



Ecological Survey & Appropriate Assessment Screening Report:
**Proposed North Stand development at Tallaght Stadium,
Dublin 24**

Prepared for Cooney Architects Limited

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Proposed works at Tallaght Stadium

Works are proposed at Tallaght Stadium, Dublin 24. It is planned by South Dublin County Council to develop a new North spectator stand in the existing stadium, increasing spectator capacity to approximately 10,000. A description of the planned works is provided in Section 1.4.2.

The following report has been completed to provide information regarding the ecological status of the proposed site of works. The report includes a general ecological assessment of the site and the surrounding area, including designated sites. This report has also been completed to provide the information necessary to allow the competent authority to conduct an Article 6[3] Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening of the proposed development. The legislation and methodology for which is detailed in the following sections below.

Following this Appropriate Assessment screening, it has been concluded that no impacts are likely as a result of the proposed development on the conservation objectives or overall integrity of any Natura 2000 Site. **Therefore, Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment is not required.**

1.2 Relevant legislation and overall screening methodology

The methodology for this screening statement is clearly set out in a document prepared for the Environment DG of the European Commission entitled ‘Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura2000 sites: methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC’ (Oxford Brooks University, 2001). This report and any contributory fieldwork were carried out in accordance with guidelines given by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government (2009, amended 2010).

The process is given in Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive and is commonly referred to as ‘*Appropriate Assessments*’ (which in fact refers to Stage 2 in the sequence under the Habitats Directive Article 6 assessment). Article 6 of the Habitats Directive sets out provisions which govern the conservation and management of Natura 2000 sites. Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive set out the decision-making tests for plans and projects likely to affect Natura 2000 sites (Annex 1.1). Article 6(3) establishes the requirement for Appropriate Assessment.

“Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the (Natura2000) site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subjected to 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 implication 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) of the same directive states:

"If, in spite of a negative assessment of the implications for the site and in the absence of alternative solutions, a plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of social or economic nature, the Member State shall take all compensatory measures necessary to ensure that the overall coherence of the Natura 2000 is protected. It shall inform the Commission of the compensatory measures adopted. Where the site concerned hosts a priority natural habitat type and/or a priority species the only considerations which may be raised are those relating to human health or public safety, to beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment or, further to an opinion from the Commission, to other imperative reasons of overriding public interest."

It is the responsibility of the proponent of the plan or project to provide the relevant information (ecological surveys, research, analysis etc.) for submission to the 'competent national authority'. Having satisfied itself that the information is complete and objective, the competent authority will use this information to screen the project, i.e. to determine if an AA is required and to carry out the AA, if one is deemed necessary. The competent authority shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned.

The appropriate assessment process has four stages. Each stage determines whether a further stage in the process is required. If, for example, the conclusions at the end of Stage One are that there will be no significant impacts on the Natura 2000 site, there is no requirement to proceed further. The four stages are:

1. Screening to determine if an appropriate assessment is required
2. Appropriate assessment
3. Consideration of alternative solutions
4. Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest/Derogation

Stage 1. Screening

This is to determine if an appropriate assessment is required. Screening is the technique applied to determine whether a particular plan would be likely to have significant effects on a Natura 2000 site and would thus warrant an Appropriate Assessment. The key indicator that will determine if an Appropriate Assessment is required is the determination of whether the development is likely to have *significant environmental effects* on a Natura 2000 site or not.

Stage 2. Appropriate Assessment

This step is required if the screening report indicates that the development is likely to have a significant impact on a Natura 2000 site. Stage 2 assesses the impact of a plan or project on the integrity of the Natura 2000 site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, with respect to the site's structure, function, and conservation objectives. Where there are adverse impacts, an assessment of the potential mitigation of these impacts is also required.

Stage 3. Assessment of Alternative Solutions

If it is concluded that, subsequent to the implementation of measures, a plan or project will have an adverse impact on the integrity of a Natura 2000 site, it must be objectively concluded that no alternative solutions exist before the plan or project can proceed.

Stage 4. Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest/Derogation

Where no alternative solutions exist and where adverse impacts remain but imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI) exist for the implementation of a plan or project, an assessment of compensatory measures that will effectively offset the damage to the Natura 2000 site will be necessary.

