

## Appropriate Assessment Screening for the Draft Shanganagh Park and Cemetery Masterplan (2019).



29<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2019

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**On behalf of:** Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

An Appropriate Assessment is an assessment of the potential effects of a proposed project or plan, on its own, or in combination with other plans or projects, on one or more NATURA 2000 sites (Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) or Special Protection Areas (SPA)).

The following Appropriate Assessment (Screening Stage) has been prepared by **Altemar Ltd.** at the request of Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council. The proposed plan relates to the Draft Shanganagh Park and Cemetery Masterplan which the County Council has prepared to outline the vision of the Shanganagh Park and Cemetery for the next 10 years (2019-2029).

The AA Screening stage examines the likely significant effects of a plan or project, either on its own, or in combination with other plans and projects, upon a Natura 2000 site and considers whether, on the basis of objective scientific evidence, it can be concluded, in view of best scientific knowledge and the conservation objectives of the relevant European sites, that there are not likely to be significant effects on any European site.

### BACKGROUND TO ALTEMAR LTD.

Since its inception in 2001, Altemar has been delivering ecological and environmental services to a broad range of clients. Operational areas include residential, infrastructural, renewable, oil & gas, private industry, local authorities, EC projects and State/semi-State Departments. Bryan Deegan is the managing director of Altemar, is an environmental scientist and marine biologist with 20 years' experience working in Irish terrestrial and aquatic environments, providing services to the State, Semi-State and industry. He is currently contracted to Inland Fisheries Ireland as the sole "External Expert" to environmentally assess internal and external projects. He is also chair an internal IFI working group on environmental assessment. Bryan Deegan (MCIEEM) holds a MSc in Environmental Science, BSc (Hons.) in Applied Marine Biology, NCEA National Diploma in Applied Aquatic Science and a NCEA National Certificate in Science (Aquaculture). Bryan Deegan carried out all elements of this Appropriate Assessment Screening.

## 2. BACKGROUND TO THE APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

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

*"Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the [NATURA 2000] site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans and projects, shall be subjected to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives. In light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implication for the site and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, the component*

*national authorities shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public."*

As outlined in "Managing Natura 2000 sites The provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC" (European Commission, 21 November 2018) *"The purpose of the appropriate assessment is to assess the implications of the plan or project in respect of the site's conservation objectives, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects. The conclusions should enable the competent authorities to ascertain whether the plan or project will adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned. The focus of the appropriate assessment is therefore specifically on the species and/or the habitats for which the Natura 2000 site is designated."*

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

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

*Assessment procedures of plans or projects likely to affect NATURA 2000 sites should guarantee full consideration of all elements contributing to the site integrity and to the overall coherence of the network, both in the definition of the baseline conditions and in the stages leading to identification of potential impacts, mitigation measures and residual impacts. These determine what has to be compensated, both in quality and quantity. Regardless of whether the provisions of Article 6(3) are delivered following existing environmental impact assessment procedures or other specific methods, it must be ensured that:*

- *Article 6(3) assessment results allow full traceability of the decisions eventually made, including the selection of alternatives and any imperative reasons of overriding public interest.*
- *The assessment should include all elements contributing to the site's integrity and to the overall coherence of the network as defined in the site's conservation objectives and Standard Data Form, and be based on best available scientific knowledge in the field. The information required should be updated and could include the following issues:*
  - *Structure and function, and the respective role of the site's ecological assets;*
  - *Area, representativity and conservation status of the priority and nonpriority habitats in the site;*
  - *Population size, degree of isolation, ecotype, genetic pool, age class structure, and conservation status of species under Annex II of the Habitats Directive or Annex I of the Birds Directive present in the site;*
  - *Role of the site within the biographical region and in the coherence of the NATURA 2000 network; and,*
  - *Any other ecological assets and functions identified in the site.*
- *It should include a comprehensive identification of all the potential impacts of the plan or project likely to be significant on the site, taking into account cumulative impacts and other impacts likely to arise as a result of the combined action of the plan or project under assessment and other plans or projects.*
- *The assessment under Article 6(3) applies the best available techniques and methods, to estimate the extent of the effects of the plan or project on the biological integrity of the site(s) likely to be damaged.*
- *The assessment provides for the incorporation of the most effective mitigation measures into the plan or project concerned, in order to avoid, reduce or even cancel the negative impacts on the site.*
- *The characterisation of the biological integrity and the impact assessment should be based on the best possible indicators specific to the NATURA 2000 assets which must also be useful to monitor the plan or project implementation."*

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

### 3. STAGES OF THE APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

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

In order to comply with the above Guidelines and legislation, the Appropriate Assessment process must be structured as follows:

1) Screening stage:

- Description of plan or project, and local site or plan area characteristics;
- Identification of relevant Natura 2000 sites, and compilation of information on their qualifying interests and conservation objectives
- Assessment of likely effects – direct, indirect and cumulative- undertaken on the basis of available information as a desk study or field survey or primary research as necessary and,
- Screening Statement with Conclusions.

2) Appropriate Assessment (Natura Impact Statement):

- Description of the NATURA 2000 sites that will be considered further;
- Identification and description of potential adverse impacts on the conservation objectives of these sites likely to occur from the project or plan; and,
- Mitigation Measures that will be implemented to avoid, reduce or remedy any such potential adverse impacts
- Assessment as to whether, following the implementation of the proposed mitigation measures, it can be concluded, beyond all reasonable scientific doubt, that there will be no adverse impact on the integrity of the relevant European Site in light of its conservation objectives"
- Conclusions.

3) Alternative Solutions

If mitigation is possible that enables a risk to be avoided fully, then, subject to other necessary approvals, the project or plan may proceed. If mitigation measures are insufficient, or are not actually practicable and achievable to avoid the risk entirely, then, in the light of a negative assessment, the plan or project may not proceed. A wider search for alternative solutions may need to be considered – Stage 3.<sup>2</sup>

4) Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest (IROPI)/Derogation. (: Stage 4 is the main derogation process of Article 6(4) which examines whether there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI) for allowing a plan or project that will have adverse effects on the integrity of a NATURA 2000 site to proceed in cases where it has been established that no less damaging alternative solution exists. The extra protection measures for Annex I priority habitats come into effect when making the IROPI case.

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<sup>2</sup> (DoEHLG, 2009) Appropriate Assessment of Plans and projects in Ireland: Guidance for planning authorities.



## 4. SCREENING STAGE ASSESSMENT

### MANAGEMENT OF THE SITE

The plan or project is not directly connected with, or necessary to, the management of NATURA 2000 sites.

### DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED PLAN

#### 1. GENERAL CONCEPT:

Shanganagh Park is located within the Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council Region (Figures 1 and 2). It occupies a unique geographical location and straddles the county boundary with Wicklow, it is a coastal site and it is situated in the foothills of the Wicklow Mountains. The park has many existing attributes which the masterplan seeks to highlight. **The goal of the masterplan is to understand the character of the place and work with the inherent conditions.**



Plate 1. Main Park Entrance

### GREENBELT

At a strategic level, Shanganagh Park acts as a green belt and a transition between County Dublin and County Wicklow. The overarching concept is of the park as a strong green belt.

### REGIONAL STATUS

Due to its character, location and size, it is the intention to upgrade Shanganagh Park from local to regional status. The masterplan proposes a series of co-ordinated, high quality interventions which will create an improved destination and public amenity. This will have several benefits which will be elaborated on below.

## PASSIVE RECREATION

It could be argued that the park is overprescribed with active sports facilities. Approximately 40% of the total surface area of the park is dedicated to sports pitches. The masterplan seeks to shift the use of the park to allocate more space to passive recreational use and natural habitat.



Plate 2. Passive recreation mixing with natural habitat.

## EXPAND THE PARK BOUNDARY

At present, the park, the castle and the cemetery are 3 separate entities divided by strong boundaries. Consolidating these 3 parcels of land will create better opportunities for pedestrian/cycling permeability, wildlife corridors and greater space for a variety of activities.

## WESTERLY CONNECTION

The opportunity to create a physical connection with the Wicklow Mountains is limited as the presence of the Old Dublin Road and particularly the M11 severely hamper any movements in a westerly direction. There are still opportunities to exploit the views of the mountains and the rising landscape with well-located viewing/seating spaces.

## COASTAL CONNECTION

At present, there is access to the coastline. The masterplan seeks to maintain and improve the pedestrian access between the shore and the park. In contrast to the visual connection with the mountains, the park has very restricted views of the coast. The bank of the old train line obscures views of the sea. The masterplan proposes a sculptural mound, topped by a viewing terrace offering views up and down the coast bookended by both Dalkey Island and Bray Head. It will also facilitate dramatic views back inland capturing the views of the Dublin and Wicklow Mountains.



