

Article 6 (3) Appropriate Assessment Screening Report

Living Streets: Blackrock





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Table of Contents

1. INTRODUCTION.....	3
1.1 Background.....	3
1.2 Appropriate Assessment.....	3
1.2.1 Screening for Appropriate Assessment.....	3
1.2.2 Statement of Authority.....	4
2. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT.....	5
2.1 Site Location.....	5
2.2 Characteristics of the Proposed Development.....	5
2.2.1 Description of the project.....	5
2.2.1.1 Cycle Track and Cycle Lane Construction:.....	6
2.2.1.2 Alterations to current drainage systems.....	6
2.2.1.3 Demolition works required to existing road and footpaths.....	6
2.2.1.4 Management of Trees and Grassland.....	7
2.2.1.5 Traffic.....	7
2.2.2 Description of the Baseline Ecological Environment.....	9
3. IDENTIFICATION OF RELEVANT EUROPEAN SITES.....	14
3.1 Identification of the European Sites within the Likely Zone of Impact.....	14
3.2 Likely Cumulative Impact of the Proposed Works on European Sites, in-combination with other plans and projects.....	31
3.2.1 Projects.....	31
3.2.2 Plans.....	33
4. ARTICLE 6(3) APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT SCREENING STATEMENT AND CONCLUSIONS.....	38
4.1 Data Collected to Carry Out Assessment.....	38
4.2 Concluding Statement.....	38
BIBLIOGRAPHY.....	39

TABLE OF PLATES

<i>Plate 2-1 Buildings and Artificial Surfaces (BL3) on the Main Street of Blackrock Village.....</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>Plate 2-2 Stone Wall (BL1) separating the footpath and treeline of Sycamore (Acer pseudoplatanus) and Laurel (Laurus nobilis) which is located outside the footprint of the proposed workst site.....</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>Plate 2-3 Flower Beds and Boarders (BC4) in Section C (Mainstreet) of Blackrock Village.....</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>Plate 2-4 Ornamental/ Non-native Shrub (WS3) in the Rockhill and Mainstreet (Section A) area.....</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>Plate 2-5 Hedgerow (WL1) dominated by Common Boxwood (Buxus sempervirens) in section E (Temple Road) of the proposed works site.....</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>Plate 2-6 Section of Treeline (WL2) dominated by of Common Birch (Betula pendula), an individual pendulate oak (Quercus robur), and an individual sycamore tree (Acer pseudoplatanus) present in Section E (Temple Road). ...</i>	<i>13</i>

TABLE OF TABLES

<i>Table 3-1 Identification of Designated sites within the Likely Zone of Impact.....</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>Table 3-2 Review of Relevant Policies and Objectives.....</i>	<i>34</i>



TABLE OF FIGURES

<i>Figure 2-1 Site Location</i>	8
<i>Figure 3-1 European sites</i>	15

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

MKO has been appointed to provide the information necessary to allow the competent authority to conduct an Article 6(3) Screening for Appropriate Assessment of proposed road upgrade works at Blackrock, County Dublin.

Screening for Appropriate Assessment is required under Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (the Habitats Directive). Where it cannot be excluded that a project or plan, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, would have a significant effect on a European Site then same shall be subject to an appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives. The current project is not directly connected with, or necessary for, the management of any European Site consequently the project has been subject to the Appropriate Assessment Screening process.

The assessment in this report is based on a desk study and field surveys undertaken on the 26/10/2022. It specifically assesses the potential for the proposed road upgrade works to result in significant effects on European sites in the absence of any best practice, mitigation, or preventative measures.

This Appropriate Assessment Screening Report has been prepared in accordance with the European Commission's Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly affecting Natura 2000 Sites: Methodological Guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (EC, 2021) and Managing Natura 2000 Sites: the provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC (EC, 2018) as well as the Department of the Environment's Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland - Guidance for Planning Authorities (DoEHLG, 2010) and the Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management. Office of the Planning Regulator, Dublin 7, Ireland OPR (2021).

In addition to the guidelines referenced above, the following relevant documents were also considered in the preparation of this report:

1. *Council of the European Commission (1992) Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora. Official Journal of the European Communities. Series L 20, pp. 7-49.*
2. *EC (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. *EC (2013) Interpretation Manual of European Union Habitats. Version EUR 28. European Commission.*
4. *EC (2020) Guidance document on wind energy developments and nature legislation*

1.2 Appropriate Assessment

1.2.1 Screening for Appropriate Assessment

Screening is the process of determining whether an Appropriate Assessment is required for a plan or project. Under Part XAB of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended, screening must be carried out by the Competent Authority. As per Section 177U of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended 'A screening for appropriate assessment shall be carried out by the competent authority to assess, in view of best scientific knowledge, if that Land use plan or proposed works, individually or in combination with another plan or project is likely to have a significant effect on the

European site'. The Competent Authority's determination as to whether an Appropriate Assessment is required must be made on the basis of objective information and should be recorded. The Competent Authority may request information to be supplied to enable it to carry out screening.

Consultants or project proponents may provide for the competent authority, the information necessary for them to determine whether an Appropriate Assessment is required and provide advice to assist them in the Article 6(3) Appropriate Assessment Screening decision.

Where it cannot be excluded beyond reasonable scientific doubt at the Screening stage, that a proposed plan or project, individually or in combination with other plans and projects, would have a significant effect on the conservation objectives of a European site, an Appropriate Assessment is required.

Where an Appropriate Assessment is required, the Competent Authority may require the applicant to prepare a Natura Impact Statement.

The term Natura Impact Statement (NIS) is defined in legislation¹. An NIS, where required, should present the data, information, and analysis necessary to reach a definitive determination as to 1) the implications of the plan or project, alone or in combination with other plans and projects, for a European site in view of its conservation objectives, and 2) whether there will be adverse effects on the integrity of a European site. The NIS should be underpinned by best scientific knowledge, objective information and by the precautionary principle.

This Article 6(3) Appropriate Assessment Screening Report has been prepared in compliance with the provision of section 177U of the Planning & Development Act 2010 as amended.

1.2.2 Statement of Authority

A baseline ecological survey was undertaken on the 26/10/2022 by Rachel Minogue (B.Sc.) and Kailan Mitchell (B.Sc.) of MKO. This report has been prepared by Rachel Minogue (BSc). RM is a graduate ecologist with MKO with relevant academic qualifications in Environmental Science. This report has been reviewed by Colin Murphy (B.Sc., MSc). Colin is an experienced project ecologist and has over 2 years' professional consultancy experience.

¹ As defined in Section 177T of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 as amended, an NIS means a statement, for the purposes of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive of the implications of a proposed development, on its own and in combination with other plans and projects, for a European site in view of its conservation objectives. It is required to include a report of a scientific examination of evidence and data, carried out by competent persons to identify, and classify any implications for the European site in view of its conservation objectives.

2. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

2.1 Site Location

The proposed works site is located in Blackrock, Co. Dublin (Grid reference: O 21576 29374), covering an area of 1km of road surface. The proposed works site is surrounded to the south and west by built-up urban and residential areas, to the east is South Dublin Bay SAC (120m), and to the north is Blackrock Park public amenity area. The railway station is located north of the proposed works area, and the railway line is 80m northeast of the proposed works site. Site access is via the N31, to L1011 and L1010.

The Site Location is shown in Figure 2.1.

2.2 Characteristics of the Proposed Development

2.2.1 Description of the project

Living Streets Blackrock is a public realm improvement project which aims to enhance the attractiveness, liveability, connectivity, and economic vibrancy of Blackrock District. 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 objectives for the proposed scheme include the following:

- To provide continuous, high-quality, and consistent cycling and walking facilities, including providing a safe and direct route for cyclists in Blackrock Village.
- To provide improved public realm areas and enhance the overall visual quality of Blackrock Village, including providing attractive seating areas to encourage visitors to the area and to promote social cohesion.
- To provide increased landscaping, planting, and SUDS elements to improve the environment.
- To promote modal shift from private vehicle to more sustainable modes including walking, cycling and public transport.
- To create a place for all ages and abilities.
- To enhance safety for all road users including vulnerable persons.

