

South Dublin County Council

Tallaght Stadium Part 8

Appropriate Assessment Screening Report

606509 R1 (00)

NOVEMBER 2026

RSK GENERAL NOTES

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Where field investigations have been carried out, these have been restricted to a level of detail required to achieve the stated objectives of the work.

This work has been undertaken in accordance with the quality management system of RSK.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

RSK Ireland Ltd. was commissioned by PURSER on behalf of South Dublin County Council to prepare an Appropriate Assessment Screening Report (AASR) in respect of the proposed widening of four existing pitch access gates and the additional use of Tallaght Stadium, Whitestown Way, Tallaght, Dublin 24, for outdoor concerts, musical performances and similar cultural and entertainment events.

This report presents an examination of whether the Proposed Project is 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 development, individually or in-combination with another plan or project is likely to have a significant effect on the European site. If it cannot be excluded, on the basis of objective information, that the Proposed Project, 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 project is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of any European site(s).

1.2 Methodology

1.2.1 Guidance

The assessment was conducted in accordance with the following guidance:

- 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, 2002);
- 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); and,
- OPR Practice Note PN01 Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management, (Office of the Planning Regulator, 2021).

1.2.2 Process

The process of determining the likelihood of significant effects from a proposed project on European sites is an iterative process centred around a Source-Pathway-Receptor (S-P-R) model. In order for an effect to be established, all three elements of this mechanism must be in place. The absence or removal of one of the elements of the mechanism is sufficient to conclude that a potential effect is not of any relevance or significance.

- Source(s) – *e.g.*, pollutant run-off, noise, removal of vegetation, etc.;
- Pathway(s) – functional link, or ecological pathway *e.g.*, groundwater connecting to nearby qualifying wetland habitats; 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 project that is known to interact with the receiving environment. A receptor is the Qualifying Interests (QI)[1] for an SAC or Special Conservation Interests (SCI)[2] for an SPA or an ecological feature that is known to

[1] 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.

[2] 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.

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.

The assessment commences with a description of the Proposed Project, along with a description of the receiving environment and the associated sources for impacts to the receiving environment. All elements of the project are presented including the project location and existing baseline environment. The type of impacts that are likely due to the project (source) are identified having regard to the spatial and temporal scale of the project, resource requirements and likely emissions. These sources are then used to define the zone of influence (ZoI) of the project as detailed in Section 3.2.

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 (Natura 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 plan or project in any of its phases, or adjacent to them;
- Any European sites within the likely zone of influence of the plan or project. European 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; and,
- European sites whose connectivity or ecological continuity can be affected by the plan or project.

The ZoI of a proposed project is the geographical area over which it could affect the receiving environment in a way that could have potential effects on the QI of a European site. The OPR (2021) practice note states that the ZoI must be established on a case-by-case basis using the S-P-R model and not by arbitrary distances (such as 15 km). Section 3.2 sets out the detailed rationale for the identification of relevant European sites within the ZoI based on the sources of impacts arising from the Proposed Project. Subsequently, an assessment is undertaken with respect to potential connectivity (Pathways) to European Sites and their qualifying interests/special conservation interests are identified.

The potential for in-combination effects with other plans and projects is examined in Section 3.3, having regard to the identified impacts of the project along the ecological pathways identified to European sites.

In Section 3.4 the likelihood of significant effects of the European Sites within the ZoI is examined having regard to the sensitivity of the site with pathways for impacts associated with the project on its own and in-combination with other plans and projects.

Having regard to the European Commission Communication on the Precautionary Principle (European Commission, 2021) the:

> *"absence of scientific evidence on the significant negative effect of an action cannot be used as justification for approval of this action. When applied to Article 6(3) procedure, the precautionary principle implies that the absence of a negative effect on Natura 2000 sites has to be demonstrated before a plan or project can be authorised.*

In other words, if there is a lack of certainty as to whether there will be any negative effects, then the plan or project cannot be approved."

Where significant effects are determined to be likely, or where there is uncertainty regarding the likelihood of significant effects, the project will be required under law to be subjected to Appropriate Assessment.

This AASR is based on best scientific knowledge and has utilised ecological expertise. In addition, a detailed online review of published scientific literature was conducted. This included a detailed review of the National Parks and Wildlife Website including mapping and available reports for relevant sites and in particular sensitive qualifying interests/special conservation interests described and their conservation objectives.

1.2.3 Methodology for establishing ecological baseline

1.2.3.1 Desktop Study

A desktop study was conducted on 13 November 2026, examining a range of varied sources for relevant materials. The results yielded informed the baseline of the existing natural environment at the Proposed Project site. Searches of the following publications, data and datasets were undertaken:

- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) map viewer (including the My Local Environment and Appropriate Assessment Tool);[3]
- Department of Housing, Planning, and Local Government EIA Portal;
- National Parks and Wildlife Service – online European site network information, including site conservation objectives;[4]
- 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;[5] and,
- South Dublin County Development Plan 2022-2028.[6]

1.3 Limitations

No limitations or gaps in information or uncertainty were identified in the preparation of this document that would impact the validity of the report's conclusions.

[3] EPA map viewer and environment tools available at https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/ (last accessed 13/11/2026)

[4] Datasets and accompanying documents (conservation objectives and site synopses) available at www.npws.ie (last accessed 13/11/2026)

[5] Species records and population information available at www.biodiversityireland.ie (last accessed 13/11/2026)

[6] The South Dublin County Development Plan 2022-2028. Available at https://www.sdcc.ie/en/services/planning-building-control/development-plan/plan-2022-2028/ (last accessed 13/11/2026)

2.0 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT AND SITE SURROUNDINGS

2.1 Existing Environment

2.1.1 Project location and receiving environment

The Proposed Project is at the Tallaght Stadium, Whitestown Way, Tallaght, Dublin 24, located within the townlands of Tallaght, South Dublin. The Proposed Project area comprises the stadium and surrounding grounds. The location of the Proposed Project is shown in Figure 2.1.

The Proposed Project is located within an area of urban development and sprawl. The dominant land cover[7] of the Proposed Project is artificial surface of industrial and commercial units (121). The wider surrounding area is predominantly discontinuous urban fabric (112) and small areas of green urban areas (141).

Bounding the Proposed Project is the N81 to the north, Whitestown Way road to the west, a residential complex with a carpark immediately to the south, and the Old Bawn Community School and amenity grasslands to the east. The Sean Walsh Memorial Park, which comprises a stream and multiple ponds is located south of the residential complex, to the east. Tallaght Stadium is an established sporting venue with regular matchday attendance, event operations, floodlighting and associated spectator activity.

2.1.1.1 Topography and geology

The Proposed Project is located on lands with a slight east facing gradient.[8]

The subsoil[9] of the Proposed Project area is man made, concreted or artificial surface.

2.1.1.2 Hydrology

All of the Proposed Project sites are located within the Sub-catchment Dodder_SC_010 (09_16), Catchment Liffey and Dublin Bay (09). The groundwater waterbody in which site is located is the Dublin (IE_EA_G_008).

The closest Water Framework Directive (WFD) River Waterbodies to the Proposed Project is the Dodder_040 (IE_EA_09D010620). The Dodder_040 is located approximately 55 m to the south of the Tallaght Stadium carpark, which corresponds to the stream within the Sean Walsh Memorial Park. There are two other WFD River Waterbodies within 2 km of the Tallaght Stadium, the Dodder_030 (IE_EA_09D010300) and Poddle_010 (IE_EA_09P030800). The other waterbodies within the Sean Walsh Memorial Park are not WFD named waterbodies.

[7] Land cover information sourced from EPA Map viewer Corine Land Cover 2024. Corine Land Cover 2024 is the 2024 release of the pan-European CORINE Landcover dataseries. The dataset maps landcover to a 25ha minimum mapping using the classification system described at https://land.copernicus.eu/content/corine-land-cover-nomenclature-guidelines/html/ This dataset was produced for Ireland by the EPA on behalf of the European environment Agency (EEA) and the Copernicus Land Monitoring Service (CLMS). This data was produced with funding by the European Union. Available at: https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/ (last accessed 13/11/2026)

[8] Elevation information of site obtained from https://en-ie.topographic-map.com/map-rgp/Ireland/ (last accessed 13/11/2026)

[9] Subsoil information sourced from EPA Map viewer Subsoils. The Teagasc Subsoils map classifies the subsoils of Ireland into 16 themes, using digital stereo photogrammetry supported by field work. Produced by Teagasc (Kinsealy), EPA and GSI. Available at: https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/ (last accessed 13/11/2026)

The latest WFD Cycle 3 Catchment Report (HA 09 Liffey and Dublin Bay Catchment Report, May 2024)[10] noted the last assessment for the catchment was from 2016-2021. The Dodder_040 status WFD is '*moderate'* and assessed '*at risk*' from significant nutrients and organic issue from urban run-off pressures.

