

Floodlighting of the Running Track & Soccer Pitch at Kilbogget Park, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin

Screening for Appropriate Assessment
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JBA Project Manager

Patricia Byrne
 Unit 8, Block 660
 Greenogue Business Plaza
 Rathcoole
 Dublin
 D24 YN81

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Prepared by Michael Coyle BA (Hons), MSc
 Ecologist
 Jai Dolan BSc (Hons), MSc
 Assistant Ecologist

Reviewed by Patricia Byrne BSc (Hons), PhD, MCIEEM
 Principal Ecologist

Purpose

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Abbreviations

AA	Appropriate Assessment
CJEU	Court of Justice of the European Union
CIEEM	Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management
DLRCC	Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council
DoEHLG	Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government
EC	European Communities
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
EU	European Union
GSI	Geological Survey Ireland
INNS	Invasive Non-native Species
IROPI	Imperative Reasons of Over-riding Public Interest
LSE	Likely Significant Effects
NBDC	National Biodiversity Data Centre
NOx	Nitrogen Oxides
NPWS	National Parks and Wildlife Service
OPR	Office of the Planning Regulator
QI	Qualifying Interest
RBMP	River Basin Management Plan
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SPA	Special Protection Area
WFD	Water Framework Directive
WWTP	Waste Water Treatment Plant
Zol	Zone of Influence

1 Introduction

1.1 Background

JBA Consulting Engineers and Scientists Ltd. (hereafter JBA) has been commissioned by Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council (DLRCC) to prepare an Appropriate Assessment Screening Report for the installation of flood lights at the Kilbogget Park in Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin.

Screening for appropriate assessment is intended to be an initial examination which must be carried out by the Planning Authority or An Bord Pleanála as the competent authority. However, this screening is completed on behalf of the project proposer to show that likely significant effects have been considered in the project development and design, and where necessary progress with further assessment.

1.2 Legislative Context

Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Fauna and Flora, known as the 'Habitats Directive' - provides legal protection for habitats and species of European importance. Article 2 of the Directive requires the maintenance or restoration of habitats and species of European Community interest, at a favourable conservation status. Articles 3 - 9 provide the legislative means to protect habitats and species of Community interest through the establishment and conservation of an EU-wide network of sites known as Natura 2000 sites. Natura 2000 sites are Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) designated under the Habitats Directive and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) designated under the Conservation of Wild Birds Directive (79 / 409 / EEC).

Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive set out the decision-making tests for plans or projects affecting Natura 2000 sites. Article 6(3) establishes the requirement for Appropriate Assessment:

“Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site’s conservation objectives. In the light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implications for the site and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, the competent national authorities shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public.”

Article 6(4) deals with the steps that should be taken when it is determined, as a result of Appropriate Assessment, that a plan/project will adversely affect a European site. Issues dealing with alternative solutions, imperative reasons of overriding public interest and compensatory measures need to be addressed in this case.

Article 6(4) states:

“If, in spite of a negative assessment of the implications for the site and in the absence of alternative solutions, a plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature, the Member States shall take all compensatory measures necessary to ensure that the overall coherence of Natura 2000 is protected. It shall inform the Commission of the compensatory measures adopted.

Where the site concerned hosts a priority natural habitat type and / or a priority species, the only considerations which may be raised are those relating to human health or public safety, to beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment or, further to an opinion from the Commission, to other imperative reasons of overriding public interest.”

The requirements of Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive have been transposed into Irish legislation by means of *inter alia* the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011-2015 (S.I. No. 477 / 2011) as amended.

1.3 Appropriate Assessment Process

Guidance on the Appropriate Assessment (AA) process was produced by the European Commission in 2002, which was subsequently developed into guidance specifically for Ireland by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DEHLG) (2009, rev 2010). Office of the Planning

Regulator (OPR) produced a Practice Note in 2021, PN01 - Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management (OPR, 2021). These guidance documents identify a staged approach to conducting an AA, as shown Figure 1-1.

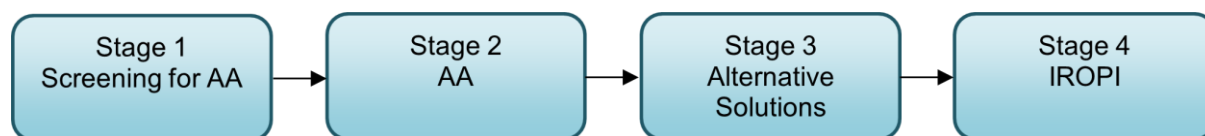


Figure 1-1: The Appropriate Assessment Process (from: Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland - Guidance for Planning Authorities, DEHLG, 2009)

1.3.1 Stage 1 - Screening for AA

The initial, screening stage of the Appropriate Assessment is to determine:

- whether the proposed plan or project is directly connected with or necessary for the management of the European designated site for nature conservation
- if it is likely to have a significant adverse effect on the European designated site, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects.

For those sites where, potential adverse impacts are identified, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, further assessment is necessary to determine if the proposals will have an adverse impact on the integrity of a European designated site, in view of the site's conservation objectives (i.e. the process proceeds to Stage 2).

1.3.2 Stage 2 - AA

This stage requires a more in-depth evaluation of the plan or project, and the potential direct and indirect impacts of them on the integrity and interest features of the European designated site(s), alone and in combination with other plans and projects, taking into account the site's structure, function and conservation objectives. Where required, mitigation or avoidance measures will be suggested.

The competent authority can only agree to the plan or project after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site(s) concerned. If this cannot be determined, and where mitigation cannot be achieved, then alternative solutions will need to be considered (i.e. the process proceeds to Stage 3).

1.3.3 Stage 3 - Alternative Solutions

Where adverse impacts on the integrity of Natura 2000 sites are identified, and mitigation cannot be satisfactorily implemented, alternative ways of achieving the objectives of the plan or project that avoid adverse impacts need to be considered. If none can be found, the process proceeds to Stage 4.

1.3.4 Stage 4 - IROPI

Where adverse impacts of a plan or project on the integrity of Natura 2000 sites are identified and no alternative solutions exist, the plan will only be allowed to progress if imperative reasons of overriding public interest can be demonstrated. In this case compensatory measures will be required.

The process only proceeds through each of the four stages for certain plans or projects. For example, for a plan or project, not connected with management of a site, but where no likely significant impacts are identified, the process stops at stage 1. Throughout the process, the precautionary principle must be applied, so that any uncertainties do not result in adverse impacts on a site.

This report is in support of a Stage 1 Screening for Appropriate Assessment.

1.3.5 Recent judgements of the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) and how they are used in this assessment

The CJEU issued a ruling on the consideration of avoidance and reduction measures as a result of the case known as *People over Wind, Peter Sweetman v Coillte Teoranta* (Case C-323/17). This judgement stated that measures intended to reduce or avoid effects on a Natura 2000 site should only be considered within the framework of an Appropriate Assessment, and it is not permissible to take into account such measures at the screening stage. In practice, this means that any activities that are not integral to the project (i.e., the project could conceivably take place without them) and have the effect of avoiding or reducing an impact on a Natura 2000 site, cannot be considered at the screening stage.

The CJEU ruling in the case of *Grace & Sweetman* [2018] (C-164/17) clarified the difference between avoidance and reduction (mitigation) measures and compensation. Measures intended to compensate for the negative effects of a project cannot be taken into account in the assessment of the implications of a project, and instead are considered under Article 6(4). This means that any project where an effect on the integrity of a Natura 2000 site remains and can only be offset by compensation, would need to proceed under Article 6(4), demonstrating “imperative reasons of overriding public interest”.

The judgements referred to as the Dutch Nitrogen cases [2018] (C-293/17 and C-294/17) have important implications for projects that could potentially impact on sites that are exceeding critical thresholds for input of damaging ammonia (but could also reasonably apply where other nutrients are impacting Natura 2000 sites). The judgements state that the use of thresholds to exclude project impacts is acceptable in principle, and that strategic plans can be used as mitigation but only with consideration of the certainty (or otherwise) of the outcomes of those strategic plans. It clarifies that where the status of a habitat type is already unfavourable the possibility of authorising activities which increase the problem is necessarily limited.

The CJEU ruling in the case of *Holohan v An Bord Pleanala* (C-462/17) also clarified the importance in Appropriate Assessment of taking into account habitat types and species outside the boundary of the Natura 2000 site where implications of the impacts on those habitat and species may impact the conservation objectives of the Natura 2000 site. In this assessment functionally linked and supporting habitat for species outside of Natura 2000 sites are assessed where they could potentially impact the conservation objectives of any screened in Natura 2000 sites.

1.4 Methodology

The Screening for Appropriate Assessment has been prepared having regard to the Birds and Habitats Directives, the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011-15 as amended and relevant jurisprudence of the EU and Irish courts. The following documents have also been used to provide guidance for the assessment:

- DEHLG (Rev 2010) Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland Guidance for Planning Authorities. Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DEHLG, 2009) and DEHLG /NPWS Circular letters.
- Office of the Planning Regulator (2021) OPR Practice Note PN01 - Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management (OPR, 2021).
- European Communities (EC) (2018) Managing Natura 2000 Sites: the provisions of Article 6 of the ‘Habitats’ Directive 92/43/EEC, Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Luxembourg. European Commission (European Commission, 2000).
- EC (2021) Assessment of plans and projects in relation to Natura 2000 sites - Methodological guidance on Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. (European Commission 2021)
- EC (2021) Guidance on strict protection of animal species of Community interest under the Habitats Directive.

1.4.1 Screening Methods

This screening assessment uses the source-pathway-receptor (S-P-R) model as outlined in guidance (OPR 2021). Using the source-pathway-receptor model allows for the potential significant effects to be eliminated if no viable source, pathway, or receptor is present.

The S-P-R method uses an examination of the construction methods or project description allows sources of impact to be determined. This also allows a zone of influence (Zoi) for the project to be generated based on the size, scale and nature of the works involved. The pathways for impact are also analysed to see if a functional pathway for impact is present. This report analyses three pathways: surface water, groundwater and land. Using information gathered from desk sources (e.g. mapped qualifying interests from the Conservation Objectives for the site) and from field surveys, receptors within the zone of influence are identified. In some cases, sensitive receptors may also play a role in determining the zone of influence. If any of the three parts to the model are not present (source-pathway-receptor) the potential for a likely significant effect from the project on the Natura 2000 network can be discounted.

1.4.2 Likely Significant Effect Test

The test for AA screening is whether the project could have a 'Likely Significant Effect' (LSE) on any Natura 2000 site. A likely significant effect is defined as any effect that could undermine the conservation objectives of a Natura 2000 site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. There must be a causal connection between the project and the qualifying interest of the site which could result in possible significant effects on the site. The LSE test is a lower threshold for the screening assessment than 'adverse effect on site integrity' considered at Appropriate Assessment stage (Stage 2) as screening is intended to be a preliminary examination for potential effects.

The Zone of Influence was used to identify Natura 2000 sites that could be impacted by the project. For each of these sites, the Qualifying Interest features and their associated conservation objectives were identified, and the possibility of LSE was determined by a combination of location, ecological and hydrological connectivity, sensitivity of receptor and magnitude of the source of impact.

1.4.3 Desktop study

A desktop study was conducted of available published and unpublished information, along with a review of data available on the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and National Biodiversity Data Centre (NBDC) web-based databases, in order to identify key habitats and species (including legally protected and species of conservation concern) that may be present within ecologically relevant distances from the project as explained below. The data sources below were consulted for the desktop study:

- Aerial photography available from www.osi.ie and Esri World Imagery.
- NPWS website (www.npws.ie) where Natura 2000 site synopses, data forms and conservation objectives were obtained along with Annex I habitat distribution data and status reports.
- River Basin Management Plans (www.wfdireland.ie)
- NBDC Biodiversity Maps (maps.biodiversityireland.ie)
- Catchments (www.catchments.ie)
- Environmental Protection Agency Maps (<https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps>)
- Geological Survey Ireland (GSI) website (www.gsi.ie)
- GSI - Groundwater data viewer (<https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com>)
- Planning Applications (myplan.ie)

1.4.4 Ecological Site Survey

A general ecological site walkover, including habitat mapping, mammal and preliminary bat roost surveys were conducted on the 13th of January 2023 by Mark Desmond and Michael Coyle of JBA Consulting to inform the initial ecological baseline of the site. In the revisit to the site on the 12th of June 2024 prior to a bat transect survey, the site was noted to have developed a meadow grassland not previously seen in the initial survey of January 2023, and a species list was gathered from this meadow grassland and habitat mapping was updated.

The ecological walkover survey recorded habitats and protected species, following the methods outlined in the documents below:

- Heritage Council (2011). Best Practice Guidance for Habitat Survey and Mapping (Smith et al. 2011).
- Ecological Surveying Techniques for Protected Flora and Fauna during the Planning of National Road Schemes (NRA, 2009).

Aerial photographs and site maps assisted the survey. Habitats have been classified and described following Fossitt (2000). Nomenclature for higher plants follows that given in The New Flora of the British Isles 4th Edition (Clive Stace 2019). Identification of Irish plants generally follows Webb's An Irish Flora (Parnell and Curtis, 2012).

1.4.5 In-combination Assessment

The possibility of in-combination effects are considered only at a high level. Where there is no effect at all via a pathway, there is no possibility of in-combination effects. Where an LSE is identified, the in-combination assessment is carried forwards to a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment.

1.5 Limitations and constraints

The screening assessment necessarily relies on some assumptions, and it was inevitably subject to some limitations. These would not affect the conclusion, but the following points are recorded in order to ensure the basis of the assessment is clear:

- Information on the works and conditions on site are based on current knowledge at the time of writing. Changes to the site since this report was drafted cannot be accounted for. However, significant changes to the site are unlikely in the time between the site visit on the 12th of June 2024 and likely start date of the proposed project.
- This assessment is based on the methodology for proposed works as described in this report. Where changes to methodology occur, an ecologist will need to be consulted to determine if the changes are likely to alter the ecological impacts and would therefore need reassessment.

2 Project Description

2.1 The 'Project'

The Proposed Project is not directly connected with, or necessary to the management of any Natura 2000 site and may have potential adverse impacts upon the Natura 2000 sites identified in Section 4. Therefore, the proposed project is subject to the requirements of the AA process.

2.2 Site location

The site of the development is located in Kilbogget Park approximately 700m south-east of Cabinteely, and approximately 1km west of Ballybrack, and is situated approximately 180m east of the N11 Road. The site is located approximately 70m west of a culverted section of the Kill of the Grange Stream (Kill of the Grange Stream_010), while the closest section of the stream at the surface is located approximately 430m north-west from the site. Additionally, the site is located approximately 300m east of the St Bride's Stream (Carrickmines Stream_010). The site's location is shown in Figure 2-1.

