Kiltipper Park Enhancement Works

Screening Report for Appropriate Assessment

Doherty Environmental Consultants Ltd

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Kiltipper Park Enhancement Works

Kiltipper, Co. Dublin

Screening Report for Appropriate Assessment

Document Stage	Document Version	Prepared by
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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Doherty Environmental Consultants (DEC) Ltd. have been commissioned by South Dublin County Council to undertake a Screening Report for Appropriate Assessment for proposed enhancement works at Kiltipper Park, Kiltipper, Co. Dublin (see Figure 1.1 for location and Figure 1.2 for aerial imagery showing the extent of the proposed works for the project).

This Screening Report for Appropriate Assessment forms Stage 1 of the Habitats Directive Assessment process and is being undertaken in order to comply with the requirements of the Habitats Directive Article 6(3). The function of this Screening Report is to identify the potential for the project to result in likely significant effects to European Sites and to provide information so that the competent authority can determine whether a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment is required for the project.

1.1 LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

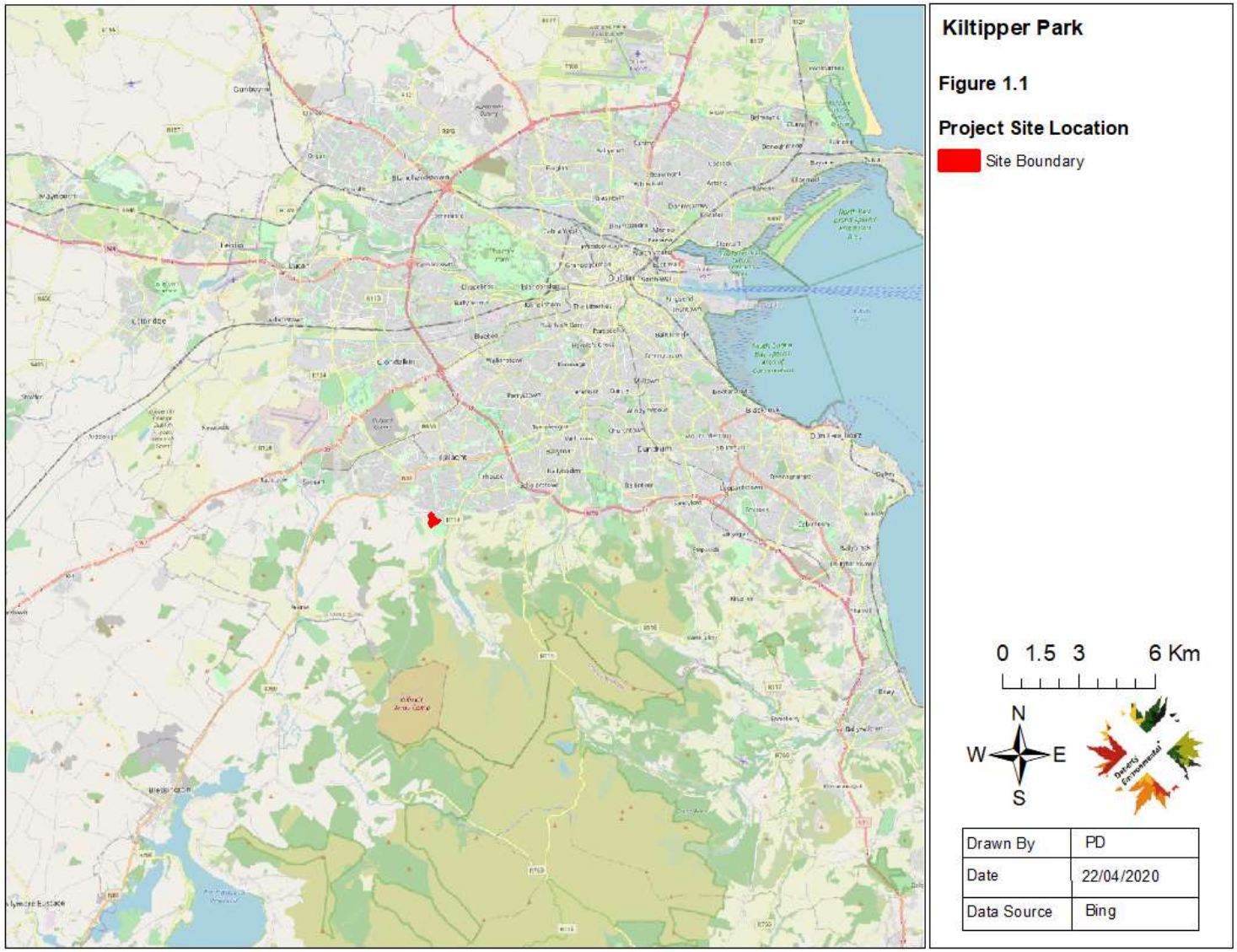
This Screening Report for Appropriate Assessment is being prepared in order to enable the competent authority to comply with Article 6(3) of Council Directive 92/43/EEC (The Habitats Directive). It is prepared to assess whether or not the project alone or in combination with other plans and projects is likely to have a significant effect on any European Site in view of best scientific knowledge and in view of the conservation objectives of the European Sites and specifically on the habitats and species for which the sites have been designated.

1.1.1 Requirement for an Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive

According to Regulation 42(1) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 – 2015, the competent authority has a duty to:

- Determine whether the proposed Project is directly connected to or necessary for the management of one of more European Sites; and, if not;

- Determine if the Project, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, would be likely to have a significant effect on the Eurpoean Site(s) in view of best scientific knowledge and the Conservation Objectives of the site(s).


Kiltipper Park
Figure 1.1
Project Site Location
Site Boundary
0 1.5 3 6 Km
N
W
E
S
Drawn By PD
Date 22/04/2020
Data Source Bing


Kiltipper Park
Figure 1.2
Aerial of Site Location
Overall Boundary
0
0.1
0.2 Km
N
W
E
S
Drawn By
PD
Date
22/04/2020
Data Source
Bing

This Report contains a Screening for Appropriate Assessment and is intended to assess and address all issues regarding the construction and operation of the Project and to inform and allow the competent authority to comply with the Habitats Directive. Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive defines the requirements for assessment of projects and plans for which likely significant effects on European Sites may arise. The European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011 – 2015 (the Habitats Regulations) transpose into Irish law Directive 2009/147/EC (the Birds Directive) and Council Directive 92/43/EEC (the Habitats Directive) lists habitats and species that are of international importance for conservation and require protection. The Habitats legislation requires competent authorities, to carry out a Screening for Appropriate Assessment of plans and projects that, alone or in combination with other plans or projects, would be likely to have significant effects on European Sites in view of best scientific knowledge and the Site's conservation objectives. This requirement is transposed into Irish Law by Part 5 of the Habitats Regulations and Part XAB of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended).

1.2 STAGE 1 SCREENING METHOD

This Screening Report has been prepared in order to comply with the legislative requirements outlined in Section 1.1 above and aims to establish whether or not the proposed enhancement works at Kiltipper Park, alone or in combination with other plans or projects, would be likely to have significant effects on European Sites in view of best scientific knowledge and the Site's conservation objectives. In this context "likely" refers to the presence of doubt with regard to the absence of significant effects (ECJ case C-127/02) and "significant" means not trivial or inconsequential but an effect that has the potential to undermine the European Site's conservation objectives (English Nature, 1999; ECJ case C-127/02). In other words, any effect that compromises the conservation objectives of a European Site and interferes with achieving the conservation objectives for the site would constitute a significant effect.

The nature of the likely interactions between the project and the conservation objectives of European Sites will depend upon the sensitivity of these sites and their reasons for designation to potential impacts arising from the project; the current conservation status of the features for which European Sites have been designated; and any likely changes to key environmental indicators (e.g. habitat structure; vegetation community) that underpin the conservation status of European Sites, in combination with other plans and projects.

