MWP

Screening for Environmental Impact Assessment

St. Cuthbert's Park Upgrade, Deansrath, Dublin 22

South Dublin County Council

September 2022

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1. Introduction

South Dublin County Council ('the Applicant') is submitting a Part 8 Planning Application for permission to redesign and upgrade St Cuthbert's Park, Deansrath, Dublin 22 (hereafter referred to as the 'proposed development'). The location of the proposed development is hereafter referred to as 'proposed development site'.

MWP has been engaged by the Applicant to prepare a Screening for Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of the proposed development to accompany the application. MWP has also prepared a Screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA) to provide a sufficient level of information to the competent authority, in this case South Dublin County Council (SDCC), on which to base an AA of the proposed development. A Natura Impact Statement (NIS) has also been prepared for the proposed development.

1.1 Scope

Under EU and Irish legislation (detailed in Section 3), an EIA is required for certain prescribed projects and is required for others which are likely to have significant effects on the environment, by reason of their nature, extent or location.

The purpose of this Screening for EIA report is to provide a sufficient level of information to SDCC, on which to base the EIA Screening determination for the proposed development. It presents the findings of an assessment undertaken using mandatory provisions and discretionary (or sub-threshold) requirements based on an assessment of the likely significant environmental effects of the proposed development, which would also trigger the requirement to complete EIA.

As per the EPA's draft guidance, a significant effect can be defined as "*An effect which, by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment*" (EPA, 2017).

2. Description of the Proposed Development

2.1 Background

St. Cuthbert's Park is a public open space of 12.7 hectares containing open grass spaces, a soccer pitch and a large raised area. The park is currently failing to meet its potential in terms of amenity, biodiversity and heritage and is not serving the community well in terms of recreational amenity. It offers very limited facilities to the local community and is frequently in poor condition; therefore, SDCC propose to re-design and upgrade of the Park.

SDCC wishes to bring the park back to life with a renewed focus on meeting the needs of the communities that live and surround it. The vision is to create a safe, clean environment free from anti-social behaviour for people of all ages to meet, exercise and enjoy nature. The aim is to make the park a source of pride for the local community. The Park will offer amenity, interconnected green infrastructure, biodiversity enhancement including habitat for pollinators. The upgrade works have been developed by a multidisciplinary team led by Nicholas de Jong Associates with input from MWP.

2.2 Overview

Based on comprehensive engagement with community stakeholders, the key Masterplan proposals for the upgrade of the park comprise:

- Proposed hard-surfaced primary walking/ cycling route with public lighting; traversing east-west, through the park;
- Proposed hard-surfaced secondary walking/ cycling routes through the park;
- 3 No. Nodal points with seating as required;
- Proposed on-street car parking and pedestrian crossing points (subject to detailed design with SDCC Roads Dept.);
- Proposed vantage point, seating and signage;
- Proposed Teenspace area with equipment, seating and surfacing;
- Proposed outdoor exercise area with calisthenics or similar;
- Proposed natural and equipped playspaces for children;
- Proposed performance/ events area;
- Proposed dogs off-leash area with dog-friendly features;
- Proposed arboretum with edible fruits and nut trees;
- Proposed grass sports pitches;
- Proposed Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) with floodlighting;
- Proposed play/exercise trail along the walking / cycling routes;
- Proposed new planting to include: wildflower grassland with drifts of native bulbs; formal avenue trees; informal tree groups; community woodland; informal tree groups with native species; and other planting as required;
- Vegetation clearance of St Cuthberts Church, Moated Site and Graveyard Site and further assessment of works to conserve the structure as advised; (Monuments of Archaeological Interest and a Protected Structure);
- Seating, bicycle parking and signage;
- Works to boundaries, accesses and entrances;
- All associated landscape design including furniture and planting;
- All ancillary works.

It is intended that the Masterplan Plan proposals may be delivered in phases, subject to available funding, with priorities identified in conjunction with the High Level Task Force.

2.3 Site Location and Description

St. Cuthbert's Park is located less than a half a kilometre south of the Grand Canal at Deansrath in the South County Dublin administrative area. The Park area is 12.7 hectares and forms the public open space for the Deansrath, Kilmahuddrick and Bawnogue neighbourhoods. A social housing development at St. Cuthbert's

Meadows has recently been completed and overlooks the north-easternmost part of the Park. Deansrath Community College lies to the east and St Ronan's National School to the south.

Currently the park is largely grassed, with a remnant well-developed hedgerow system and some mature trees surrounding the ruined Church of St Cuthbert's and along the banks of associated drainage channels.

The proposed works are within the curtilage of three Protected Structures - St. Cuthbert's Church (DU017-038001-), the associated graveyard (DU017-038002-), and the moated site (DU017-038003-). The three sites are also collectively entered as one in the Record of Protected Structures, ref RPS133.

The main vehicular maintenance entrance lies to the south off Westbourne Rise. There are a number of pedestrian entrances, fitted with galvanised steel kissing gates. The boundary treatment varies around the park. A high grass mound was created during an upgrade in early 2000's, using inert material from local development sites, providing added interest, shelter and a panoramic viewing point.

Clondalkin Celtic have allocated pitches in the north of the park, with two containers to the south of the pitch for storage/changing. Formal seating is limited to some park benches located near a (modern) stone circle feature in the west of the park. Large pylons and overhead cables extend along the northern boundary, delivering power to Grange Castle Business park.

The park has been subject to anti-social activity such as littering, dumping, illegal use of scramblers and quad bikes and intimidating behaviour. It is failing to meet its potential in terms of amenity, biodiversity and heritage and is not serving the community well in terms of recreational amenity.

A High-Level Taskforce was created to drive local community development and, together with the Local Area Committee, have requested a re-design and upgrade of the park.