Flynn, Furney Environmental Consultants Ltd has been appointed by Cooney Architects to undertake the first stage of the above process: a screening exercise to determine whether the proposed development has the potential to have any significant or indeterminate impacts on the conservation objectives and overall integrity of any Natura 2000 sites. This assessment is based upon desk study and fieldwork carried out by suitably qualified ecologists. This document includes a detailed description of the development in Section 1.4. The sites within 15km of the proposed development are then reviewed for potential impacts or pathways for impacts. Sections 4 and 5 of the report comprise the AA Screening that specifically focus on the potential for impacts on Natura 2000 sites and their conservation objectives.

1.3 The site: Lands at Tallaght Stadium

The study site is located in the existing Tallaght Stadium, Tallaght, Dublin 24. The Stadium is located at the junction of the N81 dual carriageway and Whitestown Way. The area is dominated by residential and commercial premises to the north and west with parkland (Seán Walsh Pak) located to the east and south. The Whitestown Stream flows west to east and is approximately 300 metres south of the site of proposed development.

The Tallaght stadium is an operating football ground with existing stands to the south, east and

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west of the football pitch. A car park is located to the south of the stadium, separating it from Seán Walsh Park. There are no mature trees, scrub or other areas of habitat considered important for local flora and fauna that require removal to facilitate the construction of the proposed North Stand.

1.4 Description of the planned development

1.4.1 Introduction

1.4.2 Description of the Works

The proposed development comprises of provision of a new north spectator stand, works mainly including refurbishment and internal alterations to the West stand, upgrades of accessible seating to the South stand, and all associated site & development works:

New North stand:

- Proposed capacity of 2,500 to include covered universal accessible seating above pitch level, with an overall footprint area of 1,700 sq.m, and all associated enclosed ancillary floor area of 860 sq.m, comprising: ground floor undercroft units 564 sq.m, concessions, toilets and plant / service areas at ground and first floor levels 296 sq.m.

Existing West Stand:

- Refurbishment and alterations to existing West stand & associated accommodation to upgrade accommodation at ground and first floors & modification of central seating area.
(NOTE: No increase of floor area or building volume)

Ground floor level:

- Internal alterations to the existing building to existing shop & office accommodation, internal fit-out of existing kitchen area and other internal minor alterations to layouts and all ancillary internal alterations to provide storage, office accommodation, media areas, changing rooms, toilets, staff/canteen areas, throughout.

First floor level:

- Fit out of existing Kitchen, lobby & storage to existing multipurpose room. Alteration & refurbishment of existing bar.

Existing South Stand:

- Alterations to existing universal accessible seating, to provide enhanced raised and covered universal accessible seating at above pitch level, with improved access and sightlines to pitch. No adjustment to the existing South Stand capacity.

The overall site area being 41,221sq.m, and the footprint area relating to this application being 3,896sq.m with the Stadium capacity to increase from Circa 8,000 to 10,000.

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Site development works comprising; new/ altered turnstile access provision and exit gates to new North stand, no alterations to car parking, provision of 50 no. cycle parking spaces, hard surfaced area to new North Stand and associated public lighting. No alterations to existing stadium floodlighting.

The development also incorporates, alterations to boundary treatments including associated demolitions and adjustments to ground levels, mainly at proposed new North Stand location, all associated signage, hard and soft landscaping, services above and below ground, including new foul connection and all ancillary associated site development works.

1.5 Stakeholders and Consultation

The consultations carried out to date are summarised below in Table 1:

Table 1. Summary of Consultations

Stakeholder	Nature of Consultation	Outcome
Cooney Architects Limited	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Arranging site visit as part of the AA Screening process ▪ Obtaining relevant documents such as Engineering and Flood Risk Reports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Site visit / assessments completed. ▪ Desktop research carried out ▪ Appropriate Assessment Screening carried out ▪ Non-requirement for a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment (NIS) confirmed

2. ECOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT WORKS

2.1 Desktop Study

A desktop study was carried out as part of the screening process. This included a review of available literature on the site and its immediate environs. Sources of information included the National Parks and Wildlife Service and National Biodiversity Data Centre (NBDC) databases on protected sites and species. The site is located within tetrad O02Y (a tetrad being an area of 2km²). A search of the NBDC's online portal¹ returned the following species of high conservation value

¹ <https://maps.biodiversityireland.ie/Map> Accessed June 20th, 2020

and concern from within this tetrad (Table 2).

Table 2. Species of high conservation value / concern recorded from tetrad O02Y

Common name	Scientific name	Conservation status
Common Frog	<i>Rana temporaria</i>	EU Habitats Directive Annex V species. Irish Wildlife Acts
Back-headed gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	BoCCI ² Red list species
Herring gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	BoCCI Red listed species
Little egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	EU Birds Directive Annex I species
Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	EU Birds Directive Annex II species. BoCCI Red listed.
Daubenton's bat	<i>Myotis daubentonii</i>	EU Habitats Directive Annex IV species. Irish Wildlife Acts.