This Screening Report for Appropriate Assessment has been undertaken with reference to respective National and European guidance documents: Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland: Guidance for Planning Authorities (DEHLG 2010) and *Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly Affecting Natura 2000 sites – Methodological Guidance of the Provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC* and recent European and National case law. The following guidance documents were also of relevance during the preparation of this Screening Report:

- A guide for competent authorities. Environment and Heritage Service, Sept 2002. Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland – Guidance for Planning Authorities (2010). DEHLG.
- Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly Affecting Natura 2000 Sites – Methodological Guidance of the Provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/42/EEC. European Commission (2001).
- Managing Natura 2000 Sites – The provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. European commission (2018).

The EC (2001) guidelines outline the stages involved in undertaking a Screening Report for Appropriate Assessment for projects. The methodology adopted during the preparation of this Screening Report is informed by these guidelines and was undertaken in the following stages:

1. Describe the project and determine whether it is necessary for the conservation management of European Sites;
2. Identify European Sites that could be influenced by the project;
3. Where European Sites are identified as occurring within the zone of influence of the project identify potential effects arising from the project and screen the potential for such effects to negatively affect European Sites identified under Point 2 above; and
4. Identify other plans or projects that, in combination with the project, have the potential to affect European Sites.

2.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

2.1 OVERVIEW OF THE PROJECT

The proposed Kiltipper Park Enhancement Works will include the following features:

Adjustments to existing carpark including lengthened accessed roadway, adjustments to pedestrian access footway and increased carpark capacity by 30 no. additional car parking spaces

- Circa 120m of new shared surface access pathway
- Extension to the existing car park at the north of the park
- Provision of 1 no. GAA pitch with vertical ball-stop netting and associated features
- Provision of 2 no. soccer pitches and associated features
- Provision of children's playground area and linear natural play areas
- Provision of an orientation table
- Provision of access to the River Dodder
- Integrated soft landscaping features including:
    - Native woodland planting areas
    - Native pine woodland planting area
    - Wetland swale planting areas
    - Wetland planting areas
    - Wildflower meadow planting areas
    - The provision of a proposed landscape berm
    - The provision of shallow grassland mounds
    - The provision of a tree planting throughout the park

All elements of the above works are shown on Figure 2.1.

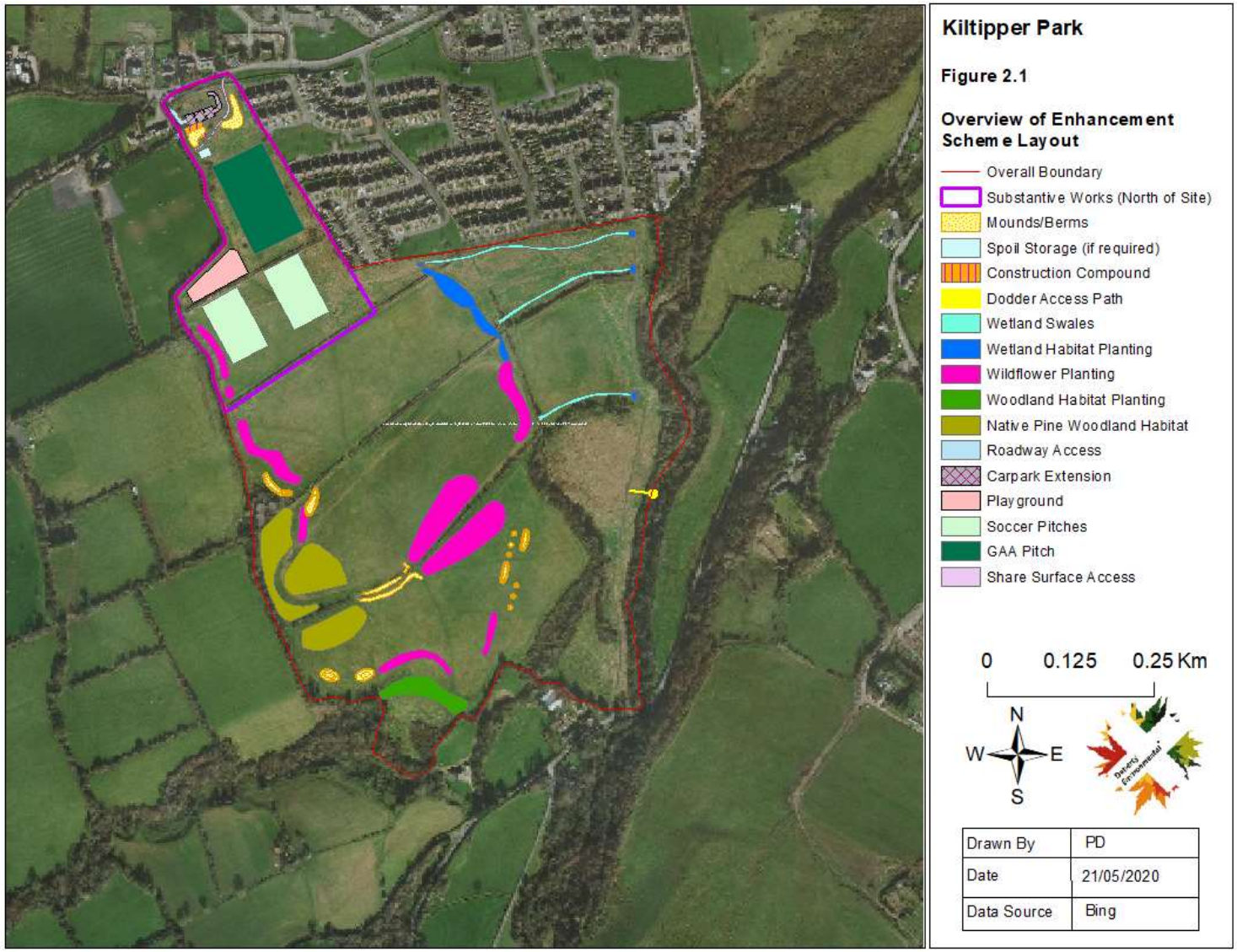
2.2 STORM WATER DRAINAGE

Storm water will be managed through the implementation of the following design measures:

- Carpark – Permeable surfacing comprising open grid surface with filter drain below carpark which will discharge into a swale. In storm conditions the swales will overtop into an existing surface water drainage culvert along the Kiltipper Road which falls eastwards in parallel to the Dodder River. The roadside drain eventually discharges storm water to the River Dodder in the vicinity of the R113 in Old Bawn.

- The remainder of the greenfield runoff will be captured in existing field drains and ditches.

- Pitch drainage will be captured into swales and wetlands that are to be provided as part of the landscape design for the project.


