Update November 2023

Summary Report on Environmental Screenings for Castletymon Road Active Travel Scheme

South Dublin County Council is proposing to construct a cycle path and improved walking facilities from Main Road to Greenhills Road on Casltetymon Road in Tallaght, known as the Castletymon Road Active Travel Scheme.
Two environmental screenings were carried out to determine if an Appropriate Assessment (AA) Report or an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report. The following is a summary of the screenings and findings of the screening reports.
After an informal public consultation, it was decided to divide the scheme into 2 phases: Castletymon Road North (developed under a Section 38 process) and Castletymon Road South (to be developed through a Part 8 process).
An AA and EIA screening was carried out for the entire Castletymon Road Active Travel Scheme in order to determine the impact of the entire scheme.

Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening Determination

An AA Screening Report was developed with regard to the Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive, the guidance contained in the Department of Housing Planning Community and Local Government's "Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland Guidance for Planning Authorities" (2010) and other relevant guidance. The screening of the development for Appropriate Assessment was carried out in June 2023 by JBA Consulting, 24 Grove Island, Corbally, Limerick, Ireland, V94 312N.
The stage one screening demonstrates that the proposed development is not likely to have significant effects on any European site. The AA screening process considered potential effects which may arise during the construction and operational phases as a result of the implementation of the project. Through an assessment of the pathways for effects and an evaluation of the project characteristics, taking account of the processes involved and the distance of separation from European sites, it has been evaluated that there are no likely significant adverse effects on the qualifying interests, special conservation interests or the conservation objectives of any designated European site.
Due to the location of the proposed site, the scale and operational nature of the development, and its distance to the Natura 2000 sites within the Zone of Influence, the proposed project is not anticipated to have a significant impact via surface water, groundwater, groundwater-to-surface water, and land and air pathways to any Natura 2000 site. This is largely due to the small size of the development and direct and indirect proximity to Natura 2000 sites.

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Screening Determination

An EIA Screening Report was developed with regard to the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU (the EIA Directive), the guidance contained in the Department of Housing Planning Community and Local Government's "Impact Assessment Guidance for Consent Authorities regarding Sub-Threshold Development" (2003) and other guidance. The screening of the development for an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) was carried out and reported on in June 2023 by JBA Consulting, 24 Grove Island, Corbally, Limerick, Ireland, V94 312N.

The project was not found to fall under Parts 1 or 2 of Schedule 5 of the Act and therefore an EIAR has not been automatically triggered. To determine whether the project is of the sub-threshold category with the potential to give rise to significant environmental impact, this screening was undertaken.

In the case of the subject development, it can be seen on preliminary examination that the development is small size of the development and the distance and lack of pathways to Natura 2000 sites. An EcIA completed by JBA for the proposed development has outlined mitigation measures to be put in place for the construction phase which will mitigate potential impacts to surface water and ecology. With these mitigation measures in place, no significant impacts will result from the proposed development. A CEMP will be prepared by the appointed contractor, incorporating these mitigation measures.

For the reasons outlined above it is considered that the Castletymon Road Active Travel Scheme no Environmental Impact Assessment Report is required for it. This conclusion is based on an objective review of the proposed development, including its characteristics, location and the likelihood of it causing significant environmental effects. The screening has followed the relevant legislation and has had regard to the relevant guidance.

PD/ 9 11 /23

COMHAIRLE CONTAE ÁTHA CLIATH THEAS
South Dublin County Council

Record of Executive Business and Chief Executive's Orders

Land Use, Planning and Transportation

Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening Determination – Castletymon Road Active Travel Scheme

Pursuant to the requirements of the above, South Dublin County Council is proposing to construct a cycle path and improved walking facilities from Main Road to Greenhills Road on Castletymon Road in Tallaght, known as the Castletymon Road Active Travel Scheme.

Having regard to Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive, the guidance contained in the Department of Housing Planning Community and Local Government's "Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland Guidance for Planning Authorities" (2010) and other relevant guidance, screening of the development for Appropriate Assessment was carried out in June 2023 by JBA Consulting, 24 Grove Island, Corbally, Limerick, Ireland, V94 312N.

The stage one screening for AA for the proposed Castletymon Road Active Travel Scheme demonstrates that the proposed development is not likely to have significant effects on any European site. The AA screening process has considered potential effects which may arise during the construction and operational phases as a result of the implementation of the project. Through an assessment of the pathways for effects and an evaluation of the project characteristics, taking account of the processes involved and the distance of separation from European sites, it has been evaluated that there are no likely significant adverse effects on the qualifying interests, special conservation interests or the conservation objectives of any designated European site.

During the examination of the schemes, it was found that the proposed redevelopment project is located in an urban environment 3.8km from the nearest Natura 2000 site. Watercourses and surface runoff are seen as the main potential pathway for impacts on Natura 2000 sites. However, the closest Natura 2000 site is located upstream (Glenasmole Valley SAC) of the proposed route and would therefore not be impacted via surface water pathway. The nearest local waterbody, the River Poddle, flows in a north-easterly direction connecting to the Natura 2000 sites via the River Liffey Estuary. Any pollutants accidentally introduced to surface water network on-site would then need to travel a minimum of approximately 14.5km before reaching the closest of the Dublin Bay Natura sites. With this distance, it is expected that pollutants would firstly undergo retention within local drainage infrastructure (including integrated petrol interceptors and silt-traps), followed by a high level of dilution by larger freshwater and estuarine systems (River Liffey and tributaries catchment) before entering the Dublin Bay, where it would be further diluted by the coastal waters containing the Dublin Bay Natura 2000 sites. Therefore, significant impacts are not anticipated, during the construction nor operational phases, for these four Natura 2000 sites due to the retention of pollutants within the local drainage infrastructure, as well as the high level of dilution any pollutants would experience enroute to the Dublin Bay Natura 2000 sites, and their respective QIs.