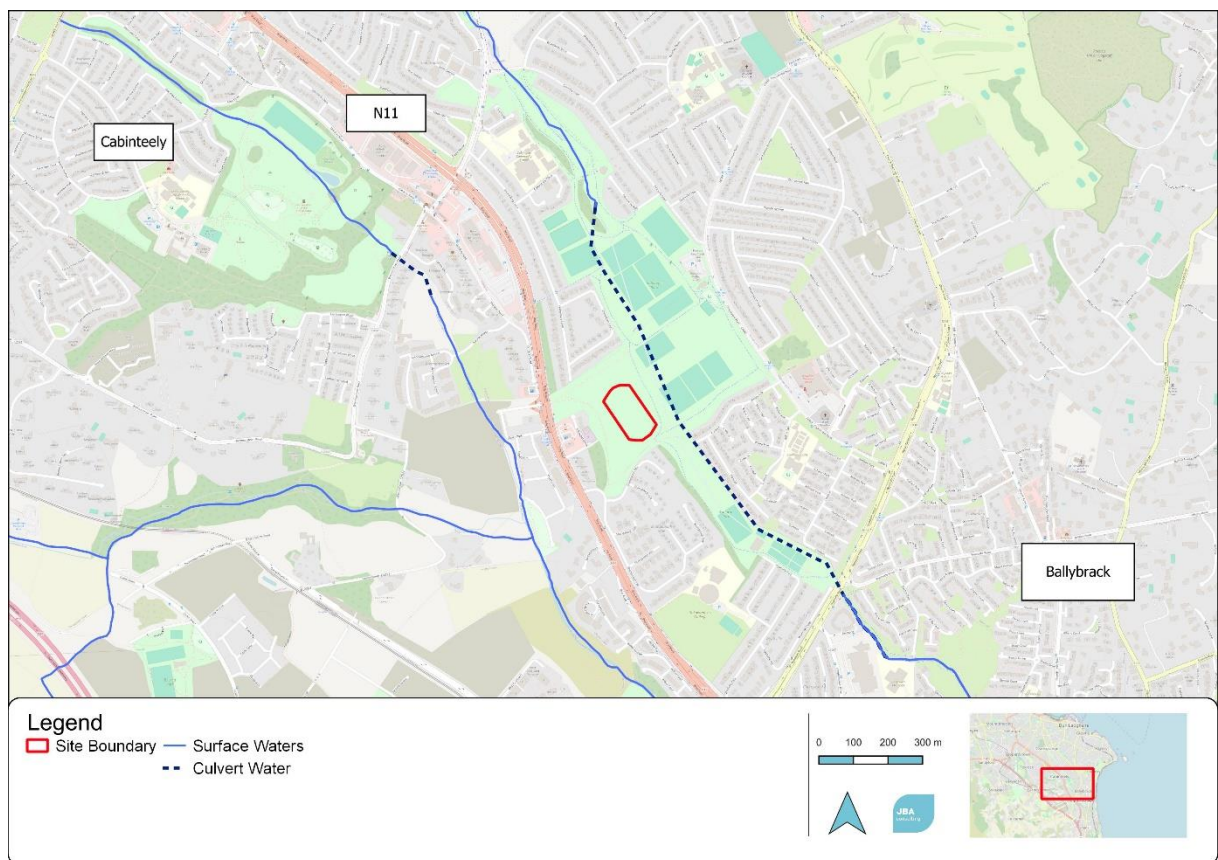


Figure 2-1: Site location and boundary of work (OSM, 2024)

2.3 Proposed Project

The Proposed Project involves the installation of flood lighting at the running track and soccer pitch at Kilbogget Park. The site contains an athletics track, which runs along the boundary of the site, and inside the athletics track is a football pitch. The scope of works includes 34 no. floodlights which are in fixed positions. These will be divided between six lighting poles, with two of these poles being 18.3m in height and four of these poles being 21.3m in height.

The site will be accessed from the car park that is located immediately to the south-east of the site. The proposed project construction phase is scheduled to last for approximately 6-8 weeks. Excavations for the cabling and ducting is anticipated to be 650mm deep while the foundations for lighting columns are anticipated to be approximately 2-3m deep.

2.3.1 Lighting Schedules

The floodlighting will be operational from 06:00-08:00 and 17:00 until 22:00, Monday to Sunday. In addition, significant seasonal restrictions will be deployed as outlined below to minimize any impacts on bats, including no floodlighting allowed in April, May, August and September, as outlined Table 2-1 below.

Table 2-1: Scheduled lighting times of the on-site floodlights

Month	Lighting Schedules
January	06:00-08:00 and 17:00 until 22:00
February	06:00-08:00 and 17:00 until 22:00
March	06:00-08:00 and 17:00 until 22:00
April	No floodlighting allowed
May	No floodlighting allowed
June	06:00-08:00 and 17:00 until 22:00
July	06:00-08:00 and 17:00 until 22:00
August	No floodlighting allowed
September	No floodlighting allowed
October	06:00-08:00 and 17:00 until 22:00
November	06:00-08:00 and 17:00 until 22:00
December	06:00-08:00 and 17:00 until 22:00

2.4 Zone of Influence

As the scale of proposed works are considered of 'Project' status, Natura 2000 sites within a 5km range of the proposed scheme were examined in relation to surface water and groundwater / ground-to-surface water pathways (i.e., local surface water sub-catchments and groundwater bodies / aquifers), with an extended 15km range for those with a downstream hydrological connection and 5km for groundwater connections.

In respect to Zol for air pollution (emissions and dust), Natura 2000 sites within a 50m buffer zone of the scheme, and 250m of the site entrance were considered as per the Institute of Air Quality Management (IAQM) Guidance on the Assessment of Dust from Demolition and Construction (IAQM, 2024), including ex-situ foraging habitats utilised by QI species associated with local Natura 2000 sites. Furthermore, a 300m disturbance buffer from boundaries of the proposed scheme has been incorporated into the Zol in order to account for QI species potentially foraging within ex-situ habitats.

3 Existing Environment

3.1 Baseline conditions

The proposed development (installation of flood lighting) is located within an area of amenity grassland, set within an urban environment. The site contains an athletics track which runs along the site boundary, and inside the athletics track is a football pitch. The site is located approximately 70m to the west of a culverted section of the Kill of the Grange Stream (Kill of the Grange Stream_010), while the closest section of the stream at the surface is located approximately 430m north-west from the site. Additionally, the site is located approximately 300m east of the St Bride's Stream (Carrickmines Stream_010).

3.2 Habitats

The site is located within Kilbogget Park. The site itself is primarily composed of an internal section of amenity grassland for the football pitch, and an external boundary of running track on built-land. A number of roads are close to the site including the N11 which is located approximately 180m west of the site. There are woodlands that are located outside of the site boundary, which were assessed for bat roost potential.

A site survey was performed by JBA Ecologists, Mark Desmond and Michael Coyle on the 13th of January 2023. Additional surveys were carried out in 2024. During the first bat transect survey on the 21st of May 2024, areas of the amenity grassland within proximity to the site were noted to be managed differently and allowed to develop, resulting in meadow grassland increased number of species. Following this, prior to a bat survey on the 12th of June 2024, an additional recording of plant species was undertaken in these unmanaged areas. Figure 3-1 (overleaf).

Table 3-1: Habitats recorded during site visit.

Habitat	Fossitt Code
Buildings and artificial surfaces	BL3
Amenity grassland (improved)	GA2
(Mixed) broadleaved woodland	WD1
Treelines	WL2
Dry meadows and grassy verges	GS2

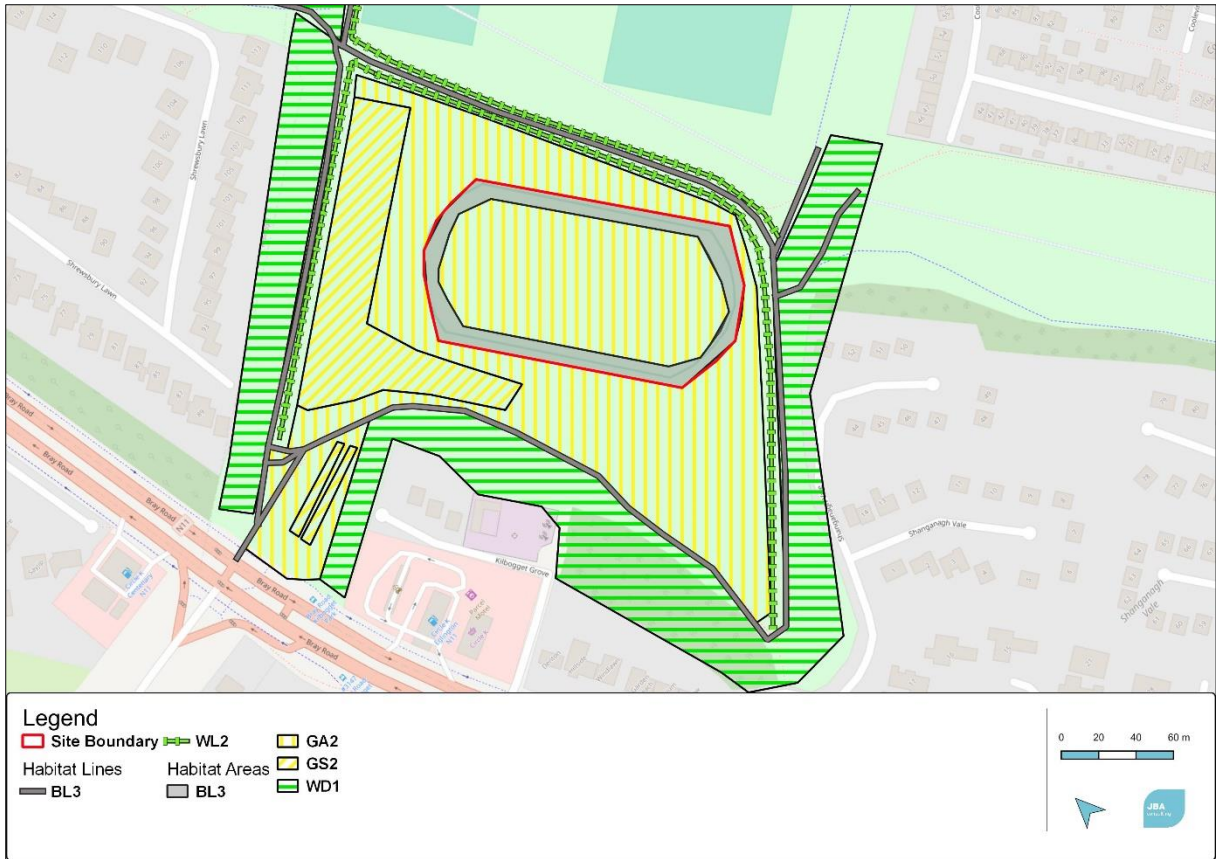


Figure 3-1: Habitat Map (OSM, 2024)

3.2.1 Buildings and Artificial Surfaces (BL3)

The boundary of the site contains athletics track of built ground of tarmac, and a footpath that surrounds the site. These locations had no species growing within them.

3.2.2 Amenity Grassland (GA2)

The entire area inside of the site's athletics track, and the majority of the site's immediate area is mown and maintained as amenity grassland (Figure 3-2). This area has a poor species diversity. The species that were present include: Perennial Ryegrass *Lolium perenne*, Nettle *Urtica dioica*, Dandelion *Taraxacum* spp. and Creeping Buttercup *Ranunculus repens*.

There is a fenced, rectangular patch of amenity grass that is located adjacent to the south-west boundary athletics track. This area is used as a dog playpen and was not surveyed as it was currently in use by some dogs and their owners. From an external point of view a continuation of the same species was seen within the pen. There was also a some stands of Gorse *Ulex europaeus* located at the entrance of the pen.



Figure 3-2: The amenity grassland on the site, with the running track in the centre, and the dog pen is in the right background of the photo

While there were no birds of conservation concern recorded within the site's boundary during the ecological survey, there were many birds located on adjacent, similar amenity grassland mapped in the dedicated section to wintering birds: Section 4.6.4), which includes a mixture of Seagulls and Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*. Light-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla* were also found in the adjacent amenity grasslands and are known to frequent large parks in Dublin to graze on short turf grass during the latter half of the winter months (Enviroguide Consulting, 2019).

There is a stretch of amenity grassland that is located between the dog playpen and the athletics track that has new sapling trees present including Alder *Alnus glutinosa*, Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, Birch *Betula pubescens*, Scots Pine *Pinus sylvestris* and Oak *Quercus* spp.

3.2.3 (Mixed) broadleaved woodland - WD1

There is a large area of mixed broadleaved woodland located along the south-west, and north of the site. These areas contain the tree species Sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus*, Holly *Ilex aquifolium*, Dogwood *Cornus sanguinea*, Alder, Elder *Sambucus nigra* and Hawthorn, and an understory of Cow Parsley *Anthriscus sylvestris*, Bramble *Rubus fruticosus*, Angelica *Angelica sylvestris*, Cotoneaster *Cotoneaster* spp., Dock *Rumex* spp., Common Ivy *Hedera helix*, Tutsan *Hypericum androsaemum*, Alexanders *Smyrniolum olusatrum*, Chickweed *Stellaria media*, Lords and Ladies *Arum maculatum*.

These areas were also assessed for bat roost potential; however, they were assessed to have poor potential.

3.2.4 Treelines - WL1

There is an immature treeline north-west and east of the site along the pathways, and a mature treeline south of the site. The immature treeline contains stands of Ash and Field Maple *Acer campestre*, with Perennial Ryegrass, White Clover *Trifolium repens* and Dandelion growing in between the trees.

3.2.5 Revisited Habitat: Dry meadows and grassy verges (GS2)

In the revisit to the site on the 12th of June 2024 prior to a bat transect survey, the site had developed a meadow grassland not previously seen in the initial survey of January 2023 (Figure 3-3, Figure 3-4). This meadow strip had a much wider range of floral diversity present within it, with many indicator species of the lowland hay meadows (*Alopecurus pratensis*, *Sanguisorba officinalis*) Annex I habitat [6510].



Figure 3-3: Meadow habitat from the north looking west along the site boundary



Figure 3-4: Meadow habitat along the south the athletics track

Positive indicators of a lowland hay meadow habitat were found. These include Meadow Buttercup *Ranunculus acris*, Smooth Hawk's-beard *Crepsis capillaris*, Tufted Vetch *Vicia cracca*, Red Clover *Trifolium pratense* Ribwort Plantain *Plantago lanceolata*, Hogweed *Heracleum sphondylium* and Knapweed *Centaurea nigra*, while the site also contains a small collection of high quality indicator species such as Yellow Rattle *Rhinanthus minor*, Oxeye Daisy *Leucanthemum vulgare*, Bird's Foot Trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*, and most notably, a scattering of Bee Orchid *Ophrys apifera* (Figure 3-5).



Figure 3-5: Bee Orchids present within the meadow grassland

In addition to these positive indicators and high-quality indicator species, the meadow area also contains a large spread of negative indicator species including Cock's Foot *Dactylis glomerata*, Perennial Ryegrass *Lolium perenne*, Ragwort *Senecio jacobaea*, False Oat-grass *Arrhenatherum elatius*, Curly Dock *Rumex crispus* and Creeping Thistle *Cirsium arvense*.

Additional species that are neither positive, nor negative indicator species include Yorkshire Fog *Holcus lanatus*, Smooth Sowthistle *Sonchus oleraceus*, Creeping Buttercup *Ranunculus repens*, Bush Vetch *Vicia sepium*, Yarrow *Achillea millefolium*, Dandelion, Lesser Trefoil *Trifolium dubium*, Timothy *Phleum pratense*, Chickweed *Stellaria media*, Common Plantain *Plantago major*, Creeping Cinquefoil *Potentilla reptans*, Common Daisy *Bellis perennis*, Crested Dogstail *Cynosurus cristatus*, Cow Parsley *Anthriscus sylvestris*, Common Bent *Agrostis capillaris* and Creeping Bent *Agrostis stolonifera*.

3.2.6 Protected Flora

There were no floral species listed under the Flora (Protection) Order 2022 recorded by the JBA Ecologists during the ecological walkover survey.

3.2.7 Protected Fauna

3.2.8 Breeding Birds

There were no breeding birds located within the boundary of the site during the ecological walkover survey. However, breeding birds are expected to use the adjacent trees and hedgerows for perching, foraging and nesting.

NBDC records from the past 10 years within a 2km radius, include records of the following Amber List bird species: Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis* (Breeding), Linnet *Linaria cannabina* (Breeding), Starling *Sturnus vulgaris* (Breeding), House Martin *Delichon urbicum* (Breeding), House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* (Breeding), Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus* (Breeding), Mute Swan *Cygnus olor* (Breeding and Wintering), Sand Martin *Riparia riparia* (Breeding), Eurasian Teal *Anas crecca* (Breeding and Wintering) Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* (Breeding) Mallard *Anas platythynchos* (Breeding and Wintering), Sandwich Tern *Thalasseus sandvicensis* and Northern Gannet *Morus bassanus* (Breeding).