Kiltipper Park
Figure 2.1
Overview of Enhancement Scheme Layout
Overall Boundary
Substantive Works (North of Site)
Mounds/Berms
Spoil Storage (if required)
Construction Compound
Dodder Access Path
Wetland Swales
Wetland Habitat Planting
Wildflower Planting
Woodland Habitat Planting
Native Pine Woodland Habitat
Roadway Access
Carpark Extension
Playground
Soccer Pitches
GAA Pitch
Share Surface Access
0 0.125 0.25 Km
N
W E
S
Drawn By PD
Date 21/05/2020
Data Source Bing

2.3 PLANT & CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS REQUIRED

The type of plant and machinery required will be typical civil engineering road construction plant for earthworks and paving, and is likely to include:

- 360 degree 20 tonne Excavators (crawler track machines)
- Rubber-tyred Excavators 6 tonne JCB
- 3 tonne Mini Diggers
- 30 tonne Dump Trucks
- 6 tonne Dumpers
- 7.5 tonne multi-purpose truck
- 20 tonne and 30 tonne delivery trucks (importation of rock and bitumenous paving materials
- Teleporter for erection of lighting columns
- Site Vehicles (4x4 wheel short base and vans)
- Compactor plates
- 1 tonne hand roller
- 6 tonne vibrating Rollers
- 10 tonne dead weight rollers
- Blawknox Paving Machine
- Bitumen Boiler/Hot Box
- Oil Tanker/Sprayer
- Road Planing Machine

- Extruded Kerb Laying Machine
- Road Saws/Con Saws/chain saws
- Bark Mulchers
- Air Compressors
- Jack Hammers
- Stihl Saws
- Small tools/hand tools
- Traffic Management Signs, Cones & Barriers
- Herras Fencing
- Mobile Traffic Lights
- Road Sweeper & Water Tank Truck
- PPE

All machinery will be inspected and certified to be free of leaks and weeps prior to mobilisation on site.

The materials will be typical civil engineering road construction materials consisting of cement, sand, gravel of various aggregate sizes, imported and reused top soil, precast concrete kerbs, manhole bases, covers, precast concrete culverts, pipes, precast concrete services chambers, PVC-u ducts & chambers, PVC-u drainage channels with galvanised steel covers, galvanised metal chamber covers, galvanized, powder-coated street lighting columns and traffic signal poles, galvanised steel sign posts and metal traffic signs, bituminous road paving materials, thermoplastic road marking materials, LED lighting lanterns & electrical equipment, traffic signals & controller electronic equipment, galvanised metal field gates, driveway gates and posts.

2.4 SITE PERSONNEL

It is estimated that 10 to 15 site personnel will be required to complete works for the project.

2.5 TEMPORARY CONSTRUCTION COMPOUND

A temporary compound will be provided to the south of the proposed carpark extension. This will be provided on existing grassland habitat.

2.6 SPOIL STORAGE

All spoil excavated during the construction phase of the project will be reused so that the requirement of the import of material is eliminated or minimised to a low level. Any soil material excavated within the area of works or imported to the site will be stored in the area designated for spoil storage as shown on Figure 2.1.

2.7 DURATION OF CONSTRUCTION PHASE

It is estimated that the construction process will take up to 9 months.

2.8 ELEMENTS OF THE PROJECT THAT COULD RESULT IN LAND USE EFFECTS

All elements of the project are listed in Table 2.1 and are examined for their potential to result in land use effects that could in turn result in negative ecological impacts.

Project Element	Potential Ecological Impacts
Circa 120m of new shared surface access pathway	Loss of meadow grassland habitat. The provision of the new path will require surface excavations, the use of plant and machinery and the use of construction materials that could have the potential to contaminate storm water during works.

	Disturbance to fauna.
Extension of the car park at the north of the site	Loss of meadow grassland habitat. The provision of the new car parking surface will require surface excavations, the use of plant and machinery and the use of construction materials that could have the potential to contaminate storm water during works. Disturbance to fauna.
Provision of 1 no. GAA pitch with vertical ball-stop netting and associated features	Loss of meadow grassland habitat. The provision of the new path will require surface excavations, the use of plant and machinery and the use of construction materials that could have the potential to contaminate storm water during works. Disturbance to fauna.
Provision of 2 no. soccer pitches and associated features	Loss of meadow grassland habitat. The provision of the new path will require surface excavations, the use of plant and machinery and the use of construction materials that could have the potential to contaminate storm water during works. Disturbance to fauna.
Provision of children's playground area and linear natural play areas	Loss of meadow grassland habitat. The provision of the new path will require surface excavations, the use of plant and machinery and the use of construction materials that could have the potential to contaminate storm water during works.

	Disturbance to fauna.
Provision of an orientation table	The orientation table will be installed at the terminus of an existing surfaced path at a high point within the park. There will be minor loss of meadow grassland habitat to the footprint of the table.
Provision of access to the River Dodder	The short spur path to the River Dodder will require the removal of riparian woodland vegetation. The potential will exist for disturbance to fauna during the removal riparian woodland and the works associated with the provision of the access path. The potential will exist for ongoing disturbance to aquatic fauna as a result of the access provided to the River Dodder.
Native woodland planting areas	This element will involve planting woodland seedlings by hand. No disturbance impacts associated with this activity. This element will result in a change of habitat from dry meadow to native woodland. This will have the potential to result in positive impacts for biodiversity within Kiltipper Park by increasing habitat heterogeneity in the park.
Native pine woodland planting area	This element will involve planting woodland seedlings by hand. No disturbance impacts associated with this activity. This element will result in a change of habitat from dry meadow to native woodland. This will have the potential to result in positive impacts for biodiversity within Kiltipper Park by increasing habitat heterogeneity in the park.

Wetland swale planting areas	This element will involve the planting of a native wetland seed mix in wet depressions. Excavation of the existing meadow grassland habitat will be required to create the swale depressions that will facilitate damp/waterlogged conditions necessary for supporting a wetland planting mix. Excavations and the use of plant to complete excavations will have the potential to result in the generation of silt-laden or otherwise contaminated storm water. Once complete the provision of wetland planting in swales will have the potential to result in positive impacts for biodiversity within Kiltipper Park by increasing habitat heterogeneity and vegetation diversity within the park.
Wetland planting areas	This element will involve the planting of a native wetland seed mix in depressions. Excavation of the existing meadow grassland habitat will be required to create depressions that will facilitate damp/waterlogged conditions necessary for supporting a wetland planting mix. Excavations and the use of plant to complete excavations will have the potential to result in the generation of silt-laden or otherwise contaminated storm water. Once complete the provision of wetland planting in swales will have the potential to result in positive impacts for biodiversity within Kiltipper Park by increasing habitat heterogeneity and vegetation diversity within the park.

Wildflower meadow planting areas	This element will involve planting woodland seedlings by hand. No disturbance impacts associated with this activity. This element will result in a change of habitat from dry meadow to native woodland. This will have the potential to result in positive impacts for biodiversity within Kiltipper Park by increasing habitat heterogeneity in the park.
The provision of a proposed landscape berm	The provision of grassland mounds will require the deposition and seeding of soils with species-rich wildflower meadow. Material for the mounds will be sourced from excavated soils from other elements of the project within the park i.e. excavated soil material for swales, wetland areas, car park footprint etc. The establishment of species-rich wildflower meadow will have the potential to result in positive impacts for biodiversity within the park.
The provision of shallow grassland mounds	The provision of grassland mounds will require the deposition and seeding of soils with species-rich wildflower meadow. Material for the mounds will be sourced from excavated soils from other elements of the project within the park i.e. excavated soil material for swales, wetland areas, car park footprint etc. The establishment of species-rich wildflower meadow will have the potential to result in positive impacts for biodiversity within the park.
The provision of a tree planting throughout the park	This element will involve planting tree seedlings by hand. No disturbance impacts are associated with this activity.

	This element will have the potential to enhance biodiversity in the park by providing a scattered tree habitat throughout the park. The provisions of additional trees will provide habitat for invertebrates and birds.

A summary of the potential negative ecological impacts may arise as a result of all elements of the project, as identified in Table 2.1 above, are as follows:

The loss of or fragmentation of dry meadow and riparian woodland habitat during construction works;

The generation of contaminated storm water during construction works with potential for this storm water to be discharged to surface watercourses and result in perturbations to water quality;

Contamination of storm water from car parking areas during the operation phase with potential for this storm water to be discharged to surface watercourses and result in perturbations to water quality;

The disturbance to fauna during construction works;

The disturbance to fauna during the operation phase.

