Appropriate Assessment Screening Report for residential infill (Age Friendly) development 27 Residential Units for site at Deansrath Green & Melrose Green, Clondalkin, Dublin 22

On behalf of South Dublin County Council

October 2023

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1.0 Introduction

South Dublin County Council is proposing to develop an Infill (Age Friendly) Housing Development, for a site at Deansrath Green & Melrose Green, Clondalkin, Dublin 22, Co. Dublin. The project at Deansrath Green and Melrose Green, Clondalkin, Dublin 22 involves the building of 27 new age-friendly residential units, mix of one- and two-storey buildings (single-storey houses and two-storey apartments), which will include SUDs and making good works to neighbouring park area, additional road and car parking, connection to exist drainage/utilities, an upgrade to the surface water drainage system and all other ancillary site and development works. Access to the site is from Deansrath Green & Melrose Green.

Pursuant to proper planning and development particular attention should be given to the requirement for Appropriate Assessment Screening and where necessary ensure all proposals/projects are screened to avoid significant impacts on Natura 2000 sites in accordance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.

The purpose of this assessment is to determine, the appropriateness, or otherwise, of the proposed project in the context of the conservation objectives of sites which are protected for their natural habitats and species under European legislation, termed Natura 2000 sites.

2.0 Process

Ireland became a signatory to the EU Birds Directive in 1979 and the Habitats Directive in 1992. Arising from this legislation was the obligation to establish the Natura 2000 network: nominated sites of highest biodiversity importance for rare and threatened habitats and species across the EU. In Ireland, the Natura 2000 network of European sites comprises Special Areas of Conservation (SACs, including candidate SACs), and Special Protection Areas (SPAs, including proposed SPAs).

SACs are selected for the conservation of Annex I habitats (including priority types which are in danger of disappearance) and Annex II species (other than birds). SPAs are selected for the protection of Annex I birds and other regularly occurring migratory birds and their habitats. The annexed habitats and species for which each site is selected correspond to the qualifying interests of the sites; from these the conservation objectives of the site are derived.

The requirements for an Appropriate Assessments (AA) are fully set out in the EU Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of this Directive state:

> 6.3. Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be 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.
>
> 6.4. 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 State 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 a site that is impacted upon by a proposed development 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 Department of the Environment, Heritage, and Local Government (DoEHLG) issued guidance on Appropriate Assessment (*Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland - Guidance for Planning Authorities*) in December 2009 which provided advice on the information required in an Appropriate Assessment. Guidance from DoEHLG published in February 2010 stated that it is the responsibility of the competent authority (or consent authority) to undertake the Appropriate Assessment. The assessments may be based on information 2022 submitted by the proponent of the plan or project, in the form of a Natura Impact Statement. This Natura Impact Statement must be prepared by an ecological specialist with input from other relevant disciplines as required experts, e.g. engineers, planning specialists, hydrologists.

This screening assessment has been prepared in accordance with the current guidance (OPR Practice Note PN01, 2021, Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management and NPWS, 2009, Revised February 2010).

Statement of Authority
The assessment is carried out by Mary O' Connor, who has a PhD. in ecology and over 20 years professional experience as an ecologist/environmental scientist. She has worked for public and private sector clients and has several years' experience of ecological/environmental assessment and input into Environmental Impact Assessment and Appropriate Assessment Report

3.0 Stages of the Appropriate Assessment

This document has been prepared in accordance with the European Commission Environment DG document "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", referred to as the "EC Article 6 Guidance Document". The guidance document provides a non-mandatory methodology for carrying out assessments required under Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive and is viewed as an interpretation of the EU Commission's document "Managing Natura 2000 sites: The Provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC", referred to as "MN2000". In addition, "Appropriate Assessment Guidance for Planning Authorities" was published by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government in December 2009 (DEHLG, 2009) and amended in March 2010. Cognisance has been taken of this document in carrying out this screening assessment.

The Habitats Directive promotes a hierarchy of avoidance, mitigation and compensatory measures. In the first instance, the plan should aim to avoid any negative impacts on European sites by identifying possible impacts early in the plan-making and writing the plan in order to avoid such impacts. Following that, mitigation measures should be applied, if necessary, during the AA process to the point where no adverse impacts on the site(s) remain. If the plan is still likely

to result in adverse effects, and no further practicable mitigation is possible, then it is rejected. If no alternative solutions are identified and the plan is required for imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI test) under Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, then compensation measures are required for any remaining adverse effect.

Screening Phase

In some situations, it is clear that a proposed development has a very low likelihood of having an impact on a European site. For example, where the nature, scale, timing, duration and location of a development is entirely unconnected to a European site. These instances will generally be very small developments, for example, house extensions in serviced urban areas and small developments in urban areas with no connections to ecological receptors linked to European sites.

The impact of the proposed development at Melrose Avenue is assessed based on Source-Pathway-Receptor (S-P-R) model.

The identification of European sites within a 15km zone has become common practice in screening projects for AA. However, this approach is not based on the S-P-R model and should not be used for projects. Few projects have a zone of influence this large, but some more complex projects may require a greater zone of investigation. Instead, the zone of influence of a project should be considered using the Source-Pathway Receptor model.

