

Jobstown Park Redevelopment

Screening for Appropriate Assessment

4 April 2023

Project number: 2022s1010

South Dublin County Council

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This report describes work commissioned by Damien Wildes of South Dublin County Council, by an email dated 05th December 2022. Michael Coyle of JBA Consulting carried out this work.

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Purpose

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Abbreviations

AA	Appropriate Assessment
CIEEM	Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management
DoEHLG	Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government
EC	European Communities
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
EU	European Union
GSI	Geological Survey Ireland
INNS	Invasive Non-native Species
IROPI	Imperative Reasons of Over-riding Public Interest
NBDC	National Biodiversity Data Centre
NOx	Nitrogen Oxides
NPWS	National Parks and Wildlife Service
OPR	Office of the Planning Regulator
QI	Qualifying Interest
RBMP	River Basin Management Plan
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SDCC	South Dublin County Council
SPA	Special Protection Area
WFD	Water Framework Directive
WWTP	Waste Water Treatment Plant
ZoI	Zone of Influence

1 Introduction

1.1 Background

JBA Consulting Engineers and Scientists Ltd. (hereafter JBA) has been commissioned by South Dublin County Council to prepare an Appropriate Assessment Screening Report for the redevelopment of Jobstown Park. The proposed development consists of the redevelopment of the park area for the enhancement of its facilities for social interactions and biodiversity.

Screening for appropriate assessment is intended to be an initial examination which must be carried out by the Planning Authority or An Bord Pleanála as the competent authority. However, this screening is completed on behalf of the project proposer to show that likely significant effects have been considered in the project development and design, and where necessary progress with further assessment.

1.2 Legislative Context

Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Fauna and Flora, known as the 'Habitats Directive' - provides legal protection for habitats and species of European importance. Article 2 of the Directive requires the maintenance or restoration of habitats and species of European Community interest, at a favourable conservation status. Articles 3 - 9 provide the legislative means to protect habitats and species of Community interest through the establishment and conservation of an EU-wide network of sites known as Natura 2000 sites. Natura 2000 sites are Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) designated under the Habitats Directive and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) designated under the Conservation of Wild Birds Directive (79 / 409 / EEC).

Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive set out the decision-making tests for plans or projects affecting Natura 2000 sites. Article 6(3) establishes the requirement for Appropriate Assessment:

“Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives. In the light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implications for the site and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, the competent national authorities shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public.”

Article 6(4) deals with the steps that should be taken when it is determined, as a result of Appropriate Assessment, that a plan/project will adversely affect a European site. Issues dealing with alternative solutions, imperative reasons of overriding public interest and compensatory measures need to be addressed in this case.

Article 6(4) states:

“If, in spite of a negative assessment of the implications for the site and in the absence of alternative solutions, a plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature, the Member States shall take all compensatory measures necessary to ensure that the overall coherence of Natura 2000 is protected. It shall inform the Commission of the compensatory measures adopted.

Where the site concerned hosts a priority natural habitat type and / or a priority species, the only considerations which may be raised are those relating to human health or public safety, to beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment or, further to an opinion from the Commission, to other imperative reasons of overriding public interest.”

The requirements of Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive have been transposed into Irish legislation by means of *inter alia* the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011-2015 (S.I. No. 477 / 2011) as amended.

1.3 Appropriate Assessment Process

Guidance on the Appropriate Assessment (AA) process was produced by the European Commission in 2002, which was subsequently developed into guidance specifically for Ireland by the Department of

Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DEHLG) (2009). Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR) produced a Practice Note in 2021, PN01 - Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management (OPR, 2021). These guidance documents identify a staged approach to conducting an AA, as shown Figure 1-1.

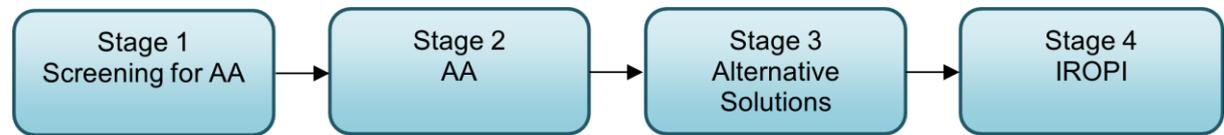


Figure 1-1: The Appropriate Assessment Process (from: Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland - Guidance for Planning Authorities, DEHLG, 2009).

1.3.1 Stage 1 - Screening for AA

The initial, screening stage of the Appropriate Assessment is to determine:

- whether the proposed plan or project is directly connected with or necessary for the management of the European designated site for nature conservation
- if it is likely to have a significant adverse effect on the European designated site, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects.

For those sites where, potential adverse impacts are identified, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, further assessment is necessary to determine if the proposals will have an adverse impact on the integrity of a European designated site, in view of the site's conservation objectives (i.e. the process proceeds to Stage 2).

1.3.2 Stage 2 - AA

This stage requires a more in-depth evaluation of the plan or project, and the potential direct and indirect impacts of them on the integrity and interest features of the European designated site(s), alone and in combination with other plans and projects, taking into account the site's structure, function and conservation objectives. Where required, mitigation or avoidance measures will be suggested.

The competent authority can only agree to the plan or project after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site(s) concerned. If this cannot be determined, and where mitigation cannot be achieved, then alternative solutions will need to be considered (i.e. the process proceeds to Stage 3).

1.3.3 Stage 3 - Alternative Solutions

Where adverse impacts on the integrity of Natura 2000 sites are identified, and mitigation cannot be satisfactorily implemented, alternative ways of achieving the objectives of the plan or project that avoid adverse impacts need to be considered. If none can be found, the process proceeds to Stage 4.

1.3.4 Stage 4 - IROPI

Where adverse impacts of a plan or project on the integrity of Natura 2000 sites are identified and no alternative solutions exist, the plan will only be allowed to progress if imperative reasons of overriding public interest can be demonstrated. In this case compensatory measures will be required.

The process only proceeds through each of the four stages for certain plans or projects. For example, for a plan or project, not connected with management of a site, but where no likely significant impacts are identified, the process stops at stage 1. Throughout the process, the precautionary principle must be applied, so that any uncertainties do not result in adverse impacts on a site.

This report is in support of a Stage 1 Screening for Appropriate Assessment.

1.3.5 Recent judgements of the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) and how they are used in this assessment

The CJEU issued a ruling on the consideration of avoidance and reduction measures as a result of the case known as People over Wind, Peter Sweetman v Coillte Teoranta (Case C-323/17). This judgement stated that measures intended to reduce or avoid effects on a Natura 2000 site should only be considered within the framework of an Appropriate Assessment, and it is not permissible to take into

account such measures at the screening stage. In practice, this means that any activities that are not integral to the project (i.e., the project could conceivably take place without them) and have the effect of avoiding or reducing an impact on a Natura 2000 site, cannot be considered at the screening stage.

The CJEU ruling in the case of *Grace & Sweetman* [2018] (C-164/17) clarified the difference between avoidance and reduction (mitigation) measures and compensation. Measures intended to compensate for the negative effects of a project cannot be taken into account in the assessment of the implications of a project, and instead are considered under Article 6(4). This means that any project where an effect on the integrity of a Natura 2000 site remains and can only be offset by compensation, would need to proceed under Article 6(4), demonstrating “imperative reasons of overriding public interest”.

The judgements referred to as the Dutch Nitrogen cases [2018] (C-293/17 and C-294/17) have important implications for projects that could potentially impact on sites that are exceeding critical thresholds for input of damaging ammonia (but could also reasonably apply where other nutrients are impacting Natura 2000 sites). The judgements state that the use of thresholds to exclude project impacts is acceptable in principle, and that strategic plans can be used as mitigation but only with consideration of the certainty (or otherwise) of the outcomes of those strategic plans. It clarifies that where the status of a habitat type is already unfavourable the possibility of authorising activities which increase the problem is necessarily limited.

The CJEU ruling in the case of *Holohan v An Bord Pleanála* (C-462/17) also clarified the importance in Appropriate Assessment of taking into account habitat types and species outside the boundary of the Natura 2000 site where implications of the impacts on those habitat and species may impact the conservation objectives of the Natura 2000 site. In this assessment functionally linked and supporting habitat for species outside of Natura 2000 sites are assessed where they could potentially impact the conservation objectives of any screened in Natura 2000 sites.

1.4 Methodology

The Screening for Appropriate Assessment has been prepared having regard to the Birds and Habitats Directives, the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011-15 as amended and relevant jurisprudence of the EU and Irish courts. The following documents have also been used to provide guidance for the assessment:

- DEHLG (2009 rev 2010) Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland Guidance for Planning Authorities. Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DEHLG, 2009).
- Office of the Planning Regulator (2021) OPR Practice Note PN01 - Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management (OPR, 2021).
- European Commission (EC) (2019) Managing Natura 2000 sites: the provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC, Publications Office. Commission Notice C(2018) 7621 final, Brussels, 21.11.2018
- EC (2002) Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly Affecting Natura 2000 Sites: Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Luxembourg. European Commission (European Commission et al., 2002).
- EC (2007) Guidance document on Article 6(4) of the 'Habitats Directive' 92/43/EEC – Clarification of the concepts of: alternative solutions, imperative reasons of overriding public interest, compensatory measures, overall coherence, opinion of the commission. European Commission Management (European Commission, 2007).
- EC (2021) Assessment of plans and projects in relation to Natura 2000 sites - Methodological guidance on Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. (European Commission 2021)

1.4.1 Desktop study

A desktop study was conducted of available published and unpublished information, along with a review of data available on the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and National Biodiversity Data Centre (NBDC) web-based databases, in order to identify key habitats and species (including legally protected and species of conservation concern) that may be present within ecologically relevant

distances from the project as explained below. A baseline habitat assessment was performed using satellite imagery of the site. The data sources below (accessed December 2022 - March 2023) were consulted for the desktop study:

- Aerial photography available from www.osi.ie and Esri World Imagery.
- NPWS website (www.npws.ie) where Natura 2000 site synopses, data forms and conservation objectives were obtained along with Annex 1 habitat distribution data and status reports.
- River Basin Management Plans (www.wfdireland.ie)
- NBDC Biodiversity Maps (maps.biodiversityireland.ie)
- Catchments (www.catchments.ie)
- Environmental Protection Agency Maps (<https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps>)
- Geological Survey Ireland (GSI) website (www.gsi.ie)
- GSI - Groundwater data viewer (<https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com>)
- Planning Applications (myplan.ie)

1.4.2 Ecological Site Survey

To inform this AA Screening an ecological site survey was performed by JBA Ecologists, William Mulville and Michael Coyle on the 17th of August 2022

The ecological walkover survey recorded habitats and protected species, following the methods outlined in the documents below:

- Heritage Council (2011). Best Practice Guidance for Habitat Survey and Mapping (Smith et al. 2011).
- Ecological Surveying Techniques for Protected Flora and Fauna during the Planning of National Road Schemes (NRA, 2009b).

Aerial photographs and site maps assisted the survey. Habitats have been classified and described following Fossitt (2000). Nomenclature for higher plants follows that given in The New Flora of the British Isles 4th Edition (Clive Stace 2019). Identification of Irish plants generally follows Webb's An Irish Flora (Parnell and Curtis, 2012).