3.0 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT AREA

The lands that will be subject to the proposed enhancement works are located throughout Kiltipper Park. The proposed car park extension represents an extension to a newly installed car park at the northern end of the park. The new car park is representative of an artificial surface (BL3). The new shared access path, playing pitches and playground are all located in grassland that is representative of the Fossitt Level 3 habitat dry meadow (GS2). The lands that will be enhanced by soft landscaping and mounding for the provision of landscaping are located in an area dominated by dry meadow grassland. The proposed new access to the River Dodder will be located within dry meadow grassland and riparian woodland (WN5).

Woodland habitats in the form of hedgerows and broadleaved woodland (WD1) occur along the boundaries of the park and form linear habitats within the park. All existing linear woodland and hedgerow habitat will be retained as part of the landscape design for the project.

The project area is located within the Dodder River sub-catchment of the Liffey Catchment. No watercourses occur within the footprint of the project area. The nearest watercourse to the project is the River Dodder, which forms the eastern boundary of the project site. The River Dodder at this location is representative of an eroding watercourse (FL1). The footprint of the project elements (i.e. car parking, playing pitches, playground, new share path, landscape berm etc.) to the north of the project site are situated on north/northeast facing slopes and surface water runoff is in a northerly direction away from the nearest point of the River Dodder to the southeast. The soft landscaping elements of the project, such as the provision of woodland habitats, wetland planting and mounding are located on south-facing slopes, with surface water from these areas draining to the River Dodder. The proposed new access to the River Dodder is located within the river's riparian zone.

The nearest designated conservation area to the extent of the project is the Glenasmole Valley SAC. This is located approximately 90m to the south and upstream of the project site. The nearest point of any element of the project, namely the planting of individual trees along the existing surfaced path that enters the park at its southeastern corner is also approximately 90m from the nearest point of this SAC. The nearest location of any area of substantial soft landscaping works, is the provision of woodland planting, approximately 200m to the northwest of the SAC. The nearest area of any element of substantive works (i.e. the provision of a new access path to the River Dodder is located approximately 400m to the north and upstream of this SAC. The nearest area of any other element of substantive works in the north of the park (i.e. playing pitches, car park, playground etc.) is approximately 750m to the north of the SAC.

4.0 IS THE PROJECT NECESSARY FOR THE CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT OF EUROPEAN SITES

The project has been described in Section 2 of the Screening Report and it is clear from the description provided that the project is not directly connected with or necessary for the future conservation management of any European Sites.

5.0 EUROPEAN SITES WITHIN THE ZONE OF INFLUENCE OF THE PROJECT

Current guidance recommends that all European Sites occurring within 15km of projects should be identified at the outset of a screening exercise. A total of nine European Sites have been identified in the surrounding 15km area. Table 5.1 lists these European Sites, the spatial relationship between each of these sites and the project, the qualifying features of interest of the European Site and the broad habitat categories supported by them.

In addition to the European Sites occurring within a 15km area of the project the DEHLG 2010 guidelines on Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland also advise that where the potential exists for a hydrological pathway to occur between the project and European Sites beyond the 15km distance, then these sites should also be considered as part of the Screening. Aside from the South Dublin Bay SAC and the South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA, two additional European Site occur at Dublin Bay, beyond a 15km distance of the project. These are North Bull Island SPA and the North Dublin Bay SAC. Both of these sites are located to the north of the Liffey River Estuary and previous studies have shown that the water quality of the River Liffey does not influence the status of Dublin Bay or these European Sites. As such these two sites are not included in the list of European Sites to be screened as part of this Screening Report.

5.1 CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES

Generic conservation objectives have been published for all European Site occurring within the wider area surrounding the project site. These generic conservation objectives aim to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which SACs and SPAs has been selected.

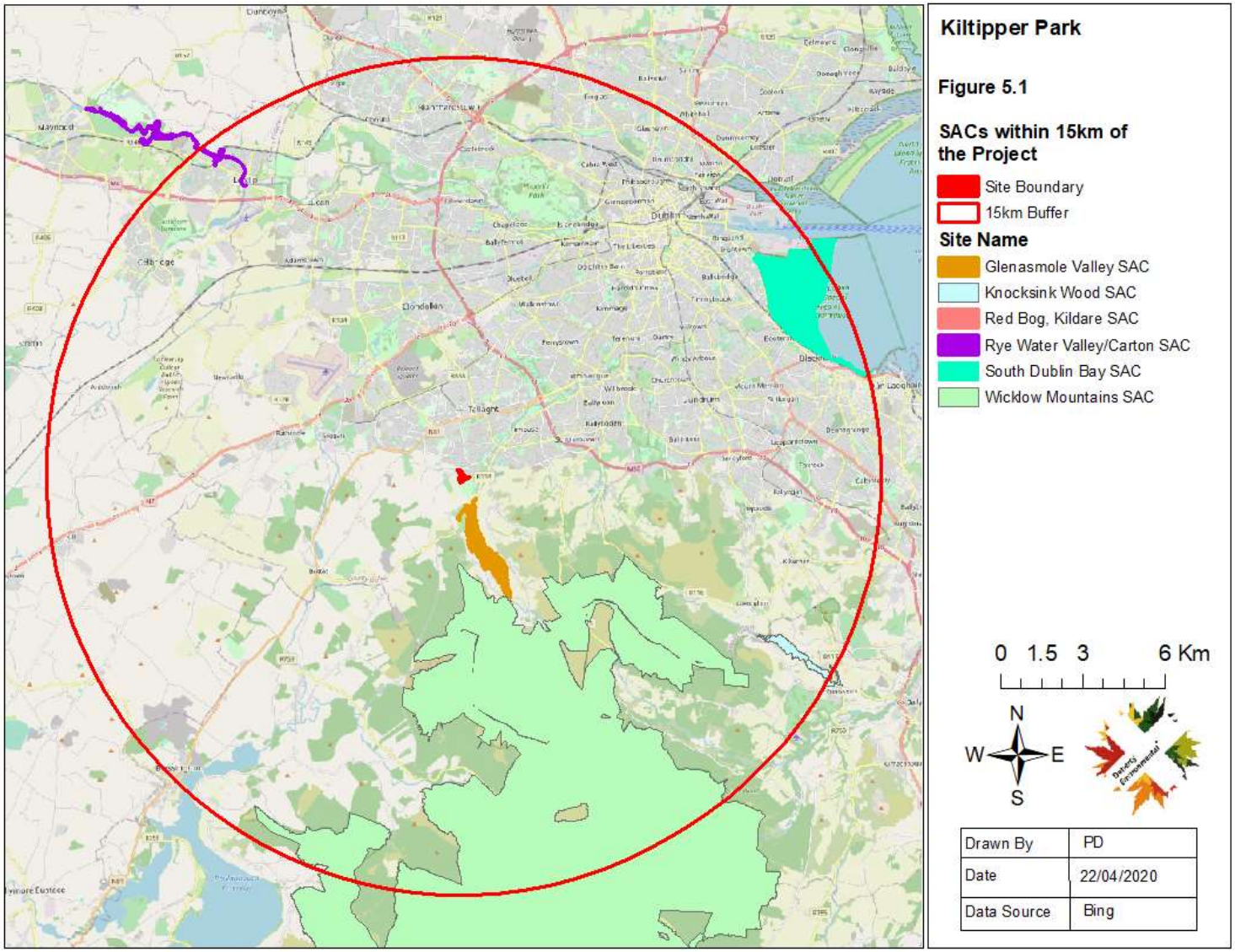
Favourable conservation status of a habitat is achieved when:

- its natural range, and area it covers within that range, are stable or increasing, and
- the specific structure and functions which are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future, and
- the conservation status of its typical species is favourable.

