FEHILY TIMONEY

DESIGNING AND DELIVERING
A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

SYNTHETIC TURF BOWLING GREEN AT SEAN WALSH PARK, TALLAGHT, DUBLIN 24

Appropriate Assessment Screening Report

Prepared for:

South Dublin County Council

SDCC

Comhairle Contae Átha Cliath Theas
South Dublin County Council

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APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT SCREENING REPORT

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Abstract: This document is to inform the Competent Authority in carrying out their statutory obligations relating to the Habitats Directive requirement for Appropriate Assessment for plans and projects seeking consent. Appropriate Assessment is required under Article 6 (3) of the Habitats Directive for any project or plan that may give rise to significant effects on a European (Natura 2000) site.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF TABLES

1. INTRODUCTION

Fehily Timoney and Company (FT) have been commissioned by South Dublin County Council (SDCC) to prepare this Appropriate Assessment Screening Report, for the proposed construction of an all-weather, synthetic turf bowling green (herein referred to as the 'Proposed Development') within the confines of Sean Walsh Park in the townlands of Tallaght and Oldbawn, Dublin 24.

This report presents an examination of whether the proposed works are likely to have a significant effect on a European site (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) and is based on best available scientific knowledge. This report has been prepared to inform the competent authority in completing their statutory obligations in relation to Appropriate Assessment, as required by Article 6(3) under Council Directive 92/43/EEC (Habitats Directive).

1.1 Legislative Context

Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (Habitats Directive) provides legal protection for habitats and species of European importance. The Directive requires that where a plan or project is likely to have a significant effect on a European Site, while not directly connected with or necessary to the nature conservation management of the site, it will be subject to 'Appropriate Assessment' to identify any implications for the European site in view of the site's Conservation Objectives. Specifically, Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive states:

> *"6(3) Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site (Natura 2000 sites) but likely to have 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."*

The competent authority must carry out a screening for appropriate assessment to assess, in view of best scientific knowledge, if the Proposed Development, individually or in combination with another plan or project is likely to have a significant effect on a European site. If it cannot be excluded, on the basis of objective information, that the Proposed Development, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will have a significant effect on a European site, an appropriate assessment of its implications for the European Site(s) in view of the Site's conservation objectives is required to be carried out.

The provisions of Article 6(3) do not apply where the proposed plan or project is 'connected with or necessary to the management of the site'. In this case, the Proposed Development is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of any European site(s).

1.2 Methodology

The purpose of appropriate assessment is to assess the implications of a plan or project on European site in view of that site's conservation objectives, individually and in combination with other plans or projects.

The assessment was conducted in accordance with the following guidance:

- 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. Commission Notice (2021) Brussels, 28.9.2021 C(2021) 6913 final (European Commission, 2021).
- Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland: Guidance for Planning Authorities. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Dublin (2009, updated 2010) (Environment Heritage and Local Government, 2009).
- Managing Natura 2000 sites. The provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. European Commission (2019). Brussels, (2019/C 33/01). OJ C 33, 25.1.2019.
- Interpretation Manual of European Union Habitats. Version EUR 28. (European Commission, 2013)
- OPR Practice Note PN01 Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management, (Office of the Planning Regulator, 2021).

2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

2.1 Project Overview

The proposed development includes the following:

- The construction of a synthetic turf bowling green.
- Perimeter fencing.
- All utility works including surface water drainage and utility supplies.
- Perimeter footpath.
- All related hard and soft landscape works including connecting footpaths and associated planting.
- All associated ancillary works.

2.2 Purpose/Rationale for the Proposed Development

In accordance with the South Dublin County Development Plan 2022-2028, the zoning objective for the proposed development location is 'OS – *to preserve and provide for open space and recreational amenities'*. The proposed development will provide a bowling green to promote the sport and amenity use of Sean Walsh Park, enhancing the recreational and amenity of the lands.

