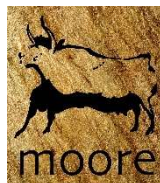


Report for the purposes of  
Appropriate Assessment Screening

N81 Brittas Village Traffic Calming and Urban Renewal Scheme


Prepared by: Moore Group – Environmental Services

23 October 2025



On behalf of  
South Dublin County Council

<b>Project Proponent</b>	South Dublin County Council
<b>Project</b>	N81 Brittas Village Traffic Calming and Urban Renewal Scheme
<b>Title</b>	Report for the purposes of Appropriate Assessment Screening N81 Brittas Village Traffic Calming

<b>Project Number</b>	25169	<b>Document Ref</b>	25169 N81 Brittas Village Traffic Calming AAS1 Rev1
<b>Revision</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Date</b>
Rev1	Client reviewed	G. O'Donohoe 	23 October 2025
<b>Moore Archaeological and Environmental Services Limited</b>			

## Table of Contents

<b>1. Introduction .....</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1. General Introduction.....	1
1.2. Legislative Background - The Habitats and Birds Directives .....	1
<b>2. Methodology.....</b>	<b>2</b>
2.1. Guidance .....	3
2.2. Data Sources .....	4
<b>3. Description of the Proposed Development.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>4. Identification of Natura 2000 Sites .....</b>	<b>9</b>
4.1. Description of Natura Sites Potentially Significantly Affected .....	9
4.2. Ecological Network Supporting Natura 2000 Sites.....	13
<b>5. Identification of Potential Impacts &amp; Assessment of Significance.....</b>	<b>14</b>
5.1. Assessment of Likely Significant Effects.....	14
5.2. Assessment of Potential In-Combination Effects.....	15
<b>6. Conclusion.....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>7. References .....</b>	<b>18</b>

## Abbreviations

AA	Appropriate Assessment
ACP	An Coimisiún Pleanála
CEMP	Construction Environmental Management Plan
EEC	European Economic Community
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
EU	European Union
FWPM	Freshwater Pearl Mussel
GIS	Geographical Information System
LAP	Local Area Plan
NHA	Natural Heritage Area
NIS	Natura Impact Statement
NPWS	National Parks and Wildlife Service
OSI	Ordnance Survey Ireland
pNHA	proposed Natural Heritage Area
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SPA	Special Protection Area
SuDS	Sustainable Drainage System
UÉ	Uisce Éireann
WFD	Water Framework Directive

# 1. Introduction

## 1.1. General Introduction

This report for the purposes of Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening contains information required for the competent authority to make a determination on Appropriate Assessment (AA) in respect of the implementation of a number of infrastructure improvements, as part of a traffic calming and Urban Renewal scheme along the N81 at Brittas Village, Co. Dublin (hereafter referred to as the Proposed Development) to determine whether it is likely individually or in combination with other plans or projects to have a significant effect on any European sites, in light of best scientific knowledge.

Having regard to the provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended (the “Planning Acts”) (section 177U), the purpose of a screening exercise under section 177U of the PDA 2000 is to assess, in view of best scientific knowledge, if the proposed development, individually or in combination with other plans or projects 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 then it is necessary to carry out a Stage 2 appropriate assessment under section 177V of the Planning Acts.

When screening the project, there are two possible outcomes:

- the project poses no potential for the possibility of a significant effect and as such requires no Stage 2 assessment; or
- the project has potential to have a significant effect (or this is uncertain and therefore cannot be excluded) and therefore a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment of the project is necessary.

This report has been prepared by Moore Group - Environmental Services to enable the competent authority to make a determination on AA screening in relation to the Proposed Development. The report was compiled by Ger O’Donohoe B.Sc. Applied Aquatic Sciences (ATU Galway, 1993) & M.Sc. Environmental Sciences (TCD, 1999) who has over 30 years’ experience in environmental impact assessment and has completed numerous Appropriate Assessment Screening Reports and Natura Impact Statements on terrestrial and aquatic habitats for various development types.