The favourable conservation status of a species is achieved when:

- population dynamics data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself on a long-term basis as a viable component of its natural habitats,
- the natural range of the species is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future, and
- there is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis.

Site Specific Conservation Objectives have been published for the majority of the European Sites occurring within the wider area surrounding the project. Details of the Site Specific Conservation Objectives for each of these European Sites can found on the NPWS website at https://www.npws.ie/protected-site.


Kiltipper Park
Figure 5.1
SACs within 15km of the Project
Site Boundary
15km Buffer
Site Name
Glenasmole Valley SAC
Knocksink Wood SAC
Red Bog, Kildare SAC
Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC
South Dublin Bay SAC
Wicklow Mountains SAC
0 1.5 3 6 Km
N
W
E
S
Drawn By PD
Date 22/04/2020
Data Source Bing

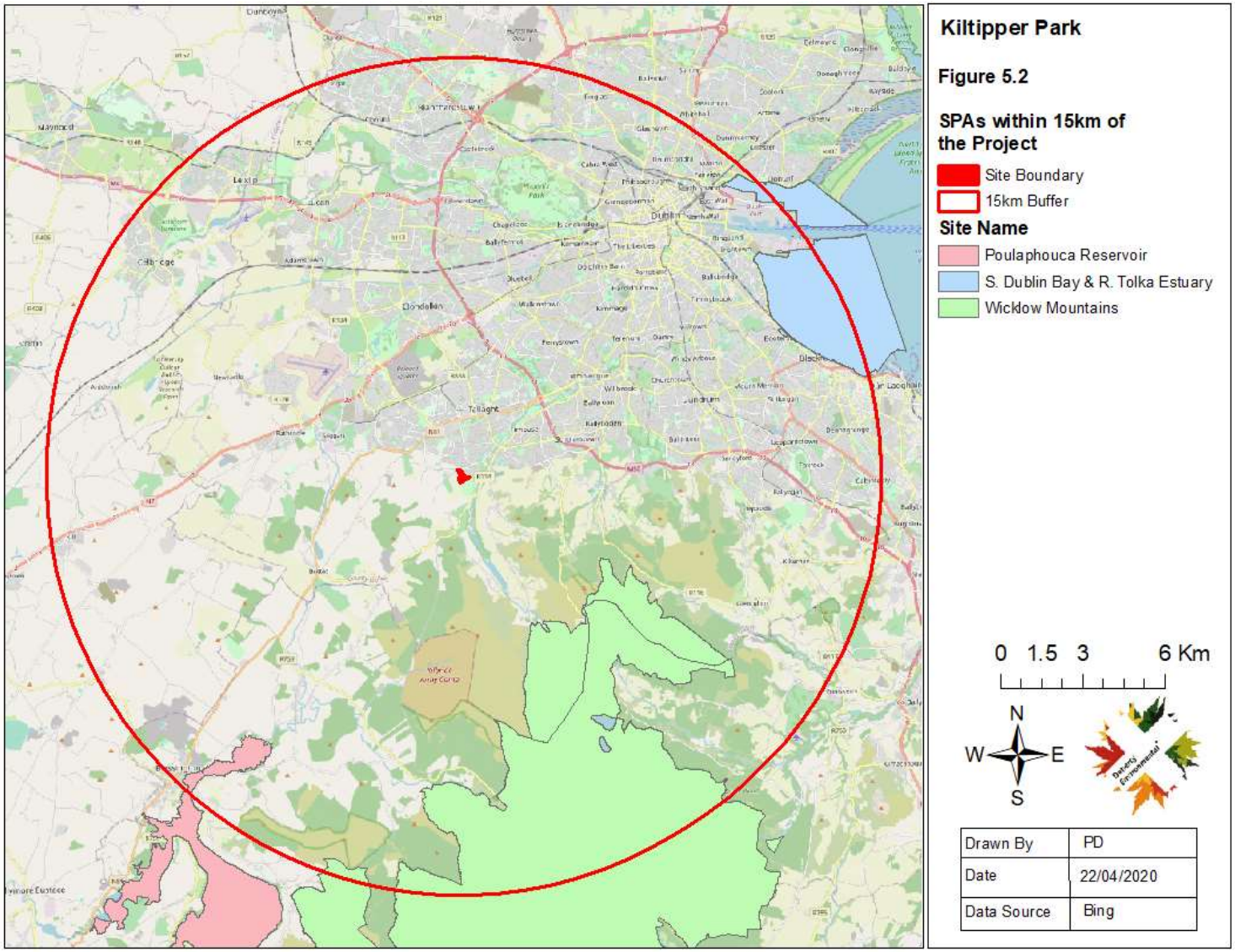

Kiltipper Park
Figure 5.2
SPAs within 15km of the Project
Site Boundary
15km Buffer
Site Name
Poulaphouca Reservoir
S. Dublin Bay & R. Tolka Estuary
Wicklow Mountains
0 1.5 3 6 Km
N
W
E
S
Drawn By PD
Date 22/04/2020
Data Source Bing

Table 5.1: European Sites occurring within the Wider Area Surrounding the Project Site

European Sites	Distance from Project	Qualifying Features of Interest/Special Conservation Interests	Broad QI/SCI Category
Glenasmole Valley SAC	90m	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]	Terrestrial grassland and peatland habitat Groundwater dependent habitat
Wicklow Mountain SAC	6km	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] Calaminarian grasslands of the Violetalia calaminariae [6130]	Surface water dependent habitats Terrestrial grassland, peatland, woodland and exposed rock habitat Mammals (otters)

		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]	
Wicklow Mountain SPA	6km	Merlin (Falco columbarius) Peregrine (Falco peregrinus)	Breeding raptor bird species
South Dublin Bay SAC	12.5km	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]	Coastal habitats

		Embryonic shifting dunes [2110]	
South Dublin Bay & Tolka Estuary SPA	12.5km	Light-bellied Brent Goose (Branta bernicla hrota) [A046] Oystercatcher (Haematopus ostralegus) [A130] Ringed Plover (Charadrius hiaticula) [A137] 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]	Wintering coastal waterbirds Breeding Terns Coastal habitats

Knocksink Woods SAC	12km	Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220] Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0]	Groundwater dependent habitats
Red Bog, Kildare SAC	12.5km	Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140]	Terrestrial peatland habitats
Rye Water Valley SAC	14km	Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220] Vertigo angustior (Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail) [1014] Vertigo moulinsiana (Desmoulin's Whorl Snail) [1016]	Groundwater dependent habitats Groundwater/surface water dependent species
Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA	12km	Greylag Goose (Anser anser) [A043] Lesser Black-backed Gull (Larus fuscus) [A183]	Winter waterbirds

6.0 EXAMINATION OF LIKELY SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS

The next step of this Screening Exercise is to identify the potential, if any, for the project to result in likely significant effects to European Sites. The extent of the works proposed for the project are buffered from the nearest European Site, Glenasmole Valley SAC. The closest point of any substantive works (i.e. works other than soft landscaping) associated with the enhancement plan, such as the provision of playing pitches, playground, car parking extension, access to the River Dodder etc. is approximately 400m to the north and upstream of this SAC, while the closest point of any landscape intervention which will comprise the planting of individual trees by hand is approximately 90m over land from the nearest point of the Glenasmole Valley SAC. Given the presence of these buffers and the location of all elements of the project outside and upstream of this SAC there will be no potential for land use effects arising from project to result in direct impacts to the Glenasmole Valley SAC or any other of the European Site occurring in the wider surrounding area. As such the potential for likely significant effects will be restricted to indirect impacts.