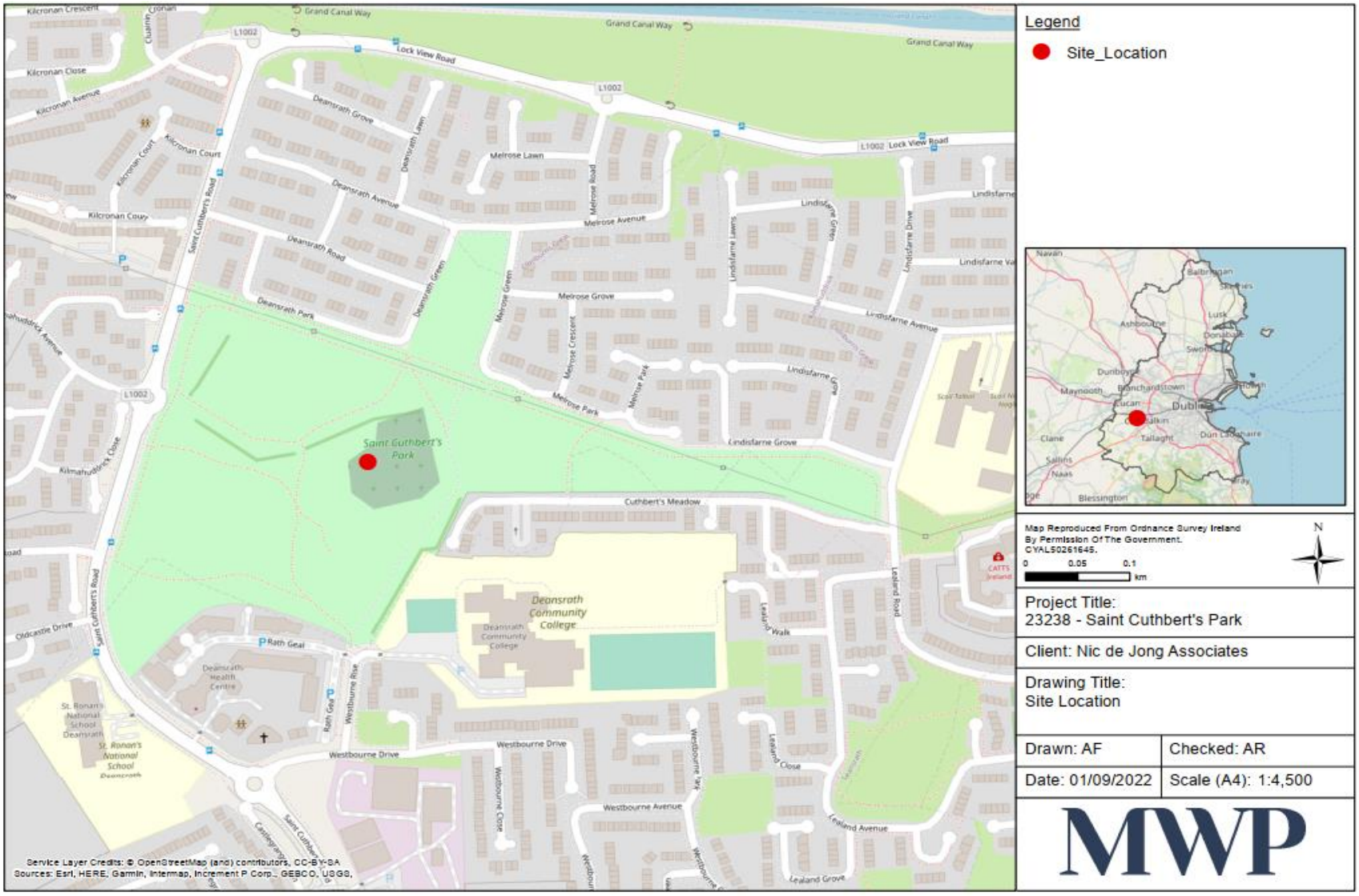

Figure 2-1 Site Location Map

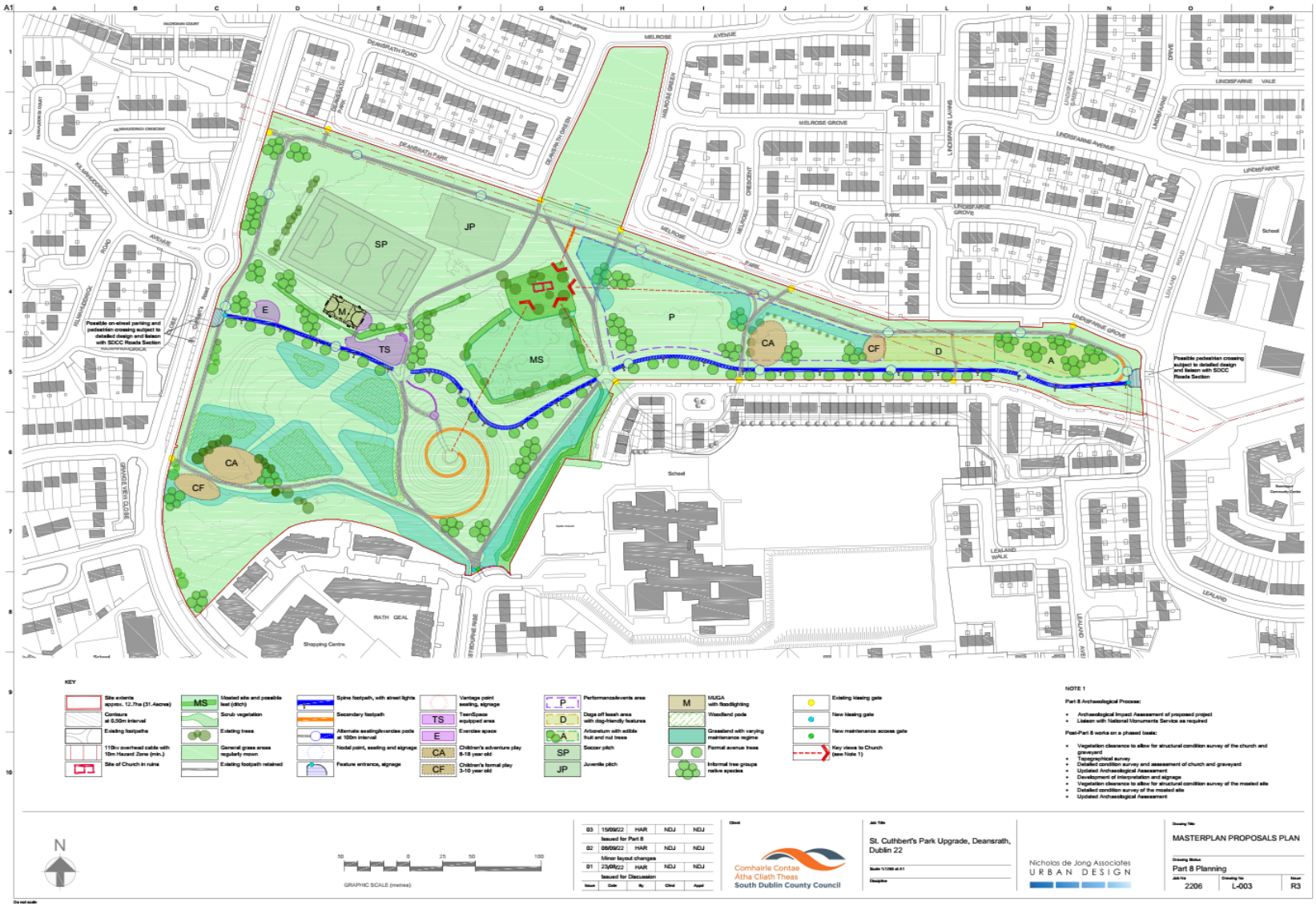

Figure 2-2 Proposed Site Layout

2.4 Environmental Setting

The following section provides an outline of the general environment in the wider area of St. Cuthbert's park context.

2.4.1 Landcover, Soils and Geology

The proposed development site is located in an urban/residential area. In terms of landcover, the CORINE (2018) landcover at the proposed development site is classed as 'Artificial Surfaces'.

According to the online Geological Survey Ireland (GSI) online mapper[1], the geological unit underlying the proposed development site is identified as 'Dark Limestone and shale (calp)' from the Lucan Formation.

According to the EPA mapper[2], the SIS National Soils dataset, soils within the proposed development site are catgeorised as 'Fine loamy drift with limestones' with 'Moderate' drainage. Subsoil is categorised 'Man made'. The bedrock aquifer consists of a 'Locally Important Aquifer - Bedrock which is Moderately Productive only in Local Zones'. Groundwater vulnerability underlying the proposed development site is categorised as 'High'[3]. There are no mapped groundwater wells located within or close to the proposed development site.

2.4.2 Ecological Designations

The proposed development site is not located within a designated SAC or SPA. The Screening for AA report, identified 6 European sites comprising of 4 Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and 2 Special Protection Areas (SPA) occurring within 15 km of the proposed development site:

- Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC (001398)
- Glenasmole Valley SAC (001209)
- Wicklow Mountains SAC (002122)
- South Dublin Bay SAC (000210)
- Wicklow Mountains SPA (004040)
- South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA (004024)

The park is located 225m from the Grand Canal which is designation as a proposed natural Heritage Area (pNHA)

2.4.3 Water

Data relating to water features was obtained from Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) interactive Map viewer[4]. The proposed development site is located within the Liffey and Dublin Bay Water Framework Directive (WFD) catchment (ID: 09). There are no rivers within the proposed development site. The Grand Canal Main Line

[1] GSI Mapper Accessed July 2022
[2] https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/ Accessed July 2022
[3] Groundwater Vulnerability is a term used to represent the natural ground characteristics that determine the ease with which groundwater may be contaminated by human activities. Groundwater that readily and quickly receives water (and contaminants) from the land surface is considered to be more vulnerable than groundwater that receives water (and contaminants) more slowly, and consequently in lower quantities. Also, the slower the movement and the longer the pathway, the greater is the potential for attenuation of many contaminants (GSI, 2022) :https://www.gsi.ie/en-ie/programmes-and-projects/groundwater-and-geothermal-unit/activities/understanding-ireland-groundwater/groundwater-vulnerability/Pages/default.aspx)
[4] https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/ Accessed July 2022

(Liffey and Dublin Bay) is the closest mapped river water body, located approximately 225 m to the north of the proposed development site. The EPA has classified this River Water Body (WBD as 'Not at risk' of failing to meet its WFD objectives. Its WFD status (2013-2018) is categorised as 'Good'. The River Camac_030 RWB is located approximately 1 km to the south east of the site, flowing in a southwest-northeast direction. The EPA has classified this RWB as 'At risk' of failing to meet its WFD objectives. It's WFD status (2013-2018) is categorised as 'Poor'.