Searches of the Office of Public Works (OPW) drainage dataset[11] directed under The Arterial Drainage Act, 1945 (as amended),[12] did not have any mapped drains or canals intersecting with, or adjacent to, the Proposed Project.

In regard to flooding, the Sean Walsh Memorial Park is noted as being an area of fluvial flooding risk (Low, Medium and High extent), however the flooding extent does not reach the Proposed Project boundary.

The Proposed Project boundary and the WFD mapped waterbodies are illustrated in Appendix A.

2.1.2 Description of existing ecological baseline

The following appraisal of the ecological baseline takes into account the results of the desktop study.

2.1.2.1 Habitats and Flora

Searches of historic photographs and satellite imagery show that the habitats of the Proposed Project boundary are predominantly artificial hardstanding (BL3) and amenity grassland (improved) (GA2). The central area of the stadium which include the concourse, spectator seating, and playing pitch is bounded by a man-made wall. The playing pitch is bounded by a shorter man-made wall. The Tallaght Stadium playing pitch surface is managed grass area of approximately 1 ha, characteristic of amenity grassland (improved) (GA2).

Beyond the enclosed area, the wider stadium complex has multiple areas of hardstanding including a carpark in the southern area, and pedestrian hardstanding areas in the west and north. The hardstanding areas in the west and north have small parcels of amenity grassland with scattered trees.

No Annex I habitats or habitats of particular ecological significance were identified within the Proposed Project boundary.

2.1.2.2 Bats

Historic species records for bats within 2 km of the Proposed Project site and last 15 years returned records for only one species, Daubenton's Bat (*Myotis daubentonii*). These species are listed in Annex IV (EU Habitats Directive).

There were no historic records of Lesser Horseshoe Bat (*Rhinolophus hipposideros*), which are Annex II species (EU Habitats Directive

[10] The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has published the Water Framework Directive (WFD) Cycle 3 Catchment Assessment Reports for each of our 46 catchments. These assessments provide an overview of the situation in the catchment and will help support the River Basin Management Plan 2022-2027 implementation process. Available at: https://www.catchments.ie/wfd-cycle-3-catchment-reports/ (last accessed 13/11/2026).

[11] Office of Public Works Drainage map, available at: https://www.floodinfo.ie/ (last accessed on 13/11//2026)

[12] The Arterial Drainage Act, 1945, was enacted to provide a legal framework for improving and maintaining river channels and drainage systems across Ireland to reduce flood risk and enhance land drainage. It empowers the Office of Public Works (OPW) to carry out arterial drainage schemes, maintain drainage works, and oversee embankments and river channels.

2.1.2.3 Birds

Historic records included five Annex I species (EU Birds Directive) within 2 km and in the last 15 years. 24 records of Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*), 59 records of Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*), one records of White-tailed Eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*), two records of Mediterranean Gull (*Ichthyaetus melanocephalus*) and one record of Red Kite (*Milvus milvus*) were returned. Red Kite and White-tailed Eagle are also Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland (BoCCI) 2020-2026[13] 'red-listed' species (Gilbert *et al*., 2021). Mediterranean Gull and Kingfisher are also 'amber-listed'.

Other 'red-listed' species records include Meadow Pipit (*Anthus pratensis*), Swift (*Apus apus*), Goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*), Stock Dove (*Columba oenas*), Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*), Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*), Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*), Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*), Grey Wagtail (*Motacilla cinerea*), Curlew (*Numenius arquata*), Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*), Woodcock (*Scolopax rusticola*), Redwing (*Turdus iliacus*) and Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*).

Other 'amber-listed' species include Common Sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*), Skylark (*Alauda arvensis*), Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*), Teal (*Anas crecca*), Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*), Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*), Greenfinch (*Chloris chloris*), Black-headed Gull (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*), Mute Swan (*Cygnus olor*), House Martin (*Delichon urbicum*), Brambling (*Fringilla montifringilla*), Coot (*Fulica atra*), Shag (*Gulosus aristotelis*), Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*), Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*), Common Gull (*Larus canus*), Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*), Linnet (*Linaria cannabina*), Wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*), House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*), Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*), Willow Warbler (*Phylloscopus trochilus*), Goldcrest (*Regulus regulus*), Sand Martin (*Riparia riparia*) and Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*).

There were no NBDC records of Light-bellied Brent Goose (*Branta bernicla hrota*) within 2 km of the Proposed Project area and in the last 15 years. Reviews of the Light-bellied Brent Goose inland feeding site survey carried out by Enviroguide (Enviroguide Consulting, 2019) showed that the Proposed Project is not a known Light-bellied Brent Goose foraging site, and the closest area of confirmed Light-bellied Brent Goose foraging is at Greenhills Park, approximately 3.5 km to the north-west.

2.1.2.4 Invasive non-native species (INNS)

The NBDC records request returned records of five invasive fauna species and nine invasive flora species within 2 km and in the last 15 years.

Of the invasive fauna species records, one record of Australian Flatworm (*Australoplana sanguinea*), 16 records of Harlequin Ladybird (*Harmonia axyridis*), one record of American Mink (*Neovison vison*),14 records of Rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) and eight records of Grey Squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*) were returned.

Of the invasive flora species records, nine records of Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), 13 records of Three-cornered Garlic (*Allium triquetrum*), seven records of Butterfly-bush (*Buddleja davidii*), five records of Japanese Knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*), two records each of Giant Knotweed (*Fallopia sachalinensis*), Himalayan Balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*) and American Skunk-

[13] BoCCI is an assessment of the conservation status of all regularly occurring birds on the island of Ireland. The criteria on which the assessment is based include conservation status at global and European levels; and within Ireland, include historic al decline, trends in population and range, rarity, localised distribution and international importance. BoCCI assesses the conservation status of species as 'red-listed', 'amber-listed', or 'green-listed. Gilbert G, Stanbury A and Lewis L (2021), "Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland 2020 –2026". Available at: https://birdwatchireland.ie/birds-of-conservation-concern-in-ireland/

cabbage (*Lysichiton americanus*), and one record each of Giant Hogweed (Heracleum mantegazzianum) and Wild Parsnip (*Pastinaca sativa*) were returned.

Of the five invasive fauna species, two are listed on the Third Schedule of S.I. No. 477/2011, namely American Mink and Harlequin Ladybird. Australian Flatworm and Rabbit are classified as medium impact invasive species, while Harlequin Ladybird, Grey Squirrel and American Mink are classified as high impact invasive species (Kelly *et al*., 2013).

Of the nine invasive flora species, six are listed on the Third Schedule of S.I. No. 477/2011, namely American Skunk-cabbage, Giant Hogweed, Giant Knotweed, Himalayan Balsam, Japanese Knotweed and Three-cornered Garlic. Giant Hogweed, Giant Knotweed, Himalayan Balsam and Japanese Knotweed and are listed as high impact species, while American Skunk-cabbage, Butterfly-bush, Sycamore, Three-cornered Garlic and Wild Parsnip are medium impact species (Kelly *et al*., 2013).

2.1.2.5 Terrestrial mammals

No historic records for Annex II species (EU Habitats Directive) were returned.

2.2 Project Description

The Proposed Project seeks to facilitate the additional use of Tallaght Stadium, Whitestown Way, Tallaght, Dublin 24, for outdoor concerts, musical performances and similar cultural and entertainment events.

The proposal provides for a maximum of five events per calendar year, with a maximum audience attendance of 22,000 persons per event. The existing sporting and associated uses of the stadium will be maintained.

The proposed development comprises the additional use of the existing stadium and associated lands, including the spectator stands, playing pitch, concourses, car park, forecourts and ancillary circulation areas, for outdoor concerts and similar events. The development includes temporary event infrastructure and the widening of four existing pitch access gates from 3 metres to 9 metres each. Amplified music associated with concert events will cease no later than 22:45 hours. Event frequency shall not exceed five events in any calendar year.