1.4.3 In-combination Assessment

The in-combination assessment followed the process for in-combination set out by the DTA Handbook (Tyldesley and Chapman, 2013). The in-combination impacts are considered only after the assessment of the project alone. If the result of this is that the project will have no effect at all on a European site then no in-combination assessment would be necessary. However, where there is no adverse effect on site integrity, but some adverse effect an assessment of this adverse effect in-combination with other plans or projects is carried out. Other plans or projects were searched for using the National Planning Application Database, EIA portal and Myplan.ie databases all accessed online. If no other plans or projects are identified, then the assessment is complete. Where other plans or projects are identified then initially a review is made of its AA screening, or AA, and if the Competent Authority for the plan or project has made a final determination of no effect on the integrity of any European site, either alone or in-combination, this determination is used in this assessment. Where there is not a full AA, or the findings are unclear or out of date, the plan or project documentation is checked for credible evidence of real (not hypothetical) risk to a European site. Where these are identified then a detailed assessment is carried out. A summary of the approach is presented in Figure 1-2.

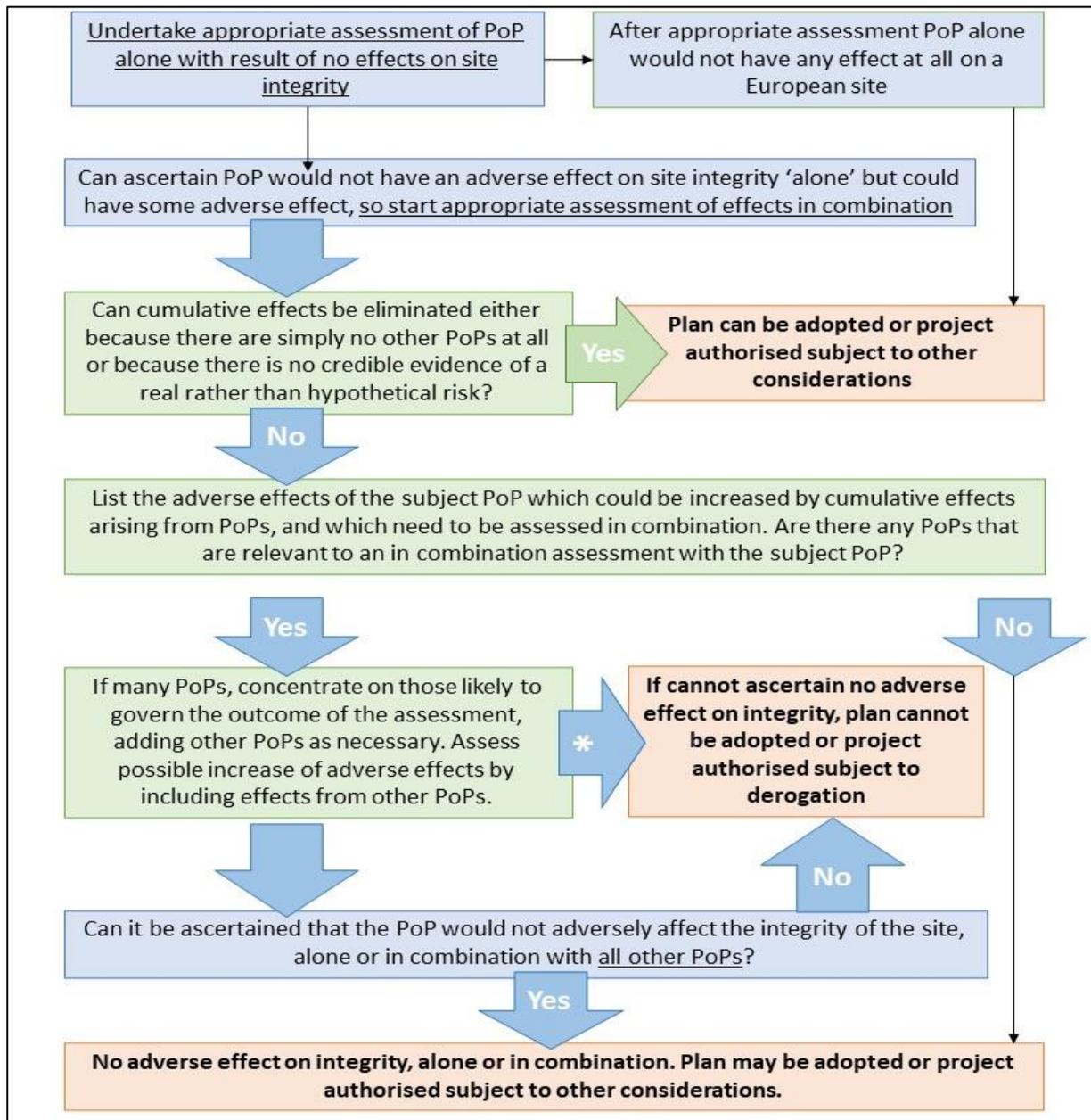


Figure 1-2: Flow diagram of process for in-combination assessment (modified from Chapman & Tyldesley, 2012)

Potential sources of cumulative impacts were identified based on the ecology of valued ecological features only for features where this is a residual or non-significant impact. Potential sources of cumulative impacts were sought within an area where there is the potential for a significant impact on relevant Natura sites identified in Section 4.

1.4.4 Limitations and constraints

The screening assessment necessarily relies on some assumptions, and it was inevitably subject to some limitations. These would not affect the conclusion, but the following points are recorded in order to ensure the basis of the assessment is clear:

- Information on the works and conditions on site are based on current knowledge at the time of writing. Changes to the site since this report was drafted cannot be accounted for. However, significant changes to the site are unlikely in the time between the site visit on the 17th August 2022 and likely start date of the proposed project.
- This assessment is based on the methodology for proposed works as described in this report. Where changes to methodology occur, an ecologist will need to be consulted to determine if the changes are likely to alter the ecological impacts and would therefore need reassessment.

2 Project Description

2.1 The 'Project'

The Proposed Project is not directly connected with, or necessary to the management of any Natura 2000 site and may have potential adverse impacts upon the Natura 2000 sites identified in Section 4. Therefore, the proposed project is subject to the requirements of the AA screening process.

2.2 Site location

The proposed project is located in south Dublin, approximately 2km west of Tallaght, and along the R136. The closest watercourse is the Jobstown Stream, also known as the Whitestown Stream (Dodder_40), which is located approximately 250m to the south. The site is surrounded predominantly by residential properties (Figure 2-1).



Figure 2-1: Site location (ESRI Satellite; OSM, 2023)

2.3 Proposed project

The proposed and preferred development of the project includes the redevelopment of the Jobstown Park. The current Masterplan comprises of:

- Formal entry plaza at Cookstown Road junction, linking with Butler McGee Park.
- Main spine route, shared pedestrian/cycle with formal signature trees and streetlights, linking Butler McGee Park to Whitestown Stream Park, via Dromcarra Estate.
- Existing sports pitches retained (northern pitch re-orientated) - refurbished where necessary with drainage and re-levelling.
- Provision for active recreation – e.g. Teenspace, natural play areas, pump track and play mound.
- Activity circuit (Park Run), 900m long - with exercise stations and seats/play equipment.

- Formal pedestrian/viewing/linear activity area linking to Leisure Centre.
- Possible on-street parking and associated planting on Fortunestown Way.
- Biodiversity improvements - existing hedgerows retained and supplemented with meadowland management, native bulbs, formal and informal tree groups.
- Attenuation basin and possible swales for enhanced biodiversity.

There are different depths of excavations required for the project, relating to seven different functional zones of the development. These include:

- Tree pits – 1.50m deep
- Attenuation basin – 1.50m deep (subject to detailed design)
- Streetlight bases – 1.25m deep
- Play/recreation bases – 1.25m deep
- Wall foundations – 0.50m deep
- General hard surfaces – 0.45m deep
- SuDS hard surfaces – 0.50m deep

The envisaged timeframe consists of:

12 months construction, with 12 months Defects Liability Period and 36 months Planting Maintenance Period.

2.4 Project Area of Influence

The project will primarily affect the site only, but a wider area of influence is used for impacts relating to noise disturbance (1km), air pollution (2km), surface water (5km), ground water (5km), and an additional extended hydrological buffer connecting transitional waters to coastal areas for any Natura 2000 sites (15km); and any supporting habitat for SAC/SPA species within the vicinity of the site (5km).

3 Existing Environment

3.1 Baseline conditions

The site is located within amenity grassland, set in an urban environment. The site is located approximately 250m north of the Jobstown Stream, a tributary of the River Dodder. An ecological walkover survey was carried out on the 17th of August 2022 by JBA Ecologists William Mulville and Michael Coyle. Descriptions of the habitats and species are provided in the sections below.

3.2 Habitat Survey

The site currently exists as Jobstown Park, which is located west of Tallaght and along the R136 road. The site currently is primarily composed of amenity grassland with the occasional immature treeline and segmented hedgerows. Habitats recorded in and around the site boundary are listed in Table 3-1. The survey results are illustrated as a habitat map Figure 3-1.

Table 3-1: List of habitats recorded on site

Fossitt Habitat	Fossitt Code
Earth banks	BL2
Buildings and artificial surfaces / Amenity grassland (Improved)	BL3/GA2
Amenity grassland (Improved)	GA2
Dry meadows and grassy verges	GS2
Hedgerows	WL1
Treelines	WL2



Figure 3-1: Habitat Map (ESRI: Satellite; OSM, 2023)

3.2.1 Earth banks (BL2)

There was a notable earth bank located at the base of one of the hedges, and while no specific species were recorded in-situ, there were small holes in the earth that could be potential nests of solitary mining bee species (Figure 3-2).



Figure 3-2: Earth bank with visible small holes in the surface indicating presence of mining bees

3.2.2 Buildings and artificial surfaces / Amenity grassland (improved) (BL3/GA2)

There is a footpath present throughout the park. The footpath is damaged in places, allowing for mosaics of weedy species from the amenity grassland to spread onto the area of the path, including Dandelion *Taraxacum* spp. and Perennial Rye-grass *Lolium perenne*.

3.2.3 Amenity grassland (improved) (GA2)

The majority of the Jobstown site is amenity grassland, containing a low diversity of plants, Perennial Rye-grass, Red Clover *Trifolium pratense*, Dandelion spp., Ribwort Plantain *Pantego lanceolata*, Yorkshire Fog *Holcus lanatus* and Creeping Buttercup *Ranunculus repens*.

Surveyors observed Hooded Crow *Corvus corone*, Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*, Rook *Corvus frugilegus* and Starling *Sturnus vulgaris* utilising this grassland habitat. A number of invertebrate species were also recorded including Wasp *Vespula* spp. and White-tailed Bumblebee *Bombus lucorum* agg.

3.2.4 Dry meadows and grassy verges (GS2)

There were grassy verges developing in some areas of damaged hedgerow in the centre of the park. Within this verge was Hawk's-beard *Crepis* spp., Field Mustard *Brassica rapa*, Creeping Buttercup, Hogweed *Heracleum sphondylium*, False Oat-grass *Arrhenatherum elatius*, Lesser Knapweed *Centaurea nigra*, Ribwort Plantain, Sycamore (saplings) *Acer pseudoplatanus*, and an immature Ash *Fraxinus excelsior*. Additionally, there was a boundary grassy verge of about 50cm-1m present along the edges of the site which contained Perennial Rye-grass, Nettle *Urtica dioica*, Creeping Thistle

Cirsium arvense, Creeping Buttercup, Dandelion spp., Poppy *Papaver rhoes*, Yorkshire Fog, Shepherd's Purse *Capsella bursa-pastoris*, Common Plantain *Plantago major*, Dead Nettle *Lamium* sp., Agrimony *Agrimonia eupatoria*, Small-flowered Cranesbill *Geranium pusillum*, Sun Spurge *Euphorbia helioscopia*, Ragwort *Jacobaea vulgaris*, Field Mustard, Ribwort Plantain, Creeping Bent *Agrostis stolonifera*, Horsetail *Equisetum* spp. and Bush Vetch *Vicia sepium* (Figure 3-3).

There were also Garden Snail *Cryptomphalus aspersus* visible in this verge, as well as Wasp *Vespula* spp.