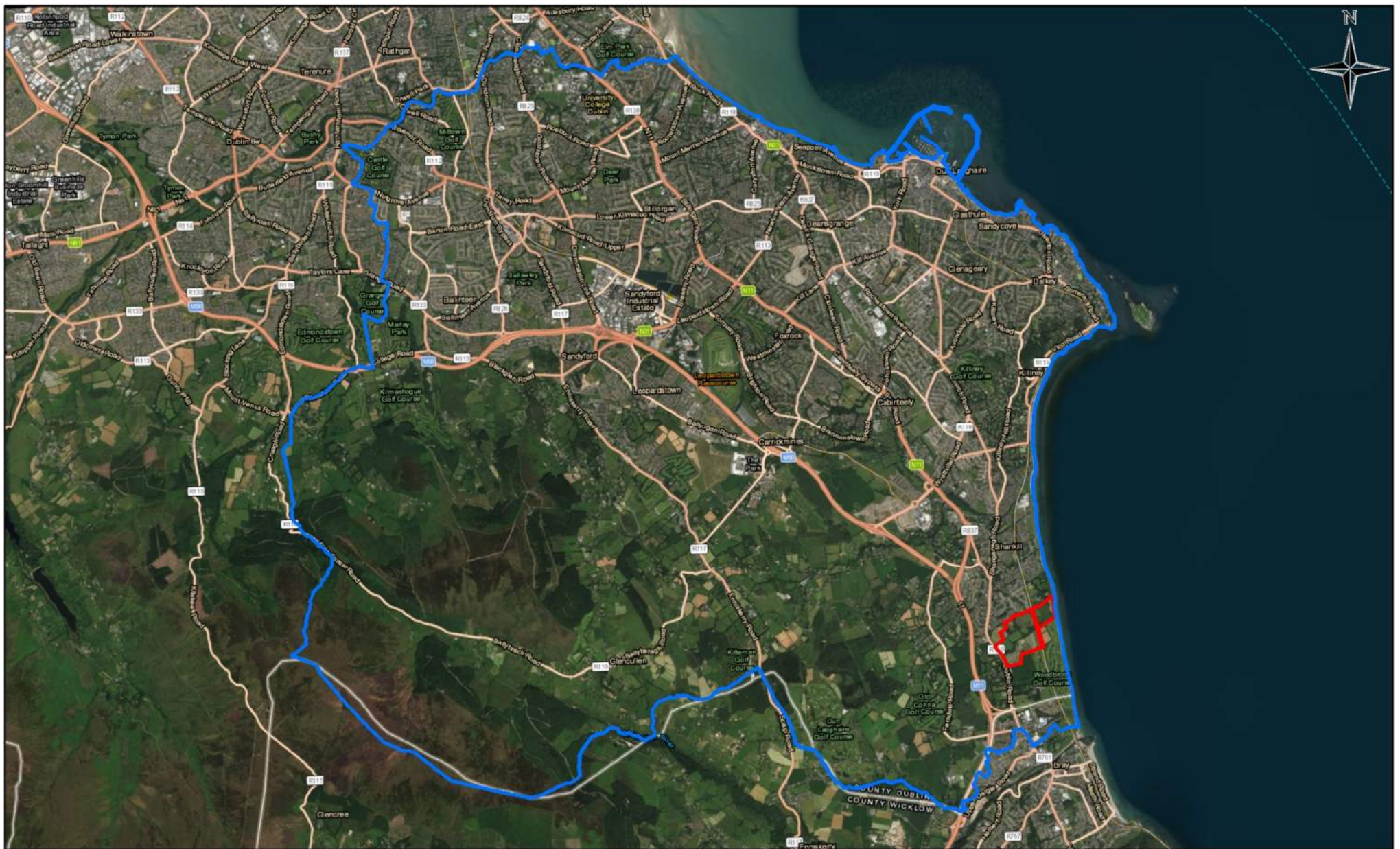


Plate 3. Dalkey Island, Co. Dublin



Plate 4. Bray Head. Co. Wicklow.





DLR County Boundary  
Masterplan Area

0 1.25 2.5 5 Kilometers

Project: Shanganagh Park & Cemetery Masterplan  
 Location: Dunlaoghaire Rathdown  
 Date: 21st May 2019  
 Drawn By: Bryan Deegan (Altemar)



**ALTEMAR**  
 Marine & Environmental Consultancy

Figure 1. Masterplan outline and location.





0 125 250 500 Meters

Project: Shanganagh Park & Cemetery Masterplan  
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**ALTEMAR**  
 Marine & Environmental Consultancy

Figure 2. Satellite Image of Masterplan Area





LEGEND	
1.	Entrance upgraded in line with DLUIS
2.	The Line Avenue with formalised parking (21 spaces)
3.	Regraded and extended car park (150 spaces incl. 4 disabled)
4.	Upgraded DLR Cemetery Depot
5.	Relocated Recycling centre (15 spaces incl. 2 disabled)
6.	Crematorium - Part 2 development (2014 - 2017/2018/19)
7.	LR corridor linkages
8.	Relocated entrance path
9.	Boundary set back to create users
10.	Vegetation pond for stormwater attenuation with viewing deck
11.	Naturalistic mounding
12.	Regrade and relocated playground to cooperate naturalistic mounding
13.	Beating pond
14.	Beating pitch to be retained for inheritance
15.	Shanganagh Castle to incorporate office, coffee shop
16.	Formal lawn
17.	Formal herbaceous garden with multi use hard surfaced space
18.	Ornamental sculptural walk with seating
19.	Screen planting and mounding
20.	Castle & sports parking (70 spaces incl. 4 disabled)
21.	Beating building associated with multi sport consent with new bridge to include public toilets
22.	New and relocated pitches with irrigation and floodlighting (4000sqm)
23.	Reinstated warm up area for grass pitches
24.	Considered cricket and baseball pitches
25.	Upgraded pedestrian entrance from Castle Farm & St. Anne's Path
26.	Upgraded bridge crossing to include natural play and extensive seating area
27.	Potential location for renewable energy generation
28.	Sculptural mound to provide landscape views across and towards mountains
29.	Sculpture installation (Celtic motifs)
30.	Improved access to Shanganagh beach
31.	Proposed 'green' bridge
32.	Reinstated historical Cemetery route
33.	Woodbrook residential development - indicative layout only
34.	Proposed Woodbrook DART station with surface car parking - indicative layout only
35.	Shanganagh Castle residential development - indicative layout only
36.	Four lane street track with potential long and hole jump park
37.	Regrade and improved dig off leach area
38.	New entrance at Shanganagh Vale

Figure 3. Proposed Masterplan (See Appendix I for the actions outlined above)



## 2. NATURE & HORTICULTURE:

### ORNAMENTAL PLANTING

The present planting palette within the park consists of established hedgerows, stands of mature and early mature trees. Colour is provided in the form of generous sweeps of spring bulbs and Summer meadow. The Masterplan proposes large sweeps of naturalistic perennial planting which will provide additional colour, texture and wildlife habitat. Shanganagh Parks depot has its own glasshouse facilities where plants are propagated and grown on. Contrived, annual bedding schemes are to be avoided and will be gradually phased out in favour of more biodiverse solutions within in the park.

### BIODIVERSITY

At present, the park provides generous space for active recreation. Space on the western side of the park is dominated by open areas dedicated to structured sport. The Masterplan seeks to create a mosaic of habitats (wetland, woodland, transition areas and corridors) that can sustain as wide a diversity of native flora and fauna as possible. This will require a redistribution of space in the park and a consolidation of park uses. Long term sustainable interventions will rely on natural features, existing vegetation and local conditions to encourage biodiversity. Nature driven solutions are being proposed which are informed by reading the landscape as well as the local conditions. The flooding that occurs in the existing tree planting along the southern boundary of the park is to be exploited. The proposal is to redirect the water into the lowest point of the park to create a wetland/lake area. This will help solve drainage issues and create a habitat. The existing pond in the castle grounds is home to a newt population. It is hoped that the proposed lake can encourage the population of newts to expand and spread.



Plate 4. Meadows

### INCREASE TREE COVER

This objective ties in with biodiversity but the benefits of increasing the percentage of tree canopy cover are multi-faceted. As detailed in the Climate Action Plan; expanded tree cover has the potential to sequester carbon dioxide, remove particulates from the air, provide noise mitigation from major transport arteries, positive impact on mental health and establish a strong visual green belt along the edge of Dublin. Tree cover has several scientifically proven benefits to society which are widely acknowledged. As a local authority, we are responsible for increasing tree canopy cover

and the sustainable management of land through nature based solutions in the county. In terms of available space, the parks in the county have the greatest potential to contribute to increasing tree canopy cover. Climate change is a major challenge facing modern society and one of the best ways to combat it is by planting large numbers of trees. It is imperative that substantial tree planting is undertaken in Shanganagh Park & Cemetery. It is envisaged that much of this planting could be carried out in conjunction with local communities and schools. Tree cover will also contribute to maintaining the unique sylvan character that is present along the Old Dublin Road. It is vitally important that the woodland character along the streetscape is retained and strengthened.



Plate 5. Woodland path

**WORKING WITH NATURE**

The park is situated in a unique location. Located on the coast, sitting in a plain and with direct visual links to the mountains, the park has its own unique character and site conditions. The proposals in the Masterplan respond to these conditions to create a long term, resilient and sustainable park. Working with the existing landscape will have several benefits. Chemical application has been eliminated from parks maintenance programmes. The use of plants that will thrive in the local conditions will help in reducing long term maintenance and staff intervention. The intention is that any of the proposed interventions in the park will flourish and be self-sustaining

Tree planting in Shanganagh Park and Cemetery should be sympathetic to its surroundings and enhance the rich amenity of the area. The existing trees within the parkland are recognised for having a positive influence on the appeal and park and an increase in tree planting within the Park is actively sought as part of the Masterplan that also proposes the reinstatement of historic trees. Tree surveys within the park are on-going, using the best current practices to identify the management priorities of trees. Tree retention is favoured; however, DLRCC will ensure that any felled trees will be replaced by a replacement tree of a suitable size and species, having regard to their Tree Planting and Management Guidelines. Where suitable, more than one replacement tree will be considered to improve tree stock. All trees shall be planted by suitably trained DLRCC staff, or in conjunction with local schools and communities, within the months of November and March. Those under



taking tree works will be given appropriate guidance and training, which will include an awareness of protected species within the park. As per the DLRCC Tree Strategy; 'Where tree works have potential to affect protected species or their habitat, the Council will have regard to legislative requirements and the procedures outlined in the Council's Parks Biodiversity Policy. Essential tree works will be undertaken in a way that minimises adverse impact and ecological advice will be sought where necessary.'