The proposed development site overlies the 'Dublin' Groundwater Body (GWB), which has been designated as a GWB that intersects with Designated SAC and SPA Conservation Objective Habitats for the EU Water Framework Directive.

Information on flood risk at the proposed development site was obtained from the Office of Public Works (OPW) Flood Maps[5]. A review of the Flood Maps indicated that there are no areas designated at risk of flooding within the proposed development site. As outlined in the Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) accompanying this application, the proposed development site at St. Cuthbert's park is located within Flood Zone C. The FRA concludes that the proposed park development will not adversely affect flood risk.

2.4.4 Landscape

The proposed development site is located within the 'Urban' Landscape Character Area (LCA). Key characteristics of this LCA include:

- Built – up urban area with extensive housing estates and industrial /commercial parks.
- Variety of house styles and layouts dating from the late 19th century to late 20th century
- Major traffic corridors with M50 traversing north- south through the area, and LUAS line travelling north from Tallaght, parallel to the M50,to city centre.

The proposed development site is located within the Electoral Division (ED) of CLONDALKIN-DUNAWLEY (DUBLIN). The Central Statistics Office (CSO) data indicates that in 2016 this ED[6] had a total population of 11,323.

2.4.5 Architecture/Archaeology

As outlined on the 'Historic Environment Viewer' there are three monuments recorded on the Sites of Monuments and Records (SMR), which are also included on the statutory Record of Monuments and Places (RMP):

- Moated site (DU017-038003-);
- Graveyard (DU017-038002-); and
- Church of St. Cuthbert (DU017-038001-).

The ruined roofless medieval stone church of St. Cuthbert (DU017-038001) church forms a focal point of historic interest within the park. The ruin is heavily concealed within an area of overgrown trees and hedgerow. The three archaeological monuments are located on a raised platform in the north-east corner of a graveyard (DU017-038002), forming part of a moated site (DU017-038003).

The ruin is a also a Protected Structure listed on the Record of Protected Structures (RMP) in Schedule 2 of SDCC County Development Plan (2022-2028) (RPS: 133). An Archaeological Impact Assessment (2022) has been undertaken by Daniel Noonan which accompanies the Part 8 Planning Application.

[5] https://www.floodinfo.ie/map/floodmaps/ Accessed July 2022
[6] https://visual.cso.ie/?body=entity/ima/cop/2016 Accessed July 2022

3. EIA Screening Legislation and Guidance

This section of the report outlines the legislative basis for 'Screening' for EIA.

3.1 Legislation

3.1.1 EU EIA Directive

EIA requirements derive from Council Directive 85/337/EEC (as amended by Directives 97/11/EC, 2003/35/EC and 2009/31/EC) and as codified and replaced by Directive 2011/92/EU of the European Parliament and the Council on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment. EIA Directive 2014/52/EU, amends Directive 2011/92/EU (hereafter referred to as the 'EIA Directive').

The EIA Directive requires an environmental assessment to be carried out prior to development consent being granted for projects considered likely to have a significant effect on the environment.

The EIA Directive lists those projects that require a mandatory EIA (Annex I), and those projects for which an assessment must be undertaken to determine if they are probable to result in likely significant effects (Annex II). For Annex II projects, individual Member States can choose to institute specific thresholds or project specific considerations, or a combination of both approaches to arrive at a decision regarding the requirement to undertake an EIA.

Annex II developments that do not exceed the thresholds for the mandatory requirement to prepare an EIA are categorised as sub-threshold and must be assessed on a case-by-case basis to determine whether or not they are likely to have significant effects on the existing environment. The likelihood of a significant environmental effect is the principle matter around which consideration of the requirement for an EIA is based. Annex III, of the EIA Directive, sets out the criteria to be examined when carrying out a sub-threshold assessment. These criteria include the characteristics of projects, location of projects, and type and characteristics of the potential impact.

Therefore, in order for a project to be subjected to an assessment of its environmental effects, in accordance with the procedural requirements of the EIA Directive it must be:

1. A project of a type listed in Annex I; or
2. A project of a type listed in Annex II which either meets thresholds or criteria set by the Member State; or
3. A project of a type listed in Annex II which is under the threshold, but following case by case examination, is likely to have significant effects on the environment.

3.1.2 Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations 2018

The EIA Directive had direct effect in Ireland from 16 May 2017 and was transposed into Irish planning law on 1 September 2018 in the form of the European Union (EU) (Planning and Development) (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2018.

In Ireland, generally the process of ascertaining whether a development requires an EIA is determined by the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) which takes into consideration the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended). The Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) have been amended by the European Union (Planning and Development) (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2018 (S.I. No. 296 of 2018) to take account of the requirements of the EIA Directive.

The Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) have been amended by the European Union (Planning and Development) (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2018 (S.I. No. 296 of 2018) to take account of the requirements of the 2014 EIA Directive.

3.1.2.1 Mandatory and Sub-threshold EIA- Schedule 5/Annex I & II

Section 172 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended) provides the legislative basis for mandatory EIA. It states the following:

> "*An environmental impact assessment shall be carried out by a planning authority or the Board, as the case may be, in respect of an application for consent for proposed development where either:*
>
> *1. the proposed development would be of a class specified in –*
>
> *(i) Part 1 of Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, and either*
>
> *I. such development would exceed any relevant quantity, area or other limit specified in that Part, or*
>
> *II. no quantity, area or other limit is specified in that Part in respect of the development concerned,*
>
> *or*
>
> *(ii) Part 2 of Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 and either –*
>
> *I. such development would exceed any relevant quantity, area or other limit specified in that Part, or*
>
> *II. no quantity, area or other limit is specified in that Part in respect of the development concerned,*
>
> *or*
>
> *2. (i) the proposed development would be of a class specified in Part 2 of Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 but does not exceed the relevant quantity, area or other limit specified in that Part, and*
>
> *3. (ii) the planning authority or the Board, as the case may be, determines that the proposed development would be likely to have significant effects on the environment*."

Schedule 5 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) sets out a number of classes and scales of development that require EIA. Schedule 5 broadly transposes Annex I and Annex II of the EIA Directive into Irish law under Parts 1 and 2 of the Schedule, respectively.

EIA is mandatory for development of a class set out in Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended), which exceeds a limit, quantity or threshold set for that class of development.

Sub-threshold development is defined in Part 10 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) as a "*development of a type set out in Schedule 5 which does not exceed a quantity, area or other limit specified in that Schedule in respect of the relevant class of development*"; however, the planning authority may consider that the development would be likely to have significant effects on the environment and therefore would require EIA. As such, the possibility that the proposed development might fall within this definition is considered.

A new Annex IIA has been inserted to the 2014 EIA Directive requiring certain additional information be provided by the applicant or developer for the purposes of screening sub-threshold development for environmental impact assessment:

> "*1. A description of the project, including in particular:*
>
> *(a) a description of the physical characteristics of the whole project and, where relevant, of demolition works;*

(b) a description of the location of the project, with particular regard to the environmental sensitivity of geographical areas likely to be affected.

2. A description of the aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected by the project.

3. A description of any likely significant effects, to the extent of the information available on such effects, of the project on the environment resulting from:

(a) the expected residues and emissions and the production of waste, where relevant;

(b) the use of natural resources, in particular soil, land, water and biodiversity.

