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Marine & Environmental Consultancy

Appropriate Assessment Pre-Screening for Druid's Glen Road

Phase 3, Cherrywood

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On behalf of: DLRCC

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1. Introduction

The following Appropriate Assessment Pre-screening has been prepared by Altemar Ltd. at the request of DLRCC. An Appropriate Assessment is an assessment of the potential effects of a proposed project or plan, on its own, or in combination with other plans or projects, on one or more European sites (Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) or Special Protection Areas (SPA).

The purpose of this AA Pre-screening exercise is to describe the Emerging Preferred Concept and its local site characteristics; help confirm whether Druid's Glen Road Phase 3 could be considered to be a project for the purposes of the AA process and (if so) when that process should begin; help identify what European Sites could be relevant; and help identify qualifying interests and conservations objectives including those that could be affected and considered at Screening stage.

Altemar Ltd.

Since its inception in 2001, Altemar has been delivering ecological and environmental services to a broad range of clients. Operational areas include residential, infrastructural, renewable, oil & gas, private industry, local authorities, EC projects and State/semi-State Departments. Bryan Deegan is the managing director of Altemar. Bryan is an environmental scientist and marine biologist with 30 years' experience working in Irish terrestrial and aquatic environments, providing services to the State, Semi-State and industry. Bryan Deegan (MCIEEM) holds a MSc in Environmental Science, BSc (Hons.) in Applied Marine Biology, NCEA National Diploma in Applied Aquatic Science and a NCEA National Certificate in Science (Aquaculture). Bryan Deegan carried out all elements of this Appropriate Assessment Screening.

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 Habitats Directive, Articles 3 to 9 provide the legislative means to protect habitats and species of European Community interest through the establishment and conservation of an EU-wide network of conservation sites (NATURA, 2000). These are Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) designated under the Habitats Directive and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) designated under the Birds Directive), Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive set out the decision-making tests for plans and projects likely to affect European sites (Annex 1.1).

Article 6(3) establishes the requirement for Appropriate Assessment:

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

The definition of a "project" as per the Habitats Regulations (European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011 (as amended)) is "*any project that is a development requiring development consent within the meaning of the Planning and Development Act 2000 to 2011, including — (a) land use or infrastructural developments, including any development of land or on land,…*"

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

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

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

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

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

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

3. Stages of the Appropriate Assessment

The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government guidelines (DELHG, 2009, rev. 2010) outlines the European Commission's methodological guidance (EC, 2002) promoting a four-stage process to complete the AA and outlines the issues and tests at each stage. An important aspect of the process is that the outcome at each successive stage determines whether a further stage in the process is required.

The four stages are summarised diagrammatically in Figure 1. Stages 1-2 deal with the main requirements for assessment under Article 6(3), and Regulation 42 of the Birds and Habitats Regulations. Stage 3 may be part of the Article 6(3) Assessment or may be a necessary precursor to Stage 4. Stage 4 is the main derogation step of Article 6(4).

Figure 1. Four Stages of Appropriate Assessment

Stage 1 - Screening is the process that addresses and records the reasoning and conclusions in relation to the first two tests of Article 6(3):

i. whether a plan or project (in this instance the proposed project) is directly connected to or necessary for the management of the European sites; and
ii. whether a plan or project, alone or in combination with other plans and projects, is likely to have significant effects on the European sites in view of their conservation objectives.

If the effects are deemed to be significant, potentially significant, or uncertain, or if the screening process becomes overly complicated, then the process must proceed to Stage 2 (AA). This report fulfils the information necessary to enable the competent authority to screen the proposal for the requirement to prepare an AA.

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

1) Screening stage:
   - Ascertain whether the plan or project is necessary for the management of the European site;
   - Description of plan or project, and local site or plan area characteristics;
   - Identification of relevant European sites, and compilation of information on their qualifying interests and conservation objectives;
   - Definition of the likely zone of influence for the proposed development (including construction phase works)
   - Identification of the threats/impacts – actual or potential that could negatively impact the environmental conditions of the QIs/SCIs within the European sites;
   - Highlight the construction and operational activities of the proposed development that could give rise to significant negative impacts;
   - Identification of other plans or projects, for which in-combination impacts would likely have significant effects (see Section 5.3); and
   - Screening Conclusion.
2) Appropriate Assessment (Natura Impact Statement):
   - Description of the European sites that will be considered further;
   - Identification and description of potential adverse impacts on the conservation objectives of these sites likely to occur from the project or plan;
   - 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; and
- NIS Conclusions.