To achieve the above objectives, the following works will be carried out:

- 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 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

2.2.1.1 Cycle Track and Cycle Lane Construction:

The proposed raised and adjacent cycle lanes and two-way cycle track will be constructed in accordance with Section 5.6 of the National Cycle Manual Where the cycle lanes are on-road they will require full carriageway build-up.

2.2.1.1.1 Pavement Build-up on Carriageway:

Pavement type 1 will consist of the following:

- plane and replace of 45mm SMA wearing course.

No new road pavement will be constructed as part of the scheme and existing levels will be maintained.

2.2.1.2 Alterations to current drainage systems

The impermeable area associated with the existing layout will be reduced marginally when compared to the proposed works. As such, there is no requirement to upgrade the existing drainage network or outfalls within the scheme extents. Existing road gullies will be decommissioned where they are no longer aligned with kerbs. New gullies and connections will be required in areas where the alignment has changed. The drainage system in Blackrock is connected to a combined sewer. This negates the benefits associated with treatment parameters with Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDs). The most significant benefit to SUDs will be their attenuating properties.

2.2.1.3 Demolition works required to existing road and footpaths.

Much of the existing footpaths will be broken out and replaced with high quality paving. Minor utility diversions will be required as part of this project however exact details have not been assessed. At detailed design stage it's expected to optimise the proposed alignment to minimise disruption to existing services. New kerbs will be built along the existing road carriageway, these will require 2 x 1m trenches to accommodate the associated foundations. Public lighting is to be renewed as part of this scheme which will create a need for new foundations. The number of and type of lighting columns will dictate the extent of excavation required.

2.2.1.4 Management of Trees and Grassland


In the current design, it is proposed to remove a total of 3 trees, two from the main street which are unsuitable for their existing location, and one tree to facilitate the proposed works. It is proposed to plant approximately 70 new trees. This is in addition to a significant increase in low level planting area which is intended to be developed as a SUDs measure to provide attenuation to reduce the burden of intense rainfall events on the existing sewer system. The number of trees which can be planted is limited by the high volume of existing services within the village. Tree pits will be used to provide the necessary soil volumes for planting, these will allow for any utility diversions required.

2.2.1.5 Traffic

There will be no change to the existing traffic lane configuration in Blackrock. Given the improvement to public space and active travel infrastructure, a reduction in traffic volumes through the village following the implementation this scheme is expected. Future potential Bus Connects upgrade works along Frascati Road will increase the frequency of spine route bus links to Blackrock, further reducing traffic volumes.



Map Legend

 Site Boundary

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Drawing Title	
Site Location	
Project Title	
Living Streets: Blackrock, Co.Dublin.	
Drawn By	Checked By
RM	CM
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2.2.2 Description of the Baseline Ecological Environment

Assessing the impacts of any project and associated activities requires an understanding of the ecological baseline conditions prior to and at the time of the project proceeding. Ecological Baseline conditions are those existing in the absence of proposed activities (CIEEM 2018). A multidisciplinary ecological walkover survey of the site was conducted on the on the 26/10/2022 in line with NRA (2009) guidelines (Ecological Surveying Techniques for Protected Flora and Fauna during the Planning of National Road Schemes) by Rachel Minogue (B.Sc. Environmental Science) and Kailan Mitchell (B.Sc. Environmental Science) of MKO. While the ecological survey was undertaken outside the optimal time of year to undertake a habitat and flora survey (Smith et. al., 2011), habitats and floral species were readily identifiable during the survey.

Habitats within the footprint of the proposed works area are classified as **Buildings and Artificial Surfaces (BL3)** (Plate 2.1), **Stone Walls and Other Stonework (BL1)** (Plate 2.2), **Flower Beds and Boarders (BC4)** (Plate 2.3), **Ornamental/ Non-native Shrub (WS3)** (Plate 2.4), **Hedgerows (WL1)** (Plate 2.5), and **Treelines (WL2)** (Plate 2.6).

Residential buildings, public buildings (churches, shops etc), associated tarred areas for access (roads and footpaths) and car parking, and concrete walls have been classified as **Buildings and Artificial Surfaces (BL3)**. This was the most dominant habitat type within the proposed works site.

Stone walls and other stonework (BL1) are less common than concrete walls. However, stone walls comprised the boundary of the footpaths in section A (Rockhill and Mainstreet) of the proposed works site, see plate (2.2).

Flower Beds and Boarders (BC4) are abundant in section C (Main Street), bordering both sides of the road (Plate). Species planted within the flower beds include Lavender (*Lavandula spp*), Daisy (*Bellis perennis*), Sunflower (*Helianthus spp*), and Young Potted Crab Apple (*Malus spp*) (Plate 2.3).

Ornamental/ Non-native Shrub (WS3) is present in sections A (Rockhill and Mainstreet) and Section E (Temple Road). Species recorded include Turkish Sage (*Phlomis russeliana*), Persian Catmint (*Nepeta racemose*), Marram Grass (*Ammophila arenaria*), Cranesbill (*Geranium sylvaticum*), and Hairy Michaelmas Daisy (*Symphyotrichum novae-angliae*) (Plate 2.4).

Hedgerows (WL1) are present within Section E (Temple Road). and Section C (Main Street). The hedgerows are dominated by Common Boxweed (*Buxus sempervirens*). Other species present within the hedgerows include Lavender (*Lavandula spp*), Firethorn (*Pyracantha spp*), *Periwinkle (Vinca spp)*, and *Ivy (Hedera spp)*. The hedgerows present within the proposed works site are extensively manged via cutting, so are all homogenous in appearance (Plate 2.5) and relatively poor in biodiversity terms.

A **Treeline (WL2)** comprised of Common Birch (*Betula pendula*), an individual Pendulate Oak (*Quercus robur*), and an individual Sycamore tree (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) are present in Section E (Temple Road) (Plate 2.6) Two individually standing White Beam (*Sorbus aria*) are present in the north section of Section D (Carysfort Avenue) and another section of treeline comprised of Plane trees (*Platanus spp*) is present in the eastern section of Section D. A Treeline of Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*) is present in Section C (Main Street) Within the intersecting area of Section C and D, are two individually standing Hazel trees (*Corylus spp*). Two individually standing Sycamores (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) are present on Georges Avenue (Section B).

One watercourse was identified within the site: The Brewery Stream 010, which runs through Blackrock Village at two locations, before discharging into Dublin Bay. The Brewery Streams flows north of Rockhill and south of the main street. This is a culverted watercourse. Dublin Bay is 108m east of Blackrock Village. No faunal species or evidence of faunal species associated with any European Designated sites were recorded within the proposed works site. No habitats listed under Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive were identified within the site boundary. None of the habitats within the



Proposed works site provide supporting habitat for any QI/SCI species associated with nearby European Site.



Plate 2-1 Buildings and Artificial Surfaces (BL3) on the Main Street of Blackrock Village.



Plate 2-2 Stone Wall (BL1) separating the footpath and treeline of Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) and Laurel (*Laurus nobilis*) which is located outside the footprint of the proposed works site.



Plate 2-3 Flower Beds and Boarders (BC4) in Section C (Mainstreet) of Blackrock Village.