### 3. LINKAGES

#### EAST TO WEST MOVEMENT ACROSS THE DART LINE

The Dart forms a barrier through the middle of the park. The Masterplan seeks to create 3 crossing points rather than the present arrangement of 1. This will involve improving the existing accessibility to the pedestrian bridge at the northern end, creating a new green bridge half way along the line and recommissioning the existing bridge at the southern, cemetery end. The northern bridge has accessibility issues due to the substantial change in level. The Masterplan proposes to replace the precarious ramped path with a set of steps and a zig-zagging ramp arrangement. The change in level and the ramp arrangement will also facilitate an incidental, natural play area. A viewing area is proposed which will take advantage of the sunny aspect and the expansive views inland towards the mountains. A green bridge will encourage a new wildlife corridor between the two areas of the park, create new pedestrian loops and encourage park users towards the coast line. The existing bridge crossing at the cemetery requires the least investment. Unlocking the gates and installing 2m balustrading at either edge of the bridge will make it safe and useable.



Plate 6. Existing "green bridge" over the Dart at the southern end of Shanganagh Park.

#### CREATE STRONGER PHYSICAL AND VISUAL CONNECTIONS WITH THE COAST

The bank of the old railway line forms a visual impediment along the coast. The Masterplan proposes an elongated pyramidal landform with a viewing terrace at its top to provide views up and down the coast and back inland. The landform will feature a line of timber piles which will function as a playful installation highlighting the steady march of coastal erosion.

### **PEDESTRIAN AND CYCLING MOVEMENT THROUGH THE PARK**

Permeability and connectivity are key goals of the Masterplan. The plan seeks to facilitate both pedestrians and cyclists. This will require planning and design to create a layout that is both self-regulating and avoids the need for a large volume of signage and barrier clutter. This will be achieved through the use of a coordinated suite of surface details and materials. Rumble strips and surface contrasts will help direct park users and reduce user conflicts.

### **EAST COAST GREENWAY**

The east coast greenway is a strategic level project to create a cycling route connecting Dublin City with Rosslare in the south of Wexford. This route will pass through the south of Dublin, Wicklow and Wexford hugging the coastline as much as possible. The Masterplan seeks to facilitate this strategic route through the network of paths in the park and the coordinated connections with existing and proposed developments around the park. The proposal to create 3 crossings along the railway line as well as the retention of a 20m corridor of space running north south paralleling the railway will have the potential to offer various options for the East Coast Greenway route.

### **PATHWAY LIGHTING**

The park will be open on a 24 hour basis to maintain the pedestrian and cycling permeability at all times. This will mean that the park will be in use during night time hours. Park user security will be an issue so lighting will be an important feature of the future park. The requirement for security will have to be balanced with night-time light pollution. An over specification of light can have a detrimental impact on nocturnal wild life. The lighting plan will have to be a disciplined and precise arrangement. Light fixtures will be dimmable and offer only the minimum amount of required light. Robust, low level ground washers are preferable as opposed to high level flood lighting which generate unwanted light spill.

## **4. SPORTS**

### **LARGE SCALE CENTRALISED SPORTS PAVILION**

At present, there are two GAA clubs, a soccer club, a cricket club, a baseball group and an athletics club using Shanganagh Park. Demand for use from other sports clubs is always a challenge. The development of the local area will place increased pressure on the park as the local population grows. Rather than have a haphazard arrangement of individual sports club buildings it is preferable to consolidate all sport into a single building. This will help to manage carparking, circulation within the park and create synergies between clubs.

Acquisition of Shanganagh Castle has created the opportunity to create a large scale facility to manage all the sports teams. Attached to the Castle is an existing gymnasium building which is a ready-made facility. It requires renovation but it has the potential to cater for all the sports teams as well as additional community facilities.





Plate 7. Existing Sports Pitches

#### **CONSOLIDATE ALL THE SPORTS PITCHES INTO A CENTRALISED ZONE**

The aim of the Masterplan design is to impose a logic and discipline on the park to allow the amenity to cater for the complex demands of nature, horticulture, active and passive recreation. The existing arrangement of sports pitches sprawls out across the entire west side of the park. A suggestion to move the baseball facility to the east side of the railway line would have had a detrimental impact on the nature value of that section of the park. The Masterplan seeks to cluster the pitches and other sports facilities together. This will have several benefits. It will create space for habitat and other passive facilities, it will maintain all the pitches in close proximity to the proposed sports pavilion and it will establish distinct user zones in the park.

#### **SHARING OF FIELD SPACE AMONGST SPORTS CLUBS**

Space is finite within the park and the best way to utilise it is through shared use. Cricket and baseball are minority sports with a small window of play during the calendar. A more efficient use of the land can be reached by doubling up these sports facilities together. Two sports utilising the same plot of land can justify a greater investment in the surface and other features. A long term sustainable use of the park will require all the pitches to be shared amongst different clubs. It would be unfeasible and unrealistic for a single club to have sole use of any area of land in the park. Careful management of time allotments and pitch maintenance is needed to ensure it is run in a satisfactory way.

#### **INTENSIVE USE DUAL PITCH FACILITY**

The Masterplan proposes the creation of a 2 sand based 'prunty' GAA pitches which will feature cutting edge flood lights. These sand based grass pitches will be carefully managed and will cater for the high intensity use weekend matches during the year.

#### **COMPLIMENTARY SPORTS FACILITIES**

Other local council owned sports facilities will help to alleviate the pressure on pitch allocation in Shanganagh Park. A new all-weather facility is to be developed in Woodbrook College which is in close proximity to the park on the Old Dublin Road. Stonebridge Road and pitches at The Cliffs in Rathallagh facilitate local matches also.

#### **RELOCATION OF THE PLAYGROUND**

The recently completed LAP for Shankill highlighted the potential to move the playground from its present location adjacent to a roadway into the woodland belt along the access road. The Masterplan is proposing a natural play-space in the belt of trees which will exploit the trees and the undulating shape of the ground. The existing playground will be converted into a band of trees and the boundary fence will be set back in amongst the trees to disguise it. This proposal will tie in with the sylvan character of the streetscape between the park and down to the Bray roundabout.

### **5. PARKING AND ACCESS**

#### **PROCESSIONAL ROUTE FROM THE OLD DUBLIN ROAD INTO THE PARK & CEMETERY**

The existing route from the Old Dublin Road into the carpark and cemetery is an over scaled carriageway (in excess of 8m wide). On busy days it fills up in a haphazard arrangement with cars parked on both sides of the road. The cemetery side of the road features a footpath and a random rubble clad 2.4m wall. This hard boundary treatment is at odds with the tree belt on the park side. Overall, this approach into the cemetery lacks the dignity needed to service the cemetery and the proposed crematorium. The Masterplan proposes a formalised avenue. This will involve creating formal parking spaces on the cemetery side with tree pit build outs at intervals. The introduction of the parking bays will squeeze the road down to an appropriate width and a line of trees will create an avenue effect. There is a continuous line of fine cherry trees on the park side and it is the intention to mirror this with an appropriate selection of cherry varieties on the cemetery side. A mini roundabout at the cemetery entrance and a new set of piers entering the carpark will create an improved sense of arrival and threshold. Eliminating the slip lane on the Old Dublin Road and tightening the radius of the corners entering the access road will enhance and upgrade the pedestrian crossing at this point.

#### **RECONFIGURE THE EXISTING CARPARK AND EXPAND THE CAPACITY**

The present carpark is a sprawling area with a configuration of parking bays that fails to maximise the space available. The proposed arrangement rotates the existing layout by 90 degrees. This arrangement has several benefits. An increase in parking spaces is the primary advantage, the new arrangement create 135 parking spaces compared with 105 in the existing carpark. The proposed arrangement allows for safer pedestrian movements between the carpark and the park and cemetery. Each parking bay block is book ended by a large soft landscape area. Each one of these bookends will feature a specimen tree and a block of herbaceous underplanting. These bookends tie in with the concept of a processional route by continuing the avenue from the main road all the way to the gates of the crematorium.

#### **CREATE A NEW CARPARK AREA ON THE CASTLE GROUNDS**

The new sports facility will create a demand for convenient parking adjacent to the building. The proposed carpark will create 70 additional parking spaces. Access to this will be provided through the proposed Castle development. The curtilage of the Castle is historically and arboriculturally sensitive. The proposal is for a long linear carparking area that hugs the boundary with Castlefarm. Earthworks and additional tree planting will further mitigate the proposed facility.



Plate 8. Existing Car Park.

**RE-ESTABLISH THE OLD ENTRANCE POINT INTO THE REAR OF SHANGANAGH CASTLE**

During the development of the Masterplan, it became apparent that an entrance point to the rear of the castle was required to address several aspects of permeability through the park. The analysis process highlighted a historic entrance point to the rear of the house at the same location. The 6 inch and 25 inch maps show a direct link with a network of farm buildings and a walled garden. Presumably, it was decommissioned and blocked off during the development of the Castlefarm housing estate. Re-establishing this historic entrance will create pedestrian and cycling access into the Castle and the proposed sports complex. It will also service the proposed link across the park linking with Woodbrook and eventually servicing the proposed DART station there. The park will act to encourage people to walk and cycle on safe, peaceful routes connecting up the residential blocks in the local area.

**RELOCATE THE HISTORIC PIERS FROM THE SOUTH WEST CORNER OF THE PARK**

The granite piers and the metalwork contained within the entrance at the south west corner of the park on the Old Dublin Road is all historic material but the location of the piers is not historically authentic. It is proposed to move the entire entrance to a new location half way along the boundary with the Old Dublin Road. This will create a folly entrance which will frame a view into the park, centred on the proposed viewing deck and pond. The existing location will be replaced with a smaller more appropriate arrangement that will service this entrance.