A source-pathway-receptor model has been used to establish which, if any, European Sites could be at risk of experiencing indirect negative impacts as a result of project. Under such a model the project elements and the associated potential negative ecological impacts identified in Section 2.8 represents the source. As summarised in Section 2.8 above the potential negative ecological impacts of the enhancement works include:

The loss of or fragmentation of dry meadow and riparian woodland habitat during construction works;

Deterioration in water quality in receiving watercourses downstream as a result of the discharge of contaminated storm water;

The disturbance to fauna during construction works;

The disturbance to habitats and fauna during the operation phase.

These potential impacts will have the potential to arise where construction or operation phase activities associated with project have the potential to interact with qualifying features of interest of European Sites. These interactions may arise as a result of indirect impacts to habitats

and species through habitat and/or species disturbance via impact pathways (e.g. hydrological pathways, disturbance to qualifying species as a result of the increased presence of people etc.) linking land use activities associated with the project to qualifying features of interest.

The receptors represent European Sites and their associated qualifying features of interest.

European Sites and their associated qualifying features are likely to be at risk of significant effects only where pathways establish a link between the project and associated land use activities and European Sites. Table 5.2 examines the potential for construction and operation phase impacts associated with project to result in negative impacts to each of the European Sites occurring within the wider area surrounding the project. This examination has been undertaken in line with the following assessment questions:

- Will construction-related potential impacts have the potential to negatively affect the conservation objectives of European Sites? and

- Will operation phase related potential impacts have the potential to negatively affect the conservation objectives of European Sites?

Table 4.6.1: Examination of the Project's Potential to Result in Likely Significant Effects to European Sites

European Sites	Potential for Construction Phase-Related Impacts	Potential for Operation Phase–related impacts	Does the European Sites occur within the zone of influence of the Plan?
Glenasmole Valley SAC	**Habitat loss and fragmentation** There will be no potential for the project to result in habitat loss or fragmentation of the three annex 1 habitats for which this SAC is designated. All examples of these habitats are located over 400m from the nearest point of any substantive works associated with the project site and 90m from any minor works associated tree planting by hand. Two of the qualifying habitats (Molinia meadows and species-rich orchid grassland) of this SAC are terrestrial and there are no pathways connecting the project elements to these qualifying habitats. The petrifying springs of this SAC are groundwater dependent and are well buffered from any element of the project. There are no groundwater or other pathways linking any of the project elements to this qualifying habitat. landscaping and there are no impact pathways, such as hydrological pathways linking the Project to these habitats.	**Deterioration in water quality with downstream impacts to habitats and species** This SAC and its qualifying habitats are not located downstream of the Project and there is no hydrological pathway linking the Project elements to the SAC and its qualifying habitats. **Disturbance to habitats as a result of increased human activity** The Project site is located outside the SAC boundary and will not facilitate any activity within the SAC or in the vicinity of its qualifying habitats. **Disturbance to species as a result of increased human activity** No Annex 2 species are listed as qualifying feature of interest for this SAC.	There will be no potential for the project to interact with this European Site. This European Site is located outside the zone of influence of the Project and there will be no potential for future construction activity and operation phase activities arising from the project to result in negative impacts to this European Site.

	Deterioration in water quality with downstream impacts to habitats and species The three Annex 1 habitats of this SAC are not reliant on surface water quality and furthermore there is no hydrological pathway linking the Project to these three habitats. As noted above this SAC is located to the south and southeast of the project and all surface water drainage from areas of substantive enhancement works (i.e. playing pitches, playground, car park, access to the River Dodder etc.) is to the north. As such any surface water runoff generated during the construction phase in these areas will be away from this SAC. Given the location of all works downstream of this SAC and its qualifying habitats and the lack of sensitivity of the qualifying habitats of this SAC to hydrological impact pathways there will be no potential for the project to result in a deterioration in water quality that could result in negative impacts to the qualifying habitat of this SAC. **Disturbance to habitats and/or species as a result of emissions such as noise, air, light and visual emissions** All habitats are located at a remote distance from the Project and are outside the zone of influence of any noise, air, light or visual emissions. No Annex 2 species are listed as qualifying feature of interest for this SAC.		

Wicklow Mountain SAC	**Habitat loss and fragmentation** There will be no potential for the project to result in habitat loss or fragmentation of the 13 Annex 1 habitats for which this SAC is designated. All examples of these habitats are located over 6km from the Project and there are no impact pathways, such as hydrological pathways linking the Project to these habitats. **Deterioration in water quality with downstream impacts to habitats and species** The 13 Annex 1 habitats of this SAC are not reliant on surface water quality and furthermore there is no hydrological pathway linking the Project to these habitats. Otters are designated as a qualifying feature of interest for this SAC. However, given the distance between the project and this SAC and the absence of any watercourse in the immediate vicinity of the project there will be no potential for the project to result in negative impacts to otters. Furthermore the otter population occurring along the River Dodder is considered to be representative of a separate population to that occurring within this SAC. In light of the above there will be no potential for construction phase activities to result in water quality impacts downstream that could negatively affect the conservation status of the otter population of this SAC. **Disturbance to species as a result of emissions such as noise, air, light and visual emissions**	**Deterioration in water quality with downstream impacts to habitats and species** Otters are designated as a qualifying feature of interest for this SAC. Given the absence of any suitable habitat for otters within the immediate vicinity of the project and the absence of any connections between the project and this SAC, there will be no potential for the operation phase to result in a deterioration of water quality with the freshwater habitats of this SAC that otter rely upon. Furthermore the otter population occurring within the River Dodder is considered to be representative of a separate population to that occurring within this SAC. In light of the above there will be no potential for the operation phase of the project to result in water quality impacts that could negatively affect the conservation status of the otter population of this SAC. **Disturbance to habitats as a result of increased human activity** The project is located over 6km from this SAC and it will not result in increased human activities within the SAC. **Disturbance to species as a result of increased human activity** No Annex 2 species of the SAC are considered to rely on the project or the wider area occurring surrounding the project. There will be potential for	There will be no potential for the project to interact with this European Site. This European Site is located outside the zone of influence of the Project and there will be no potential for future construction activity and operation phase activities arising from the project to result in negative impacts to this European Site.

	All qualifying habitats are located at a remote distance from the project and are outside the zone of influence of any noise, air, light or visual emissions. No habitat upon which otters rely occur within or in the immediate vicinity of the project and there will be no potential for such emissions to result in negative impacts to otters.	the operation phase to result in interactions between with these species.	
Wicklow Mountain SPA	**Habitat loss and fragmentation** There will be no potential for the project to result in habitat loss or fragmentation of the upland peatland and cliff habitats upon which merlin and peregrine falcon rely. All examples of these habitats are located over 6km from the Project and there are no impact pathways, such as hydrological pathways linking the Project to these habitats. **Deterioration in water quality with downstream impacts to habitats and species** Merlin or peregrine falcon are not reliant on surface water habitats and no such habitats occur within the vicinity of the project. **Disturbance to species as a result of emissions such as noise, air, light and visual emissions** The habitat upon which merlin and peregrine falcon rely is located at a remote distance from the Project and there will be no potential for emissions generated during the construction phase of the project to result in disturbance to these species or the habitats upon which they rely.	**Deterioration in water quality with downstream impacts to habitats and species** No habitats or species of the SPA occur downstream or rely on habitats occurring downstream of the project. **Disturbance to habitats as a result of increased human activity** The habitats upon which the special conservation interest bird species of this SPA rely are located at a remote distance from the Project and there will be no potential for activities associated with the operation phase of the project to interact with these species. **Disturbance to species as a result of increased human activity** The special conservation interest bird species of this European Site will not rely on or interact with the project and there will be no potential for the project to result in disturbance to these species.	There will be no potential for the project to interact with this European Site. This European Site is located outside the zone of influence of the Project and there will be no potential for future construction activity and operation phase activities arising from the project to result in negative impacts to this European Site.