Consideration of likely significant effects should be based on the S-P-R risk assessment principle. If there is no ecological pathway or functional link between the proposed development and the European site, there is no potential for impact and the project can be screened out. Ecological pathways can be physical, for example, water or air in the case or airborne pollutants (e.g. ammonia from intensive agricultural installations). Functional pathways occur, for example, where the application site is used as foraging for a Qualifying Interest of a SAC or SPA.

This section of the screening process describes the Natura 2000 sites within a 10km radius of the proposed development. A 10km buffer zone has been chosen as a precautionary measure, to ensure that all potentially affected Natura 2000 sites are included in the screening process. This is in line with "Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland – Guidance for Planning Authorities", produced by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

The integrity of a Natura 2000 site (referred to in Article 6.3 of the EU Habitats Directive) is determined based on the conservation status of the qualifying features of the SAC. The qualifying features for each site have been obtained through a review of online documentation relating to each Natura 2000 site available from the NPWS.

There are two European sites located km south east from the proposed development site in Clondalkin, Dublin 22, the Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC (001398) approximately 5.8km northwest from the site and the Glenasmole Valley SAC (Site Code; 002109), 8.3 km south of the development site.

4.0 Description of the Project and whether is it required for proper management of a European Site

The project as outlined is not required for the proper management of a European Site i.e an SAC or SPA site.

The site located at Deansrath Green & Melrose Green is in a suburban setting, north west of Clondalkin Town. It is situated in on an open green space, a green area which is a spur to the north of St. Cuthbert's Park which lies directly south of the proposed development site. The residential areas of Deansrath Green lie to the west, Melrose Green to the east and Melrose Avenue to the north.
The broader surroundings consist mainly of housing estates, roadways and urban infrastructure, with some parkland with scattered trees and amenity grassland. Scrub and hedgerows/treelines are located in St. Cuthberts Park and are associated with the old ruined church of St. Cuthbert of Lindisfarne located circa 200m south of the proposed development site.
The project at Deansrath Green and Melrose Green, Clondalkin, Dublin 22 involves the building of 27 new age-friendly residential units, mix of one- and two-storey buildings (single-storey houses and two-storey apartments), which will include SUDs and making good works to neighbouring park area, additional road and car parking, connection to exist drainage/utilities, an upgrade to the surface water drainage system and all other ancillary site and development works.
The surface water design of the site shall ultimately connect into the existing surface water network on Deansrath Green & Melrose Green. The surface water design shall be designed to utilise sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) and nature-based drainage, prioritising infiltration where suitable. SuDS will be implemented in the form of swales, bio-retention rain gardens, bio-retention tree-pits and permeable paving within in curtilage areas. The surface water network which has been sized for up to a 1:100-year storm event + 20% climate change allowance.
The foul water shall connect into the existing regional foul water sewer located in Melrose Avenue via a new foul water gravity sewer. Foul water from the site will ultimately discharge at the Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Works which discharges into Dublin Bay. The treated waters are treated to a Tertiary standard, which is in compliance with the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive.
The landscape proposals consist of street trees / tree pits (native Irish tree species will be favoured, (e.g Rowan, Holly, Birch, Bird Cherry and Irish Whitebeam) planting areas within curtilage of units and a small open green space. No species listed on Invasive Species Ireland lists of High Impact Invasive Species, Medium Impact Invasive Species of Species of Union Concern (see https://invasives.ie/about/irelands-invasive-species/), will be utilised in the landscaping of the proposed development site.

Site location map is included as Appendix 1.

General Site Construction Environmental Measures Consistent with Best Practice, Standards, Design and Controls

The developer will outline a Construction Environmental Management Plan in consultation with the competent authority South Dublin Co. Council for the development which will describe the methodology to be used on site to ensure best environmental management of the site including maintenance of local water quality, avoidance of potential run-off occur on site and the protection of flora

and fauna. The CEMP will be informed by the best practice guidelines as outlined in this section of the screening statement.

Best Practice Environmental Management of Site

The Wildlife Act (1976) and the Wildlife Amendment Act 2000 states that the removal of hedgerows or marginal vegetation should not occur from 1st of March through August 31st.

The proposed development will not occur ouside the existing boundary of the Melrose Avenue Estate i.e, treeline, hedgerows, and boundaries will be maintained where possible.

Limiting Silt or Fines run-off During Construction

Silt deposition to any surface water drains is always of potential concern because of on-site disturbance. Such release of silt into the storm drain system may impact local water quality and all effort must be made to prevent such an eventuality. It is therefore very important to keep any potential silt or fines losses from the site to a minimum, during construction, see details below. This is best practice for all construction sites.

Oil spill from machinery during construction is also a concern which must be designed out, see details below.

Standard Best Practice Environmental Measures to minimise impact of Construction and use of Machinery on Site

The following measures are best practice and must be implemented at all sites for preserving local water quality.

1. Fuels, oils, greases and hydraulic fluids must be stored in bunded compounds well away from local watercourses off site. Refuelling of machinery, etc., should be carried out in bunded areas or off site.

2. Runoff from the above should only be routed to the local drainage system via suitably designed and sited settlement ponds/filter channels.

3. Sediment/silt traps are to be located at appropriate locations of the site to deal with any potential run-off from construction process.