## 1.2. Legislative Background - The Habitats and Birds Directives

Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive are transposed into Irish Law inter alia by the Part XAB of the Planning Acts (in particular section 177U and 177V) which governs the requirement to carry out appropriate assessment screening and appropriate assessment, where required, per Section 1.1 above.

The Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora) is the main legislative instrument for the protection and conservation of biodiversity in the European Union (EU). Under the Habitats Directive, Member States are obliged to designate Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) which contain habitats or species considered important for protection and conservation in a EU context.

The Birds Directive (Council Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds), transposed into Irish law by the Bird and Natural Habitats Regulations 2011 as amended, and the Wildlife Act 1976, as amended, is concerned with the long-term protection and management of all wild bird species and their habitats in the EU. Among other things, the Birds Directive requires that Special Protection Areas (SPAs) be established to protect migratory species and species which are rare, vulnerable, in danger of extinction, or otherwise require special attention.

SACs designated under the Habitats Directive and SPAs, designated under the Birds Directive, form a pan-European network of protected sites known as Natura 2000. The Habitats Directive sets out a unified system for the protection and management of SACs and SPAs. These sites are also referred to as European sites.

Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive set out the requirement for an assessment of proposed plans and projects likely to have a significant effect on Natura 2000 sites.

Article 6(3) establishes the requirement to screen all plans and projects and to carry out an appropriate assessment if required (Appropriate Assessment (AA)).

**Article 6(3):** *“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 subjected to an appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site’s conservation objectives. In 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) establishes requirements in cases of imperative reasons of overriding public interest.

## 2. Methodology

The Commission’s methodological guidance (EC, 2002, 2018, 2021 see Section 2.1 below) promotes a four-stage process to complete the AA and outlines the issues and tests at each stage. An important aspect of the process is that the outcome at each successive stage determines whether a further stage in the process is required.

Stages 1 and 2 deal with the main requirements for assessment under Article 6(3). Stage 3 may be part of Article 6(3) or may be a necessary precursor to Stage 4. Stage 4 is the main derogation step of Article 6(4).

**Stage 1 Screening:** This stage examines the likely effects of a project either alone or in combination with other plans and projects upon a Natura 2000 site and considers whether it can be objectively concluded that these effects will not be significant. In order to screen out a project, it must 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.

**Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment:** This stage considers whether the plan or project, alone or in combination with other projects or plans, will have adverse effects on the integrity of a Natura 2000 site, and includes any mitigation measures necessary to avoid, reduce or offset negative effects. The proponent of the plan or project will be required to submit a Natura Impact Statement, i.e. the report of a targeted professional scientific examination of the plan or project and the relevant Natura 2000 sites, to identify and characterise any possible implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives, taking account of in combination effects.

**Stage 3 Assessment of Alternative Solutions:** This stage examines alternative ways of implementing the project that, where possible, avoid any adverse impacts on the integrity of the Natura 2000 site.

**Stage 4 Assessment where no alternative solutions exist and where adverse impacts remain:** Where imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI) exist, an assessment to consider whether compensatory measures will or will not effectively offset the damage to the sites will be necessary.

To ensure that the Proposed Development complies fully with the requirements of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive and all relevant Irish transposing legislation, Moore Group compiled this report to enable the competent authority to make a determination on AA screening in relation to the Proposed Development to determine whether it can 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(s).

## 2.1. Guidance

This report has been compiled in accordance with guidance contained in the following documents:

- Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland - Guidance for Planning Authorities. (Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2010 rev.).
- Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive: Guidance for Planning Authorities. Circular NPWS 1/10 & PSSP 2/10.
- Managing Natura 2000 Sites: The Provisions of Article 6 of the Habitat's Directive 92/43/EEC (EC, 2018).
- Guidance document on the strict protection of animal species of Community interest under the Habitats Directive (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 (EC, 2021).
- Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR) Practice Note PN01 Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management (OPR, 2021).
- Natura Impact Statement Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlement Guidelines for Planning Authorities (NPWS, 2024).