None of the above species occur within the footprint of the proposed development and no habitat required by these species will be lost.

2.1.1 Designated Sites

Sites designated for the conservation of nature include Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) and proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs) which are designated for the protection of species, habitats and geological interests that are of national importance. Sites designated for protection by the EU are Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs). These form the *Natura 2000* network of sites and are sometimes referred to as 'European' sites. It is these sites that are of relevance to the screening process for Appropriate Assessment.

All designated sites within 15km of the proposed works were considered during the desktop study stage of the screening assessment in order to assess the potential for significant effects upon their Qualifying Interests / Special Conservation Interests and Conservation Objectives. This stage of the process is used to determine whether any of the designated sites may be 'screened out'. That is, that they can be regarded as not being relevant to the process, having no potential to be significantly affected or impacted upon. This may be due to: a) the distance of the designated sites from the site of proposed works, b) the lack of connectivity such as watercourse or habitat area between the designated sites and the site of the proposed works or c) the nature of the qualifying interests of the designated sites.

2.1.2 European designated sites within 15km of the planned works

All European designated sites (SACs and SPAs), as described above, within 15km of the proposed

² Colhoun K and Cummins S (2013) 'Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland 2014 – 2019'. *Irish Birds* 9: 523 - 544

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development were considered during the screening process for the potential of having significant effects upon their qualifying interests or special qualifying interests or conservation objectives³⁴, as a result of the construction and/or operating phases of this development. Site synopses and conservation objectives of the sites (as available) were also examined during this stage of the survey. These sites are listed in Table 3 below. This table also gives distance from the proposed site of works and the outcome of the screening. These sites are:

- Glenasmole Valley SAC (001209)
- Wicklow Mountains SAC (002122)
- Wicklow Mountains SPA (004040)
- Rye Water Valley / Carton SAC (001398)
- South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA (004024)
- South Dublin Bay SAC (000210)
- Knocksink Wood SAC (000725)
- Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA (004063)

Figures 1 and 2 show the locations of the identified SAC and SPA sites in relation to the planned development site.

Table 3. Designated Sites within 15km of the Proposed Works

Site Code	Site Name	Distance To (km)	Screening Criteria
	Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)		
001209	Glenasmole Valley SAC	2.9	No potential pathways for impacts. No hydrological connections exist between the Natura 2000 site and the proposed work location. Distance between site and proposed work location contribute to the lack of likely impact.
002122	Wicklow Mountains SAC	5.2	No potential pathways for impacts. No hydrological connections exist between the Natura 2000 site and the proposed work location. Distance between site and proposed work location contribute to the lack of likely impact.
001398	Rye Water Valley / Carton SAC	11.5	No potential pathways for impacts. No hydrological connections exist between the Natura 2000 site and the proposed work location. Distance between site and proposed work location contribute to the lack of likely impact.

³ <https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/sac>

⁴ <https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/spa>

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Site Code	Site Name	Distance To (km)	Screening Criteria
000210	South Dublin Bay SAC	11.6	No potential pathways for impacts. No hydrological connections exist between the Natura 2000 site and the proposed work location. Distance between site and proposed work location contribute to the lack of likely impact.
00725	Knocksink Wood SAC	13.3	No potential pathways for impacts. No hydrological connections exist between the Natura 2000 site and the proposed work location. Distance between site and proposed work location contribute to the lack of likely impact.
Special Protection Areas (SPAs)			
004040	Wicklow Mountains SPA	7.1	No potential pathways for impacts. No hydrological connections exist between the Natura 2000 site and the proposed work location, and the designated site is located upstream of the proposed work. Distance between site and proposed work location contribute to the lack of likely impact.
004024	South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary	11.6	No potential pathways for impacts. No hydrological connections exist between the Natura 2000 site and the proposed work location, and the designated site is located upstream of the proposed work. Distance between site and proposed work location contribute to the lack of likely impact.
004063	Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA	13.7	No potential pathways for impacts. No hydrological connections exist between the Natura 2000 site and the proposed work location, and the designated site is located upstream of the proposed work. Distance between site and proposed work location contribute to the lack of likely impact.