2.3 Construction Phase of the Proposed Development

2.3.1 Overview of Proposed Construction Works

The principal construction works will involve the following:

1. Site preparation
2. Removal of vegetation overlapping with the proposed development footprint (See Section 3.3.1.1)
3. Site levelling works
4. Drainage Installation
5. Base Construction
6. Turf Surfacing

The construction sequence will begin with the clearing and grading of the site, followed by the installation of drainage for ensuring proper water runoff. A base layer will be installed to provide stability and will be topped with a fine grade levelling layer. A high-quality synthetic turf surface will be installed according to design specifications.

Typical plant that will be utilised on-site during construction involves:

- Tractors
- Excavators
- Dumpers
- Rollers

A temporary construction compound will be located to the western end of the bowling green over the construction phase.

2.3.1.1 Removal of Vegetation

The proposed development will require the removal of existing vegetation overlapping with the Proposed Development footprint.

A tree survey and visual assessment was undertaken on 22nd September 2025 and an arboricultural report (dated October 2025) was produced by Arbtech Ireland. The survey report detailed the constraints posed to the Proposed Development by existing trees. The works carried out for the Proposed Development will result in the loss of groups of trees and standalone trees (referred to as G001-G003, T2015-T2022 and T2024) comprising of rowan, beech, birch, ash, and grey willow. The ash tree (Reference T2021) was found to be unsustainable in the long term due to ash dieback and was recommended for removal for sound arboricultural practice.

2.3.2 Construction Programme

The construction phase will last for approximately 10 weeks.

Hours of construction will be restricted to the following:

- 07:00-19:00 on Monday to Friday
- 09:00-13:00 on Saturdays

No work will be undertaken on Sundays, bank holidays and public holidays.

Approximately 5 no. construction workers will be employed for the proposed development over varying stages of works.

2.3.3 Environmental Management during Construction

All works will be carried out in accordance with a prospective Construction and Environmental Management Plan (CEMP).

There will be no fuel storage or re-fuelling on-site during construction.

A prospective Surface Water Management Plan will also be adopted, with appropriate barrier controls to prevent any polluted surface water runoff from entering the receiving environment. Best practice guidance will be followed to and adhered to while undertaking works near waterbodies for preventing silt and sediment runoff.

The proposed development is not foreseen to produce a significant quantity of waste as significant excavations will not be required. Any waste generated will be managed at an appropriately authorised off-site waste management facility.

2.4 Operational Phase of the Proposed Development

2.4.1 Use and Maintenance of the Bowling Green

The bowling green, once operational, will be used for playing the sport of lawn bowls.

Maintenance activities to be undertaken over the operation of the proposed development will involve brushing, raking and sweeping of the artificial surfaces.

2.4.2 Drainage Strategy

The drainage strategy, in line with SDCC policy, will consider the use of Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS) approach. Accumulation of surface water on the pitch over the operational phase will be managed to attenuate stormwater and prevent excess flows and potential discharge of silt

Accumulation of surface water over the operational phase will be managed using a SuDS approach. Appropriate SuDS will be installed upon the contractor's assessment.

3. DESCRIPTION OF THE EXISTING SITE AND THE RECEIVING ENVIRONMENT

3.1 Existing Site

The overall development is 0.1 hectare (ha) in extent and is located within the northern end of Sean Walsh Park., The existing site is an area of scrub and amenity grassland and is bordered to the north by a basketball court (Old Bawn Community School Basketball Court). The proposed development site is bounded by a footpath to the south which abuts the Whitestown Stream/Jobstown Stream.

The development site is bounded by a path at the southern boundary and grassy verge at the northern boundary. The site is generally level without severe contours, ranging between approximately 95.4 to 96.06 metres[1].