4. The criteria of Annex III shall be taken into account, where relevant, when compiling the information in accordance with points 1 to 3."

This is transposed into Irish Law as Schedule 7A of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended).

3.1.2.2 Likely Significant Effects- Schedule 7/Annex III

Schedule 7 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended), sets out the criteria for assessing whether or not a development would or would not be likely to have 'significant' effects on the environment. Schedule 7 transposes Annex III of the EIA Directive.

The criteria are grouped under three headings and are used to help in the screening process to determine whether a development is likely to have a significant effect on the environment.

3.1.3 Appropriate Assessment

Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora, which is more commonly known as 'the Habitats Directive', requires Member States of the European Union (EU) to take measures to maintain or restore, at favourable conservation status, natural habitats and wild species of fauna and flora of Community interest. The provisions of the Habitats Directive require that Member States designate Special Areas of Conservation for habitats listed on Annex I and for species listed on Annex II. Similarly, Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds (more commonly known as 'the Birds Directive') provides a framework for the conservation and management of wild birds. It also requires Member States to identify and classify SPAs for rare or vulnerable species listed on Annex I of the Directive, as well as for all regularly occurring migratory species. The complete network of European sites is referred to as 'Natura 2000'.

Under article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive, any plan or project which is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of a European site but would be likely to have a significant effect on such a site, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, must be subject to an 'Appropriate Assessment' (AA) of its implications for the SAC / SPA and its nature conservation objectives.

In Ireland, the requirements of Article 6(3) are transposed into national law by Part 5 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats Regulations) 2011 (S.I. No. 477 of 2011)) (more commonly referred to as the 'Habitats Regulations') and Part XAB of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

As set out in the NPWS guidance (DoEHLG, 2009), the task of establishing whether a plan or project is likely to have an effect on a Natura 2000 Site is based on a preliminary impact assessment using available information and data, including that outlined above, and other available environmental information, supplemented as necessary by local site information and ecological surveys. This is followed by a determination of whether there is a risk that the effects identified could be significant.

The purpose of the AA screening assessment is to record in a transparent and reasoned manner the likely effects, on relevant Natura 2000 Sites, of the proposed works. The Screening for AA report, which was prepared for the proposed development, concluded that no significant effects on Natura 2000 sites within the Zone of Influence are predicted as a result of the proposed development

3.2 Relevant Guidance

This screening for EIA report was prepared in accordance with the relevant guidelines including:

- EPA 'Guidelines on the Information to be Contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports' (2022) (hereafter referred to as the 'EPA guidelines');
- European Commission (EC), 'Environmental Impact Assessment of Projects, Guidance on the preparation of Environmental Impact Assessment Reports' (Directive 2011/92/EU as amended by 2014/52/EU) (2017);
- EC 'Interpretation of definitions of project categories of annex I and II of the EIA Directive' (2015);
- EC 'Guidance on EIA Screening' (2001);
- Government of Ireland 'Guidelines for Planning Authorities and An Board Pleanála on carrying out Environmental Impact Assessment, (2018);
- Department of Housing Planning and Local Government (DHPLG) 'Guidelines for Planning Authorities and An Bord Pleanála on carrying out Environmental Impact Assessment' (2018); and
- Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR) 'Environmental Impact Assessment Screening Practice Note' (2021).

4. Screening Assessment

Ascertaining whether the proposed development requires an EIA (EIA screening) is determined by reference to mandatory and discretionary provisions, which are outlined in Section 4 of this Report. The report was prepared in accordance with Section 3.2 of the EPA's Draft 'Guidelines on the Information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Report' (EPA, 2017). The DHPLG's 'Guidelines for Planning Authorities and An Bord Pleanála on carrying out Environmental Impact Assessment' (DHPLG, 2018) were also consulted.

It is important to note that this report has been prepared in order to provide a sufficient level of information to the competent authority, in this case South Dublin County Council, on which to base the EIA Screening determination for the proposed development.

4.1 Mandatory EIA- Annex I and II/Schedule 5

Developments which require an EIA for the purposes of Part 10 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) are outlined under two separate sections, Part 1 and Part 2. The schedule of projects listed in Part 1 and Part 2 of Schedule 5 was consulted to determine whether the proposed development required an EIA.

The proposed development does not fall under any class of development listed in Part 1 of Schedule 5.

Consideration was given to the following project listed in Part 2 (Table 4-1).

Table 4-1 Summary of the Mandatory Legislative Requirements for Environmental Impact Assessment Impact Screening

Requirement	Screening Assessment	Mandatory Criteria Met?
Part 2 of Schedule 5 (10) (b) (ii): Construction of a car-park providing more than 400 spaces, other than a car-park provided as part of, and incidental to the primary purpose of, a development.	The proposed development does not exceed the specified thresholds.	No

It was determined that, based on the size and design of the proposed development, it does not exceed any of the thresholds specified under Schedule 5 Part 2; therefore, the proposed development is not a mandatory project for EIA under Schedule 5.

4.2 Sub-threshold Assessment

Where the proposed development does not meet, or exceed, the applicable threshold (referred to in Section 4.1. above), the likelihood of the proposed development having significant effects on the environment may need to be considered. The discretionary (or sub-threshold) requirements are based on an assessment of the likely significant environmental effects of the proposed development.

The Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) under Schedule 5 Part 2 Category 15 therefore also includes a requirement for EIA for:

"*Any project listed in this Part which does not exceed a quantity, area or other limit specified in this Part in respect of the relevant class of development but which would be likely to have significant effects on the environment, having regard to the criteria set out in Schedule 7.*"

Given the nature, scale and type of proposed development, albeit below the threshold, it is considered prudent to undertake a sub-threshold assessment, to support South Dublin County Council's determination of whether the proposed development Development screens in for EIA. This is outlined in the following sections.

4.2.1 Likely Significant Effects- Schedule 7 Assessment

The Screening for EIA report was completed by reviewing the proposed development against the criteria included in Schedule 7 of the Planning and Development Regulations (as amended) (Table 4-2). The criteria are grouped under three headings and are used to help in the screening process to determine whether a development is likely to have a significant effect on the environment:

1. Characteristics of proposed development;
2. Location of proposed development; and
3. Type and Characteristics of Potential Impacts.

Authorities must have regard to the criteria under these headings when forming an opinion as to whether or not a sub-threshold development is likely to have significant effects on the environment.

The proposed development was further appraised using the EIA Screening Checklist taken from the European Commission's Guidance on EIA Screening (EC, 2017). This Screening Checklist provides a list of questions about the project and its environment which can be used to help answer the question whether the project likely to have a significant effect on the environment (Table 4-3).