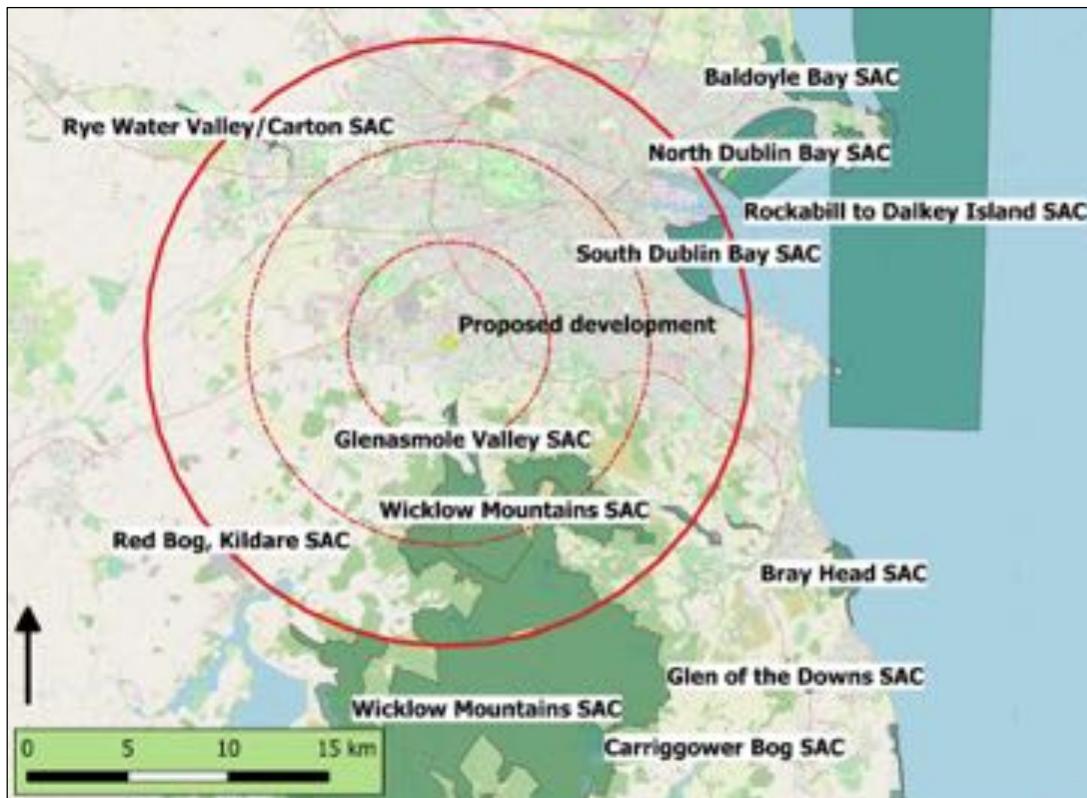


Figure 1. SAC sites within 15km of the proposed development site

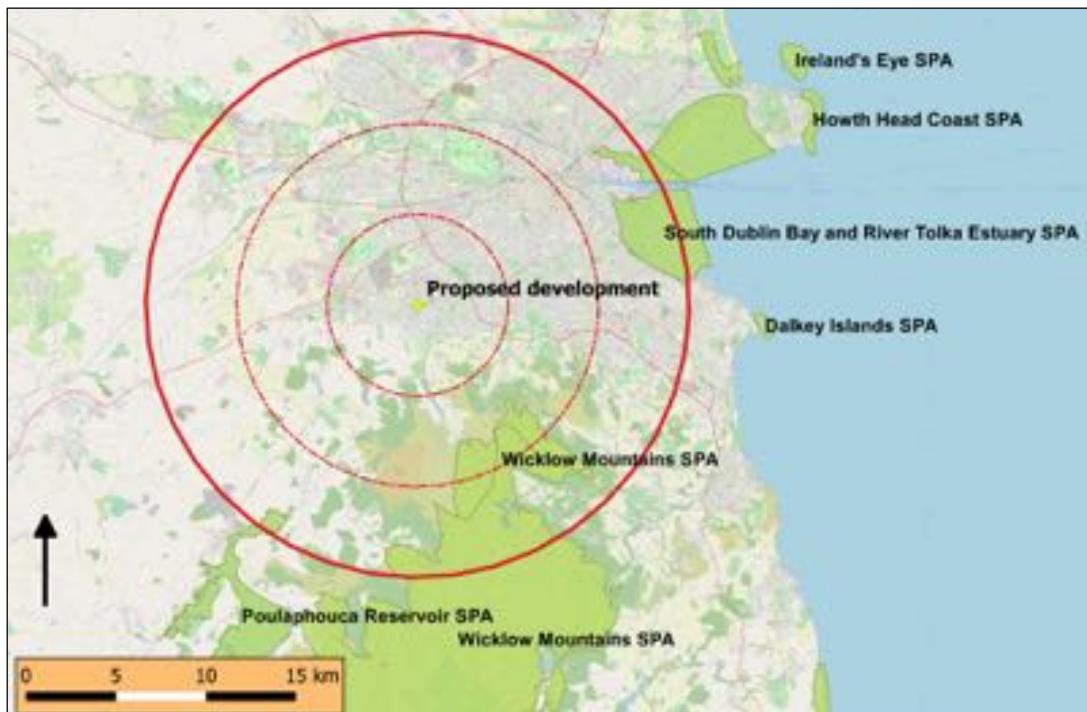


Figure 2. SPA sites within 15km of the proposed development site

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No potential pathways for impacts on the Natura 2000 sites listed above were identified.

Proposed works do not have potential for any likely impacts upon these designated sites. This is due to:

- Distance of site of works from closest designated sites
- Lack of any hydrological conductivity between the sites.
- Limited nature and small scale of works.

These sites are therefore not considered further in this document. While a number of proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs) occur within 15km of the site proposed for works, these are not considered within the screening process methodology.

2.2 Field Surveys

A site survey was carried out on June 9th, 2020 and established baseline ecological conditions within the stadium where the proposed stand will be located and also the habitats adjacent to the stadium. Habitats were identified and classified according to the guidelines given by the JNCC (2010) and Smith et al. (2011). Any signs of mammals seen were recorded as part of these surveys. A dedicated bird survey was not carried out as part of the survey. However, any species observed were noted and recorded. Any presence of or suitable habitat for amphibian and reptile species were recorded. Habitat classification followed Fossitt (2000) and the floral nomenclature used follows Parnell and Curtis (2012) and Scannell and Synnott (1987).

There are no watercourses within or in the immediate vicinity of the site to act as a hydrological pathway to any Natura 2000 site.

2.2.1 Detailed description of habitats within the site

- *Buildings and artificial surfaces (BL3)*

The existing stadium comprises of three spectator stands on the western, eastern, and southern sides of the football pitch. There are also a number of turnstile buildings along the perimeter of the stadium grounds. A car park is located to the south of the stadium, separating the site from Seán Walsh Park.

- *Amenity Grassland (improved) (GA2)*

The football pitch is heavily manicured with a specific graminoid (grass) turve composition. No species diversity occurs on the pitch.

- *Recolonising bare ground (ED3)*