3.2 Description of Ecological Baseline

3.2.1.1 Desktop Assessment

A desk study was carried out in August 2025 (and updated in December 2025) to collate available information on the existing natural environment at the location of the Proposed Development. This comprised a review of the following publications, data and datasets:

- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) (on-line map-viewer including the Appropriate Assessment Tool);
- Aerial imagery of the Site and surrounding lands
- Tailte Éireann National Land Cover Map
- OSI Aerial photography and 1:50000 mapping
- Geological Survey Ireland (GSI) maps and data
- National Parks and Wildlife Service – online European site network information, including site conservation objectives;
- National Parks and Wildlife Service – Information on the status of EU protected habitats and species in Ireland (including Article 17 and Article 12 Reports);
- National Biodiversity Data Centre records

A habitat survey was conducted by an FT ecologists on the 15/07/2025. Habitats within the Proposed Development comprise: Dry meadows and grassy verges (GS2) and Scattered trees and parkland (WD5). In the wider area of Sean Walsh Park, habitats comprise: Treelines (WL2), Buildings and artificial surfaces (BL3), Wet grassland (GS4), Other artificial lakes and ponds (FL8), Amenity grassland (GA2), Reed and large sedge swamps (FS1), Eroding/upland rivers (FW1),Scattered trees and parkland (WD5) and Flower beds and borders (BC4).

The area surrounding the development site urban in nature, consisting of residential developments, small businesses, community facilities and amenity grassland.

[1] Defined under Global Vertical Datum

The Proposed Development is located within the Liffey and Dublin Bay (ID: 9) Catchment, Dodder_SC_010 sub-catchment and Dodder_040 sub-basin. The Jobstown Stream (EPA code: 09J02, order: 2) is located 10 m to the south of the Proposed Development. The Jobstown stream flows into the Dodder River which flows into the River Liffey, before it meets the sea at Dublin Bay, ca. 18.1 km downstream. According to the Cycle 3 Report for the Liffey and Dublin Bay Catchment[2], the Dodder_040 sub-basin is of 'Moderate' status and is at risk of not meeting its environmental objective of 'Good' status. Significant issues comprise 'nutrients, organic'. Significant pressures comprise urban run-off.

[2] EPA (2024). Cycle 3 HA 09 Liffey and Dublin Bay Catchment Report, May 2024. Environmental Protection Agency. Accessed December 2025: chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://catchments.ie/wp-content/files/catchmentassessments/09%20Liffey%20and%20Dublin%20Bay%20Catchment%20Summary%20WFD%20Cycle%203.pdf

4. SCREENING FOR APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

4.1 Introduction

This section of the report examines whether the proposed works are likely to have a significant effect upon European Sites, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.

Please note that that SuDs that have been considered as part of the proposed development are not included within the design to avoid or reduce any potential harmful effects to any European Sites but are included for alignment with county and regional development policies. This screening for Appropriate Assessment does not take SuDS into consideration in determining whether the proposed development could result in likely significant effects on European Sites.

Furthermore, this screening for Appropriate Assessment does not take the measures included in the CEMP (described in Section 2.3.3) into consideration in determining whether the proposed development could result in likely significant effects on European Sites.

4.1.1 Identification of European Sites within the Zone of Influence of the Proposed Development

The process of determining the likelihood of significant effects from a Proposed Development on European sites is an iterative process centred around a Source-Pathway-Receptor (S-P-R) model as per OPR, 20213. In order for an effect to be established, all three elements of this mechanism must be in place. The absence of one of the elements of the mechanism is sufficient to conclude that a potential effect cannot occur.

- Source(s) – e.g. pollutant run-off, noise, removal of vegetation, etc.;
- Pathway(s) – functional link, or ecological pathway e.g. watercourse flowing into a downstream SAC; and
- Receptor(s) – the qualifying habitats and species of European sites and ecological resources supporting those habitats/species.

In the context of this report, a source is any identifiable element of the Proposed Development that is known to interact with the receiving environment. A receptor is the Qualifying Interests (QI)[4] for an SAC/cSAC or Special Conservation Interests (SCI)[5] for an SPA/cSPA or an ecological feature that is known to be utilised by the QI/SCI. In practice, the term Qualifying Interests also applies to SCIs (and is used in this document for simplicity). A pathway is any connection or link between the source and the receptor.