Table 4-2 Schedule 7 Criteria Assessment

1. Characteristics of Proposed Development		Appraisal
(a)	the size and design of the whole proposed development;	The proposed development site has a total area of approximately 12.7 ha and will comprise a total works area of circa 9,700m^2 comprising: • Proposed hard-surfaced primary walking/ cycling route with public lighting; traversing east-west, through the park; • Proposed hard-surfaced secondary walking/ cycling routes through the park; • 3 No. Nodal points with seating as required; • Proposed on-street car parking and pedestrian crossing points (subject to detailed design with SDCC Roads Dept.); • Proposed vantage point, seating and signage; • Proposed Teenspace area with equipment, seating and surfacing; • Proposed outdoor exercise area with calisthenics or similar; • Proposed natural and equipped playspaces for children; • All ancillary works. See Section 2.2 for a detailed description of components proposed.
(b)	cumulation with other existing development and/or development the subject of a consent for proposed development for the purposes of section 172(1A)(b) of the Act and/or development the subject of any development consent for the purposes of the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive by or under any other enactment;	A desktop search of proposed and existing planning applications was undertaken on the 31/08/2022. The search flagged planning applications within a period dating back to 2018. Any refused, invalid or withdrawn applications were omitted. Any small-scale residential type developments, such as extensions and modifications, minor amendments to existing dwellings and changes of use developments were omitted from the search. The most recent (<5 years) grants of planning for the within 5 km of the proposed development site predominantly include small scale single and two storey and small- medium scale housing developments. A summary of relevant granted developments considered in the cumulative assessment are given below: • The construction of 569 dwellings, a creche, innovation hub and open space in the Clonburris South West Development Area of the Clonburris SDZ Planning Scheme 2019 (Planning ref: SDZ21A/0022) (Decision Date: 23/8/2022) • 10 year permission for roads and drainage infrastructure works as approved under the Clonburris Strategic Development Zone Planning Scheme (2019) (Planning ref: SDZ20A/0021) (Decision Date: 12/08/2021); • Construction of a 3 storey (part 4 storey) data centre known as 'DB8' (Planning ref: SD21A/0186) (Grant Date: 05/05/2022) southwest of the site; • Data centre complex (Planning ref: SD20A/0121) (Grant Date: 03/09/2020). • 1034 residential units comprising of (578 houses: 449 3-bed & 129 4-bed), 456 apartments: 142 1-bed, 224 2-bed, 90 3-bed), 2 childcare facilities (1 temporary, 1 permanent), 1 retail unit, 1 community facility and all associated site works. (Planning ref: SHD3ABP-305267-19) (Decision Date: 05/12/2021) • Demolition of existing single storey dwelling (c.108.5sq.m); (2) construction of a Distribution Warehouse Building comprising warehousing and ancillary areas at ground floor and support offices, staff areas and plant across two floors; (3) the development will be accessed from the existing Profile Park estate road; (4) provision of car parking, cycle parking, security gatehouse, landscaping and boundary treatments (including security fencing and gates); (5) all associated site development and services works (including diversion/culverting/reprofiling of existing stream on site); (6) total gross floor area of the development c.17,006sq.m. (Planning ref: SD20A/0124) (Decision Date: 10/11/2020) • Construction of two new three storey primary school buildings for Gaelscoil na Camoige agus Gaelscoil Chluain Dolcain providing 16 classrooms each, a shared general purpose area, ancillary teaching and staff accommodation Connections to public utility and drainage

1. Characteristics of Proposed Development		Appraisal
		services, boundary treatments, installation of PV panels, alterations to existing drainage layout and associated site development works. (Planning ref: SD22A/0328) (Decision Due Date: 3/10/2022)
(c)	the use of natural resources, in particular land, soil, water and biodiversity;	The proposal will not require a significant volume of natural materials during construction. Construction materials will be required onsite. Asphalt will be used as surfacing for main foot paths and secondary paths, timber boardwalks for the viewing platforms, cast in-situ concrete for the skate park and elements of the pump track. Excavated material will be reused on site, where practical. There will be approximately 1,450m3 of top soil removed that will be reused on the site. There will be a further 740m3 of subsoil to be reused around the site. Where required, construction materials will be sourced from local quarries and transported to the proposed development site compound via the main vehicular maintenance entrance lies to the south off Westbourne Rise. Water will be brought into the compound area and used as required. Sections of the existing land use will be permanently altered as paths are lain and the area landscaped.
(d)	the production of waste;	Given the scale and type of development, it is unlikely that there will be any significant volumes of waste generated during the construction phase. Construction phase wastes may comprise the following: • Waste concrete/mortar and other cementitious material • Waste steel and other scrap metal • Soil/sub-soil, stones • Paper, cardboard/plasterboard • Mixed C&D waste • Electrical waste??? • Fuel/oil residues • Construction chemicals and other known hazardous substances (paints, glues/adhesives, batteries etc.) • Other residual building materials • W/C utilities waste If excavated material is considered unsuitable for re-use on-site an outlet for off-site reuse will be sought. The material will be removed to alicensed authorised waste facility by licensed waste contractors for recycling or disposal, as appropriate. Waste generated from site clearance and excavations will be inert and or organic. Waste generated by the pubic during the operational phases will be collected by SDCC. It is considered that the production of any waste associated with the proposed development, as described above, would not cause unusual, significant, or adverse effects of a type that would require an EIA.
(e)	pollution and nuisances;	Potential pollution pathways and nuisances for consideration include increases in exhaust emissions to air as a result of construction machinery; noise and vibration from equipment use; social effects as a result of additional temporary traffic; leaks and spills of hydrocarbon containing materials used, and runoff of material to nearby watercourses. Good construction management practices and standard environmental management during the construction works will be employed for the duration of construction and will serve to minimise the risk of pollution and nuisances. The proposed development will not cause unusual or significant levels of pollution or nuisance of a type that would require an EIA.

1. Characteristics of Proposed Development		Appraisal
(f)	the risk of major accidents, and/or disasters which are relevant to the project concerned, including those caused by climate change, in accordance with scientific knowledge;	Important considerations are the potential risks of the proposed development causing a major accident[7] and/or disaster during the construction and operational phases, and the vulnerability of the proposed development to potential man-made and natural disasters. The size of the proposed development is not of a sufficient size or scale to cause a major accident or disaster during the construction phase as normal construction measures (such as the contractors Health and Safety plan, an approved Contractor's Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) and approved methods of work) will be adhered to on site. The implementation of appropriate control measures (including an emergency spill response plan) and best management practices will reduce the risk of accidents from polluting substances entering soil and groundwater. In addition, given the temporary nature of the construction works, the risk of disasters (typically considered to be natural catastrophes e.g., very severe weather event) or accidents (e.g., fuel spill, traffic accident) is considered low. A Stage 1 Flood Risk Assessment was undertaken for the proposal and will be submitted as part of the Part 8 Application which concluded that the park is in Flood Zone C and does not pose an increased risk of flooding in the area. There is no operational risk associated with the proposed development in relation to natural disasters or major accidents.
(g)	the risks to human health (for example, due to water contamination or air pollution).	There will be minor temporary nuisances associated with the proposed development during the construction phase. For example, construction works will generate noise from machinery on site (short duration, temporary). With the implementation of appropriate best practice measures during the construction phase (including an emergency spill response plan), in addition to the scale of the development, the risk to human health is considered low. There will be no emissions to air during the operational phase; therefore, no risks to human health are anticipated.

2. Location of Proposed Development		Appraisal
(a)	the existing and approved land use	The proposed development site is currently used as a public park in a residential area which is in line with its zoning as 'Open Space (OS)' in the SDCC Development Plan 2022-2028.
(b)	the relative abundance, availability, quality and regenerative capacity of natural resources (including soil, land, water and biodiversity) in the area and its underground;	The proposed development will require potable water and construction materials for use during the construction phase, which will be imported from outside the area. All imported materials will be sourced from approved suppliers. None of the above resources have been identified as being in short supply in the area.
(c)	the absorption capacity of the natural environment, paying particular attention to the following areas:	
	i. wetlands, riparian areas, river mouths;	The Grand Canal Main Line (Liffey and Dublin Bay) is the closest mapped river water body, located approximately 225 m to the north of the proposed development site. The EPA has classified this RWB as 'Not at risk' of failing to meet its WFD objectives. Its WFD status (2013-2018) is categorised as 'Good'.
	ii. coastal zones and the marine environment;	n/a

[7] A major accident, in the context of this assessment is defined as: "*Events that threaten immediate or delayed serious environmental effects to human health, welfare and/or the environment and the use of resources beyond those of the client or its appointed representatives to manage. Whilst malicious intent is not accidental, the outcome (e.g. train derailment) may be the same and therefore many mitigation measures will apply to both deliberate and accidental events*." (IEMA, 2020).