The location of the proposed north stand is an area of formerly bare soil what has revegetated

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with ruderals and grasses. No rare or invasive species were recorded here.



Plate 1. GA2 grassland. The site for the planned North Stand is between the two floodlights.



Plate 2. Car park to the rear of the South Stand.



Plate 3. Location of the planned North Stand. Photo looking westwards.

Surrounding / Adjacent Lands

Seán Walsh Park is located to the south and east of the stadium and contains a mosaic of habitats. The Whitestown Stream flows through the park and has been modified to create ponds for wildfowl. This stream flows eastwards and meets the River Dodder approximately 2.4km east of the site.

The park contains a large area of species poor maintained open amenity grassland (GA2) to the east of the stadium with areas of scattered planted trees (*WD5 Scattered trees and parkland*) and treelines (*WL2*), principally along the banks of the Whitestown Stream. Tree species recorded include ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, alder *Alnus glutinosa*, birch *Betula* spp., elder *Sambucus nigra* and oak *Quercus* spp.



Plate 4. Seán Walsh Park to the south and east of Tallaght Stadium. Whitestown Stream flowing eastwards.

2.2.2 Significance of Habitats

None of the habitats occurring within the site, or immediately adjacent, are classified as of high conservation concern / sensitivity. There are no Annex I habitats occurring within or beside the area proposed for works. No rare, threatened, or protected species of plants as per the Red Data List (Wyse Jackson et al., 2016) were found. No species listed in the Flora Protection Order (2015) were found to be growing within the site. No such species were recorded within the area of works.

2.3 Fauna

2.3.1 Mammal Activity

No evidence of mammal activity was noted within the site. Evidence of rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) activity was seen in the park grassland to the east of the stadium.

2.3.2 Bats

A dedicated bat survey employing bat detectors after dusk was not carried out as part of this survey. No habitats or features of potential use to bats will be lost or removed as part of this development. No additional floodlights, or modification to the existing floodlights is proposed as part of this development resulting in no increase in floodlight illumination.