[3] Office of the Planning Regulator. (2021). OPR Practice Note PN01 Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management

[4] SACs are areas designated under the Habitats Directive to conserve habitats listed in Annex I of the Directive and plant and animal species listed in Annex II. Collectively these are referred to as the 'Qualifying Interests' or 'QIs' of the SAC / cSAC.

[5] SPAs are sites classified under the Birds Directive to protect rare or vulnerable bird species listed in Annex I to the Directive as well as regularly occurring migratory species and wetlands. Wetland habitats that support internationally important populations of migratory birds may be coastal or inland. Collectively, these species and habitats are referred to as the 'Special Conservation Interests' of the SPA / cSPA.

The European Commission Notice (2021) on the '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', states that in identifying European sites (Natural 2000 sites), which may be affected by the project, the following should be identified:

- Any European sites geographically overlapping with any of the actions or aspects of the project in any of its phases, or adjacent to them;
- Any European sites within the likely zone of influence (ZoI) of the project. European sites located in the surroundings of the project (or at some distance) that could still be indirectly affected by aspects of the project, including as regards the use of natural resources (e.g., water) and various types of waste, discharge or emissions of substances or energy;
- European sites whose connectivity or ecological continuity can be affected by the plan or project.

There are no European sites geographically overlapping with any of the actions or aspects of the Proposed Development. As such, further consideration is given to the 'likely zone of influence' and 'connectivity or ecological continuity'.

4.1.2 Zone of Influence

As per CIEEM guidelines (2018)[6], the ZoI for a Proposed Development is defined having regard to the spatial and temporal scale of potential biophysical changes in the environment which might occur as a result of the development and throughout its lifetime. In considering such potential biophysical changes, the following was considered:

- Impacts on habitats - the potential for biophysical change by disturbance/damage/ degradation is taken as the footprint of the works (including site clearance) plus 10m beyond (based on Ryan Hanley, 2014)[7]. There are no European sites located 10m of the Proposed Development.
- For groundwater dependant terrestrial ecosystems (GWDTE), regard is had to SEPA guidelines[8] which prescribes a potential hydrogeological effect zone of 250m from ground works. There are no European sites located 250 m of the Proposed Development.
- The NRA (2008) Guidelines for the Treatment of Otters prior to the Construction of National Road Schemes notes a 150m potential disturbance zone for otter for breeding holts and 20m for non-breeding active holts. As such the study area included the Proposed Development site plus a 150m buffer to assess habitat suitability for otter and potential association with an SAC population. The Proposed Development is located 10 m from the Jobstown Stream. There are no European Sites located upstream or downstream of the Jobstown Stream (segment code: 09_1609) which are designated for Otter.

[6] CIEEM (2018) Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland: Terrestrial, Freshwater, Coastal and Marine version 1.3. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester
[7] Ryan Hanley (2014b) Stage 1: Appropriate Assessment Screening Methodology for the Maintenance of Arterial Drainage Schemes. Prepared by Ryan Hanley Consulting Engineers on behalf of the Office of Public Works
[8] Scottish Environment Protection Agency (2014) Land Use Planning System SEPA Guidance Note 31. Guidance on Assessing the Impacts of Development Proposals on Groundwater Abstractions and groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems.

- The potential disturbance zone for birds was considered having regard to Cutts et al (2013)[9] and was defined as 500m. There are no SPAs located within 500m of the Proposed Development. Consideration of connectivity or ecological continuity for birds is set out in Section 4.1.3.