2. Location of Proposed Development		Appraisal
iii.	mountain and forest areas;	n/a
iv.	nature reserves and parks;	n/a
v.	areas classified or protected under legislation, including Natura 2000 areas designated pursuant to the Habitats Directive and the Birds Directive;	The Screening for AA report identified 6 European sites comprising of 4 Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and 2 Special Protection Areas (SPA) occurring within 15 km of the proposed development site: • Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC (001398), approximately 6.4km northwest from the proposed development site • Glenasmole Valley SAC (001209), approximately 8.3 south from the site • Wicklow Mountains SAC (002122), approximately 13.7 southeast from the site • South Dublin Bay SAC (000210), approximately 14 km east from the site • Wicklow Mountains SPA (004040), approximately 13.7km southeast from the site • South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA (004024), approximately 14km east from the site • North Bull Island SPA, approximately 16km from the site
vi.	areas in which there has already been a failure to meet the environmental quality standards, laid down in Union legislation and relevant to the project, or in which it is considered that there is such a failure;	No areas, including waterbodies located close to the proposed development site and existing air quality conditions (reported as '1-Good'), have exceeded existing legal environmental standards.
vii.	densely populated areas;	The proposed development site is located within the Electoral Division (ED) of CLONDALKIN-DUNAWLEY (DUBLIN). The Central Statistics Office (CSO) data indicates that in 2016 this ED had a total population of 11,323.
viii.	landscapes and sites of historical, cultural or archaeological significance.	As outlined in the NMS 'Historic Environment Viewer', there are three monuments recorded on the Sites of Monuments and Records (SMR), which are also included on the statutory Record of Monuments and Places (RMP): • Moated site (DU017-038003-); • Graveyard (DU017-038002-); and • Church of St. Cuthbert (DU017-038001-). As outlined in the Archaeological Impact Assessment produced for the proposed development, no surface features suggestive of subsurface or other archaeology on the site were observed. It was found that much of the areas tested are heavily disturbed by historic groundworks associated with housing developments and existing services; however, the survival/presence of subsurface archaeology cannot be ruled out.

3. Type and Characteristics of the potential impacts		Appraisal
(a)	the magnitude and spatial extent of the impact (for example geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected);	Construction phase: encompasses the proposed development site, properties located in close proximity to the proposed development site, and waterbodies. During the operational phase, the magnitude and spatial extent will include the local population.
(b)	the nature of the impact;	**Population and Human Health**

3. Type and Characteristics of the potential impacts	Appraisal
	Construction phase: It is likely that there will be negative impacts such as noise and dust arising from construction activities, workers and traffic during construction phase. However, given the scale, type of development works and duration of the work on a phased basis, over a period of circa 9 to 12 month, it is not anticipated that there will be any significant, negative effects from the proposed construction works to the local community. In addition, best practice measures will be outlined within the appointed Contractor's the CEMP and will be implemented during the construction phase. *Operational phase*: During the operational phase there will be a positive impact on the local and wider population and human health as the development provides a public amenity area for outdoor activities such as walking and cycling. **Biodiversity** *Construction phase*: Construction phase effects, include habitat loss and alteration; Indirect surface or ground water quality effects; Direct and indirect species disturbance/ displacement. The location of paths will generally follow the line of existing paths through the path, any vegetation to be removed will generally be in the form of amenity grassland and some vegetation around St. Cuthbert's church ruins. Existing hedgerows comprise species typical of this habitat including holly, hazel, elm, dog rose, blackberry, blackthorn, ash, elder and ivy. No invasive species were identified during the site walkover by the ecologist so there is unlikely to be a spread of invasives during construction. No evidence of badger was found during the site survey so no disturbance is expected during construction. The visiting ecologist found that the church ruins are not suitable for a large bat roost and considered that the vegetation growing on the church is of moderate suitability for bats, thus no significant impact on bats is predicted. Existing trees do however provide foraging habitat for bats but as most trees are being retained no significant impact on foraging habitat is predicted. The drainage channel may provide suitable habitat for amphibians but no works will take place within the channel. A screening for appropriate assessment was undertaken for the planning application and has been submitted alongside this report. The AA Screening determined that no impacts on ecologically sensitive receptors or on any protected species associated with any Natura 2000 sites will occur. *Operational phase*: Biodiversity areas will form part of the overall proposed development, including a wildlflower grassland, which will include pollinator friendly plants, formal avenue of trees and a community woodland with native trees. Taking into account these design measures, it is considered that the proposed development will have a positive effect on biodiversity. **Water** *Construction phase*: Potential negative water quality effects arising as a result of the construction of the proposed development could potentially occur as a result of erosion and run-off of fines/nutrient-enriched material from excavation works or temporary storage areas for construction materials. Adverse water quality effects could also potentially arise due to the accidental release of pollutants such as fuels, oils and other such substances to the aquatic environment during the construction phase. However, significant effects are unlikely to occur given the duration of the works. In addition, best practice standards, environmental guidelines and control measures which are defined in the CEMP accompanying this application and will be adhered to in order to reduce the likelihood of potential impacts on the water environment. The drainage channel in the park will be percolated back to the site. There is no direct hydrological connection to the River Camac or to the Grand Canal. *Operational phase*: During the operational phase, no negative water quality impacts are anticipated given the type of development. Neutral effect during operation. **Land and Soils** *Construction phase*: During the construction phase, activities will include excavation and earthworks. Potential negative effects include (in the absence of adequate management) weathering and erosion of the surface soils, increased silt levels or pollutants from the construction processes,

3. Type and Characteristics of the potential impacts	Appraisal
	and accidental spills and impacted runoff. Excavations during construction will not be extensive. Excavated inert soil material will be reused where possible at the proposed development site as part of the project design. Any excess soils that cannot be reused on site will be recovered or disposed of at a suitably authorised waste facility. Trees which are removed will be reused on site as much where possible. Best practice standards, environmental guidelines and control measures will be defined in the CEMP and adhered to in order to reduce the likelihood of potential impacts on soil quality; therefore, significant effects are not anticipated. It is proposed that construction material is sourced locally from licensed suppliers, where possible. Given the scale of the greenfield land being lost, when compared to the amount of greenfield land available in the wider area, the reduction of land available is not considered significant. No productive land will be lost. *Operational phase*: No potential negative effects on land, soils, geology or groundwater during the operational phase of the proposed development are envisaged. Neutral effect during operation. **Air and Climate** *Construction phase*: The main air quality impacts will be associated with dust generation during site preparation and construction works. The implementation of best management practices; however, will minimise the generation of dust during the construction phase. With the adoption of these measures, it is anticipated that the dust produced would not cause a significant effect on the environment. Climatic impacts are expected to be minor emissions of greenhouse gases to the atmosphere from truck movements and the operation of site construction equipment; however, a significant effect is not considered likely given the scale and size of the proposed development. *Operational phase*: There are no effects associated with the operational phase of the development. **Noise and Vibration** Construction phase: The construction phase of the proposed development has the potential to increase noise levels at noise sensitive locations surrounding the proposed development site. Impacts from the construction phase will depend on the number and type of equipment employed during the works. Noise and vibration limits will be outlined within the noise and vibration management section of the CEMP. These limits will be adhered to at all times during the construction phase of the proposed development. With these measures in place, no significant effects on sensitive receptors are anticipated. *Operational phase*: It is anticipated that the proposed development will not be exposed to noise levels giving rise to significant adverse impacts or other adverse impacts during its operation. **Landscape and Visual** *Construction phase*: The proposed development is located within the 'Urban' Landscape Character Area. There are no sensitive landscape designations or protected views pertaining to the proposed development site. The works will involve the construction of a linear park, cycling routes, playground area, walking paths and biodiversity areas. Potential negative visual effects during the construction phase are anticipated as a result of temporary works, vegetation clearance, site activity, and vehicular movement within and around the proposed development site. Given the scale of the works, significant effects are not anticipated. *Operational phase*: During the operational phase, the introduction of the proposed development to the landscape will represent a degree of change to both the landscape character and visual aspects of the study area as currently the proposed development site is largely grassed, with areas of remnant hedgerows associated with former agricultural field boundaries. However, the degree of change is considered to be able to be accommodated without a significant adverse effect to either the landscape character or visual amenity. Overall, it is considered that the proposed development will