## 2.2. Data Sources

Sources of information that were used to collect data on the Natura 2000 network of sites, and the environment within which they are located, are listed below:

- The following mapping and Geographical Information Systems (GIS) data sources, as required:
  - National Parks & Wildlife (NPWS) protected site boundary data;
  - Ordnance Survey of Ireland (OSI) mapping and aerial photography;
  - OSI/Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) rivers and streams, and catchments;
  - Digital Elevation Model over Europe (EU-DEM);
  - Google Earth and Bing aerial photography 1995-2025;
- Online data available on Natura 2000 sites as held by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) from [www.npws.ie](http://www.npws.ie) including:
  - Natura 2000 - Standard Data Form;
  - Conservation Objectives;
  - Site Synopses;
- National Biodiversity Data Centre records;
  - Online database of rare, threatened and protected species;
  - Publicly accessible biodiversity datasets.
- Status of EU Protected Habitats in Ireland. (National Parks & Wildlife Service, 2019); and
- Relevant Development Plans;
  - South Dublin County Development Plan 2022-2028

## 3. Description of the Proposed Development

The Proposed Development consists of the development of a Traffic Calming and Urban Renewal Scheme at the N81, Brittas Village, Co. Dublin, and comprises the following:

Traffic Calming measures:

- Installation of village “Type A Gateway” as per TII’s DN-GEO-03084 & CC-SCD-05101 at both southern and northern gateways. Narrowing of existing carriageway from approx. 7.5-8.0m to 6.0m width (6.5m wide at bend) in accordance with Section 5.3.1 of TII’s DN-GEO-03084 including removal of left-hand deceleration lane on N81 SBC at junction with R114.
- Landscaping / introducing vertical elements to create narrowing effect for traffic calming.
- Upgrade of 3No. Side Road Junctions (McDonagh’s Lane, R114, and Shady Lane) providing suitable turning radii and adequate sightlines (65m minimum distance for sightlines in 60km/hr zone with on bus routes as per Section 4.4.4 of DMURS).
- Installation of kerbing both sides of N81 mainline resulting in additional drainage gullies. Additional drainage gullies to outfall to existing drainage system.
- Provision of Zebra Pedestrian Crossing centrally in village. Pedestrian Crossing to be minimum 4.0m wide and at grade with the height of the footways as per Section 4.3.2 of DMURS.
- Provision of new bus shelters funded by NTA and consolidation of existing bus stops to a single location in Village centre (Bust Stop ID 4007 is being consolidated with Bus Stop ID 4008). Provision of new (and widening of existing footpaths) to 1.8m min width providing better connectivity for pedestrians.
- Shady Lane to be Left out, Right in Only.

This option will require land acquisition to set back boundary for visibility improvements and upgrade turning radii of junctions.

Figure 1 shows the Proposed Development location and Figure 2 shows a detailed view of the Proposed Development boundary on recent aerial photography. Figure 3 shows the layout of the Proposed Development.





Figure 2. Showing the Proposed Development boundary on recent aerial photography.