4.1.3 Connectivity or Ecological Continuity

Connectivity or ecological continuity refers to the degree to which different parts of a landscape, ecosystem, or habitat are physically or functionally linked, allowing the movement of organisms, nutrients, energy, or ecological processes across space. Consideration is therefore given to whether there could be landscape10 or ecological connectivity[11] to any QI or SCI species. In considering connectivity or ecological continuity the following is noted:

- None of the terrestrial habitats that will be lost, damaged or degraded as a result of the Proposed Development are integral to the maintenance of the structure or function of any other habitats within any European sites and do not form continuity with any such habitats.
- The Institute of Air Quality Management (Holman et al, 2024)[12] states that for sensitive ecological receptors, sensitivity to dust is 'High' up to 20m from the source and reduces to 'Medium' over 50m from the source. The guidelines also stipulate that dust deposition from construction typically occurs up to 500 m from large sites, 200 m from medium sites and 50 m from small sites. A 50m ZoI for dust is adopted given the small scale of the Proposed Development. There are no European sites within 50 m of the Proposed Development. There is theoretical hydrological connectivity between the proposed Development and with Dublin Bay via the Jobstown Stream. However, given the limited scale and nature of proposed works and remote instream distance (18.1 km) dust deposition will be negligible.
- For potential for impacts on surface waters, regard is had to IFI (2020) guidelines[13] which states that "The recommended [riparian] buffer zone width for larger river channels (>10m) is 35m to 60m and for smaller channels (<10m) is 20m or greater". The Jobstown Stream is located 10 m to the south of the Proposed Development, this separation includes a grass verge and footpath as well as a treeline which will intercept/screen any inputs. Given the scale and nature of the Proposed Development, the remote hydrological connection to Dublin Bay (18.1 km), as well as the dilution factor of the watercourse, any inputs to Dublin Bay will be negligible.

[9] Cutts N, Hemingway K and Spencer J (2013). The Waterbird Disturbance Mitigation Toolkit Informing Estuarine Planning and Construction Projects. Produced by the Institute of Estuarine and Coastal Studies (IECS). Version 3.2.
[10] Landscape connectivity is a combined product of structural and functional connectivity, i.e. the effect of physical landscape structure and the actual species use of the landscape.
[11] Connectivity is defined as a measure of the functional availability of the habitats needed for a particular species to move through a given area. Examples include the flight lines used by bats to travel between roosts and foraging areas or the corridors of appropriate habitat needed by some slow colonising species if they are to spread.
[12] Holman et al (2024). IAQM Guidance on the assessment of dust from demolition and construction, Institute of Air Quality Management, London.
[13] Inland Fisheries Ireland (2020) A Guide to the Protection of Watercourses through the use of Buffer Zones, Sustainable Drainage Systems, Instream Rehabilitation, Climate / Flood Risk and Recreational Planning.

- Regard was had to SNH, 2016 'Guidance on Assessing Connectivity with Special Protection Areas (SPAs)', and an initial study area of 15km was adopted. Within 15 km of the Proposed Development there are the following European Sites: Wicklow Mountains SPA (IE0004040) (ca. 6.8 km), South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA (IE0004024) (ca. 11.8 km) and Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA (IE0004063) (ca. 13.5 km).
    - Wicklow Mountains SPA (IE0004040): This SPA is located ca. 6.8 km from the Proposed Development. The birds associated with this SPA, Merlin and Peregrine, have relatively small core foraging ranges of 5 km and 2 km respectively (SNH, 2016[14]), as such, the Proposed Development is located outside of the core foraging range of Peregrine and Merlin. Therefore, there is no S-P-R connectivity for significant effects on Wicklow Mountains SPA and listed SCIs.
    - South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA (IE0004024): This SPA is located 11.8 km from the Proposed Development. The Proposed Development is located outside of the core foraging range of all avian SCIs with the exceptions of Tern species, Black-headed Gull and Light-bellied Brent Goose. This SPA is considered further in terms of potential S-P-R connectivity and potential for significant effects in Table 4-1.
    - Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA (IE0004063): This SPA is located ca. 13.5 km from the Proposed Development. The Proposed Development is located within the core foraging range of SCI Greylag Goose and Lesser Black-backed Gull ((SNH, 2016[8]) and(Nature Scot, 2023[15])). This SPA is considered further in terms of potential S-P-R connectivity and potential for significant effects in Table 4-1.