## **BALANCING ACTIVE AND PASSIVE RECREATION**

For the sake of the Masterplan, it is suggested to rationalise the park by subdividing it into parcels. This subdivision is based on two distinct park usages. The Masterplan sets out to consolidate active recreation to the centre of the park. This will improve overall management/maintenance of the facilities and provide users with a better location to gain immediate access to parking and the proposed sports pavilion at Shanganagh Castle. Additional benefits include the introduction of a mosaic of interconnected habitats which are vital for the protection and nurturing of flora and fauna within the park. As a starting point, it is suggested to label these two distinct areas as:

- The Active Landscape
- The Passive Landscape

Further subdivision of the park into more manageable parcels helps identify particular features to be addressed, prioritising certain projects and for scheduling all of the proposed work.

The park has been broken into five distinct zones. These are as follows:

### **A. Park Gateway**

This zone currently contains two senior GAA pitches and a children's playground along the boundary of the park. The area suffers from poor drainage and is susceptible to waterlogging. With increasing challenges arising from climate change it is proposed to introduce an attenuation pond which will serve to provide better drainage and stormwater management for the park. This area will encourage greater biodiversity and form an attractive entrance to the park while serving an important role in flood mitigation. It is proposed to relocate the children's playground further from the busy Old Dublin Road and re-establish it within the woodland area. This will allow for the development of natural play opportunities and high play quality.

### **B. Shanganagh Castle, Sports Pavilion and Surrounding Woodland**

This zone is currently an underused resource within Shanganagh Park. To meet the increasing pressure to provide quality open space and facilities within the park the plan seeks to convert this area into a multi-use zone that forms another attractive gateway to the park while providing multifaceted community opportunities. The restoration and development of the existing castle and disused sports hall will provide a focal point of intense usage and local benefit. The surrounding gardens will be designed to feature a large lawn area, walks, specimen trees, seating areas and herbaceous planting as well as a screened parking area. A focal point will be created at the end of the proposed avenue linking with the Woodbrook development and DART station. It will lend itself as a desirable destination point within the park. Re-establishing historic linkages from the castle will allow for easier access between the playing pitches and the sports pavilion.

### **C. Sports Pitches**

This zone is currently a meadow area with a scattered arrangement of pitches and playing facilities. To meet the increasing pressure to provide quality sports facilities within Dún Laoghaire Rathdown the plan seeks to convert this space into a high intensity active recreation zone. It will be designed to meet the demands of a wide variety of sports. Alternative meadows will be provided to compensate the loss of wildlife habitat within the area. The introduction of floodlights with minimal light spill will allow for usage outside of daylight hours, additional trees will be planted in close proximity to the floodlit areas to further reduce light spill.



#### D. Meadow Fields

Wildlife corridors will be improved and created in this zone. The historic field patterns will be reinforced with additional planting. This will possibly include a community garden within the existing community orchard. An enlarged dogs-off-leash area is proposed with additional interventions to maximise the space. In an effort to improve the park's sustainability and self-sufficiency the possibility of renewable energy generation on site will be explored. A viewing area will offer views of the coast from Dalkey to Bray and towards the Dublin and Wicklow mountains

#### E. New Linkages

This zone will form an important transition and links between the proposed developments at Woodbrook, including the proposed DART station and Shanganagh Park and Cemetery. As the park will remain open 24hours it is proposed that these links are lit for use outside of daylight hours.

### **BIODIVERSITY OF THE SHANGANAGH PARK AND CEMETERY MASTERPLAN AREA.**

Several studies have been commissioned in recent years by Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council in relation to the biodiversity within the masterplan area. In 2004 Moore Group was commissioned to conduct ecological assessments of 16 public parks within the Dun Laoghaire Rathdown administrative areas. This involved studies of the habitat types, biological diversity and wildlife value of each park, with reference to park location, design and layout, management practices and the amount and type of public use. As outlined in this report "It appears from these brief survey visits that Shanganagh park has been managed with a view to increasing the wildlife value of the site. The planting of wooded areas and the set aside of grass verges both have significant potential to make this park an important site in south county Dublin." The report states that the site primarily consists of the following habitats

- Amenity Grassland - (GA2) All open grassland areas.
- Mixed broadleaved woodland – (WD1) Patches of young woodland at the edges of the main field plots. The woodland areas are located towards the centre of the park, and consist largely of ash, beech, oak, birches, alder and sycamore trees. All of the trees appear to be in good health, however the planting is very tight and even though the trees are relatively young perhaps 15- 20 years), they cast enough shade during the summer, and create enough leaf litter during the winter, to exclude almost all other growth beneath them.
- Treeline - (WL2) The linear borders within the park and around the park boundaries. The northern borders of the two football pitches, and the border between the two pitches, consists of a line of trees and tall shrubs along a raised bank and ditch. The dominant species along the treeline is ash, with scattered beech, hawthorn, Scots pine, oak and willows, sycamore and alder. These trees are densely packed with hedging, creating a thick boundary. Shrub species include holly, laurel, elder, blackthorn and gorse. Ivy and bramble are abundant, and there are several patches of well-developed rose.
- Grassy verges and dry meadow - (GS2) Along several of the linear borders and the wildflower meadow near the centre of the park. The easternmost field plots appear to have been managed to encourage development of a distinct grass verge. During the summer visits, these were unmown, and had a considerably stronger forb growth than the adjacent amenity grassland. These verges were noted to have attracted large numbers of birds on each visit, and they are a valuable additional habitat within the park.
- Drainage ditch - (FW4) The stretch of the Loughlinstown river which flows through the site.
- Buildings and artificial surfaces - (BL3) All buildings, paths, Cabinteely House, the playground and paved areas.

Bat activity was noted during an assessment of this park in September 2004. A common pipistrelle was feeding within the park, following the line of the mature hedgerow and tree cover that backs onto gardens and eventually onto Shanganagh Castle. A soprano pipistrelle was feeding along this road in 2004. In May 2019, common pipistrelles and a Leisler bat were noted in the park feeding along the hedgerows in the centre of the park. Other protected mammals include badgers, the Irish hare and hedgehog. As outlined in the 2004 report "Badgers are known to be present to the south of the park and may enter into the park to feed. No sett was noted within the park." "A scattering of Irish hare droppings were noted along a track that follows the railway track leading towards the golf course area." "Hedgehogs have been seen in the park and in the gardens and roads leading up to the park by local residents."

In a survey the Shanganagh Park meadows in 2010 a significant number of species of flora were noted. These are seen in appendix II.

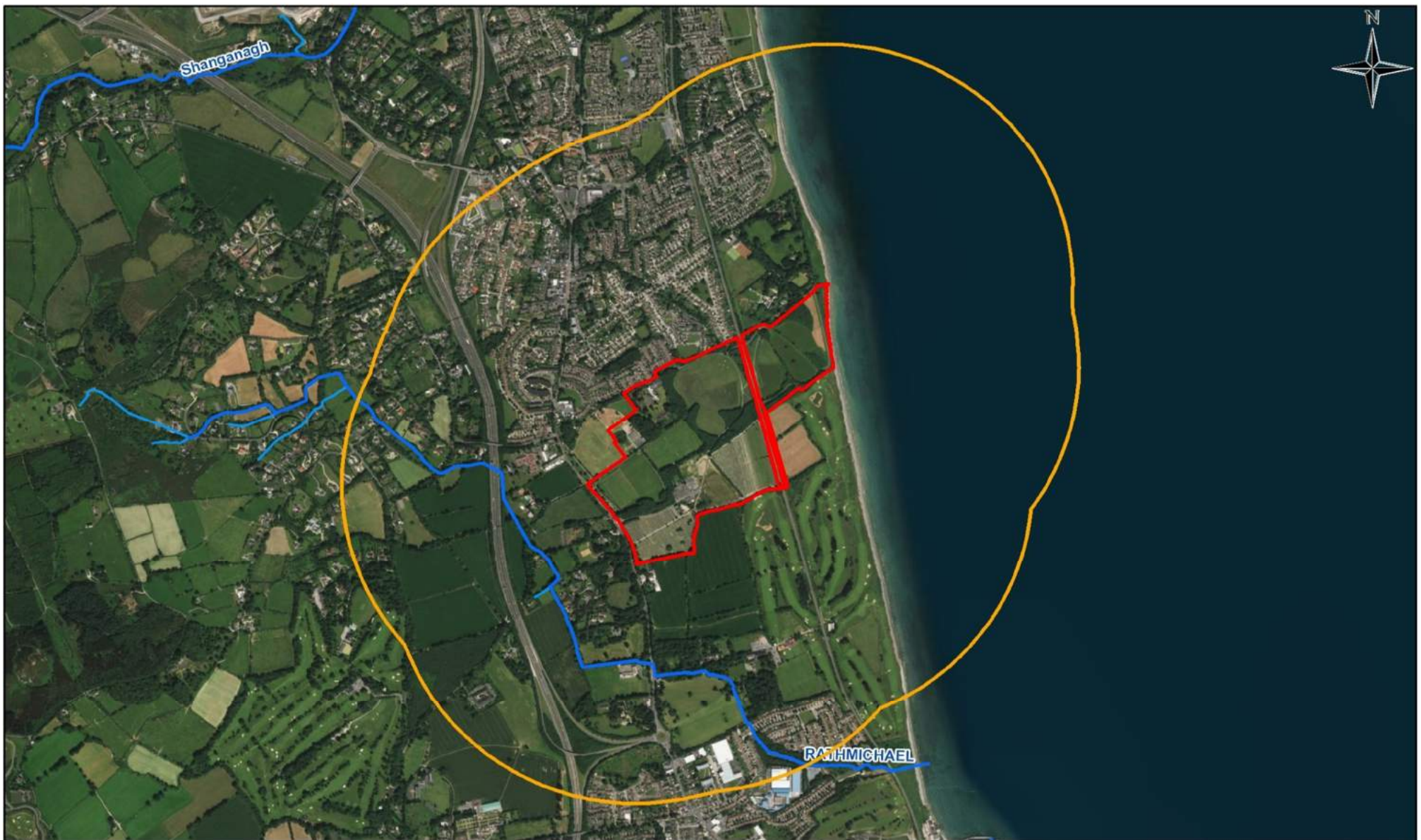
Based on information on Rare and protected species supplied by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (May 2019) species of note within the masterplan area include:

- Sharp-leaved Fluellen (*Kickxia elatine*) Crinken, E of Shanganagh Cemetery
- Common frog (*Rana temporaria*) North of masterplan area.