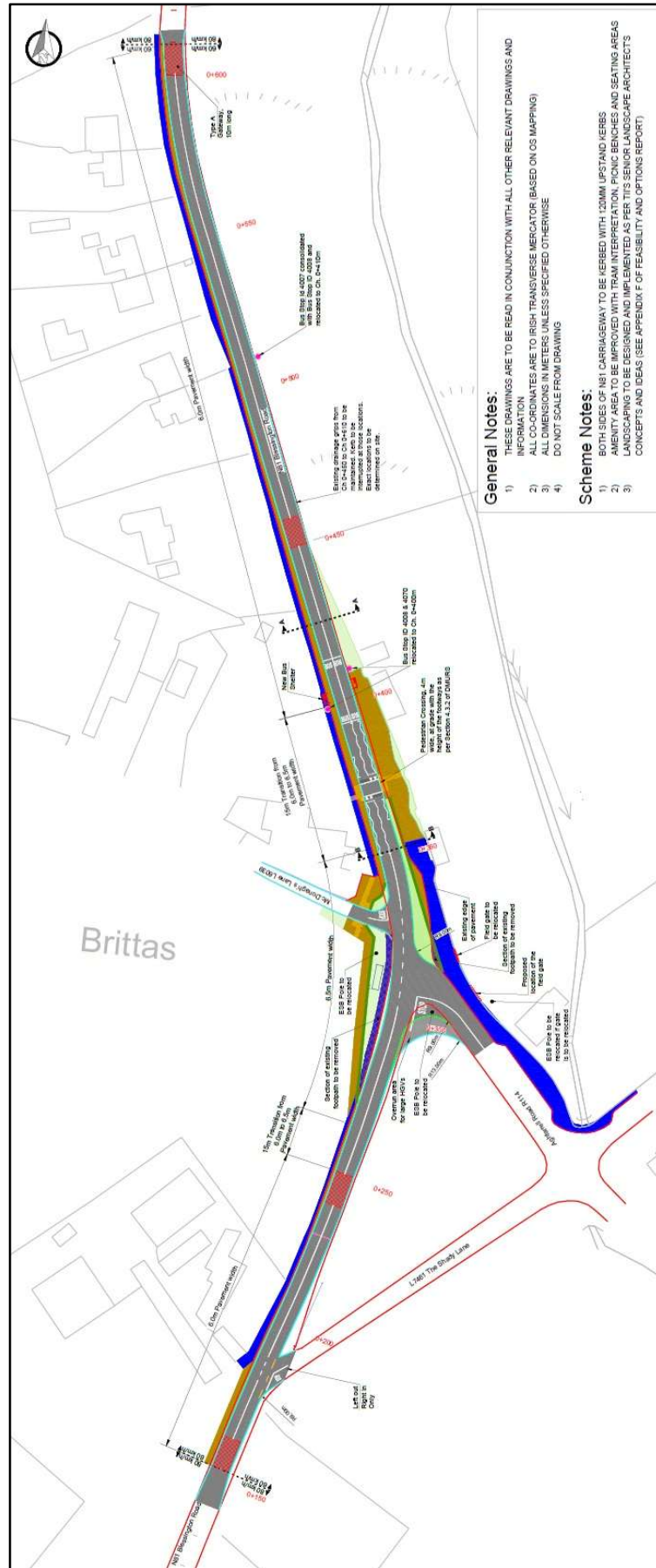


Figure 3. Plan of the Proposed Development.

## 4. Identification of Natura 2000 Sites

### 4.1. Description of Natura Sites Potentially Significantly Affected

A Zone of Influence (Zoi) of a proposed development is the geographical area over which it could affect the receiving environment in a way that could have significant effects on the Qualifying Interests of a European site. In accordance with the OPR Practice Note (2021), PN01, the Zoi should be established on a case-by-case basis using the Source- Pathway-Receptor framework.

The European Commission's "Assessment of plans and projects in relation to Natura 2000 sites guidance on Article 6(3) and (4) of the Methodological Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC" published 28 September 2021 states at section 3.1.3, that:

*"Identifying the Natura 2000 sites that may be affected should be done by taking into consideration all aspects of the plan or project that could have potential effects on any Natura 2000 sites located within the zone of influence of the plan or project. This should take into account all of the designating features (species, habitat types) that are significantly present on the sites and their conservation objectives. In particular, it should identify:*

- any Natura 2000 sites geographically overlapping with any of the actions or aspects of the plan or project in any of its phases, or adjacent to them;*
- any Natura 2000 sites within the likely zone of influence of the plan or project Natura 2000 sites located in the surroundings of the plan or 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;*
- Natura 2000 sites in the surroundings of the plan or project (or at some distance) which host fauna that can move to the project area and then suffer mortality or other impacts (e.g. loss of feeding areas, reduction of home range);*
- Natura 2000 sites whose connectivity or ecological continuity can be affected by the plan or project".*

*The range of Natura 2000 sites to be assessed, i.e. the zone in which impacts from the plan or project may arise, will depend on the nature of the plan or project and the distance at which effects may occur. For Natura 2000 sites located downstream along rivers or wetlands fed by aquifers, it may be that a plan or project can affect water flows, fish migration and so forth, even at a great distance. Emissions of pollutants may also have effects over a long distance. Some projects or plans that do not directly affect Natura 2000 sites may still have a significant impact on them if they cause a barrier effect or prevent ecological linkages. This may happen, for example, when plans affect features of the landscape that connect Natura 2000 sites or that may obstruct the*

