

# Carrigmore Park Redevelopment, Co. Dublin (Draft)

Screening for Appropriate Assessment

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County Council

# JBA Project Manager

William Mulville  
 Block 660 Unit 8  
 The Plaza  
 Greenogue Business Park  
 Rathcoole, Dublin

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## Contract

This report describes work commissioned by the Dylan O'Brien on behalf of South Dublin County Council by an email dated 5th of July 2023. Michael Coyle of JBA Consulting conducted this work.

Prepared by ..... Michael Coyle, BA (Hons), MSc

..... Assistant Ecologist

Reviewed by ..... William Mulville, BSc (Hons), MSc, ACIEEM

..... Project Ecologist

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# Contents

1	Introduction .....	1
1.1	Background .....	1
1.2	Legislative Context .....	1
1.3	Appropriate Assessment Process .....	1
1.3.1	Stage 1 - Screening for AA .....	2
1.3.2	Stage 2 - AA .....	2
1.3.3	Stage 3 - Alternative Solutions .....	2
1.3.4	Stage 4 - IROPI .....	2
1.3.5	Recent judgements of the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) and how they are used in this assessment .....	3
1.4	Methodology .....	3
1.4.1	Desktop study .....	4
1.4.2	Ecological Site Survey .....	4
1.4.3	In-combination Assessment .....	4
1.5	Limitations and constraints .....	5
2	Project Description .....	6
2.1	The 'Project' .....	6
2.2	Site Location .....	6
2.3	Proposed Project .....	6
2.3.1	Site Drainage Plan .....	7
2.3.2	Site Landscape Plan .....	7
2.3.3	Zone of Influence (Zol) .....	7
3	Existing Environment .....	8
3.1	Baseline conditions .....	8
3.2	Habitats .....	8
3.2.1	Buildings and artificial surfaces - BL3 .....	9
3.2.2	Eroding/upland rivers - FW1 .....	9
3.2.3	Drainage ditches - FW4 .....	10
3.2.4	Amenity grassland (improved) - GA2 .....	10
3.2.5	Dry meadows and grassy verges - GS2 .....	10
3.2.6	Hedgerows - WL1 .....	11
3.2.7	Treelines - WL2 .....	11
3.2.8	Treelines / Hedgerows - WL2 / WL1 .....	12
3.2.9	Protected Flora .....	12
3.2.10	Protected Fauna .....	12
3.2.11	Invasive Non-native Species .....	13
3.3	Waterbodies within the Vicinity of the Proposed Site .....	13
3.4	Groundwater .....	15
4	Natura 2000 Sites .....	17
5	Other Relevant Plans and Projects .....	23
5.1	Cumulative Effects .....	23
5.2	Plans .....	23
5.2.1	South Dublin County Development Plan 2022-2028 .....	23
5.2.2	Greater Dublin Drainage Strategy .....	23
5.2.3	Third Cycle River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2022-2027 (DoHPLG, 2022) .....	24
5.3	Other Projects .....	24
5.4	Summary .....	27
6	Screening Assessment .....	28
6.1	Introduction .....	28
6.2	Assessment Criteria .....	28
6.2.1	Description of the individual elements of the project (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) likely to give rise to effects on the Natura 2000 sites .....	28
6.2.2	Surface Water Pathways .....	28
6.2.3	Groundwater .....	29
6.2.4	Land and Air .....	30
6.2.5	Cumulative Effect .....	31

6.2.6	Summary.....	31
6.2.7	Description of likely direct, indirect or secondary effects of the project (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) on the Natura 2000 sites .....	31
6.2.8	Description of likely changes to the Natura 2000 sites .....	33
6.2.9	Describe from the above those elements of the project or plan, or combination of elements, where the above effects are likely to be significant or where the scale or magnitude of effects is unknown .....	34
6.3	Concluding Statement.....	34

## List of Figures

Figure 1-1: The Appropriate Assessment Process (from: Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland - Guidance for Planning Authorities, DEHLG, 2009)....	2
Figure 1-2: Flow diagram of process for in-combination assessment (modified from Tyldesley and Chapman, 2013) .....	5
Figure 2-1: Site location and boundary of work (© OpenStreetMap contributors, 2023) ...	6
Figure 3-1: Habitat Map (© OpenStreetMap contributors, 2023) .....	9
Figure 3-2: The Corbally Stream west of the site, having flooded the adjacent area.....	10
Figure 3-3: The grassy verge along the base of the hedgerow in the west of the site.....	11
Figure 3-4: Mature treeline along the south of the site .....	12
Figure 3-5: The transition of the hedgerow into a mature treeline along the west boundary. ....	12
Figure 3-6: Local surface water network (OSM, 2023).....	14
Figure 3-7: Freshwater and transitional watercourses hydrologically linking the site with Dublin Bay .....	14
Figure 3-8: Groundwater bodies in the vicinity of site (OSM, 2023).....	15
Figure 3-9: Aquifer vulnerability of the site (OSM, 2023) .....	16
Figure 4-1: Natura 2000 sites within the 10km Zol and extended hydrological connection (OSM, 2023) .....	18
Figure 6-1: WFD sub-catchment of the surrounding area, and hydrological connection of the project site (OSM, 2023) .....	29
Figure 6-2: Groundwater bodies around the proposed site in respect to Natura 2000 sites (OSM, 2023).....	30

## List of Tables

Table 3-1: Habitats recorded during site visit. ....	8
Table 4-1: Natura 2000 sites located within the Zol of the proposed development .....	17
Table 4-2: Site briefs; Qualifying Interests; and project-relevant threats /pressures and their effects and sources in relation to the Natura 2000 sites within the 10km Zol (including hydrological connectivity extension) .....	19
Table 5-1: Other projects within approximately 2km which may have an accumulative effect on the development of the project.....	25

## Abbreviations

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

# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Background

JBA Consulting Engineers and Scientists Ltd. (hereafter JBA) has been commissioned by South Dublin County Council (SDCC) to prepare an Appropriate Assessment Screening Report for the proposed public amenity and biodiversity enhancement of Carrigmore Park in Citywest, Co. Dublin.

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

## 1.2 Legislative Context

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

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

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

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

Article 6(4) states:

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

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

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

## 1.3 Appropriate Assessment Process

Guidance on the Appropriate Assessment (AA) process was produced by the European Commission in 2002, which was subsequently developed into guidance specifically for Ireland by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DEHLG) (2009, rev 2010). Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR) produced a Practice Note in 2021, PN01 - Appropriate Assessment Screening for

Development Management (OPR, 2021). These guidance documents identify a staged approach to conducting an AA, as shown Figure 1-1.

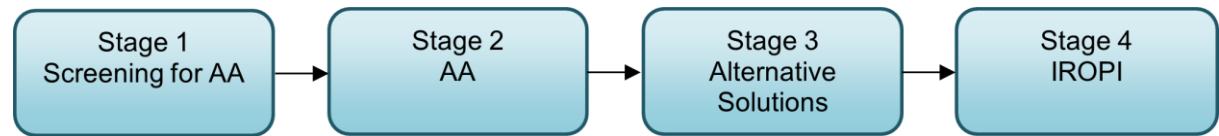


Figure 1-1: The Appropriate Assessment Process (from: Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland - Guidance for Planning Authorities, DEHLG, 2009)

### 1.3.1 Stage 1 - Screening for AA

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

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

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

### 1.3.2 Stage 2 - AA

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

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

### 1.3.3 Stage 3 - Alternative Solutions

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

### 1.3.4 Stage 4 - IROPI

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

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

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



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

The CJEU issued a ruling on the consideration of avoidance and reduction measures as a result of the case known as *People over Wind, Peter Sweetman v Coillte Teoranta* (Case C-323/17). This judgement stated that measures intended to reduce or avoid effects on a Natura 2000 site should only be considered within the framework of an Appropriate Assessment, and it is not permissible to take into account such measures at the screening stage. In practice, this means that any activities that are not integral to the project (i.e., the project could conceivably take place without them) and have the effect of avoiding or reducing an effect on a Natura 2000 site, cannot be considered at the screening stage.

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

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

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

## 1.4 Methodology

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

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

#### 1.4.1 Desktop study

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

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

#### 1.4.2 Ecological Site Survey

To inform this AA Screening an ecological site survey was performed by JBA Ecologists William Mulville and Michael Coyle on the 11th of August 2023 .

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

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

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

#### 1.4.3 In-combination Assessment

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

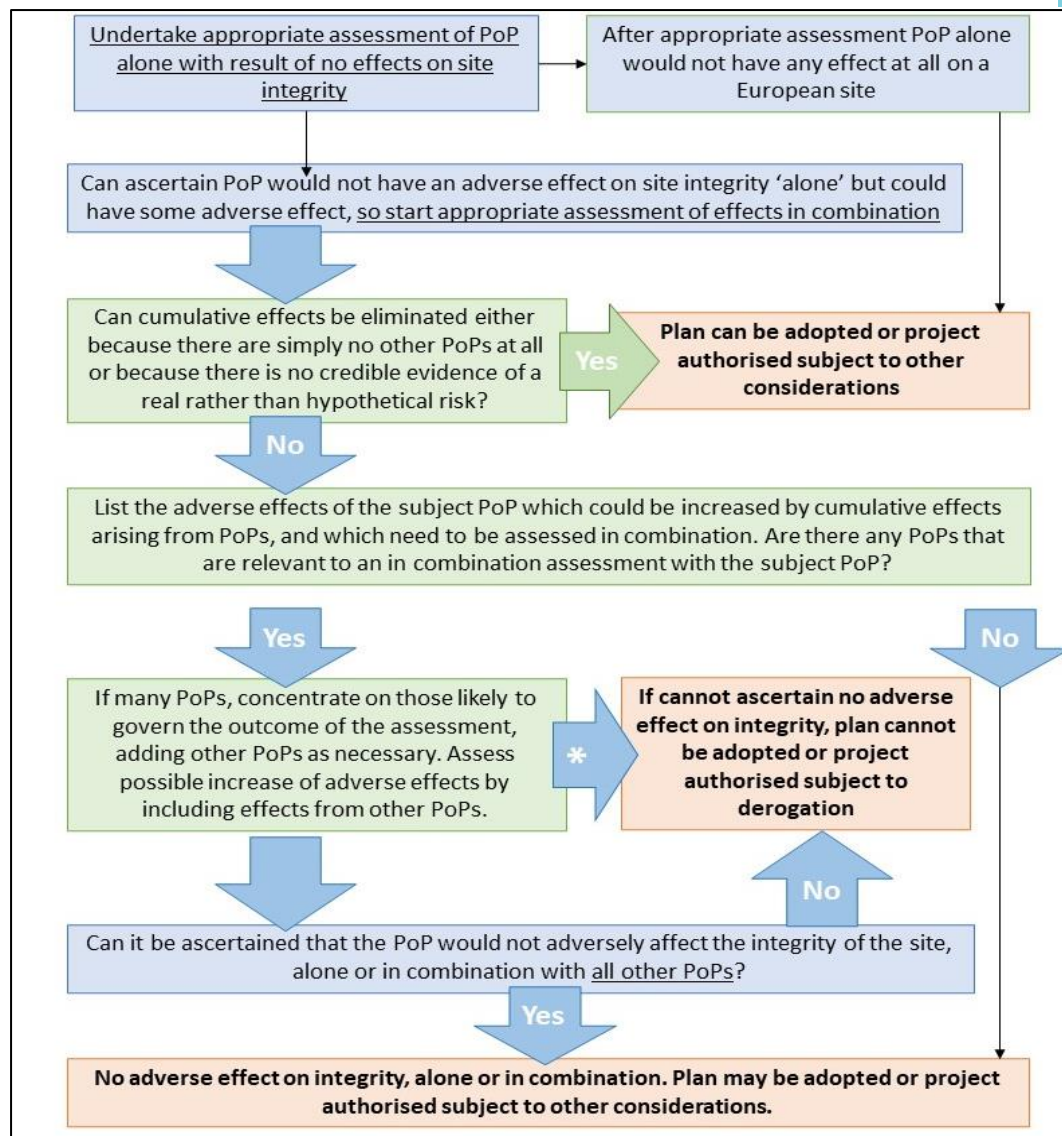


Figure 1-2: Flow diagram of process for in-combination assessment (modified from Tyldesley and Chapman, 2013)

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

## 1.5 Limitations and constraints

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

- Information on the works and conditions on site are based on current knowledge at the time of writing. Changes to the site since this report was drafted cannot be accounted for. However, significant changes to the site are unlikely in the time between the site visit on the 11th of August 2023 and likely start date of the proposed project.
- This assessment is based on the methodology for proposed works as described in this report. Where changes to methodology occur, an ecologist will need to be consulted to determine if the changes are likely to alter the ecological effects and would therefore need reassessment.