NBDC records within 2km include the additional Red List bird species: Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata* (Breeding and Wintering) and Swift *Apus apus* (Breeding).

Wood Pigeon *Columba palumbus* and Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*, are also recorded within the NBDC Records 2km from the site, but their threat status is of Least Concern. NBDC records of birds within an extended 5km is found within Appendix C.

None of the breeding birds recorded are QI of Natura 2000 sites within the ZoI and will not be considered further within the assessment.

3.2.9 Wintering Birds

During the survey there were no wintering birds recorded within the boundary of the site. However there were wintering birds of Green, Amber and Red conservation concern (Gilbert et al., 2021) located within the nearby football pitches. In the football pitches located approximately 360m to the north-east of the site, there was a flock of approximately 25 Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus* (Red, Breeding and Wintering). Closer to the site, approximately 260m east of the site boundary there is a football pitch that was heavily waterlogged, and contained approximately 350 Seagulls, including a mixture of Herring Gull *Larus argentus* (Amber, Breeding and Wintering), Black-Headed Gull *Larus ridibundus* (Amber, Breeding and Wintering) and Common Gull *Larus canus* (Amber, Breeding and Wintering), while within this flock there was also a single Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus* (Green, Breeding and Wintering). Approximately 90m east of the site, there was a sighting of an additional 35 Oystercatcher, and approximately 120 Light-Bellied Brent Geese *Branta bernicla hrota* (Amber, Wintering). Brent Geese are known to frequent large parks in Dublin to graze on short turf grass during the latter half of the winter months (Enviroguide Consulting, 2019). The locations of the bird flocks found on site are shown in Figure 3-6.

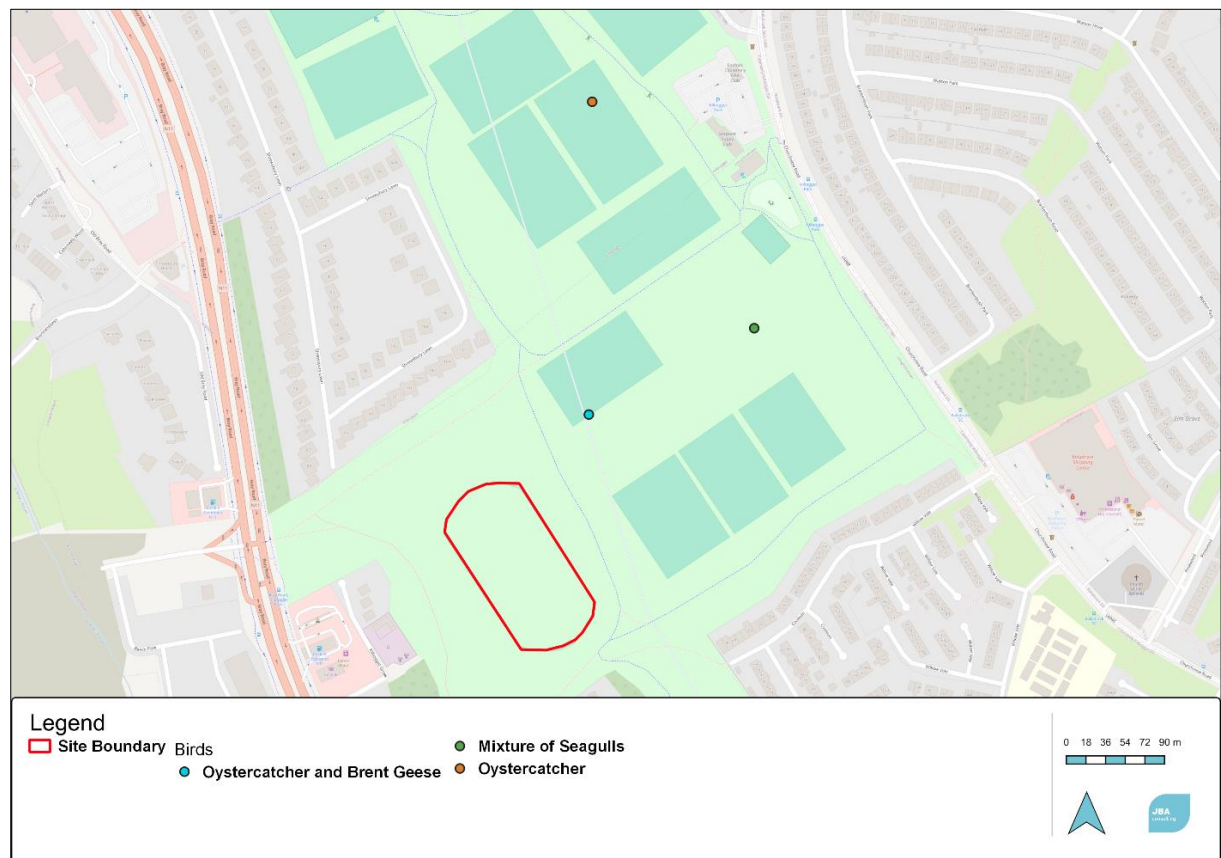


Figure 3-6: The location of flocks of birds encountered during the site survey (OSM, 2024)

DLRCC also provided unpublished data on wintering birds in Kilbogget Park, with the following species recorded in the winter of 2019-2020: Brent Goose, Oyster Catcher, Black-headed Gull, Common Gull, Herring Gull and Great Black-backed Gull, species counts for these surveys are listed in Table 3-2.

Table 3-2: Bird survey results during the winter of 2019/2020 (Source: DLRCC)

Date	Brent Goose	Oystercatcher	Black-tailed Godwit	Curlew	Black-headed Gull	Common Gull	Herring Gull	Great Black-backed Gull
14/11/2019	0	91	0	0	86	0	67	2
21/11/2019	0	0	0	0	770	0	20	0
03/12/2019	0	91	0	0	29	0	0	0
05/12/2019	0	0	0	0	150	0	12	0
09/12/2019	42	60	0	0	5	0	0	0
17/12/2019	0	86	0	0	6	1	0	0
19/12/2019	26	106	0	0	230	0	25	0
30/12/2019	17	97	0	0	122	2	35	12
07/01/2020	155	116	0	0	315	0	70	4
17/01/2020	175	80	0	0	138	0	23	2
06/02/2020	95	57	0	0	nc	nc	nc	nc
13/02/2020	285	77	0	0	138	0	0	0
17/02/2020	352	12	0	0	94	0	30	0
20/02/2020	189	31	0	0	45	0	18	1
27/02/2020	115	57	0	0	93	0	41	0
03/03/2020	0	49	0	0	51	9	28	0
06/03/2020	0	32	0	0	48	5	2	0
17/03/2020	0	33	0	0	5	1	6	0

It has been noted by members of DLRCC through anecdotal evidence that more recently, the Brent Goose have used the fenced-off area of the athletics track in the centre of the site (Figure 3-7) for foraging.



Figure 3-7: The area of the athletics track in the left of the photo, showing the fenced boundary around an amenity grass patch that the geese forage in

3.2.10 Invasive Non-native Species

There was no evidence of invasive species listed under the third schedule of the EC (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 S.I. No. 477/2011 recorded by the JBA Ecologists during the ecological walkover survey.

3.3 Waterbodies within the Vicinity of the Proposed Site

The entirety of the proposed project is located within the Water Framework Directive (WFD) Ovoca-Vartry catchment, and within the Dargle_SC_010 sub-catchment (EPA, 2024). There are no watercourses located within the area of the project, however there are two watercourses located near to the site; a culverted section of the Kill of the Grange Stream (Kill of the Grange Stream_010), located approximately 70m east of the site, and St Bride's Stream (Carrickmines Stream_010) which is located approximately 300m west of the site. Other waterbodies that are located within the Zol of the project site includes; Stradbroom Stream (Brewery Stream_010), County Brook (Dargle_030), Rathmichael Stream (Dargle_040) and Loughlinstown River North (Shanganagh_010). All of these waterbodies, along with their WFD (2016-2021) status and current risk are listed in Table 3-3, and are shown in Figure 3-8 (overleaf). There are no WFD Transitional or Coastal waterbodies within the vicinity of the site.

Table 3-3: WFD status and risk of local watercourses.

WFD Watercourse	WFD Status	WFD Risk	Approximate Distance from Site
Kill of the Grange Stream (Kill of the Grange Stream_010)	Poor	At Risk	0.5km (surface) >0.1km (culverted)

WFD Watercourse	WFD Status	WFD Risk	Approximate Distance from Site
St Bride's Stream (Carrickmines Stream_010)	Good	Not At Risk	0.3km
Stradbrook Stream (Brewery Stream_010)	Poor	Review	3.4km
County Brook (Dargle_030)	Good	Not At Risk	4.6km
Rathmichael Stream (Dargle_040)	Good	Not At Risk	3.1km
Loughlinstown River North (Shanganagh_010)	Good	Not At Risk	1.2km

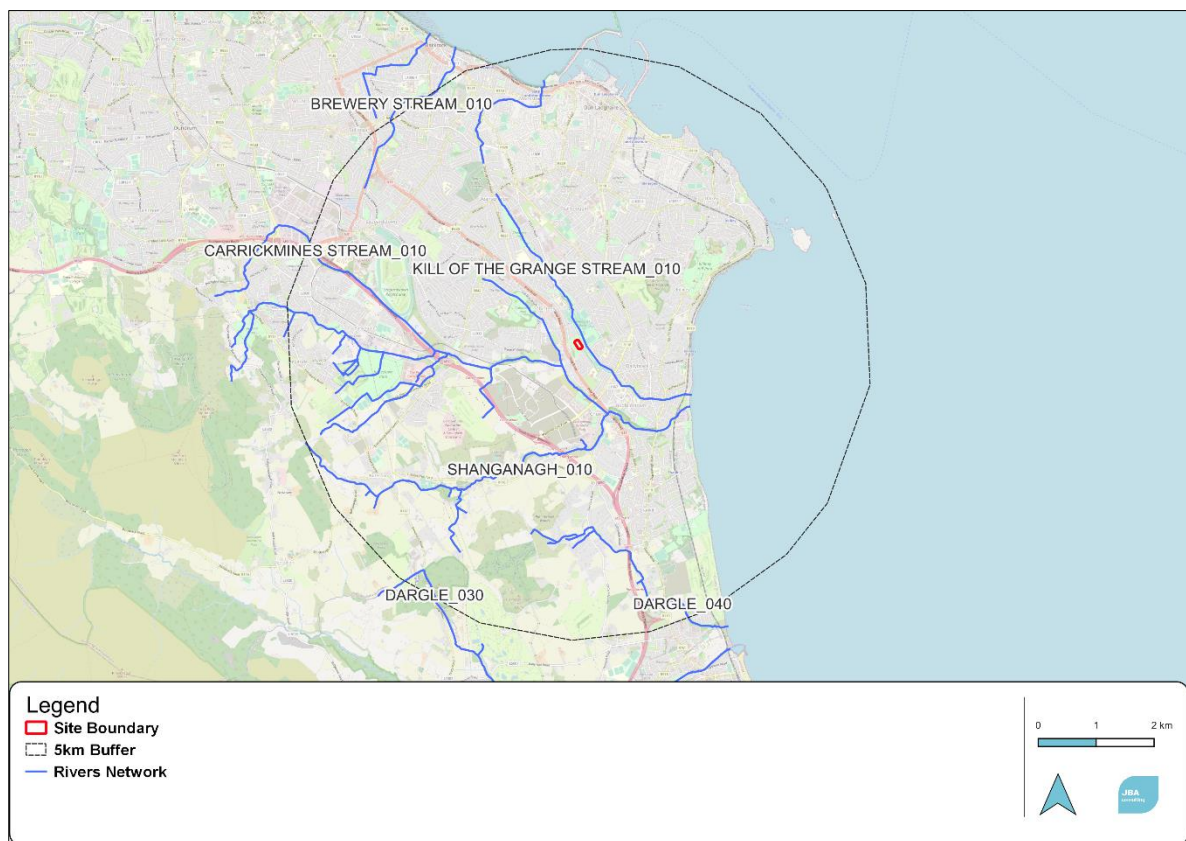


Figure 3-8: Local river waterbodies (OSM, 2024)

3.4 Groundwater

The entirety of the site is located within the Wicklow (IE_EA_G_076) groundwater body (Figure 3-9, overleaf). The Wicklow groundwater body currently holds a 'Good' WFD status (2016-2021); and is currently labelled as At Risk.

The underlying bedrock of the site is dominated by Granite with Microcline Phenocrysts of the Type 2p microcline porphyritic bedrock formation, and the soil is derived of Till that is derived from Carboniferous limestone. The permeability of the site's area is classified as Low with a low recharge capacity that varies within the site between 7.5% and 15%. The groundwater in the area of the site has an overall Low vulnerability, however the western boundary of the site is bordering on an area of Medium vulnerability (Figure 3-10, overleaf).

The aquifer within the underlying bedrock is considered to be Poor and is 'Generally Unproductive except for Local Zones'. In the context of this site, this means that the groundwater is slow to flow and limited to a poor network of fractures, fissure and joints, none of which are present within or adjacent to the site, and so there is a low level of retention or transferral within the groundwater.

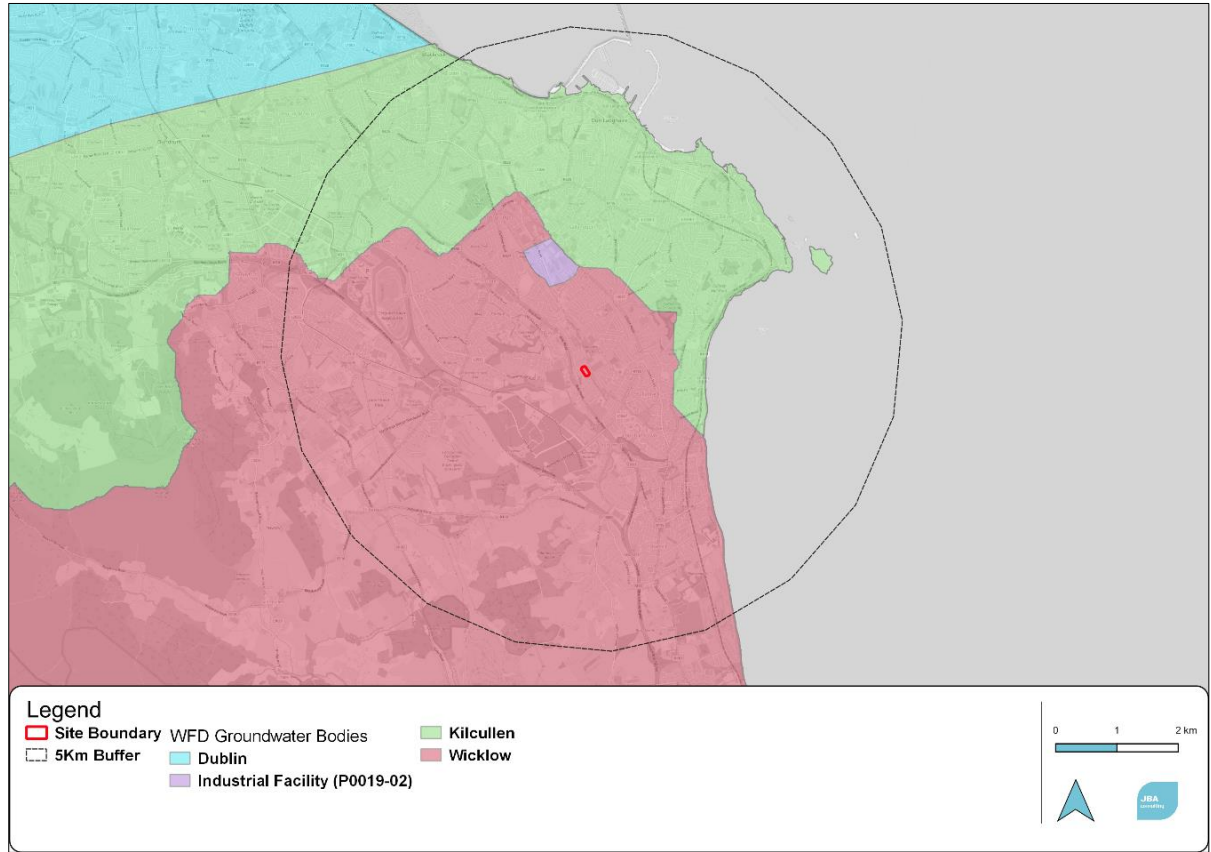


Figure 3-9: Groundwater bodies in the vicinity of site (OSM, 2024)