*movements of species or disrupt the continuity of a fluvial or woodland ecosystem. To determine the possible effects of the plan or project on Natura 2000 sites, it is necessary to identify not only the relevant sites but also the habitats and species that are significantly present within them, as well as the site objectives.*

The Zone of Influence may be determined by considering the Proposed Development's potential connectivity with European sites, in terms of:

- Nature, scale, timing and duration of all aspects of the proposed works and possible impacts, including the nature and size of excavations, storage of materials, flat/sloping sites;
- Distance and nature of potential pathways (dilution and dispersion; intervening 'buffer' lands, roads etc.); and
- Location of ecological features and their sensitivity to the possible impacts.

The potential for source pathway receptor connectivity is firstly identified through GIS interrogation and detailed information is then provided on sites with connectivity. European sites that are located within a potential Zone of Influence of the Proposed Development are listed in Table 1 and presented in Figures 4 and 5, below. Spatial boundary data on the Natura 2000 network was extracted from the NPWS website ([www.npws.ie](http://www.npws.ie)) on 20 October 2025. This data was interrogated using GIS analysis to provide mapping, distances, locations and pathways to all sites of conservation concern including pNHAs, NHA and European sites.

*Table 1 European Sites located within the potential Zone of Influence<sup>1</sup> of the Proposed Development.*

Site Code	Site name	Distance (km) <sup>2</sup>
000397	Red Bog, Kildare SAC	6.42
001209	Glenasmole Valley SAC	5.33
002122	Wicklow Mountains SAC	4.58
004040	Wicklow Mountains SPA	7.87
004063	Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA	6.35

A number of European sites lie within relatively close proximity to the Proposed Development. However, there is no connectivity to all except for Poulaphouca Reservoir, and they are screened out at this stage.

The Proposed Development is located within the hydrological catchment of the River Liffey. It is drained by a stream that flows south approximately 400m to the Brittas River, which flows to the upper River Liffey and into Poulaphouca Reservoir approximately 10km downstream and to the south.

The Qualifying Interests (QIs) and Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) of the European sites in the Zone of influence of the Proposed Development are provided in Table 2 below.

<sup>1</sup> All European sites potentially connected irrespective of the nature or scale of the Proposed Development.

<sup>2</sup> Distances indicated are the closest geographical distance between the Proposed Development and the European site boundary, as made available by the NPWS.