## **APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT SCREENING**

The following Appropriate Assessment Screening examines the likely significant effects of the masterplan and the proposed actions outlined in Appendix 1, on its own and in combination with other plans and projects, upon a Natura 2000 sites and considers whether, on the basis of objective scientific evidence, it can be concluded, in view of best scientific knowledge and the conservation objectives of the relevant European sites, that there are not likely to be significant effects on any European site.

No Natura 2000 sites are within the potential Zone of Influence (ZoI). The ZoI of the proposed project would be seen to be restricted to the site outline with potential for minor localised noise and light impacts during operation. It should be noted that each structural element of the proposed masterplan will undergo detailed design and its own environmental assessment including Appropriate Assessment Screening and that that there are no watercourses within the masterplan area that could lead to downstream impacts (Figure 4).



Project: Shanganagh Park & Cemetery Masterplan  
 Location: Dunlaoghaire Rathdown  
 Date: 21st May 2019  
 Drawn By: Bryan Deegan (Altamar)



**ALTEMAR**  
 Marine & Environmental Consultancy

Figure 4. Watercourses within 1km of the proposed masterplan (EPA-WFD data)

## IDENTIFICATION OF NATURA 2000 SITES/SPECIES POTENTIALLY AFFECTED.

The masterplan area is not within a NATURA 2000 site. The NATURA 2000 sites within 5km, 10km and 15km are seen in Figures 5 & 6 and Table 1. Their features of interest and the potential impact of the masterplan on the features of interest, are seen in Table 2. As can be seen from the EPA Waterframework Directive (WFD) data in Figure 4, there is no watercourse in the vicinity of the masterplan area and there is no direct fluvial pathway to a Natura 2000 site. The masterplan area is a green belt area that is located in a suburban environment surrounded by roads on three sides and the Irish Sea coast to the east. The coastal zone is the only intact biodiversity corridor to Natura 2000 sites. No Natura 2000 sites are deemed to be in the potential Zone of Influence (ZoI). However, following the precautionary principle screening of all Natura 2000 within 15km and those with an indirect pathway within 15km (Table 1) is carried out in Table 2.

**Table 1.** NATURA 2000 sites within 15km of the proposed masterplan.

Site Code	Name	Distance
IE004172	Dalkey Islands SPA	4.5
IE004040	Wicklow Mountains SPA	7.5 km
IE004024	South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA	7.8 km
IE0004006	North Bull Island SPA	13.1 km
IE004186	The Murrough SPA	13.8km
IE0004113	Howth Head Coast SPA	14.8m
IE003000	Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC	2.2 km
IE000725	Knocksink Wood SAC	2.5 km
IE000714	Bray Head SAC	3.3 km
IE000713	Ballyman Glen SAC	4.7 km
IE002122	Wicklow Mountains SAC	7.9 km
IE000210	South Dublin Bay SAC	8.0 km
IE000719	Glen of the Downs SAC	9.3 km
IE0007169	Carriggower Bog SAC	12.7 km
IE002249	Murrough Wetlands SAC	12.8 km
IE0000206	North Dublin Bay SAC	13.3km
IE0000202	Howth Head SAC	14.6 km

**Table 2.** Initial screening of NATURA 2000 sites within 10km of the proposed development.

NATURA CODE	NAME	Screened In/Out	Details/Reason
<b>Special Protection Areas</b>			
IE004172	Dalkey Islands SPA	<b>Out</b>	<p><b>Conservation Objectives</b> To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA.</p> <p><b>Features of Interest</b> <i>Sterna dougallii</i> (Roseate Tern) [A192] <i>Sterna hirundo</i> (Common Tern) [A193] <i>Sterna paradisaea</i> (Arctic Tern) [A194]</p> <p><b>Potential Impact</b> The Shanganagh Park and Cemetery Masterplan area is located within a suburban environment 4.5 km from the Dalkey Islands SPA. The proposed masterplan would be seen to enhance biodiversity but also increase use of the park as an amenity area. The proposed masterplan would not impact on tern species or the water quality of the SPA.</p> <p><b>No significant effects are likely.</b></p>
IE004040	Wicklow Mountains	<b>Out</b>	<p><b>Conservation Objectives</b> To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the</p>



	SPA		<p>bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA.</p> <p><b>Features of Interest</b>  <i>Falco colombarius</i> (Merlin) [A098]  <i>Falco peregrinus</i> (Peregrine) [A103]</p> <p><b>Potential Impact</b>  The Shanganagh Park and Cemetery Masterplan area is located within a suburban environment 7.5 km from the Wicklow Mountains SPA. The site would not be seen as an important feeding habitat for merlin or peregrine falcon and has no direct connection to this SPA which is located at a higher elevation.</p> <p><b>No significant effects are likely.</b></p>
IE004024	South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA	<b>Out</b>	<p><b>Conservation Objectives</b>  To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA.</p> <p>To maintain the favourable conservation condition of the wetland habitat in South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA as a resource for the regularly occurring migratory waterbirds that utilise it.</p> <p><b>Features of Interest</b>  <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> (Light-bellied Brent Goose) [A046]  <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> (Oystercatcher) [A130]  <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> (Ringed Plover) [A137]  <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> (Grey Plover) [A141]  <i>Calidris canutus</i> (Knot) [A143]  <i>Calidris alba</i> (Sanderling) [A144]  <i>Calidris alpina</i> (Dunlin) [A149]  <i>Limosa lapponica</i> (Bar-tailed Godwit) [A157]  <i>Tringa totanus</i> (Redshank) [A162]  <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> (Black-headed Gull) [A179]  <i>Sterna dougallii</i> (Roseate Tern) [A192]  <i>Sterna hirundo</i> (Common Tern) [A193]  <i>Sterna paradisaea</i> (Arctic Tern) [A194]  Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]</p> <p><b>Potential Impact</b>  The Shanganagh Park and Cemetery Masterplan area is located within a suburban environment 7.8 km from the South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA. Brent Geese feed on short grassland sites during high tides have been recorded within the 10km grid but not at a finer resolution on site<sup>3</sup>. The proposed masterplan would not impact on the features of interest (bird species) or the water quality of the SPA.</p> <p><b>No significant effects are likely.</b></p>
IE0004006	North Bull Island SPA	<b>Out</b>	<p><b>Conservation Objectives</b>  The maintenance of habitats and species within Natura 2000 sites at favourable conservation condition will contribute to the overall maintenance of favourable conservation status of those habitats and species at a national level.</p> <p>Qualifying Interests  A046 Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>)  A048 Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>)  A052 Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>)  A054 Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>)  A056 Shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>)</p>

<sup>3</sup> (NPWS rare and protected species data and National Biodiversity Data Centre Data)

			<p>A130 Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>)  A140 Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>)  A141 Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>)  A143 Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>)  A144 Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>)  A149 Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina alpina</i>)  A156 Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>)  A157 Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>)  A160 Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>)  A162 Redshank (<i>Tringa tetanus</i>)  A169 Turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>)  A179 Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>)  A999 Wetlands</p> <p><b>Potential Impact</b>  The Shanganagh Park and Cemetery Masterplan area is located within a suburban environment 13.1 km from the SPA. Brent Geese feed on short grassland sites during high tides have been recorded within the 10km grid but not at a finer resolution on site<sup>4</sup>. The proposed masterplan would not impact on the features of interest (bird species) or the water quality of the SPA.  <b>No significant effects are likely</b></p>
IE004186	The Murrrough SPA	<b>Out</b>	<p><b>Conservation Objectives</b>  To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA.</p> <p><b>Features of Interest</b>  Red-throated Diver <i>Gavia stellate</i> [A001]  Greylag Goose <i>Anser anser</i> [A043]  Light-bellied Brent Goose <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> [A046]  Wigeon <i>Anas penelope</i> [A050]  Teal <i>Anas crecca</i> [A052]  Black-headed Gull <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> [A179]  Herring Gull <i>Larus argentatus</i> [A184]  Little Tern <i>Sterna albifrons</i> [A195]</p> <p><b>Potential Impact</b>  The Shanganagh Park and Cemetery Masterplan area is located within a suburban environment 13.8 km from the SPA. Brent Geese feed on short grassland sites during high tides have been recorded within the 10km grid but not at a finer resolution on site<sup>5</sup>. The proposed masterplan would not impact on the features of interest (bird species) or the water quality of the SPA.  <b>No significant effects are likely</b></p>
IE0004113	Howth Head Coast SPA	<b>Out</b>	<p><b>Conservation Objective:</b> To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA</p> <p><b>Qualifying Interests</b>  A188 Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>)</p> <p><b>Potential Impact</b>  The proposed masterplan area is 14.8km from the Howth Head Coast SPA. The Shanganagh Park and Cemetery Masterplan area is located</p>

<sup>4</sup> (NPWS rare and protected species data and National Biodiversity Data Centre Data)

<sup>5</sup> (NPWS rare and protected species data and National Biodiversity Data Centre Data)