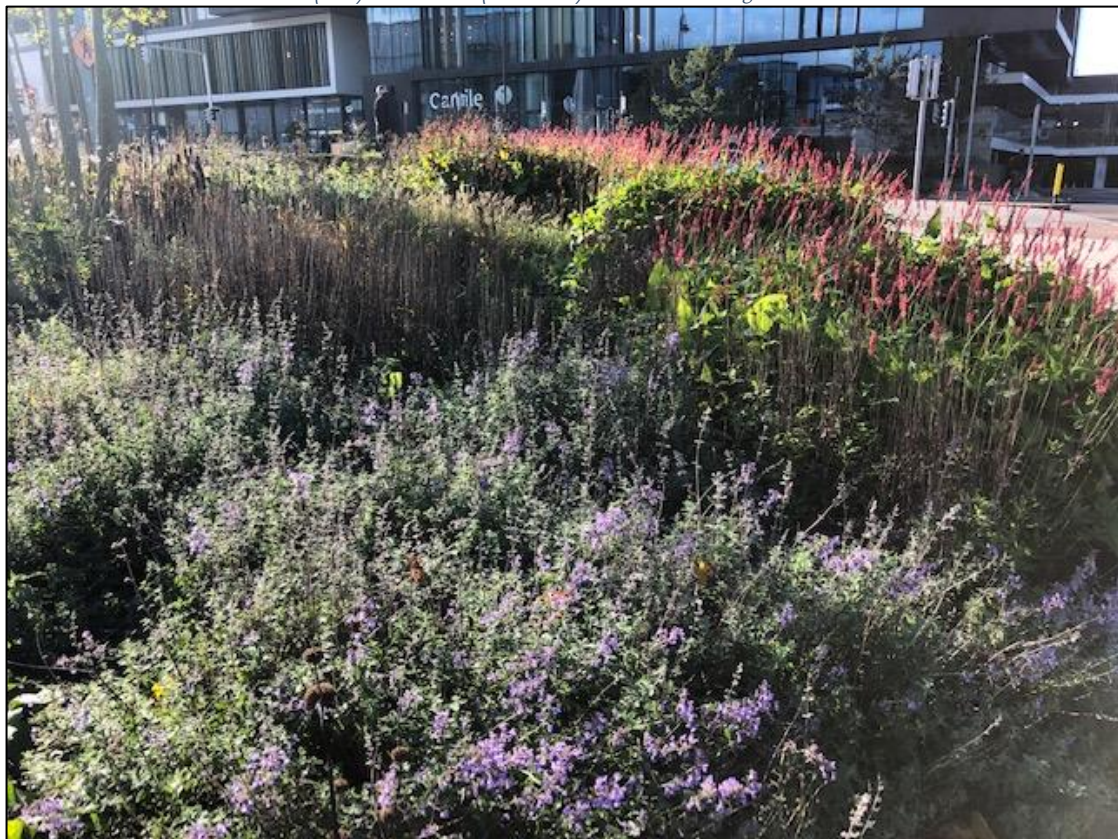


Plate 2-4 Ornamental/ Non-native Shrub (WS3) in the Rockhill and Mainstreet (Section A) area.



Plate 2-5 Hedgerow (WL1) dominated by Common Boxwood (*Buxus sempervirens*) in section E (Temple Road) of the proposed



works site.

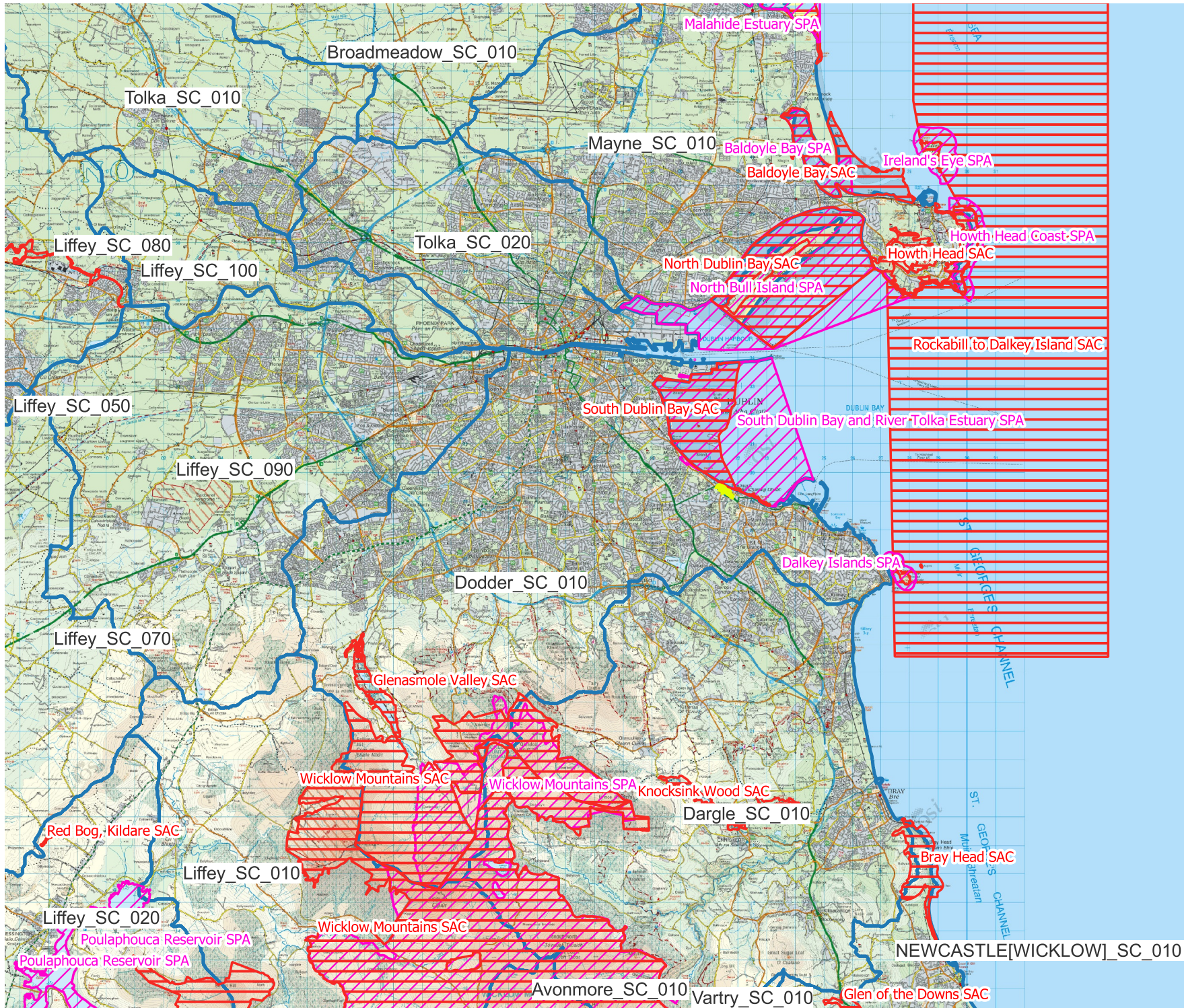
Plate 2-6 Section of Treeline (WL2) dominated by of Common Birch (*Betula pendula*), an individual pendulate oak (*Quercus robur*), and an individual sycamore tree (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) present in Section E (Temple Road).

3. IDENTIFICATION OF RELEVANT EUROPEAN SITES

3.1 Identification of the European Sites within the Likely Zone of Impact


The following methodology was used to establish which European Sites are within the Likely Zone of Impact of the proposed works:

- Initially the most up to date GIS spatial datasets for European designated sites and water catchments were downloaded from the NPWS website (www.npws.ie) and the EPA website (www.epa.ie) on the 18/11/2022.
- All European Sites that could potentially be affected were identified using a source-pathway - receptor model. To provide context for the assessment, European Sites surrounding the development site are shown on Figure 3.1. Information on these sites with regard to their conservation objectives is provided in Table 3-1. Sites that were further away from the proposed works were also considered and no complete source-pathway-receptor chain for significant effect was identified for any other European Site.
- The catchment mapping was used to establish or discount potential hydrological connectivity between the site of the proposed works and any European Sites. The hydrological catchments are also shown in Figure 3.1.
- In relation to Special Protection Areas, in the absence of any specific European or Irish guidance in relation to such sites, the Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) Guidance, ‘*Assessing Connectivity with Special Protection Areas (SPA)*’ (2016) was consulted. This document provides guidance in relation to the identification of connectivity between proposed works and Special Protection Areas. The guidance takes into consideration the distances species may travel beyond the boundary of their SPAs and provides information on dispersal and foraging ranges of bird species which are frequently encountered when considering plans and projects.
- Table 3.1 provides details of all relevant European Sites as identified in the preceding steps and assesses which are within the likely Zone of Impact.
- The assessment considers any likely direct or indirect impacts of the proposed works, both alone and in combination with other plans and projects, on European Sites by virtue of the following criteria: size and scale, land-take, distance from the European Site or key features of the site, resource requirements, emissions, excavation requirements, transportation requirements and duration of construction, operation and decommissioning were considered in this screening assessment.
- The site synopses and conservation objectives of these sites, as per the NPWS website (www.npws.ie), were consulted and reviewed at the time of preparing this report (18/11/2022).
- The potential for the proposed development to result in cumulative impacts on any European Sites in combination with other plans and projects was considered in the assessment that is presented in Table 3.1. Plans and projects considered include those in Sections 3.2.1 and 3.2.2 of this report.