## 2 Project Description

### 2.1 The 'Project'

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

### 2.2 Site Location

The proposed site is located Citywest Co. Dublin, approximately 100m south-west of the Citywest Shopping Centre and approximately 520m north-west of the Blessington Road (N81). The Corbally Stream, which is a tributary of the WFD Watercourse Camac\_020, is located along the south-west boundary of the site. There is a ditch network (though largely dried out) associated with this stream present throughout site, before flowing east to the join the Baldonnell Stream (Upper), which is a second tributary of the Camac\_020. The location of the site is shown in Figure 2-1.

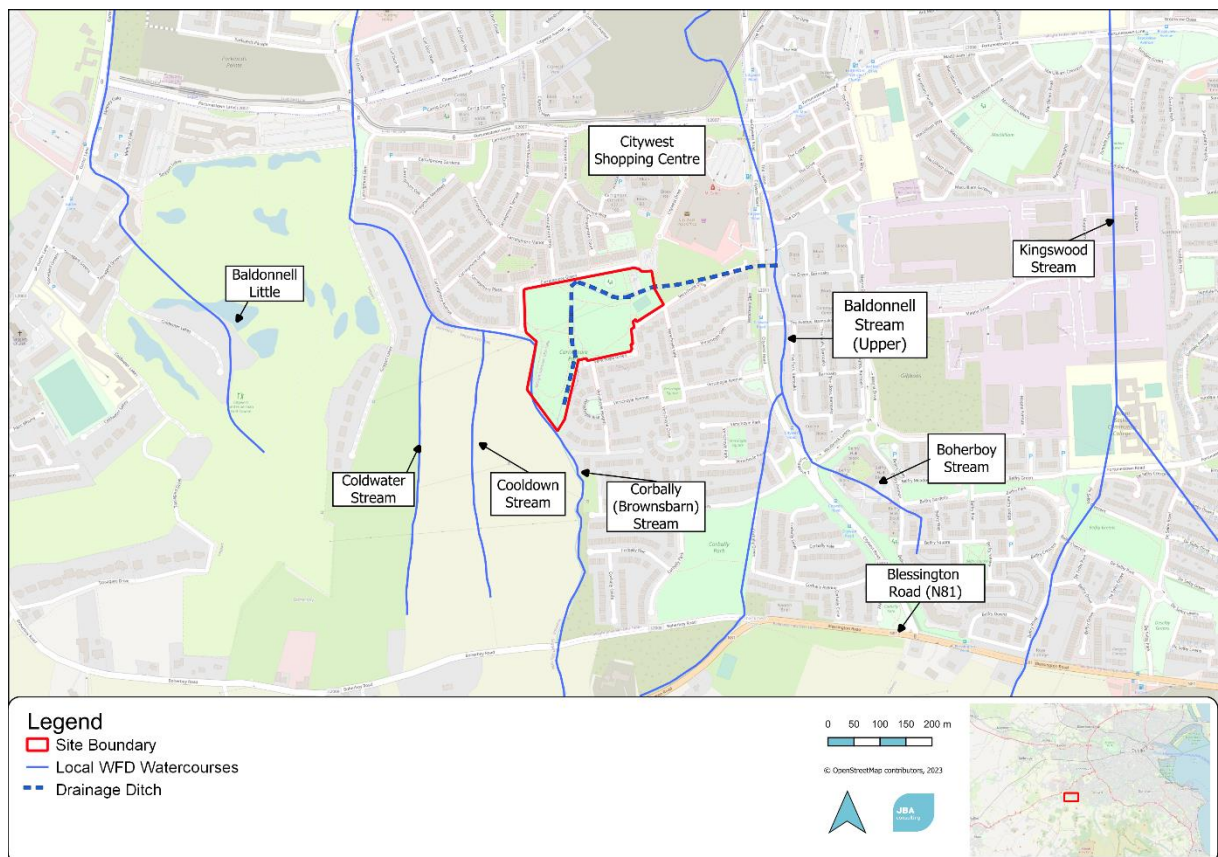


Figure 2-1: Site location and boundary of work (© OpenStreetMap contributors, 2023)

### 2.3 Proposed Project

The proposed and preferred development of the project includes the redevelopment of Carrigmore Park. The Masterplan Proposals of the project include:

- A proposed new Sports Pitch (65m x 40m)
- BMX Pump Track
- Footpath Realignment
- Creation of grasscrete footpaths
- Bench installations
- Two proposed wetland areas
- The retention and possible enhancement of all existing hedgerows

- A hedge bridge that will cut through an existing gap in the hedges
- Proposed planting of native trees including Hawthorn, Willow, Alder and Birch, which will be:
  - Along the north-west and north verge of the park,
  - Around the existing playground
  - Around the proposed Sports Pitch,
  - Along the existing basketball court
- A mini woodland in the west of the site

Excavations throughout the site will be mixed to accommodate a range of proposed features:

- The proposed pitch will have a depth of 500mm, with the inclusion of a soakaway which will have excavations of up to 2m
- The BMX pump track will require a mixture of excavations of 300m and the creation of mounds
- The teen space and calisthenics area will have an estimated depth of 300mm, however there may be some deeper insertions of poles for the frame foundation
- Minor additional excavations may be required for the realignment of the footpath

The envisaged timeframe of the project will last approximately 13 months, beginning in November 2023, and ending in December 2024.

The Site Layout Plan can be view in Appendix A.

### 2.3.1 Site Drainage Plan

Wastewater from the site will be treated through the use of attenuation utilising two wetlands, located south-west and north-east of the existing soccer pitch.

An additional soakaway is currently proposed west of the proposed pitch excavation

The Site Drainage Plan can be view in Appendix B.

### 2.3.2 Site Landscape Plan

The project will involve the creation of a tree trail which will involve the planting of 3 native trees (Alder, Willow, and Hawthorn) in addition to the treeline that is already existing (Appendix A). The project also involves the planting of a number of trees across the site, including a mini-woodland (see site layout) however, the species have not yet been determined. The species will be native Irish species and may include Pedunculate Oak, Lime, Scots Pine, and as well as non-native Himalayan Birch *Betula utilis*. A row of pleached Limes will be planted along the basketball court.

### 2.3.3 Zone of Influence (Zoi)

The project will primarily affect the site only, but a wider Zone of Influence (Zoi) is utilised for impacts relating to noise disturbance (300m); air pollution (500m as per the Institute of Air Quality Management (IAQM) Guidance on the Assessment of Dust from Demolition and Construction (IAQM, 2023)); groundwater and surface water pollution (10km), with an additional 15km buffer for hydrologically connected transitional and coastal waters; and any supporting habitat for Qualifying Interest (QI) species within any of the above distance buffer.

## 3 Existing Environment

### 3.1 Baseline conditions

The proposed enhancement works are located within Carrigmore Park, set within a sub-urban environment, surrounded by housing estates to the north and a shopping district to the east, with agricultural land to the south and west. The site is located adjacent to Corbally Stream (Camac\_020), with a network of ditches from the stream located throughout the site. Carrigmore Park is listed as one of SDCC's "Short meadow locations" (SDCC, 2023), however at the time of the ecological site survey, the area allocated for the meadow was absent of meadow qualities and was instead characterised by traits associated with amenity grassland. In addition to the amenity grasslands, the site also contains treelines and hedgerows.

### 3.2 Habitats

The site is located within Corbally Park The site itself is primarily composed of amenity grassland, with surrounding treeline and hedgerow..

A site survey was conducted by JBA Ecologists William Mulville and Michael Coyle 2023 on the 11th of August 2023 . Habitats recorded are listed in Table 3-1 and an overview of habitats is shown in Figure 3-1.

Table 3-1: Habitats recorded during site visit.

Fossitt Habitat	Fossitt Code
Buildings and artificial surfaces	BL3
Eroding/upland rivers	FW1
Drainage Ditches	FW4
Amenity grassland (improved)	GA2
Dry meadows and grassy verges	GS2
Hedgerows	WL1
Treelines	WL2
Treelines / Hedgerows	WL2 / WL1

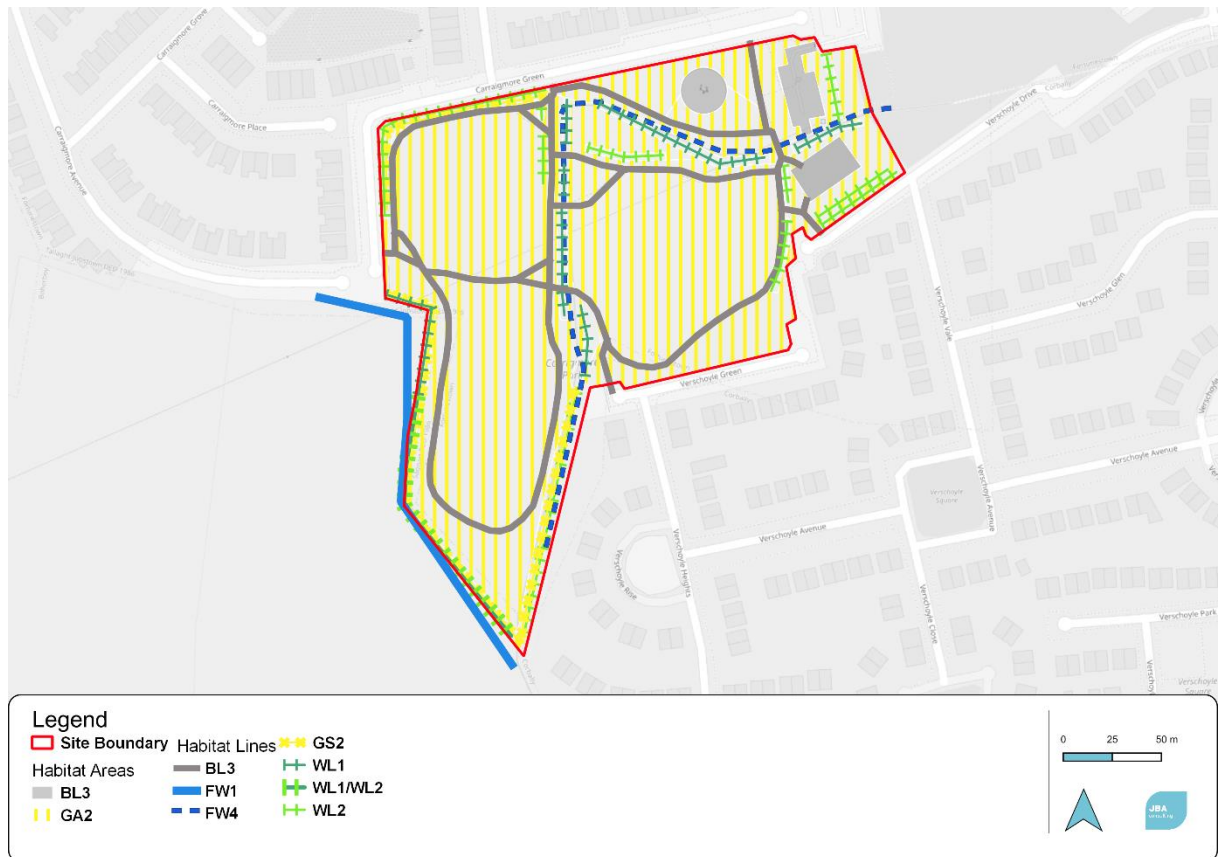


Figure 3-1: Habitat Map (© OpenStreetMap contributors, 2023)

### 3.2.1 Buildings and artificial surfaces - BL3

The artificial surfaces within the site boundary include the footpath located throughout the park, the playground area, the car park, and the basketball court on site. There were no species recorded within these sections.