The Proposed Project layout and details are illustrated in Figure 2.2 (Drawing P-A-0002 provided by PURSER, 2026).

2.2.1 Construction phase

Permanent construction works will be limited to the alteration and widening of the four existing pitch access gates at the corners of the playing pitch. The minor construction works will include the removal of sections of existing structures where necessary to widen the openings from 3 m to 9 m.

No new buildings, access roads or permanent car parking areas are proposed. No alterations to the existing foul or surface water drainage infrastructure are proposed.

2.2.2 Operational phase

The stadium will accommodate a maximum of five outdoor concerts, musical performances or similar events per calendar year, with a maximum audience attendance of 22,000 persons per event.

The operational phase will include temporary installation and use of staging, sound and lighting equipment, power equipment, pitch protection, audience barriers, accessible viewing facilities, toilets, concessions, bars, merchandise facilities, production areas and associated event infrastructure.

Temporary spectator circulation, queuing, servicing, coach and shuttle arrangements, and emergency access routes will also be provided. These will be contained to the already existing carpark.

The existing stadium stands and playing pitch will accommodate event audiences.

All temporary event structures and facilities will be assembled and dismantled on an event-by-event basis. The layout and dimensions shown on Figure 2.2 are indicative and represent a potential event configuration for assessment purposes, it includes:

- Temporary stage: 12 m × 25 m.
- Front of House area: 6 m × 6 m.
- Delay towers: 5 m × 5 m.
- Accessible viewing platform: 6 m × 6 m.
- Temporary medical provision: 6 m × 6 m.
- Emergency vehicle access route: 4 m wide.
- Temporary toilets: individual units assumed to measure 1.4 m × 1.4 m.
- Temporary food and sponsor stalls: indicative sizes of 3 m × 2 m and 6 m × 2 m.

Individual events may require different arrangements, and the precise dimensions, locations and extent of temporary facilities may vary depending on the nature and requirements of each event, subject to the overall parameters assessed under the Part 8 application.

The concerts and events may extend later into the evening than typical sporting fixtures, with a proposed curfew on amplified concert music to finish by 22:45pm.

2.2.3 Dismantling phase

All temporary event infrastructure will be dismantled and removed following individual events. This will include removal of staging, production equipment, barriers, temporary toilets, concessions, technical equipment and pitch protection. Wastewater collection, servicing and disposal will be undertaken in accordance with standard event-management practices and applicable regulatory requirements.

The stadium and associated areas will then return to their established sporting and ancillary uses.