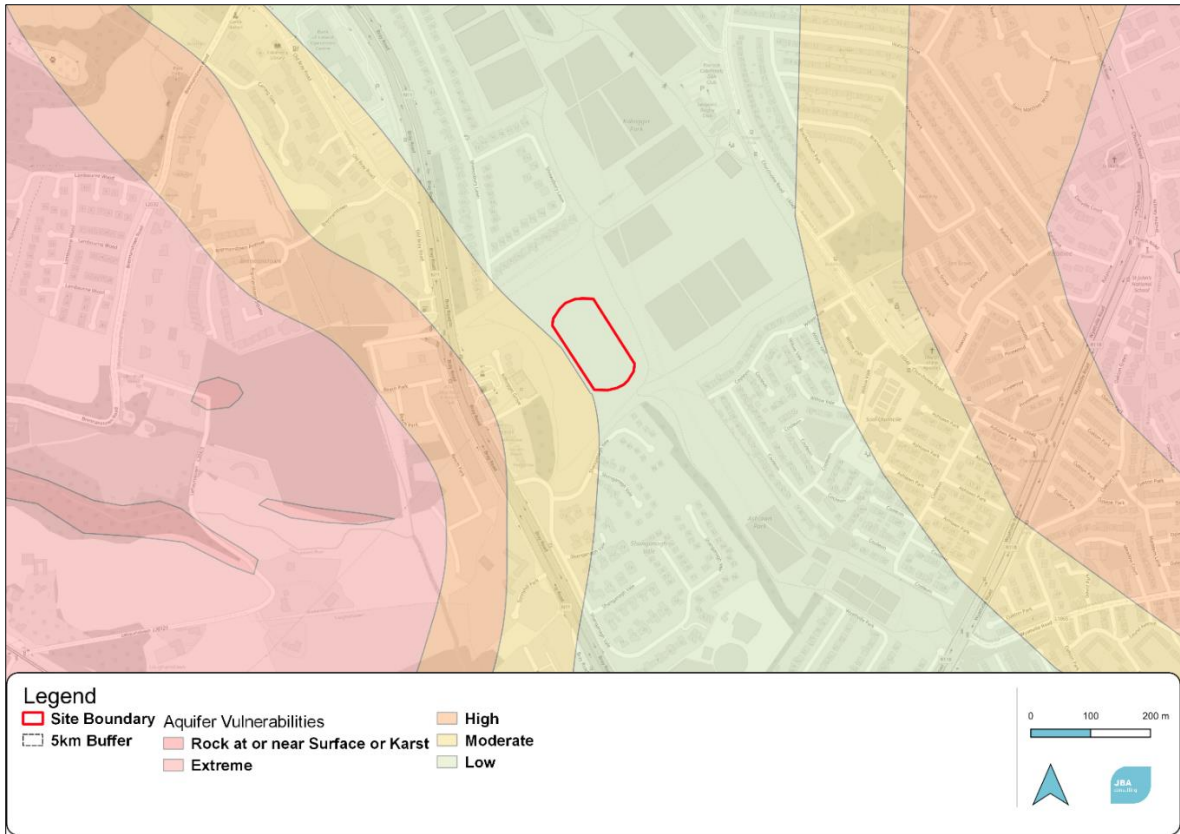


Figure 3-10: Aquifer vulnerability of the site (OSM, 2024)

4 Natura 2000 Sites

The DEHLG (2009) guidance identifies that Screening for Appropriate Assessment of a plan or project should consider the following Natura 2000 sites:

- Any Natura 2000 sites within or adjacent to the plan or project area.
- Any Natura 2000 sites within the likely zone of impact of the plan or project. This is dependent on the nature and scale of the plan, with 15km generally recommended for plans, but potentially much less for projects.
- Any Natura 2000 sites that are more than 15km from the plan or project area, but may potentially be impacted upon, for example, through a hydrological connection.

Furthermore, the OPR guidance is to use a Source-Pathway-Receptors model, therefore only directly connected sites will be retained (OPR, 2021).

The Natura 2000 sites within the range are listed in Table 4-1 below and their location are shown in Figure 4-1 (overleaf). There are four Natura 2000 sites within the 5km range of the site, and there are no additional Natura 2000 sites within the extended 15km hydrological range. Site descriptions, Qualifying Interests (QIs) and threats/pressures for the below Natura 2000 sites are provided in Table 4-2 (overleaf).

Table 4-1: Natura 2000 sites located within the Zone of Influence (ZoI) of the proposed development.

Natura 2000 site	Site Code	Approximate Distance from Site	Hydrological Distance from Site
South Dublin Bay SAC	000210	4.5km	n/a
South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary	004024	4.5km	n/a
Dalkey Islands SPA	004172	3.8km	5.25km (indirect)
Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC	003000	3.4km	3.8km (indirect)

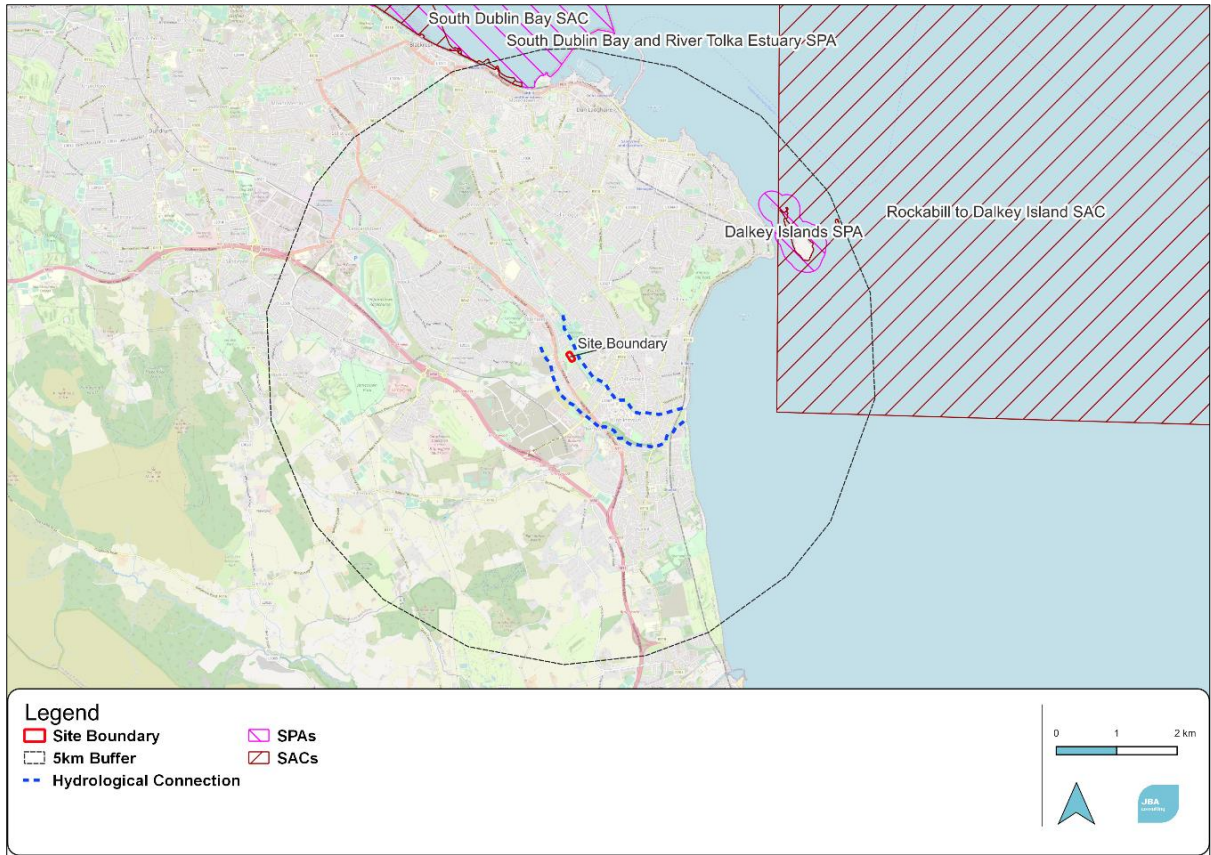


Figure 4-1: Natura 2000 sites within the 5km ZoI (OSM, 2024)

As pollutants can be transported via watercourses and end up in the Irish Sea, the potential effect on the above Natura 2000 sites is assessed in detail in Section 6.

Wintering bird species (e.g. Light-bellied Brent Goose and Herring Gull *Larus argentus*) that are QIs of Natura 2000 sites along the east coast are known to travel considerable distances on a daily basis for foraging and roosting. These flight distances are beyond what is normally considered the zone of influence for a project. Therefore, potential impact on such species and their Natura 2000 sites will also be assessed in Section 6.

Table 4-2: Site briefs; Qualifying Interests; and project-relevant threats /pressures and their impacts and sources in relation to the Natura 2000 sites within the 5km ZoI (including hydrological connectivity extension).

Site Name	Brief	Qualifying Interests	Project-relevant Threats / Pressures: Impact (Source EEA)+
South Dublin Bay SAC [000210]	The intertidal flats at their widest points are 3km with channels existing at largest with Cockle Lake. A small sandy beach occurs near to Dún Laoghaire, with an almost entire artificial embankment. The sediments from the Tolka Estuary vary from thixotropic mud with a high organic content in the inner estuary to a well aerated and exposed sand system off of the Bull Wall. Insights show that many birds who winter in South Dublin Bay do not continue towards North Dublin Bay. (NPWS, 2015a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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] (NPWS 2013a) 	<p>Roads, motorways: Low impact (outside)</p> <p>Urbanised areas, human habitation: High impact (outside) (EEA, 2020a)</p>
South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA [004024]	This site covers a large part of the Dublin Bay, including the intertidal area of the River Liffey and Dún Laoghaire, along with the estuary of the River Tolka to the north of the River Liffey and Booterstown Marsh. The south of the bay has intertidal flats that at their widest extend for almost 3km. The site is important for wintering fowl, integral for the importance of the Dublin Bay complex (NPWS, 2015b).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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] - 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] (NPWS 2015) 	<p>Roads, motorways Low impact (outside)</p> <p>Urbanised areas, human habitation High impact (outside) (EEA, 2021)</p>
Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC [003000]	The selected site forms a strip of dynamic inshore and coastal waters in the western Irish Sea, extending approximately 40 km in length and encompassing a range of comparatively shallow marine habitats, including diverse seabed structures, reefs, islets and islands. The area selected for designation represents a key habitat for the Annex II species - harbour porpoise, within the Irish Sea. The species occurs year-round within the site and comparatively high group sizes have been recorded. Porpoises with young (i.e. calves) are observed at favourable, typical reference values for the species.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reefs [1170] - Harbour Porpoise <i>Phocoena phocoena</i> [1351] (NPWS, 2013b) 	<p>Discharges: High Impact (outside)</p> <p>Siltation rate changes, dumping, depositing of dredged deposits: Low Impact (outside)</p>

Site Name	Brief	Qualifying Interests	Project-relevant Threats / Pressures: Impact (Source EEA)+
	<p>The selected site contains a wide array of habitats believed to be important for harbour porpoise including inshore shallow sand and mud-banks and rocky reefs scoured by strong current flow. The site also contains two Annex II seal species – Harbour seal <i>Phoca vitulina vitulina</i>, Grey seal <i>Halichoerus grypus</i> for which terrestrial haul-out sites occur in immediate proximity to the site. Bottlenose dolphin <i>Tursiops truncatus</i> has also occasionally been recorded in the area. Along the eastern seaboard the habitat type Reef is uncommon due to prevailing geology and hydrographical conditions. Expansive surveys of the Irish coast have indicated that the greatest resource of this habitat within the Irish Sea is found fringing offshore islands which are concentrated along the Dublin coast. These Reefs are subject to strong tidal currents with an abundant supply of suspended matter resulting in good representation of filter feeding fauna such as sponges, anemones and echinoderms. (NPWS, 2014)</p>		(EEA, 2019)
Dalkey Island SPA [004172]	<p>The site comprises Dalkey Island, Lamb Island, Maiden Rock, the intervening rocks and reefs between Dalkey Island, Lamb Island and Clare Rock, and the sea area around Maiden Rock to a distance of 100 m. The site is of importance for both breeding and staging Sterna terns. There is a well-established colony of <i>Sterna hirundo</i> and smaller numbers of <i>Sterna paradisaea</i>. <i>Sterna dougallii</i> bred in 2003 and 2004, one of only three known sites in the country - this came about after several years of conservation management aimed at attracting the species. The site along with other parts of south Dublin Bay is used by the three Sterna tern species as a major post-breeding/pre-migration autumn roost area. (NPWS, 2015c)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Roseate Tern <i>Sterna dougallii</i> [A192] - Common Tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i> [A193] - Arctic Tern <i>Sterna paradisaea</i> [A194] <p>(NPWS, 2022)</p>	<p>No project-relevant threats or pressures</p> <p>(Full list of threats / pressures (EEA, 2020b)</p>

* = priority Annex I habitat

= indirect threat via the increase in the local populace and recreational activities as a result of the development.

+ = Project relevant threats occur at Low, Medium and High impact rates, and these threats come from sources originating Inside or Outside (or a mixture of Both) of the Natura 2000 site boundary.

5 Other Relevant Plans and Projects

5.1 Cumulative Effects

As part of the Screening for an Appropriate Assessment, in addition to the proposed works, other relevant projects and plans in the region that may induce cumulative impacts must also be considered at this stage.

5.2 Plans

The following projects or plans were identified as potential sources of cumulative impacts:

- Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Development Plan 2022-2028
- Greater Dublin Drainage Strategy
- Third Cycle River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2022-2027
- Planning Applications (retrieved from Data.gov.ie - Planning Application Sites, June 2024)

5.2.1 Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Development Plan 2022-2028

The County Development Plan (DLRCC, 2022a) has a vision and policy statement that aims to continue to facilitate appropriate levels of sustainable development predicated on the delivery of high quality community, employment and recreational environments - allied to the promotion of sustainable transportation and travel patterns - all the while protecting Dún Laoghaire–Rathdown’s unique landscape, natural heritage and physical fabric, to ensure the needs of those living and working in the County can thrive in a socially, economically, environmentally sustainable and equitable manner.

An Appropriate Assessment Screening and an Appropriate Assessment Natura Impact Statement (NIS) was carried out on the plan. This concluded that there are no likely significant direct, indirect or secondary impacts of the project on any Natura 2000 sites (DLRCC, 2022b).

Overall, the Dún Laoghaire Rathdown Council Development Plan 2022-2028 is not considered to adversely effect any Natura 2000 site, nor is it expected to contribute to any cumulative or in-combination effects.