Figure 3-3: The boundary of uncut plants on the inside of the park fence

3.2.5 Hedgerows (WL1)

There were four hedgerow sections on-site, three smaller ones spread east-west across the centre of the park, and a larger hedge located north-south along one of the football pitches (

Figure 3-4). These hedges were fragmented and in relatively poor condition (low overall diversity) with flora species limited to Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, Bramble *Rubus fruticosus*, Spear Thistle *Cirsium vulgare*, Perennial Rye-grass, Nettle, Ivy *Hedera helix*, Dock *Rumex* spp. and Brome *Bromus* spp.

Surveyors noted Robin *Erithacus rubecula* utilising these hedgerow habitats.



Figure 3-4: The length of the central fragmented hedge on site

3.2.6 Treeline (WL2)

There were recently planted and immature treelines in the north, south and north-west of the park. Trees included Wild Cherry *Prunus avium*, Poplar *Populus* spp., Silver Birch *Betula pendula*, Scot's Pine *Pinus sylvestris*, Elder *Sambucus nigra* and Pedunculate Oak *Quercus robur*. The trees showed the presence of invertebrates which included greenfly and beetle species.

3.3 Protected Species

The survey did not record any protected fauna or floral species that are qualifying interests of Natura 2000 sites within the Zol. Desktop study findings of protected or red-listed species within a 5km radius of the site were collated from the National Biodiversity Centre Ireland (NBDC, 2023) and the Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland (BSBI, 2023), and are presented in Appendix C.

3.3.1 Invasive Non-native Species

There were no invasive non-native species listed under the third schedule of the EC (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 S.I. No. 477/2011 recorded by the JBA Ecologists during the ecological walkover survey.

3.4 Waterbodies within the Vicinity of the Proposed Site

The Jobstown Stream is a tributary of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) riverine waterbody Dodder_040 located approximately 250m south of the site. This stream flows into the River Dodder (Dodder_050), before flowing north into the transitional waterbody Liffey and into Dublin Bay Liffey Estuary Lower (IE_EA_090_0300), however, there is no direct hydrological link between the site and this river. The proposed site is located within the (WFD) sub-catchment Dodder_SC_010. The flow from the local stream to Dublin Bay is shown in Figure 3-5.

Table 3-2: The WFD watercourses within the Zol of the development (EPA, 2023)

WFD Watercourse	WFD Status (2016-2021)	WDF Risk	Approximate distance from site
Jobstown Stream (Dodder_040)	Moderate	At Risk	0.2km
River Dodder (Dodder_050)	Moderate	At Risk	6.7km

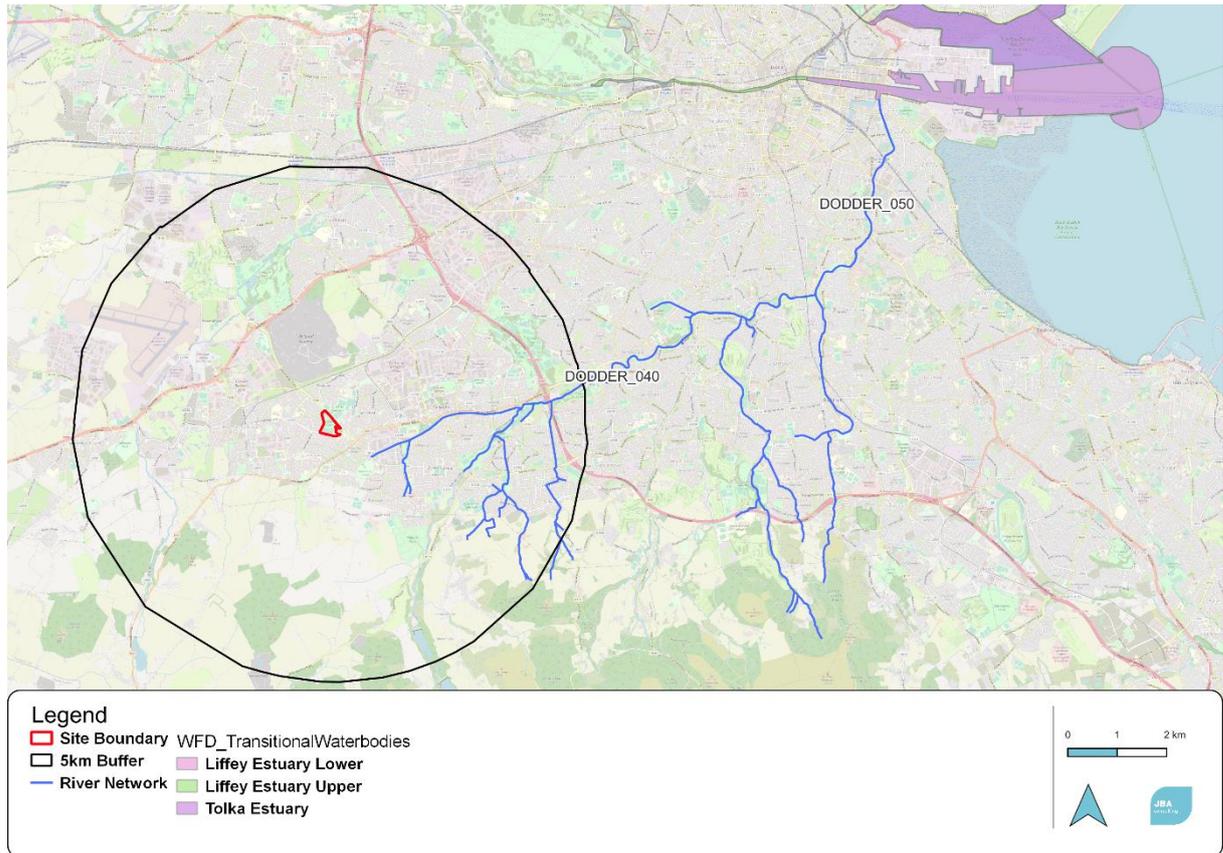


Figure 3-5: Local waterbodies (OSM, 2023)

3.5 Groundwater

The whole site is encompassed by the ground waterbody Dublin (IE_EA_G_008) (Figure 3-6). The WFD status for this groundwater body is currently "Good" water status, however, its risk status is currently under reviewed (EPA, 2023).

The underlying bedrock of the proposed site is dominated by dark limestone and shale of the Lucan formation. There is a fault jutting along the south-west corner of the site's boundary, and the formation ranges from 300mm to 800mm in thickness. This area comprises of till and gravels derived from limestone, while the immediate surrounding area is made up of "Made Ground". The ground of the site is classified as having both "Low Permeability" and having "Low Vulnerability"(Figure 3-7), which is reflected in the groundwater recharge rate being relatively low, at 7.5%.

The site is designated as being a "Locally Important Aquifer-Bedrock which is Moderately Productive only in Local Zones", having a limited and relatively poor connection network with fractures, fissures and joints that contributes to a low permeability that decreases even further with depth, and contributes to the low recharge percentage from rainwater and rapid discharges to local streams and rivers (GSI 2023).



Figure 3-6: Groundwater bodies in the vicinity of the site (OSM, 2023)

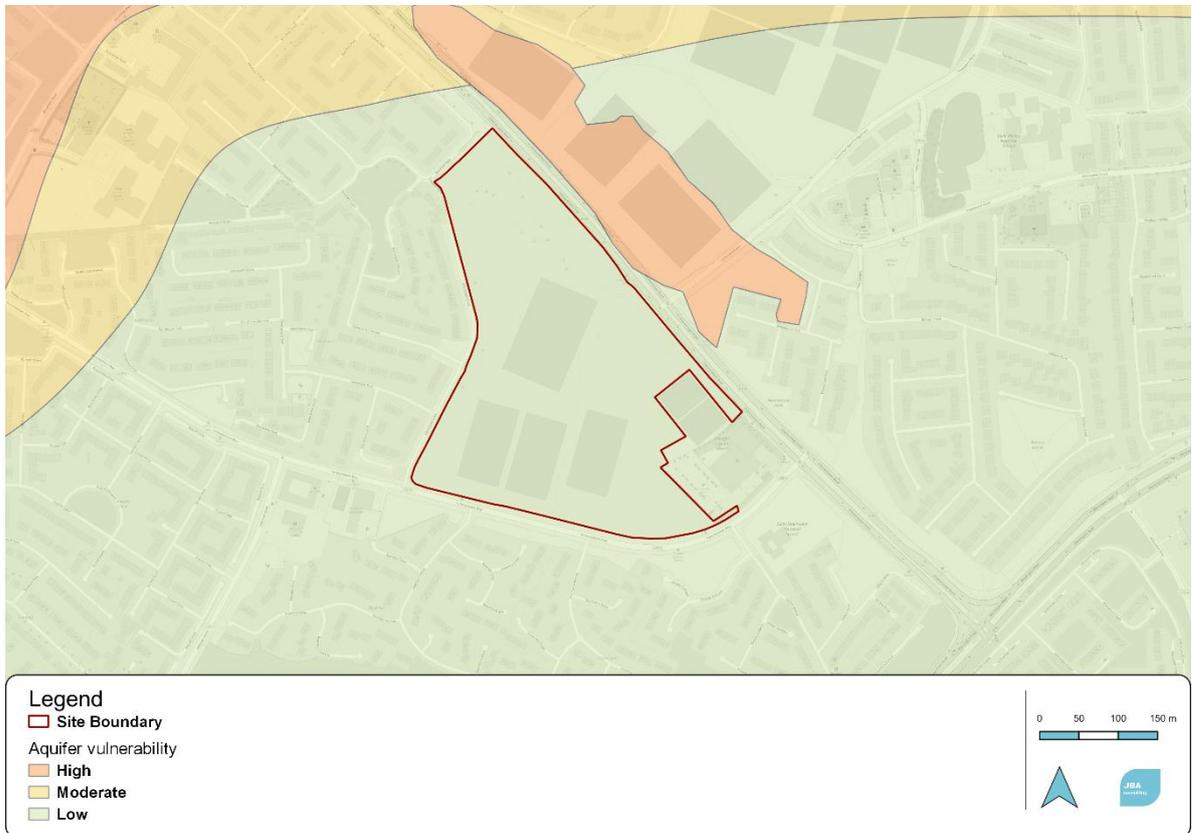


Figure 3-7: Aquifer vulnerability in the vicinity of the site (OSM, 2023)

4 Natura 2000 Sites

The DEHLG (2009) guidance identifies that Screening for Appropriate Assessment of a plan or project should consider the following Natura 2000 sites:

- Any Natura 2000 sites within or adjacent to the plan or project area.
- Any Natura 2000 sites within the likely zone of impact of the plan or project. This is dependent on the nature and scale of the plan, with 15km generally recommended for plans, but potentially much less for projects.
- Any Natura 2000 sites that are more than 15km from the plan or project area, but may potentially be impacted upon, for example, through a hydrological connection.

As the scale of proposed works are considered of 'Project' status, Natura 2000 sites within a 5km range of the proposed development were examined, and within a 15km range for those with a hydrological connection on the basis that there were no source-pathway-receptors identified outside these ranges. The Natura 2000 sites within the range are listed in Table 4-1 below and their location are shown in Figure 4-1 (overleaf).

Site descriptions, Qualifying Interests (QI) and threats/pressures for the above Natura 2000 sites are provided overleaf Table 4-2.