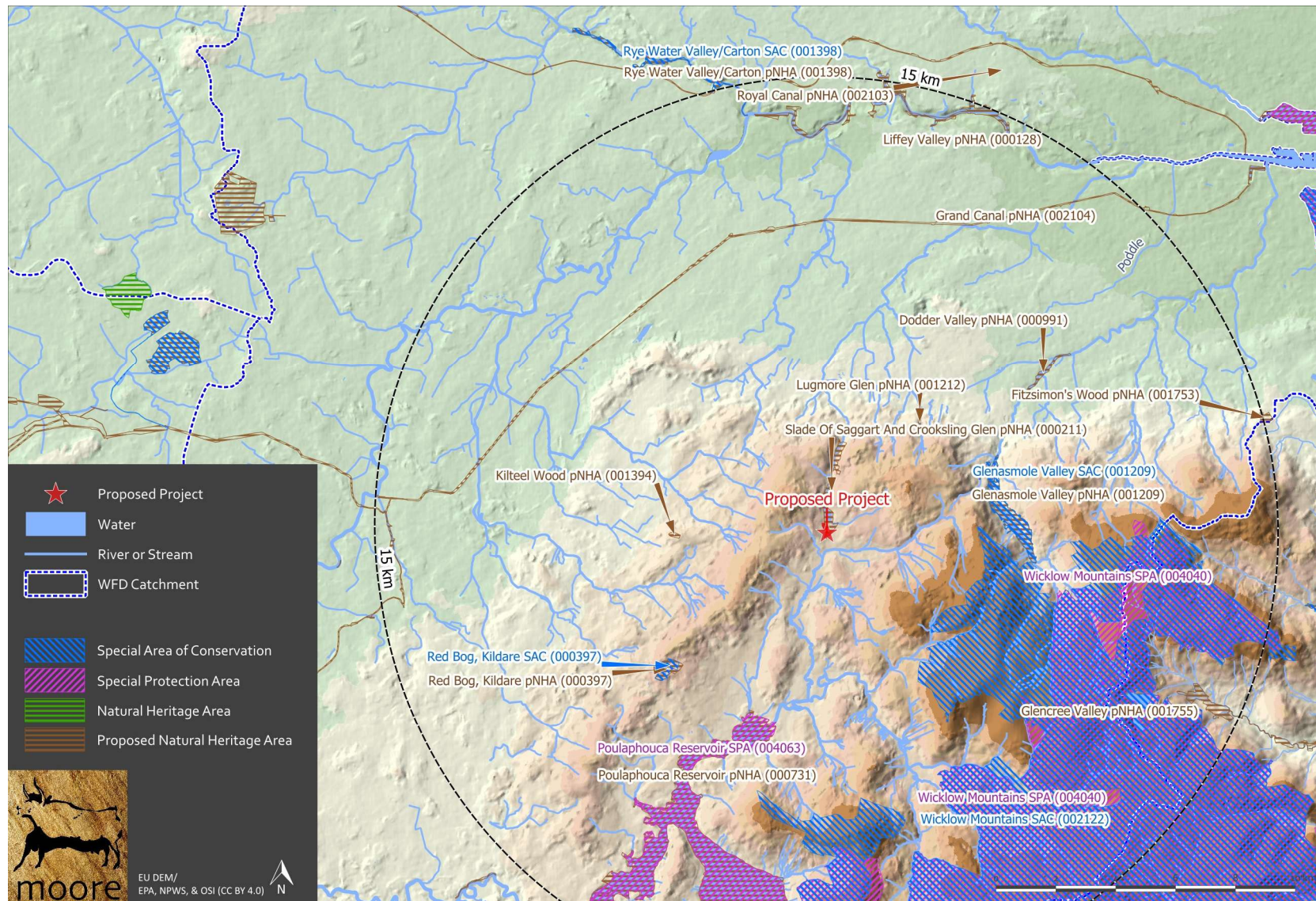


Figure 4. Showing European sites and NHAs/pNHAs within the wider Potential Zone of Influence of the Proposed Development.



Figure 5. Detailed view of conservation sites in the nearer Potential Zone of Influence of the Proposed Development.

Table 2 Identification of relevant European sites using Source-Pathway-Receptor model and compilation of information on QIs and conservation objectives. \*Priority Habitats

European Site name, Site code and Conservation Objectives	Location Relative to the Proposed Development Site	Connectivity – Source-Pathway-Receptor	Considered further in Screening – Y/N
<p><b>Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA (004063)</b></p> <p>The overall aim of the Birds Directive is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation status of habitats and species of community interest:</p> <p>A043 Greylag Goose <i>Anser anser</i> A183 Lesser Black-backed Gull <i>Larus fuscus</i></p> <p>NPWS (2024) Conservation Objectives: Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA 004063. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.</p>	<p>c.10km downstream of the Proposed Development.</p>	<p>No</p> <p>The scheme will not involve interaction with the watercourses identified, and there will be no impact on this downstream European site from construction.</p> <p>Standard SuDS features will be employed during operation.</p>	<p>No</p>

#### 4.2. Ecological Network Supporting Natura 2000 Sites

A concurrent GIS analysis of the proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHA) and designated Natural Heritage Areas (NHA) in terms of their role in supporting the species using Natura 2000 sites was undertaken along with GIS investigation of European sites. These supporting roles mainly relate to mobile fauna such as mammals and birds which may use pNHAs and NHAs as ecological corridors or “stepping stones” between Natura 2000 sites.

Article 10 of the Habitats Directive and the Habitats Regulations 2011 place a high degree of importance on such non-Natura 2000 areas as features that connect the Natura 2000 network. Features such as ponds, woodlands and important hedgerows were taken into account in the decision process and during the preparation of this AA Screening report.