Map Legend

-  Site Boundary
-  Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
-  Special Protection Area (SPA)
-  EPA Hydrological Subcatchments




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Drawing Title
European Designated Sites Within the Likely Zone of Influence

Project Title
 Living Streets: Blackrock, Co. Dublin.

Drawn By RM	Checked By CM
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Table 3-1 Identification of Designated sites within the Likely Zone of Impact

European Sites and distance from proposed works	Qualify Interests/Special Conservation Interests for which the European site has been designated (Sourced from NPWS online Conservation Objectives, www.npws.ie on the 18/10/22	Conservation Objectives	Identification of Source-Pathway-Receptor chain and Likely Zone of Impact Determination
Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)			
South Dublin Bay SAC Distance: 70m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ [1140] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide. ➤ [1210] Annual vegetation of drift lines ➤ [1310] Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand. ➤ [2110] Embryonic shifting dunes 	Detailed conservation objectives for this site, (Version 1, 22 August 2013), were reviewed as part of the assessment and are available at www.npws.ie	<p>There is no potential for direct effects as the proposed works area is located entirely outside the boundary of this SAC.</p> <p>The proposed works area is located approximately 70m southwest of South Dublin Bay SAC. The works are separated from the SAC by existing residential, road and dart line developments. The Brewery Stream, which is a culverted watercourse, runs through the proposed works area at two locations before discharging into Dublin Bay. However, there is no hydrological connectivity via the proposed works and South Dublin Bay SAC via the Brewery stream, as the proposed works area does not drain into this existing culverted stream. Therefore, there will be no indirect effects on this European site as a result of pollution to the existing drainage network or deterioration of water quality.</p> <p>As such, due to the small nature and scale of the proposed works, and the buffering distance of 70m from the works area to this SAC, there is no potential for significant indirect effects during the construction of the proposed works on this designated European site.</p> <p>No pathway for significant effect on this European Site was identified, when considered in the absence of any mitigation, individually or cumulatively with other plans or projects and</p>

European Sites and distance from proposed works	Qualify Interests/Special Conservation Interests for which the European site has been designated (Sourced from NPWS online Conservation Objectives, www.npws.ie on the 18/10/22	Conservation Objectives	Identification of Source-Pathway-Receptor chain and Likely Zone of Impact Determination
Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)			
			the site is not within the Likely Zone of Impact and is not considered further in this Screening assessment.
North Dublin Bay SAC Distance: 5.2km	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ [1140] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide. ➤ [1210] Annual vegetation of drift lines ➤ [1310] Salicornia 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 (grey dunes) * ➤ [2190] Humid dune slacks 	Detailed conservation objectives for this site, (Version 1, 06 November 2013), were reviewed as part of the assessment and are available at www.npws.ie	<p>There is no potential for direct effects as the proposed works area is located entirely outside the boundary of this SAC.</p> <p>The proposed works area is located approximately 5.2km south of North Dublin Bay SAC. The works are separated from the SAC by existing residential, road and dart line developments, and 5.2km of open waters in Dublin Bay.</p> <p>Therefore, due to the small nature and scale of the proposed works, and the buffering distance of 5.2km from the works area to this SAC, there is no potential for significant indirect effects during the construction of the proposed works on this designated European site.</p> <p>No pathway for significant effect on this European Site was identified, when considered in the absence of any mitigation, individually or cumulatively with other plans or projects and the site is not within the Likely Zone of Impact and is not considered further in this Screening assessment.</p>

European Sites and distance from proposed works	Qualify Interests/Special Conservation Interests for which the European site has been designated (Sourced from NPWS online Conservation Objectives, www.npws.ie on the 18/10/22	Conservation Objectives	Identification of Source-Pathway-Receptor chain and Likely Zone of Impact Determination
Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)			
Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC Distance: 5.6km	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ [1170] Reefs ➤ [1351] Harbour porpoise <i>Phocoena phocoena</i> 	Detailed conservation objectives for this site, (Version 1, 07 May 2013), were reviewed as part of the assessment and are available at www.npws.ie	<p>There is no potential for direct effects as the proposed works area is located entirely outside the boundary of this SAC.</p> <p>The proposed works area is located approximately 5.6km southwest of Rockabill to Dalkey SAC. The works are separated from the SAC by existing residential, road and dart line developments, and 5.6km of open waters in Dublin Bay.</p> <p>As such, due to the small nature and scale of the proposed works, and the buffering distance of 5.6km from the works area to this SAC, there is no potential for significant indirect effects during the construction of the proposed works on this designated European site.</p> <p>No pathway for significant effect on this European Site was identified, when considered in the absence of any mitigation, individually or cumulatively with other plans or projects and the site is not within the Likely Zone of Impact and is not considered further in this Screening assessment.</p>
Howth Head SAC Distance: 9km	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ [1230] Vegetated Sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts ➤ [4030] European dry heaths 	Detailed conservation objectives for this site, (Version 1, 06 December 2016), were reviewed as part of the assessment and are available at www.npws.ie	<p>There is no potential for direct effects as the proposed works area is located entirely outside the boundary of this SAC.</p> <p>The proposed works area is located 9km southwest of this SAC. Due to the to the small nature and scale of the proposed works, the terrestrial nature of the QI habitats, and</p>

European Sites and distance from proposed works	Qualify Interests/Special Conservation Interests for which the European site has been designated (Sourced from NPWS online Conservation Objectives, www.npws.ie on the 18/10/22	Conservation Objectives	Identification of Source-Pathway-Receptor chain and Likely Zone of Impact Determination
Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)			
			<p>the buffering distance of 9km from the proposed works area to this SAC, there is no potential for significant indirect effects during the construction of the proposed works on this designated European site.</p> <p>No pathway for significant effect on this European Site was identified, when considered in the absence of any mitigation, individually or cumulatively with other plans or projects and the site is not within the Likely Zone of Impact and is not considered further in this Screening assessment.</p>
<p>Wicklow Mountains SAC</p> <p>Distance: 10km</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ [1355] Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> ➤ [3110] Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>) ➤ [3130] Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the <i>Littorelletea uniflorae</i> and/or <i>Isoeto-Nanojuncetea</i> ➤ [3160] Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds ➤ [4010] Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> ➤ [4030] European dry heaths ➤ [4060] Alpine and Boreal heaths 	<p>Detailed conservation objectives for this site, (Version 1, 31 July 2017), were reviewed as part of the assessment and are available at www.npws.ie</p>	<p>There is no potential for direct effects as the proposed works area is located entirely outside the boundary of this SAC.</p> <p>The proposed works are located 10km north of this SAC. There are no hydrological linkages between the proposed works area and this SAC. As such, due to the buffering distance of 10km from the proposed works and this SAC, and the absence of a complete source-pathway-receptor chain, there is no potential for significant indirect effects during the construction of the proposed works on this designated European site.</p> <p>No pathway for significant effect on this European Site was identified, when considered in the absence of any mitigation, individually or cumulatively with other plans or projects and</p>

European Sites and distance from proposed works	Qualify Interests/Special Conservation Interests for which the European site has been designated (Sourced from NPWS online Conservation Objectives, www.npws.ie on the 18/10/22	Conservation Objectives	Identification of Source-Pathway-Receptor chain and Likely Zone of Impact Determination
Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ [6130] Calaminarian grasslands of the <i>Violetalia calaminariae</i> ➤ [6230] Species-rich <i>Nardus</i> grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe) * ➤ [7130] Blanket bogs (* if active bog) ➤ [8110] Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (<i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsietalia ladani</i>) ➤ [8210] Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation ➤ [8220] Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation ➤ [91A0] Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles 		<p>the site is not within the Likely Zone of Impact and is not considered further in this Screening assessment.</p>
<p>Knocksink Wood SAC</p> <p>Distance: 10.3km</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ [7220] Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>)* ➤ [91A0] Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles 	<p>Detailed conservation objectives for this site, (Version 1, 13 December 2021), were reviewed as part of the assessment and are available at www.npws.ie</p>	<p>There is no potential for direct effects as the proposed works area is located entirely outside the boundary of this SAC.</p> <p>The proposed works area is located 10.3km north of this SAC. There are no hydrological linkages between the proposed works area and this SAC. As such, due to the</p>