### 3.2.2 Eroding/upland rivers - FW1

The Corbally Stream runs along the south-west boundary of the site, and creates a seasonal wetland in the area, as the stream floods the area west of site. This stream connects to the main body of the River Camac downstream.

This area floods frequently (Figure 3-2), and a Heron *Ardea cinerea* was seen foraging within this area. This stream was checked for signs of the QI species Otter *Lutra lutra*, however there was no evidence that Otter utilise this site.



Figure 3-2: The Corbally Stream west of the site, having flooded the adjacent area

### 3.2.3 Drainage ditches - FW4

A dry ditch was recorded underneath the shorter, segmented sections of hedgerow that are located throughout the centre of the site. Along this dry ditch are species Field Horsetail *Equisetum arvense*, Large Bindweed *Calystegia silvatica*, Climbing Nightshade *Solanum dulcamara*, Lords-and-Ladies *Arum maculatum*, and Hedge Mustard *Sisymbrium officinale*.

### 3.2.4 Amenity grassland (improved) - GA2

The majority of the site includes areas of amenity grassland, with floral species including Perennial Rye-grass, Dandelion *Taraxacum* spp., Creeping Buttercup *Ranunculus repens*, Ragwort *Jacobaea vulgaris*, Hogweed *Heracleum sphondylium*, Red Clover *Trifolium pratense*, White Clover *Trifolium repens*, Curly Dock *Rumex crispus*, Daisy *Bellis perennis*, Ribwort Plantain *Plantago lanceolata*, Cow Parsley *Anthriscus sylvestris*, Broad-laved Dock *Rumex obtusifolius*, Common Bird's-foot Trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*, Creeping Cinquefoil *Potentilla reptans*, Silverweed *Potentilla anserina* and Self-heal *Prunella vulgaris*.

Present within the amenity grassland were small flocks of Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*.

### 3.2.5 Dry meadows and grassy verges - GS2

There are several thin grassy verges, approximately 1m wide, that are located along sections of the site boundary, which continue along the base of the hedgerow and mature treelines along the site boundary (Figure 3-3). The species within these grassy verges include Perennial Rye-grass *Lolium perenne*, Cock's Foot *Dactylis glomerata*, Lesser Stitchwort *Stellaria graminea*, White Clover, Red Clover, Common Plantain *Plantago major*, Ribwort Plantain, Dandelion., Nettle *Urtica dioica*, Creeping Thistle *Cirsium vulgare*, Bush Vetch *Vicia sepium*, Creeping Buttercup, Red Bartsia *Odontites vernus*, Hogweed, False Oat-grass, Ragwort, Cow Parsley, Cleaver *Galium aparine*, Curly Dock, Butterbur *Petasites hybridus*, Hedge Woundwort *Stachys sylvatica*, Herb Robert *Geranium robertianum*, Field Horsetail, Common Knapweed *Centaurea nigra*, Nipplewort *Lapsana communis*, Colt's Foot *Tussilago farfara*, Chickweed *Stellaria media*, Yorkshire Fog *Holcus lanatus*, Spear Thistle *Cirsium vulgare*, Silverweed, Great Willowherb *Epilobium hirsutum*, Rosebay Willowherb *Chamaenerion angustifolium*, Greater Bird's-foot Trefoil *Lotus pedunculatus*, and Grey Willow *Salix cinerea* saplings.





Figure 3-3: The grassy verge along the base of the hedgerow in the west of the site.

Throughout the central hedgerows within the site, there are also some grassy verge species present. These include Nettle, Colt's Foot, Butterbur, Cock's Foot, Bush Vetch, American Willowherb *Epilobium ciliatum*, Silverweed, Daisy, Lords-and-ladies, Dock, Hedge Mustard and Ragwort.

### 3.2.6 Hedgerows - WL1

There is one hedgerow that is located along the western boundary of the site and continues south before transitioning into a Treeline habitat. The tree and shrub species within this habitat include Grey Willow, Gorse *Ulex europaea*, Bramble *Rubus fruticosus agg.*, Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, Elder *Sambucus nigra* and Sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus*, while there is also a light layer of Ivy *Hedera helix* growth on this vegetation.

Foraging along this hedgerow boundary, bird species such as Blue Tit *Cyanistes caeruleus*, Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos* and House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* were noted, as well as invertebrate species such as Honeybee *Apis mellifera* and butterfly species Holly Blue *Celastrina argiolus* and Large White *Pieris brassicae*.

There are smaller sections of interspersed hedgerows located throughout the centre of the site. These hedges include the tree and shrub species Hawthorn, Elder and Bramble, while they also include herbaceous species such as Large Bindweed, Climbing Nightshade, Lords-and-Ladies, and Hedge Mustard.

### 3.2.7 Treelines - WL2

There are two mature treelines, one is located along the south border of the site (Figure 3-4) while the other is in the north-east of the site next to the car park, which contain mature tree species Grey Willow, Bramble, Hawthorn, Elder and Sycamore.



Figure 3-4: Mature treeline along the south of the site

Within the main body of the park, located along the boundaries of the grasslands are planted treelines of Pedunculate Oak *Quercus robur*, Field Maple *Acer campestre*, Norwegian Maple *Acer platanoides*, Crab Apple *Malus sylvestris*, Lime *Tilia cordata*, and Hornbeam *Carpinus betulus*.

### 3.2.8 Treelines / Hedgerows - WL2 / WL1

There is a section of the south-western boundary of the site which has a transitional section of Hedgerow into Treeline as a result of the trees maturing and growing into a larger canopy section (Figure 3-5).



Figure 3-5: The transition of the hedgerow into a mature treeline along the west boundary.

### 3.2.9 Protected Flora

There were no floral species listed under the Flora (Protection) Order 2022 recorded by the JBA Ecologists during the ecological walkover survey.

### 3.2.10 Protected Fauna

There was no evidence of ground-dwelling mammal species listed under the Wildlife Act 1976 and its Amendments recorded by the JBA Ecologists during the ecological surveys.

JBA Ecologists Mark Desmond and Dominic Tilley conducted a walking transect survey on the 29th of August 2023, and during the week from the 29th of August to the 4th of September 2023, a static detector survey was undertaken by JBA. During these surveys, Common Pipistrelle, Soprano Pipistrelle, Leisler's Bat and Brown Long-eared Bat were recorded. Additionally, there were multiple recordings of Brandt's Bat and/or Whiskered Bat, however, due to the similarity of their calls, these species cannot be differentiated from bat static readings, and it is possible that either one or both species were utilising the site.

JBA Ecologists recorded Starling, Blue Tit, Song Thrush and House Sparrow in the amenity grasslands and hedgerows in the centre and west of the site. Additionally, Long-eared Owl *Asio otus* was recorded

during the bat transect survey on the 29th of August. These species are on the Breeding Bird Green and Amber Lists of Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland (Gilbert et al., 2021).

The non-QI species present both within and in the general vicinity of the site are addressed further within the accompanying Ecological Impact Assessment.

### 3.2.11 Invasive Non-native Species

There was no evidence of invasive floral or fauna species listed under the Third Schedule of the EC (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 S.I. No. 477/2011 recorded by the JBA Ecologists during the ecological walkover surveys.

## 3.3 Waterbodies within the Vicinity of the Proposed Site

The entirety of the proposed project is located within the Water Framework Directive (WFD) Liffey and Dublin Bay catchment, and within the Liffey\_SC\_090 sub-catchment (EPA, 2023). The Corbally Stream, which is a tributary of the WFD watercourse Camac\_020 (Moderate Status), is located along the south-west boundary of the site. There is a ditch network associated with this stream present throughout site, before flowing east to the join the Baldonnell Upper, which is a second tributary of the Camac\_020.

Both of these tributaries of the Camac flow north, before joining the Camac\_030 (Poor Status), which flows north-east before reaching the Liffey Estuary Upper (Status for Review), before joining the Liffey Estuary Lower (Moderate Status), and into Dublin Bay. All of these waterbodies are currently listed as being "At Risk" and are shown in both Figure 3-6 and Figure 3-7.

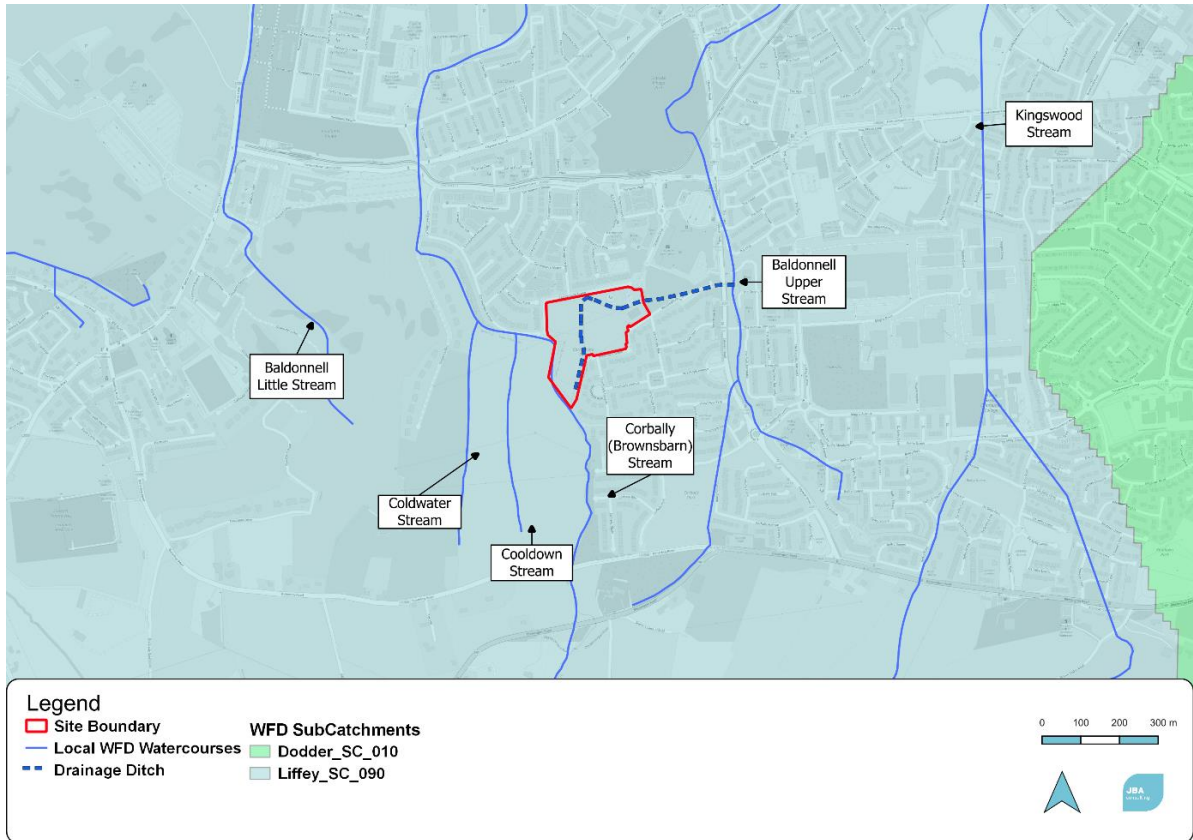


Figure 3-6: Local surface water network (OSM, 2023)