4. All drainage and sediment/silt traps should be in place before any site works occur.

The risk of surface water becoming polluted in the first place in this area should be minimised by,

Minimising run-off

No plant washings on site

No chemical or fuel storage will be carried out on site.

MINIMISE erosion of exposed soils

The most obvious way to minimise erosion is to minimise the amount of soil exposed.

Standard Best Practice Design measures to prevent any water pollution post construction.

The proposed housing units will be linked to the existing foul water system and hence to the Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant. The proposed development is within the loading capacity of the Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant (tertiary level treatment plant), which is currently undergoing an upgrade, a 400,000 population equivalent extenson, which will be operational in 2024.

Impact to the physico-chemical quality of the water is expected to be minimal once construction is complete as all sewage water from the site will be treated to tertiary level and is within the load capacity of the Ringsend WWTP.

A full infiltration system will be incorporated into the design of the buildings and associated pathways. Roofs will discharge to permeable paving which will slowly discharge to the surface water network this will then connect to the public surface water network.

This protocol for water management on site is an example of the "grey to green" surface water treatment philosophy. This will ensure that the Water Quality of the surface water leaving the site will be such as to not negatively impact local water quality.

It is therefore concluded that there is no possibility of deleterious impact to water quality during the construction phases of this project.

5.0 Sources for Information on Natura 2000 sites to Inform Screening Process

5.1 Nature Conservation Sites and Available Information

Data and information about European sites, and other nature conservation sites, were acquired from www.npws.ie. This includes site boundaries, site synopses, lists of qualifying interests (SACs) and special conservation interests (SPAs), and conservation objectives (European sites).

European sites have site specific conservation objectives, and the associated supporting documents were sourced from the NPWS website.

- National Biodiversity Data Centre.
- EISs, NISs and other reports for projects in the general area, including previous Natura 2000 Screening Reports in Clondalkin, Dublin 22 area these reports are available from South Dublin County Council, planning portal.
- Tallaght Local Area Plan, South Dublin Co. Council.
- Geological Survey of Ireland Website

- **REFERENCES**

- Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland. Guidance for Planning Authorities. Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2009
- Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management. Office of the Planning Regulator Practice Note PN01, 2021
- 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, European Commission Environment DG, 2000.
- Fossitt, J. A. (2000) A Guide to the Habitats of Ireland. The Heritage Council, Ireland.
- Managing Natura 2000 sites: The Provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC: European Commission, 2000

6.0 Features of the Development that Could Impact on Natura 2000 Sites

6.1 Brief Description of the Natura 2000 Sites

Receiving Environment

Geology and soils

The Site is underlain by limestone (peloidal calcarenitic limestone), which is a regionally-important gravel aquifer.

Soils and subsoils

Soils are similar to those which occur in the wider locality and area greyish-brown, clay loam. Subsoils are limestone till. It is expected that the site is well drained.

Hydrology There are no significant rivers, streams within or adjacent to the proposed development site.

Habitats of the proposed Development Site

The habitats of the development site are entirely of an urban character, comprising an area of amenity grassland (GA1), roadways and artificial surfaces (BL1), low boundary concrete wall (BL1), a low and gappy boundary hedgerow WL1 (beech hedge).

Ecological Value

The site is highly modified and urban a small area of gappy beech hedgerow and low concrete wall around the perimeter. These overall have a low local ecological value.

Overall Ecological Value

The location of the proposed development is in a highly modified urban area which is of low habitat and species diversity and of low ecological interest.

No annexed habitats or species of conservation interest occur within the footprint of the development.

Ecological Value

The site is highly modified and urban and concrete block walls and a small area of trees which have a low local ecological value.

Overall Ecological Value

The location of the proposed is in a highly modified urban area which is of low habitat and species diversity and of low ecological interest.

No annexed habitats or species of conservation interest occur within the footprint of the development.

The proposed redevelopment is located at *circa* 5.3Km from nearest SAC Site Name: Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC (001398) which occurs to the north west and upstream of the proposed.development site.

Table 1. Natura 2000 sites within 5km of Proposed Housing Redevelopment.

Site Name (code)	Qualifying Interests Habitats and Species	Minimum Distance from development(km)
Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC (001398)	**Species** 1014 Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail(Vertigo angustior) 1016 Desmoulin's Whorl Snail(Vertigo moulinsiana) **Habitats** 7220 Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion)*	5.3
Glenasmole Valley SAC (Site Code: 002109)	**Habitats** 6210 Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (* important orchid sites) 6410 Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae) 7220Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion)*	8.3 km

6.2 Conservation Objectives

A Natura 2000 site's conservation objectives are defined by DAHG and are, "intended to ensure that the relevant Annex I habitats and Annex II species present on a site are maintained in a favourable condition" (DEHLG, 2010). The DEHLG guidelines state that, "The Conservation Objectives derive from the qualifying interests, the Natura 2000 standard data form, and the management plan for the site, with summary information also available in the site synopsis." Whilst the Natura 2000 standard data forms and site synopses do present details of the qualifying features of Natura 2000 sites, and list the generic threats to those features, they do not define the conservation objectives of the site.

For the purposes of this assessment, information on the conservation objectives for the sites has been gained from consultation with NPWS relating to the Border Regional Planning Guidelines and NPWS generic Conservation Objectives for Natura 2000 Sites where no Management Plan is yet available.