Table 4-1: Natura 2000 sites located within 5km (plus hydrological connectivity extension) of the Zone of Influence (Zol) of the proposed development

Natura 2000 site	Site Code	Approximate direct distance from site	Approximate Hydrological distance from site
Glenasmole Valley SAC	001209	3.1km	n/a
South Dublin Bay SAC	000210	13.1km	n/a
South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA	004024	13.2km	n/a
North Bull Island SPA	004006	16km	n/a
North Dublin Bay SAC	000206	16km	n/a

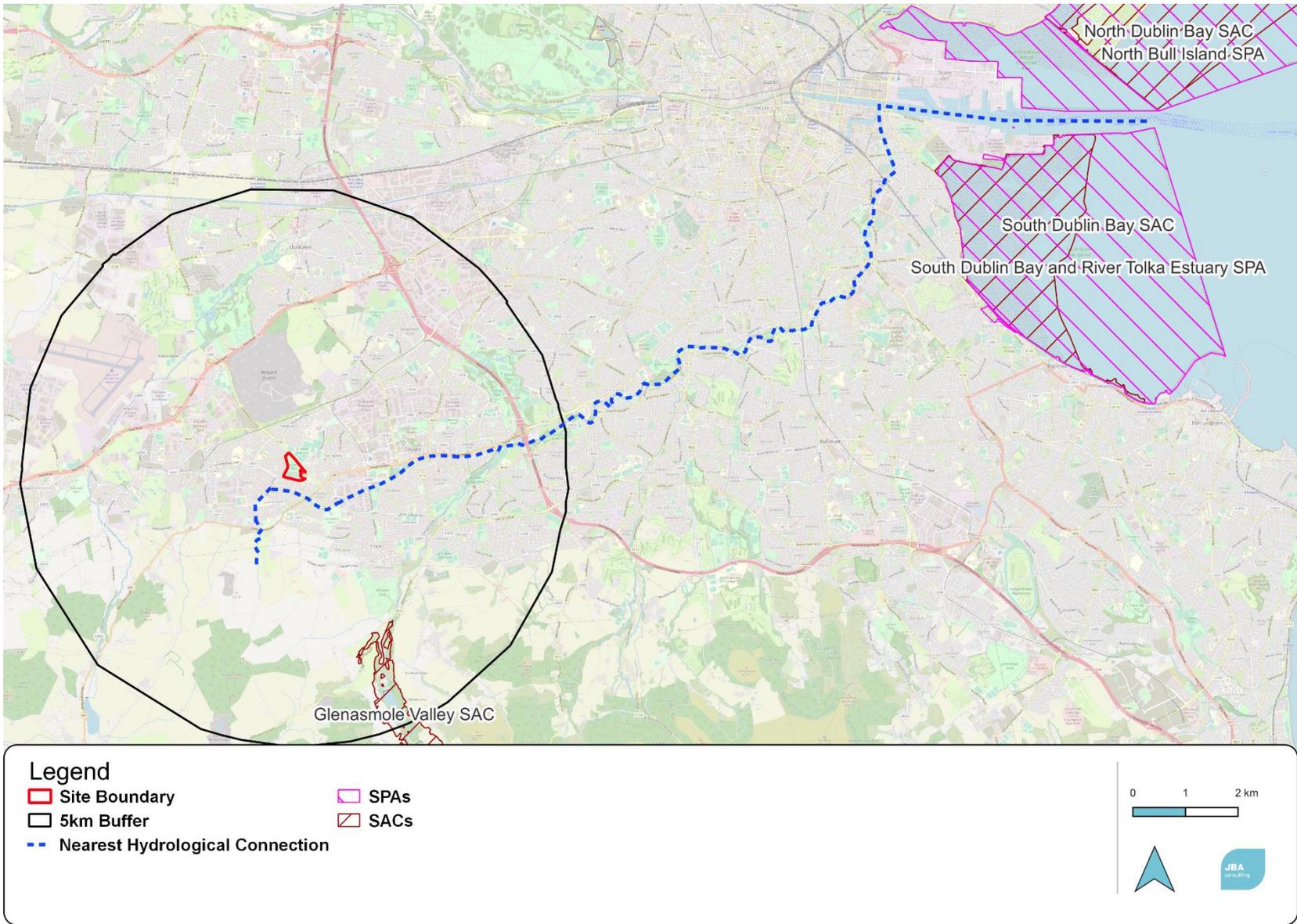


Figure 4-1: Natura 2000 sites within the 5km Zol, and those within an extended radius of the site that may have a hydrological connection (OSM, 2023)

Table 4-2: Site briefs; Qualifying Interests; and project-relevant threats /pressures and their impacts and sources in relation to the Natura 2000 sites within the 5km ZoI (plus hydrological connectivity extension)

Site Name	Brief	Qualifying Interests	Project-relevant Threats / Pressures: Impact (Source)
Glenasmole Valley SAC	Glenasmole valley is in south Co. Dublin approximately 5km from Tallaght. The River Dodder has been impounded within the valley to form two reservoirs for water provision to Dublin. The bedrock is non-calcareous with an overlay of deep drift deposits that line the valley's sides. These areas are covered by scrub and woodland, with herb-rich grassland on the less precipitous parts. Seepage through the deposits brings to the surface water rich in bases and induces patches of calcareous fens and petrifying springs. Locations between the two reservoirs include examples of calcareous fens and flush. Woodland occurs in patches around the site. The east side of the valley forms a woodland on the unstable calcareous slopes. Wet, semi-natural woodland is around the reservoirs. The lake shore vegetation is not well developed (NPWS, 2013a).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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 (Molinia caeruleae) [6410] - Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220] (NPWS, 2018) 	<p>No project-relevant threats or pressures</p> <p>(EEA, 2018)</p>
North Dublin Bay SAC	This site covers the inner part of north Dublin Bay extending from the Bull Wall lighthouse as far as the martello Tower. The building of the South Wall and the Bull Wall in the 18th and 19th centuries contributed to the formation of the 5km sandy spit on location which can be 1km wide at parts, containing an assortment of dunes. The saltmarsh extends the length of the landward side of the island, which is marked by an eroding edge that varies between 20cm and 60cm high (NPWS, 2013b).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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] - Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima) [1330] - Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) [1410] - Embryonic shifting dunes [2110] - Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria (white dunes) [2120] - Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130] - Humid dune slacks [2190] - Petalwort <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> [1395] (NPWS, 2013c) 	<p>Urbanised areas, human habitation: High impact (outside)</p> <p>(EEA, 2020a)</p>
South Dublin Bay SAC	South Dublin Bay SAC lies south of the Liffey, extending from South Wall to the western pier of Dun Laoghaire. The site is intertidal, with extensive sand and mudflats. There are several small, sandy beaches with incipient dune formation in the north	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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 	<p>Roads, motorways: Low impact (outside)</p>

Site Name	Brief	Qualifying Interests	Project-relevant Threats / Pressures: Impact (Source)
	and western sectors of the site. Of interest is the area of Booterstown salt marsh, which is a relatively new formation. There is early-stage saltmarsh development occurring here, covering a small area for now, but with the possibility to extend further thanks to ample areas of substrate and shelter (NPWS 2015a).	[1310] - Embryonic shifting dunes [2110] (NPWS, 2013d)	Urbanised areas, human habitation: High impact (outside) (EEA, 2020b)
North Bull Island SPA	This site covers all of the inner area of north Dublin Bay, including a seaward boundary that extends from the Bull Wall lighthouse across to Drumleck Point at Howth Head. It is almost 5km long, it is 1km wide and it runs parallel to the coast between Sutton and Clontarf. The length of the site is covered with Saltmarshes, there are two intertidal lagoons located in the area which provide roosts and feeding grounds for wintering birds. It is one of the top sites for wintering waterfowl in Ireland, and is of international importance for its sustainability of birdlife (NPWS, 2014).	- Light-bellied Brent Goose <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> [A046] - Shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> [A048] - Teal <i>Anas crecca</i> [A052] - Pintail <i>Anas acuta</i> [A054] - Shoveler <i>Anas clypeata</i> [A056] - Oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> [A130] - Golden Plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> [A140] - Grey Plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> [A141] - Knot <i>Calidris canutus</i> [A143] - Sanderling <i>Calidris alba</i> [A144] - Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina</i> [A149] - Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa</i> [A156] - Bar-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa lapponica</i> [A157] - Curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i> [A160] - Redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i> [A162] - Turnstone <i>Arenaria interpres</i> [A169] - Black-headed Gull <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> [A179] - Wetland and Waterbirds [A999] (NPWS, 2015c)	Continuous urbanisation: Medium impact (inside) Other patterns of habitation: Low impact (inside) (EEA, 2020b)
South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA	This site covers a large part of the Dublin Bay, including the intertidal area of the River Liffey and Dun Laoghaire, along with the estuary of the River Tolka to the north of the River Liffey and Booterstown Marsh. The south of the bay has intertidal flats that at their widest extend for almost 3km. The site is important for wintering fowl, integral for the importance of the Dublin Bay complex (NPWS, 2015d).	- Light-bellied Brent Goose <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> [A046] - Oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> [A130] - Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> [A137] - Grey Plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> [A141] - Knot <i>Calidris canutus</i> [A143] - Sanderling <i>Calidris alba</i> [A144] - Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina</i> [A149] - Bar-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa lapponica</i> [A157] - Redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i> [A162] - Black-headed Gull <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> [A179] - Roseate Tern <i>Sterna dougallii</i> [A192] - Common Tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i> [A193]	Roads, motorways: Low impact (outside) Urbanised areas, human habitation: High impact (outside) (EEA, 2021b)

Site Name	Brief	Qualifying Interests	Project-relevant Threats / Pressures: Impact (Source)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Arctic Tern <i>Sterna paradisaea</i> [A194] - Wetland and Waterbirds [A999] (NPWS, 2015e) 	
South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA	<p>This site covers a large part of the Dublin Bay, including the intertidal area of the River Liffey and Dun Laoghaire, along with the estuary of the River Tolka to the north of the River Liffey and Booterstown Marsh. The south of the bay has intertidal flats that at their widest extend for almost 3km. The site is important for wintering fowl, integral for the importance of the Dublin Bay complex (NPWS, 2015b).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Light-bellied Brent Goose <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> [A046] - Oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> [A130] - Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> [A137] - Grey Plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> [A141] - Knot <i>Calidris canutus</i> [A143] - Sanderling <i>Calidris alba</i> [A144] - Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina</i> [A149] - Bar-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa lapponica</i> [A157] - Redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i> [A162] - Black-headed Gull <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> [A179] - Roseate Tern <i>Sterna dougallii</i> [A192] - Common Tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i> [A193] - Arctic Tern <i>Sterna paradisaea</i> [A194] - Wetland and Waterbirds [A999] 	<p>Roads, motorways: Low impact (outside)</p> <p>Urbanised areas, human habitation: High impact (outside)</p> <p>(EEA, 2021b)</p>

* = priority Annex I habitat

= indirect threat via the increase in the local populace and recreational activities as a result of the development

5 Other Relevant Plans and Projects

5.1 Cumulative Effects

As part of the Screening for an Appropriate Assessment, in addition to the proposed works, other relevant projects and plans in the region that may induce cumulative impacts must also be considered at this stage.

5.2 Plans

The following projects or plans were identified as potential sources of cumulative impacts:

- South Dublin County Development Plan 2022-2028
- Greater Dublin Drainage Strategy
- Third Cycle River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2022-2027
- Planning Applications (retrieved from Data.gov.ie - Planning Application Sites (March 2023))

5.2.1 South Dublin County Development Plan 2022-2028

The proposed scheme's development is in line with the South Dublin County Development Plan 2022-2028. It is an objective of the Plan to ensure that all development within the County conforms to key design principles which includes the promotion of sustainable energy and environmental services. These goals include the requirement that the planning system will 'be responsive to our national environmental challenges and ensure that development occurs within environmental limits, having regard to the requirements of all relevant environmental legislation and the sustainable management of our natural capital.