5.2.2 Greater Dublin Drainage Strategy

The Greater Dublin Drainage Strategy sets out the strategic planning for the development of waste water treatment in the Greater Dublin area in relation to the Ringsend WWTP Upgrade, Greater Dublin Drainage Project and associated wastewater network drainage projects (Irish Water, 2018b). The Ringsend WWTP Upgrade includes plans to expand the WWTP to its ultimate capacity, together with associated network upgrades required. The Greater Dublin Drainage Project is planned to relieve both the Ringsend WWTP and network loading by construction of a new WWTP at Clonsaugh, an orbital sewer and provision of an outfall pipe discharging 1km north east of Ireland’s Eye. The Ringsend WWTP upgrade is in progress and carried out in stages, with an increased capacity of 400,000 PE by Q1 2020 and the ultimate capacity of 2.4 million PE to be in operation by 2024 (Irish Water, 2018b). The Greater Dublin Drainage Project is strategically important to the Dublin Region in that it will provide capacity for residential and commercial growth (Irish Water, 2018b).

Overall, the Greater Dublin Drainage Strategy is not considered to adversely effect any Natura 2000 site, nor is it expected to contribute to any cumulative or in-combination effects.

5.2.3 River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018-2021 / 2022-2027

The 2nd cycle River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) for Ireland 2018-2021 sets out the actions that Ireland will take to improve water quality and achieve ‘good’ ecological status in water bodies (rivers, lakes, estuaries and coastal waters) by 2021 (DoHPLG, 2018a). Changes from previous River Basin Management Plans is that all River Basin Districts are merged as one national River Basin District. The Plan provides a more coordinated framework for improving the quality of our waters — to protect public health, the environment, water amenities and to sustain water-intensive industries, including agri-food and tourism, particularly in rural Ireland.

The first cycle of River Basin Management Plans included the Eastern River Basin District - River Basin Management Plan 2009 – 2015 (WFD, 2010). The plans summarised the waterbodies that may not meet the environmental objectives of the WFD by 2015 and identified which pressures are contributing to the environmental objectives not being achieved. The plans described the classification results and identified measures that can be introduced in order to safeguard waters and meet the environmental objectives of the WFD;

- Prevent deterioration of water body status.
- Restore good status to water bodies.
- Achieve protected areas objectives.
- Reduce chemical pollution of water bodies

The River Basin Management Plan for Ireland (2018-2021) outlines the new approach that Ireland will take to protect our waters over the period to 2021. It builds on lessons learned from the first planning cycle in a number of areas:

- stronger and more effective delivery structures have been put in place to build the foundations and momentum for long-term improvements to water quality
- a new governance structure, which brings the policy, technical and implementation actors together with public and representative organisations. This will ensure the effective and coordinated delivery of measures.

Ireland's third River Basin Management Plan 2022-2027 (EPA 2021) was out for public consultation until March 31st 2022. The Consultation report was published in July 2022. Following review of the submissions, the DHLGH will commence a review and where necessary update the draft RBMP with a view to finalisation and publication in Q3/Q4 of 2022.

The 3rd cycle draft Catchment Reports were published in August 2021. The draft Catchment Reports provides a summary of the water quality assessment outcomes for respective catchments, including status and risk categories, significant threats and pressures, details on protected areas and a comparison between cycle 2 and cycle 3.

The 3rd cycle draft Catchment Report for Ovoca-Vartry Bay Catchment (EPA, 2021) identified that between Cycles 2 and 3 there has been an overall slight improvement in the catchment's status. The overall change in quality between Cycles 2 and 3 include an increase in three waterbodies achieving a High Status, however there was also an increase in one waterbody that achieved a Bad status. The number of waterbodies which are achieving a Good and Poor statuses remains unchanged between Cycles, while there is a reduction of waterbodies achieving a moderate status by three. There remains to be eighteen waterbodies that are unassigned.

The Draft Third Cycle River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2022-2027 is not anticipated to contribute to cumulative or in-combination effects.

5.3 Other Projects

In addition to the project at Kilbogget Park Athletics Park, there is a similar upgrading of grass pitches at 16 other sites within the Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown area. A list of all sites is included below:

Lot 1 - Kilbogget Park Athletics, Kilbogget Park Soccer and GAA

Lot 2 - Blackthorn Park, Moreen Park, Rosemount Park, Holly Park

Lot 3 - Stonebridge x 2 (GAA & Soccer), Thomastown x 2 (GAA & Juvenile), Cabinteely Park (Bray Road)

Lot 4 - Broadford Park x 2 Soccer, Deerpark x 4 (2 x GAA, 2 x soccer)

Of these sites to be refurbished: Kilbogget Park Soccer and GAA, Holly Park, Stonebridge Parks, Thomastown Parks and Cabinteely Park are situated within 5km of Kilbogget Athletics Park. AA Screenings for each of these sites have been carried out on these projects. Each of these AA Screenings concluded that there are no likely significant direct, indirect or secondary effects of the project on any Natura 2000 sites. The refurbishment of Kilbogget Soccer and GAA pitch is ongoing and

projected to be at 85% completion. Kilbogget Soccer and GAA is also anticipated to undergo a similar installation of flood lighting during 2024 and has undergone its own AA Screening and is included.

5.3.1 Other Projects

An assessment of local projects in the vicinity of the new sports facility and the potential for cumulative impacts was also conducted. These projects are listed in (Table 5-1) below, none of which were assessed as resulting in potential in-combination or cumulative impacts given their scope of works, or proximity to local Natura 2000 sites.

Overall, additional projects not considered to adversely impact any Natura 2000 site, nor are they expected to contribute to any cumulative or in-combination effects.

Table 5-1: Projects granted planning permission since June 2021 in vicinity of proposed site

Planning Reference	Address	Application Status	Decision date	Summary of development	Rationale
DZ24A/0017	Townlands of Laughanstown and Cherrywood, Macnebury - Development Area 7 - Cherrywood, Dublin 18	Registered	Undecided (as of 11 / 06 / 2024)	<p>The site of the development proposed is generally bound by Bishop Street to the north, Cherrywood Avenue to the east, the M50 to the west and development permitted under Reg. Ref. DZ22A/1021 and the Wyattville Link Road to the south.</p> <p>The development proposed consists of a residential development consisting of 200 no. residential apartment units (total c. 27,308 sqm GFA) accommodated in 3no. blocks, ranging in height from 4-5 storeys on a net development area of approximately 0.89 ha.</p> <p>The overall development proposed comprises of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 200 no. apartment units in 3no. blocks comprising: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Block A1 – 68no. units (12no. 1-bed, 41no. 2-bed and 15no. 3-bed) o Block A2 – 54no. units (14no. 1-bed, 39no. 2-bed and 1no. 3-bed) o Block A3 – 78no. units (14no. 1-bed, 49no. 2-bed and 15no. 3-bed) • Provision of 241no. car parking spaces allocated to the proposed development. The lower ground floor accommodates 139 no. car parking spaces and 102 no. spaces are accommodated at basement level. 10 no. of these spaces are accessible and 48 no. are for Electric Vehicles. • Provision of 264 no. bicycle parking spaces, of which 220 no. are long stay and 44 no. are short stay and 10 no. motorcycle parking spaces are provided. • The provision of c. 1,645 sqm of courtyard gardens of which c.1,456 sqm is private communal amenity space; • Vehicular Access serving the proposed development is via Cherrywood Avenue; • all associated and ancillary site development and infrastructural works, including the provision of bike stores and bin stores, ESB sub-stations / switch room, public lighting, private amenity space, hard and soft landscaping and boundary treatment works. <p>The proposed development also consists of minor revisions to the Phase 1 development permitted under Reg. Ref. DZ22A/1021 comprising of landscaping amendments to civic park, relocation of the foul water outfall from Bishop Street to Cherrywood Avenue together with all ancillary works, minor relocation of attenuation tanks located in the civic park and relocation of car share spaces (5no.) from surface level within the permitted Phase 1 development to the basement of the proposed Phase 2A development.</p>	AA Screening concludes that the project will not have likely significant effects on any Natura 2000 site
DZ22A/1025	Cherrywood Avenue, Lands within the townlands of Glebe and Cherrywood, Dublin 18	Permission Granted	02 November 2024	<p>Permission for the following, The development will consist of the following:</p> <p>All site clearance and enabling works required to implement the development, including removal of existing car parking and hardstanding within application site boundary.</p> <p>Construction of a residential development of 44 no. units, comprising 8 no. four bedroom houses and 18 no. duplex buildings, containing 24 no. three bedroom units and 12 no. two bedroom units. The overall gross floor area of the residential development is 4,875 sqm. The proposed development will also include the provision of communal and private open space including gardens, terraces and balconies. Provision of landscaped open space (365 sqm) footpaths (including maintaining and upgrading an existing pedestrian link between Glencarraig and Cherrywood Avenue) landscaping works and boundary treatments. Provision of vehicular access arrangements from Cherrywood Avenue and internal access arrangements within the site. Provision of car parking (64 no. spaces) bicycle parking (53 no. spaces), and motorcycle parking (2 no. spaces). The proposed development includes drainage and services, works to Cherrywood Avenue including services connections, lighting, bin storage, a substation and all associated and ancillary</p>	AA Screening concludes that the project will not have likely significant effects on any Natura 2000 site

Planning Reference	Address	Application Status	Decision date	Summary of development	Rationale
				site development works and services. This application relates to development in the Cherrywood Strategic Development Zone (SDZ) and is subject to the Cherrywood Planning Scheme 2014 (as amended).	
DZ22A/0729	Townlands of, Laughanstown, Brennanstown and, Cherrywood, Dublin 18	Permission Granted	22 September 2023	<p>This application relates to development within the Cherrywood Strategic Development Zone (SDZ) and is subject to the Cherrywood Planning Scheme 2014, as amended.</p> <p>The site of the residential development proposed is located in the Cherrywood Planning Scheme area and forms part of Development Area 8 - Tully. The site of this application is generally bounded by Gun and Drum Hill Road to the south, Lehaunstown Lane to the east, development permitted under Reg. Ref. DZ20A/0399 and DZ21A/0664 to the north and other lands within Development Area 8, Tully (Tully Village Centre lands) to the west.</p> <p>The development proposed consists of 57no. residential dwellings (total gross floor area of c.4,842.4 sqm) in a mixture of houses and duplexes, in a range of buildings 2 to 3 storeys in height on a development tile (T3) of approximately 1.14 Ha comprising of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 21no. 2 storey houses, consisting of 9no. 2 bedroom houses, 8no. 3 bedroom houses and 4no. 4 bedroom houses. - 36no. duplexes, all 3 bedroom, accommodated in 3 storey buildings. - private communal amenity open space (c. 435 sq m) - a 10m wide ecological buffer alongside Lehaunstown Lane; - provision of internal road network including new road carriageways, pedestrian and cycle facilities; - the provision of 85no. surface level car parking spaces, as well as 1no. car share and 1no. set down space. - 114no. cycle parking spaces; - 2no. motorcycle spaces; - all associated and ancillary site development and infrastructural works, including the provision of bike stores and bin stores, ESB substation / switch room, hard and soft landscaping and boundary treatment works. The proposed development also includes minor amendments to development permitted under DZ15A/0758, DZ20A/0399 and DZ21A/0664 <p>Vehicular access serving the proposed development is via a single new proposed entrance off the existing/permitted Gun and Drum Hill Road and utilises the existing/permitted roads including the wider Phase 1 Roads permitted under DZ15A/0758, including Grand Parade.</p> <p>The development proposed will also utilise the extension of Castle Street westwards to the Ticknick Stream, together with a temporary bus turn back facility and a temporary attenuation pond all in Development Area 3 - Priorsland and its associated drainage connections in the T2 tile (each already permitted and under construction under Reg. DZ20A/0399). The application also provides for the use of existing roads at Gun and Drum Hill Road, Grand Parade, (both permitted and under construction under Reg. Ref. DZ15A/0758) and the existing Valley Drive and the Wyattville Link Road.</p> <p>The total area of the planning application site amounts to approximately 8.34Ha.</p>	AA Screening concludes that the project will not have likely significant effects on any Natura 2000 site
DZ22A/0681	Cherrywood Avenue, (Adjoining	Permission Granted	28 June 2023	<p>Permission for development at this site. The Development will consist of works within a total application area of 1.048Ha to include the construction of a five storey over ground residential apartment development on a site of 1.02Ha and inclusion of an additional area</p>	AA Screening concludes that the project will not have likely significant effects on any Natura

Planning Reference	Address	Application Status	Decision date	Summary of development	Rationale
	Cherrywood Business Park), Cherrywood, Dublin 18			of 0.028Ha to facilitate site access via Cherrywood Avenue. The Development will comprise: i. 70 no. apartments (34 no. 1-bed apartments, 27 no. 2-bedroom apartments, and 9 no. 3-bedroom apartments). ii. Shared resident support facilities and tenant amenity (total approx. 190m2) comprising a communal lounge, communal workshop, concierge and post room at ground level, and communal amenity space (total approx. 124 m2) in the form of 8 no. winter gardens at the upper levels, and communal open space (total approx. 2749m2). iii 71 no. car parking spaces (including 4 no. disabled spaces) and 72 no. long stay cycle parking spaces at under-croft level and 6 no. visitor car parking spaces at street level (accessed via Cherrywood Avenue) and 16 no. visitor cycle parking spaces at street level. iv. Creation of 2 no. pedestrian accesses, modifications/improvements to the existing footpath, and works to Cherrywood Avenue to facilitate vehicular access to the site. v. Hard and soft landscaping, boundary treatments, green roof, on-site lighting, ESB substation, plant room, SuDs drainage, piped and other services, and all ancillary site development works necessary to facilitate the development (including the alteration of site levels and the development of the previously permitted pond 5A-1 granted under planning register reference DZ18A/0854). The application relates to development within the Cherrywood Strategic Development Zone (SDZ) and is subject to the Cherrywood Planning Scheme, 2014 (as amended).	2000 site
DZ22A/0770	On Lands Development Area 8 (Tully), Cherrywood SDZ, Laughanstown, Dublin 18	Permission Granted	22 March 2023	The application relates to lands within "Development Area 8 -Tully" of the Cherrywood SDZ Planning Scheme 2014 (as amended) and includes the Res2 lands and part of Tully Village Centre west of Castle Street (1.8ha)identified in this application as Plot T11. The proposed development will consist of a residential and mixed use scheme comprising (1) a 4 storey block (Block A: 4,630sqm gross floorspace) with 58no. apartment units (comprising 23no. 1 bed units, 26no. 2 bed units and 9no. 3 bed units), a creche (400sqm) with associated external play area, 3no. retail units (1,043sqm), a community room (194sqm) and HIE (High Intensity Employment) unit (65sqm); (2) 13no. duplex units (comprising 1no. 1 bed unit, 7no. 2 bed units and 5no. 3 bed units). Undercroft parking is provided for 75no. cars below Block A along with plant; bicycle parking and bin storage. 6no. surface car spaces, and 2no. loading spaces are also proposed. Access is provided via Level 5 roads to the southeast, northwest and southwest of the plots and these roads are accessed from Castle Street (permitted and constructed under Reg. Ref. DZ15A/0758). Permission is also sought for hard and soft landscaping, ESB substation, public lighting, boundary treatments and all associated site and development works.	AA Screening concludes that the project will not have likely significant effects on any Natura 2000 site
DZ22A/0623	On Lands Development ,Plot T 11, Area 8 (Tully), Cherrywood SDZ, Laughanstown, Dublin 18	Permission Granted	18 January 2023	This application relates to development within the Cherrywood Strategic Development Zone (SDZ) and is subject to the Cherrywood Planning Scheme 2014 (AS AMENDED). Permission for the development on Area 8 (Tully). The application relates to lands within 'Development Area 8-Tully' of the Cherrywood SDZ planning scheme 2014 (AS AMENDED) and includes the RES2 lands and part of Tully Village Centre west of Castle Street (1.8ha) identified in this application as Plot T11. The proposed development will consist of 49no houses (comparing 28no. 3 bed units and 21no. 4 bed units) and associated parking. Access is provided via Level 5 roads to the southeast, northwest and southwest of the plot and these roads are accessed from Castle Street (permitted and constructed under Reg Ref DZ15A/0758). Permission is also sought for hard and soft landscaping, ESB substation, Public lighting, boundary treatments and all associated site and development works.	AA Screening concludes that the project will not have likely significant effects on any Natura 2000 site
DZ22A/0133	Townlands of Laughanstown and	Permission Granted	22 November 2022	Permission on a site. This application relates to development within the Cherrywood Strategic Development Zone (SDZ) and is subject to the Cherrywood Planning Scheme 2014, as amended. The site of the residential development is in an area known as TC6	AA Screening concludes that the project will not have likely significant effects on any Natura