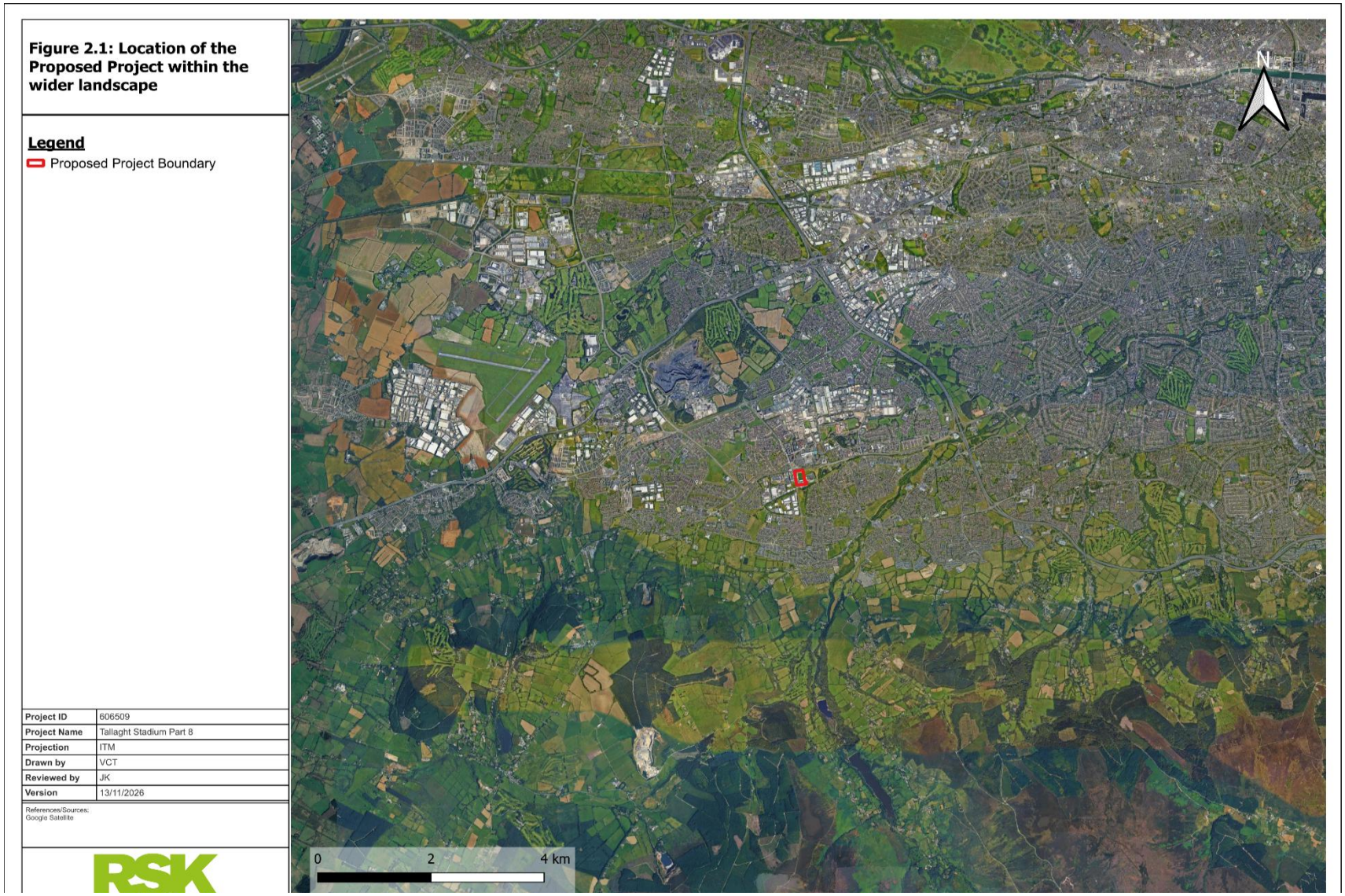

Figure 2.1: Location of the Proposed Project within the wider landscape

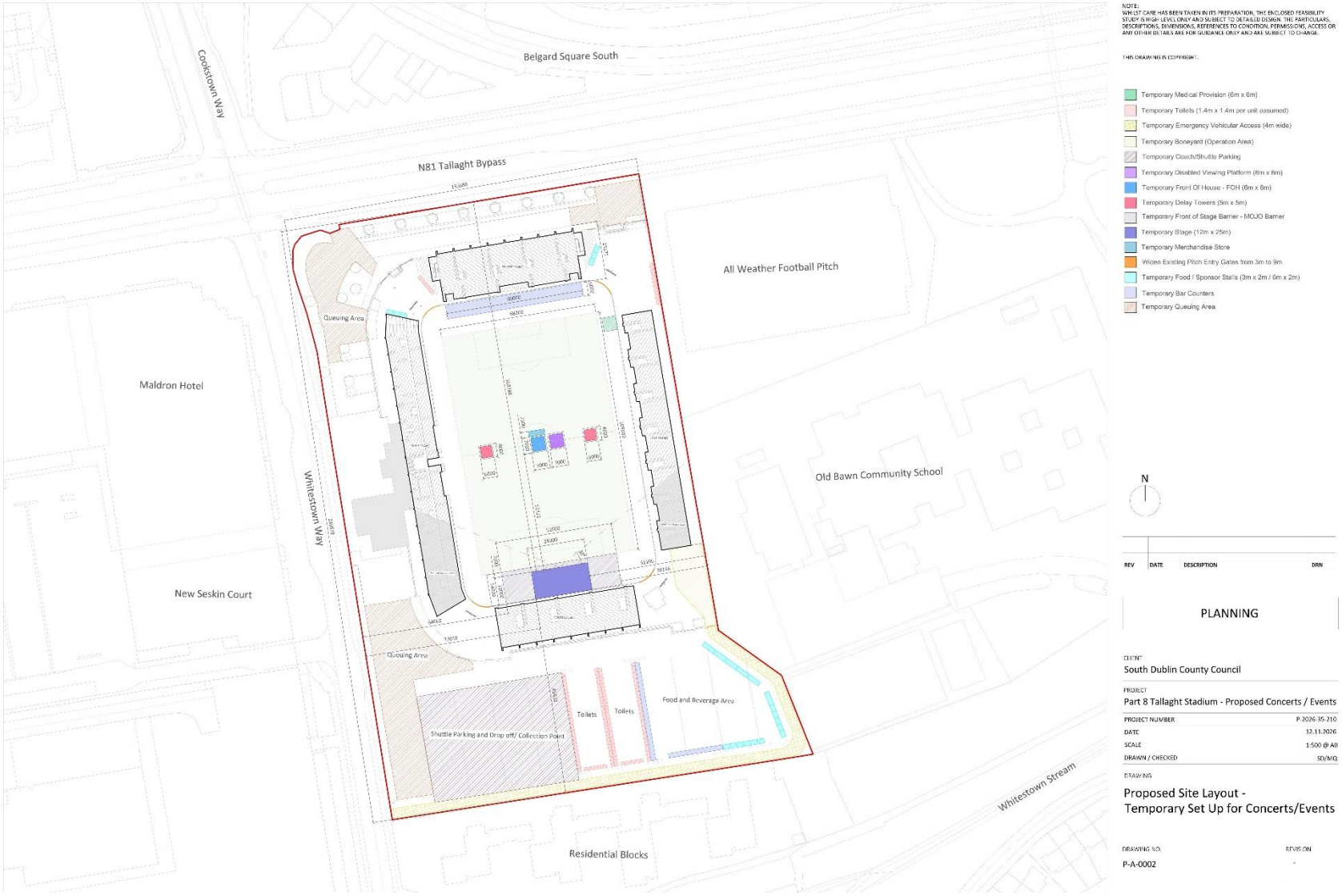

Figure 2.2: Proposed Site Layout – Temporary Set Up for Concerts/Events (Drawing No. P-A-0002 PURSER, 2026)

2.3 Potential Interactions of the Proposed Project on the Receiving Environment

Having regard to the European Commission (2021) guidance document and the OPR (2021) practice note, criteria to assess potential impacts of a project on the receiving environment at source are set out as follows, and considered in relation to the specific impacts generated by this Proposed Project in Table 2.1:

- Habitat destruction/fragmentation/deterioration;
- Surface water run-off carrying suspended silt and contaminants, into local watercourses;
- Changes to groundwater quality, yield and/or flow paths associated with the proposed project;
- Project related activities (noise, vibration, lighting, human presence, structures, *etc.*) leading to disturbance/displacement of species;
- Project related activities leading to a reduction in species populations/density;
- Air pollution due to dust and other airborne emissions; and,
- Disturbance and potential spread of invasive species during the proposed works.

These impacts are further examined in defining the ZoI of the project to identify likely significant effects (LSEs) through the S-P-R assessment (Section 3.2).

Table 2.1: Identification of sources for impacts arising from the Proposed Project that have potential for interactions with the receiving environment

Criteria	Potential sources of impact	Conclusion
Habitat destruction/fragmentation/deterioration	*Construction Phase* The expansion of the four pitch entrance gates will comprise the removal of the pitch walls. The movement required machinery and/or vehicles will be on sealed artificial surfaces of the surrounding pitch. The construction works is limited to the removal of artificial structure (BL3 habitat). *Operational Phase* Any use of vehicles on the playing pitch grassland (GA2 habitat) to move temporary structures into position may result in damage to the grass. The installation of temporary structures will result in the compaction of flora and soils locally. Movement of attendees on the grass will result in damage to the intensely managed grass of low ecological value. *Dismantling Phase* Similar to above, movement of equipment and vehicles to remove temporary structures may result in damage to the playing pitch grass.	The direct impact to habitats is limited to the playing pitch grass (GA2) and the limited removal of artificial structures (BL3) to expand the entrance gates. There is no clearance of vegetation in construction. During events, the impact to habitats will be limited to the intensely managed playing pitch grassland which may result in damage to grass and exposure of soil. Given the current use of the grass as a playing pitch, the limit of five events per year, the contained footprint of impacts during all phases, and the context within the wider urban landscape, in which the playing pitch does not form part of a significant habitat corridor or ecological network, it is considered that the Proposed Project will not result in habitat destruction or fragmentation. Any deterioration of the grassland is considered to be limited and comparable to that associated with the existing use of the playing pitch.
Surface water run-off carrying suspended silt and contaminants, into local watercourses.	*Construction Phase* Minimal construction waste is anticipated from the minor alterations to the existing pitch access gates and the works may result in limited loose sediment from the demolition of the pitch wall. Any use of machinery that requires fuel or oils may result in spills, however this would be localised and limited to already built-up areas, (*i.e.*, the hardstanding areas surrounding the stadium), and given the duration of works, spills are not considered likely to occur. *Operational Phase*	The Dodder_040 is located 55 m south of the Proposed Project carpark. Separating the Proposed Project area and the Dodder_040 is a built-up residential complex and the surrounding urban park vegetation. The walls surrounding the carpark and stadium will likely prevent any contaminants from mobilizing into any surrounding drains and likely prevent contaminants/debris from entering into the Dodder_040. In addition, given the short duration of works and frequency of events (limited to 5 per year) any generation of potential contaminants is considered to be limited.

Criteria	Potential sources of impact	Conclusion
	Fuels and oils from parked vehicles, generators and other power equipment may result in some localised minor spills onto the hard surfaces of the carpark. However, the same car parking facilities are used during the regularly scheduled match days ongoing at the stadium currently and no expansion of these parking facilities is proposed under this application. Temporary toilets, food and beverage concessions and associated wastewater storage will be removed from the site (i.e. not connected to any services) after events and therefore there is no potential to enter any watercourse. Events will result in general waste, recyclable materials and food-related waste however waste management facilities are available at the stadium in its current capacity and additional waste bins would be provided at the stadium for events. *Dismantling Phase* Similar impacts as above.	Given the contained footprint of the Proposed Project, short duration of events and work, removal of wastewater from temporary facilities as well as the capacity of current facility, it is considered that the potential for any contaminants to enter the Dodder_040 is low and will not lead to any significant changes in water quality.
Changes to groundwater quality, yield and/or flow paths associated with the proposed project.	*Construction Phase* No potential impacts. *Operational Phase* No potential impacts. *Dismantling Phase* No potential impacts.	None of the Proposed Project phases will have impact on groundwater.
Project related activities (noise, vibration, lighting, human presence, structures, etc) leading to disturbance/displacement of species.	*Construction Phase* Very temporary increases in personnel, vehicle movements and equipment will occur during the expansion of the pitch gates. Use of tools, compressors, generators and vehicles will generate temporary noise and vibration. However,	The Proposed Project will result in temporary increases in noise, vibration, lighting, human presence and vehicle movements during all phases. This increase shall be localised to the stadium grounds and the immediate surrounding area.