The Plan also aims to protect and enhance surface water quality, to support, improve and protect Natura 2000 sites, and to develop an integrated Green Infrastructure network to enhance biodiversity, provide accessible parks, open spaces and recreational facilities (SDCC, 2022a). The plan also states that work will be in conjunction with Irish Water to protect existing water and drainage infrastructure, to promote investments aiming to support environmental protection and facilitate the sustainable growth of the county.

A Screening for Appropriate Assessment was carried out on the plan, which was concluded that an Appropriate Assessment was necessary for this project. The associated Natura Impact Report concluded that there are no likely significant direct, indirect or secondary impacts of the project on any Natura 2000 sites (SDCC, 2022b), **therefore the SDCC Development Plan is not anticipated to contribute to cumulative or in-combination impacts.**

5.2.2 Greater Dublin Drainage Strategy

The Greater Dublin Drainage Strategy sets out the strategic planning for the development of wastewater treatment in the Greater Dublin Area in relation to the Ringsend Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) Upgrade, Greater Dublin Drainage Project and associated wastewater network drainage projects (Irish Water, 2018). The proposed developed connects with the Local Authority sewer system which is included in this strategy. The Ringsend WWTP Upgrade includes plans to expand the WWTP to its ultimate capacity, together with associated network upgrades required. The Greater Dublin Drainage Project is planned to relieve both the Ringsend WWTP and network loading by construction of a new WWTP at Clonshaugh, an orbital sewer and provision of an outfall pipe discharging 1km north east of Ireland's Eye. The Ringsend WWTP upgrade is in progress and carried out in stages, with an increased capacity of 400,000 PE by the first half of 2021 and the ultimate capacity of 2.4 million PE to be in operation by 2025 (Irish Water, 2018). The Greater Dublin Drainage Project is strategically important to the Dublin Region in that it will provide capacity for residential and commercial growth (Irish Water, 2018).

The Greater Dublin Drainage Strategy is not anticipated to contribute to cumulative or in-combination effects.

5.2.3 Third Cycle River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2022-2027 (DoHPLG, 2022)

The first cycle of River Basin Management Plans included the Eastern River Basin District - River Basin Management Plan (ERBDMP) 2009 – 2015 (WFD (2010)). The plans summarised the waterbodies that may not meet the environmental objectives of the WFD by 2015 and identified which pressures are contributing to the environmental objectives not being achieved. The plans described the classification results and identified measures that can be introduced in order to safeguard waters and meet the environmental objectives of the WFD.

- Prevent deterioration of water body status.
- Restore good status to water bodies.
- Achieve protected areas objectives.
- Reduce chemical pollution of water bodies

The 2nd cycle River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) for Ireland 2018-2021 sets out the actions that Ireland will take to improve water quality and achieve ‘good’ ecological status in water bodies (rivers, lakes, estuaries and coastal waters) by 2021 (DoHPLG, 2018a). Changes from previous River Basin Management Plans is that all River Basin Districts are merged as one national River Basin District. The Plan provides a more coordinated framework for improving the quality of our waters — to protect public health, the environment, water amenities and to sustain water-intensive industries, including agri-food and tourism, particularly in rural Ireland.

The 3rd and current cycle aims to build on the initiatives of the second cycle, particularly the governance and implementation structures, and to improve the establishment of Irish Water, An Forum Uisce, the Local Authority Waters Programme and the Agricultural Sustainability Support and Advisory Programme.

The third cycle draft Catchment Report for Liffey and Dublin Bay Catchment (EPA, 2021) identified that between Cycles 2 and 3 there has been an overall small improvement in the catchment’s status. The overall change in quality between Cycles 2 and 3 include 2 waterbodies that have achieved High Status, which is an increase of one, 56 which achieve Good Status has been increased by four, 23 achieving a Moderate Status which is a decrease in four waterbodies, and 24 achieving a Poor Status an increase of 1 between cycles. There are no Bad Status waterbodies as of Cycle 3, which is a decrease of one from Cycle 2. The main significant pressures are aquaculture, anthropogenic, atmospheric, historically polluted sites and waste pressures followed by agriculture, urban run-off and forestry.

The Third Cycle River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2022-2027 is not anticipated to contribute to cumulative or in-combination effects.

5.3 Other Projects

Other projects dating back three years are listed in Table 5-1 (overleaf), which are not retention applications, home extensions and/or internal alterations, and have been granted planning permission in the locality of the proposed site.

Table 5-1: Other recent projects within approximately 2km which may have an accumulative impact on the development of the project

Planning Reference	Address	Application Status	Decision date	Summary of development
SHD3ABP-310570-21	Site at Cooldown Commons & Fortunestown, Citywest, Dublin 24	Permission Granted	18/06/21	Construction of a residential scheme comprising 421 units, offices, retail units x3 and residential amenity areas x2, within 9 blocks ranging in height from 1-13 storeys. The proposal will include 289 car parking spaces along with 650 cycle parking spaces. The development will provide public and communal open spaces throughout including a public plaza adjoining Fortunestown Luas stop. Provision of vehicular, pedestrian, and cyclist accesses to the site, including pedestrian bridge to the public park (under construction) to the east. The application includes for all landscaping, ESB substations, plant areas, bin storage, surface water attenuation and all other site development works, and site services required to facilitate the proposed development. The proposed development seeks to amend SHD permission ABP-302398 -18 (under construction to the west), replacing 32 permitted duplex apartments along with associated amendments to internal roads and open spaces. The current proposal also replaces permission SD16A/0078 previously granted on this site.
SD16A/0210/EP	Site at junction of Citywest Road and Garter Avenue, Citywest, Dublin 24	Grant extension of duration of permission	28/01/21	Residential development of 112 dwellings comprised of: 90 two storey houses consisting of 10 four bed detached houses, 2 three bed detached houses, 8 four bed semi-detached houses, 2 three bed detached houses, 8 four bed semi-detached houses, 42 three bed semi-detached houses and 28 three bed mid-terrace houses along with 22 one and two bed apartments in a four storey apartment building. The proposed development includes all associated site development and infrastructural works, car parking, bin storage, open spaces and landscaping. Access to the development will be via two vehicular entrances from Garter Avenue. All on a site of 3.74ha bounded to the east by the N82 Citywest Road, to the north-west by Garter Avenue and to the south by lands that will be developed as a Neighbourhood Park (permitted under Reg.Ref. SD15A/0127) in accordance with the Fortunestown Local Area Plan 2012.
SD15A/0127/EP	Citywest, Tallaght, Dublin 24	Grant extension of duration of permission	01/07/20	A residential/mixed use development on a site area of 12.45ha consisting of 400 dwellings comprised of 340 no. 2 storey detached, semi-detached and terraced houses, i.e. 3 no. 2 bed houses, 323 no. 3 bed houses & 14 no. 4 bed houses along with 60 no. 1 and 2 bed apartments in 4 no. 3 & 4/5 storey buildings. The development also provides for a creche (615sq.m), kiosk (56.6sq.m) and retail unit (237sq.m). The proposed development includes all associated site development and infrastructural works, car parking, open spaces and landscaping, ESB substation and 4 associated kiosks. Access to the development will be via two proposed new vehicular entrances from Citywest Avenue and Fortunestown Lane respectively and will also provide for two new vehicular crossing points over the Luas line. The development also includes for the demolition of an existing dwelling in the southwest corner of the site at the junction of Citywest Road and Fortunestown Lane. The site is bounded to the north by Citywest Avenue, to the west by the N82 Citywest Road, to the south by Fortunestown Lane, to the east by Ard Mor residential estate and is adjacent to the Luas Red Line.
SHD3ABP-305556-19	Citywest Shopping Centre, Fortunestown, Dublin 24	Permission granted	21/01/20	Mixed use residential scheme (total GFA 26,929sq.m) comprising 6 blocks with balconies/terraces to be provided on all elevations at all levels for each block, to provide 290 apartment units and associated residential amenity facilities, a childcare facility, 4 retail units and 2 café/restaurant units. A total of 153 car parking spaces (including 2 car club spaces) are proposed at surface level and existing basement level of the Citywest Shopping Centre to serve the development to include the reallocation of 37 existing surface level spaces; 67 new surface level spaces and the reallocation of 49 spaces from commercial to residential use at existing basement level of the Citywest Shopping Centre.

Planning Reference	Address	Application Status	Decision date	Summary of development
SHD3ABP-306602-20	Citywest Road and Magna Drive, Citywest, Dublin 24	Permission granted	26/05/20	Construction of a residential development of 463 dwellings comprising 353 apartments, 89 houses and 21 duplex apartments, creche (c.587.8sq.m) and community building (c.141sq.m) as follows: (A) 353 apartments in 7 apartment buildings (with balconies or terraces [including communal terraces] as follows: Block 1 (6 storeys with a part 7 storey level) of 57 apartments; Block 2(6 storeys with a part 7 storey level) of 47 apartments; Block 3 (6 storeys over undercroft/semi-basement with a part 7 storey level) of 56 apartments with car parking and ancillary plant/storage at basement level; Block 4 (6 storeys over undercroft/semi-basement with a part 7 storey level) of 56 apartments with car parking and ancillary plant/storage at basement level; Block 5 (6 storeys with a part 7 storey level) of 47 apartments; Block 6 (6 storeys over undercroft/semi-basement with a part 7 storey level) of 58 apartments with car parking and ancillary plant/storage at basement level; Block 7 is 6 storeys of 32 apartments (creche at ground and first floor) with outdoor play area. (B) 89 houses; House types 1A, 2A, 4, 4A- 3 storey to front [2 storey to rear] remainder of house types 2 storey. (C) 21 duplex apartments in 2 3-storey buildings. (D) Single storey community building including management office, 3 single storey ESB substations, single storey bicycle and bin stores. (E) 401 car parking spaces (including 3 car sharing spaces) to serve overall development and 364 bicycle spaces ([for apartments] with apartment bicycle storage provided internally at ground floor level for apartment blocks 1-7). (F) Provision of public open space areas within the development (including playground areas and communal open space areas); all ancillary landscape works, public lighting, planting and boundary treatments including regrading/re-profiling of site where required as well as provision of footpaths and cycle paths. (G) Vehicular access to the proposed development will be from the Citywest Road (N82) and will include pedestrian crossings and works to facilitate access (including vehicular and footpath/bridges over stream/ditch), secondary vehicular and pedestrian access to boundary to lands to north (currently under construction) and pedestrian to boundary to Magna Drive. (H) Provision of surface water and underground attenuation and all ancillary site development work.
SD21A/0207	St. Thomas' Junior National School, Jobstown, Tallaght, Co. Dublin	Permission granted	14/09/21	Demolition of the existing single-storey c. 2,605sq.m. Junior School building; demolition of the existing single-storey c. 211sq.m. Junior School ancillary structures; construction of a new part three/part two-storey c. 4,998sq.m - Junior School building, located to the west of the existing Senior School building. The new school will accommodate 27 classrooms, a 3-class base Special Education Needs facility and all ancillary accommodation (the Senior School does not form part of planning application); 2 single-storey temporary accommodation units, c. 400sq.m, located to the south of the site, to facilitate the construction of the new school building; renewable energy design measures, PV Panels and/or heat pumps located at roof level; new school signage comprising wall-mounted lettering on the front elevation of the new building; external hard play area and 2 Multi-Use Games Areas; all located to the south of the site; redevelopment of the existing staff car parking and set-down facilities within the school site comprising: provision of 40 Junior school staff car parking spaces and 6 car set-down spaces, resurfacing of 22 existing Senior school car parking spaces, 106 bicycle parking spaces, new access road, new footpaths, landscaping and all ancillary site works; boundary treatment comprising of repair works to the existing low-level blockwork wall and new metal railings to an overall height of 2.4m along Fortunestown Road; replacement of the existing palisade fencing with new 2.4m high railings along Kiltalown Park Rd to the south; replacement of the existing pedestrian and vehicular entrance gates; works in the public road outside the school site: including 5 set-down spaces along Fortunestown Road, and services connection required to facilitate the development.