3. Type and Characteristics of the potential impacts		Appraisal
		have a long-term, positive effect on the local landscape character and visual amenity as the design of the proposed development will provide an attractive, high valued public park. **Cultural Heritage** *Construction phase*: There are three Recorded Monuments within the proposed development site. While these assets should not be physically impacted by the proposed development, there is the possibility of adverse effects to the setting of the designated assets by vibration and disturbance which could megatively impact these assets. However, a successful implementation of the proposed upgrade works can be achieved with appropriate archaeological involvement in the planning and execution of the works. Proposed mitigation measures and recommendations include: • All works must be done under the supervision of an appropriately experienced and qualified archaeologist who should be consulted at detailed design stage and planning of vegetation clearance; • All vegetation clearance works to be carried out manually • An osteoarchaeologist must be on standby for the graveyard clearance: • It is recommended that a 'no-dig' approach be used for the creation of new paths. *Operational phase:* Positive effects on cultural heritage assets identified within the proposed development site are anticipated due to the long-term conservation and enhanced public amenity of the built heritage. **Material Assets** *Construction phase*: During the construction phase there will be additional traffic on the existing road network. Possible temporary, negative effects include additional traffic volumes on the local road network and introduction of construction traffic movements on the local and national road network. Access to existing roads will be maintained. The volume of traffic generated by the transportation requirements during the construction phase for this proposed development will be minimal and will be within the carrying capacity of the existing road network; therefore, significant effects on existing traffic network are not anticipated. There will be a neutral effect on utilities and services such as electricity supply given that there are sufficient resources available during the construction phase. *Operational phase*: During the operational phase, the proposed development would generate minimal traffic. Following construction of the proposed development, access would only be required for maintenance and repair. There will be a neutral effect on utilities and services such as electricity supply given that there are sufficient resources available during the operational phase.
(c)	the transboundary nature of the impact;	n/a
(d)	the intensity and complexity of the impact;	The majority of the impacts are associated with the construction phase of the proposed development (i.e., 9-12 months). Therefore, given the duration of the works and scale of the proposed development, in addition to the implementation of appropriate best practice measures, it is not anticipated that proposed development will result in intense or complex impacts during the construction phase. Intense and complex impacts are unlikely to occur during the operational phase.
(e)	the probability of the impact;	Owing to the relatively straight forward nature of the proposed development, coupled with the potential impacts stated and the sensitive receptors located close to the proposed development site, there is a high degree of certainty in the magnitude, intensity, duration or consequences of any

3. Type and Characteristics of the potential impacts		Appraisal
		impact identified; however, as discussed, the likelihood of significant negative effects on the receiving environment is extremely low due to the planned implementation of such best practice construction measures. No long-term/permanent negative, significant effects are predicted as likely.
(f)	the expected onset, duration, frequency, reversibility of the impact;	With the appropriate control measures, potential impacts, including noise and dust impacts, will be temporary (9-12 months) and transient in nature during the construction phase and will be reversible over time. Positive effects during the operational phase would likely be long term.
(g)	the cumulation of the impact with the impact of other existing and/or development the subject of a consent for proposed development for the purposes of section 172(1A)(b) of the Act and/or development the subject of any development consent for the purposes of the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive by or under any other enactment; and	As discussed, the proposed development is unlikely to result in significant effects on the environment. Should the construction of a number of developments, as identified within the planning search, occur at the same time, then there is potential for negative effects on the existing environment. However, these would likely be temporary in duration, occurring primarily during the construction phase only; therefore, it is considered that none of the developments will result in a significant cumulative effect on the environment when considered in conjunction with the construction and operation of the proposed development.
(h)	the possibility of effectively reducing the impact.	The proposed development is not anticipated to result in any significant effects on the existing environment. However, where temporary, negative and transient impacts are likely to occur, the implementation of appropriate best practice measures which will be outlined in appointed Contractor's CEMP will reduce the duration and intensity of the impact. No additional mitigation will be required.

Table 4-3 EU Guidance EIA Screening Checklist

	Questions to be considered	Yes/No/? Briefly Describe	Is this likely to result in a significant effect? Yes/No/? – Why?
1	Will construction, operation, decommissioning or demolition works of the Project involve actions that will cause physical changes in the locality (topography, land use, changes in waterbodies, etc.	No -The zoning objective for the proposed development site is as follows: Open Space (OS): "*To preserve and provide for open space and recreational amenities*". There will be no major change in land use at the proposed development site during operation as the proposed development site is currently used as a public park. The proposed development will, however, introduce various new components to the currently grassed site including a car park, soccer pitch and playgrounds.	No - No significant negative impacts on topography, land use and waterbodies predicted.
2	Will construction or the operation of the Project use natural resources such as land, water, materials or energy, especially any resources which are non-renewable or are in short supply?	Yes – It is assumed that some cut and fill, as well as a water supply, will be required along the proposed development during the construction phase. Construction materials will be required on site.	No - All imported materials will be sourced from licensed suppliers. Excavated materials will be reused onsite where possible. If material cannot be re-used, it will be taken offsite to a licensed facility. There will be no requirement for water abstraction for the proposed works. None of the above resources have been identified as being in short supply in the area.
3	Will the Project involve the use, storage, transport, handling or production of substances or materials which could be harmful to human health, to the environment or raise concerns about actual or perceived risks to human health?	Yes - During construction only. Small amounts of fuel and oils will be used in plant and construction vehicles.	No – A Health and Safety Plan will be in place and all site staff will be briefed on the Health and Safety Plan prior to commencing works. A CEMP will be produced to include precautions for the safe use and storage of oils and other harmful construction substances.
4	Will the Project produce solid wastes during construction or operation or decommissioning?	Yes- Waste generated from site clearance and excavations will be inert and or organic and will be re-used within the Site, where possible. If excavated material from the existing berms is considered unsuitable for re-use on-site an outlet for off-site reuse will be sought. Waste during the operational phase will be managed via SDCC.	No- Debris and rubbish created at the construction site compounds will be disposed of at an authorised facility. In addition, any excess construction materials will be returned to supplier. Waste management shall form part of the overall CEMP for the construction phase and contain a number of control measures for the management of waste generated on the proposed development site.
5	Will the Project release pollutants or any hazardous, toxic or noxious substances to air or lead to exceeding Ambient Air Quality standards in Directives 2008/50/EC and 2004/107/EC)?	Yes- During the construction phase only. The construction phase will produce limited air pollutants. Climatic impacts are expected to be minor emissions of greenhouse gases to the atmosphere from truck movements and the operation of site construction equipment.	No-Levels during the construction phase are not anticipated to create air pollution that will exceed permitted thresholds. Considering the scale of the proposed development, effects on existing air quality are not anticipated to be significant. Best practice construction management techniques and guidance will be followed during the construction of the proposed development.