European Sites and distance from proposed works	Qualify Interests/Special Conservation Interests for which the European site has been designated (Sourced from NPWS online Conservation Objectives, www.npws.ie on the 18/10/22	Conservation Objectives	Identification of Source-Pathway-Receptor chain and Likely Zone of Impact Determination
Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ [91E0] Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i>, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>)* 		<p>buffering distance of 10.3km from the proposed works and this SAC, and the absence of a complete source-pathway-receptor chain, there is no potential for significant indirect effects during the construction of the proposed works on this designated European site.</p> <p>No pathway for significant effect on this European Site was identified, when considered in the absence of any mitigation, individually or cumulatively with other plans or projects and the site is not within the Likely Zone of Impact and is not considered further in this Screening assessment.</p>
<p>Ballyman Glen SAC</p> <p>Distance: 10.3km</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ [7220] Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>)* ➤ [7230] Alkaline fens 	<p>Detailed conservation objectives for this site, (Version 1, 17 July 2019), were reviewed as part of the assessment and are available at www.npws.ie</p>	<p>There is no potential for direct effects as the proposed works area is located entirely outside the boundary of this SAC.</p> <p>The proposed works are located 10.3km north of this SAC. There are no hydrological linkages between the proposed works area and this SAC. As such, due to the buffering distance of 10.3km from the proposed works and this SAC, and the absence of a complete source-pathway-receptor chain, there is no potential for significant indirect effects during the construction of the proposed works on this designated European site.</p> <p>No pathway for significant effect on this European Site was identified, when considered in the absence of any mitigation, individually or cumulatively with other plans or projects and</p>

European Sites and distance from proposed works	Qualify Interests/Special Conservation Interests for which the European site has been designated (Sourced from NPWS online Conservation Objectives, www.npws.ie on the 18/10/22	Conservation Objectives	Identification of Source-Pathway-Receptor chain and Likely Zone of Impact Determination
Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)			
the site is not within the Likely Zone of Impact and is not considered further in this Screening assessment.			
Baldoyle Bay SAC Distance: 10.9km	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ [1140] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide. ➤ [1310] Salicornia and other annuals colonizing mud and sand. ➤ [1330] Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>) ➤ [1410] Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) 	Detailed conservation objectives for this site, (Version 1, 19 November 2012), were reviewed as part of the assessment and are available at www.npws.ie	<p>There is no potential for direct effects as the proposed works area is located entirely outside the boundary of this SAC.</p> <p>The proposed works area is located approximately 10.9km southwest to Baldoyle Bay SAC. The works are separated from the SAC by existing residential, road and dart line developments, and 10.9km of open waters in Dublin Bay.</p> <p>As such, due to the small nature and scale of the proposed works, and the buffering distance of 10.9km from the works area to this SAC, there is no potential for significant indirect effects during the construction of the proposed works on this designated European site.</p> <p>No pathway for significant effect on this European Site was identified, when considered in the absence of any mitigation, individually or cumulatively with other plans or projects and the site is not within the Likely Zone of Impact and is not considered further in this Screening assessment.</p>
Bray Head SAC Distance: 12.8km	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ [1230] Vegetated Sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts ➤ [4030] European dry heaths 	Detailed conservation objectives for this site, (Version 1, 11 April 2017), were reviewed as part of the assessment and are available at www.npws.ie	<p>There is no potential for direct effects as the proposed works area is located entirely outside the boundary of this SAC.</p>

European Sites and distance from proposed works	Qualify Interests/Special Conservation Interests for which the European site has been designated (Sourced from NPWS online Conservation Objectives, www.npws.ie on the 18/10/22	Conservation Objectives	Identification of Source-Pathway-Receptor chain and Likely Zone of Impact Determination
Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)			
			<p>The proposed works area is located 12.8km southwest of this SAC Due to the to the small nature and scale of the proposed works, the terrestrial nature of the QI habitats, and the buffering distance of 12.8km from the proposed works area to this SAC, there is no potential for significant indirect effects during the construction of the proposed works on this designated European site.</p> <p>No pathway for significant effect on this European Site was identified, when considered in the absence of any mitigation, individually or cumulatively with other plans or projects and the site is not within the Likely Zone of Impact and is not considered further in this Screening assessment.</p>
<p>Ireland's Eye SAC Distance:13.6km</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ [1220] Perennial vegetation of stony banks ➤ [1230] Vegetated Sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts 	<p>Detailed conservation objectives for this site, (Version 1, 27 January 2017), were reviewed as part of the assessment and are available at www.npws.ie</p>	<p>There is no potential for direct effects as the proposed works area is located entirely outside the boundary of this SAC.</p> <p>The proposed works area is located 13.6km southwest of this SAC Due to the to the small nature and scale of the proposed works, the terrestrial nature of the QI habitats, and the buffering distance of 13.6km from the proposed works area to this SAC, there is no potential for significant indirect effects during the construction of the proposed works on this designated European site.</p>

European Sites and distance from proposed works	Qualify Interests/Special Conservation Interests for which the European site has been designated (Sourced from NPWS online Conservation Objectives, www.npws.ie on the 18/10/22	Conservation Objectives	Identification of Source-Pathway-Receptor chain and Likely Zone of Impact Determination
Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)			
			<p>No pathway for significant effect on this European Site was identified, when considered in the absence of any mitigation, individually or cumulatively with other plans or projects and the site is not within the Likely Zone of Impact and is not considered further in this Screening assessment.</p>
<p>Glenasmole Valley SAC</p> <p>Distance:13.9km</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ [6210] Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) (* important orchid sites) ➤ [6410] <i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty, or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>) ➤ [7220] Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>)* 	<p>Detailed conservation objectives for this site, (Version 1, 10 December 2021), were reviewed as part of the assessment and are available at www.npws.ie</p>	<p>There is no potential for direct effects as the proposed works area is located entirely outside the boundary of this SAC.</p> <p>The proposed works are located 13.9km southwest of this SAC. There are no hydrological linkages between the proposed works area and this SAC. As such, due to the buffering distance of 13.9km from the proposed works and this SAC, and the absence of a complete source-pathway-receptor chain, there is no potential for significant indirect effects during the construction of the proposed works on this designated European site.</p> <p>No pathway for significant effect on this European Site was identified, when considered in the absence of any mitigation, individually or cumulatively with other plans or projects and the site is not within the Likely Zone of Impact and is not considered further in this Screening assessment.</p>
Special Protection Area (SPA)			

European Sites and distance from proposed works	Qualify Interests/Special Conservation Interests for which the European site has been designated (Sourced from NPWS online Conservation Objectives, www.npws.ie on the 18/10/22	Conservation Objectives	Identification of Source-Pathway-Receptor chain and Likely Zone of Impact Determination
Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)			
South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA Distance: 70m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ [A046] Light-bellied Brent Goose <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> ➤ [A130] Oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> ➤ [A137] Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</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> ➤ [A157] Bar-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa lapponica</i> ➤ [A162] Redshank <i>Tringa tetanus</i> ➤ [A179] Black-headed Gull <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> ➤ [A192] Roseate Tern <i>Sterna dougallii</i> ➤ [A193] Common Tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i> ➤ [A194] Arctic Tern <i>Sterna paradisaea</i> ➤ [A999] Wetlands 	Detailed conservation objectives for this site, (Version 1, 09 March 2015), were reviewed as part of the assessment and are available at www.npws.ie	<p>There is no potential for direct effects as the proposed works area is located entirely outside the boundary of this SPA.</p> <p>The Brewery Stream, which is a culverted watercourse, runs through the proposed works area at two locations before discharging into Dublin Bay. However, there is no hydrological connectivity via the proposed works and South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA via the Brewery stream, as the proposed works area does not drain into this existing culverted stream. Therefore, there will be no indirect effects on the SCI species of this European site as a result of pollution to the existing drainage network or deterioration of water quality.</p> <p>The Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina alpina</i>) has a core range of 500m (SNH 2016). This SPA is located 70m from the proposed works site, as such is within the core foraging range for this SCI species.</p> <p>However, there is no suitable foraging or roosting habitat for the listed SCI species within the boundary of the proposed works. Further, due to the existing urban environment of the proposed works area, and the buffering distance of 70m, there is no potential for ex situ disturbance or displacement related impacts on these SCI species during the construction and operation of the proposed works.</p>