			<p>within a suburban environment 13.8 km from the SPA. The proposed masterplan would not impact on the features of interest (Kittiwake) or the water quality of the SPA.</p> <p><b>No significant effects are likely</b></p>
Special Areas of Conservation			
NATURA CODE	NAME	Screened In/Out	Reason
IE003000	Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC	<b>Out</b>	<p><b>Conservation Objectives</b> To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Reefs and Harbour porpoise, in Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC, which is defined by the following list of targets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The permanent habitat area is stable or increasing, subject to natural processes.</li> <li>• Distribution of habitat is stable or increasing, subject to natural processes.</li> <li>• Conserve the following community types in a natural condition: Intertidal reef community complex; and Subtidal reef community complex.</li> <li>• Porpoise range within site should not be restricted by artificial barriers to site use.</li> <li>• Human activities should occur at levels that do not adversely affect the harbour porpoise community at the site.</li> </ul> <p><b>Feature of Interest</b> Reefs [1170] <i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour porpoise) [1351]</p> <p><b>Potential Impact</b> The Shanganagh Park and Cemetery Masterplan area is located within a suburban environment 2.2 km from the SAC. This SAC is a marine SAC and the masterplan area is coastal. There are no proposals in the masterplan that could impact on the Reef area, distribution or community structure of this SAC. The masterplan will not impact Harbour porpoise's access to habitat or disturb Harbour porpoise.</p> <p><b>No significant effects are likely.</b></p>
IE000725	Knocksink Wood SAC	<b>Out</b>	<p><b>Conservation Objectives</b> To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected</p> <p><b>Features of Interest</b> Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220] Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0].</p> <p><b>Potential Impact</b> The Shanganagh Park and Cemetery Masterplan area 2.5 km from the Knocksink Wood SAC. The development has no direct hydrological or intact biological stepping stone connection to this SAC that is located at a higher elevation.</p> <p><b>No significant effects are likely</b></p>
IE000713	Ballyman Glen SAC	<b>Out</b>	<p><b>Conservation Objectives</b> To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected.</p> <p><b>Features of Interest</b> Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220]</p>

			<p>Alkaline fens [7230]</p> <p><b>Potential Impact</b> The Shanganagh Park and Cemetery Masterplan area is located within a suburban environment 4.7 km from the Ballyman Glen SAC. The development has no direct hydrological or intact stepping stone connection to this SAC that is located at a higher elevation.</p> <p><b>No significant effects are likely</b></p>
IE000714	Bray Head SAC	<b>Out</b>	<p><b>Conservation Objectives</b> To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected</p> <p><b>Features of Interest</b> Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230] European dry heaths [4030]</p> <p><b>Potential Impact</b> The Shanganagh Park and Cemetery Masterplan area is located within a suburban environment 3.3 km from the Bray Head SAC, located on the far side of Bray Toen. The proposed masterplan would not impact the features (coastal habitats) of this site.</p> <p><b>No significant effects are likely</b></p>
IE000210	South Dublin Bay SAC	<b>Out</b>	<p><b>Conservation Objectives</b> To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide in South Dublin Bay SAC, which is defined by the following targets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The permanent habitat area is stable or increasing, subject to natural processes.</li> <li>• Maintain the extent of the <i>Zostera</i> –dominated community, subject to natural processes.</li> <li>• Conserve the high quality of the <i>Zostera</i> –dominated community, subject to natural processes</li> <li>• Conserve the following community type in a natural condition: Fine sands with <i>Angulus tenuis</i> community complex.</li> </ul> <p><b>Features of Interest</b> Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]</p> <p><b>Potential Impact</b> The Shanganagh Park and Cemetery Masterplan area is located within a suburban environment 8.0 km from the Dublin Bay SAC. The proposed masterplan would not impact on the features of interest of the SAC. The masterplan will not impact the <i>Zostera</i> area, distribution or community structure of this SAC. The development will not impact the Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] or Fine sands with <i>Angulus tenuis</i> community complex.</p> <p><b>No significant effects are likely</b></p>
IE002122	Wicklow Mountains SAC	<b>Out</b>	<p><b>Conservation Objectives</b> To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected.</p> <p><b>Features of Interest</b> Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the <i>Littorelletea uniflorae</i> and/or Isoeto-Nanojuncetea [3130] Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160] Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010] European dry heaths [4030]</p>



			<p>Apine and Boreal heaths [4060]  Species-rich <i>Nardus</i> grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe) [6230]  Blanket bogs (if active bog) [7130]  Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (<i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsietalia ladani</i>) [8110]  Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8210]  Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220]  Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0]  <i>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter) [1355]</p> <p><b>Potential Impact</b>  The Shanganagh Park and Cemetery Masterplan area is located within a suburban environment 7.9 km from the Wicklow Mountains SAC. There is no hydrological connection to this SAC which is located at a higher elevation.  <b>No significant effects are likely</b></p>
IE000719	Glen of the Downs SAC	<b>Out</b>	<p><b>Conservation objectives</b>  To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected</p> <p><b>Features of Interest</b>  Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> [91A0]</p> <p><b>Potential Impact</b>  The Shanganagh Park and Cemetery Masterplan area is located within a suburban environment 9.3 km from the Glen of the Downs SAC. There is no hydrological connection or biological stepping stone to this SAC which is located at a higher elevation.  <b>No significant effects are likely</b></p>
IE0000206	North Dublin Bay SAC	<b>Out</b>	<p><b>Conservation Objectives:</b>  To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected.</p> <p><b>Features of Interest</b>  1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide  1210 Annual vegetation of drift lines  1310 <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand  1330 Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>)  1395 Petalwort <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i>  1410 Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>)  2110 Embryonic shifting dunes  2120 Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes)  2130 Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation  2190 Humid dune slacks</p> <p><b>Potential Impact</b>  The Shanganagh Park and Cemetery Masterplan area is located within a suburban environment 13.3km from the North Dublin Bay SAC. No potential impact is foreseen. There is no direct hydrological pathway or biological stepping stone from this site to the SAC.  <b>No significant effects likely</b></p>
IE0000202	Howth Head SAC	<b>Out</b>	<p><b>Conservation Objectives</b>  To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the</p>

			<p>Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected.</p> <p><b>Qualifying Interests</b>  (1230) Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts  (4030) European dry heaths</p> <p><b>Potential Impact</b>  The Shanganagh Park and Cemetery Masterplan area is located within a suburban environment 14.6 km from this SAC. No potential impact is foreseen. There is no direct or indirect pathway from the proposed masterplan area to the SAC. The masterplan will not impact on the conservation interests (coastal habitats) of the site.</p> <p><b>No significant effects likely</b></p>
IE002249	Murrough Wetlands SAC	<b>Out</b>	<p><b>Conservation Objectives</b>  To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected:</p> <p><b>Features of Interest</b>  Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210]  Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220]  Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>) [1330]  Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410]  Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i>* [7210]  Alkaline fens [7230]  * denotes a priority habitat</p> <p><b>Potential Impact</b>  The Shanganagh Park and Cemetery Masterplan area is located within a suburban environment 12.8 km from the Murrough Wetlands SAC. There is no direct or indirect pathway from the proposed masterplan area to the SAC. The proposed development will not impact on the features of interest of this site.</p> <p><b>No significant effects likely</b></p>
IE0007169	Carriggower Bog SAC	<b>Out</b>	<p><b>Conservation Objectives</b>  To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected:</p> <p><b>Features of Interest</b>  Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140]</p> <p><b>Potential Impact</b>  The Shanganagh Park and Cemetery Masterplan area is located within a suburban environment area 12.7 km from the Murrough Wetlands SAC. The proposed masterplan will not impact on the features of interest of this site. There is no direct or indirect pathway from the proposed masterplan area to the SAC.</p> <p><b>No significant effects likely</b></p>