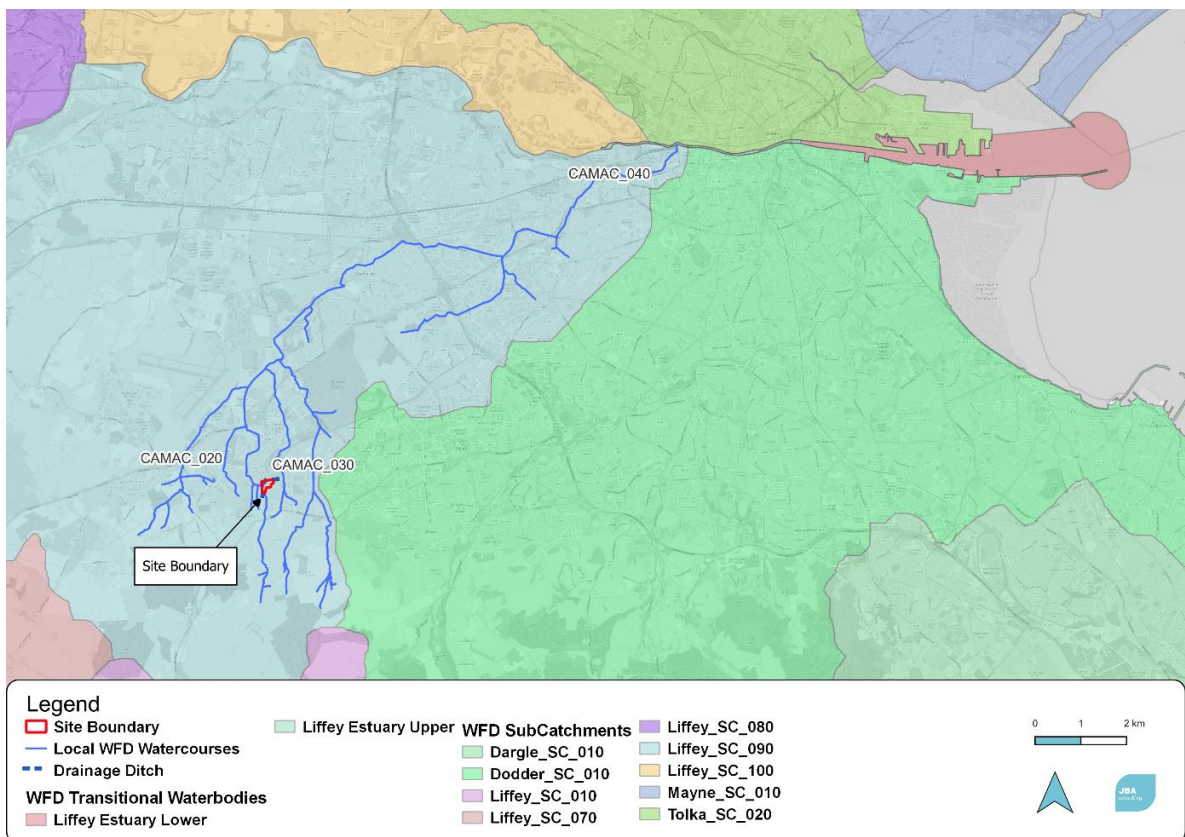


Figure 3-7: Freshwater and transitional watercourses hydrologically linking the site with Dublin Bay

### 3.4 Groundwater

The majority of the site is located within the Dublin groundwater body, however, the southernmost tip of the site extends into the Kilcullen groundwater body (Figure 3-8). The Dublin groundwater body's risk status is considered to be "Under Review", while the Kilcullen groundwater body is considered to be "At Risk", while both of these groundwater bodies currently hold a "Good" WFD (2016 - 2021) Status (EPA, 2023).

The underlying bedrock of the site is dominated by Dark limestone & shale (calp) of the Lucan Formation, while the southern point of the site is underlain with Coarse greywacke & shale of the Poulaphouca Formation. These two bedrock sections are separated by a fault line. The entirety of the site is Till derived from limestones. The permeability of all the site's area is classified as Low, with a low recharge capacity of 7.5%, and the groundwater of the site has an overall Low vulnerability (Figure 3-9, overleaf).

The aquifer underlying the majority of the site's bedrock is considered to be Locally Important Aquifer - Bedrock, which is Moderately Productive but only in Local Zones; and while the bedrock at the southernmost tip is considered to be Poor Aquifer - Bedrock which is Generally Unproductive except for Local Zones. Therefore, the majority of the site is underlain with an aquifer with limited connection of fractures, fissures, and joints which results in low permeability. In general, the limited connection of fissures and joints leads to poor storage and limited flow paths of only a few hundred meters. The aquifer in the southernmost tip of the site is slow to flow and also exhibits a poor network of fractures, fissure and joints, and a low level of retention or transferral within the groundwater.

Overall, in context of the site, there is a low permeability, and low retention within the groundwater, and discharge is limited and occurs at short distances, resulting in low-level water discharge into the local waterbodies.

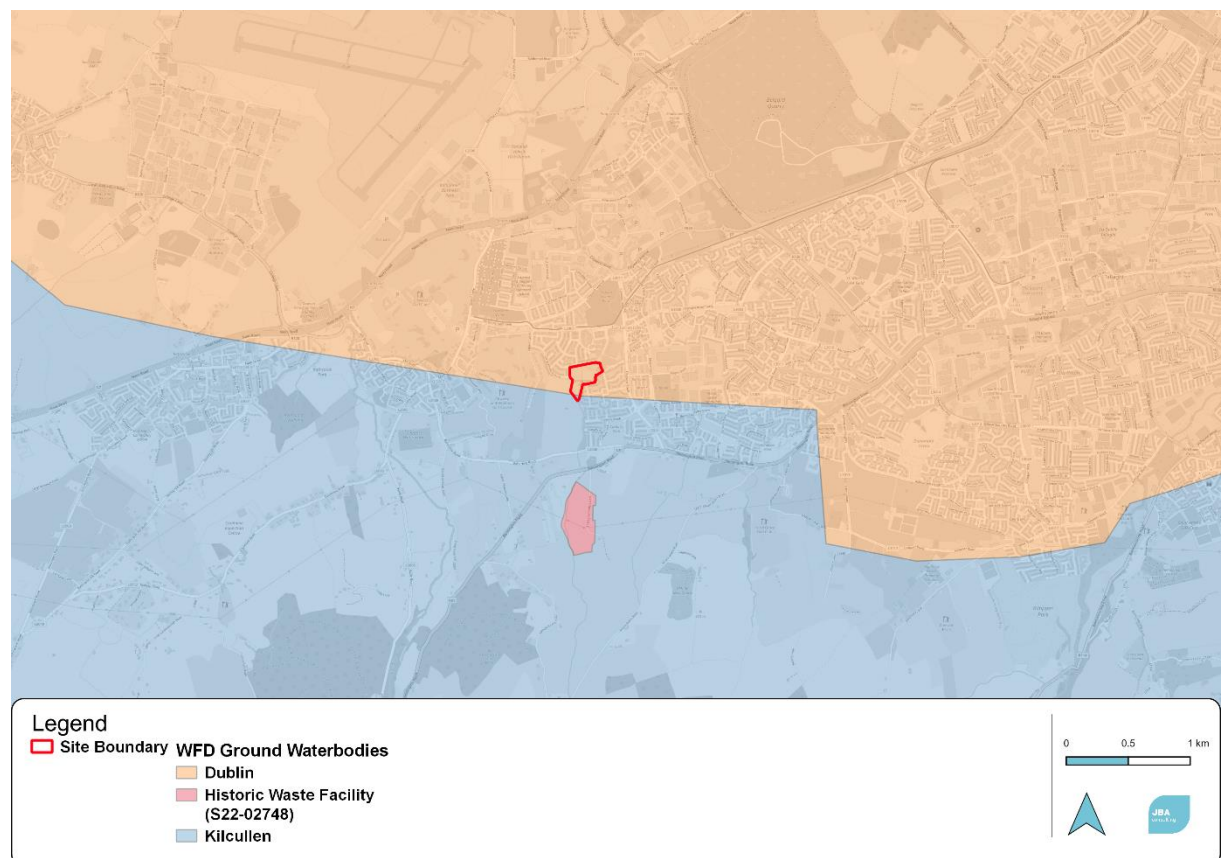


Figure 3-8: Groundwater bodies in the vicinity of site (OSM, 2023)

