

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

Project Title: Dundrum Bus Layover Scheme

Description of the Proposed Development:

The existing bus layover spaces at the Dundrum Main Street bus terminal are being relocated to unlock the area for future development. Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council (DLRCC) is working in conjunction with the National Transport Authority (NTA) to replace the capacity of the existing bus terminal and to accommodate the increase in bus services planned under the NTA's BusConnects programme.

The Proposed Scheme will require works to the existing road layout at multiple locations in the vicinity of the existing terminal on Dundrum Main Street and will have to consider the requirements for safe and efficient traffic, pedestrian and cyclist movement through and within the surrounding area. A new bus-only link also needs to be established to allow buses to travel directly from Dundrum Main Street to Sweetmount Avenue/Churchtown Road Upper, which will accommodate six proposed bus layover spaces on Churchtown Road Upper.

In summary the Proposed Scheme comprises:

- Provision of a bus gate between Dundrum Bypass/Main Street junction with Sweetmount Avenue/Churchtown Road Upper;
- Provision of two bus layover spaces on Churchtown Road Upper (Northbound) (opposite St. Nahi's Church;
- Provision of four bus layover spaces on Churchtown Road Upper (Eastbound) (before Taney Cross);
- Provision of one bus layover space on Main Street within an existing parallel parking bay. The adjacent existing bus stop will be retained;
- Provision of one additional bus layover space on Dundrum Bypass within an existing bus stop layby; and
- Provision of a new bus stop on Dundrum Bypass.

The Proposed Scheme also includes road markings, signal upgrades and public realm improvements.

Legislative Context:

- Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora)
- Habitats and Birds Directives (Council Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds)
- European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (as amended) (S.I. No. 477 of 2011)
- Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)
- Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 (as amended)
- The Roads Act 1993, as amended
- Road Traffic Act, 1994
- Roads Regulations, 1994 (S.I. 119/1994)

AA Screening Report:

The Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council Capital Projects Section has commissioned the preparation of the Appropriate Assessment Screening Report (AASR). The AASR was prepared by APEM Group – Woodrow.

The AASR has been examined and evaluated by Ger Ryan, Senior Planner, Planning & Economic

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

The AASR has considered potential effects which may arise during the construction and operational phases as a result of the implementation of the proposed Dundrum Bus Layover Scheme through an assessment of the potential sources and potential pathways for significant effects; an evaluation of the project characteristics; taking account of the processes involved and the distance of separation from European sites.

In total, fourteen European sites with potential source pathway receptor linkages to the proposed scheme were examined.

The AASR concludes that it can be excluded beyond reasonable scientific doubt, in view of best scientific knowledge and in the absence of mitigation that the proposed Dundrum Bus Layover Scheme, individually or in-combination with other plans or projects, is not likely to have a significant effect on the examined European Sites, in view of the sites' conservation objectives. An Appropriate Assessment is therefore, not required and that there is no requirement for a Natura Impact Statement to be prepared in respect of the proposed Dundrum Bus Layover Scheme.

The main reasons for this are as follows:

- Having regard to the relevant directives and legislation.
- The small scale, short duration and minor nature of the works will not give rise to water quality impacts of any significant magnitude.
- The downstream distances of any European site where hydrological connectivity were identified, and the dilution capacity of the receiving waterbodies are considered sufficient for any potential silt/oil to dissipate.
- Surface water from the site will drain into pre-existing surface water networks of stormwater drains which outfall into the River Slang that have silt trap gully pots.
- Standard best practice will be adhered to on-site during construction phase.
- No expected significant in combination effects are likely to occur arising from relevant schemes and planning applications.

Determination:

Having regard to the foregoing, on the basis of objective information and in view of best scientific knowledge and applying the precautionary principle, for the reasons set out above and in the AA Screening Report, it has been concluded that the proposed development (Dundrum Bus Layover Scheme), individually or in combination with other plans or projects¹, without relying on any mitigation measures, will not have a significant effect on any European Sites, in view of the sites' conservation objectives, and that there is no reasonable scientific doubt in relation to this conclusion.

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

Signature:


Name


Position / Department

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

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

Signatory (Approved Officer): *Alyce McCall* *A/Director of Services, Planning & Economic Dev. Dept.*
Name Position / Department

Delegation No. *2670*

Date: *21st Oct. 2028*

The proposed Dundrum Bus Layover Scheme is being promoted by the Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council Capital Projects Section.

This Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination in respect of the proposed Dundrum Bus Layover Scheme has been made by Director of Services of the Planning and Economic Department to apply appropriate functional separation in the carrying out of a Screening Determination for Appropriate Assessment.