Planning Reference	Address	Application Status	Decision date	Summary of development
SD208/0003	Kiltipper Park, Tallaght, Dublin 24	Part 8 Approved by Council	13/07/20	Development of a public park including: Construction of 30 additional parking spaces with adjacent access footway & lengthened access roadway; New shared surface entrance and access pathway; Provision of 1 GAA pitch with vertical ball-stop netting and associated features; Provision of 2 soccer pitches and associated features; Provision of children's playground area and linear natural play areas; Integrated landscape features including woodland areas; All associated swales, drainage, wetland areas and ancillary works; All incidental park furniture such as benches, signage, bins; All ancillary works.
SD218/0004	Whitestown and Killinarden, Tallaght, Dublin 24	Part 8 Approved by Council	12/7/21	Killinarden Park upgrade, total site area approx. 20ha and Greenway with landscaped pedestrian/cycle route within Killinarden Park and between Killinarden Park and Sean Walsh Park, total site area approx. 4.50ha. The works will comprise: • Strategic walk/cycleway with bat sensitive lighting along Whitestown Stream; new and enhanced entrances, including new road crossings at Killinarden Heights, Whitestown Drive, Whitestown Way and Killinarden Way/Killinarden Estate (with a revised carriageway arrangement); feature areas at primary and secondary accesses; a Primary Oval footpath and walking/exercise circuit 1km in length; existing secondary footpath network retained and resurfaced where required; and a new footbridge crossing the Whitestown Stream within the park. Replacement and new park perimeter walls/railings where required and retention of existing private walls/railings. Linear play trails; seating; two natural play areas; outdoor fitness and calisthenics equipment; a Multi-use Games and Skate Area; upgrade of existing grass sports pitches to include re-levelling where required. Biodiversity and landscape improvements including a community orchard; wildflower meadows; surface water swale; willow; native woodland; informal tree groups; Signature Trees; and retention of existing tree groups and scrub where shown. Installation of CCTV Cameras for monitoring by An Garda Síochána and South Dublin County Council. All ancillary works.
SD208/0005	Tallaght Town Centre, Tallaght, Dublin 24	Part 8 Approved by council	12/10/20	Development of public realm works totalling approximately 1.2ha at Belgard Square North and on South Dublin County Council lands to the south and north of Belgard Square North, Tallaght including: Proposed new public space at Innovation Square; Proposed works to include a new advertising totem in Innovation Square extending to a maximum height of 2.4m x 1.5m; Proposed new Belgard Square North/Airton East West pedestrian link street; Pedestrian crossings at Belgard Square North and Belgard Cookstown Link Street; Redevelopment of County Hall Pedestrian Link; Redevelopment and reprofiling of levels within Chamber Square; Proposed works to include the reconfiguration of existing County Council carpark including widening of County Hall Pedestrian Link with additional planting, seating and relocation of wheelchair accessible parking spaces, a new pedestrian crossing and associated amendments to the carpark. All ancillary site development and landscaping works, including public lighting, play equipment, furniture and sports equipment, cycle parking, seating, pathways, planting, surface water drainage and boundaries.
SD21A/0012	Buckandhounds, Bedlesshill, Kingswood, Brownsbarn, Cheeverstown & Belgard, Fortunestown, Tallaght, Dublin 24	Permission granted	23/03/21	Deepening of part (c. 43ha.) of the existing and permitted quarry (An Bord Pleanála refs. 301177 & QD0026) to a quarry floor level of -10mOD using conventional blasting techniques; use of mobile processing plant; product stockpiles; final restoration scheme and all ancillary works within a planning application area of 49.4ha and within the overall landholding of 241.6ha

Planning Reference	Address	Application Status	Decision date	Summary of development
SD21A/0327	Gordon Park, Old Naas Road, Kingswood, Dublin 22	Permission granted	19/05/2022	A residential development of 77 dwellings comprised of 63 two storey houses and 14 apartments & duplex units accommodated in one 3 storey building. The proposed houses are comprised of 8 two bed houses & 55 three bed houses; the proposed apartments & duplex units are comprised of 7 one bed apartments at ground floor & 7 three bed duplex units overhead. The proposed development also provides for all associated site development & infrastructural works, car & bicycle parking, open spaces, hard & soft landscaping, boundary treatments and bin & bicycle storage; access to the development will be via a new vehicular entrance at the south-west corner of the site off the Old Naas Road. Permission is also sought to demolish the existing building on site approximately 455sq.m. all on a site area of 2.28Ha, at Gordon Park, Old Naas Road, Kingswood, Dublin 22 bounded to the west by the Old Nass Road, to the south by the Silken Park development and is located in the townland of Brownsbarn.

5.4 Summary

The developments permitted above have the potential to have overlapping construction and short-term residual impact phases with the proposed development and therefore, in the absence of mitigation measures, these developments may result in potential in-combination or cumulative impacts given their proximity to the local Natura 2000 sites.

The County and Local Development Plan; River Basin Management Plan and projects within the locality of the proposed project are considered in combination with the currently proposed project in the Screening Assessment section below.

6 Screening Assessment

6.1 Introduction

This screening exercise will focus on assessing the likely adverse effects of the project on the Natura 2000 site identified in Section 4 above, and listed below:

- Glenasmole Valley SAC [001209]
- South Dublin Bay SAC [000210]
- South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA [004024]
- North Dublin Bay SAC [000206]
- North Bull Island SPA [004006]

This section identifies the potential impacts which may arise as result of the proposed project. It then goes on to identify how these impacts could potentially impact on Natura 2000 sites listed in Table 4-1. The significance of potential impacts is also assessed, with any potential in-combination effects also identified.

6.2 Assessment Criteria

6.2.1 Description of the individual elements of the project (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) likely to give rise to impacts on the Natura 2000 sites

Potential adverse impacts that could cause a significant effect on the qualifying interests of the Natura 2000 sites, during the construction and operational phases of the project, will impact on the sites via surface water pathways, groundwater pathways and land and air pathways. Surface water pathways can impact on surface water quality and surface water dependent habitat quality. Groundwater pathways can impact on groundwater quality and quality of groundwater dependent habitats. Land and air pathways can impact by release or discharges of sediment or chemicals to surface or groundwater.

The proposed project is not anticipated to impact on the qualifying interests of the Natura 2000 sites within the ZoI due to its small-scale; the distance between the potential source of impact and the receiving environment (Natura 2000 sites), as well as the lack of any direct hydrological connection. The rationale for excluding impacts via the main pathways is given in more detail in the following section.

6.2.2 Surface Water Pathways

Potential pollutants will be used on site, which will include oil and petrol/diesel related to machinery, loose sediments related to excavations, and concrete related to the project's construction. The site lies within the WFD sub-catchment of the Dodder_SC_010, and shares this sub-catchment with all of the Natura 2000 sites of concern for this project (Figure 6-1).

The site lacks any form of direct connection (e.g., drainage ditches) with the local watercourse, Jobstown Stream, and any surface water run-off pollutants that exit the site would ultimately be collected by local existing surface water drainage infrastructure with appropriate in-built water filtration elements.

Therefore, due to the lack of direct connection to a watercourse, adverse impacts via the surface water pathway are not anticipated for any of the Natura 2000 sites during the construction phase.

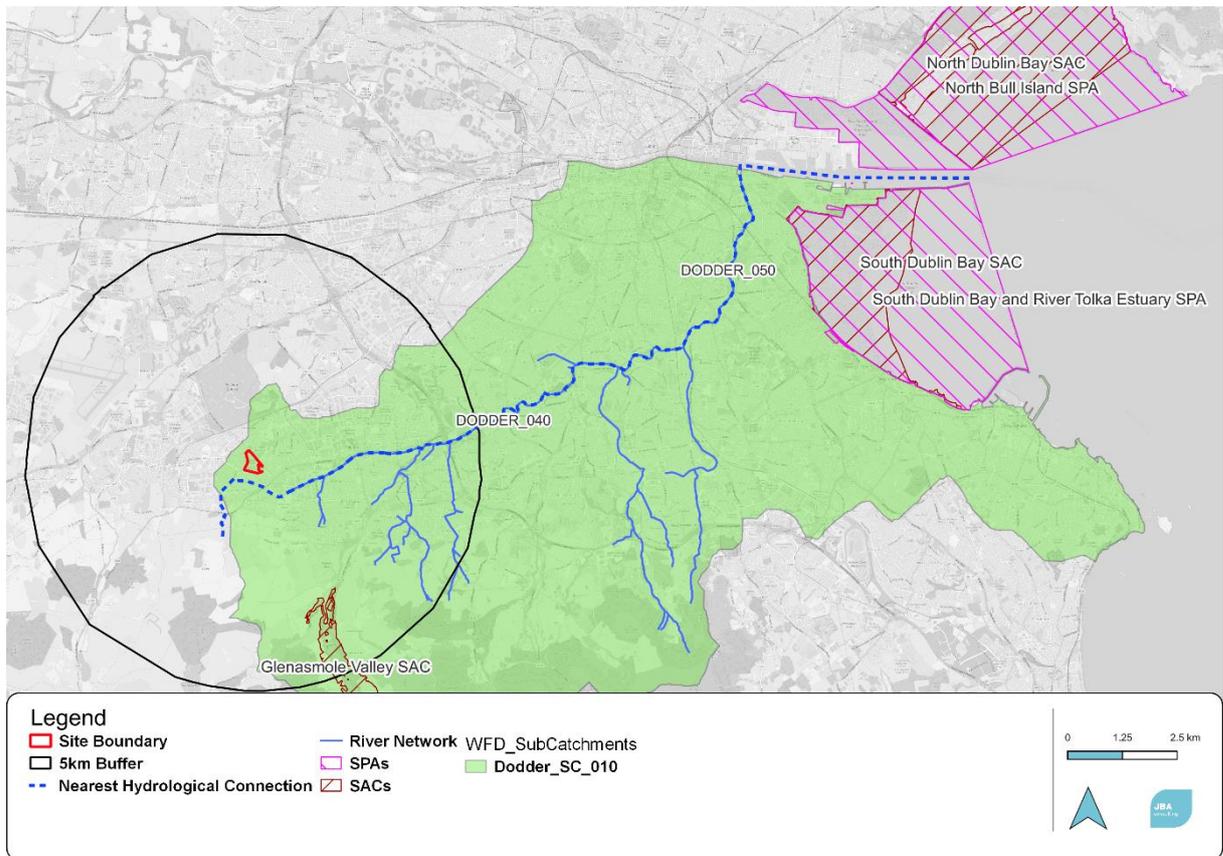


Figure 6-1: WFD sub-catchments of the area surrounding the project site (OSM, 2023)

The proposed redevelopment of the park will be restricted within an existing park area. There will not be any increase in surface water run-off within the site due to the permeable concrete SuDS infiltration system, and by surface cross-falls to adjacent soft landscaping areas.

Therefore, adverse impacts via surface water pollution events during the operational phase are not anticipated for any of Natura 2000 sites, and their respective QIs.

6.2.3 Groundwater

The proposed site is located within the Dublin groundwater body (IE_EA_G_008). The site does not share a groundwater connection with the Glenasmole Valley SAC **and therefore, this site is not considered any further within this section**. The site shares this with Dublin Bay Natura sites (Figure 6-2, overleaf). The low permeability and low vulnerability of the sign are reflected in a very low recharge capacity of the site at 7.5%.