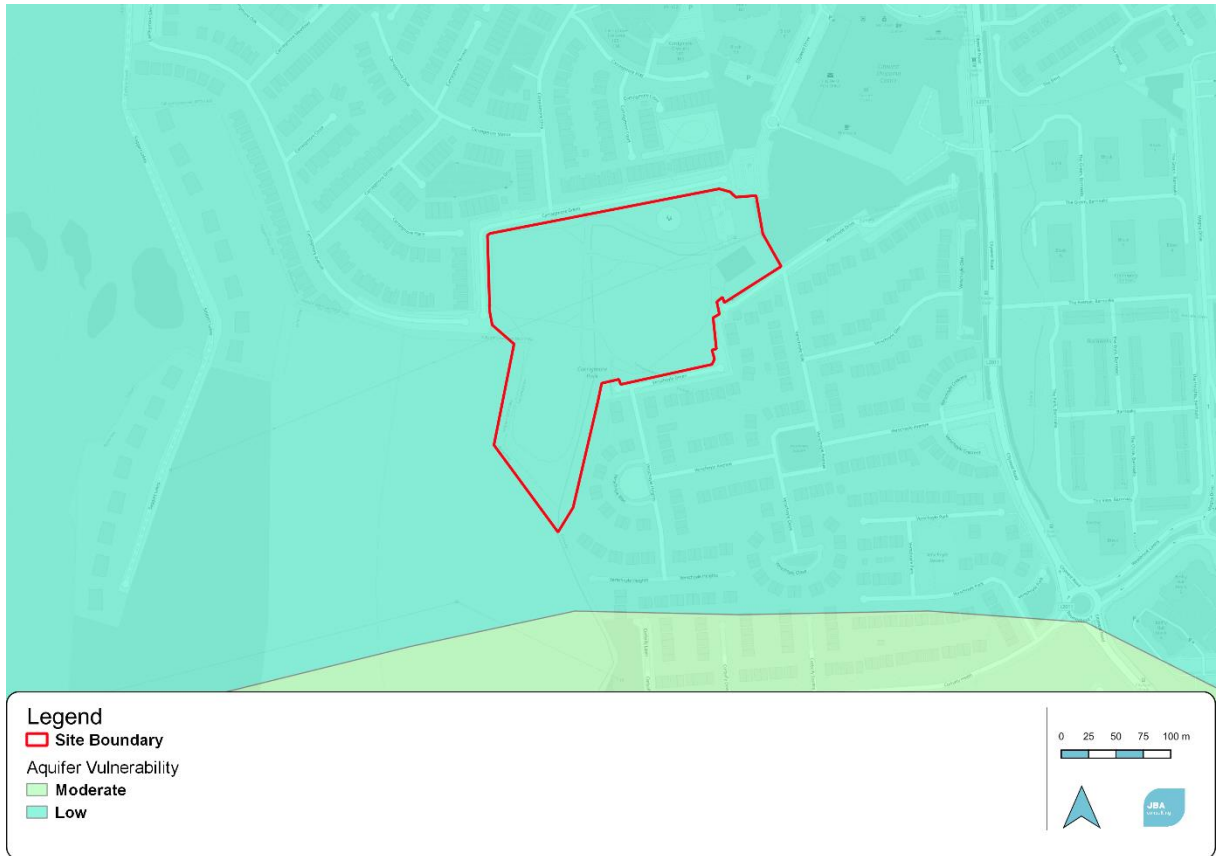


Figure 3-9: Aquifer vulnerability of the site (OSM, 2023)

## 4 Natura 2000 Sites

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

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

As the scale of proposed works are considered of 'Project' status, Natura 2000 sites within a 10km range of the proposed development were examined, and those with a hydrological connection. Any other Natura 2000 sites were excluded on the basis that there were outside the 10km Zol buffer and lacked a valid source-pathway-receptors connection. The Natura 2000 sites within the range are listed in Table 4-1 below and their location are shown in Figure 4-1 (overleaf). Site descriptions, Qualifying Interests (QIs) and threats/pressures for the below Natura 2000 sites are provided in Table 4-2 (overleaf).

Table 4-1: Natura 2000 sites located within the Zol of the proposed development

Natura 2000 site	Site Code	Approximate Distance from Site	Hydrological Distance from Site
Glenasmole Valley SAC	001209	4.3km	n/a
Wicklow Mountains SAC	002122	5.7km	n/a
Wicklow Mountains SPA	004040	9km	n/a
North Dublin Bay SAC	000206	18.3km	24.6km
South Dublin Bay SAC	000210	15.2km	22.7km
North Bull Island SPA	004006	15.6km	22.1km
South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA	004024	15.2km	22.7km
North-West Irish Sea cSPA	004236	19.6km	24.6km

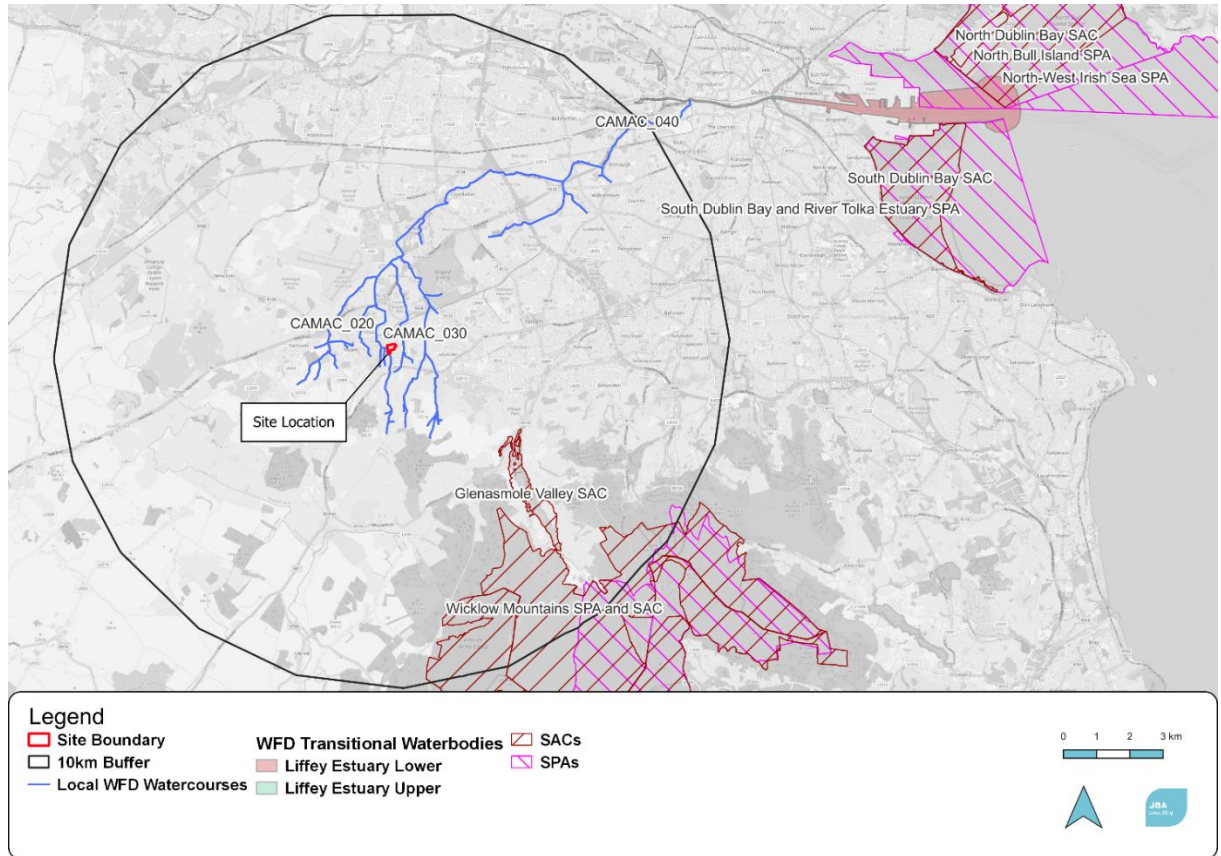


Figure 4-1: Natura 2000 sites within the 10km Zol and extended hydrological connection (OSM, 2023)



Table 4-2: Site briefs; Qualifying Interests; and project-relevant threats /pressures and their effects and sources in relation to the Natura 2000 sites within the 10km Zol (including hydrological connectivity extension)

Site Name	Brief	Qualifying Interests	Project-relevant Threats / Pressures: Impact (Source)
Glenasmole Valley SAC	Glenasmole valley is in south Co. Dublin approximately 5km from Tallaght. The River Dodder has been impounded within the valley to form two reservoirs for water provision to Dublin. The bedrock is non-calcareous with an overlay of deep drift deposits that line the valley's sides. These areas are covered by scrub and woodland, with herb-rich grassland on the less precipitous parts. Seepage through the deposits brings to the surface water rich in bases and induces patches of calcareous fens and petrifying springs. Locations between the two reservoirs include examples of calcareous fens and flush. Woodland occurs in patches around the site. The east side of the valley forms a woodland on the unstable calcareous slopes. Wet, semi-natural woodland is around the reservoirs. The lake shore vegetation is not well developed (NPWS, 2013a).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates Festuco-Brometalia) (* important orchid sites) [6210]</li> <li>- <i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>) [6410]</li> <li>- Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220] (NPWS, 2021)</li> </ul>	No relevant threats/pressures (EEA, 2018a)
Wicklow Mountains SAC	The Wicklow Mountains SAC is a complex upland region that extends through regions of Co. Wicklow and Dublin. Most of the site is over 300m, with the highest peak reaching 925m high. The mountain shows typical erosion patterns of multiple cycles, with the granite weathered characteristically into broad domes. Much of the west of the site consists of elevated moorland and peat. Surrounding schists have more diverse outlines forming peaks and rocky foothills with deep glens. The majority of the vegetation is a mosaic of wet and dry heaths, blanket bogs, upland grass, dense Bracken and small woodlands along the rivers. The rivers are predominantly acidic due to the underlying rock strata (NPWS 2017a).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains <i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i> [3110]</li> <li>- Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160]</li> <li>- Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010]</li> <li>- European dry heaths [4030]</li> <li>- Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060]</li> <li>- Calaminarian grasslands of the <i>Violetalia calaminariae</i> [6130]</li> <li>- Species-rich <i>Nardus</i> grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe) [6230]</li> <li>- Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130]</li> <li>- Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels <i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsietalia ladani</i> [8110]</li> <li>- Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8210]</li> <li>- Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220]</li> <li>- Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0]</li> </ul>	No relevant threats/pressures (EEA, 2018b)

Site Name	Brief	Qualifying Interests	Project-relevant Threats / Pressures: Impact (Source)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> [1355] NPWS, 2017b</li> </ul>	
Wicklow Mountains SPA	<p>The site is upland, comprising of a substantial part of the Wicklow Mountains, mainly confined to Co. Wicklow with a small area lying within Co. Dublin. Most of the site is higher than 300m, with the peak at Lugnaquilla being 925m high. The predominant substrate over the site is peat, with blanket bogs, heaths and upland grasses. Surveys of the Wicklow Mountains SPA have found that up to 9 pairs of Merlin breed within the site at any one year, using the open peatlands as excellent foraging habitats. The cliffs and crags are notable breeding locations for the Peregrine (NPWS, 2014a).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Merlin <i>Falco columbarius</i> [A098]</li> <li>- Peregrine <i>Falco peregrinus</i> [A103] (NPWS, 2022)</li> </ul>	No relevant threats/pressures (EEA, 2020a)
North Dublin Bay SAC	<p>This SAC extends from the inner part of North Dublin Bay, and primarily focuses on North Bull Island. Dynamic dune systems and saltmarshes are found along this region. A variety of important and rare flora habituate this SAC, including Lesser Centaury, Red Hemp-nettle, and Meadow Saxifrage. North Dublin Bay is also of international importance for waterfowl as it hosts Brent Goose, Knot, Bar-tailed Godwit, Oystercatcher, Ringed Plover, Sanderling, and Dunlin (NPWS, 2013b).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]</li> <li>- Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210]</li> <li>- <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310]</li> <li>- Atlantic salt meadows <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i> [1330]</li> <li>- Mediterranean salt meadows <i>Juncetalia maritimi</i> [1410]</li> <li>- Embryonic shifting dunes [2110]</li> <li>- Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120]</li> <li>- Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130]</li> <li>- Humid dune slacks [2190]</li> <li>- Petalwort <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> [1395] (NPWS 2013c)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Urbanised areas, human habitation (EEA, 2020b).</li> </ul>
South Dublin Bay SAC	<p>The intertidal flats at their widest points are 3km with channels existing at largest with Cockle Lake. A small sandy beach occurs near to Dun Laoighre, with an almost entire artificial embankment. The sediments from the Tolka Estuary vary from thixotropic mud with a high organic content in the inner estuary to a well aerated and exposed sand system off of the Bull Wall. Insights show that many birds who winter in South Dublin Bay do not continue towards North Dublin Bay. (NPWS, 2015a)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]</li> <li>- Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210]</li> <li>- <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310]</li> <li>- Embryonic shifting dunes [2110] (NPWS 2013d)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Roads, motorways</li> <li>- Urbanised areas, human habitation (EEA, 2020c)</li> </ul>