The NHAs and pNHAs identified in Figure 4 are located outside the Zone of Influence, with the exception of the Slade of Saggart and Crooksling Glen pNHA, which lies adjacent to the northeast. The Proposed Development will be restricted to the carriageway and verges of the existing very busy N81 road and will not have any additional effect beyond existing levels of noise and disturbance on the species and habitats of this site.

## 5. Identification of Potential Impacts & Assessment of Significance

The Proposed Development is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the sites considered in the assessment and therefore potential impacts must be identified and considered.

### 5.1. Assessment of Likely Significant Effects

The consideration of all potential direct and indirect impacts that may result in significant effects on the conservation objectives of a European site, taking into account the size and scale of the Proposed Development are presented in Table 3.

*Table 3 Assessment of Likely Significant Effects.*

<b>Identification of all potential direct and indirect impacts that may result in significant effects on the conservation objectives of a European site, taking into account the size and scale of the project.</b>	
<b>Impacts:</b>	<b>Significance of Impacts:</b>
<p><b>Construction phase e.g.</b></p> <p>Vegetation clearance</p> <p>Demolition</p> <p>Surface water runoff from soil excavation/infill/landscaping (including borrow pits)</p> <p>Dust, noise, vibration</p> <p>Lighting disturbance</p> <p>Impact on groundwater/dewatering</p> <p>Storage of excavated/construction materials</p> <p>Access to site</p> <p>Pests</p>	<p>None</p> <p>The Proposed Development site is located along roads and verges within and around Brittas Village and along the busy N81.</p> <p>The scheme will not involve interaction with the watercourses identified, and there will be no impact on this downstream European site from construction.</p>
<p><b>Operational phase e.g.</b></p> <p>Direct emission to air and water</p> <p>Surface water runoff containing contaminant or sediment</p> <p>Lighting disturbance</p>	<p>During operation, the surface water run-off will discharge into existing drainage system outfalls. Given that it is proposed to narrow the carriageway as part of the proposed scheme, it can be expected that the overall catchment area (road pavement area) will be reduced, thus reducing the volume of surface water run-off.</p>

<p>Noise/vibration</p> <p>Changes to water/groundwater due to drainage or abstraction</p> <p>Presence of people, vehicles and activities</p> <p>Physical presence of structures (e.g. collision risks)</p>	<p>Where practical, standard SuDS features will be employed at localised areas.</p> <p>There is no real likelihood of any significant effects on European Sites in the wider catchment area.</p>
<p><b>Describe any likely changes to the European site:</b></p>	
<p><b>Examples of the type of changes to give consideration to include:</b></p> <p>Reduction or fragmentation of habitat area</p> <p>Disturbance to QI species</p> <p>Habitat or species fragmentation</p> <p>Reduction or fragmentation in species density</p> <p>Changes in key indicators of conservation status value (water quality etc.)</p> <p>Changes to areas of sensitivity or threats to QI</p> <p>Interference with the key relationships that define the structure or ecological function of the site</p> <p>Climate change</p>	<p>None.</p> <p>The Proposed Development site is not located adjacent or within a European site, therefore there is no risk of habitat loss or fragmentation or any effects on QI habitats or species directly or ex-situ.</p>

## 5.2. Assessment of Potential In-Combination Effects

Cumulative effects are described by the EPA as *the addition of many minor or insignificant effects, including effects of other projects, to create larger, more significant effects*. In combination effects are considered in the appropriate assessment process as an assessment of the potential adverse effects of a plan or project in combination with other plans or projects. The underlying intention of the in-combination provision is to take account of cumulative effects.

As part of the Screening for an Appropriate Assessment, in addition to the Proposed Development, other relevant plans and projects in the area must also be considered at this stage. This step aims to identify at this early stage any possible significant in-combination effects of the Proposed Development with other such plans and projects on European sites.

A review of the National Planning Application Database was undertaken. The database was then queried for developments granted planning permission within 500m of the Proposed Development within the last three years, these are presented in Table 4 below.