Generic conservation objectives for SPAs are as follows:

- To maintain the bird species of special conservation interest for which the SPA has been listed, at favourable conservation status.

Generic conservation objectives for SACs are as follows:

- To maintain Annex, I habitats and Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected at favourable conservation status;
- To maintain the extent species richness and biodiversity of the entire site; and
- To establish effective liaison and co-operation with landowners, legal users and relevant authorities.

The favourable conservation status of a species can be described as being achieved when: population data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself, and the natural range of the species is neither being reduced nor likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future, and there is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis.

Favourable conservation status of a habitat can be described as being achieved when: its natural range, and area it covers within that range, is stable or increasing, and the ecological factors that are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future, and the conservation status of its typical species is favourable as defined below.

7.0 Likely Impact to the Natura 2000

The possible impacts that might arise from the proposed development have been examined in the context of the factors that could potentially affect the integrity of the Natura 2000 sites. As part of the screening stage process the proximity and qualifying interests of the Natura 2000 sites in the wider hinterland of the proposed infill housing development at Melrose Avenue, Clondalkin, Dublin 22 were considered. In assessing the sites that could potentially be impacted by the proposed development a source-pathway-receptor model was used. All sites potentially impacted were considered in relation to the size and nature of the proposed development and the sensitivity of the receptors in the wider locality. If a Natura 2000 site of particular significance/relevance exists beyond a nominal

screening area this was also included in the screening appraisal. Accordingly, all potential pathways for impact on designated sites were included in this screening exercise both within and outside a nominal 5km zone which was chosen to display the location and discuss sites most proximate to the proposed development. Table 2 summarises the location and qualifying interests of designated sites in the area.

IDENTIFICATION OF LIKELY SOURCES AND PATHWAYS

An assessment of the impact of the proposed development and in particular its associated wastewater management as it may impact on aquatic habitats and species was carried out.

The impact to water quality will be negligible because the foul water shall connect into the existing regional foul water sewer located in Melrose Avene via a new foul water gravity sewer. Foul water from the site will ultimately discharge at the Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Works which discharges into Dublin Bay. The treated waters are treated to a Tertiary standard, which is in compliance with the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive and will be upgraded to a further 400,000 person equivalents in 2024.

Water supply to the proposed units will be supplied via a new 100mm loop watermain which shall branch off the existing 100mm watermain in Melrose Avenue.

The surface water design of the site shall ultimately connect into the existing surface water network in Melrose Avenue. The surface water design shall be designed to utilise sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) and nature-based drainage, prioritising infiltration where suitable. SuDS will be implemented in the form of green roofs, bio-retention rain gardens, bio-retention tree-pits and permeable paving within in curtilage areas. The surface water network which has been sized for up to a 1:100-year storm event + 20% climate change allowance. This ensures no deleterious impact to surface waters.

It was concluded that due to the design of the proposed impact to water quality will be negligible and therefore water quality will not be a source of impact to any aquatic species of habitats.

The Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC (001398) is also upstream of the site and there is no hydrological connection to this site, and therefor no pathway for impact to occur to this site.

No other ecological sources or pathways to the site from any Natura 2000 sites were identified especially due to the urban nature of the site which does not support suitable foraging, roosting, or nesting habitat for species of qualifying interest of Natura 2000 sites within the local area.

The site is also isolated from connectivity to protected European sites as it is in a urban setting with not natural ecological corridor linkage.

The other European site considered because of its proximity to the site is the Glenasmole Valley SAC (Site Code: 002109), at circa 8.3km from the proposed development site.

Table 2 Nature and Significance of any potential impacts on the qualifying interests of the Natura site arising from the implementation of the project, Glenasmole Valley SAC (Site Code: 002109) and Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC (001398).

Glenasmole Valley SAC (Site Code: 002109)				
Qualifying Interest	**Level of Protection**	**Relevant**	**Likelihood of Impact**	**Cause of Impact**
6210 Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (* important orchid sites)	**Habitats Directive Annex 1 Priority**	**No**	**None (no source or pathway)**	**N/A**
6410 Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae)	**Habitats Directive Annex 1**	**No**	**None (no source or pathway)**	**N/A**
7220Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion)*	**Habitats Directive Annex 1**	**No**	**None (no source or pathway)**	**N/A**
Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC (001398).				
1014 Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail(Vertigo angustior)	**Habitats Directive Annex 1 Priority**	**No**	**None (no source or pathway)**	**N/A**
1016 Desmoulin's Whorl Snail(Vertigo moulinsiana)	**Habitats Directive Annex 1**	**No**	**None (no source or pathway)**	**N/A**
7220Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion)*	**Habitats Directive Annex 1**	**No**	**None (no source or pathway)**	**N/A**

7.1 SAC Sites Impact Conclusions

The nearest SAC within the 10km radius from the proposed development site lies at a distance of circa 5.3km from the prosposed development site at Melrose Avenue, Clondalkin, Dublin 22, and the other site consider is the Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC (001398).

There is expected to be no direct loss of habitat to thess SAC and all surface water and foul water on site are adequately treated and therefore no impact is envisaged to water quality which is rule out a a source of impact to any European sites in the locality.