Criteria	Potential sources of impact	Conclusion
	the duration of this minor works will be very short with demolition of the existing gates likely to take a few hours and construction of the new gate over 1-2 days. *Operational Phase* Increase of attendance from 10,500 to 22,000 (maximum) during events will result in an increase in noise and human presence locally. Temporary structures, including staging, sound and lighting equipment, delay towers and audience barriers, will be installed, but are not envisaged to exceed the height of current permanent spectator stands. During events, there will be additional lighting. Noise will arise principally from amplified music, audience activity, vehicle movements and the installation and removal of temporary event infrastructure. Additional vehicle movements will arise from event servicing, deliveries, coaches, shuttle buses and audience arrival and departure. Events may extend later into the evening than typical sporting fixtures, with an estimated finishing time of 10:45 p.m. *Dismantling Phase* Movement of personnel, vehicles and equipment associated with the removal of temporary structures will generate temporary noise and vibration.	The greatest increase will occur during the operational phase, particularly during events with a maximum attendance of 22,000 persons, amplified music and additional lighting extending into the evening. While the stadium is currently subject to noise, lighting and human activity associated with sporting events, the proposed concerts will introduce additional sources and potentially longer periods of disturbance. Disturbance effects are temporary, intermittent, restricted to a maximum of five events annually and subject to a defined event curfew. Construction and dismantling activities will also generate temporary localised noise and vibration. Given the limit of five events per year, these sources will be intermittent rather than continuous. Given the results of the desktop study, current regular use and intense management of the pitch, and built-up areas of the Proposed Project, it is unlikely that the Proposed Project area supports foraging, nesting or roosting habitat for QI/SCI species.
Project related activities leading to a reduction in species populations/density.	*Construction Phase* Temporary noise, vibration and increased vehicle and machinery movements associated with the expansion of the pitch gates. *Operational Phase* Increased human presence, noise, lighting and vehicle movements associated with event attendance and activities. Potential generation of waste and	Given the negligible nesting and/or roosting opportunities identified within the Proposed Project area, none of the potential sources of disturbance are considered to lead to any mortality or impact reproduction opportunities for species. While the Sean Walsh Memorial Park in the greater area may provide suitable habitat for various species, the scope of works, frequency of events, direction of stage (facing north, away from the park Figure 2.2), are not

Criteria	Potential sources of impact	Conclusion
	contaminants associated with temporary event facilities, vehicles and equipment. However, given the regular level of current use of Tallaght Stadium during sporting events, the surrounding built environment and limit to 5 events per year, disturbance is not considered to significantly exceed current levels. *Dismantling Phase* Temporary noise, vibration and vehicle movements associated with the removal of event infrastructure, including the potential generation of waste and contaminants.	anticipated to exceed the current baseline disturbance level. As discussed above in the section considering pollutants/contaminants to surface waterbodies, given the limited potential for contaminants to enter the Dodder_040 a potential impact to water quality is not envisaged. Therefore, no potential direct or indirect impacts resulting in changes of species population are likely to occur as a result of the Proposed Project.
Air pollution due to dust and other airborne emissions.	*Construction Phase* Movement of vehicles and machinery will lead to the production and release of exhaust and combustion fumes. Removal of part of the current pitch wall to expand the entrances may result in emissions of dust. *Operational Phase* Movement of vehicles for event set-up and servicing will lead to the production and release of exhaust and combustion fumes. Use of generators to supply vendors will result in the release of exhaust and combustion fumes. *Dismantling Phase* Similar to operational phase.	The Proposed Project will result in the temporary generation of dust and exhaust emissions associated with vehicle movements, equipment and generators/machinery operation. Given the limited scope of the construction, any dust/airborne emissions from the works will be minor. During events and dismantling, given the limited number throughout the year and the duration of events, these will likely be localised to the Proposed Project area and immediate surrounds.
Disturbance and potential spread of invasive species during the proposed works.	*Construction Phase* No potential impacts. *Operational Phase* No potential impacts. *Dismantling Phase* No potential impacts.	Given that there are no clearance works and any movement of flora/soils will be limited to that of the playing pitch grass, it is not considered that there is any potential to spread invasive species at any phase of the Proposed Project.

3.0 SCREENING FOR APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

3.1 Introduction

This section of the report examines if the Proposed Project is likely to have a significant effect upon European sites, either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects.

3.2 Identification of European Sites within the Zone of Influence of the Proposed Project

The OPR (2021) AA Screening practice note states that the ZoI must be established on a case-by-case basis using the S-P-R model. The S-P-R model has been used to identify the ZoI to ensure that relevant European sites are identified. The S-P-R model minimises the risk of overlooking distant or obscure effect pathways, while also avoiding an over reliance on arbitrary buffer zones (*e.g.*, 15 km), within which all European sites should be considered. This approach follows the DoEHLG (2009 rev 2010) guidance on AA which states that:

> *"For projects, the distance could be much less than 15 km, and in some cases less than 100 m, but this must be evaluated on a case-by-case basis with reference to the nature, size and location of the project, and the sensitivities of the ecological receptors, and the potential for in-combination effects."*

As detailed in Section 1.2.2, in order for an effect to occur, all three elements of this mechanism must be in place. The absence of one of the elements of the mechanism means there is no likelihood for the effect to occur. The criteria for potential impacts of the Proposed Project are set out in Section 2.3, and impacts assessed in Table 2.1 of this report. The impact is essentially the 'source' in the S-P-R model.

These impacts may be very localised and confined to the Proposed Project site with no potential connectivity to a European site and therefore no potential for effects. Alternatively, where an ecological or functional pathway exists, they may give rise to a potential effect to a QI of a European site. This section of the report identifies the potential pathways to European sites emanating from these potential sources of impact.

The dominant ecological pathways to consider are:

- Direct physical interactions or changes to the local environment;
- Air dispersal (noise, dust, odour emissions, *etc.*);
- Hydrological interactions; and,
- Dispersal patterns of mobile species.

The impacts summarised above are assessed under the following criteria:

- Release of pollutants and sedimentation to watercourses with hydrological connectivity to European sites;
- Potential effects to groundwater/hydrogeology;
- Potential effects to mobile SCI and QI species from surrounding European sites;
- European sites geographically overlapping or adjacent to any of the actions or aspects of the proposed project (noise, lighting and dust); and,
- Disturbance and potential spread of invasive species during the Proposed Project.

3.2.1 Release of pollutants and sedimentation to watercourses with hydrological connectivity to European sites

As a precautionary approach in defining the ecological receptors that may be affected, all European sites hydrologically connected to the Proposed Project were examined using Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping. The QIs of these European sites were assessed to identify potential physical or ecological connectivity to the Proposed Project and subject lands.

3.2.2 Potential effects to groundwater/hydrogeology

A search was conducted using GIS to identify any European sites with Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems (GWDTE), within the catchment area of the Proposed Project.

3.2.3 Potential effect to mobile SCIs and QI species from surrounding European sites

The habitats within the subject lands and the surrounding area could offer potential resources for mobile SCI bird species from SPAs. As Identified in Table 2.1, there is potential for direct and indirect impacts to these local habitats. Therefore, the assessment has considered the potential pathways for effects to these bird species. Generally, the core foraging range for SCI species is less than 15 km. However, SNH (2016)[14] core foraging range for some geese species can be larger. Namely:

- Greylag Goose core range of 15-20 km.* Greylag Goose feed mostly on cereal stubble and grassland in their wintering areas; and,
- Barnacle Goose core range of 15 km, with maximum recorded distance of up to 25 km.

Therefore, as a precautionary approach in defining the ecological receptors that may be affected, all SPAs within 15 km for Greylag Goose, and SPAs within 25 km designed for Barnacle Goose and Light-bellied Brent Goose were examined using GIS mapping. The conservation objectives of these European sites were assessed to identify potential physical or ecological connectivity to the Proposed Project and its subject lands.

Lesser Horseshoe Bat, while having a wide Core Sustenance Zone (CSZ) of 2.5 km (Bontadina *et al*., 2002; Collins, 2023), are only known to occur in six western counties: Clare, Cork, Galway, Kerry, Limerick and Mayo. Therefore, Lesser Horseshoe Bat are not considered likely to be present within the ZoI of the Proposed Project.

The potential pathways for aquatic QI species (*e.g.* Otter, Lamprey spp. Salmon, *etc*.) are considered in Sections 3.2.1 and 3.2.2 above.

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

3.2.4 European sites geographically overlapping or adjacent to any of the actions or aspects of the Proposed Project (noise, lighting and dust)

There are no overlapping or immediately adjacent European sites to any of the Proposed Project work locations. However, there could be effects beyond the boundary of the site due to sources such as noise, light, dust, *etc*.

The Institute of Air Quality Management 'Guidance on the Assessment of dust from demolition and construction' (Stoaling *et al.,* 2024) states that for sensitive ecological receptors, sensitivity to dust is 'High' up to 20 m from the source and reduces to 'Medium' over 50 m from the source. Stoaling *et al.*, (2024) also stipulate that in assessing dust emission from trackout,[15] factors such as vehicle size, vehicle speed, vehicle numbers, geology and duration must be taken into account and professional judgment applied. Dust from soiling (excavation works) can occur up to 25 m, 50 m and 100 m, at minor, moderate, and major construction sites, respectively (NRA, 2011).