**Figure 5.** Special Protected Areas located within 15km of the proposed masterplan.



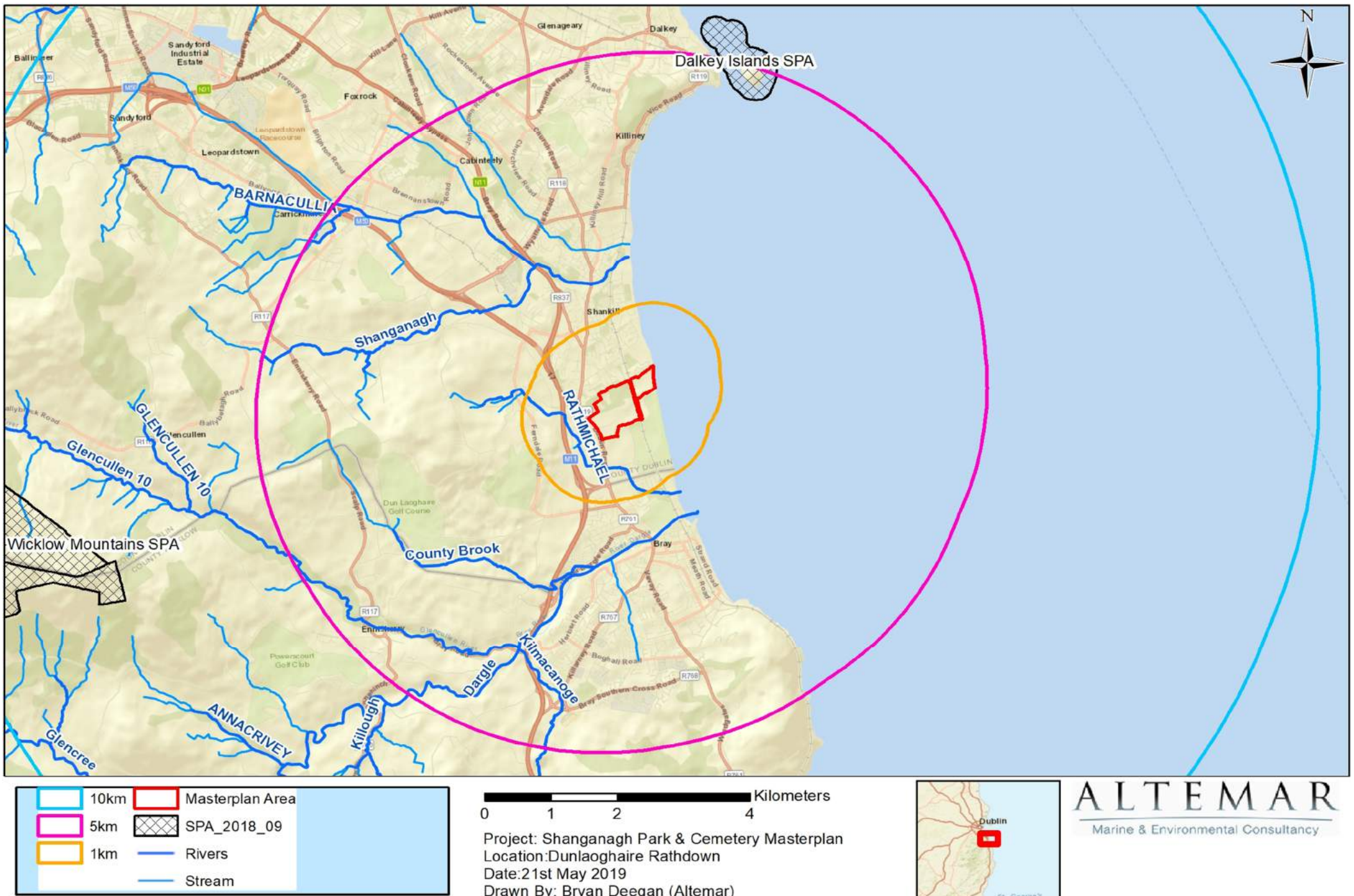


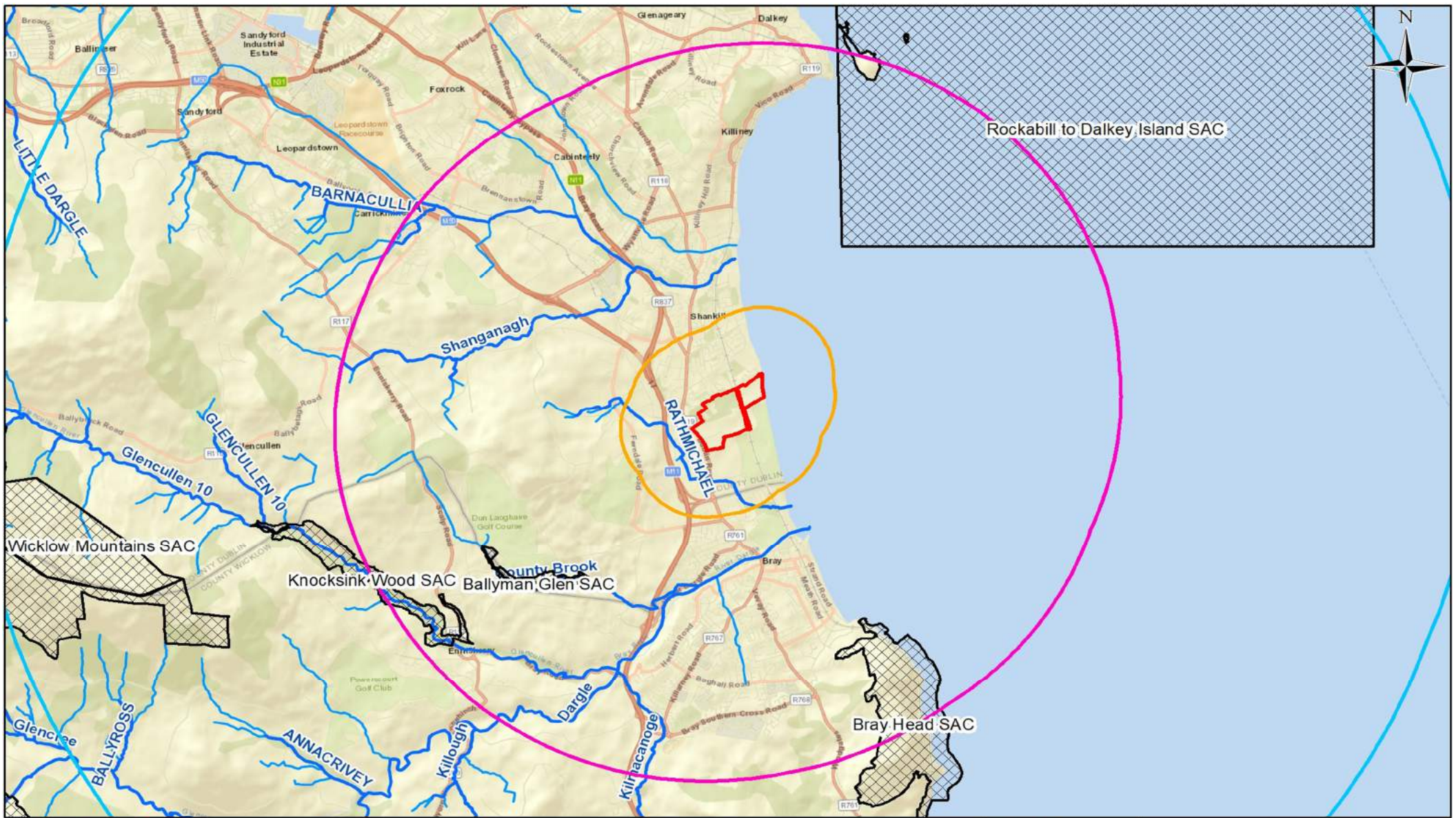
Figure 6. Watercourses and Special Protected Areas located within 5km of the proposed masterplan.





**Figure 7.** Special Areas of Conservation located within 15km of the proposed masterplan.





Project: Shanganagh Park & Cemetery Masterplan  
 Location: Dunlaoghaire Rathdown  
 Date: 21st May 2019  
 Drawn By: Bryan Deegan (Altamar)



**ALTEMAR**  
 Marine & Environmental Consultancy

**Figure 8.** Watercourses and Special Areas of Conservation located within 5km of the proposed masterplan.



## CONSTRUCTION IMPACTS

### OPERATIONAL IMPACTS

There are no direct pathways or stepping stones<sup>6</sup> to Natura 2000 sites. Operational impacts from the proposed masterplan would possibly be an increase in use of the park for residential amenity. This could cause localised noise and light disturbance. However, it should be noted that one of the key drivers of the masterplan is to promote and increase biodiversity within the park and the masterplan is being carried out in a sensitive manner with key biodiversity drivers. The operational impacts would be seen as primarily positive in relation to biodiversity and encouraging the development of biological stepping stones with minor negative impacts in relation to additional use of the park. Additional lighting will be carried out in consultation with a bat ecologist. Renewable energy options, if explored, will require further environmental and appropriate assessment prior to development.

### IN-COMBINATION EFFECTS

Any structural elements within the masterplan will undergo additional environmental assessment including Appropriate Assessment screening. Many of these elements are at early design stages and will require further development before these elements can be assessed. However, none of the proposed structural elements within the masterplan would highlight a potential risk to any Natura 2000 site due to the minor nature of the works, the lack of direct hydrological pathway, the distance and nature of the features of interest of Natura 2000 sites.

Based on the information contained on the planning website [www.myplan.ie](http://www.myplan.ie) no recent developments have been granted or are proposed within the masterplan area. In June 2015 permission was granted for the construction of a single storey extension (c.200m<sup>2</sup>) at the Church of St James at Crinken, Shankill, Co Dublin to the south of the masterplan area. Woodbrook is a proposed development located to the south of the park. The proposal includes the provision of apartments, terraced houses, commercial units and a school. In addition, a development of social housing is proposed in the paddocks to the front of Shanganagh Castle. The development includes 8 major blocks of apartments tapering from 6 stories on the roadside down to 2 stories closer to the Castle. There are also 4 blocks of 2 storey terraced homes backing onto the Castle Farm housing estate boundary.

The scale of the entire project on site in addition to proposed projects outlined would not result in significant in-combination effects given the small scale of the project, the distance to Natura 2000 sites (and the lack of a direct hydrological connection to Natura 2000 sites).

No in-combination effects are foreseen.

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<sup>6</sup> Stepping stones and ecological corridors including nature conservation sites (other than Natura 2000 sites) encapsulated by Article 10 of the Habitats Directive. Such features are those which, by virtue of their linear and continuous structure such as rivers with their banks or the traditional systems for marking field boundaries or their function as stepping stones (such as ponds or small woods) are essential for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

The proposed site is located in a suburban environment 2.2 km from the nearest Natura 2000 site. Watercourses and surface runoff are seen as the main potential pathway for impacts on Natura 2000 sites. However, the site is not proximate to and does not have a direct pathway to watercourses that could act as potential vectors for impact on Natura 2000 sites. There is no direct hydrological pathway from the proposed development site a Natura 2000 site.

No Natura 2000 sites are within the zone of influence of this development. Having taking into consideration the elements of the masterplan, the distance between the masterplan area to designated conservation sites, the features of interest of the Natura 2000 sites, the lack of direct hydrological pathway or biodiversity corridor link to conservation sites, it is concluded that the Shanganagh Park and Cemetery Masterplan would not give rise to any significant effects to designated sites. The construction and operation of the masterplan will not impact on the conservation objectives of features of interest of Natura 2000 sites.

This report presents a Stage 1 Appropriate Assessment Screening for the Proposed Development, outlining the information required for the competent authority to screen for appropriate assessment and to determine whether or not the Proposed Development, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects, in view of best scientific knowledge, is likely to have a significant effect on any European or Natura 2000 site.

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

There is no possibility of significant impacts on Natura 2000 sites, features of interest or site specific conservation objectives. A Natura Impact Statement is not required.