Planning Reference	Address	Application Status	Decision date	Summary of development	Rationale
	Cherrywood, Dublin 18			<p>and is located in Cherrywood Planning Scheme Area and forms part of Development Area 2 - Cherrywood. The site of the residential development is generally bounded by Bishop Street to the south, Tully Park to the north and east and a post primary schools site as designed by the Cherrywood Planning Scheme (subject to future development). The development proposed consists of 163 no. residential units (total gross floor area of 18,942 sq. m) in a mixture of apartments, houses, triplexes and maisonettes, in a range of buildings 2 to 3 floors in height, partially over undercroft accommodation/ single level podium basement on a net development area of approximately 2.73 Ha. The overall development proposed comprises of the following: 57no. apartments in 2no. blocks comprising: Block A - 25no. units (13no. 1-bed, 2no. 2- bed three persons and 10no. 2-bed four persons), Block B - 32no. units (18no. 1-bed, 13no. 2-bed four persons and 1no. 3-bed), 56no. 3 storey 3 bedroom triplexes, 19no. 2 storey 2 bedroom maisonettes, 31no. 3 storey 4 bedroom houses. Provision of 223no. car parking spaces allocated to the proposed development. The single level podium accommodates 134no. car parking spaces and 89no. spaces are accommodated at surface level. 8no. of these spaces are accessible and 16no. are for electric vehicles. 207no. bicycle parking spaces located at both surface and basement levels, of which 163no. are long stay and 44no. are short stay, and 9no. motorcycle parking located at basement are also being provided. Provision of level 5 local neighbourhood road, previously permitted and which is being modified by this application, which will link with the existing access point at Bishop Street permitted under Reg Ref: DZ15A/0758. Vehicular access is provided from a single access point from Bishop Street (A2 -F1) as permitted under Reg. Ref. DZ15A/0758. Provision of a pedestrian 'green link' pedestrian accessway to run north/south through the site, connecting Tully Park with Bishop Street. All associated and ancillary site development and infrastructural works, including the provision of bike stores and bin stores, 2no single storey pavilion buildings containing an ESB sub-station and electrical switch room, stair and lift access to basement and short stay bicycle parking spaces in each, hard and soft landscaping and boundary treatment works. The proposed development consists of revisions/modifications to approximately 0.75ha only of the works permitted at Tully Park development (approximately 12.9 Ha overall) (permitted pursuant to Reg Ref DZ15A/0813 and amended by Reg Ref DZ17A/0714, Reg Ref DZ17A/0862, Reg Ref DZ18A/0458 and Reg Ref DZ20A/0946) to comprise of: modifications to the Level 5 local neighbourhood road along boundary with Tully Park immediately adjoining the development. The inclusion of a Part M compliant footpath in the Greenway located alongside the permitted Cherrywood Square / Tully Park Link Access Route linking Bishop Street with Tully Park, amendment to entrance details to 2 no. Tully Park entrances along the Level 5 local neighbourhood road. Tully Park itself, currently under construction, is not affected by the development being proposed. No works are proposed to or in the vicinity of Tully Church Graveyard or within its grounds (Ref: DU026023001 -2; National Monument No. 225) or to the National Monument including the high crosses (Ref: DU026023003, 4, 7: National Monument NO.216) The proposed development will also utilise the existing road at Bishop Street and the Pond 2B surface water infrastructure (permitted under Reg.Ref DZ15A/0758) and also a permitted road under construction at Cherrywood Avenue (Reg Ref. DZ17A/0862). These already permitted roads and infrastructure amount to approximately 3.14 Ha</p>	2000 site
DZ21A/1042	Townlands of Laughanstown, Brennanstown and	Permission Granted	30 May 2022	<p>Permission. This application relates to the development within the Cherrywood Strategic Development Zone (SDZ) and is subject to the Cherrywood Planning Scheme 2014, as amended. The site of the residential development proposed is located in the Cherrywood Planning Scheme area and forms part if Development Area 8 - Tully. The site of this</p>	AA Screening concludes that the project will not have likely significant effects on any Natura 2000 site

Planning Reference	Address	Application Status	Decision date	Summary of development	Rationale
	Cherrywood, Dublin 18			<p>application is generally bounded by Tully Park Road and Tully Park to the south-east, development permitted under Reg. ref. DZ20A/0552 to the south-west, Lehaunstown Lane to the north and east and Gun and Drum Hill Road to the north west. The development proposed consists of 122no. residential dwellings (total gross floor area of c.11,748 sqm) in a mixture of houses, duplexes and apartments, in a range of buildings 2 to 3 storeys in height on a site of approximately 1.955 Ha comprising of the following: 34no. 2 and 3 storey houses, consisting of 5no. 2 bedroom houses, 13no. 3 bedroom houses and 16no. 4 bedroom houses . 40no. duplexes, all 3 bedroom 3 storey units, 48no. apartments accommodated in 2no. attached 3 storey over basement blocks (Block A and Block B), consulting of 26no. 1 bedroom apartments and 22no. 2 bedroom apartments, private communal amenity open space (c.853 sq m) a 10m wide ecological buffer alongside Lehaunstown Lane; provision of internal road network including new road carriageways, the provision of a total of 189no. car parking spaces of which 172no. are to serve the residential development proposed (93no. at surface level and 77no. at basement level), 1no. car share and 1no. set down space. 17no. of the proposed car parking spaces in the basement are to be reserved for future development subject of a separate application. 194no. cycle parking spaces; 7no. motorcycle spaces; all associated and ancillary site development and infra structural works, including the provision of bike stores and bin stores, ESB substation / switch room, hard and soft landscaping and boundary treatment works. A temporary drainage connection between the residential development on the T5 tile and the permitted/under construction infrastructure in the T2 tile under Reg. Ref. DZ20A/0399 is also proposed (approximately 0.12Ha), Vehicular access serving the proposed development is from a single entrance off the existing Tully Park View and utilises the existing/permitted roads including the Level 5 road (Tully Road (0.09Ha) - permitted and now under construction under Reg. Ref. DZ20A/0522) linking Gun and Drum Hill Road and Tully Park View. The development proposal will also utilise the extension of Castle Street westwards to the Tick nick Stream, together with a temporary nus turn back facility and a temporary attenuation pond and discharge to the Ticknick Stream all in Development Area 3 - Priorsland and its associated drainage connections in the T2 tile; each already permitted under construction under Reg. Ref. DZ20A/0399. This already permitted and under construction infrastructure amounts to approximately 1.18Ha. The application also provides for the use of existing roads at Gun and Drum Hill Road, Tully Park View, Grand Parade, Castle Street and Bishop's Street (all permitted and under construction under Reg. ref. DZ15A/0758) and a permitted road under construction at Cherrywood Avenue (reg. Ref. DZ17A/0862) which are required to be used to accommodate construction and occupation access to residential development from Valley Drive and the Wyattville Link Road. These already permitted roads amount to approximately 5.6 Ha. The total area of the planning application site amounts to approximately 8.95 Ha.</p>	
DZ21A/0932	Site in the Townlands of Laughanstown and Cherrywood, Dublin 18	Permission Granted	07 April 2022	<p>This application relates to development within the Cherrywood Strategic Development Zone (SDZ) and is subject to the Cherrywood Planning Scheme 2014, as amended. The site of the residential development is located in the Cherrywood Planning Scheme Area and forms part of Development Area 2 - Cherrywood. The site of the residential development of this application is approximately 2.73 Ha and is generally bounded by Grand Parade to the west, currently undeveloped residentially zoned lands within Development Area 2 - Cherrywood to the north, Valley Drive to the east and Bishop's Street to the south. The proposed development consists of 146 no. apartments, all with private balconies/terraces (total gross floor area (GFA) of 11,999 m2) accompanied in 4 no. blocks of 3-4 storeys in height over single level basement, consisting of the following:</p>	AA Screening concludes that the project will not have likely significant effects on any Natura 2000 site

Planning Reference	Address	Application Status	Decision date	Summary of development	Rationale
				<p>Block A (2,751 m²); 36 no. apartments comprising 20 no. 1 bedroom apartments and 16 no. 2 bedroom apartments; Block B (3,920 m²); 41 no. apartments, comprising, 10 no. studio apartments, 8 no. 1 bedroom apartments and 23 no. 2 bedroom apartments; Block C (2,955 m²); 33 no. apartments comprising 9 no. 1 bedroom apartments and 24 no. 2 bedroom apartments; Block D (2,688 m²); 36 no. apartments comprising 20 no. 1 bedroom apartments and 16 no. 2 bedroom apartments; The provision of a podium courtyard (c 3,170 sq m) of which c. 2,370 sq m is private communal amenity space. The provision of c. 3,450 sq m of public open space, including a pocket garden (c. 210 sq m). All ancillary and associated site development works, including the provision of ESB substation/switch room, bike stores, bin stores and bicycle parking areas. The provision of a total of 212 no. car parking spaces of which 151 no. are to serve the residential development proposed, all located at basement level and 2 no. car sharing spaces located at surface level on proposed access road. 61 no. of the proposed car parking spaces in the basement to be reserved for future development subject of a separate application. Vehicular access to be provided via an internal street to be shared with the remainder of the residential plot in separate ownership (subject to a future application). Vehicular access to the internal street is provided from Grand Parade via Bishop Street (both permitted under Reg Ref. DZ21A/0758) which in turn link to Tully Vale Road. The internal street also provides pedestrian/cycle access only to Tully Vale Road. The Transport Interchange located on Grand Parade at the south-western end of the site has been provided as per Reg Ref. DZ17A/0862 and is not affected by the current application</p>	
DZ21A/0785	c.0.95 ha townland, Cherrywood, Dublin 18 (also Co. Dublin)	Permission Granted	30 March 2022	<p>Permission for a mixed use development on lands. The development will consist of the following: Provision of an office building (High Intensity Employment) of 13,487 sq.m. up to 8 no. storeys in height to the south east corner of the TC3 quadrant (Block TC3-1) including non-retail (incl. café /restaurant) uses comprising 1,221 sq.m at ground/street level. provision of public open space including plaza areas, works to Cherrywood Avenue, footpaths, parking, loading bays, landscaping works and boundary treatments. Provision of one vehicular access point to basement level (below podium) from Cherrywood Avenue South. Parking at basement level (below podium) for 151 no. commercial car parking spaces. 146 no. bicycle spaces are proposed at basement and ground/street level (podium level). The proposed development includes SUDs drainage, the provision of green roofs throughout and all associated site development works and services and plant. This application relates to development in the Cherrywood Strategic Development Zone (SDZ) and is subject to the Cherrywood Planning Scheme 2014 (as amended).</p>	AA Screening concludes that the project will not have likely significant effects on any Natura 2000 site

5.4 Summary

The County and Local Development Plan; Greater Dublin Drainage Strategy, River Basin Management Plan and other local projects are considered in combination with the currently proposed project in the Screening Assessment section below.

6 Screening Assessment

6.1 Introduction

This screening exercise will focus on assessing the likely adverse effects of the project on the Natura 2000 sites identified in Section 4 above.

This section identifies the potential effects which may arise as result of the proposed project. It then goes on to identify how these effects could potentially effect on Natura 2000 sites listed in Table 4-1. The significance of potential effects is also assessed, with any potential in-combination effects also identified.

The Natura 2000 sites to be assessed are:

- South Dublin Bay SAC [000210]
- South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA [004024]
- Rockabill to Dalkey SAC [003000]
- Dalkey Island SPA [004172]

6.2 Assessment Criteria

6.2.1 Description of the individual elements of the project (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) likely to give rise to impacts on the Natura 2000 sites.

Potential adverse impacts that could cause a significant effect on the qualifying interests of the Natura 2000 sites, during the construction and operational phases of the project, will impact on the sites via surface water pathways, groundwater pathways and land and air pathways. Surface water pathways can impact on surface water quality and surface water dependent habitat quality. Groundwater pathways can impact on groundwater quality and quality of groundwater dependent habitats. Land and air pathways can impact by release or discharges of sediment or chemicals to surface or groundwater.

Surface water pathways can result in impacts where materials entering the surface water drainage are carried in this water to sites that are connected downstream and can therefore impact surface waterbodies themselves, and surface water dependent species and habitats that rely on them. Surface water pathways can have an effect on surface water quality and surface water dependent habitat quality.

Groundwater pathways can transmit impacts where there is a contamination of water entering the groundwater body which is then discharged (sometimes over periods of several decades) and impacts groundwater dependent habitats and species that rely on them.

However, the listed Natura 2000 sites listed above do not have groundwater dependent QIs and as such groundwater pathways are not discussed further in this report.

Land pathways are related to physical disturbance of habitats or species and generally occur over short physical distances. Air pathways relate to the transport of material, generally dust and atmospheric pollution, via air movements that are subsequently deposited on habitats and species in or connected to the Natura 2000 sites.

The proposed project is not anticipated to impact on the qualifying interests of the four Natura 2000 sites. The rationale for excluding impacts via the main pathways is given in more detail in the following sub-section.

6.2.2 Surface Water Pathways.

The proposed project is located within the WFD Ovoca-Vartry catchment, and the Dargle_SC_010 sub-catchment. (Figure 6-1, overleaf). The site does not share this sub-catchment with any of the Natura 2000 sites within the Zol of the project. The nearest surface waterbody is the St Bride's Stream (Carrickmines Stream_010), located approximately 300m west of the site, it is not expected that any pollutants or silt from the works would reach this stream, due to the footpaths, housing, N11 Road and

vegetation in between the site and this watercourse. Kill of the Grange Stream (Kill of the Grange Stream_010) is culverted 70m to the east of the site under Kilbogget Athletics Park, while the closest section of the stream at the surface is located approximately 430m north-west from the site, and there is therefore no pathway to this stream from the site.

Therefore, due to the lack of direct connection to a watercourse, and the small scale works of the project, adverse impacts via surface water pollution events during the construction and operational are not anticipated for the Natura 2000 sites within the Zol.