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

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

The methodology to be followed in relation to this assessment will have regard to the guidance and legislation set out below:

- European Union Habitats Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora 92/43/EEC, as amended;
- Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland - Guidance for Planning Authorities (DOEHLG 2009, rev 2010);
- Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management, OPR Practice Note PN01 – Office of the Planning Regulator, March 2021;
- The Planning and Development Act 2000-2021 – PART XAB;
- Managing Natura 2000 Sites: The provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC, European Commission (2019). Brussels, (2019/C 33/01). OJ C 33, 25.1.2019;
- Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Luxembourg (EC, 2018);
- European Commission Notice Brussels (2021) 6913 final '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' (EC, 2021);
- 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, Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Luxembourg (EC, 2002);
- Interpretation Manual of European Union Habitats. Version EUR 28. European Commission 2013;
- European Union (Environmental Impact Assessment and Habitats) Regulations 2011; and
- European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, S.I. No. 477 of 2011 (as amended).

3.1 AA Pre-Screening

3.1.1 Management of the Site

The Druid's Glen Road, Phase 3 is a 'Project' as set out in the Habitats Regulations, as amended, for the purpose of this AA Pre-Screening.

The project is not directly connected to, or necessary for, the management of any European site.

3.1.2 Description of Local Site and Area

The Cherrywood Strategic Development Zone (SDZ) is situated approximately 8 km south of Dún Laoghaire Town Centre near Loughlinstown, between the N11 and the M50, approximately a kilometre north of where they fork from the M11 – Refer to Figure 2. Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council (DLRCC) has been specified as the Development Agency for the Cherrywood SDZ by Government Order and as such, has prepared the Cherrywood Planning Scheme (CPS). The CPS requires the construction of a bridge feature on Druids Glen Road to link Development Area 5 (North of Carrickmines stream) to Development Area 1 (South of Carrickmines stream). The construction of this bridge is critical in addressing the infrastructure deficits required to open up land for development, and in particular housing.

The project is located in Lehaunstown, this area abuts Druid's Glen and Loughlinstown Valley. It's unique character is informed by the connection it creates between the more sensitive Glen and Valley. Lehaunstown Lane, which traverses through this area provides an historical reference, an environmental wealth and an important greenway through the heart of the Plan Area.

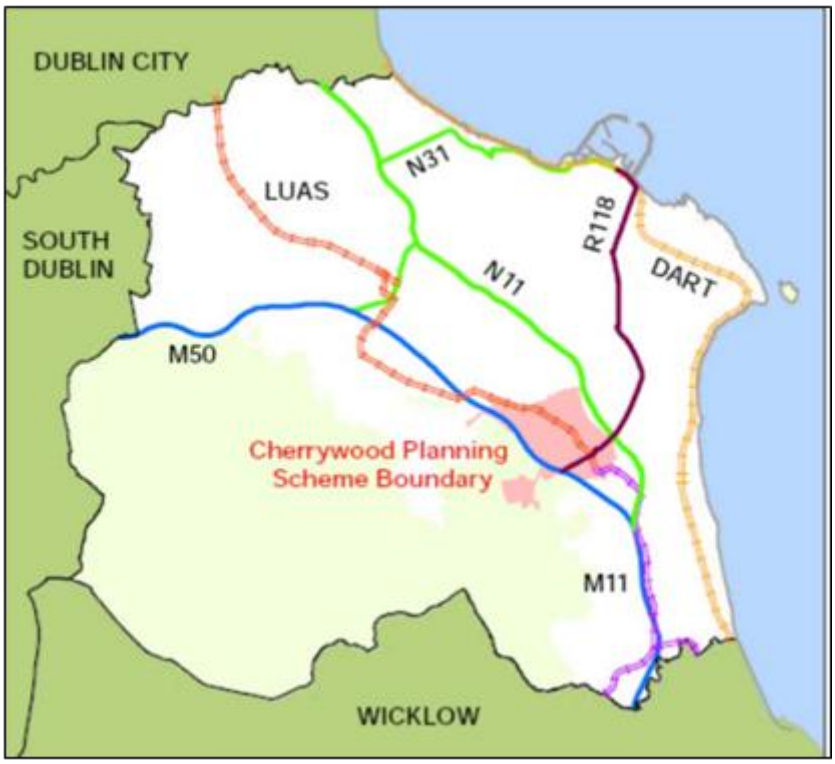

Figure 2. Cherrywood SDZ Locality Map

The bridge will cross Carrickmines River and Druids Glen Valley at the location where Lehaunstown Lane currently crosses the river. A new road will be constructed to replace Lehaunstown Lane which will connect the bridge to the N11, north-east of the valley and connect the bridge to Grand Parade, south-west of the valley.