It is also highly improbable that a project of this nature and scale will have any measurable impact on the qualifying interests of Glenasmole Valley SAC (Site Code: 002109) and the Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC (001398).as there is no hydrological or habitat linkage between this site and the proposed development site.

For the considered European sites there will be no reduction in habitat area of qualifying interest, no disturbance to key species or habitats, no reduction in species density or no changes in key indictors of conservation value.

Table 1 summarises the location and qualifying interests of designated sites in the within a 15km radius of the proposed development site.

Table 2 outlines a screening matrix for potential impacts to the SAC sites.

Table 3 outlines the summary of conclusions of the AA screening process.

Site Name	**Reduction in Habitat Area of Habitat of Qualifying Interest** **Possible Potential Impacts**	**Disturbance to Key Habitats or Species** **Possible Potential Impacts**	**Habitat or Species Fragmentation** **Possible Potential Impacts**	**Reduction in Species Density** **Possible Potential Impacts**	**Changes in Key Indicators of Conservation Value** **Possible Potential Impacts**
Glenasmole Valley SAC (Site Code: 002109),	No	No	No	No	No
Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC (001398).	No	No	No	No	No

Table 3 Summary of conclusions of the AA screening process.

8.0 Screening Conclusions

The likely impacts that will arise from the proposed development of works have been examined in the context of the key environmental factors that could potentially affect the integrity of the Natura 2000 network, e.g., disturbance, habitat loss, etc. and the results of the Screening Assessment, as presented in Tables 2. The tables indicate "no" for sites where no negative impact is anticipated on the conservation objectives or on the overall integrity of the site.

Conclusion of screening stage

In conclusion, to determine the potential impacts, if any, of the proposed development to nearby Natura 2000 sites, a screening process for AA was undertaken. The proposed development is within 10km of 2 Natura 2000 sites.

It is considered that the proposed development does not include any element that has the potential to significantly alter the favourable conservation objectives associated with the species and habitats, or interfere with the key relationships that define the structure or function, either alone or incombination with other impacts, of the Natura 2000 sites considered in this document provided that the following is carried out:

The proposed development is completed as described in section 4.

The programme of measures consistent with best practice, standards, design and controls as outlined in section 4 are implemented.

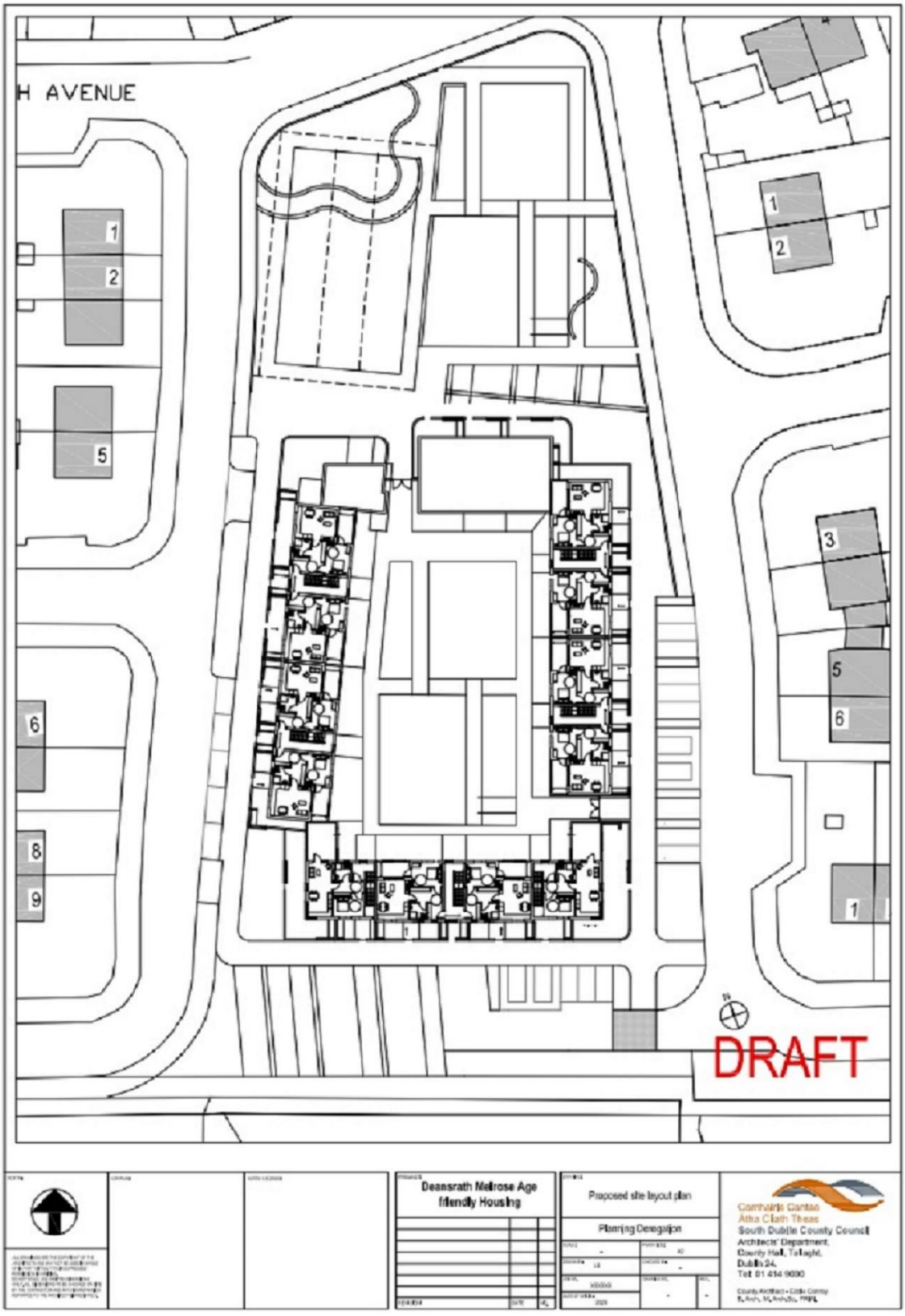
It has been objectively concluded during the screening process that there is no source or pathway for deleterious ecological impact to any European Site (SAC or SPA). It is also concluded that the site considered because of its proximity to the proposed development is not likely to be significantly impacted by the proposed Infill Housing Development and this is:

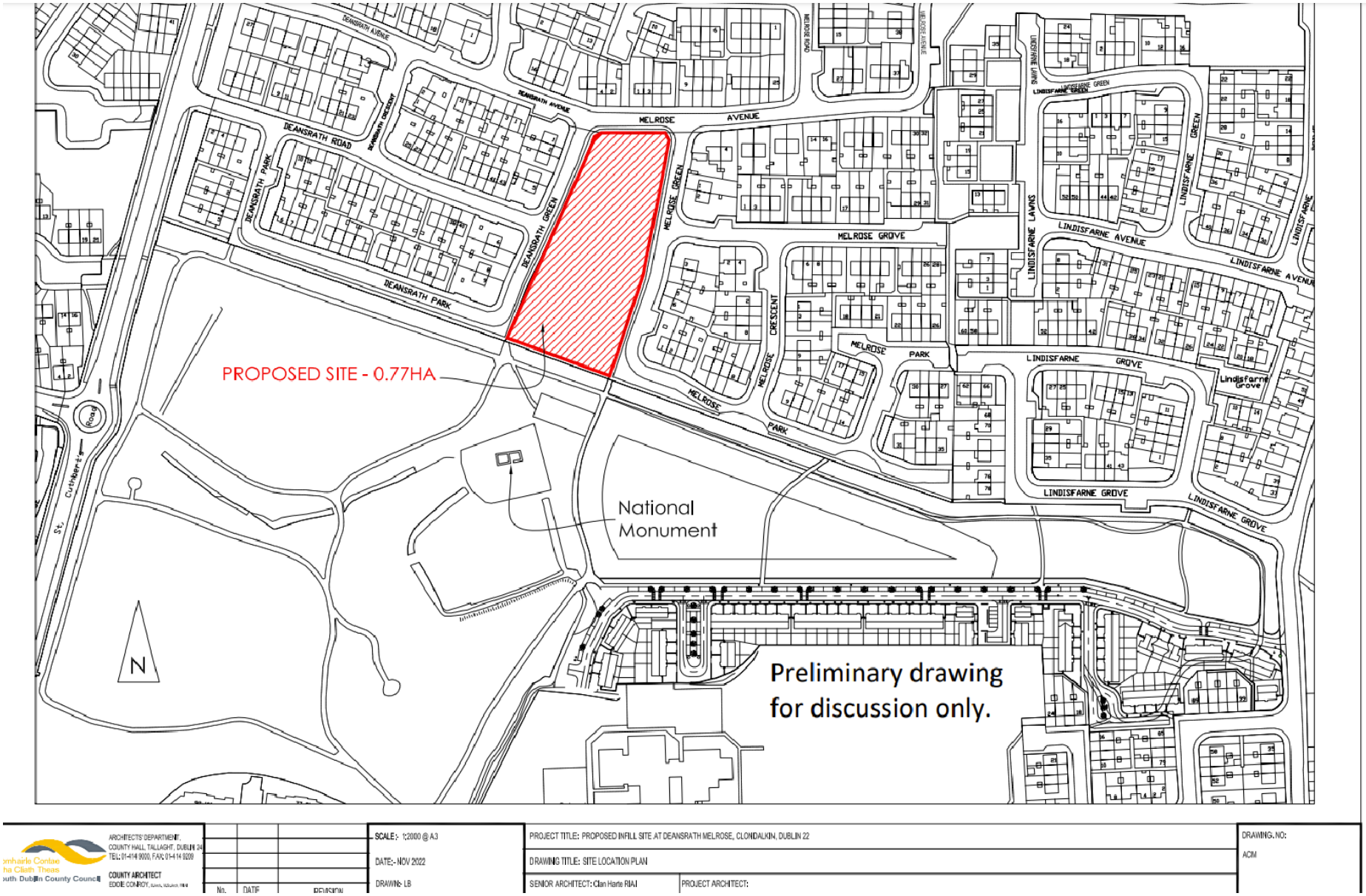
- Glenasmole Valley SAC (Site Code: 002109)
- Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC (001398).

Appendix 1.

Location and Layout of Proposed Development Melrose Avenue, Clondalkin Dublin 22

Appendix 1: Location and Layout of Proposed Development – not to scale.