European Sites and distance from proposed works	Qualify Interests/Special Conservation Interests for which the European site has been designated (Sourced from NPWS online Conservation Objectives, www.npws.ie on the 18/10/22	Conservation Objectives	Identification of Source-Pathway-Receptor chain and Likely Zone of Impact Determination
Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)			
			<p>No pathway for significant effect on this European Site was identified, when considered in the absence of any mitigation, individually or cumulatively with other plans or projects and the site is not within the Likely Zone of Impact and is not considered further in this Screening assessment.</p>
<p>North Bull Island SPA Distance: 4.8km</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ [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> ➤ [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> 	<p>Detailed conservation objectives for this site, (Version 1, 09 March 2015), were reviewed as part of the assessment and are available at www.npws.ie</p>	<p>There is no potential for direct effects as the proposed works area is located entirely outside the boundary of this SPA.</p> <p>This SPA is outside the maximum core range of 3km for the Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina alpina</i>), and 2km for the Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) (SNH 2016).</p> <p>However, there is no suitable foraging or roosting habitat for the listed SCI species within the boundary of the proposed works. Further, due to the existing urban environment of the proposed works area, and the buffering distance of 4.8km, there is no potential for ex situ disturbance or displacement related impacts on these SCI species during the construction and operation of the proposed works.</p> <p>No pathway for significant effect on this European Site was identified, when considered in the absence of any mitigation, individually or cumulatively with other plans or projects and the site is not within the Likely Zone of Impact and is not considered further in this Screening assessment.</p>

European Sites and distance from proposed works	Qualify Interests/Special Conservation Interests for which the European site has been designated (Sourced from NPWS online Conservation Objectives, www.npws.ie on the 18/10/22	Conservation Objectives	Identification of Source-Pathway-Receptor chain and Likely Zone of Impact Determination
Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ [A157] Bar-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa lapponica</i> ➤ [A160] Curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i> ➤ [A162] Redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i> ➤ [A169] Turnstone <i>Arenaria interpres</i> ➤ [A179] Black-headed Gull <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> ➤ [A999] Wetlands 		
Dalkey Islands SPA Distance: 5.7km	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ [A192] Roseate Tern <i>Sterna dougallii</i> ➤ [A193] Common Tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i> ➤ [A194] Arctic Tern <i>Sterna paradisaea</i> 	Detailed conservation objectives for this site, (Version 1, 12 October 2022), were reviewed as part of the assessment and are available at www.npws.ie	<p>There is no potential for direct effects as the proposed works area is located entirely outside the boundary of this SPA.</p> <p>There is no suitable foraging or roosting habitat for the listed SCI species within the boundary of the proposed works. Further, due to the existing urban environment of the proposed works area, and the buffering distance of 5.7km, there is no potential for ex situ disturbance or displacement related impacts on these SCI species during the construction and operation of the proposed works.</p> <p>No pathway for significant effect on this European Site was identified, when considered in the absence of any mitigation, individually or cumulatively with other plans or projects and the site is not within the Likely Zone of Impact and is not considered further in this Screening assessment.</p>

European Sites and distance from proposed works	Qualify Interests/Special Conservation Interests for which the European site has been designated (Sourced from NPWS online Conservation Objectives, www.npws.ie on the 18/10/22)	Conservation Objectives	Identification of Source-Pathway-Receptor chain and Likely Zone of Impact Determination
Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)			
<p>Wicklow Mountains SPA</p> <p>Distance: 10.02km</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ [A098] Merlin <i>Falco columbarius</i> ➤ [A103] Peregrine <i>Falco peregrinus</i> 	<p>Detailed conservation objectives for this site, (Version 1, 12 October 2022), were reviewed as part of the assessment and are available at www.npws.ie</p>	<p>There is no potential for direct effects as the proposed works area is located entirely outside the boundary of this SPA.</p> <p>The proposed works are outside the core range of 5km for the Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>) However, the Peregrine (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>) has been recorded to have a maximum range of 18k in Britain (SNH 2016). The SPA is located 10.02km from the proposed works site, as such is within the maximum range recorded for this SCI species.</p> <p>However, there is no suitable foraging or roosting habitat for the listed SCI species within the boundary of the proposed works. Further, due to the existing urban environment of the proposed works area, and the buffering distance of 10.02km, there is no potential for ex situ disturbance or displacement related impacts on these SCI species during the construction and operation of the proposed works.</p> <p>No pathway for significant effect on this European Site was identified, when considered in the absence of any mitigation, individually or cumulatively with other plans or projects and the site is not within the Likely Zone of Impact and is not considered further in this Screening assessment.</p>
<p>Howth Head Coast SPA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ [A188] Kittiwake <i>Rissa tridactyla</i> 	<p>Detailed conservation objectives for this site, (Version 1, 12 October 2022), were</p>	<p>There is no potential for direct effects as the proposed works area is located entirely outside the boundary of this SPA.</p>

European Sites and distance from proposed works	Qualify Interests/Special Conservation Interests for which the European site has been designated (Sourced from NPWS online Conservation Objectives, www.npws.ie on the 18/10/22	Conservation Objectives	Identification of Source-Pathway-Receptor chain and Likely Zone of Impact Determination
Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)			
Distance: 10.7km		reviewed as part of the assessment and are available at www.npws.ie	<p>There is no suitable foraging or roosting habitat for the listed SCI species within the boundary of the proposed works. Further, due to the existing urban environment of the proposed works area, and the buffering distance of 10.7km, there is no potential for ex situ disturbance or displacement related impacts on these SCI species during the construction and operation of the proposed works.</p> <p>No pathway for significant effect on this European Site was identified, when considered in the absence of any mitigation, individually or cumulatively with other plans or projects and the site is not within the Likely Zone of Impact and is not considered further in this Screening assessment.</p>
Baldoyle Bay SPA Distance: 11km	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ [A046] Brent Goose <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> ➤ [A048] Shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> ➤ [A137] Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> ➤ [A140] Golden Plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> ➤ [A141] Grey Plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> ➤ [A157] Bar-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa lapponica</i> 	Detailed conservation objectives for this site, (Version 1, 27 February 2013), were reviewed as part of the assessment and are available at www.npws.ie	<p>There is no potential for direct effects as the proposed works area is located entirely outside the boundary of this SPA.</p> <p>The Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) has a maximum range of 11km (SNH 2026). This SAC is located 11km from the proposed works site, as such is within the maximum range for this SCI species.</p> <p>However, there is no suitable foraging or roosting habitat for the listed SCI species within the boundary of the proposed works. Further, due to the existing urban environment of the proposed works area, and the buffering distance of 11km,</p>

European Sites and distance from proposed works	Qualify Interests/Special Conservation Interests for which the European site has been designated (Sourced from NPWS online Conservation Objectives, www.npws.ie on the 18/10/22	Conservation Objectives	Identification of Source-Pathway-Receptor chain and Likely Zone of Impact Determination
Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ [A999] Wetlands 		<p>there is no potential for ex situ disturbance or displacement related impacts on these SCI species during the construction and operation of the proposed works.</p> <p>No pathway for significant effect on this European Site was identified, when considered in the absence of any mitigation, individually or cumulatively with other plans or projects and the site is not within the Likely Zone of Impact and is not considered further in this Screening assessment.</p>
<p>Ireland's Eye SPA</p> <p>Distance :13.1km</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ [A017] Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> ➤ [A184] Herring Gull <i>Larus argentatus</i> ➤ [A188] Kittiwake <i>Rissa tridactyla</i> ➤ [A199] Guillemot <i>Uria aalge</i> ➤ [A200] Razorbill <i>Alca torda</i> 	<p>Detailed conservation objectives for this site, (Version 1, 12 October 2022), were reviewed as part of the assessment and are available at www.npws.ie</p>	<p>There is no potential for direct effects as the proposed works area is located entirely outside the boundary of this SPA.</p> <p>There is no suitable foraging or roosting habitat for the listed SCI species within the boundary of the proposed works. Further, due to the existing urban environment of the proposed works area, and the buffering distance of 13.1km, there is no potential for ex situ disturbance or displacement related impacts on these SCI species during the construction and operation of the proposed works.</p> <p>No pathway for significant effect on this European Site was identified, when considered in the absence of any mitigation, individually or cumulatively with other plans or projects and the site is not within the Likely Zone of Impact and is not considered further in this Screening assessment.</p>

3.2 Likely Cumulative Impact of the Proposed Works on European Sites, in-combination with other plans and projects

A search and review in relation to plans and projects that may have the potential to result in cumulative and/or in-combination impacts on the ecology of the site was conducted. This assessment focuses on the potential for cumulative in-combination effects on the existing habitats where potential for significant effects was identified. This included a review of online Planning Registers, development plans and other available information and served to identify past and future plans and projects, their activities and their predicted environmental effects.