On the basis of the above, the following European sites are considered further in terms of potential S-P-R connectivity and potential for significant effects (see Table 4-1):

[14] Scottish Natural Heritage (2016) Guidance on Assessing Connectivity with Special Protection Areas (SPAs)
[15] Nature Scot (2023) Guidance Note 3: Guidance to support Offshore Wind applications: Marine Birds - Identifying theoretical connectivity with breeding site Special Protection Areas using breeding season foraging ranges. Version 1: January 2023. Nature Scot, Scotland's Nature Agency

Table 4-1: Identification of European Sites within the Zone of Influence of the Proposed Development

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Features (qualifying interests & special conservation interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects
(004024)	South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA	11.8	Light-bellied Brent Goose (*Branta bernicla hrota*) [A046] Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*) [A130] Ringed Plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*) [A137] Grey Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*) [A141] Knot (*Calidris canutus*) [A143] Sanderling (*Calidris alba*) [A144] Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*) [A149] Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*) [A157] Redshank (*Tringa totanus*) [A162] Black-headed Gull (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*) [A179] Roseate Tern (*Sterna dougallii*) [A192] Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*) [A193] Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*) [A194] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	The SPA is located outside of the ZoI of the Proposed Development and as such there is no potential for direct impacts on the SPA. However, consideration is given to potential for landscape/ecological connectivity. This SPA is located ca. 11.8 km from the Proposed Development. The Proposed Development is located outside of the foraging range of all avian SCIs with the exception of Black-headed Gull, Tern species and Light-bellied Brent Goose. Foraging ranges for Arctic tern, Common tern and Roseate tern lie between 23.2-40.5 km (Nature Scot, 2023[10]). The Proposed Development and 500 m disturbance distance do not provide suitable habitat for Tern species which are largely marine species. S-P-R connectivity for significant effects on tern species are ruled out. Core foraging range for Black-headed Gull is 18.5 km (Nature Scot, 2023[16]). Birdwatch Ireland indicates that this species forages on insects within arable fields in coastal and inland habitats. The Proposed Development comprises a mix of tall and short grassland and is suboptimal for Black-headed Gull. The Proposed Development contains disturbed grassland with short and long sward, located at the margins of Sean Walsh Park. The scale of the Proposed Development is 0.1 ha. Furthermore, the habitats within 500 m of the Proposed Development are disturbed, largely comprising built lands (buildings, carparks and roads) and disturbed amenity grassland.	No

[16] Nature Scot (2023) Guidance Note 3: Guidance to support Offshore Wind applications: Marine Birds - Identifying theoretical connectivity with breeding site Special Protection Areas using breeding season foraging ranges. Version 1: January 2023. Nature Scot, Scotland's Nature Agency

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Features (qualifying interests & special conservation interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects
				Given the scale and nature of the Proposed Development and adjacent built developments, any noise produced during the construction phase will not be noticed over the existing background noise. There will be no significant effects on SCI Black-headed Gull. The core foraging range of Light-bellied Brent Goose is assumed to be ca. 15 km based on the data provided in (SNH, 2016[17]). Theoretically, the Proposed Development and 500 m disturbance zone overlap with the foraging range of Light-bellied Brent Goose. According to the Conservation Objective supporting document, Light-bellied Brent Goose, have a preference for foraging in intertidal areas with the Eelgrass (*Zostera* sp) and will feed on improved grassland when their primary source of food becomes depleted. There are no records NBDC records of Light-bellied Brent Goose within the 500 m noise ZoI. The Proposed Development contains disturbed grassland with short and long sward, located at the margins of Sean Walsh Park. The scale of the Proposed Development is 0.1 ha. Furthermore, the habitats within 500 m of the Proposed Development are disturbed, largely comprising built lands (buildings, carparks and roads) and disturbed amenity grassland. Given the scale and nature of the Proposed Development and adjacent built developments, any noise produced during the construction phase will not be noticed over the existing background noise. There will be no significant effects on SCI Light-bellied Brent Goose.	