Disturbance due to noise impact varies between species and is dependent on the nature of the noise source and sensitivity of the species in question, *e.g.*, the potential effects of anthropogenic sound on fish can range from direct mortality to no obvious behavioural responses and are dependent on the class of sound, either continuous or impulsive (Popper and Hawkins, 2019). Similarly, the disturbance response of birds (*e.g.*, becoming alert or a flight response) can vary depending on season, species sensitivity and weather. Goodship and Furness (2022) estimates of species-specific buffer zones to protect birds from human disturbance during breeding and non-breeding seasons. Therefore, a precautionary ZoI of 1 km was identified given the scope and size of the Proposed Project works. This 1 km buffer also accounts for noise disturbance to Otter and other aquatic species.

Other emission sources as identified in Table 2.1 are likely to be more localised than the distances stated for noise impacts.

3.2.5 Disturbance and potential spread of invasive species during the proposed works.

Invasive species can spread from an area of infection to other habitats by the transportation of plant fragments or soil containing seeds/plant material. This typically can occur during excavation and vegetation clearance. Machinery, vehicles and personnel coming into contact with infected areas can spread these species outside of the site. The ZoI of this potential impact requires the consideration of European sites in close proximity to the footprint of works. As a precautionary approach a ZoI of 2 km has been adopted.

Hydrologically connected European sites will also need to be considered, *e.g.,* soil containing invasive species material washing downstream to a European site. The potential effects to hydrologically connected European sites are considered in Section 3.2.1 above.

3.2.6 Summary of the Zone of Influence of the Proposed Project

The ZoI of the Proposed Project works have been identified as:

- Any European sites hydrologically connected to the Proposed Project;
- Any European sites with GWDTE within the catchment area of the Proposed Project;

[15] The movement of dust and dirt from a construction/demolition site onto the public road network.

- All SPAs designed for Greylag Goose within 15 km, and Barnacle Goose and Light-bellied Brent Goose within 25 km of the Proposed Project;
- Any European sites within 1 km of the Proposed Project with potential impacts from habitat loss, noise, lighting, invasive species and dust.

As a result, there were no European sites within the ZoI of the Proposed Project as there were no pathways identified between the Proposed Project and European sites. The findings of the ZoI assessment are presented in Table 3.1 and location of European sites in Figure 3.1.

The were no European sites identified within the ZoI for the following criteria:

- No SACs within 2 km;
- No SACs with GWDTE within the same groundwater waterbody as the Proposed Project.
- No SAC or SPA occurs within 1 km of the Proposed Project boundary and therefore no pathway exists for direct disturbance effects associated with noise, lighting or dust emissions.

Table 3.1: Identification of European Sites within the Zone of Influence of the Proposed Project

European Site (Code)	List of Qualifying Interests	Distance from the Proposed Project (km)	Criteria	Pathway for Potential Effects	Considered Further in Screening (Y/N)
Wicklow Mountains SAC (002122) Wicklow Mountains SAC | Conservation Objectives Accessed on 13 November 2026	*Habitat* • Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (*Littorelletalia uniflorae*) [3110] • Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160] • Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix* [4010] • European dry heaths [4030] • Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060] • Calaminarian grasslands of the *Violetalia calaminariae* [6130] • Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe) [6230] • Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130] • Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (*Androsacetalia alpinae* and *Galeopsietalia ladani*) [8110]	5 km south (straight-line distance).	Mobile species	This SAC is within the Sub-catchment Dodder_SC_010, however it is upstream of the Dodder_030 which is the river body within 2 km of the Proposed Project, but with no direct hydrological connection to the Proposed Project. Otter are a highly mobile species, travelling large distances via waterbody networks. While Otter may then be present within the Dodder_030 and joining the Dodder_040 at the confluence more than 2 km downstream from the Proposed Project. While it is possible for Otter to be present upstream of the confluence point and in the waterbodies of the Sean Walsh Memorial Park (*i.e.*, Dodder_040), it is unlikely given the current disturbance levels of the Tallaght Stadium and wider urban development surrounding the Dodder_040, as well as lack of species records for Otter within 2 km of the Proposed Project, that Otter are utilising the areas near to the Proposed Project other than limited foraging and/or commuting. Therefore, it is not considered that the Proposed Project has a potential pathway for LSEs to this SAC or its mobile QI species.	N

European Site (Code)	List of Qualifying Interests	Distance from the Proposed Project (km)	Criteria	Pathway for Potential Effects	Considered Further in Screening (Y/N)
	• Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8210] • Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220] • Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles [91A0] *Species* • Otter (*Lutra lutra*) [1355]				
Wicklow Mountains SPA (004040) Wicklow Mountains SPA | Conservation Objectives Accessed on 13 November 2026	*Species* • Merlin (*Falco columbarius*) [A098] • Peregrine (*Falco peregrinus*) [A103]	6.8 km south-east (straight line) distance	Mobile species	During the breeding season, Peregrine have a typical foraging range of 2 km and Merlin of 5 km. Between nesting sites, Peregrine have a mean distance of 3 km and maximum of 6.5 km, whereas Merlin have a typical distance of 500 m but can be up to 1.5 km (SNH, 2016). The Proposed Project is slightly beyond the limit of the know core ranges of the two QI species from this SPA. Provided that there were no historic records of either species present within 2 km of the Proposed Project and that the habitat within the Proposed Project do not provide suitable habitat for these species, it is therefore considered unlikely that they would be present. Therefore, it is considered there is no pathway to this SPA or the population of its QI species.	N
South Dublin SAC (001209)	*Habitat*	11.8 km north-east (straight line)	Hydrological	The QI habitats of this SAC are sensitive to changes in water quality which may effect the floral communities of these habitats and may	N

European Site (Code)	List of Qualifying Interests	Distance from the Proposed Project (km)	Criteria	Pathway for Potential Effects	Considered Further in Screening (Y/N)
South Dublin SAC | Conservation Objectives Accessed on 13 November 2026	• 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] • Embryonic shifting dunes [2110]	and 19 river km (hydrological) distance		result in changes to foraging opportunity to the species they support. However, considering the limited scope of the Proposed Project, limited extent of contaminants from works and events (i.e., fuel drips and general waste), walls surrounding the Project area and the 55 m distance to the Dodder_040, it is not considered likely that the limited amount of waste and/or contaminants from the Proposed Project will be introduced into the Dodder_040. In addition, any incidental contaminants introduced into the Dodder_040 will be attenuated and diluted while traveling 19 km downstream, to this SAC. Therefore, it is not considered that there is a pathway for LSE to the QI habitats of this SAC.	
South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA (004024) South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA | Conservation Objectives Accessed on 13 November 2026	*Species* • 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]	11.8 km north-east (straight line) and 19 river km (hydrological) distance	Mobile species	This SPA is within the core range of many of these species, but most of these species require coastal and intertidal habitats, and the habitats within or proximal to the Proposed Project are not suitable. Light-bellied Brent Geese and Black-headed Gull are known to forage on amenity grasslands (SNH, 2016; Woodward *et al.,* 2019). However, as the amenity grassland of the pitch is intensely managed, frequently used and of low value, the lack of any records for Light-bellied Brent Goose, in addition to the numerous alternative known foraging sited for Light-bellied Brent Goose at a distance from the Proposed Project (Enviroguide Consulting, 2019), it is unlikely that these species would be present on site. Given the scope of the Proposed Project, the unsuitability of the intensely managed and regularly used grassland to support the species of this SPA (in particular Light-bellied Brent	N

European Site (Code)	List of Qualifying Interests	Distance from the Proposed Project (km)	Criteria	Pathway for Potential Effects	Considered Further in Screening (Y/N)
	• 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]			Goose and Black-headed Gull), no potential effects to any QI species are envisaged. Similar to South Dublin SAC above, it is not considered that there is a potential pathway for water quality changes to effect the habitats within this SPA supporting these QI species. Therefore, it is considered that there are no pathways for LSEs to this SPA or any of its mobile QI species.	
Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA (004063) Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA | Conservation Objectives Accessed on 13 November 2026	*Species* • Greylag Goose (*Anser anser*) [A043] • Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*) [A183]	13.4 km south-west (straight line) distance	Mobile species	The Proposed Project is within the core range of these two species. Greylag Goose are known to opportunistically forage on amenity grasses (including sporting pitches), and Lesser Black-backed Gull are known to nest on rooftops or urban developments and therefore may be present near the Proposed Project area. However, given the unsuitability of the intensely managed grassland to support foraging, and the alternative functional habitat in the surrounding area, it is unlikely that there will be any significant effects to any of the species	N