Site Name	Brief	Qualifying Interests	Project-relevant Threats / Pressures: Impact (Source)
North Bull Island SPA	<p>This site covers all the inner part of north Dublin Bay, with the seaward boundary extending from Bull Wall lighthouse, to Howth Head. The spit in the north is relatively recent, almost 5km long, 1km wide and running parallel to the coast between Clontarf and Sutton. The saltmarsh extends the length of the landward side of the island, providing the main site for wintering bird roosting in Dublin Bay. The wintering waterfowl use two lagoons as their primary feeding grounds, these lagoons are divided by a causeway (NPWS, 2014b).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Light-bellied Brent Goose <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> [A046]</li> <li>- Shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> [A048]</li> <li>- Teal <i>Anas crecca</i> [A052]</li> <li>- Pintail <i>Anas acuta</i> [A054]</li> <li>- Shoveler <i>Anas clypeata</i> [A056]</li> <li>- Oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> [A130]</li> <li>- Golden Plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> [A140]</li> <li>- Grey Plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> [A141]</li> <li>- Knot <i>Calidris canutus</i> [A143]</li> <li>- Sanderling <i>Calidris alba</i> [A144]</li> <li>- Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina</i> [A149]</li> <li>- Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa</i> [A156]</li> <li>- Bar-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa lapponica</i> [A157]</li> <li>- Curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i> [A160]</li> <li>- Redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i> [A162]</li> <li>- Turnstone <i>Arenaria interpres</i> [A169]</li> <li>- Black-headed Gull <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> [A179]</li> <li>- Wetland and Waterbirds [A999] (NPWS, 2015b)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Continuous urbanisation</li> <li>- Other patterns of habitation (EEA, 2020d)</li> </ul>
South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA	<p>This site covers a large part of the Dublin Bay, including the intertidal area of the River Liffey and Dun Laoghaire, along with the estuary of the River Tolka to the north of the River Liffey and Booterstown Marsh. The south of the bay has intertidal flats that at their widest extend for almost 3km. The site is important for wintering fowl, integral for the importance of the Dublin Bay complex (NPWS, 2015c).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Light-bellied Brent Goose <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> [A046]</li> <li>- Oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> [A130]</li> <li>- Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> [A137]</li> <li>- Grey Plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> [A141]</li> <li>- Knot <i>Calidris canutus</i> [A143]</li> <li>- Sanderling <i>Calidris alba</i> [A144]</li> <li>- Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina</i> [A149]</li> <li>- Bar-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa lapponica</i> [A157]</li> <li>- Redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i> [A162]</li> <li>- Black-headed Gull <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> [A179]</li> <li>- Roseate Tern <i>Sterna dougallii</i> [A192]</li> <li>- Common Tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i> [A193]</li> <li>- Arctic Tern <i>Sterna paradisaea</i> [A194]</li> <li>- Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Roads, motorways</li> <li>- Urbanised areas, human habitation (EEA, 2020e)</li> </ul>

Site Name	Brief	Qualifying Interests	Project-relevant Threats / Pressures: Impact (Source)
		(NPWS, 2015d)	
North-West Irish Sea cSPA	The North-west Irish Sea cSPA constitutes an important resource for marine birds, it includes the estuaries and bays that open into it along with the collection of intertidal and subtidal habitats that stretch along the coast. These areas provide habitats for foraging and maintenance for QI seabirds on the north-west Irish Sea's islands and coastal headlines which are important during and outside the breeding period. The site is of conservation interest for many bird species (NPWS, 2023).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Common Scoter <i>Melanitta nigra</i> [A065]</li> <li>- Red-throated Diver <i>Gavia stellata</i> [A001]</li> <li>- Great Northern Diver <i>Gavia immer</i> [A003]</li> <li>- Fulmar <i>Fulmarus glacialis</i> [A009]</li> <li>- Manx Shearwater <i>Puffinus puffinus</i> [A013]</li> <li>- Shag <i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i> [A018]</li> <li>- Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> [A017]</li> <li>- Little Gull <i>Larus minutus</i> [A177]</li> <li>- Kittiwake <i>Rissa tridactyla</i> [A188]</li> <li>- Black-headed Gull <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> [A179]</li> <li>- Common Gull <i>Larus canus</i> [A182]</li> <li>- Lesser Black-backed Gull <i>Larus fuscus</i> [A183]</li> <li>- Herring Gull <i>Larus argentatus</i> [A184]</li> <li>- Great Black-backed Gull <i>Larus marinus</i> [A187]</li> <li>- Little Tern <i>Sterna albifrons</i> [A195]</li> <li>- Roseate Tern <i>Sterna dougallii</i> [A192]</li> <li>- Common Tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i> [A193]</li> <li>- Arctic Tern <i>Sterna paradisaea</i> [A194]</li> <li>- Puffin <i>Fratercula arctica</i> [A204]</li> <li>- Razorbill <i>Alca torda</i> [A200]</li> <li>- Guillemot <i>Uria aalge</i> [A199]</li> </ul>	No published threats or pressures by NPWS to date.

\* = priority Annex I habitat

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

## 5 Other Relevant Plans and Projects

### 5.1 Cumulative Effects

As part of the Screening for an Appropriate Assessment, in addition to the proposed works, other relevant projects and plans in the region that may induce cumulative effects must also be considered at this stage. The following projects or plans were identified as potential sources of cumulative effects:

### 5.2 Plans

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

#### 5.2.1 South Dublin County Development Plan 2022-2028

The proposed scheme's development is in line with the South Dublin County Development Plan 2022-2028. It is an objective of the Plan to ensure that all development within the County conforms to eight key design principles which includes the promotion of sustainable energy and environmental services. These goals include:

NPO 52 requires that the planning system will 'be responsive to our national environmental challenges and ensure that development occurs within environmental limits, having regard to the requirements of all relevant environmental legislation and the sustainable management of our natural capital.

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

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

#### 5.2.2 Greater Dublin Drainage Strategy

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

**Overall, the Greater Dublin Drainage Strategy is not considered to adversely affect any Natura 2000 site, nor is it expected to contribute to any cumulative or in-combination effects.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### 5.3 Other Projects

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

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

Planning Reference	Address	Application Status	Decision date	Summary of development
SD22A/0422	Citywest Shopping Centre, Fortunestown, Dublin 24	Permission Granted	11/01/2023	Amendments to the residential development permitted under An Bord Pleanála Reference ABP-305556-19 comprising of the omission of a permitted vehicular access ramp from ground to basement level of the existing Citywest Shopping Centre along the southern elevation; The permitted entrance to the ramp is proposed to be replaced at surface level with 5 car parking spaces, with associated amendments to the parking layout, pedestrian paths and landscaping in the immediate vicinity; An increase in the area of a permitted surface to basement level circulation core in the south-eastern corner of the existing Citywest Shopping Centre (to incorporate a lift and revised stairwell design), together with associated amendments to pedestrian paths and landscaping in the immediate vicinity; The relocation of permitted demountable bollards further eastwards along a permitted roadway to the south-east of the Citywest Shopping Centre; The enlargement of a permitted hammerhead circulation area to the south-east of the Citywest Shopping Centre and the provision of a standalone ESB Substation to the south-east of Block D; These amendments are provided to reprove the operational efficiency of the vehicle circulation and parking arrangement to service the permitted apartment buildings and to meet the requirements of ESB to serve the site.
SHD3ABP-310570-21	Site at Cooldown Commons & Fortunestown, Citywest, Dublin 24	Permission Granted	6/10/2021	Construction of a residential scheme comprising 421 units, offices, retail units x3 and residential amenity areas x2, within 9 blocks ranging in height from 1-13 storeys. The proposal will include 289 car parking spaces along with 650 cycle parking spaces. The development will provide public and communal open spaces throughout including a public plaza adjoining Fortunestown Luas stop. Provision of vehicular, pedestrian, and cyclist accesses to the site, including pedestrian bridge to the public park (under construction) to the east. The application includes for all landscaping, ESB substations, plant areas, bin storage, surface water attenuation and all other site development works, and site services required to facilitate the proposed development. The proposed development seeks to amend SHD permission ABP-302398 -18 (under construction to the west), replacing 32 permitted duplex apartments along with associated amendments to internal roads and open spaces. The current proposal also replaces permission SD16A/0078 previously granted on this site.
SD22A/0065	Magna Avenue and Magna Drive, Citywest, Dublin 24	Permission Granted	11/07/2022	Provision of a warehouse unit with ancillary office and staff facilities and associated development. The building will have a maximum height of 15.5m with a gross floor area of 13,604sq.m including a warehouse area (12,568sq.m), staff facilities (489sq.m) and ancillary office area (538sq.m). The development will also include a vehicular and pedestrian entrance to the site from Magna Avenue, a separate HGV entrance from Magna Drive; 69 ancillary car parking spaces; covered bicycle parking; HGV parking and yards; level access good doors; dock levellers; access gates; signage; hard and soft landscaping; lighting boundary treatments; ESB substation; sprinkler tank and pump house; an all associated site development works above and

Planning Reference	Address	Application Status	Decision date	Summary of development
				below ground.
SD19A/0393	Fortunestown Lane, Saggart, Co. Dublin	Permission Granted	7/10/2020	New educational campus of 2 new school buildings to be delivered on a phased basis including the demolition/removal of the existing 4 four storey educational/former short stay residential blocks (golf apartments) on the site; provision of 1 part three storey, 1000 pupil post primary school including 4 classroom special educational needs unit with a gross floor area of 11,331sq.m including a sports hall and all ancillary teacher and pupil facilities; 1 two storey 16 classroom primary school and 2 classroom special educational needs unit; a general purpose hall and all ancillary teacher and pupils facilities with a gross floor area of 2,820sq.m; vehicular access to the site will be from the existing Fortunestown Lane entrance, which is to be widened; fire tender and delivery access will be from the existing entrance to the northwest of the site, via Fortunestown Lane; cycle and pedestrian access to the site will be from a new entrance on Fortunestown Lane; provision of bicycle and scooter parking; new pedestrian crossing at Saggart Lakes Road, vehicle drop off/set down areas; internal access roads; hard and soft play areas; piped infrastructure and ducting; plant, landscaping and boundary treatments; PV panels; external courtyards; disabled car parking spaces; ESB substation and 1 substation access door to the site boundary wall on Fortunestown Lane; ancillary ramps and stairs; signage; 1 attenuation tank; flood mitigation measures; SUD's; changes in level and all associated site development and excavation works above and below ground.
SHD3ABP-300555-18-EP	Site bounded by Fortunestown Lane, Garters Lane and Bianconi Avenue, Saggart, Co. Dublin	Granted Extension for Duration of Permission	10/11/2022	A residential development comprising: 526 residential units and all associated site and development works as follows: - 274 3-bed 2 storey terraced units, 185 4-bed 2 and 3 storey terraced and end of terrace units, 67 2-bed apartment/duplex units (37 2-storey, 2 bed terraced duplexes, 18 1-storey 2 bed terraced apartments and 12 1 storey 2 bed end of terrace apartments). The development also provides for a district park (4.58 ha) and a neighbourhood park (0.71 ha) in accordance with the Fortunestown Local Area Plan 2012. Permission is also sought for 789 car parking spaces, bin storage areas, ESB substations and all associated site development and infrastructural works. Vehicular access to serve the proposed development will be provided via two new access points off Garter Lane and via a new signalised junction at the southeastern corner of the site to replace the existing roundabout off Fortunestown Lane. Provision is made for a future access to Bianconi Avenue. In addition, an interim local square is proposed within the subject site providing a direct pedestrian link from the proposed development to the Saggart Luas stop. Two direct pedestrian links are proposed between the subject site and the adjoining school sites permitted under Reg Ref No SD16A/0255 providing a direct link between the school and the proposed district park and a direct link from the west of the school site to the proposed residential development. Lands identified for future development are located along the southern boundary of the current application site adjacent to Fortunestown Lane/Saggart Luas Stop. These areas will be subject of a future planning application (Phase 2) and will include the final design and layout of the local square.