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SCALE: 1:2000 @ A3
DATE:- NOV 2022
DRAWN: LB

PROJECT TITLE: PROPOSED INFILL SITE AT DEANSRATH MELROSE, CLONDALKIN, DUBLIN 22
DRAWING TITLE: SITE LOCATION PLAN
SENIOR ARCHITECT: Cian Harte RIAI
PROJECT ARCHITECT:

DRAWING. NO: A/1

APPENDIX 2: European Sites within 10km of proposed Development Site

Appendix 3

SITE SYNOPSIS Site Name: Glenasmole Valley SAC Site Code: 001209 Glenasmole Valley in south Co. Dublin lies on the edge of the Wicklow uplands, approximately 5 km from Tallaght. The River Dodder flows through the valley and has been impounded here to form two reservoirs which supply water to south Dublin. The non-calcareous bedrock of the Glenasmole Valley has been overlain by deep drift deposits which now line the valley sides. They are partly covered by scrub and woodland, and on the less precipitous parts, by a herb-rich grassland. There is much seepage through the deposits, which brings to the surface water rich in bases, which induces local patches of calcareous fen and, in places, petrifying springs. The site is a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) selected for the following habitats and/or species listed on Annex I / II of the E.U. Habitats Directive (* = priority; numbers in brackets are Natura 2000 codes): [6210] Orchid-rich Calcareous Grassland* [6410] Molinia Meadows [7220] Petrifying Springs* At this site, examples of calcareous fen and flush occur between the two reservoirs, where sedges (including Carex flacca and C. panicea) are joined by such species as Grass-of-parnassus (Parnassia palustris), Few-flowered Spike-rush (Eleocharis quinqueflora), Zig-zag clover (Trifolium medium) and the scarce Fen Bedstraw (Galium uliginosum). Tufa depositing springs are long-known from the site, along the valley sides, and some have substantial tufa mounds and banks. Tufa formation is also known from small streams within the woodland at the site. Within the hazel woods, and associated with the springs and flushes, a distinctive flora with Marsh Hawk'sbeard (Crepis paludosa) and luxuriant stands of Great Horsetail (Equisetum telmateia) has developed. Orchid-rich grassland occurs in the drier parts of this site and in places grades into Molinia meadow. Orchids recorded in these habitats include Frog Orchid (Coeloglossum viride), Northern Marsh-orchid (Dactylorhiza purpurella), Fragrant Orchid (Gymnadenia conopsea), Marsh Helleborine (Epipactis palustris), Early-purple Orchid (Orchis mascula) and Greater Butterfly Orchid (Platanthera chlorantha). Two further orchid species, both Red Data Book-listed, have also been found here, Greenwinged Orchid (Orchis morio) and Small-white Orchid (Pseudorchis albida). Common grasses in the sward include Sweet Vernal-grass (Anthoxanthum odoratum), Creeping Bent (Agrostis stolonifera) and Crested Dog's-tail (Cynosurus cristatus). Other species which occur are Common Bird's-foot-trefoil (Lotus corniculatus), Kidney Vetch (Anthyllis vulneraria), Common Restharrow (Ononis repens), Yellow-wort (Blackstonia Version date: 30.09.2013 2 of 2 001209_Rev13.Doc perfoliata) and Autumn Gentian (Gentianella amarella). While much of the calcareous grassland has been improved to some extent for agriculture, a suite of typical species still remain. The areas of Molinia meadows at the site occur associated with the grasslands on the valley sides, and in particular in seepage and flushed areas. Typical and indicative species include Greater Bird's-foot-trefoil (Lotus uliginosus), Tormentil (Potentilla erecta), Purple Moor-grass (Molinia caerulea), Sharp-flowered Rush (Juncus acutiflorus), Adder's-tongue (Ophioglossum vulgatum), Meadow Thistle (Cirsium dissectum) and Fen Bedstraw. As noted above, orchids are frequent in the grasslands at this site. Woodland occurs in patches around the site. On the east side of the valley, below the northern lake, a Hazel (Corylus avellana) wood has developed on the unstable calcareous slopes and includes other species such as Ash (Fraxinus excelsior), Downy Birch (Betula pubescens), Goat Willow (Salix caprea) and (Irish) Whitebeam (Sorbus hibernica). Spring Wood-rush (Luzula pilosa), Wood Speedwell (Veronica montana) and Bramble (Rubus fruticosus agg.) are present in the ground flora. Wet semi-natural broadleaved woodland is also found around the reservoirs and includes Alder (Alnus glutinosa) and willow (Salix spp.), with Yellow Iris (Iris pseudacorus), horsetails (Equisetum spp.), Bramble and localised patches of Japanese Knotweed (Reynoutria japonica), an introduced and invasive species. The lake shore vegetation is not well developed, which is typical of a reservoir. There are occasional patches of Reed Canary-grass (Phalaris arundinacea) and Purpleloosestrife (Lythrum salicaria), which are more extensive around the western shore of the northern lake, along with Common Marsh-bedstraw (Galium palustre) and Water Mint (Mentha aquatica). Other vegetation includes Shoreweed (Littorella uniflora) and the scarce Water Sedge (Carex aquatilis). As well as the Green-winged Orchid and Small-white Orchid, two other threatened species which are listed in the Irish Red Data Book occur in the site, Yellow Archangel (Lamiastrum galeobdolon) and Yellow Bird's-nest (Monotropa hypopitys). Small-white Orchid is legally protected under the Flora (Protection) Order, 1999. The site provides excellent habitat for bats, with at least four species recorded: Pipistrelle, Leisler's, Daubenton's and Brown Long-eared. Otter occurs along the river and reservoirs. The site supports Kingfisher, an Annex I species under the E.U. Birds Directive. Glenasmole Valley contains a high diversity of habitats and plant communities, including three habitats listed on Annex I of the E.U. Habitats Directive. The presence of four Red Data Book plant species further adds to the value of the site, as does the presence of populations of several mammal and bird species of conservation interest.