2.3.3 Breeding Birds

A dedicated bird survey was not carried out as part of the ecological surveys. However, birds seen and confirmed nesting inside the stadium grounds include swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) and house martin (*Delichon urbicum*) (principally using the turnstile buildings). Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*), Rook (*Corvus frugilegus*), Jackdaw (*Corvus monedula*) and feral pigeon *Columba livia domestica* were also observed. The presence of nesting swallow and house martin should be considered if any of the proposed modification works are likely to impact the existing turnstile buildings. Nesting season is March 1st to August 31st and during this period it is illegal under the Wildlife Acts to disturb or destroy a nest belonging to any bird species.

2.3.4 Wintering Wildfowl

No suitable habitat for these species is found within the site under survey. The watercourses and associated habitats located in Seán Walsh Park may provide suitable wintering habitats for wildfowl however no impact upon such species is anticipated as a result of this development.

2.3.5 Freshwater Species, Reptiles and Amphibians

There are no watercourses within the site proposed for works. The Whitestown Stream is the nearest freshwater habitat to the proposed site of works. This will not be affected by the proposed development due to sufficient distance between the site of the proposed development and this watercourse. There are no suitable breeding sites for Common Frog (*Rana temporaria*), Smooth Newt (*Lissotriton vulgaris*) and Common Lizard (*Lacerta vivipara*) within the site.

2.3.6 Significance of Fauna

No species listed on Annex II of the Habitats Directive were found to be occurring on the site. No evidence of any protected mammal species was found during the survey. While all bird species are protected to some extent under Irish legislation, the habitat types found here are typical of much of the surrounding areas and do not offer nesting habitat for any (Birds Directive) Annex species.

2.4 Invasive Species

No invasive species were found within the site or immediately adjacent to the site during the survey.

3. ARTICLE 6(3) SCREENING ASSESSMENT

This section of the report focuses solely on the potential for the proposed works to impact upon Natura 2000 sites. Section 2.1.2 of this report excluded any direct impacts or pathways for impacts on any Natura 2000 sites. This was based upon the proximity of the designated sites to the proposed works. The potential for impacts on the Natura 2000 sites is considered below.

3.1 Article 6(3) Assessment Criteria

3.1.1 Description of the individual elements of the project likely to give rise to impacts on Natura 2000 sites.

None of the individual elements of the proposed development as planned are likely to give rise to significant impacts on the Natura 2000 sites, given the localised scale of the works within existing stadium grounds .

3.1.2 Description of any likely direct, indirect, or secondary impacts of the project on Natura 2000 sites.

Any likely direct, indirect or secondary impacts of the proposed development, both alone and in-combination with other plans or projects, on any Natura 2000 sites SAC by virtue of the following criteria: size and scale, land take, distance from the Natura 2000 site or key feature thereof, resource requirements, emissions, excavation requirements, transportation requirements and duration of construction, operational and decommissioning phases of the works are detailed in the Table 4 below.

Table 4. Assessment of potential likely impacts of the project on the identified Natura 2000 sites

Assessment of potential likely impacts	
Size and scale of proposed development	The proposed works site of approximately 3,896sq.m within the existing Tallaght Stadium grounds represents a small area. There will be no impact on any Natura 2000 sites owing to size or scale of the proposed works.
Land-take	As there are no works proposed within any Natura 2000 Site, there will be no land-take for the purposes of the project within any designated sites.
Distance from Natura 2000 site or key features of the site	Site is 2.9km from the nearest Natura 2000 site – Glenasmole Valley SAC (Site Code 001209). No potential pathways for impacts. No hydrological connections exist between Natura 2000 sites and the proposed work location. Distance between site and proposed work location contribute to the lack of likely impact.
Resource requirements	No materials for construction or water abstraction will be

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	sourced from within any Natura 2000 site.
Emissions	There will be no additional emissions of water from the site. Drainage and wastewater will be to existing mains. No emissions are predicted to have any impact upon any Natura 2000 site.
Excavation requirements	No excavations will take place within any Natura 2000 site. Construction works will be entirely within the area as identified in this screening report.
Transportation requirements	Site has existing access via existing stadium access points and local roads.
Duration of construction, operation, decommissioning	Duration of works not known at time of writing. The operation of the Stadium with an increased capacity will not have any impact on Natura 2000 sites.
Timing of works	Potential impacts on any Natura 2000 site or wildlife species is not a consideration for this proposed development.
Cumulative or In-combination Impacts with other Projects and Plans	The proposed North Stand will be constructed entirely within the grounds of an existing and operating football stadium. The addition of the North Stand will not create any cumulative effects that will impact Natura 2000 sites.