European Site (Code)	List of Qualifying Interests	Distance from the Proposed Project (km)	Criteria	Pathway for Potential Effects	Considered Further in Screening (Y/N)
				Therefore, it is considered that there is no potential pathway for LSEs to this SPA or its mobile QI species.	
North Bull Island SPA (004006) North Bull Island SPA | Conservation Objectives Accessed on 13 November 2026	*Species* • Light-bellied Brent Goose (*Branta bernicla hrota*) [A046] • Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*) [A048] • Teal (*Anas crecca*) [A052] • Pintail (*Anas acuta*) [A054] • Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*) [A130] • Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*) [A140] • Grey Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*) [A141] • Knot (*Calidris canutus*) [A143] • Sanderling (*Calidris alba*) [A144] • Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*) [A149] • Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*) [A156] • Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*) [A157]	15.2 km north-east (straight line) distance	Mobile species	The Proposed Project is within the potential foraging range of several QI species of this SPA. While most of these species require coastal, intertidal and wetland habitats, which are not present within the Proposed Project area, Light-bellied Brent Goose, Golden Plover, Curlew and Black-headed Gull may utilise inland grasslands for foraging (SNH, 2016; Woodward *et al.*, 2019). However given the scope of the Proposed Project, the lack of records, the unsuitability of the intensely managed and regularly used grassland to support the species of this SPA, no potential effects to any QI species are envisaged. Therefore, it is considered that there are no pathways for LSEs to this SPA or any of its mobile QI species.	N

European Site (Code)	List of Qualifying Interests	Distance from the Proposed Project (km)	Criteria	Pathway for Potential Effects	Considered Further in Screening (Y/N)
	• Curlew (*Numenius arquata*) [A160] • Redshank (*Tringa totanus*) [A162] • Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*) [A169] • Black-headed Gull (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*) [A179] • Shoveler (*Spatula clypeata*) [A857] • Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]				
North-west Irish Sea SPA (004236) North-west Irish Sea SPA | Conservation Objectives Accessed on 13 November 2026	*Species* • Red-throated Diver (*Gavia stellata*) [A001] • Great Northern Diver (*Gavia immer*) [A003] • Fulmar (*Fulmarus glacialis*) [A009] • Manx Shearwater (*Puffinus puffinus*) [A013] • Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) [A017] • Shag (*Phalacrocorax aristotelis*) [A018] • Common Scoter (*Melanitta nigra*) [A065]	16.4 km north-east (straight line) distance	Mobile species	The Proposed Project is at the upper ranges of many of these QI species, however the gull species are known to forage inland and utilise urban environments for nesting foraging and opportunities. Black-headed Gull, Common Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Herring Gull and Great Black-backed Gull may therefore be present within or near the Proposed Project area. Historic records of Black-headed Gull, Common Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull and Herring Gull were returned within 2 km of the Proposed Project. However, given the current use of the Proposed Project as a functioning sporting facility, the unsuitability of the of the amenity grassland to support these species and the availability of alternative suitable foraging habitats within the wider urban landscape, it is unlikely that the Proposed Project provides significant foraging opportunities for these species. There will be no	N

European Site (Code)	List of Qualifying Interests	Distance from the Proposed Project (km)	Criteria	Pathway for Potential Effects	Considered Further in Screening (Y/N)
	• Black-headed Gull (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*) [A179] • Common Gull (*Larus canus*) [A182] • Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*) [A183] • Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*) [A184] • Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*) [A187] • Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*) [A188] • Roseate Tern (*Sterna dougallii*) [A192] • Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*) [A193] • Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*) [A194] • Guillemot (*Uria aalge*) [A199] • Razorbill (*Alca torda*) [A200] • Puffin (*Fratercula arctica*) [A204] • Little Gull (*Hydrocoloeus minutus*) [A862] • Little Tern (*Sternula albifrons*) [A885]			permanent loss of suitable habitat, and any temporary damage to grassland or indirect disturbance associated with increased human presence, noise and lighting will be limited to a maximum of five events per year. Therefore, it is considered that there are no pathways for LSEs to this SPA or any of its mobile QI species.	

European Site (Code)	List of Qualifying Interests	Distance from the Proposed Project (km)	Criteria	Pathway for Potential Effects	Considered Further in Screening (Y/N)
Dalkey Islands SPA (004172) Dalkey Islands SPA | Conservation Objectives Accessed on 13 November 2026	*Species* • Roseate Tern (*Sterna dougallii*) [A192] • Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*) [A193] • Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*) [A194]	18.5 km east (straight line) distance	Mobile species	Tern species have a large known foraging range (Woodward *et al.*, 2019) but are specialized species which require marine and coastal environments for foraging, nesting and roosting. There are no such suitable habitats within or in proximity to the Proposed Project and none of these QI species are likely to be present within the area. Therefore, it is considered that there are no pathways for LSEs to this SPA or its mobile QI species.	N
Baldoyle Bay SPA (004016) Baldoyle Bay SPA | Conservation Objectives Accessed on 13 November 2026	*Species* • Light-bellied Brent Goose (*Branta bernicla hrota*) [A046] • Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*) [A048] • Ringed Plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*) [A137] • Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*) [A140] • Grey Plover *(Pluvialis squatarola*) [A141] • Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*) [A157] • Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	20 km north-east (straight line) distance	Mobile species	This SPA is at the upper limit of the known core range for Light-bellied Brent Goose and other similar geese species, however beyond the range for the other QI species (Clausen *et al.*, 2013; SNH, 2016). Similar, to other SPAs in this table above, given the closest known record of Light-bellied Brent Goose is 3.5km from the site, it is considered that there are no potential pathways for LSEs to this SPA or any of its mobile QI species.	N

European Site (Code)	List of Qualifying Interests	Distance from the Proposed Project (km)	Criteria	Pathway for Potential Effects	Considered Further in Screening (Y/N)
Howth Head Coast SPA (004113) Howth Head Coast SPA | Conservation Objectives Accessed on 13 November 2026	*Species* • Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*) [A188]	23 km north-east (straight line) distance	Mobile species	Kittiwake has a large known foraging range (Woodward *et al*., 2019). However, it is a marine species which requires coastal and marine environments for foraging and nesting. While the Proposed Project is within the potential foraging range of this species, there are no suitable habitats within or in proximity to the Proposed Project, and it is unlikely that individuals comprising the population of this SPA will be present within the area. Therefore, it is considered that there are no potential pathways for LSEs to this SPA or its mobile QI species.	N
Malahide Estuary SPA (004025) Malahide Estuary SPA | Conservation Objectives Accessed on 13 November 2026	Species • Great Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*) [A005] • Light-bellied Brent Goose (*Branta bernicla hrota*) [A046] • Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*) [A048] • Pintail (*Anas acuta*) [A054] • Goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*) [A067] • Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator*) [A069] • Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*) [A130]	23 km north (straight line) distance	Mobile species	The Proposed Project is beyond the typical core foraging ranges of these QI species and therefore it is unlikely that individuals comprising the population of this SPA will be present within the Proposed Project or nearby areas. Therefore, it is considered that there are no potential pathways for LSEs to this SPA or any of its mobile QI species.	N

European Site (Code)	List of Qualifying Interests	Distance from the Proposed Project (km)	Criteria	Pathway for Potential Effects	Considered Further in Screening (Y/N)
	• Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*) [A140] • Grey Plover *(Pluvialis squatarola*) [A141] • Knot (*Calidris canutus*) [A143] • Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*) [A149] • Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*) [A156] • Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*) [A157] • Redshank (*Tringa totanus*) [A162] • Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]				
Ireland's Eye SPA (004117) Ireland's Eye SPA | Conservation Objectives Accessed on 13 November 2026	*Species* • Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) [A017] • Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*) [A184] • Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*) [A188] • Guillemot (*Uria aalge*) [A199]	24 km north-east (straight line) distance	Mobile species	Most of the QI species of this SPA require coastal and intertidal habitats, however Herring Gull are known to be present in more inland habitats and urban environments. Given the distance and known ranges of these QI species, and alternative suitable habitats in the wider area, it is unlikely that any of the Herring Gull from this SPA will be present within the Proposed Project area. Therefore, it is considered that there are no potential pathways for LSEs to this SPA or any of its mobile QI species.	N