	Questions to be considered	Yes/No/? Briefly Describe	Is this likely to result in a significant effect? Yes/No/? – Why?
6	Will the Project cause noise and vibration or the releasing of light, heat energy or electromagnetic radiation?	Yes- During the construction phase only.	No - With appropriate control measures in place, no significant effects on sensitive receptors are anticipated during the construction phase. For example, noise limits will be outlined within the noise and vibration management section of the CEMP. These limits will be adhered to at all times during the construction phase of the proposed development.
7	Will the Project lead to risks of contamination of land or water from releases of pollutants onto the ground or into surface waters, groundwater, coastal wasters or the sea?	Yes- During construction phase; for example, from leaks and spills of hydrocarbon containing materials used on site. The Grand Canal Main Line (Liffey and Dublin Bay) is the closest mapped river water body, located approximately 225 m to the north of the proposed development site.	No - Adverse water quality effects could potentially arise due to the accidental release of pollutants such as fuels, oils and other such substances to the aquatic environment. However, give the scale of development, as well as the implementation of control measures outlined in a CEMP, significant effects are not anticipated.
8	Will there be any risk of accidents during construction or operation of the Project that could affect human health or the environment?	Yes- During construction phase only, for example, due to water contamination or air pollution.	No – The size of the proposed development is not of a sufficient size or scale to cause a major accident or disaster during the construction phase as normal construction mitigation will be adhered to on the proposed development site. A health and safety plan will be put in place by the contractor.
9	Will the Project result in environmentally related social changes, for example, in demography, traditional lifestyles, employment?	Yes- The proposed development has potential to create some temporary employment in the surrounding area.	No- Given the scale of the proposed development, significant effects on employment in the area are not anticipated.
10	Are there any other factors that should be considered such as consequential development which could lead to environmental impacts or the potential for cumulative impacts with other existing or planned activities in the locality?	Yes- There will be temporary and transient negative effects from noise, traffic and dust associated with construction of the proposed development in combination with the surrounding developments.	No- Given size and type of development, potential effects are considered to be not significant and temporary.
11	Is the project located within or close to any areas which are protected under international, EU, or national or local legislation for their ecological, landscape, cultural or other value, which could be affected by the Project?	Yes- 6 Natura Sites are within the Zone of Influence of the proposed development site.	No- The AA Screening Report determined that there will be no significant adverse effects on Natura sites.
12	Are there any other areas on or around the location that are important or sensitive for reasons of their ecology e.g. wetlands, watercourses or other waterbodies, the coastal zone, mountains, forests or woodlands, that could be affected by the Project?	See 11 above. Development works by their nature have the potential to impact watercourses and groundwater by way of pollution. There is a potential for discharges associated with the construction phase of the proposed development that may impact the receiving watercourses. The Grand Canal Main Line (Liffey and Dublin Bay) is the closest mapped river water body, located approximately 225 m to the north of the proposed development site.	No- With the implementation of water quality control measures which will be outlined in the CEMP, significant adverse effects on sensitive ecological receptors are not anticipated.
13	Are there any areas on or around the location that are used by protected, important or sensitive species	See 11 above.	No. See 11 above. No significant effect are predicted on bat roosts due to the nature of vegetation on the church ruins. Foraging habitat will remain

	Questions to be considered	Yes/No/? Briefly Describe	Is this likely to result in a significant effect? Yes/No/? – Why?
	of fauna or flora e.g. for breeding, nesting, foraging, resting, overwintering, migration, which could be affected by the Project?	The site is suboptimal for bat roosts but does provide suitable foraging habitat.	in the form of existing trees and hedgerows, thus significant negative impacts on birds and bats are not predicted.
14	Are there any inland, coastal, marine or underground waters (or features of the marine environment) on or around the location that could be affected by the Project?	Yes- The proposed development is underlain by the Dublin ground waterbody (GWB). Groundwater vulnerability underlying the proposed development is categorised as 'High'. Potential contaminants could migrate through the subsoils and impact underlying groundwater. Contaminants could potentially result in an indirect effect to surface water should contaminants migrate through the subsoils and underlying groundwater to surface waters.	No- Given the type and scale of development, significant effects on underground waters are not anticipated. In addition, pollution prevention measures which be outlined within the approved Contractor's CEMP will be put in place to reduce the risk of contaminants polluting watercourses located closed to the proposed development site. There is no direct hydrological connection to the Grand Canal pNHA or to the River Camac
15	Are there any areas or features of high landscape or scenic value on or around the location which could be affected by the Project?	No – the proposed development is located with the 'Urban' Landscape Character Area.	N/A
16	Are there any routes or facilities on or around the location which are used by the public for access to recreation or other facilities, which could be affected by the Project?	Yes – the local community uses the park for recreation. Access to some areas of the park will be retained during construction.	No. Access to the park will continue during the construction phases. Construction will be temporary in nature (9 to 12 months), thus significant effects on access are not predicted.
17	Are there any transport routes on or around the location that are susceptible to congestion or which cause environmental problems, which could be affected by the Project?	No	N/A
18	Is the Project in a location in which it is likely to be highly visible to many people?	Yes- Due to it's urban-residential setting, the proposed development site is overlooked from most sides largely by residential properties.	No – There will be temporary, negative effects on landscape character and visual amenity for residential properties located close to the proposed development site during construction phase which will be temporary. At completion of construction works, positive effects on landscape character and visual amenity are anticipated in the long term due to maturing vegetation which forms part of the design of the proposed development. The design of the proposed development will provide an attractive, high valued public park.
19	Are there any areas or features of historic or cultural importance on or around the location that could be affected by the Project?	Yes. There are three monuments recorded on the Sites of Monuments and Records (SMR), which are also included on the statutory Record of Monuments and Places (RMP): • Moated site (DU017-038003-); • Graveyard (DU017-038002-); and • Church of St. Cuthbert (DU017-038001-).	No. With the implementation of the mitigation measure outlined previously in this screening report, no significant effects are predicted on thiese archaeological resources.

	Questions to be considered	Yes/No/? Briefly Describe	Is this likely to result in a significant effect? Yes/No/? – Why?
20	Is the Project located in a previously undeveloped area where there will be loss of greenfield land?	No	N/A
21	Are there existing land uses within or around the location e.g. homes, gardens, other private property, industry, commerce, recreation, public open space, community facilities, agriculture, forestry, tourism, mining or quarrying that could be affected by the Project?	No - as outlined above, there will be no major change in land use as the proposed development site is currently used as a public park and the development will not extend outside the existing park boundary. The proposed development will, however, introduce various new components to the currently grassed site including a car park, soccer pitch and playgrounds.	N/A
22	Are there any plans for future land uses within or around the location that could be affected by the Project?	No	N/A
23	Are there areas within or around the location which are densely populated or built-up, that could be affected by the Project?	Yes- The proposed development site is located in urban-residential setting with residential properties surrounding the entire site.	No- During the construction phase, it is anticipated that there may be potential noise, vibration and traffic impacts; however, effects will be temporary and therefore are not likely to cause significant effects to sensitive receptors in the area.
24	Are there any areas within or around the location which are occupied by sensitive land uses e.g. hospitals, schools, places of worship, community facilities, that could be affected by the Project?	No- there are no areas occupied with sensitive land uses that could be affected by the proposed development.	During the construction phase, it is anticipated that there may be potential noise, vibration and traffic impacts to sensitive receptors in the area; however, these impacts will be temporary. It is anticipated that the proposed development will likely result in a positive and long-term impact to communities in the area.
25	Are there any areas within or around the location which contain important, high quality or scarce resources e.g. groundwater, surface waters, forestry, agriculture, fisheries, tourism, minerals, that could be affected by the Project?	No- there is no direct hydrological connection between the park and scarce resources mentioned.	N/A
26	Are there any areas within or around the location which are already subject to pollution or environmental damage e.g. where existing legal environmental standards are exceeded, that could be affected by the Project?	No - No areas, including waterbodies located close to the proposed development site and existing air quality conditions, have exceeded existing legal environmental standards.	NA
27	Is the Project location susceptible to earthquakes, subsidence, landslides, erosion, flooding or extreme or adverse climatic conditions e.g. temperature inversions, fogs, severe winds, which could cause the Project to present environmental problems?	No – As outlined in the FRA conducted for the proposed development, there is no record of previous flooding occurring at this proposed development site. Flood risk at the proposed development site is considered low and the development will not contribute to flooding.	N/A
Summary of features of Proposed development and of its location indicating the need for EIA:			

Questions to be considered	Yes/No/? Briefly Describe	Is this likely to result in a significant effect? Yes/No/? – Why?
N/A		

5. Conclusion

Having considered the proposed development in the context of mandatory EIA under the regulations, there is no requirement for an EIA. The proposed development was further assessed in accordance with the regulated criteria for determining whether or not a development would or would not be Likely to have Significant Effects on the Environment as specified in Annex III of the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU (as amended by 2014/52/EU).

Having regard to the characteristics of the development, the proposal is of a small-scale, involving the construction of a park comprising cycling routes, playground area, walking paths, MUGA, community woodland and biodiversity areas. The works are not considered complex in nature. Therefore, the development is not of a scale that would introduce significant or complex environmental effects that would warrant an EIA.

It is noted that this is a recommendation to support the final determination by the competent authority.

6. References

South Dublin County Council. (2022). South Dublin County Development Plan 2022-2028.

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