Given the low retention, permeability, and vulnerability of the geology of the site underlying aquifer, adverse impacts via the groundwater and ground-to-surface water pathways are not anticipated for any of the Natura 2000 sites identified within the ZoI during the construction phase.

The low retention, permeability, and overall low vulnerability of the geology of the area, along with the distance needed to travel to Natura 2000 sites, results in no expected significant impact on any of the QIs for any of the Natura 2000 sites identified within the ZoI.

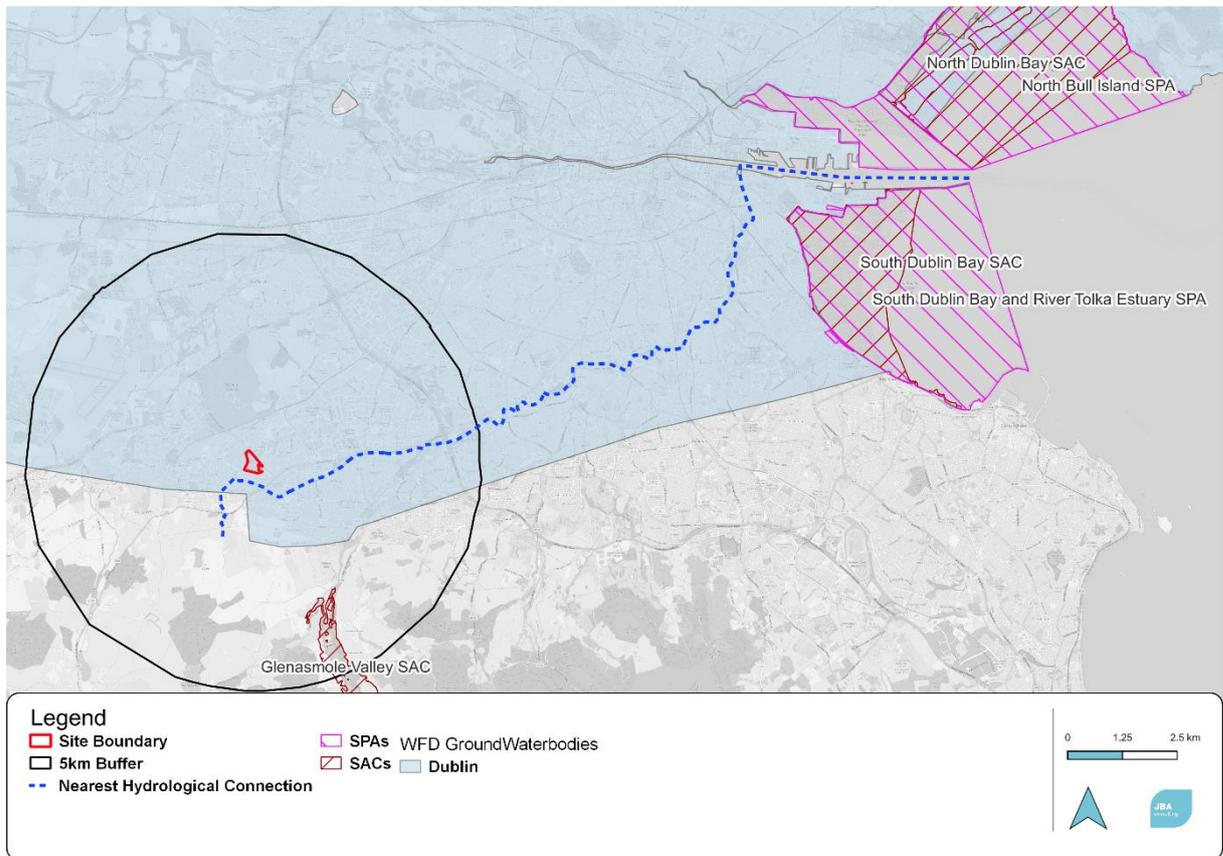


Figure 6-2: Proposed site boundary and Natura sites, with groundwater body connectivity (OSM, 2023)

6.2.4 Land and Air

The loss or degradation of supporting habitats outside the identified Natura 2000 sites via land- and air-based impacts could have potential adverse impacts on a number of the QIs associated with these Natura 2000 sites.

Land and air pathways are assessed separately below.

Land (physical on-site and noise disturbance)

Direct physical impacts and indirect impacts, such as visual and noise impacts, do not have the potential to physically disturb habitats as well as the floral and faunal species within the Natura 2000 sites due to the distance from the proposed site to any Natura 2000 sites within the Zol. All access to the site will be on pre-existing roads and transportation requirements will not negatively impact the Natura 2000 sites identified within the Zol

The proposed site is not considered to provide suitable ex-situ foraging habitat for any QIs of the Natura 2000 sites. The site is in an urban location consisting mainly of built-up features, therefore, impacts via land pathways in terms of ex-situ supporting habitats are not anticipated to have a significant impact on any of the Natura 2000 sites.

Air Pollution

Excavations at the site will produce loose top and sub soil, and emissions may arise from working machinery. Dust release and vehicle emissions can travel considerable distances and could potentially impact the QIs of Natura 2000 sites. The recommended buffer for dust and air pollution is 2km as a baseline, however the distance and direction of travel is also influenced by wind speed and direction.

The prevailing wind in the area is south-west (based on measurements carried out between 2000-2022 at Dublin (Dublin Airport ((Windfinder.com, 2023))). While this means any dust that is generated on-site

will most likely be transported towards the Dublin Bay Natura 2000 sites, however, none of these Natura 2000 sites are located within the Zol buffer for air pollution. The urban setting of the proposed route also provides barriers, such as buildings and treelines, which will prevent further dispersal of particles.

There will be a minor increase in local traffic attending the site during construction, resulting in an increase in NOx emissions, however, vehicular emissions and dust emissions are not anticipated to significantly impact the QIs of the any Natura 2000 sites due to the relatively small scale and temporary nature of proposed works.

Therefore, due to the distance and the lack of connection, potential adverse impacts via the air pathway are not anticipated during the construction phase for the Natura 2000 sites and their respective QIs.

Air pollution-based impacts from dust / emissions are not anticipated during the operational phase of the proposed development.

6.2.5 Cumulative Impact

In assessing the plans and projects outlined in Section 5, the respective AA Screening or NIS reports were consulted to assess the potential of any cumulative impacts due to their proximity of the site. All of these projects were concluded to not pose any threat to Natura 2000 sites.

As the proposed project is not anticipated to have any significant impact on QIs or conservation objectives on any Natura 2000 site and based on the screening statements of the above plans and planning applications, there is no potential for other plans or projects to act in combination with it to result in likely significant impacts on Natura 2000 sites.

6.2.6 Summary

Due to the location of the proposed site, the temporary nature of the works and its distance to the Natura 2000 sites within the Zol, the proposed project is not anticipated to have a significant impact via surface water, groundwater and land and air pathways to any Natura 2000 site.

6.2.7 Description of likely direct, indirect or secondary impacts of the project (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) on the Natura 2000 sites

Project Elements	Comment
Size and scale	<p>The proposed and preferred development of the project includes the redevelopment of the Jobstown Park. The current Masterplan comprises of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formal entry plaza at Cookstown Road junction, linking with Butler McGee Park. • Main spine route, shared pedestrian/cycle with formal signature trees and streetlights, linking Butler McGee Park to Whitestown Stream Park, via Dromcarra Estate. • Existing sports pitches retained (northern pitch re-orientated) - refurbished where necessary with drainage and re-levelling. • Provision for active recreation – e.g. Teenspace, natural play areas, pump track and play mound. • Activity circuit (Park Run), 900m long - with exercise stations and seats/play equipment. • Formal pedestrian/viewing/linear activity area linking to Leisure Centre. • Possible on-street parking and associated planting on Fortunestown Way. • Biodiversity improvements - existing hedgerows retained and supplemented with meadowland management, native bulbs, formal and informal tree groups. • Attenuation basin and possible swales for enhanced biodiversity.

Project Elements	Comment										
Land-take	There will be no direct land take from any of Natura 2000 sites.										
Distance from Natura 2000 site or key features of the site	<p>The Natura 2000 sites and their proximity to the proposed site:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>• Glenasmole Valley SAC</td> <td>• 3.1km</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• South Dublin Bay SAC</td> <td>• 13.1km</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA</td> <td>• 13.2km</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• North Bull Island SPA</td> <td>• 16km</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• North Dublin Bay SAC</td> <td>• 16km</td> </tr> </table>	• Glenasmole Valley SAC	• 3.1km	• South Dublin Bay SAC	• 13.1km	• South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA	• 13.2km	• North Bull Island SPA	• 16km	• North Dublin Bay SAC	• 16km
• Glenasmole Valley SAC	• 3.1km										
• South Dublin Bay SAC	• 13.1km										
• South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA	• 13.2km										
• North Bull Island SPA	• 16km										
• North Dublin Bay SAC	• 16km										
Resource requirements (water abstraction etc.)	There will be no water abstraction requirement.										
Emissions (disposal to land, water or air)	<p>Construction Phase:</p> <p>Water</p> <p>Potential pollutants will be utilised at the site, including diesel and engine/hydraulic oils, topsoil will be removed and concrete during the construction. These pollutants could potentially spill or leak into the surface water and groundwater and silt could runoff into surface water. However, local drainage infrastructure, with filtration elements, surrounding the site will collect any polluted surface water that may exit the site. Therefore, significant impacts are not anticipated via surface water or groundwater.</p> <p>Air</p> <p>Excavations at the site will produce loose top and sub soil, and emissions may arise from working machinery. However, this is not anticipated to have a significant impact on habitats or species of any Natura 2000 site due to the distance, and the presence of barriers such as buildings in the urban sections of the route.</p> <p>Operation phase:</p> <p>During operation, the proposed operations of the project (and its related emissions) are not expected to directly impact any of the Natura 2000 sites, due to the operational nature of the development. Therefore, there will be no permanent impacts on any Natura 2000 site.</p>										
Excavation requirements	<p>There are different depths of excavations required for the project, relating to seven different functional zones of the development. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tree pits – 1.50m deep • Attenuation basin – 1.50m deep (subject to detailed design) • Streetlight bases – 1.25m deep • Play/recreation bases – 1.25m deep • Wall foundations – 0.50m deep • General hard surfaces – 0.45m deep 										
Transportation requirements	<p>Temporary Impacts:</p> <p>Levels of traffic to the site during the construction phase will increase traffic to the area but will be temporary in nature. All access to the site will be on pre-existing roads and transportation requirements will not negatively impact the Natura 2000 sites identified within the Zol.</p>										

Project Elements	Comment
	<p>Permanent Impacts:</p> <p>Given the scale, nature and location of the proposed project, transportation requirements will not negatively impact the Natura 2000 sites identified within the Zol.</p>
Duration of construction, operation, decommissioning etc.	The envisaged timeframe consists of: 12 months construction, with 12 months Defects Liability Period and 36 months Planting Maintenance Period.
Other	None

6.2.8 Description of likely changes to the Natura 2000 sites

Potential Impact	Comments
Reduction of habitat area	There will be no reduction in habitat area for any of the Natura 2000 sites.
Disturbance to key species	<p>Temporary Impacts:</p> <p>The construction works will temporarily increase the noise level and disturbance locally. However, significant impacts are not anticipated to key species given the scale and temporary nature of the construction phase and distance from any Natura 2000 sites.</p> <p>Permanent Impacts:</p> <p>No disturbance to key species is anticipated during operation of the project.</p>
Habitat or species fragmentation	There will be no temporary or permanent habitat or species fragmentation within any Natura 2000 sites.
Reduction in species density	There will be no temporary or permanent reduction in species density within any Natura 2000 sites, or any QIs of these sites.
Changes in key indicators of conservation value (water quality etc.)	There will be no temporary or permanent changes in key indicators of conservation value (surface water, groundwater and air quality).
Climate change	N/A

6.2.9 Description of likely impacts on the Natura 2000 sites as a whole

Potential Impact	Comments
Interference with the key relationships that define the structure of the site	There will be no interference with the key relationships that define the structure of the sites.
Interference with key relationships that define the function of the site	There will be no interference with the key relationships that define the function of the sites.