South Dublin Bay SAC	**Habitat loss and fragmentation** There will be no potential for the project to result in habitat loss or fragmentation of the annex 1 habitats for which this SAC is designated. All examples of these habitats are located at a remote distance from the project and there are no impact pathways, such as hydrological pathways (see below) linking the Project to these habitats. **Deterioration in water quality with downstream impacts to habitats and species** It is noted that the project is located within the Dodder sub-catchment area and that any surface water runoff that does not drain to ground during the construction phase will be discharged to an existing surface water piped culvert along the Kiltipper Road to the north and eventually into the River Dodder to the east in the vicinity of the R113 at Oldbawn. Modelling of the Liffey Estuary and Dublin Bay has shown that the waters from the Liffey draining into Dublin Bay are deflected east and north towards Dollymount and Howth. The presence of the South Great Wall in Dublin Bay provides a barrier to the movement of waters towards the south (Dowly & Bedri, 2007; Bedri et al., 2012; Camp, Dresser & McKee, 2012). As such there is no effective hydrological pathway between the project and this SAC. **Disturbance to habitats and/or species as a result of emissions such as noise, air, light and visual emissions**	**Deterioration in water quality with downstream impacts to habitats and species** Given the absence of a hydrological pathway between the project and this SAC there will be not potential for the operation phase to interact with the habitats of the SAC and result in indirect impacts downstream within the SAC. **Disturbance to habitats as a result of increased human activity** The habitats of this SAC are located at a considerable distance from the project and are not connected to the project via any impact pathway. As such increased human activity will not have the potential to result in any interactions with or impacts to the qualifying habitats of this SAC. **Disturbance to species as a result of increased human activity** No Annex 2 species are listed as qualifying species for this SAC.	There will be no potential for the project to interact with this European Site. This European Site is located outside the zone of influence of the Project and there will be no potential for future construction activity and operation phase activities arising from the project to result in negative impacts to this European Site.

	All habitats are located at a remote distance from the Project and are outside the zone of influence of any noise, air, light or visual emissions. No Annex 2 species are listed as qualifying feature of interest for this SAC.		
South Dublin Bay & Tolka Estuary SPA	**Habitat loss and fragmentation** There will be no potential for the project to result in habitat loss or fragmentation of the wetland habitats for which this SPA is designated. All examples of these habitats are located at a remote distance from the project and there are no impact pathways, such as hydrological pathways (see below) linking the project to these habitats. **Deterioration in water quality with downstream impacts to habitats and species** The project is located upstream of this SPA. Storm water running off the project site eventually drains to the Liffey catchment, which in turn drains to Dublin Bay where this SPA is located. However published research (see Dowly & Bedri, 2007; Bedri et al., 2012; Camp, Dresser & McKee, 2012; O'Higgins and Wilson, 2005; Wilson and Jackson, 2011) has shown that the water quality of the Liffey Estuary does not influence the water quality of Dublin Bay and does not influence the status of this SPA. In light of this published research no function hydrological impact pathway connects the project to this SPA.	**Deterioration in water quality with downstream impacts to habitats and species** The project is located upstream of this SPA Storm water running off the project site drains to the Liffey catchment, which in turn drains to Dublin Bay where this SPA is located. However published research (see Dowly & Bedri, 2007; Bedri et al., 2012; Camp, Dresser & McKee, 2012; O'Higgins and Wilson, 2005; Wilson and Jackson, 2011) has shown that the water quality of the Liffey Estuary does not influence the water quality of Dublin Bay and does not influence the status of this SPA. In light of this published research no function hydrological impact pathway connects the project to this SPA. **Disturbance to habitats as a result of increased human activity** The wetland habitats upon which the special conservation interest bird species of this SPA rely are located at considerable distance from the project and there are no pathways connecting this area to the SPA and these habitats. There will be no potential for future human activities at and within the vicinity of the project to result in negative impacts to the status of these habitats.	There will be no potential for the project to interact with this European Site. This European Site is located outside the zone of influence of the Project and there will be no potential for future construction activity and operation phase activities arising from the project to result in negative impacts to this European Site.

	Disturbance to habitats and/or species as a result of emissions such as noise, air, light and visual emissions All habitats and species are located at a remote distance from the project and are outside the zone of influence of any noise, air, light or visual emissions.	**Disturbance to species as a result of increased human activity** The special conservation interest bird species of this SPA rely on habitats that are located at a remote distance from the project. There are no habitats occurring at or within the vicinity of the project that are relied upon by these species. There will be no potential for future human activities at and in the vicinity of the project to result in interactions with or impacts to these species.	
Knocksink Woods SAC	**Habitat loss and fragmentation** There will be no potential for the project to result in habitat loss or fragmentation of the annex 1 habitats for which this SAC is designated. All examples of these habitats are located at a remote distance from the project and there are no impact pathways, such as hydrological pathways (see below) linking the project to these habitats. **Deterioration in water quality with downstream impacts to habitats and species** The SAC is located in a separate surface water catchment to the project and there is no hydrological pathway connecting the project to this SAC. **Disturbance to habitats and/or species as a result of emissions such as noise, air, light and visual emissions**	**Deterioration in water quality with downstream impacts to habitats and species** Deterioration in water quality with downstream impacts to habitats and species The SAC is located in a separate surface water catchment to the project and there is no hydrological pathway connecting the project to this SAC. **Disturbance to habitats as a result of increased human activity** The habitats of this SAC are located at a considerable distance from the project and are not connected to the project via any impact pathway. As such increased human activity will not have the potential to result in any interactions with or impacts to the qualifying habitats of this SAC.	There will be no potential for the project to interact with this European Site. This European Site is located outside the zone of influence of the project and there will be no potential for future construction activity and operation phase activities arising from the project to result in negative impacts to this European Site.

	All habitats are located at a remote distance from the Project and are outside the zone of influence of any noise, air, light or visual emissions. No Annex 2 species are listed as qualifying feature of interest for this SAC.	**Disturbance to species as a result of increased human activity** No Annex 2 species are listed as qualifying feature of interest for this SAC.	
Rye Water Valley SAC	**Habitat loss and fragmentation** There will be no potential for the project to result in habitat loss or fragmentation of the wetland habitats for which this SAC is designated. All examples of these habitats are located at a remote distance from the Project and there are no impact pathways, such as hydrological pathways (see below) linking the Project to these habitats. **Deterioration in water quality with downstream impacts to habitats and species** This SAC is located within a different surface water catchment to the project and there will be no potential for the construction phase activities associated with project's arising from the project to result in downstream impacts to the qualifying habitats or species of this SAC. **Disturbance to habitats and/or species as a result of emissions such as noise, air, light and visual emissions**	**Deterioration in water quality with downstream impacts to habitats and species** This SAC is located within a different surface water catchment to the Project and there will be no potential for the operation phase activities associated with project's arising from the project to result in downstream impacts to the qualifying habitats or species of this SAC. **Disturbance to habitats as a result of increased human activity** The Annex 1 habitats for which this SAC is designated are located at a remote distance from the project and are not connected to it via any impact pathways. There will be no potential for increased human activity at and in the vicinity of the project to result in interactions with or impacts to these habitats. **Disturbance to species as a result of increased human activity** This SAC is designated for its role in supporting Annex 2 Vertigo snail species. These species are restricted to calcareous springs and hydrophilous	There will be no potential for the project to interact with this European Site. This European Site is located outside the zone of influence of the project and there will be no potential for future construction activity and operation phase activities arising from the project to result in negative impacts to this European Site.

