

PC/IC/01/23

**Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination under the  
European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011 (as  
amended)  
for  
Living Streets: Blackrock  
at  
Blackrock, Co. Dublin**

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council is proposing to enhance the attractiveness, liveability, connectivity, and economic vibrancy of Blackrock District via the Living Streets: Blackrock public realm improvement project. The proposed scheme will upgrade the urban realm in Blackrock Village with new hard and soft landscaping, planting, and street furniture it will also enhance the pedestrian and cycle infrastructure in the village. The scheme will include works to the following roads:

- Rock Hill
- Main Street
- Georges Avenue
- Main Street East (Maretimo Terrace)
- Carysfort Avenue
- Temple Road

The project consists of:

- Replace existing finishes with high quality permanent materials to create a consistent look and feel to the village. This landscape upgrade will provide better seating, footpaths, and planting. The scheme will make it easier and safer to walk and cycle to and within the village with extended pedestrian and cycling infrastructure and enhanced connectivity between Blackrock Main Street, the seafront, and its surrounding areas.
- The scheme will provide high quality surfaces free of trip hazards and will remove any level differences between pedestrian areas.
- Permanent in ground planting, including approximately 70 new trees will be included in the works along with areas of low-level planting.
- Rain gardens will be introduced along Main St, these areas of vegetation will catch and store rainwater.
- New permanent seating areas will be included along the street, as well as the creation of an enclosed parklet at the area outside Bank of Ireland.
- The public lighting system will also be modified as part of the scheme.
- A new contraflow cycle lane will be provided linking Blackrock Main Street to Main Street East (passing alongside the library), this will require the removal of on-street parking spaces along this section of road, although additional parking spaces have been provided nearby on Temple Road.
- The scheme will facilitate the relocation of the bus terminus away from the Seafront in accordance with objectives from the Blackrock Local Area Plan, the new terminus will be located on Rock Hill

The total length of the proposed development is 1.2km of road surface.

Having regard to the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and the Birds Directive (2009/147/EC), the Council determines that the proposal does not need to be subject to a Stage Two Appropriate Assessment (Natura Impact Statement).

It is considered that the Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening Report prepared by MKO Planning and Environmental Consultants gives full consideration to the Directives.

Through an assessment of the pathways for effects and an evaluation of the project characteristics, taking account of the processes involved and the distance of separation from European sites, it has been evaluated that there are no likely significant adverse effects on the qualifying interests, special conservation interest or the conservation objectives of any designated European site.

Given the nature and scale of the proposed works to Blackrock Village, the proposed development will not lead to significant in-combination effects with any other plans or projects.

This evaluation is made in view of the conservation objectives of the habitats or species for which these sites have been designated. It is concluded that the proposed development will not give rise to any significant adverse effects on designated European sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects. Consequently, a Stage Two AA / Natura Impact Statement is not required for the project.

Signature



Senior Engineer

Signatory (Approved Officer)



Date

24/03/2023