Site Name: Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC Site Code: 001398 Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC is located between Leixlip and Maynooth, in Counties Meath and Kildare, and extends along the Rye Water, a tributary of the River Liffey. The site is a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) selected for the following habitats and/or species listed on Annex I / II of the E.U. Habitats Directive (* = priority; numbers in brackets are Natura 2000 codes): [7220] Petrifying Springs* [1014] Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail (Vertigo angustior) [1016] Desmoulin's Whorl Snail (Vertigo moulinsiana) The Rye Water in Carton Estate is dammed at intervals, creating a series of lakes. Reed Sweet-grass (Glyceria maxima) is frequent around the lakes, along with Yellow Iris (Iris pseudacorus), Reed Canary-grass (Phalaris arundinacea), Bulrush (Typha latifolia), Water Forget-me-not (Myosotis scorpioides), Marsh-marigold (Caltha palustris) and starworts (Callitriche spp.). Along the remainder of the site the river has been dredged and much of the reed fringe removed. To the north-west of Carton Bridge a small clump of willows (Salix spp.), with dogwood (Cornus sp.), Alder (Alnus glutinosa), Ash (Fraxinus excelsior) and Elder (Sambucus nigra) occurs. The ground flora found here includes Golden Saxifrage (Chrysosplenium oppostifolium), Meadowsweet (Filipendula ulmaria), Common Valerian (Valeriana officinalis), Wavy Bitter-cress (Cardamine flexuosa) and Bittersweet (Solanum dulcamara). The woods on Carton Estate are mostly old demesne woods with both deciduous and coniferous species. Conifers, including some Yew (Taxus baccata) – a native species, are dominant, with Beech (Fagus sylvatica), oak (Quercus sp.), Sycamore (Acer pseudoplatanus), Ash and Hazel (Corylus avellana) also occurring. The ground flora is dominated by Ivy (Hedera helix), with such species as Hedge Woundwort (Stachys sylvatica), Wood Speedwell (Veronica montana), Woodruff (Galium odoratum), Wood Avens (Geum urbanum), Common Dog-violet (Viola riviniana), Wild Angelica (Angelica sylvestris), Ramsons (Allium ursinum), Ground-ivy (Glechoma hederacea) and Ivy Broomrape (Orobanche hederae) also found. Hairy St. John's-wort (Hypericum hirsutum), a species legally protected under the Flora (Protection) Order, 1999, occurs in Carton Estate and there is an old record from the estate for the similarly protected Hairy Violet (Viola hirta). However, this latter species has not been recorded from the site in recent years. Another species Version date: 11.10.2013 2 of 2 001398_Rev13.Doc listed in the Red Data Book, Green Figwort (Scrophularia umbrosa), occurs on the site in several locations by the Rye Water. The woods at Carton Demesne are the site of a rare Myxomycete fungus, Diderma deplanatum. The marsh, mineral spring and seepage area found at Louisa Bridge supports a good diversity of plant species, including stoneworts, Marsh Arrowgrass (Triglochin palustris), Purple Moor-grass (Molinea caerulea), sedges (Carex spp.), Common Butterwort (Pinguicula vulgaris), Marsh Lousewort (Pedicularis palustris), Grass-ofparnassus (Parnassia palustris) and Cuckooflower (Cardamine pratensis). The mineral spring found at the site is of a type considered to be rare in Europe and is a habitat listed on Annex I of the E.U. Habitats Directive. The Red Data Book species Blue Fleabane (Erigeron acer) is found growing on a wall at Louisa Bridge. Within the woods, Blackcap, Woodcock and Long-eared Owl have been recorded. Little Grebe, Coot, Moorhen, Tufted Duck, Teal and Kingfisher, the latter a species listed on Annex I of the E.U. Birds Directive, occur on and about the lake. The Rye Water is also a spawning ground for Trout and Salmon, and the rare, Whiteclawed Crayfish (Austropotamobius pallipes) has been recorded at Leixlip. The latter two species are listed on Annex II of the E.U. Habitats Directive. The rare Narrowmouthed Whorl Snail and Desmoulin's Whorl Snail occur in marsh vegetation near Louisa Bridge. Both are rare in Ireland and in Europe, and are listed on Annex II of the E.U. Habitats Directive. The scarce dragonfly, Orthetrum coerulescens, has also been recorded at Louisa Bridge. The conservation importance of the site lies in the presence of several rare and threatened plant and animal species, and the presence of petrifying springs, a habitat type listed on Annex I of the E.U. Habitats Directive. The woods found on Carton Estate and their birdlife are of additional interest.