	All habitats and species are located at a remote distance from the project and are outside the zone of influence of any noise, air, light or visual emissions.	tall herb fringes along the Rye Water River. The project is not hydrologically connected to the Rye Water River and there will be no potential for the project to result in interactions within or impacts to these species.	
Red Bog, Kildare SAC	**Habitat loss and fragmentation** There will be no potential for the project to result in habitat loss or fragmentation of the wetland habitats for which this SAC is designated. All examples of these habitats are located at a remote distance from the project and there are no impact pathways, such as hydrological pathways (see below) linking the project to these habitats. **Deterioration in water quality with downstream impacts to habitats and species** This SAC is located within a different surface water catchment to the project and there will be no potential for the construction phase activities associated with project's arising from the project to result in downstream impacts to the qualifying habitats or species of this SAC. **Disturbance to habitats and/or species as a result of emissions such as noise, air, light and visual emissions** All habitats are located at a remote distance from the Project and are outside the zone of influence of any noise, air, light or visual emissions.	**Deterioration in water quality with downstream impacts to habitats and species** This SAC is located within a different surface water catchment to the project and there will be no potential for the construction phase activities associated with project's arising from the project to result in downstream impacts to the qualifying habitats or species of this SAC. **Disturbance to habitats as a result of increased human activity** The habitats of this SAC are located at a considerable distance from the project and are not connected to the project via any impact pathway. As such increased human activity will not have the potential to result in any interactions with or impacts to the qualifying habitats of this SAC. **Disturbance to species as a result of increased human activity** No Annex 2 species are listed as qualifying feature of interest for this SAC.	There will be no potential for the project to interact with this European Site. This European Site is located outside the zone of influence of the Project and there will be no potential for future construction activity and operation phase activities arising from the project to result in negative impacts to this European Site.

	No Annex 2 species are listed as qualifying feature of interest for this SAC.		
Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA	**Habitat loss and fragmentation** There will be no potential for the project to result in habitat loss or fragmentation of the wetland habitats for which this SPA is designated. All examples of these habitats are located at a remote distance from the project and there are no impact pathways, such as hydrological pathways (see below) linking the project to these habitats. **Deterioration in water quality with downstream impacts to habitats and species** This SPA is located within a separate surface catchment to the project and is not connected to it via any hydrological pathway. There will be no potential for the project to result in surface water quality effects that could result in negative impacts to the habitats or species of this SPA. **Disturbance to habitats and/or species as a result of emissions such as noise, air, light and visual emissions** All habitats and species are located at a remote distance from the Project and are outside the zone of influence of any noise, air, light or visual emissions.	**Deterioration in water quality with downstream impacts to habitats and species** This SPA is located within a separate surface catchment to the project and is not connected to it via any hydrological pathway. There will be no potential for the project to result in surface water quality effects that could result in negative impacts to the habitats or species of this SPA. **Disturbance to habitats as a result of increased human activity** The wetland habitats upon which the special conservation interest bird species of this SPA rely are located at considerable distance from the Project and there are no pathways connecting this area to the SPA and these habitats. There will be no potential for future human activities at and within the vicinity of the project to result in negative impacts to the status of these habitats. **Disturbance to species as a result of increased human activity** The special conservation interest bird species of this SPA rely on habitats that are located at a remote distance from the project. There are no habitats occurring at or within the vicinity of the project that are relied upon by these species. There will be no potential for future human activities at and in the	There will be no potential for the project to interact with this European Site. This European Site is located outside the zone of influence of the Project and there will be no potential for future construction activity and operation phase activities arising from the project to result in negative impacts to this European Site.

		vicinity of the Project to result in interactions with or impacts to these species.	

6.1 IN-COMBINATION EFFECTS WITH OTHER PLANS & PROJECTS

As part of the Habitats Directive Article 6(3) assessment process consideration must be given to the potential for the project to combine with other plans or projects to result in cumulative negative effects to European Sites.

Works are nearing completion for Phase 1 of the Kiltipper Park Enhancement Works. As part of the Part 8 planning process for the Phase 1 works a screening for Appropriate Assessment was completed and this found that the Phase 1 works did not have the potential, alone or in-combination with other plans or projects to result in likely significant effects to European Sites. These works were also subject to ecological monitoring and inspections during the construction phase and no risks to the Glenasmole Valley SAC or any other European Sites were identified during these inspections. It is also noted that the Phase 1 works are nearing completion and will be completed prior to any construction works commencing for the enhancement works proposed as part of this project. In light of the above there will be no potential for the project to combine with Phase 1 of the Kiltipper Park Enhancment Works to result in cumulative negative impacts to the Glenasmole Valley SAC or any other European Site occurring in the wider surrounding area.

A search of the South Dublin County Council online planning portal was also completed in April 2020 to identify other recent projects in the vicinity of the project. A total of four recent projects (where planning was applied for in the last three years) were identified. These include planning application SD17A/0025; SD19A/0381; SD19B/0465; SD18B/0264.

The project SD17A/0025 relates to the provision of a new clubhouse, extension to an existing car park, fencing, septic tank and all ancillary works at Carolan Park to the west of the project. A screening for Appropriate Assessment was completed for this project and this screening concluded that this project does not have the potential, alone or in-combination with other plans or projects, to result in likely significant effects to European Sites. Given the findings of this screening report for this project it can be concluded that the proposed enhancement works at Kiltipper Park as part of the current project will not have the potential to combine with this project to result in negative cumulative impacts to European Sites.

The other projects listed above are small in scale and are associated with changes to residential dwellings within the curtilage of each dwelling property. These projects will not have the

potential to combine with the proposed enhancement works at Kiltipper Park as part of the current project to result in negative cumulative effects to European Sites.

In addition to these plans threats and pressures to European Sites and their qualifying features of interest have been identified by the NPWS. Examples of the existing threats and pressures to the European Sites occurring in the wider 15km area surrounding the Project include:

Water pollution;

Discharges

Aquaculture,

Fishing;

Nautical Sports

Trampling

Piers/Harbours/Slipways Walking

Horse riding and non- motorised vehicles

Off-road motorised vehicles

Other human intrusions and disturbances

It is noted that the provision of the enhancement works has been identified as a project objective in the South County Dublin Development Plan. All construction phase and operation phase land use effects that could potential arise as a result of the project have been individually screened in Section 5.3 above. No impact pathways link the Project to the European Sites occurring within the wider area surrounding the project and there will be no potential for the project to combine with or exacerbate existing threats and pressures to European Sites such as those listed above.

7.0 SCREENING CONCLUSION

The proposed Phase 2 enhancement works at Kiltipper Park are not located within any European Site. A total of nine European Site were identified as occurring within the wider area surrounding the project. The nearest European Site to the project is the Glenasmole Valley SAC. All substantive works associated with the enhancement scheme are buffered from this SAC by approximately 400m. The nearest area of any minor works (i.e. the planting of individual tree seedlings by hand) associated with the enhancement scheme to this SAC will be approximately 90m. The presence of this buffer distance between the all elements of the project and this SAC will ensure that no impact pathways connect the project works to this SAC. No impact pathways link the project to these European Site and works associated with the construction phase or activities associated with the operation phase will not have the potential to result in likely significant effects to the conservation objectives of the Glenasmole Valley SAC or any other European Sites.

Following an examination, analysis and evaluation of the relevant information pertaining to the project and the potential relationship between the project and land use activities arising from the project with European Sites, as well as considering other plans and projects, and applying the precautionary principle, it is the professional opinion of the authors of this report that, likely significant effects on all European sites can be ruled out.

In light of the above it is the considered view of the authors of this report that it can be concluded by South Dublin County Council that the project is not likely, alone or in-combination with other plans or projects, to have a significant effect on any European Sites in view of their Conservation Objectives and on the basis of best scientific evidence and there is no reasonable scientific doubt as to that conclusion.

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