Provide indicators of significance as a result of the identification of effects set out above in terms of:

Potential Impact	Indicators
Loss (Estimated percentage of lost area of habitat)	No Natura 2000 sites will experience a direct loss in habitat area.
Fragmentation	Fragmentation of habitat and/or species is not anticipated.
Disruption & disturbance	Disruption and/ or disturbance is not anticipated.
Change to key elements of the site (e.g. water quality etc.)	Potential temporary changes to key elements (i.e. water quality) of the site are not anticipated.

6.2.10 Describe from the above those elements of the project or plan, or combination of elements, where the above impacts are likely to be significant or where the scale or magnitude of impacts is unknown

Based upon best scientific judgement, no significant impacts are expected from the elements mentioned above; and there are no elements where the scale or magnitude of impacts is unknown.

6.3 Concluding Statement

In carrying out this AA screening, mitigation measures have not been taken into account. Standard best practice construction measures which could have the impact of mitigating any impacts on any European Sites have similarly not been considered.

On the basis of the screening exercise carried out above, it can be concluded that the possibility of any significant impacts on any European Sites, whether arising from the project itself or in combination with other plans and projects, can be excluded beyond a reasonable scientific doubt on the basis of the best scientific knowledge available.

Appendices

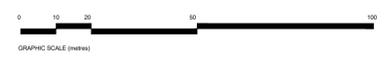
A Site Layout Plan



- KEY**
- Project extents
Approx. 11.80ha
 - Contours
at 0.50m interval
 - Main entrance areas
 - Low walls, 1.4m high
stone-clad
 - Spine route, pedestrian/cycle
with streetlights
 - Possible future pedestrian/cycle
links
 - Kissing gate
(existing re-used where practicable)
 - Maintenance access gate, existing
(re-furbished as required)
 - Pedestrian access gate
(lockable)
 - Secondary footpaths,
resurfaced as required
 - New secondary footpaths
 - Pedestrian nodes
with seating
 - Activity stations
seating, jogging markers
 - Streetlight
 - Active recreation area
 - Teenspace
 - Children's play areas
 - Exercise area/calisthenics
 - Meadowland
Grassland management
 - Native bulb planting
 - Attenuation basin
Wetland
 - Formal trees
 - Native tree groups
 - Refurbished playing pitches
as required
 - Amenity grassland



Do not scale



02	31/03/23	HAR	NDJ	NDJ
Issued for Part 8 Planning				
01	28/03/23	HAR	NDJ	NDJ
Issued for comments				
Issue	Date	By	Chkd	Appd

Client



Comhairle Contae
Átha Cliath Theas
South Dublin County Council

Job Title

**Jobstown Local Park Up-grade
Tallaght, Dublin 24**

Scale 1:1000 at A1

Discipline

Nicholas de Jong Associates
URBAN DESIGN

Drawing Title

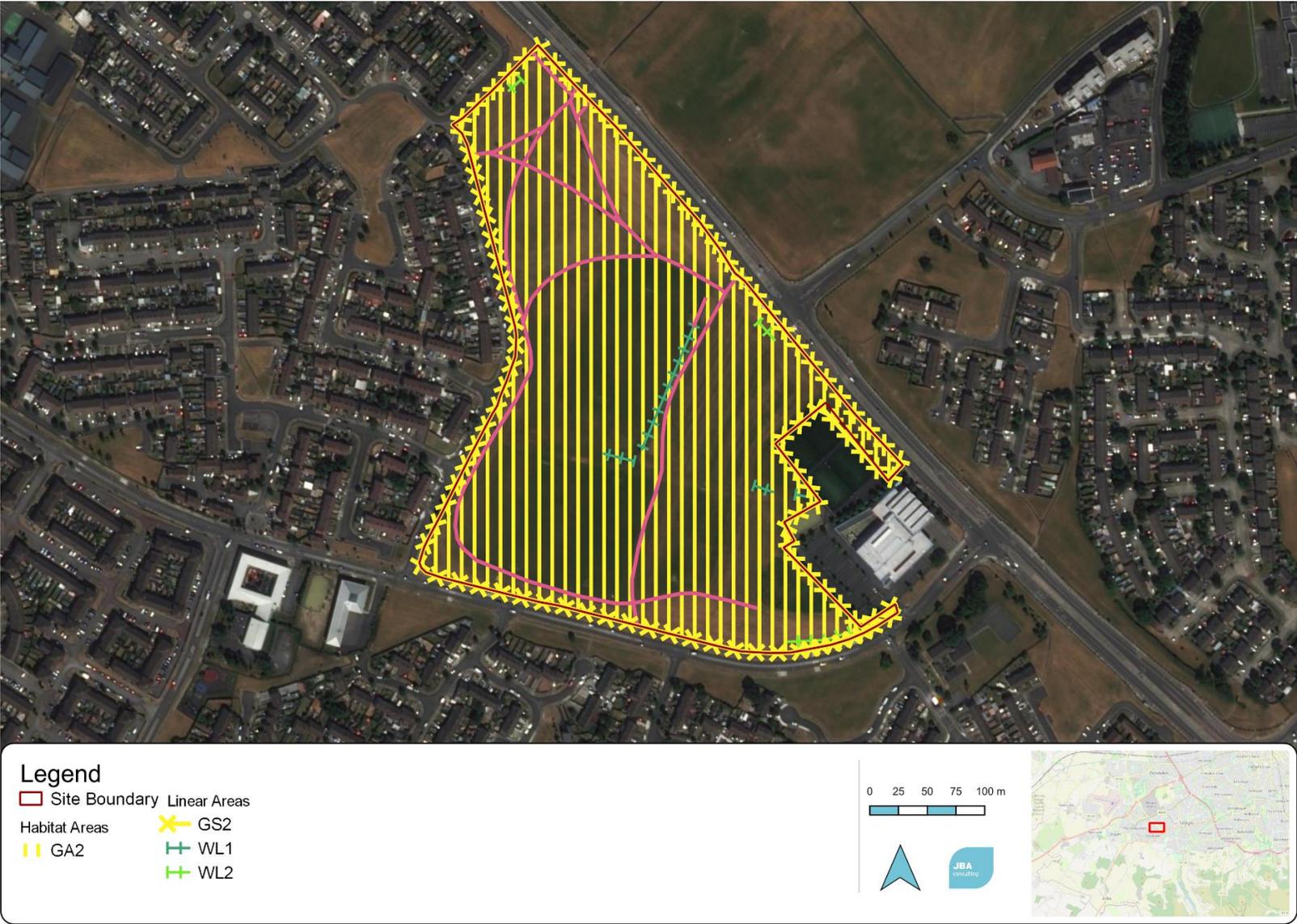
LAYOUT and KEY PLAN

Drawing Status

Part 8 Planning

Job No	Drawing No	Issue
2212	L-004	R2

B Habitat Map



C NPWS Records (2023)

C.1 Protected Species recorded within a 5km radius of the site over the last 10 years

Species Name	Date of last record	Designation
Amphibian		
Common Frog <i>Rana temporaria</i>	09/05/2020	EU Habitats Directive >> Annex V Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
Bird		
Barn Swallow <i>Hirundo rustica</i>	07/05/2020	Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List
Black-headed Gull <i>Larus ridibundus</i>	20/11/2017	Birds of Conservation Concern - Red List
Common Coot <i>Fulica atra</i>	16/04/2020	EU Birds Directive >> Annex II & Annex Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List
Common Linnet (Carduelis cannabina)	16/01/2021	Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List
Common Pheasant (Phasianus colchicus)	09/05/2020	EU Birds Directive >> Annex II & Annex III
Common Starling (Sturnus vulgaris)	07/05/2020	Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List
Common Swift (Apus apus)	07/05/2016	Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List
Common Wood Pigeon (Columba palumbus)	10/04/2020	EU Birds Directive >> Annex II Annex III
Hen Harrier (Circus cyaneus)	22/03/2019	EU Birds Directive >> Annex I Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List
Herring Gull (Larus argentatus)	28/04/2016	Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List
House Martin (Delichon urbicum)	07/05/2020	Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List
Little Egret (Egretta garzetta)	21/11/2020	EU Birds Directive >> Annex I Bird Species
Little Grebe (Tachybaptus ruficollis)	20/09/2016	Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List
Mallard (Anas platyrhynchos)	10/02/2016	EU Birds Directive >> Annex II & Annex III
Mute Swan (Cygnus olor)	20/11/2017	Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List
Sand Martin (Riparia riparia)	03/04/2021	Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List
Sky Lark (Alauda arvensis)	10/04/2020	Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List
Tufted Duck (Aythya fuligula)	09/06/2016	EU Birds Directive >> Annex II & Annex III Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List
Yellowhammer (Emberiza citrinella)	10/06/2021	Birds of Conservation Concern - Red List

Species Name	Date of last record	Designation
Invertebrate		
Freshwater White-clawed Crayfish (<i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>)	18/08/2013	EU Habitats Directive >> Annex II & Annex V
Mammals		
Daubenton's Bat (<i>Myotis daubentonii</i>)	30/08/2013	EU Habitats Directive >> Annex IV Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
Eurasian Badger (<i>Meles meles</i>)	12/11/2015	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
Eurasian Red Squirrel (<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>)	14/10/2017	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
Pine Marten (<i>Martes martes</i>)	31/12/2012	EU Habitats Directive >> Annex V Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
Red Deer (<i>Cervus elaphus</i>)	23/09/2015	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
West European Hedgehog (<i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>)	15/06/2021	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts

C.2 NPWS Invasive Species recorded within a 5km radius of the site over the last 10 years

Species Name	Date of last record	Designation
Flora		
American Skunk-cabbage (Lysichiton americanus)	05/04/2020	Medium Impact Invasive Species EU Regulation No. 1143/2014 Regulation S.I. 477 (Ireland)
Butterfly-bush (Buddleja davidii)	11/06/2018	Medium Impact Invasive Species
Indian Balsam (Impatiens glandulifera)	31/12/2017	High Impact Invasive Species Regulation S.I. 477 (Ireland)
Fringed Water-lily (Nymphaeodes peltata)	15/06/2016	High Impact Invasive Species Regulation S.I. 477 (Ireland)
Giant Hogweed (Heracleum mantegazzianum)	22/06/2021	High Impact Invasive Species Regulation S.I. 477 (Ireland)
Japanese Knotweed (Fallopia japonica)	20/07/2021	High Impact Invasive Species Regulation S.I. 477 (Ireland)
Sycamore (Acer pseudoplatanus)	09/05/2020	Medium Impact Invasive Species
Three-cornered Garlic (Allium triquetrum)	21/04/2020	Medium Impact Invasive Species Regulation S.I. 477 (Ireland)
Invertebrate		
Jenkins' Spire Snail (Potamopyrgus antipodarum)	22/06/2016	Medium Impact Invasive Species
Mammals		
Brown Rat (Rattus norvegicus)	09/10/2015	High Impact Invasive Species Regulation S.I. 477 (Ireland)
Eastern Grey Squirrel (Sciurus carolinensis)	31/12/2012	High Impact Invasive Species EU Regulation No. 1143/2014 Regulation S.I. 477 (Ireland)
European Rabbit (Oryctolagus cuniculus)	28/05/2018	Medium Impact Invasive Species
Greater White-toothed Shrew (Crocidura russula)	26/03/2020	Medium Impact Invasive Species

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