3.2.1 Projects

The potential for the proposed works to contribute to a cumulative effect on Designated Sites was considered. The National Planning Application Web Viewer was consulted on the 18/11/2022. Additional projects identified in the Blackrock area include:

- ABP-300745-18 (D17A/0950): 45 no. apartment units over 3 no. storeys, from second to fourth floor level, over the permitted ground and first floor levels of retail / restaurant floorspace and permitted lower ground floor car park. The planning application was granted permission with revised conditions in May 2019.
- ABP-308046-20 (D17A/0950) Alterations to Phase 1 permission for 45 no. apartments from second to fourth floor permitted under Reg Ref: D17A/0950 and ABP-300745-18 to include the provision of 57 no. additional apartments as an extension to Phase 1, as Phase 2 residential development. The subject application relates to a total of 102 no. apartments. The planning application received grant permission for the alterations to Phase 1 in December 2020 whereas the Phase 2 was refused.
- ABP30380419: 10year permission for a strategic housing development consisting of a new residential scheme of 294 residential units in a combination of new apartment buildings; the subdivision, conversion, and re-use of 'St. Teresa's House'; and the dismantling and relocation of 'St. Teresa's Lodge' within the site development area. The demolition of all later ancillary buildings and extensions associated with 'St. Teresa's House' and 'St. Teresa's Lodge' is also proposed. Public open space is proposed in the form of a woodland park, play areas, courtyards and gardens Provision is also made for new pedestrian connections to Rockfield Park on the southern site boundary and Temple Hill along the northern site boundary. The development also provides for a Crèche Facility, car and bike parking and bicycle spaces. This planning application received grant permission decision in June 2019.
- ABP31232521: Permission for a Strategic Housing Development consisting of a new residential and mixed-use scheme of 493 residential units and associated residential amenities, a childcare facility and café in the form of (a) a combination of new apartment buildings, the subdivision, conversion, and re-use of 'St. Teresa's House, the dismantling, relocation and change of use from residential to café of 'St. Teresa's Lodge within the site development area. The proposal provides for the demolition of single storey return (approx. 20 sq m) along the boundary with The Alzheimer's Society of Ireland; the ground floor switch room; ground floor structures northwest of St. Teresa's House; basement boiler room northwest of St. Teresa's House, ground floor structures northeast of St. Teresa's house, basement stores northeast of St. Teresa's house and a non - original ground floor rear extension associated with the Gate Lodge. This planning application received grant permission decision in April 2022.
- ABP-313509-22: BusConnects Belfield/Blackrock to City Centre Core Bus Corridor Scheme which has an overall length of approximately 8.3km including roadworks to facilitate bus,

cycling and urban realm improvements along with any associated ancillary/accommodation works for the scheme. This case is due to be decided by 6th of April 2023.

- Greater Dublin Area Cycle Network Plan: In 2013 the Greater Dublin Area (GDA) Cycle Network Plan was published. Its core objective is to ensure investment into cycle infrastructure is made as efficiently as possible, and to help the NTA and local authorities within the GDA to enhance understanding as to the bicycle facilities currently available, identify gaps in connections and infrastructure, assess the state of existing facilities and where improvement measures will be most advantageous to the public. DLRCC, in conjunction with the NTA are currently working on a number of cycle routes through the area, these works form part of the NTA's GDA Cycle Network Plan. The updated GDA Cycle Network Plan was published in November 2021 as part of the 'Supporting Documents' for the public consultation on the Draft Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area Transport Strategy 2022-2042. In the draft plan, Blackrock has been identified as one of fourteen district (town) centres across the GDA, mirroring those of the GDA Transport Strategy. Each district centre has its cycle network enhanced in the vicinity as well as outward connections.
- Living Street Coastal Mobility Route: The Coastal Mobility Route in Dún Laoghaire is a transportation project that aims to improve mobility and connectivity along the coast of the town. The route runs along the coast road for 3.6km with segregated cycle facilities, and 4.5km in total from Seapoint to Sandycove via Dún Laoghaire. There is a portion of the route from Old Dunleary Road/Coal Quay Bridge through Harbour Road to Queen's Road in Dún Laoghaire that is shared with vehicular traffic and not segregated.

No pathway or mechanism for the proposed works to result in any significant effect on any European Site was identified when considered on its own during the assessment process and therefore there is no potential for it to contribute to any such effects when considered in-combination with any other development.

3.2.2 Plans

The following development plans have been reviewed and taken into consideration as part of this assessment:

- > Dún Laoghaire- Rathdown County Development Plan 2022-2028
- > Dún Laoghaire- Rathdown County Biodiversity Action Plan 2021-2025.
- > Blackrock Local Area Plan 2015-2025
- > Dublin City Development Plan 2022-2028
- > National Biodiversity Action Plan 2017-2021

The review focused on policies and objectives that relate to Natura 2000 sites and natural heritage. Policies and objectives relating to sustainable land use were also reviewed.

Table 3-2 Review of Relevant Policies and Objectives

Land Use and Spatial Plans	Key Policies/Issues/Objectives Directly Related to European Sites in The Zone of Influence	Assessment of Potential Impact on European Sites
Dún Laoghaire- Rathdown County Development Plan 2022-2028		
<p>Policy Objective GIB18: Protection of Natural Heritage and the Environment: It is a Policy Objective to protect and conserve the environment including, in particular, the natural heritage of the County and to conserve and manage Nationally and Internationally important and EU designated sites - such as Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Special Areas of Conservations (SACs), proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs) and Ramsar sites (wetlands) - as well as non-designated areas of high nature conservation value known as locally important areas which also serve as ‘Stepping Stones’ for the purposes of Article 10 of the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>Policy Objective GIB19: Habitats Directive: It is a Policy Objective to ensure the protection of natural heritage and biodiversity, including European Sites that form part of the Natura 2000 network, in accordance with relevant EU Environmental Directives and applicable National Legislation, Policies, Plans and Guidelines</p> <p>Policy Objective GIB21: Designated Sites: It is a Policy Objective to protect and preserve areas designated as proposed Natural Heritage Areas, Special Areas of Conservation, and Special Protection Areas. It is Council policy to promote the maintenance and as appropriate, delivery of ‘favourable’ conservation status of habitats and species within these areas.</p> <p>Policy Objective GIB23: County Wide Ecological Network: It is a Policy Objective to protect the Ecological Network which will be integrated into the updated Green Infrastructure Strategy and will align with the DLR County Biodiversity Action Plan. Creating this network throughout the County will also improve the ecological coherence of the Natura 2000 network in accordance with Article 10 of the Habitats Directive. The network will also include non- designated sites.</p> <p>Policy Objective EI6: Sustainable Drainage Systems: It is a Policy Objective to ensure that all development proposals incorporate Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS).</p>		<p>The Development plan was comprehensively reviewed, with particular reference to Policies and Objectives that relate to the Natura 2000 network and other natural heritage interests. No potential for cumulative impacts when considered in conjunction with the current proposal were identified.</p> <p>There will be no impact on any European Designated Sites as a result of the proposed works.</p>
Dún Laoghaire- Rathdown County Biodiversity Action Plan 2021-2025.		
<p>Objective 3: Conserve and restore Biodiversity and ecosystems and support ecosystem services in DLR, including coastal and marine.</p> <p>Action 1.7: Identify important biodiversity areas most vulnerable to climate change, including terrestrial, watercourses, coastal and marine areas, and establish measures and projects that assist protection of vulnerable areas.</p> <p>Action 2.7: Produce guidance on net gains for biodiversity¹⁰, including guidance for strategies, planning, mitigation measures, and investment in green infrastructure.</p>		<p>The Development plan was comprehensively reviewed, with particular reference to Policies and Objectives that relate to the Natura 2000 network and other natural heritage interests. No potential for cumulative impacts when considered in conjunction with the current proposal were identified.</p>