European Site (Code)	List of Qualifying Interests	Distance from the Proposed Project (km)	Criteria	Pathway for Potential Effects	Considered Further in Screening (Y/N)
	• Razorbill (*Alca torda*) [A200]				
The Murrough SPA (004186) The Murrough SPA | Conservation Objectives Accessed on 13 November 2026	*Species* • Red-throated Diver (*Gavia stellata*) [A001] • Greylag Goose (*Anser anser*) [A043] • Light-bellied Brent Goose (*Branta bernicla hrota*) [A046] • Teal (*Anas crecca*) [A052] • Black-headed Gull (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*) [A179] • Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*) [A184] • Wigeon (*Mareca penelope*) [A855] • Little Tern (*Sternula albifrons*) [A885] • Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	26.9 km south-east (straight line) distance	Mobile species	The Proposed Project beyond the core range of these species. It is unlikely that individuals comprising the population of this SPA will be present within the Proposed Project or nearby areas. Therefore, it is considered that there are no potential pathways for LSEs to this SPA or any of its mobile QI species.	N
Rogerstown Estuary SPA (004015) Rogerstown Estuary SPA | Conservation Objectives	*Species* • Greylag Goose (*Anser anser*) [A043]	27 km north (straight line) distance	Mobile species	Similar to above, the Proposed Project beyond the core range for most of these QI species. It is unlikely that individuals comprising the population of this SPA will be present within the Proposed Project or nearby areas.	N

European Site (Code)	List of Qualifying Interests	Distance from the Proposed Project (km)	Criteria	Pathway for Potential Effects	Considered Further in Screening (Y/N)
Accessed on 13 November 2026	• Light-bellied Brent Goose (*Branta bernicla hrota*) [A046] • Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*) [A048] • Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*) [A130] • Ringed Plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*) [A137] • Grey Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*) [A141] • Knot (*Calidris canutus*) [A143] • Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*) [A149] • Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*) [A156] • Redshank (*Tringa totanus*) [A162] • Shoveler (*Spatula clypeata*) [A857] • Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]			Therefore, it is considered that there are no potential pathways for LSEs to this SPA or any of its mobile QI species.	

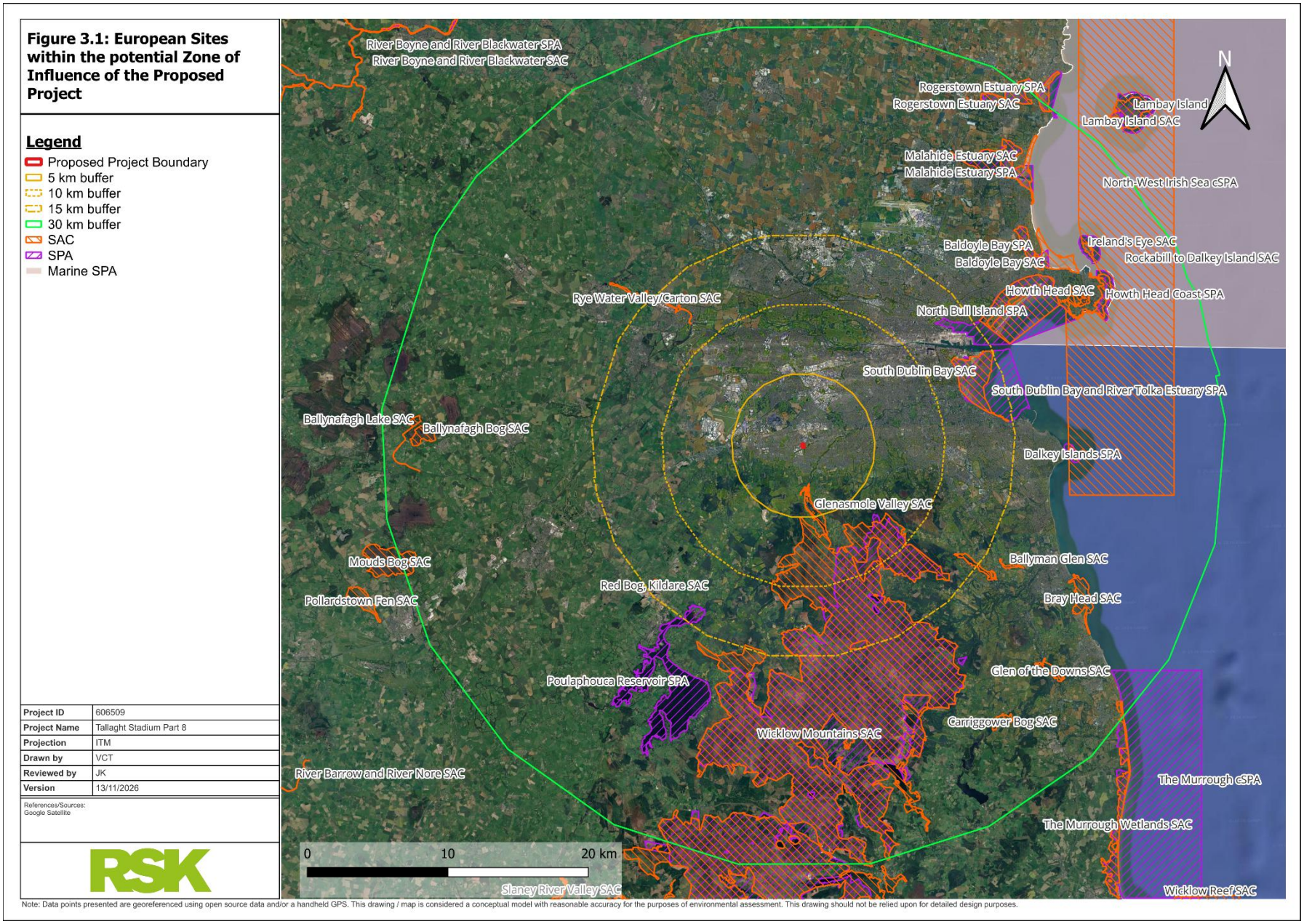

Figure 3.1: European Sites within the potential Zone of Influence of the Proposed Project

3.3 Consideration of In-combination Effects with Other Plans or Projects

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 Project are considered in-combination with any other plans or projects within the ZoI.

The consideration of in-combination effects with other plans or projects, focused on the sources of impacts identified for the Proposed Project in Section 2.3 and ecological pathways identified in Section 3.2.

In carrying out the in-combination assessment, regard was had to the South Dublin County Development Plan 2022-2028, existing permitted development within the vicinity of Tallaght Stadium and the established operation of Tallaght Stadium as a sporting venue.

As there were no potential pathways for Likely Significant Effects identified to any European site (Table 3.1), there is no potential for the Proposed Project to have any likely significant in-combination effects on European sites with other plans or projects.

3.4 Likely Significant Effects

3.4.1 Identification of Likely Significant Effects

This section of the report explains the metrics used when assessing if the potential effects (previously identified) are likely to result in significant implications for European sites.

As identified in Section 3.2 and Table 3.1, there are no potential for this Proposed Project to have LSEs on any European site.

3.5 Screening Conclusion

The results of the S-P-R modelling process identified that - given the scale and nature of the potential sources identified in Table 2.1 and no potential pathways identified in Table 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 Project and has been undertaken without the reliance on measures intended to avoid or reduce effects on European sites. 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 QIs, SCIs or the conservation objectives of any designated European site. Accordingly, Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment is not required.

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APPENDIX A – PROPOSED PROJECT LOCATION AND WFD WATERBODIES

Appendix B: Proposed Project location and nearby WFD Waterbodies



Project ID	606509
Project Name	Tallaght Stadium Part 8
Projection	ITM
Drawn by	VCT
Reviewed by	JK
Version	13/11/2026

References/Sources:
Google Satellite

Note: Data points presented are georeferenced using open source data and/or a handheld GPS. This drawing / map is considered a conceptual model with reasonable accuracy for the purposes of environmental assessment. This drawing should not be relied upon for detailed design purposes.