Planning Reference	Address	Application Status	Decision date	Summary of development
SD20A/0232	The Former Embankment Site at Saggart Road & Blessington Road, Co. Dublin	Permission Granted	24/05/2021	Demolition of existing Public House building and of existing incomplete buildings on the east side of the site; construction of a three storey hotel comprising of 129 bedrooms, reception and ancillary bar (136sq.m) at ground floor, restaurant (311sq.m) in single storey building; associated waste storage to the west of the site; 3 three storey Aparthotel buildings comprising 15 units each (45 units in total) comprising of studios, one bed, two bed and three bed units to the south and south east; 3 small balconies with small terraces under on the north façade of the Aparthotel Block A & B and the west façade of Block C; new vehicular and pedestrian entrance at Boherboy/Saggart Road (L2008); new footpath along the Boherboy/Saggart Road (L2008); parking area for 120 cars and 30 bicycles; extensive tree planting throughout; substation together with all associated site works, boundary treatments and landscaping; total floor area of buildings is 8,313sq.m; existing vehicular entrance to the site on the Blessington Road will remain for emergency use only; An Ecological Impact Assessment is submitted as part of this application.

#### 5.4 Summary

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

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

## 6 Screening Assessment

### 6.1 Introduction

This screening exercise will focus on assessing the likely adverse effects of the project on the Natura 2000 sites identified in Section 4 above.

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

The Natura 2000 sites to be assessed are:

- Glenasmole Valley SAC
- Wicklow Mountains SAC
- Wicklow Mountains SPA
- North Dublin Bay SAC
- South Dublin Bay SAC
- North Bull Island SPA
- South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA
- North-West Irish Sea cSPA

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

### 6.2 Assessment Criteria

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

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

The proposed project is not anticipated to generate a likely significant effect on the qualifying interests of the Natura 2000 sites within the Zol. The rationale for excluding likely significant effects via the main pathways is given in more detail in the following sub-section.

#### 6.2.2 Surface Water Pathways

The site contains direct links to the River Camac, due to the proximity of the Corbally Stream at the south-west of the site, and the network of ditches through the site area that connect to the Baldonnell Upper stream . Both of these streams flow north into the River Camac downstream, hydrologically connecting the site with Dublin Bay. Additionally, indirect hydrological connections are present through groundwater-to-surface and dust-to-surface water (air) due to the site's proximity to the River Camac's tributaries. Therefore, both direct and indirect hydrological connections exist between the site and the Natura 2000 sites associated with Dublin Bay, however, no hydrological connection is present between the site and the other Natura 2000 sites.

During the construction potential pollutants will be present on-site, including hydrocarbons and hydrological oils that will be utilised by machinery on-site. These pollutants could potentially spill or leak into the local surface network, which would ultimately result in them entering the River Camac and Dublin Bay. Additionally topsoil will be removed as a part of the works, which may lead to increased

sediment-loading within the local surface water network. Furthermore, dust will be generated during excavations and may settle within the local watercourses, which would also potentially increase the suspended sediments within the surface water network. However, any potential surface water runoff entering the Corbally and Baldonnell Upper Streams would need to travel approximately 21.9km via surface water pathways to the nearest of the Dublin Bay. Given the natural retention and dilution of pollutants (over 21.9km), any pollutants which exit the site and reach the Dublin Bay Natura 2000 sites, will not do so in any volume capable of resulting in adverse effects.

**Therefore, given the scale of works, natural retention and dilution of pollutants in association with the hydrological distance to any Natura 2000 sites, significant adverse effects are not anticipated for any Natura 2000 during the construction phase of the project.**

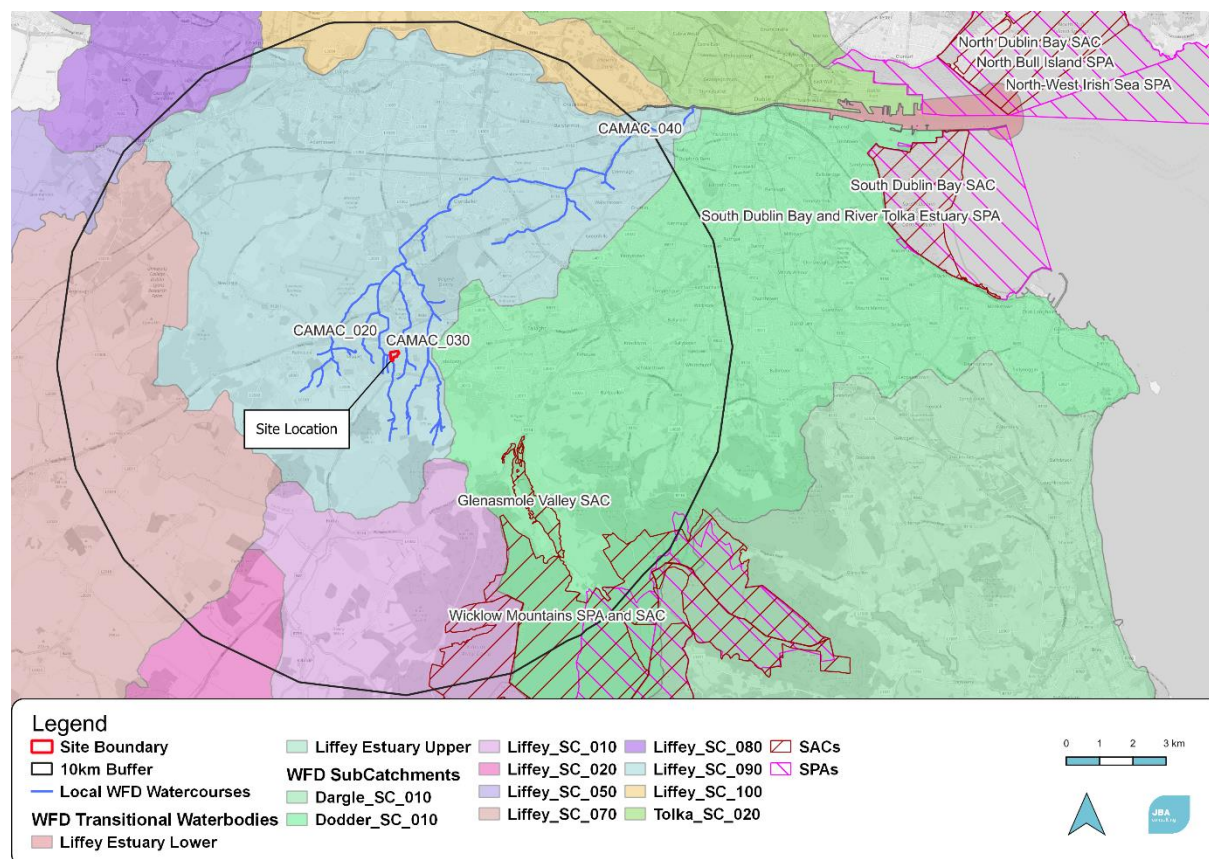


Figure 6-1: WFD sub-catchment of the surrounding area, and hydrological connection of the project site (OSM, 2023)

### Operational Phase

Given the operational nature of the development the surface water run-off quality will remain unchanged.

**Therefore, likely significant effects via surface water pathway during the operational phase are not anticipated for any of the Natura 2000 sites within the Zol; and their respective QIs.**

### 6.2.3 Groundwater

During the construction potential pollutants will be present on-site potential pollutants will be utilised at the site, including diesel and engine/hydraulic oils. These pollutants could potentially spill or leak into the groundwater. The majority of the site is underlain by the Dublin groundwater body, which the site shares with the Dublin Bay Natura 2000 sites, and a section of the southernmost tip being underlain by the Kilcullen groundwater body, which the site shares with the Wicklow Mountains Natura 2000 sites, and with Glenasmole Valley SAC, (Figure 6-2). However, given that aquifer flow paths will only extend

a few hundred metres, pollutants absorbed into the aquifer on-site will not be able to reach any of the Natura 2000 sites via the groundwater pathway.

**Therefore, likely significant effects via the groundwater pathway are not anticipated during the construction and operational phases of the proposed development given the distance to the Natura 2000 sites within the ZoI.**

Regarding the groundwater-to-surface water impact pathway, the characteristic of the underlying aquifer means it is likely to rapidly discharge to the nearby watercourses, i.e., Corbally and Baldonnell Upper Streams. Therefore, there is a potential groundwater-to-surface water pathway within the locality of the proposed development. However, any potential ground-to-surface water pollutants entering the Corbally and Baldonnell Upper Streams would need to travel approximately 21.9km via surface water pathways to the nearest of the Dublin Bay. Given the natural retention and dilution of pollutants (over 21.9km), any pollutants which exit the site and reach the Dublin Bay Natura 2000 sites, will not do so in any volume capable of resulting in adverse effects.

**Therefore, likely significant effects via the ground-to-surface water pathway are not anticipated during the construction and operational phases for the Natura 2000 sites within the ZoI.**