Land Use and Spatial Plans	Key Policies/Issues/Objectives Directly Related to European Sites in The Zone of Influence	Assessment of Potential Impact on European Sites
<p>Action 2.8: Develop guidance related to Biodiversity, Ecosystem Services and Planning, to help those involved in Planning to ensure that development within the County protects and enhances our valuable biodiversity.</p> <p>Action 2.9: Develop best practice guidance for Biodiversity and Greenway Developments to reduce the impacts of greenways on existing biodiversity and for the protection of existing biodiversity, enhancement of biodiversity and for biodiversity gains.</p> <p>Action 3.4: Identify opportunities where ecosystems can be restored and enhanced, including terrestrial, river, coastal and marine ecosystems.</p> <p>Action 3.5: Develop and implement appropriate re-wilding projects in DLR and extend our local biodiversity areas within DLR.</p> <p>Action 3.7: Carry out ecological surveys and assessment of our habitats, including hedgerows, rivers and streams, to provide information regarding areas that require restoration in order to deliver Nature Recovery and Restoration and expansion of our Ecological Network.</p> <p>Action 3.11 Continue the Red Squirrel Project and extend project to Fernhill.</p> <p>Action 3.13: Protect and enhance Booterstown Marsh, an important, unique coastal area within DLR and an EU Natura 2000 site.</p> <p>Action 5.13 Work with our colleagues across our own organisation in DLRCC and collaborate on biodiversity projects, including Nature-based Solution projects.</p>		<p>There will be no impact on any European Designated Sites as a result of the proposed works.</p>
<p>Blackrock Local Area Plan 2015-2025</p>		
<p>POLICY BK02- Natural Heritage and Conservation: It is Council Policy to protect, conserve and enhance the natural heritage and environment within and adjacent to Blackrock whilst optimizing these natural assets in the promotion of Blackrock as a heritage and visitor destination.</p> <p>Objective NHC1: It is an objective of the Council to ensure the protection and preservation of the ecological integrity of the designated SPA, cSAC and pNHA within and abutting the Blackrock LAP boundary in the consideration and implementation of development proposals within the Plan area. Any relevant development proposals shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment Screening in accordance with the requirements of the European Communities (Birds & Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (SI.477 of 2011).</p>		<p>The Development plan was comprehensively reviewed, with particular reference to Policies and Objectives that relate to the Natura 2000 network and other natural heritage interests. No potential for cumulative impacts when considered in conjunction with the current proposal were identified.</p> <p>There will be no impact on any European Designated Sites as a result of the proposed works.</p>

Land Use and Spatial Plans	Key Policies/Issues/Objectives Directly Related to European Sites in The Zone of Influence	Assessment of Potential Impact on European Sites
<p>Objective NHC3: It is an objective of the Council to have regard to the EU guidance document ‘The Implementation of the Birds and Habitats Directive in Estuaries and Coastal Zones’ (EU 2011) when assessing development in or near coastal areas which is likely to have significant effects on the integrity of any designated sites, coastal and marine fauna, flora, and amenities.</p> <p>Objective NHC7: It is an objective of the Council to support the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) in the maintenance and, as appropriate, the achievement of favourable conservation status of Natura 2000 sites and their associated habitats and species to which the European Communities (Birds & Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (SI.477 of 2011) exchange of wild species.</p> <p>Objective NHC9: It is an objective of the Council to protect the natural character and ecological value of rivers and streams within the Local Area Plan boundary. In that regard the Council shall ensure, that in the event of lighting being proposed along a watercourse corridor, that an Ecological Impact Assessment (and where necessary an Appropriate Assessment) including bat and otter surveys, shall be conducted. All watercourses shall be maintained in their open natural state in order to prevent habitat loss, preserve biological diversity and aid in pollution detection.</p> <p>Objective EI12: It is an objective of the Council that all proposed flood protection or alleviation works will comply with the requirements of Article 6 of the EU Habitats Directive to ensure there are no likely significant effects on the integrity, defined by the structure and function, of any Natura 2000 sites and that the requirements of Article 6 of the EU Habitats Directive are met.</p> <p>Objective SF1- Seafront: It is an objective of the Council to improve access to and recreational amenity facilities at the seafront at Blackrock, in accordance with Objective PR1 and PR2 Section 3.6 Public Realm Strategy. Any development proposals shall take into account and provide for the possible future construction of the S2S project and shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment Screening in accordance with the requirements of the European Communities (Birds & Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (SI.477 of 2011) to ensure the protection and preservation of all designated SPAs, SACs, and pNHAs of Dublin Bay and the surrounding area.</p>		
<p>Dublin City Council Development Plan 2022-2028</p>		
<p>Policy G19- European Union Natura 2000 Sites: To conserve, manage, protect, and restore the favourable conservation condition of all qualifying interest/special conservation interests of all European sites designated, or proposed to be designated, under the EU Birds and Habitats Directives, as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) (European / Natura 2000 sites).</p>		<p>The Development plan was comprehensively reviewed, with particular reference to Policies and Objectives that relate to the Natura 2000 network and other natural heritage interests. No potential for cumulative impacts when considered in conjunction with the current proposal were identified.</p>

Land Use and Spatial Plans	Key Policies/Issues/Objectives Directly Related to European Sites in The Zone of Influence	Assessment of Potential Impact on European Sites
	<p>Policy G113- Areas of Ecological Importance for Protected Species: To ensure the protection, conservation, and enhancement of all areas of ecological importance for protected species, and especially those listed in the EU Birds and Habitats Directives, including those identified as supporting the favourable conservation condition of any European sites, in accordance with development standards set out in this plan.</p>	<p>There will be no impact on any European Designated Sites as a result of the proposed works.</p>
<p>National Biodiversity Action Plan 2017-2021</p>		
	<p>Target 6.1: Natura 2000 network designated and under effective conservation management by 2020.</p> <p>Target 6.2 - Sufficiency, coherence, connectivity, and resilience of the protected areas network substantially enhanced by 2020.</p>	<p>The Development plan was comprehensively reviewed, with particular reference to Policies and Objectives that relate to the Natura 2000 network and other natural heritage interests. No potential for cumulative impacts when considered in conjunction with the current proposal were identified.</p> <p>There will be no impact on any European Designated Sites as a result of the proposed works.</p>

4. ARTICLE 6(3) APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT SCREENING STATEMENT AND CONCLUSIONS

The findings of this Screening Assessment are presented following the European Commission's Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly affecting Natura 2000 Sites: Methodological Guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (EC, 2021) and Managing Natura 2000 Sites: the provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC (EC, 2018) as well as the Department of the Environment's Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland - Guidance for Planning Authorities (DoEHLG, 2010).

4.1 Data Collected to Carry Out Assessment

In preparation of the report, the following sources were used to gather information:

- Review of NPWS Site Synopses, Conservation Objectives for the European Sites
- Review of 2019, 2013 and 2007 EU Habitats Directive (Article 17) Reports.
- Review of online web-mappers: National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), Teagasc, EPA, Water Framework Directive (WFD), Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI), Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI), Irish Wetland Bird Survey I-WeBS & Geohive online Environmental Sensitivity Mapping tool
- Review of specially requested records from the NPWS Rare and Protected Species Database for the hectads which overlap with the study area.
- Review of Bird Atlases: (Sharrock, 1976; Lack, 1986; Gibbons et al., 1993; Balmer et al., 2013).
- Review of other plans and projects within the area.
- Site Survey carried out on the 26/10/2022.

4.2 Concluding Statement

It can be excluded beyond reasonable scientific doubt, in view of best scientific knowledge, on the basis of objective information and in light of the conservation objectives of the relevant European sites, that the proposed works, individually or in combination with other plans and projects, would not be likely to have a significant effect on any European Sites designated under the Habitats Directive and Birds Directive.

As a result, an Appropriate Assessment is not required, and a Natura Impact Statement shall not be prepared in respect of the proposed works.

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