3.1.3 Description of any likely changes to Natura 2000 sites

Any likely changes to the Natura 2000 site are described in Table 5 below with reference to the following criteria: reduction of habitat area, disturbance to key species, habitat or species fragmentation, reduction in species density, changes in key indicators of conservation value and climate change.

Table 5. Likely Changes to Natura 2000 Sites

Assessment of Likely Changes	
Reduction of habitat area	No works will take place within the boundary of any Natura 2000 site. There will be no loss of habitat within any Natura 2000 site as a result of the proposed works.
Disturbance of key species	All works associated with the proposed development will take place outside the boundaries of the Natura 2000 sites. None of the qualifying interests of the Natura 2000 sites were recorded during survey. No significant impacts on any key species have therefore been considered likely.
Habitat or species fragmentation	There will be no works within any SAC or SPA. No impacts on any qualifying species are predicted. Therefore, there will be no impact within the Natura 2000 sites with regard to habitat or species fragmentation.
Reduction in species density	No reduction in species density will occur within any SAC or SPA as a result of the proposed works.
Changes in key indicators of conservation value	Habitat integrity is the most relevant of the key indicators of conservation value with regard to the nearest Natura 2000 site.

	<p>However, the risk of any significant impacts on water quality within these sites during the construction phase can be excluded due to nature of the works and absence of any hydrological connectivity. There will be no impacts on any habitat areas outside the site.</p> <p>As stated above, there will be no loss or reduction in habitat areas or quality within any designated site.</p>
Climate change	<p>No damage to any Natura 2000 site as a result of or in combination with enhanced climate change is predicted as a result of the proposed development.</p> <p>Rainfall intensities were increased by a factor of 10% to take account of climate change, as required by the GDSDS for attenuation storage design.</p>

3.1.4 Likelihood of Interference with the key relationships that define the structure and function of Natura 2000 site as a whole

It is considered that there will be no significant impacts from the proposed works. The proposed works will therefore not interfere with key relationships that define the structure and function of any Natura 2000 site.

3.1.5 Indicators of Significance as a Result of the Identification of Effects

Indicators of significance as a result of the identification of effects as set out above in terms of loss, fragmentation, disruption, disturbance, and changes to the key elements of site are detailed in Table 6 below.

Table 6. Indicators of significance

Indicators of Significance	
Loss	<p>There will be no loss of habitat within any Natura 2000 Site as a result of the proposed works.</p> <p>It is not anticipated that the loss of any species of conservation interest will occur as a result of the proposed works due to injury or mortality.</p>
Fragmentation	No habitat fragmentation to any SAC or SPA is predicted. No habitats of high ecological significance within or outside the nearest Natura 2000 sites will be impacted upon as part of the proposed works.
Disruption	No impacts on any Natura 2000 Site are identified as a result of the disruption of any processes.
Disturbance	There will be no disturbance to species of conservation interest or their

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	habitat within any Natura 2000 Site as a result of the proposed works.
Change to key elements of site (e.g. water quality etc.)	<p>There will be no impacts on water quality. Best practice construction methods will be put in place prior to and for the duration of works. These will ensure adherence to good site practices.</p> <p>Water attenuation and sediment interception storage will be utilised to prevent pollutants and sediments from entering into watercourses (principally the Whitestown Stream). The use of SuDs features is a requirement of the GDSDS (Greater Dublin Strategic drainage Study) and the features proposed for the development include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permeable paving • Green roofs • Hydrobrake flow control and storage for up to a 1% AEP event • Full Retention Interceptor <p>Foul Drainage</p> <p>An existing 750mm diameter concrete sewer line runs north to south along Whitestown Way. The proposed topographical and GPR surveys assisted DBFL in identifying the location of any existing connecting spurs from the Stadium site to this line, and also the existing private foul network across the site.</p> <p>The wastewater for the proposed New North Stand development has been designed in accordance with Irish water technical standard for Wastewater Gravity Sewers. A pre-connection enquiry form is currently being prepared and will be submitted to Irish Water in due course to confirm the public network has capacity to accommodate the proposed development ⁵.</p>

3.1.6 Description of any Likely Significant Impacts or Indeterminate Impacts of the Project on the Natura 2000 Site

Based on a consideration of the likely impacts arising from the proposed works and a review of their significance in terms of the conservation interests and objectives of the Natura 2000 Sites screened, no significant impacts have been identified on the Natura 2000 sites as a result of the proposed development.