The project is upstream of and has a direct hydrological link to the Loughlinstown Woods pNHA (001211). There are no Natura 2000 sites located in the immediate area. The designated sites located downstream of the study area include:

- Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC (003000);
- Dalkey Islands SPA (004172);
- Loughlinstown Wood pNHA (001211); and
- Dalkey Coastal Zone & Killiney Hill pNHA (001206).

3.1.3 Emerging Preferred Concept

The project is a bridge, located between a point just to the north of Point P3 and P (future signalized junction). The bridge will span Carrickmines River and Druid's Glen Valley and will help provide for vehicular and pedestrian/cyclist connectivity between Lehaunstown and the N11. The bridge is expected to have an overall length of approximately 147m to span the valley with circa 67m of south road section and 44m north road section to complete the infrastructure and tie-in with Phase 2. The road and bridge design will need to maintain the necessary road geometry to tie-in with other alignment designs at both ends.

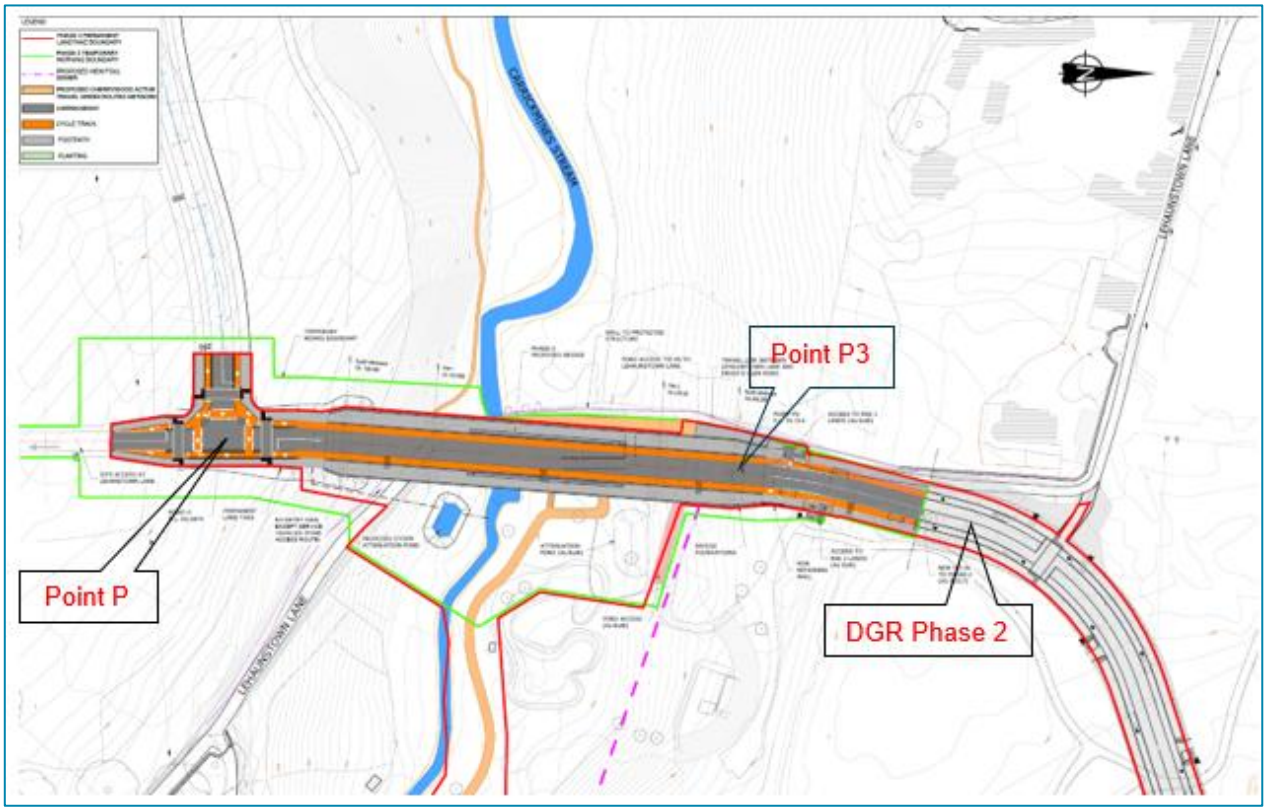

Figure 3. Location of proposed bridge (P3 - P)