[17] Scottish Natural Heritage (2016) Guidance on Assessing Connectivity with Special Protection Areas (SPAs)

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Features (qualifying interests & special conservation interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects
(004063)	Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA	13.5 km	Greylag Goose (*Anser anser*) [A043] Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*) [A183]	The SPA is located outside of the ZoI of the Proposed Development and as such there is no potential for direct impacts on the SPA. However, consideration is given to potential for landscape/ecological connectivity. This SPA is located ca. 13.5 km from the Proposed Development. Core foraging ranges for Greylag Goose and Lesser Black-backed Gull are 15-20 km (SNH, 2016[11]) and 236km (Nature Scot, 2023[18]) respectively. Theoretically, the Proposed Development and 500 m disturbance zone overlap with the core foraging ranges of these SCIs. In relation to Greylag Goose, the Conservation Objectives document indicates that this species forages on herbaceous plant materials within grasslands (especially wet grasslands). There are no records NBDC records of Greylag Goose within the 500 m noise ZoI. The Proposed Development contains disturbed grassland with short and long sward, located at the margins of Sean Walsh Park. The scale of the Proposed Development is 0.1 ha. Furthermore, the habitats within 500 m of the Proposed Development are disturbed, largely comprising built lands (buildings, carparks and roads) and disturbed amenity grassland. Given the scale and nature of the Proposed Development and adjacent built developments, any noise produced during the construction phase will not be noticed over the existing background noise. There will be no significant effects on SCI Greylag Goose.	

[18] Nature Scot (2023) Guidance Note 3: Guidance to support Offshore Wind applications: Marine Birds - Identifying theoretical connectivity with breeding site Special Protection Areas using breeding season foraging ranges. Version 1: January 2023. Nature Scot, Scotland's Nature Agency

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Features (qualifying interests & special conservation interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects
				In relation to Lesser Black-backed Gull, the Conservation Objectives document indicates that this opportunistic species forages within marine, freshwater and terrestrial (open habitat) environments. The Proposed Development contains disturbed grassland with short and long sward, located at the margins of Sean Walsh Park. The scale of the Proposed Development is 0.1 ha. Furthermore, the habitats within 500 m of the Proposed Development are disturbed, largely comprising built lands (buildings, carparks and roads) and disturbed amenity grassland. Given the scale and nature of the Proposed Development and adjacent built developments, any noise produced during the construction phase will not be noticed over the existing background noise. here will be no significant effects on SCI Lesser Black-backed Gull.	

4.2 Other plans and projects considered for potential in-combination effects

Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive requires that:

> *"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".*

It is therefore required that the likely significant effects of the Proposed Development are considered in-combination with any other plans or projects within the ZoI.

As there are no meaningful pathways for effects identified with respect to European sites - given the nature of the habitats that will be affected by the Proposed Development and the distance from relevant SPA locations for SCI species. There are no further considerations required as the S-P-R model has been completed with no potential effects that could arise from the Proposed Development.

4.3 Screening Conclusion

The results of the S-P-R modelling process identified that - given the scale and nature of the potential sources identified in Section 3.1 - there are **no likely significant effects** identified to any European sites.

The AA screening process has considered potential effects which may arise during all phases of the Proposed Development. Through an assessment of the pathways for effects and an evaluation of the sources for impacts, taking account of the processes involved and the distance of separation from European sites, it has been evaluated that there are no likely significant effects on the qualifying interests, special conservation interest or the conservation objectives of any designated European site.

5. REFERENCES

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