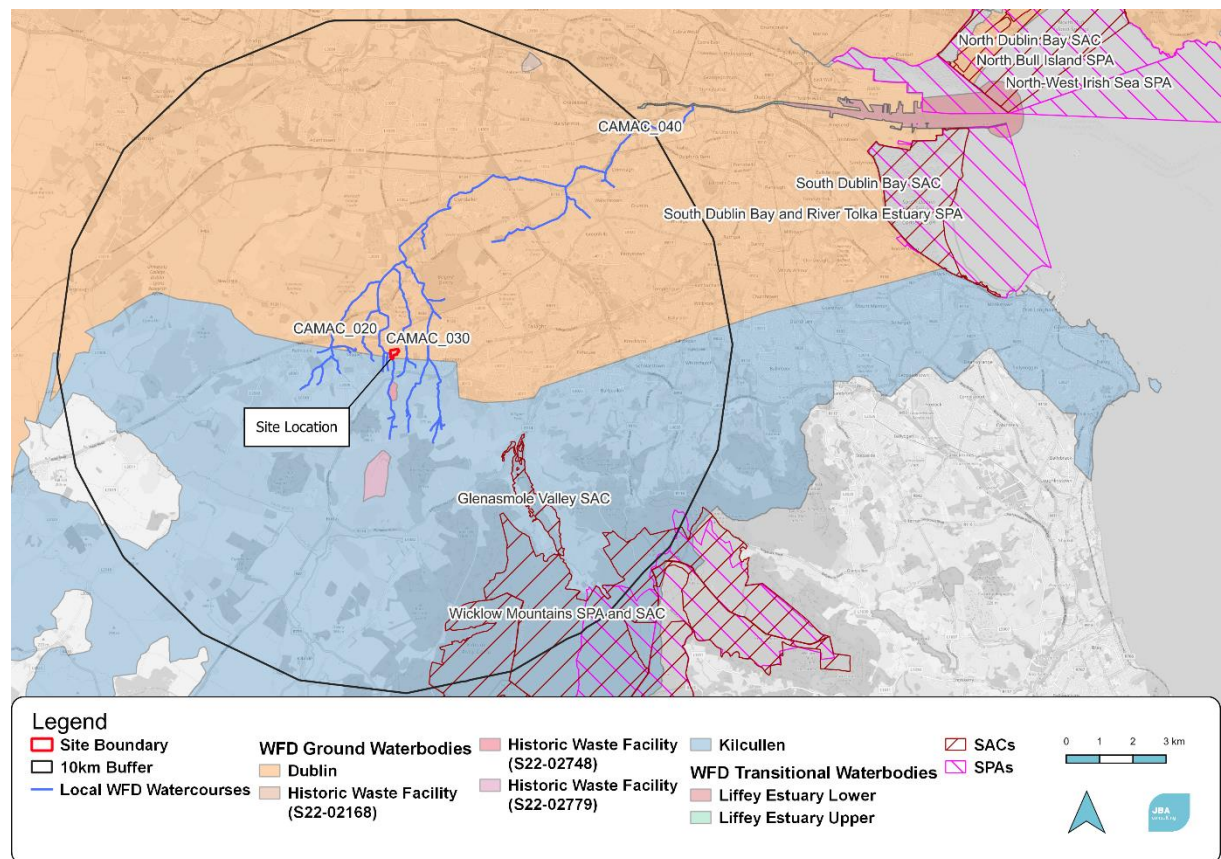


Figure 6-2: Groundwater bodies around the proposed site in respect to Natura 2000 sites (OSM, 2023)

#### 6.2.4 Land and Air

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

Land and air pathways are assessed separately below.

### Land (physical on-site and noise disturbance)

Direct physical effects and indirect effects, such as visual and noise effects, do not have the potential to physically disturb Natura 2000 habitats, as well as the QI floral and faunal species within them, due to the distance from the proposed site to any of the Natura 2000 sites within the ZoI.

**As the proposed development will not result in any physical land-take from the Natura 2000 sites within the ZoI, therefore, likely significant effects are not anticipated for the any of the Natura 2000 sites, and their respective QIs.**

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

**Therefore, in regard to disturbance, likely significant effects are not anticipated during the construction and operational phases for the any of the Natura 2000 sites, and their respective QIs.**

### Air Pollution

Excavations at the site will produce loose top and sub-soil, and emissions may arise from working machinery. Dust release and vehicle emissions can travel considerable distances and could potentially have an effect on the QIs of Natura 2000 sites. The recommended buffer for dust and air pollution is 500m as a baseline, however, the distance and direction of travel is also influenced by wind speed and direction.

The prevailing wind in the area is south-west (based on measurements carried out between 2000-2022 at Dublin (Dublin Airport ((Windfinder.com, 2023))). Therefore, any dust that is generated on-site will most likely be transported towards the Natura 2000 sites within the ZoI. The urban setting of the proposed route also provides barriers, such as buildings and treelines, which will prevent further dispersal of particles.

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

**Therefore, due to the distance and the lack of connection, likely significant effects via the air pathway are not anticipated during the construction and operational phases for the Natura 2000 sites and their respective QIs.**

### 6.2.5 Cumulative Effect

Given the proximity of the other relevant plans and project developments in Section 5, to the proposed site, their connectivity in terms of surface water, groundwater and land & air pathways to the Natura 2000 sites is likely to be similar to the proposed site. With this in consideration and the fact that that the proposed development will not potentially have an effect on the QIs or conservation objectives of any Natura 2000 site, it can be stated that there is no potential for cumulative effects to occur.

### 6.2.6 Summary

Due to the location of the proposed site, the nature of the development and its distance to the Natura 2000 sites within the ZoI, the proposed project is not anticipated to have any likely significant effects via surface water, groundwater, groundwater to surface water, and land and air pathways on any Natura 2000 site.

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

Project Elements	Comment
Size and scale	The proposed and preferred development of the project includes the redevelopment of the Carrigmore Park. The Masterplan Proposals of the project include:

Project Elements	Comment		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A proposed new Sports Pitch (65m x 40m)</li> <li>• BMX Pump Track</li> <li>• Footpath Realignment</li> <li>• Creation of grasscrete footpaths</li> <li>• Bench installations</li> <li>• Two proposed wetland areas</li> <li>• The retention and possible enhancement of all existing hedgerow</li> <li>• A hedge bridge that will cut through an existing gap in the hedges</li> </ul> <p>Proposed planting of native trees including Hawthorn, Willow, Alder and Birch, which will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Along the north-west and north verge of the park,</li> <li>• Around the existing playground</li> <li>• Around the proposed Sports Pitch,</li> <li>• Along the existing basketball court</li> <li>• A mini woodland in the west of the site</li> </ul>		
Land-take	There will be no direct land take from any of Natura 2000 sites.		
Distance from Natura 2000 site or key features of the site	<table border="0"> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Glenasmole Valley SAC</li> <li>• Wicklow Mountains SAC</li> <li>• Wicklow Mountains SPA</li> <li>• North Dublin Bay SAC</li> <li>• South Dublin Bay SAC</li> <li>• North Bull Island SPA</li> <li>• South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA</li> <li>• North-West Irish Sea SPA</li> </ul> </td> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4.3km</li> <li>• 5.7km</li> <li>• 9km</li> <li>• 18.3km</li> <li>• 15.2km</li> <li>• 15.6km</li> <li>• 15.2km</li> <li>• 19.6km</li> </ul> </td> </tr> </table>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Glenasmole Valley SAC</li> <li>• Wicklow Mountains SAC</li> <li>• Wicklow Mountains SPA</li> <li>• North Dublin Bay SAC</li> <li>• South Dublin Bay SAC</li> <li>• North Bull Island SPA</li> <li>• South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA</li> <li>• North-West Irish Sea SPA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4.3km</li> <li>• 5.7km</li> <li>• 9km</li> <li>• 18.3km</li> <li>• 15.2km</li> <li>• 15.6km</li> <li>• 15.2km</li> <li>• 19.6km</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Glenasmole Valley SAC</li> <li>• Wicklow Mountains SAC</li> <li>• Wicklow Mountains SPA</li> <li>• North Dublin Bay SAC</li> <li>• South Dublin Bay SAC</li> <li>• North Bull Island SPA</li> <li>• South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA</li> <li>• North-West Irish Sea SPA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4.3km</li> <li>• 5.7km</li> <li>• 9km</li> <li>• 18.3km</li> <li>• 15.2km</li> <li>• 15.6km</li> <li>• 15.2km</li> <li>• 19.6km</li> </ul>		
Resource requirements (water abstraction etc.)	There will be no water abstraction requirement.		
Emissions (disposal to land, water or air)	<p><b>Construction Phase:</b></p> <p><b>Water</b></p> <p>The proposed site contains direct hydrological links with the Natura 2000 sites within the ZoI, through the proximity of the Corbally Stream along the south-west of the site, and a series of drainage ditches within the site that flow east into the Baldonnell Upper Stream east. However, surface water-based emissions to the local freshwater systems flowing into the Natura 2000 sites is not anticipated, due to the scale of the project and the natural retention and dilution of pollutants within the watercourses.</p> <p><b>Air</b></p> <p>Excavations at the site will produce loose top soil and dust, and emissions may arise from working machinery. However, this is not anticipated to have a significant effect on habitats or species of any Natura 2000 site due to the distance, general wind direction and the presence of barriers such as buildings in the urban sections of the route.</p>		

Project Elements	Comment
	<p><b>Operation phase:</b></p> <p>The proposed operations of the project (and its related emissions) are not expected to directly have an effect on any of the Natura 2000 sites, due to their distance and small-scale operation. Therefore, there will be no permanent effects on any Natura 2000 site</p>
Excavation requirements	<p>Excavations throughout the site will be mixed to accommodate a range of proposed features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The proposed pitch will have a depth of 500mm, with the inclusion of a soakaway which will have excavations of up to 2m</li> <li>• The BMX pump track will require a mixture of excavations of 300m and the creation of mounds</li> <li>• The teen space and calisthenics area will have an estimated depth of 300mm, however there may be some deeper insertions of poles for the frame foundation</li> <li>• Minor additional excavations may be required for the realignment of the footpath</li> </ul>
Transportation requirements	<p><b>Temporary Effects:</b></p> <p>Levels of traffic to the site during the construction phase will increase traffic to the area but will be temporary in nature. All access to the site will be on pre-existing roads and transportation requirements will not affect Natura sites.</p> <p><b>Permanent Effects:</b></p> <p>Given the size, scale and location of the proposed project, transportation requirements will not affect Natura 2000 sites.</p>
Duration of construction, operation, decommissioning etc.	Works are anticipated to take 4-6 months, plus any additional time due to potential weather-based delays
Other	None

#### 6.2.8 Description of likely changes to the Natura 2000 sites

Potential Effect	Comments
Reduction of habitat area	There will be no reduction in habitat area for any of the Natura 2000 sites.
Disturbance to key species	<p><b>Temporary Effects:</b></p> <p>The construction works will temporarily increase the noise level and disturbance locally. However, no significant effects are anticipated to key species given scale and temporary nature of the construction phase and distance from the Natura 2000 sites.</p> <p><b>Permanent Effects:</b></p> <p>No disturbance to key species is anticipated during operation of the project.</p>
Habitat or species fragmentation	There will be no temporary or permanent habitat or species fragmentation within any of the Natura 2000 sites.
Reduction in species density	There will be no temporary or permanent reduction in species density within any of the Natura 2000 sites, or any QIs of these sites.

Potential Effect	Comments
Changes in key indicators of conservation value (water quality etc.)	There will be no temporary or permanent changes in key indicators of conservation value (surface water, groundwater and air quality).
Climate change	N/A
Interference with the key relationships that define the structure of the site	There will be no interference with the key relationships that define the structure of the sites.
Interference with key relationships that define the function of the site	There will be no interference with the key relationships that define the function of the sites.
Loss (Estimated percentage of lost area of habitat)	No Natura 2000 sites will experience a direct loss in habitat area.
Fragmentation	Fragmentation of habitat and/or species is not anticipated.
Disruption & disturbance	Disruption and/ or disturbance is not anticipated.
Change to key elements of the site (e.g. water quality etc.)	Potential temporary changes to key elements (i.e. water quality) of the site are not anticipated.

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

Based upon best scientific judgement, significant effects are not expected from the elements mentioned above, and there are no elements where the scale or magnitude of effects is unknown.

**6.3 Concluding Statement**

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

**On the basis of the screening exercise carried out above, it can be concluded that the possibility of any significant adverse effects on the Natura 2000 sites within the ZOI, whether arising from the project itself or in combination with other plans and projects, can be excluded beyond a reasonable scientific doubt on the basis of the best scientific knowledge available.**



# Appendices

## A Site Layout Plan





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**JBA**  
consulting

Offices at

Dublin

Limerick

Registered Office

24 Grove Island

Corbally

Limerick

Ireland

t: +353 (0) 61 345463

e: [info@jbaconsulting.ie](mailto:info@jbaconsulting.ie)

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Scientists Limited

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