The overall road cross section width is 17.5m and comprises a 7.0m wide carriageway with two 3.5m traffic lanes, and a 2.25m cycleway and 3.0m wide footpath on both sides of the road. As shown in Figure 3, the Study Area encompasses the road connections and its surroundings which facilitate the connection provided by the project (bridge). The scheme includes (but is not limited to) the following elements:

- Alterations to constructed road at P3 to achieve compliant tie-in gradients to existing road networks.
- Bridge Construction with circa 67m of road in south side of the bridge and 44m road north side of the bridge including tie in with Druids Glen Road Phase 2 at P3.

- Construction of a new link to Lehaunstown Lane as well as new link off Lehaunstown Lane to an existing pond.
- New signalised 'protected' junction at Junction P (Druids Glen/Barrington Road).
- Landscaping works and boundary treatment.
- Drainage, SUDS, and new attenuation pond.
- Earthworks and pavement.
- Signing and road markings.
- Public lighting.
- Accommodation Works.
- Utility services provision (including watermains, foul sewers, storm drainage, gas, power, and communications ducting, etc.) as required.

4. Identification of Relevant European Sites

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

In accordance with 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*, identification of the European sites that may be affected should be done by taking into consideration all aspects of the plan or project that could have potential effects on any European sites located within the zone of influence of the plan or project. This should take into account all of the designating features (species, habitat types) that are significantly present on the sites and their conservation objectives.

In particular, it should identify:

- Any European sites geographically overlapping with any of the actions or aspects of the plan or project in any of its phases, or adjacent to them;
- Any European sites within the likely zone of influence of the plan or project. Natura 2000 sites located in the surroundings of the plan or project (or at some distance) that could still be indirectly affected by aspects of the project, including as regards the use of natural resources (e.g. water) and various types of waste, discharge or emissions of substances or energy;
- European sites in the surroundings of the plan or project (or at some distance) which host fauna that can move to the project area and then suffer mortality or other impacts (e.g. loss of feeding areas, reduction of home range);
- European sites whose hydrological connectivity or ecological continuity can be affected by the plan or project.
- The range of European sites to be assessed, i.e. the zone in which impacts from the plan or project may arise, will depend on the nature of the plan or project and the distance at which effects may occur.

It is generally, but not necessarily, the case that the greater the distance from the plan or project the smaller the likelihood of impacts. In this case there are no designated European sites (Natura 2000) within an approximate 500m zone of influence of the study area, the nearest European site to the project is the Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC (3.4km). See Table 4-1 below for further details.

The nearest watercourse is the Carrickmines River located in the subject site which has a direct pathway to Killiney Bay. Rockabill to Dalkey SAC (Qualifying interests Harbour Porpoise and Reef) is located within Killiney Bay, albeit not at the mouth of the Carrickmines River. Out of an abundance of caution, and in line with

precautionary principle, it is considered that Harbour Porpoise could be in the vicinity of the mouth of the Carrickmines River and could be impacted by the works in the absence of mitigation. In addition, it is considered that given the scale of the works, the potential for significant effects and the direct pathway to the marine environment at the mouth of the Carrickmines River is within the zone of influence of the qualifying interests of Dalkey Islands SPA (Roseate Tern (*Sterna dougallii*), Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*) and Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*).

Out of an abundance of caution it is therefore considered that there is an indirect pathway to numerous marine based Natura 2000 sites including Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC (3.4km), Bray Head SAC (6km), South Dublin Bay SAC (6km), North Dublin Bay SAC (11.5km), Howth Head SAC (14.5km), Dalkey Islands SPA (4.8km), South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA (6km), North Bull Island SPA (11.6km), The Murrough SPA (13.3km) and Howth Head Coast SPA (14.4km) .

Figure 4. European Sites - SAC & SPA

The ZoI of the project would be restricted to the geographical area of which the project would affect in terms of receiving environments, with potential for minor localised noise and lighting impacts during construction which do not extend significantly beyond the site outline nor are they likely to have any significant effects on any European sites. During construction & operation, there is an indirect pathway to the forementioned European sites. In the absence of standard construction & operational phase mitigation e.g. petrochemical interception there is potential for localised downstream impacts.

