinch, Feral Pigeon, Woodpigeon, Jackdaw, Rook, Hooded Crow, Magpie.

10.45hrs-12.00hrs – Observing from V.P. from 10.45hrs. Oystercatcher (<1) foraging on-site from 11.05hrs-11.45hrs, Redwing (<20) foraging at the north side of site, Herring Gull (<25) and Black-headed Gull (<5) noted passing over site only. No other target species recorded.

12.00hrs-16.45hrs – Observing from V.P. from 12.00hrs. Black-headed Gull (<2) and Herring Gull (<1) noted foraging on-site intermittently during the afternoon. Redwing (<30) foraging throughout the afternoon on the pitches at the north and west side of the site. A Great black-backed Gull passed over site at 12.34hrs with small numbers of Herring (<15) and Black-headed Gull (<10) noted passing over the site. No other target species recorded.

February 20th, 2023

Sunrise- 07.33hrs/Sunset 17.45hrs. Weather – Wind F3 Southwest, Cloud 7/8, Dry, 11c, Excellent visibility. On-site 08.00hrs – 14.00hrs.

Species recorded – Herring Gull, Black-headed Gull, Common Gull, Oystercatcher, Robin, Wren, Grey Wagtail, Pied Wagtail, Long-tailed Tit, Blue Tit, Coal Tit, Goldcrest, Blackbird, Mistle Thrush, Song Thrush, Bullfinch, Goldfinch, Feral Pigeon, Starling, Woodpigeon, Sparrowhawk, Jackdaw, Rook, Hooded Crow, Magpie.

08.00hrs-12.00hrs – Observing from V.P. from 08.00hrs, Black-headed Gull (< up to 8) and Herring Gull (<up to 5) and Common Gull (<2) foraging on-site from 08.25hrs until 10.45hrs when recreational activities flushed birds off-site. Oystercatcher (<3) observed passing southeast over site at 11.25hrs (height 20). Sparrowhawk observed soaring over site at 09.45hrs. Similar profile of foraging passerines in cover surrounding site. No other target species recorded.

12.00hrs-14.00hrs – Observing from V.P. from 12.15hrs, Oystercatcher (<3) recorded foraging on-site mainly at east side from 13.05hrs to 13.40hrs when flushed off-site. Peak counts of Herring Gull foraging on-site were 8 birds at 13.30hrs. Pied Wagtail (<3) and Mistle Thrush (<2) also foraging on-site, no other species noted foraging on-site.

March 4th, 2023

Sunrise- 07.06hrs/Sunset 18.08hrs. Weather – Wind F2 North, Cloud 5/8, Dry, 3c, Excellent visibility. On-site 11.30hrs – 17.30hrs.

Species recorded – Herring Gull, Black-headed Gull, Lesser black-backed Gull, Brent Goose, Robin, Wren, Pied Wagtail, Long-tailed Tit, Blue Tit, Coal Tit, Goldcrest, Blackbird, Mistle Thrush, Goldfinch, Feral Pigeon, Starling, Woodpigeon, Raven, Jackdaw, Rook, Hooded Crow, Magpie.

11.30hrs-17.30hrs – Observing from V.P. from 11.30hrs. Herring Gull foraging on-site intermittently during afternoon with peak count of 11 birds made at 13.40hrs (averaging 4-5 overall). Up to 14 Black-headed Gull noted foraging on-site throughout afternoon (averaging 3-4 birds). Lesser black-backed Gull (<4) noted passing over the site during day. Brent Geese (<12) passed northeast past site (off-site) at 14.18hrs (height 25m), and another flock of 10 passed north (off-site to east of site as usual) at 16.20hrs. Herring Gull (<40) and Black-headed Gull (<20) passing over site during the day. Raven (<1) passed east over the site at 15.00hrs. Mistle Thrush (<4), Blackbird (<3), Starling (<10) and small numbers of the crow species (mainly Magpie) only other species noted foraging on-site during the afternoon, no other target species recorded.

March 21st, 2023

Sunrise- 06.25hrs/Sunset 18.39hrs. Weather – Wind F2 Southwest, Cloud 6/8, Dry, 10c, Excellent visibility. On-site 07.00hrs – 13.00hrs.

Species recorded – Herring Gull, Black-headed Gull, Lesser black-backed Gull, Robin, Wren, Pied Wagtail, Meadow Pipit, Long-tailed Tit, Blue Tit, Goldcrest, Blackbird, Mistle Thrush, Song Thrush, Goldfinch, Feral Pigeon, Starling, Woodpigeon, Sparrowhawk, Jackdaw, Rook, Hooded Crow, Magpie.

07.00hrs-13.00hrs – Observing from V.P. from 07.00hrs. Herring Gull foraging on-site occasionally during afternoon in very small numbers (peak of 6 at 14.45hrs), Black-headed Gull not noted foraging on-site with maximum of 6 birds noted passing over the site. Lesser black-backed Gull (<11) noted passing over the site (Likely migrant birds). Meadow Pipit (<10) noted also passing over the site (also likely migrants). Site otherwise quiet with Mistle Thrush (<2) foraging and observed nest building at the west side of the site. Sparrowhawk (<2) observed soaring over the site at 13.35hrs. Pied Wagtail (<2) and small number of Crow species foraging on-site, no other target species recorded.

Comments and observations on survey results

In total 37 Bird species were recorded overall at the Oatlands College site, at Stillorgan, South Dublin, during 10 surveys over the course of the winter bird survey period 2022-2023. Species recorded that are red listed as a wintering species of conservation concern (Birdwatch Ireland's birds of conservation concern in Ireland 2020-2026) that were recorded on-site were Redwing, recorded in foraging small numbers (recorded in five visits, maximum count of 30 birds in one visit). Of those species of specific interest in the context of the sites habitat type (notable species foraging on maintained grassland in the area) namely Brent Goose, Curlew, Oystercatcher and Black-tailed Godwit, only Oystercatcher was recorded foraging on-site in small numbers (less than 7 on almost all dates with the exception a peak of 13 birds recorded on January 3rd). Brent Geese were recorded passing site only (all flightlines were off-site to the east and south of site area, average flight heights c.25m). Checking for signs of Brent Geese scat on foraging area did not reveal any on all visits. Gulls species recorded foraging on-site were Black-headed Gull, Herring Gull and Common Gull, foraging in small numbers (less than 30 birds with Herring Gull being most regular).

Results suggest that the site is not a significant ex-situ foraging or roosting site for species of qualifying interest from nearby Special protection areas (SPA's). The site is frequently used by the adjacent secondary and primary schools (all week days and often weekends) this was noted as a likely negative in terms of species numbers and diversity foraging on-site and foraging periods unharrassed. A selection of passerines typical of parkland in suburban Dublin were recorded and remained consistent throughout the surveys.