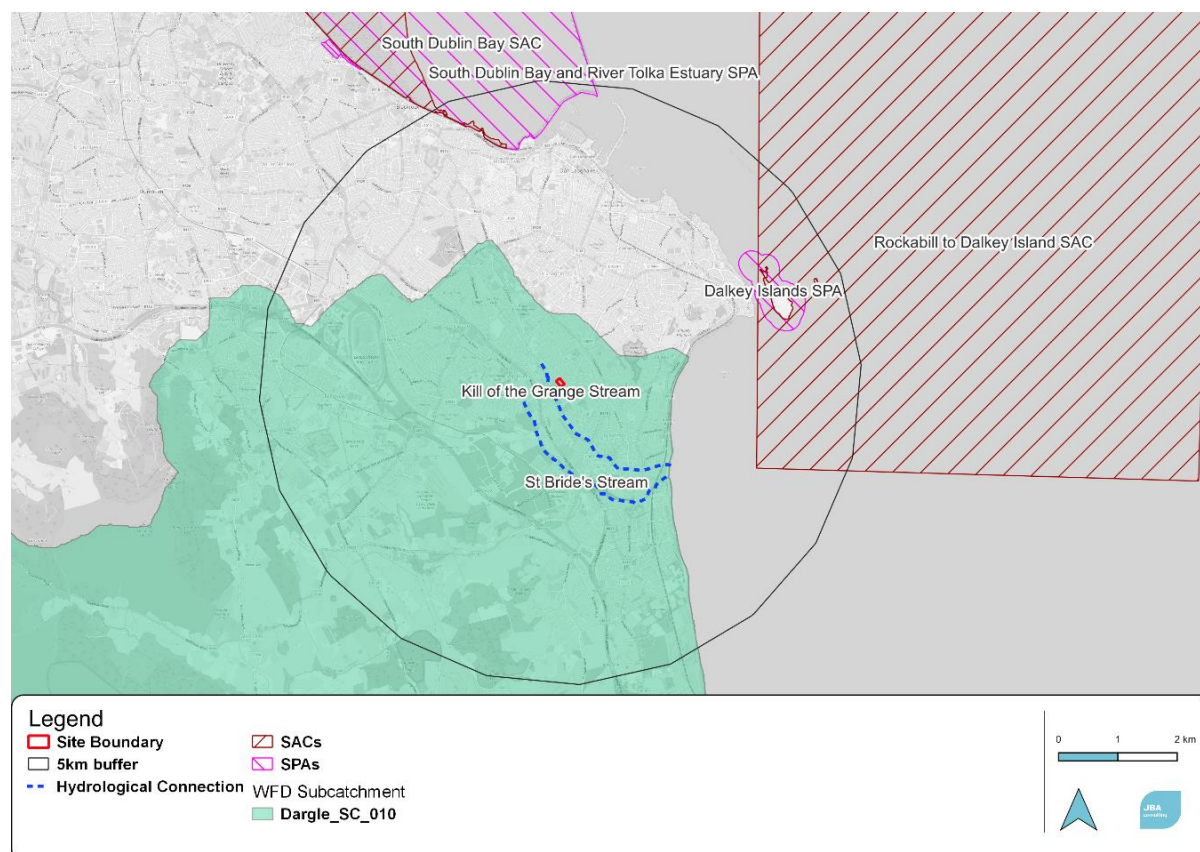


Figure 6-1: WFD sub-catchment of the surrounding area, and hydrological connection of the project site (OSM, 2024)

Operational Phase

The operational phase is unlikely to cause a change in increased surface water run-off due to the habitat function being retained. These operational parameters ensure that no pollution events will occur during operations, thus ensuring no impacts to the Natura 2000 sites.

Therefore, likely significant effects via surface water pollution events during the operational phase are not anticipated for any Natura 2000 sites; and their respective QIs.

6.2.3 Groundwater

The whole site is encompassed by the Wicklow (IE_EA_G_076) groundwater body (Figure 6-2, overleaf). There are no Natura 2000 sites located within this groundwater body, **therefore likely significant effects via groundwater pollution are not anticipated for this Natura 2000 site.**

A ground-to-surface water pathway is created due to the discharge characteristics of the local aquifer, however, as outlined in 6.2.2, there are no anticipated impacts related to surface water pollutants.

Therefore, given that there are no Natura 2000 sites that are located within the same groundwater body as the site, **likely significant effects via groundwater pollution events during the construction and operational are not anticipated for the Natura 2000 sites within the Zol.**

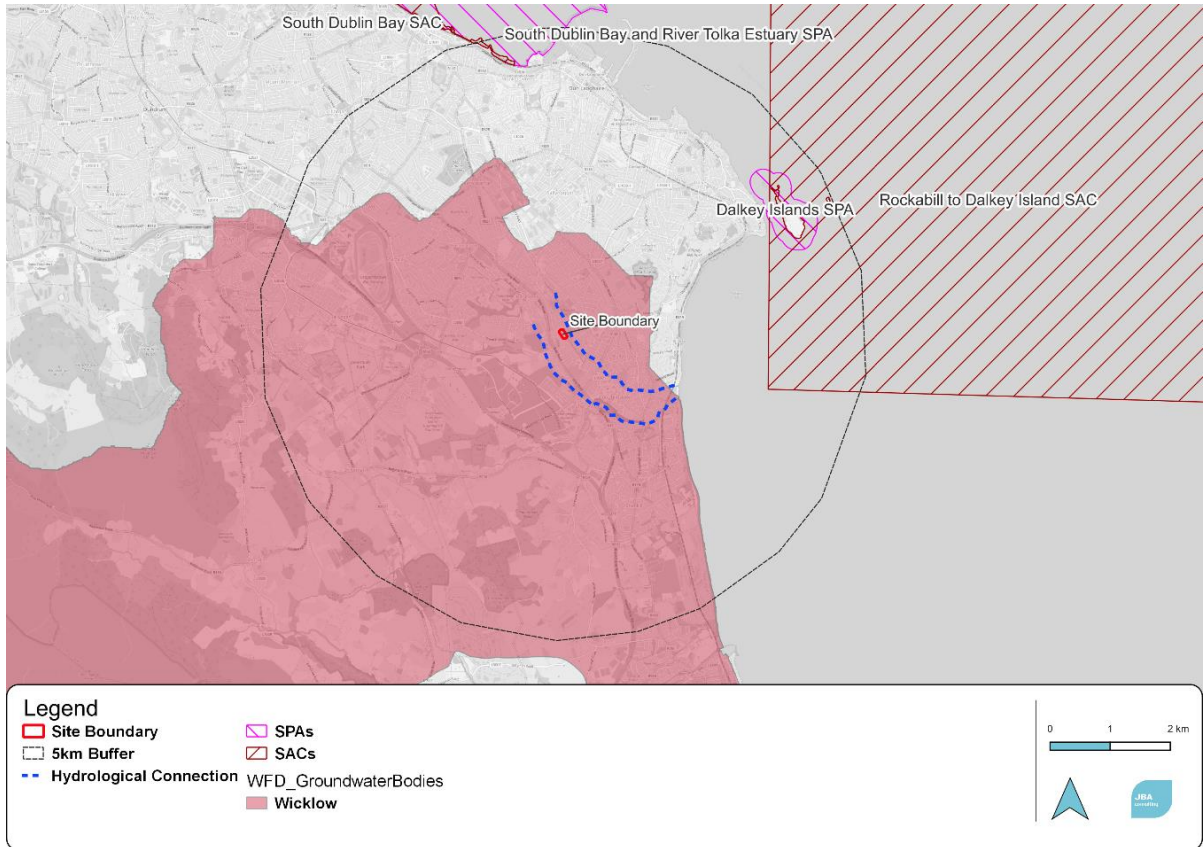


Figure 6-2: Groundwater bodies around the proposed site in respect to Natura 2000 sites (OSM, 2024)

6.2.4 Land and Air

The loss or degradation of supporting habitats outside the identified Natura 2000 sites via land- and air-based impacts could have potential adverse impacts on a number of the QIs associated with these Natura 2000 sites. Land and air pathways are assessed separately below.

6.2.4.1 Construction Phase

Land (physical on-site and noise disturbance)

The construction works will temporarily increase the noise level and disturbance locally. Direct physical effects and indirect effects, such as visual and noise effects, do not have the potential to physically disturb habitats as well as the floral and faunal species within them due to the distance from the proposed site to any of the Natura 2000 sites within the ZoI.

As the proposed development will not result in any physical land-take from, or disturbance to QI within the Natura 2000 sites located in ZoI, therefore, physical land-take or disturbance-based effects are not anticipated for the any of the Natura 2000 sites.

However, the proposed site has the potential to provide suitable ex-situ foraging habitat for wintering birds such as Light-bellied Brent Goose, which is a QI for several Natura 2000 sites in Dublin Bay and along the east coast. Brent Geese have been recorded in the vicinity of Kilbogget and in many similar amenity pitches throughout the greater Dublin area (Enviroguide Consulting, 2019, Handby T., et al., 2022).

The construction phase is anticipated to take place outside of the wintering bird season, and there will not be any disturbance of Brent Geese foraging within the area of Kilbogget Athletics Park.

Therefore, likely significant effects are not anticipated during the construction phase for the any of the Dublin Bay Natura 2000 sites, and their respective QIs, as well as wintering birds coming from Natura 2000 sites further afield along the east coast.

6.2.4.1 Operation Phase

Disturbance-based effects, in terms of the use of the floodlights during daily use of the pitches, are not anticipated to significantly disrupt the foraging activity of QI wintering bird species, and they are not anticipated to affect the status of any QI species that may venture within the boundary of the project site. Species such as Brent Geese tend to feed during the day, returning to their roost in the evening, and as such, their feeding habits will not be disrupted by the presence of the lights at night.

Therefore, likely significant effects are not anticipated during the operational phase for the any of the Dublin Bay Natura 2000 sites, and their respective QIs, as well as wintering birds coming from Natura 2000 sites further afield along the east coast.

Air Pollution

Excavations at the site will produce loose top and sub soil, and emissions may arise from working machinery. Dust release and vehicle emissions can travel considerable distances and could potentially impact the QIs of Natura 2000 sites. The recommended buffer for dust and air pollution is 50m as a baseline (IAQM, 2024), however, the distance and direction of travel is also influenced by wind speed and direction.

The prevailing wind in the area is west-south-west (based on measurements carried out between 2021-2022 from Churchtown/Dublin (Windfinder.com, 2024)). Therefore, any dust that is generated on-site will most likely be transported in a north-east direction towards the Dalkey Island SPA and Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC. However, the Natura sites are over 3km away, and the urban setting of the proposed development also provides barriers, such as buildings and gardens, which will prevent further dispersal of particles, as will the marine setting of the Natura 2000 sites.

Access to the site will be on pre-existing roads, and there will be an increase in local traffic attending the site during construction, resulting in an increase in NOx emissions, however vehicular emissions and dust emissions are not anticipated to significantly impact the QIs of the any Natura 2000 sites due to the relatively small size and temporary nature of proposed works.

Therefore, due to the small scale of the works and relative distance, likely significant effects via the air pathway are not anticipated during the construction phase for the Natura 2000 sites and their respective QIs.

Air pollution-based impacts from dust / emissions are not anticipated during the operational phase of the proposed development.

6.2.5 Cumulative Effect

In assessing the plans and projects outlined in Section 5, the respective AA screenings were consulted to assess the potential of any cumulative impacts due to their proximity of the site. All of these plans were concluded to not pose any threat to Natura 2000 sites.

As the proposed project is not anticipated to have any significant impact on QIs or conservation objectives on any Natura 2000 site and based on the screening statements of the above plans and planning applications, there is no potential for other plans or projects to act in combination with it to result in likely significant effects on Natura 2000 sites.

6.2.6 Summary

Due to the location of the proposed site, the temporary nature of the works and its distance to the Natura 2000 sites within the Zol, the proposed project is not anticipated to have a significant impact via surface water, groundwater, groundwater to surface water, and land and air pathways to any Natura 2000 site.

6.2.7 Description of likely direct, indirect or secondary impacts of the project (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) on the Natura 2000 sites

Project Elements	Comment
Size and scale	The Proposed Project involves the installation of flood lighting at the Kilbogget Park. The site contains an athletics track, which runs along the boundary of the site, and inside the athletics track is a football pitch. The scope of works includes 34no. floodlights which are in fixed positions. These will be divided between six lighting poles, with two of these poles being 18.3m in height and four of these poles being 21.3m in height.
Land-take	There will be no direct land take from any of Natura 2000 sites.
Distance from Natura 2000 site or key features of the site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Dublin Bay SAC • South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA • Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC • Dalkey Island SPA • Natura 2000 sites with QI wintering birds <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4.5km • 4.5km • 3.4km • 3.8km • >15km
Resource requirements (water abstraction etc.)	There will be no water abstraction requirement.
Emissions (disposal to land, water or air)	<p style="text-align: center;">Construction Phase:</p> <p>Water</p> <p>The proposed site lacks any direct hydrological links with the Natura 2000 sites within the ZoI. Therefore, surface water-based emissions to the local freshwater systems flowing into the Natura 2000 sites is not anticipated.</p> <p>Air</p> <p>Excavations at the site will produce loose top and sub soil, and emissions may arise from working machinery, however, the proposed site has a west-south-west prevailing wind year-round, therefore, any dust and emissions generated on-site will most likely be transported in the direction of two Natura 2000 sites. Due to the small-scale nature of the works, distance between the project site and these Natura 2000 sites, along with the obstruction of the wind pathway by the urban setting of the project, impacts through air based pollutants are not anticipated.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Operation phase:</p> <p>Water & Air</p> <p>The proposed operations of the project are not expected to directly impact any of the Natura 2000 sites, due to their distance and small-scale operation. Therefore, there will be no permanent impacts on any Natura 2000 site.</p>
Excavation requirements	Excavations for the cabling/ducting is anticipated to be 650mm deep while the foundations for lighting columns are anticipated to be approximately 2-3m deep.
Transportation requirements	<p style="text-align: center;">Temporary Impacts:</p> <p>Levels of traffic to the site during the construction phase will increase traffic to the area but will be temporary in nature. All access to the site will be on pre-existing roads and transportation requirements will not affect Natura sites.</p>

Project Elements	Comment
	<p>Permanent Impacts:</p> <p>Given the size, scale and location of the proposed project, transportation requirements will not affect Natura 2000 sites.</p>
Duration of construction, operation, decommissioning etc.	Works are anticipated to take 6-8 weeks, plus any additional time due to potential weather-based delays. Works will be restricted to the summer months.
Other	None

6.2.8 Description of likely changes to the Natura 2000 sites

Potential Impact	Comments
Reduction of habitat area	There will be no reduction in habitat area for any of the Natura 2000 sites.
Disturbance to key species	<p>Temporary Effects:</p> <p>The construction works will temporarily increase the noise level and disturbance locally. However, no significant impacts are anticipated to key species given scale and temporary nature of the construction phase and distance from the Natura 2000 sites. The works will take place in the summer months outside of the wintering bird season.</p> <p>Permanent Effects:</p> <p>No disturbance to key species is anticipated during operation of the project. Species such as Brent Geese tend to feed during the day and return to their roost in the evening. As such, the feeding habits of Brent Geese will not be disrupted by the presence of the lights which are scheduled to only be operational at night.</p>
Habitat or species fragmentation	There will be no temporary or permanent habitat or species fragmentation within any of the Natura 2000 sites.
Reduction in species density	There will be no temporary or permanent reduction in species density within any of the Natura 2000 sites, or any QIs of these sites.
Changes in key indicators of conservation value (water quality etc.)	There will be no temporary or permanent changes in key indicators of conservation value (surface water, groundwater and air quality).
Climate change	N/A
Interference with the key relationships that define the structure of the site	There will be no interference with the key relationships that define the structure of the sites.
Interference with key relationships that define the function of the site	There will be no interference with the key relationships that define the function of the sites.
Loss (Estimated percentage of lost area of habitat)	No Natura 2000 sites will experience a direct loss in habitat area.
Fragmentation	Fragmentation of habitat and/or species is not anticipated.
Disruption & disturbance	Disruption and/ or disturbance is not anticipated as works will take place during the summer months
Change to key elements	Potential temporary changes to key elements (i.e. water quality) of

Potential Impact	Comments
of the site (e.g. water quality etc.)	the site are not anticipated.

6.2.9 Describe from the above those elements of the project or plan, or combination of elements, where the above impacts are likely to be significant or where the scale or magnitude of impacts is unknown

Based upon best scientific judgement, significant impacts are not expected from the elements mentioned above, and there are no elements where the scale or magnitude of impacts is unknown.

6.3 Concluding Statement

In carrying out this AA screening, mitigation measures have not been taken into account.

On the basis of the screening exercise carried out above, it can be concluded that the possibility of any likely significant effects on the Natura 2000 sites within the Zol, whether arising from the project itself or in combination with other plans and projects, can be excluded beyond a reasonable scientific doubt on the basis of the best scientific knowledge available.