Despite a lack of direct hydrological connection to European Sites, but in the interest of carrying out a thorough assessment in line with both the Habitats Directive, and the precautionary principle, the area of assessment was expanded beyond the ZoI to include designated sites within 15km of the project area, and sites beyond 15km with the potential for a hydrological connection. This was done in the interest of ensuring that any pathways, however indirect or remote, were considered.

The assessment of potential effects on European sites is conducted following a standard source-pathway-receptor model, where, in order for an effect to be established, all three elements of this mechanism must be in place. The absence or removal of one of the elements of the mechanism is sufficient to conclude that a potential effect is not of any relevance or significance.

- Source(s) – e.g., pollutant run-off from subject development;
- Pathway(s) – e.g., groundwater connecting to nearby qualifying wetland habitats; and
- Receptor(s) – e.g., qualifying habitats and species of European sites.

In the context of this report, a receptor is a QI or SCI, or an ecological feature that is known to be utilised by the QIs or SCIs of a European site. A source is any identifiable element of the subject development that is known to interact with the QI, SCI, or any ecological processes underpinning a QI or SCI. A pathway is any connection or link between the source and the receptor, for example a river.

The identification of a source-pathway-receptor link does not automatically mean that significant effects will arise. The likelihood for significant effects will depend upon the characteristics of the source (e.g. extent and duration of construction works), the characteristics of the pathway (e.g. direction and strength of prevailing winds for airborne pollution) and the characteristics of the receptor (e.g. the sensitivities of the European site and its QIs/SCIs). Where uncertainty exists, the precautionary principle is applied.

All European sites within 15km are listed in Table 4-1 . Further assessment of individual sites will be carried out at Stage (i c) preliminary design stage.

TABLE 4-1 NATURA 2000 SITES WITHIN 15KM OF THE PROJECT

Natura 2000 Site	Code	Distance	List of Qualifying Interest/Special Conservation Interest	Conservation Objectives	Direct Hydrological/Biodiversity Connection
Special Areas of Conservation					
Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC	IE003000	3.4 km	Reefs [1170] *Phocoena phocoena* (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]	https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_objectives/CO003000.pdf	No
Ballyman Glen SAC	IE000713	4.0 km	Petrifying springs with tufa formation (*Cratoneurion*) [7220] Alkaline fens [7230]	https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_objectives/CO000713.pdf	No
Knocksink Wood SAC	IE000725	5.2 km	Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220] Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0] Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0]	https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_objectives/CO000725.pdf	No
South Dublin Bay SAC	IE000210	6.0 km	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]	https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_objectives/CO000210.pdf	No
Bray Head SAC	IE000714	6.0 km	Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230] European dry heaths [4030]	https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_objectives/CO000714.pdf	No
Wicklow Mountains SAC	IE002122	7.0 km	Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (Littorelletalia uniflorae) [3110] Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160] Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix [4010] European dry heaths [4030] Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060]	https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_objectives/CO002122.pdf	No

Natura 2000 Site	Code	Distance	List of Qualifying Interest/Special Conservation Interest	Conservation Objectives	Direct Hydrological/Biodiversity Connection
			Calaminarian grasslands of the Violetalia calaminariae [6130] Species-rich Nardus 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 (Androsacetalia alpinae and Galeopsietalia ladani) [8110] Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8210] Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220] Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0] Lutra lutra (Otter) [1355]		
Glen of the Downs SAC	IE000719	10.9 km	Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0]	https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_objectives/CO000719.pdf	No
North Dublin Bay SAC	IE000206	11.5 km	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210] Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae) [1330] Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) [1410] Embryonic shifting dunes [2110]	https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_objectives/CO000206.pdf	No

Natura 2000 Site	Code	Distance	List of Qualifying Interest/Special Conservation Interest	Conservation Objectives	Direct Hydrological/Biodiversity Connection
			Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria (white dunes) [2120] Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130] Humid dune slacks [2190] Petalophyllum ralfsii (Petalwort) [1395]		
Glenasmole Valley SAC	IE001209	14 km	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (* important orchid sites) [6210] Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae) [6410] Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220]	https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_objectives/CO001209.pdf	No
Howth Head SAC	IE000202	14.5 km	Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230] European dry heaths [4030]	https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_objectives/CO000202.pdf	No
Carriggower Bog SAC	IE000716	14.7 km	Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140]	https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_objectives/CO000716.pdf	No
	Special Protection Areas				
Dalkey Islands SPA	IE004172	4.8 km	Roseate Tern (Sterna dougallii) [A192] Common Tern (Sterna hirundo) [A193] Arctic Tern (Sterna paradisaea) [A194]	https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_objectives/CO004172.pdf	No
South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA	IE004024	6.0 km	Light-bellied Brent Goose (Branta bernicla hrota) [A046] Oystercatcher (Haematopus ostralegus) [A130] Ringed Plover (Charadrius hiaticula) [A137]	https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_objectives/CO004024.pdf	No