Accordingly, having carried out the Stage 1 Appropriate Assessment Screening, the competent authority may determine that a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment of the Proposed Development is not required as it can be excluded, on the basis of objective scientific information following screening under this Regulation 42 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011, as amended, that the Proposed Development, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will have a significant effect on any European site.

## FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS REPORT

Details of project	Draft Shanganagh Park and Cemetery Masterplan (2019).
Name and Location of the NATURA 2000 sites within 15km.	Dalkey Islands SPA Wicklow Mountains SPA South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA North Bull Island SPA The Murrough SPA Howth Head Coast SPA Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC Knocksink Wood SAC Bray Head SAC Ballyman Glen SAC Wicklow Mountains SAC South Dublin Bay SAC Glen of the Downs SAC Carriggower Bog SAC Murrough Wetlands SAC North Dublin Bay SAC Howth Head SAC
Description of the Project	The proposed plan relates to the Draft Shanganagh Park and Cemetery Masterplan which the County Council has prepared to outline the vision of the Shanganagh Park and Cemetery for the next 10 years (2019-2019).
Is the Project directly connected with the management of the NATURA 2000 site?	No
Details of any other projects or plans that together with this project could affect the NATURA 2000 site	None
<b>The assessment of significant effects</b>	
Describe how the project is likely to affect the NATURA 2000 site	Negligible Impact Predicted
Response to consultation	N/A
Data collected to carry out the assessment	Site Visit and Supporting NPWS data.
Who carried out the assessment	Altemar Ltd.
Sources of data	NPWS website, standard data form, conservation objectives data, field surveys of the site and references outlined in the AA Screening Report.
Explain why the effects are not considered significant	No Natura 2000 sites are within the zone of influence of this development. Having taken into consideration the elements of the proposed masterplan, the distance between the plan area to designated conservation sites, lack of direct hydrological pathway or biodiversity corridor link to conservation sites, it is concluded that this development that would not give rise to any significant effects to designated sites.
Level of assessment completed	Stage 1 Screening
<b>Overall conclusions</b>	
On the basis of the content of this report, the competent authority is enabled to conduct a Stage 1 Screening for Appropriate Assessment and consider whether, in view of best scientific knowledge and in view of the conservation objectives of the relevant European sites, the proposed masterplan, individually or in combination with other plans or projects is likely to have a significant effect on any European site.	



## DATA USED FOR THE AA SCREENING ASSESSMENT

NPWS site synopses and Conservation objectives of sites within 10km and sites with a potential hydrological connection within 15km were examined. The most recent SAC and SPA boundary shapefiles were downloaded and overlaid on Bing road map and satellite imagery. A site visit was carried out including survey to determine if the site contained possible threats to a NATURA 2000 site.

## REFERENCES

The following references were used in the preparation of this AA screening report.

1. Department of Environment Heritage and Local Government Circular NPW 1/10 and PSSP 2/10 on Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive – Guidance for Planning Authorities March 2010.
2. Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland: Guidance for Planning Authorities, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government 2009; [http://www.npws.ie/publications/archive/NPWS\\_2009\\_AA\\_Guidance.pdf](http://www.npws.ie/publications/archive/NPWS_2009_AA_Guidance.pdf)
3. Managing NATURA 2000 Sites: the provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, European Commission 2000; [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/Natura2000/management/docs/art6/provision\\_of\\_art6\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/Natura2000/management/docs/art6/provision_of_art6_en.pdf)
4. Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly Affecting NATURA 2000 Sites: Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC; [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/Natura2000management/docs/art6/Natura\\_2000\\_assess\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/Natura2000management/docs/art6/Natura_2000_assess_en.pdf)
5. Guidance document on Article 6(4) of the 'Habitats Directive' 92/43/EEC – Clarification of the concepts of: alternative solutions, imperative reasons of overriding public interest, compensatory measures, overall coherence, opinion of the commission; [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/Natura2000/management/docs/art6/guidance\\_art6\\_4\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/Natura2000/management/docs/art6/guidance_art6_4_en.pdf)
6. Guidance document on the implementation of the birds and habitats directive in estuaries and coastal zones with particular attention to port development and dredging; [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/Natura2000/management/docs/guidance\\_doc.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/Natura2000/management/docs/guidance_doc.pdf)
7. The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland. [http://www.npws.ie/publications/euconservationstatus/NPWS\\_2007\\_Conservation\\_Status\\_Report.pdf](http://www.npws.ie/publications/euconservationstatus/NPWS_2007_Conservation_Status_Report.pdf)
8. NPWS (2016) Conservation objectives for Wicklow Mountains SAC [002122]. Generic Version 5.0. Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.
9. NPWS (2016) Conservation objectives for Wicklow Mountains SPA [004040]. Generic Version 5.0. Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.
10. SDCC online planning <https://www.sdcc.ie/en/services/planning/planning-applications/>
11. NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives: Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC 003000. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
12. NPWS (2018) Conservation objectives for Dalkey Islands SPA 004172. Generic Version 6.0. Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
13. NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives: South Dublin Bay SAC 000210. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
14. NPWS (2015) Conservation Objectives: South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA 004024. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

15. NPWS (2018) Conservation objectives for Dalkey Islands SPA [004172]. Generic Version 6.0. Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
16. NPWS (2012). Conservation Objectives: Baldoyle Bay SAC 000199. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
17. NPWS (2018) Conservation objectives for Ireland's Eye SPA [004117]. Generic Version 6.0. Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
18. NPWS (2018) Conservation objectives for Howth Head Coast SPA [004113]. Generic Version 4.0. Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
19. NPWS (2015) Conservation Objectives: North Bull Island SPA 004006. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
20. NPWS (2015) Conservation objectives for Howth Head SAC [000202]. Generic Version 1, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
21. NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives: North Dublin Bay SAC 000206. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
22. NPWS (2013b) Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC (site code: 3000) Conservation objectives supporting document. -Marine Habitats and Species Version 1

## **APPENDIX I KEY MASTERPLAN ACTIONS**

1. Entrance upgraded in line with DMURS
2. Tree Lined avenue with formalised parking (31 spaces)
3. Realigned and extended car park (133 spaces incl. 4 disabled)
4. Upgraded DLR Cemetery Depot
5. Relocated Recycling centre (15 spaces incl. 2 disabled)
6. Crematorium – Part 8 approved in 2016 (PC/PKS/02/16)
7. Lit corridor linkages
8. Relocated entrance piers
9. Boundary set back to invite users
10. Wetland pond for stormwater attenuation with viewing deck
11. Naturalistic mounding
12. Enlarged and relocated playground to incorporate natural play
13. Existing pond
14. Existing pitch to be retained for shared use
15. Shanganagh Castle to incorporate crèche, coffee shop
16. Formal lawn
17. Formal herbaceous garden with multi-use hard surfaced space
18. Ornamental sculpture walk with seating
19. Screen planting and mounding
20. Castle & sports parking (70 spaces incl. 4 disabled)
21. Existing building renovated as a multi-sport complex with new façade to include public toilets
22. New sand based pitches and floodlighting-shared usage (145x90m)
23. Reinforced warm-up area for grass pitches
24. Consolidated cricket and baseball pitches
25. Upgraded pedestrian entrances from Castle Farm & St. Anne's Park
26. Upgraded bridge crossing to include natural play and extensive seating area
27. Potential location for renewable energy generation
28. Sculptural mound to provide landscape views across and towards mountains
29. Sculpture installation (Cliff markers)
30. Improved access to Shanganagh beach
31. Proposed 'green' bridge
32. Potential Eastcoast Greenway route
33. Woodbrook residential development – indicative layout only
34. Proposed Woodbrook DART station with surface car parking – indicative layout only
35. Shanganagh Castle residential development – indicative layout only
36. Four lane sprint track with potential long and triple jump pits
37. Enlarged and improved dogs-off-leash area
38. New entrance at Shanganagh Vale.



## APPENDIX II -SHANGANAGH PARK MEADOWS

Species recorded on the 14/07/2010.

### MEADOW 1: WESTERN SIDE OF RAILWAY

Yorkshire Fog	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>
Meadow Foxtail	<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>
Creeping Bent	<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>
Rye Grass	<i>Lolium perenne</i>
Common Mouse-ear	<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>
Ribwort Plantain	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>
Cuckooflower	<i>Cardamine pratensis</i>
Broadleaved Dock	<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>
Dandelion	<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>
Common Sorrel	<i>Rumex acetosa</i>
Daisy	<i>Bellis perennis</i>
Lesser Stitchwort	<i>Stellaria graminea</i>
Creeping Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>

### Meadow 2: Eastern side of railway (two large scrub areas in the middle)

Yorkshire Fog	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>
Rye Grass	<i>Lolium perenne</i>
Creeping Bent	<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>
False-oat grass	<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>
Curled Dock	<i>Rumex crispus</i>
Yellow Rattle	<i>Rhianthus minor</i>
Creeping Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>
Hogweed	<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>
Red Clover	<i>Trifolium pratense</i>
White Clover	<i>Trifolium repens</i>
Smooth Hawksbeard	<i>Crepis capillaris</i>
Creeping Thistle	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>
Hop Trefoil	<i>Trifolium campestre</i>
Ribwort Plantain	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>
Vetch sp.	<i>Vicia sp.</i>
Lesser Stitchwort	<i>Stellaria graminea</i>
Ragwort	<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>

### Meadow 3: Eastern side of railway (closest to the sea)

Sweet Vernal Grass	<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>
Creeping Bent	<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>
Yorkshire Fog	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>
Rye grass	<i>Lolium perenne</i>
False-oat grass	<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>
Ribwort Plantain	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>
White Clover	<i>Trifolium repens</i>
Red Clover	<i>Trifolium pratense</i>
Yellow Rattle	<i>Rhianthus minor</i>
Smooth Hawksbeard	<i>Crepis capillaris</i>
Hogweed	<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>
Creeping Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>
Hop Trefoil	<i>Trifolium campestre</i>