Appendices

A Site Layout Plan

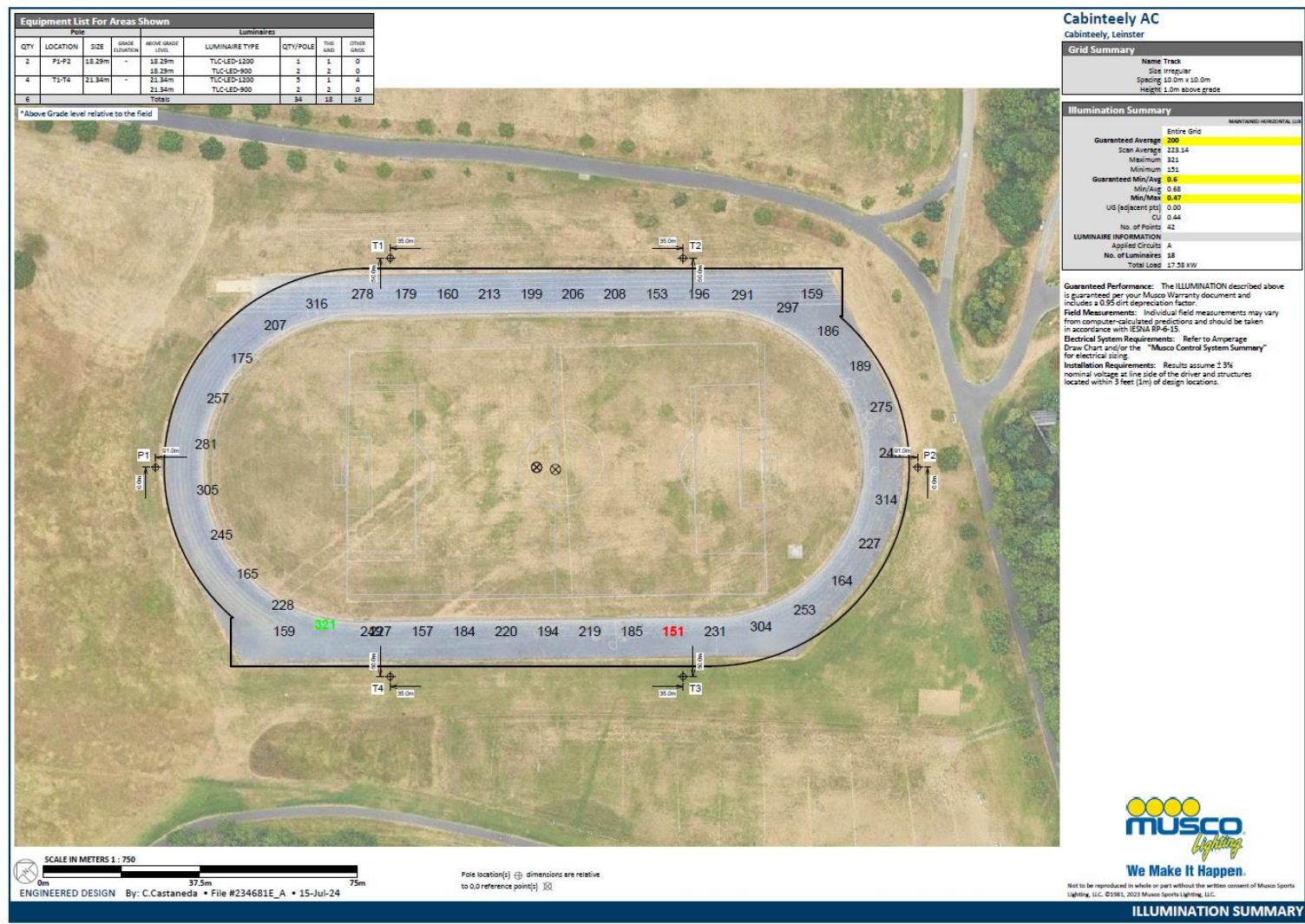


Figure A-1: The positioning of the proposed floodlights around the athletics pitch

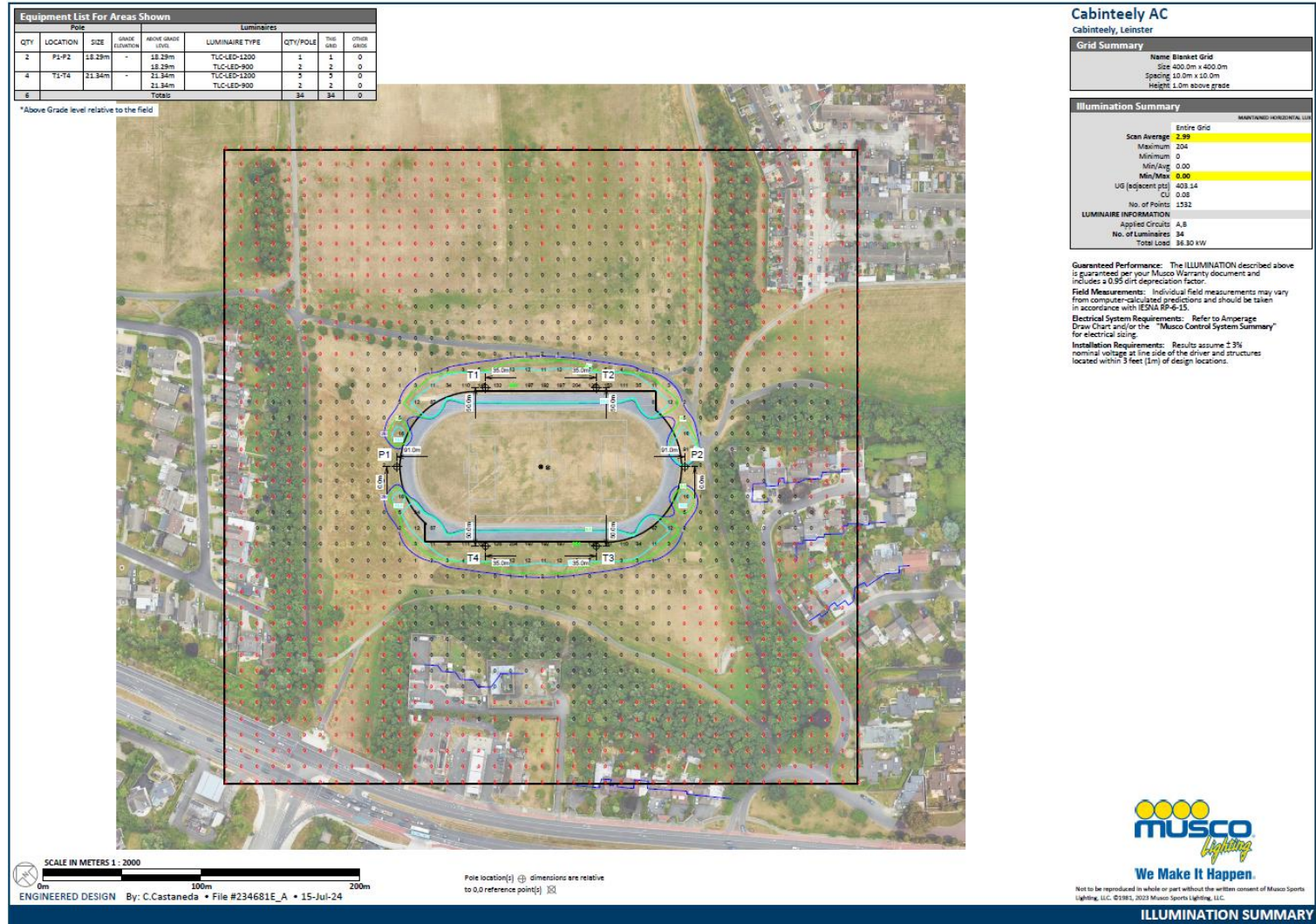


Figure A-2: The horizontal lux levels of the proposed floodlights

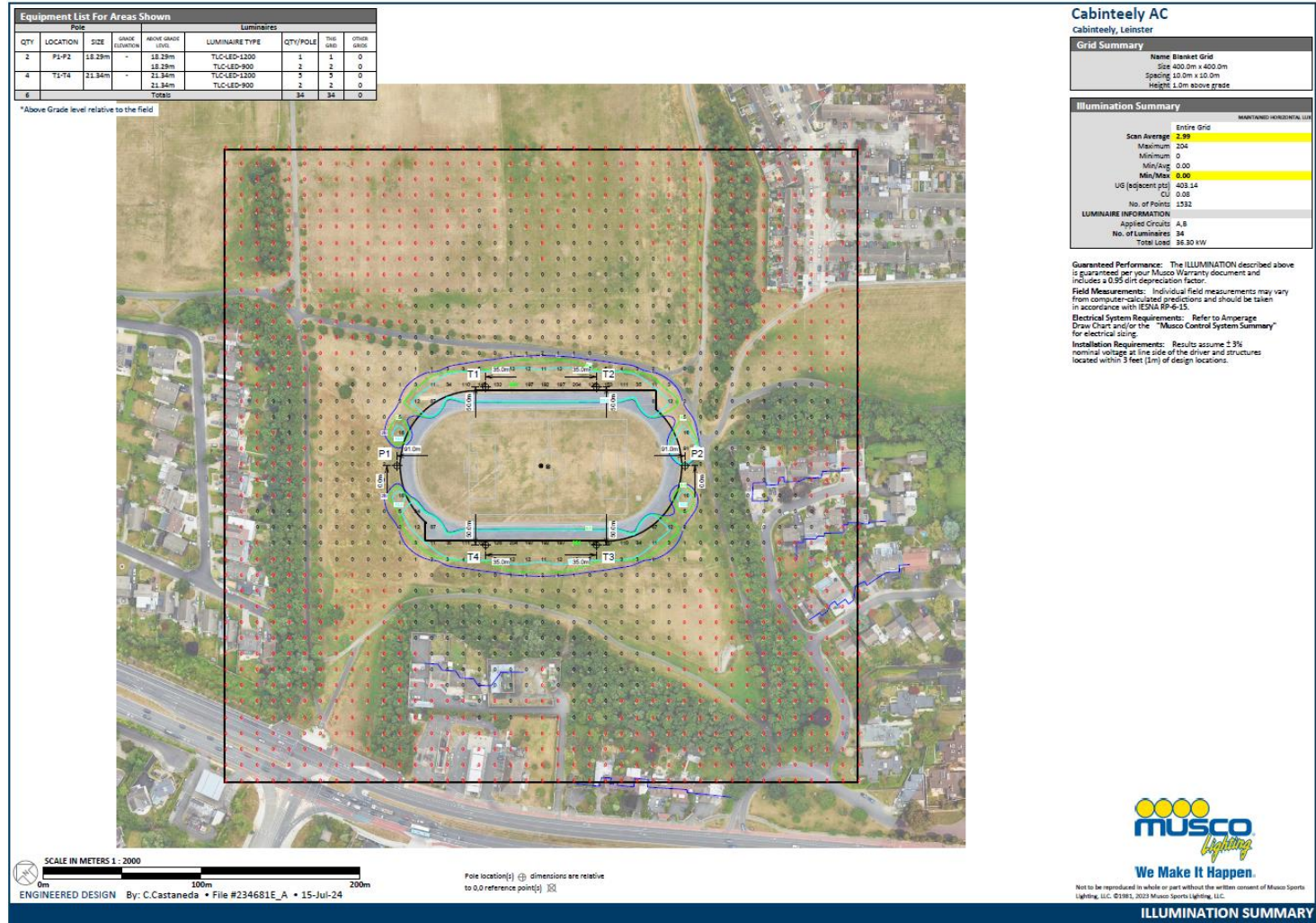
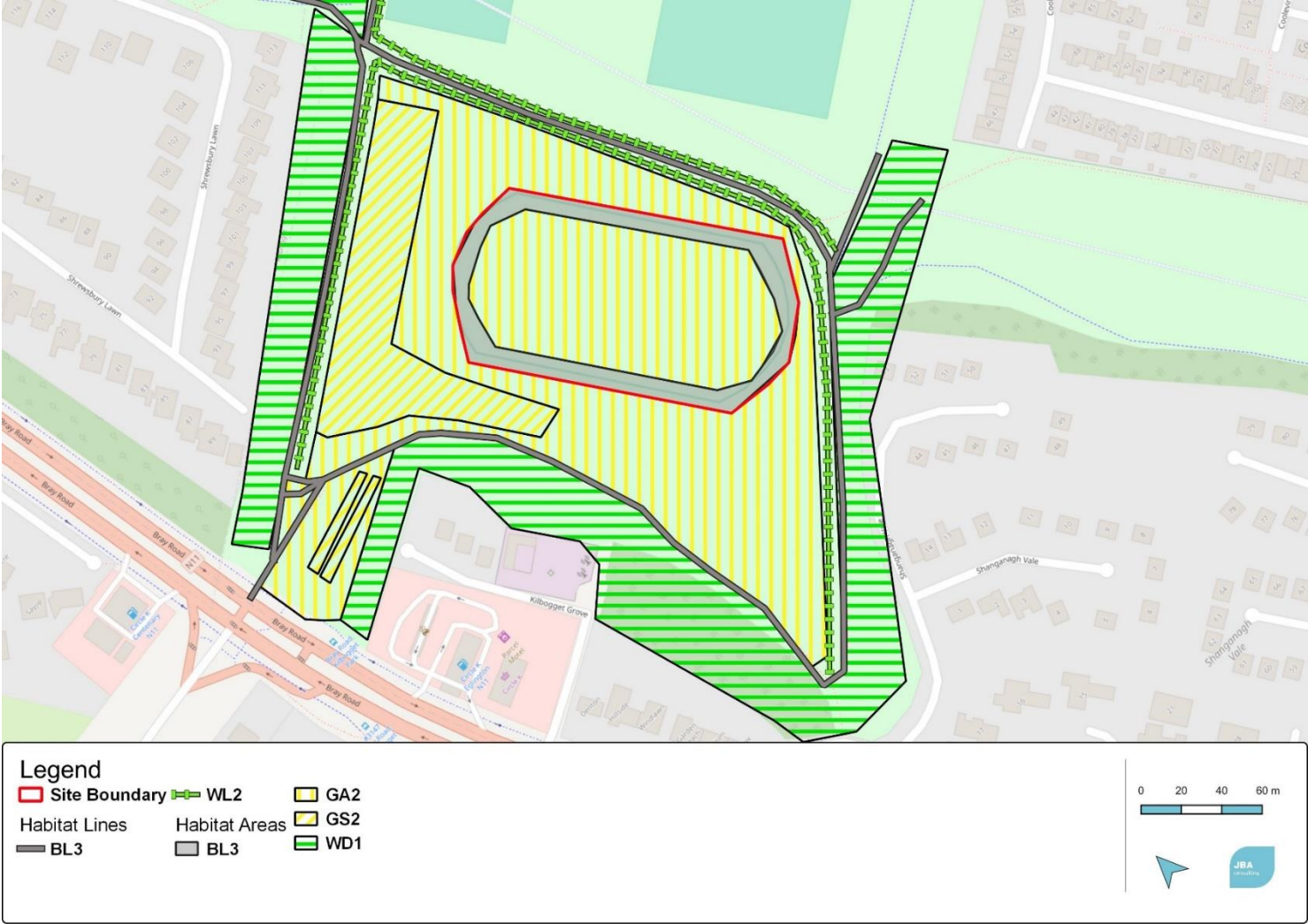


Figure A-3: The vertical lux levels of the proposed floodlights

B Habitat Map



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JBA
consulting

Offices at

Dublin

Limerick

Registered Office

24 Grove Island

Corbally

Limerick

Ireland

t: +353 (0) 61 345463

e: info@jbaconsulting.ie

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