Natura 2000 Site	Code	Distance	List of Qualifying Interest/Special Conservation Interest	Conservation Objectives	Direct Hydrological/Biodiversity Connection
			Grey Plover (Pluvialis squatarola) [A141] Knot (Calidris canutus) [A143] Sanderling (Calidris alba) [A144] Dunlin (Calidris alpina) [A149] Bar-tailed Godwit (Limosa lapponica) [A157] Redshank (Tringa totanus) [A162] Black-headed Gull (Chroicocephalus ridibundus) [A179] Roseate Tern (Sterna dougallii) [A192] Common Tern (Sterna hirundo) [A193] Arctic Tern (Sterna paradisaea) [A194] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]		
Wicklow Mountains SPA	IE004040	7.2 km	Merlin (Falco columbarius) [A098] Peregrine (Falco peregrinus) [A103]	https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_objectives/CO004040.pdf	No
North Bull Island SPA	IE004006	11.6 km	Light-bellied Brent Goose (Branta bernicla hrota) [A046] Shelduck (Tadorna tadorna) [A048] Teal (Anas crecca) [A052] Pintail (Anas acuta) [A054] Shoveler (Anas clypeata) [A056] Oystercatcher (Haematopus ostralegus) [A130] Golden Plover (Pluvialis apricaria) [A140] Grey Plover (Pluvialis squatarola) [A141] Knot (Calidris canutus) [A143] Sanderling (Calidris alba) [A144] Dunlin (Calidris alpina) [A149] Black-tailed Godwit (Limosa limosa) [A156]	https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_objectives/CO004006.pdf	No

Natura 2000 Site	Code	Distance	List of Qualifying Interest/Special Conservation Interest	Conservation Objectives	Direct Hydrological/Biodiversity Connection
			Bar-tailed Godwit (Limosa lapponica) [A157] Curlew (Numenius arquata) [A160] Redshank (Tringa totanus) [A162] Turnstone (Arenaria interpres) [A169] Black-headed Gull (Chroicocephalus ridibundus) [A179] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]		
The Murrough SPA	IE004186	13.3 km	Red-throated Diver (Gavia stellata) [A001] Greylag Goose (Anser anser) [A043] Light-bellied Brent Goose (Branta bernicla hrota) [A046] Wigeon (Anas penelope) [A050] Teal (Anas crecca) [A052] Black-headed Gull (Chroicocephalus ridibundus) [A179] Herring Gull (Larus argentatus) [A184] Little Tern (Sterna albifrons) [A195] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_objectives/CO004186.pdf	No
Howth Head Coast SPA	IE004113	14.4 km	Kittiwake (Rissa tridactyla) [A188]	https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_objectives/CO004113.pdf	No

5. Conclusions

AA Screening is required for any proposal which constitutes a "plan or project" within the meaning of the Habitats Directive and/or the Habitats Regulations and which is not "directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site as a European Site".

- The Druid's Glen Road, Phase 3 involves infrastructural development, including development on land and therefore constitutes a 'project'.
- The project is not directly connected to, or necessary for, the management of any European site.

The European Sites listed in Table 4-1 will be considered in the full AA Screening which will be undertaken at Stage (i c) Preliminary Design.

It is important to note that the Carrickmines River discharges to Killiney Bay. Rockabill to Dalkey SAC) is located within Killiney Bay, albeit not at the mouth of the Carrickmines River. Out of an abundance of caution, and in line with precautionary principle, it is considered that Harbour Porpoise could be in the vicinity of the mouth of the Carrickmines River and could be impacted by the works in the absence of mitigation. In addition, it is considered that given the scale of the works, the potential for significant effects and the direct pathway to the marine environment the mouth of the Carrickmines River is within the zone of influence of the qualifying interests of Dalkey Islands SPA.

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