⁵ Tallaght Stadium North Stand Development Infrastructure Design Report. DBFL Consulting Engineers. May 2020

4. FINDINGS OF ARTICLE 6(3) SCREENING ASSESSMENT

(a) Name of project or plan: New North Stand, Tallaght Stadium, Whitestown Way, Dublin 24.

(b) Name and location of Natura 2000 Site: Works are proposed at Tallaght Stadium, Dublin 24. The nearest Natura 2000 site is Glenasmole Valley (site code 001209), located 2.9km south of the stadium.

(c) Description of project or plan: The proposed development comprises of provision of a new north spectator stand, works mainly including refurbishment and internal alterations to the West stand, upgrades of accessible seating to the South stand, and all associated site & development works:

New North stand:

- Proposed capacity of 2,500 to include covered universal accessible seating above pitch level, with an overall footprint area of 1,700 sq.m, and all associated enclosed ancillary floor area of 860 sq.m, comprising: ground floor undercroft units 564 sq.m, concessions, toilets and plant / service areas at ground and first floor levels 296 sq.m.

Existing West Stand:

- Refurbishment and alterations to existing West stand & associated accommodation to upgrade accommodation at ground and first floors & modification of central seating area.
(NOTE: No increase of floor area or building volume)

Ground floor level:

- Internal alterations to the existing building to existing shop & office accommodation, internal fit-out of existing kitchen area and other internal minor alterations to layouts and all ancillary internal alterations to provide storage, office accommodation, media areas, changing rooms, toilets, staff/canteen areas, throughout.

First floor level:

- Fit out of existing Kitchen, lobby & storage to existing multipurpose room. Alteration & refurbishment of existing bar.

Existing South Stand:

- Alterations to existing universal accessible seating, to provide enhanced raised and covered universal accessible seating at above pitch level, with improved access and sightlines to pitch. No adjustment to the existing South Stand capacity.

The overall site area being 41,221sq.m, and the footprint area relating to this application being 3,896sq.m with the Stadium capacity to increase from Circa 8,000 to 10,000.

Site development works comprising; new/altered turnstile access provision and exit gates to new North stand, no alterations to car parking, provision of 50 no. cycle parking spaces, hard surfaced

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area to new North Stand and associated public lighting. No alterations to existing stadium floodlighting.

The development also incorporates, alterations to boundary treatments including associated demolitions and adjustments to ground levels, mainly at proposed new North Stand location, all associated signage, hard and soft landscaping, services above and below ground, including new foul connection and all ancillary associated site development works.

(d) Is the project or plan directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site?

The project is not directly connected with or necessary for the management of any Natura 2000 site.

(e) Are there other projects or plans that together with the project or plan being assessed could affect the site (provide details)?

On the basis that the proposed project will have no impacts on any Natura 2000 site and the development is being undertaken within the footprint of an existing football stadium, and there being no other significant projects predicted as having potential impacts, no cumulative or in-combination impacts are predicted.

4.1 Assessment of Significance of Effects

(a) Describe how the project or plan (alone or in combination) is likely to affect the Natura 2000 site

The proposed project will not significantly affect any Natura 2000 Sites.

(b) Explain why these effects are not considered significant

There will be no direct impacts upon the Natura 2000 Sites as:

- No works will take place within any Natura 2000 Site.
- No resources of any Natura 2000 site will be affected by works.

There will be no indirect impacts upon any Natura 2000 Sites as:

- The project is located within the grounds of an existing football stadium.
- There is no hydrological connectivity between the site and designated sites.

4.1.1 Data collected to carry out the assessment

The following sources of data were employed:

- NPWS protected species database and online mapping.

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- National Biodiversity Data Centre Database

Level of assessment completed

- Desk Study
- Site visit and survey in June 2020
- JNCC Phase 1 Habitat Assessment
- Fossitt Level III Habitat Recording

Full results of the assessment

Full details including results of assessment in accompanying report by FFEC: *Appropriate Assessment Screening Report: Proposed North Stand, Tallaght Stadium, Dublin 24.*

4.2 Overall Conclusion

In conclusion, no impacts are likely as a result of the proposed development on the conservation objectives or overall integrity of any Natura 2000 Site. **Therefore, Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment is not required.**

5.0 REFERENCES

European Commission (2002). *Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly Affecting Natura 2000 sites: Methodological Guidance on the Provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC.*

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