*Table 4. Planning applications granted permission in the vicinity of the Proposed Development.*

Planning Ref.	Description of development	Comments
ED22/0023	Partial conversion of existing derelict public lounge to contain 2 No apartments – 1 No one bed & 1 No. two bed.	No potential for in-combination effects given the Proposed Development will have no effect on any European site.
SD22B/0117	Construction of a domestic garage to the rear of the existing dwelling	No potential for in-combination effects given the Proposed Development will have no effect on any European site.
SD23B/0054	Seeking full planning permission for retention of a single storey extension to rear of existing dwelling along with retention of partially completed garage and full planning permission for completion of the garage along with all associated site works	No potential for in-combination effects given the Proposed Development will have no effect on any European site.
SD24A/0216W	Permission to retain a boundary metal sheet fence as constructed on site total length 72 meters on the north, south and east boundary on site. The height of the fence on site is 3.5 meters. The fence is constructed in metal frame 80x80 mm post every 4 meters at metal sheeting pried to site.	No potential for in-combination effects given the Proposed Development will have no effect on any European site.
SD24B/0084	A two storey extension to existing house, a new waste water treatment system and associated site works.	No potential for in-combination effects given the Proposed Development will have no effect on any European site.
SD24B/0114	Demolition of the existing prefabricated extension structure and dilapidated extension and the construction of a new single storey 87sqm extension to the existing cottage with new pitched and flat roofs, raising of the existing cottage roof and walls, internal alterations, associated site works, services and landscape.	No potential for in-combination effects given the Proposed Development will have no effect on any European site.

The South Dublin County Development Plan in complying with the requirements of the Habitats Directive requires that all Projects and Plans that could affect the Natura 2000 sites in the same potential Zone of Influence of the Proposed Development site would be initially screened for Appropriate Assessment and if requiring Stage 2 AA, that appropriate employable mitigation measures would be put in place to avoid, reduce or ameliorate negative impacts. In this way any, in-combination impacts with Plans or Projects for the proposed development area and surrounding townlands in which the proposed development site is located, would be avoided.

The listed developments have been granted permission in most cases with conditions relating to sustainable development by the consenting authority in compliance with the relevant Local Authority Development Plan and in compliance with the Local Authority requirement with regard to the Habitats Directive. The development cannot have received planning permission without having met the consenting authority requirement in this regard.

There are no predicted in-combination effects given that it is predicted that the Proposed Development will have no effect on any European site.

Any new applications for the Proposed Development area will be assessed on a case by case basis *initially* by South Dublin County Council which will determine the requirement for AA Screening as per the requirements of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive.

## 6. Conclusion

There is no connectivity to any European sites within or outside the potential Zone of Influence.

There are no predicted effects on any European sites given:

- The distance between the Proposed Development and downstream European Sites, over 10km;
- The lack of direct connectivity between the Proposed Development and any hydrological pathways; there are no watercourses within the Proposed Development boundary and there is no connectivity between the Proposed Development site and any watercourses that lead to any European sites;
- There are no predicted emissions to air, water or the environment during the construction or operational phases that would result in significant effects.

It has been objectively concluded by Moore Group Environmental Services that:

1. The Proposed Development is not directly connected with, or necessary to the conservation management of the European sites considered in this assessment.
2. The Proposed Development is not likely to either directly or indirectly significantly affect the Qualifying interests or Conservation Objectives of the European sites considered in this assessment.
3. The Proposed Development, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, is not likely to have significant effects on a European site.
4. It is possible to conclude that significant effects can be excluded at the screening stage.

It can 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 any European site, in the absence of any mitigation.

An Appropriate Assessment is not, therefore, required.

A final determination will be made by the competent authority in this regard.

## 7. References

Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (2010) Guidance on Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland (as amended February 2010).

European Commission (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 interests, compensatory measures, overall coherence and opinion of the Commission. European Commission, Brussels.

European Commission (2018) Managing Natura 2000 sites: the provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC.

European Commission (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, Brussels 28.9.21.

European Commission (2021) Guidance document on the strict protection of animal species of Community interest under the Habitats Directive, Brussels 12.10.21.

NPWS (2019) The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Dublin.

NPWS (2025) National Parks and Wildlife Service Metadata available online at <https://www.npws.ie/maps-and-data>

Office-of-the-Planning-Regulator (2021) Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management OPR Practice Note PN01. March 2021