As for groundwater, Given the small-scale of the proposed development limiting the quantities of potential pollutants being present on-site at any given time and retention capacity of the underlying sub-soil geology, significant adverse impacts via groundwater pollution events during the construction or operational phases are not anticipated for the Natura 2000 sites, and their respective QIs.

As the proposed development will not result in any physical land-take from the Natura 2000 sites within the ZoI, therefore, physical land-take impacts are not anticipated for the any of the Natura 2000 sites, and their respective QIs. Therefore, disturbance-based impacts are not anticipated during the construction nor operational phases for any of the Natura 2000 sites, and their respective QIs.

Excavations at the site will be shallow, to accommodate the excavations and the concrete management, and this will disturb the present top and sub soil, and emissions may arise from working machinery. Dust release and vehicle emissions can travel considerable distances and could potentially impact the QIs of Natura 2000 sites. Therefore, due to the distance, the relatively small size and temporary nature of proposed works, along with the distance between the project route and the Natura 2000 sites, potential adverse impacts via the air pathway are not anticipated during the construction phase for the Natura 2000 sites and their respective QIs. Air pollution-based impacts from dust / emissions are not anticipated during the operational phase of the proposed development.

As the proposed project is not anticipated to have any significant impact on QIs or conservation objectives on any Natura 2000 site and based on the screening statements of the above plans and planning applications, there is no potential for other plans or projects to act in combination with it to result in likely significant impacts on Natura 2000 sites.

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

Accordingly, the competent authority is enabled to determine that it can be excluded, on the basis of objective information, that the project, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will have a significant effect on any European Site.

On the basis of the screening exercise carried out, it can be concluded that the possibility of any significant adverse impacts 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.

Senior Executive Planner

Order: That South Dublin County Council as the Competent Authority having considered the AA Screening Report prepared by JBA Consulting, 24 Grove Island, Corbally, Limerick, Ireland, V94 312N makes a determination that a Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment will not be required for the proposed

Castletymon Road Active Travel Scheme either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, with respect to any Natura 2000 site and its Conservation Objectives.

Date: 24/11/2023

Senior Planner

To whom the appropriate powers have been delegated by order number DELG (10123) of the Chief Executive of South Dublin County Council.

PD/213/23

COMHAIRLE CONTAE ÁTHA CLIATH THEAS
South Dublin County Council

Record of Executive Business and Chief Executive's Orders

Land Use, Planning and Transportation

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Screening Determination – Castletymon Road Active Travel Scheme

Pursuant to the requirements of the above, South Dublin County Council is proposing to construct a cycle path and improved walking facilities from Main Road to Greenhills Road on Castletymon Road in Tallaght, known as the Castletymon Road Active Travel Scheme.

Having regard to EIA Directive 2011/92/EU as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU (the EIA Directive), the guidance contained in the Department of Housing Planning Community and Local Government's "Impact Assessment Guidance for Consent Authorities regarding Sub-Threshold Development" (2003) and other guidance, Screening of the development for Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and was carried out and reported on in June 2023 by JBA Consulting, 24 Grove Island, Corbally, Limerick, Ireland, V94 312N.

The Screening has been carried out in accordance with the EIA Directive and to the relevant Annexes of that Directive, which sets out requirements for mandatory and sub-threshold EIA. In the case of the subject development, it can be seen on preliminary examination that the development is small size of the development and the distance and lack of pathways to Natura 2000 sites. An EcIA completed by JBA for the proposed development has outlined mitigation measures to be put in place for the construction phase which will mitigate potential impacts to surface water and ecology. With these mitigation measures in place, no significant impacts will result from the proposed development. A CEMP will be prepared by the appointed contractor, incorporating these mitigation measures.

The project was not found to fall under Parts 1 or 2 of Schedule 5 of the Act and therefore an EIAR has not been automatically triggered. To determine whether the project is of the sub-threshold category with potential to give rise to significant environmental impact, this screening was undertaken.

For the reasons outlined above it is considered that no Environmental Impact Assessment Report is required for the Castletymon Road Active Travel Scheme. This conclusion is based on an objective review of the proposed development, including its characteristics, location and the likelihood of it causing significant environmental effects. The screening has followed the relevant legislation and has had regard to the relevant guidance.

Senior Executive Planner

Order: That South Dublin County Council as the Competent Authority having considered the EIA Screening Report prepared by JBA Consulting makes a

determination that an Environmental Impact Assessment Report will not be required for the proposed Castletymon Road Active Travel Scheme.

Date: 24/11/23

Senior Planner

To whom the appropriate powers have been delegated by order number DELG (10123) of the Chief Executive of South Dublin County Council.

Castletymon Active Travel Scheme, Co. Dublin

Screening for Appropriate Assessment

June 2023

Project number: 2023s0254

South Dublin County Council

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Revision History

Revision Ref / Date Issued	Amendments	Issued to
S3 - P01 / 07-06-2023	Draft Report	Alanagh Gannon (SDCC)
A3 - C01 / 15-06-2023	Final Report	Alanagh Gannon (SDCC)

Contract

This report describes work commissioned by Alanagh Gannon of South Dublin County Council, by an email dated 6th January 2023. Michael Coyle of JBA Consulting carried out this work.

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

..... Assistant Ecologist

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

..... Project Ecologist

Purpose

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JBA Consulting has no liability regarding the use of this report except to South Dublin County Council.

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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
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
TII	Transport Infrastructure Ireland
WFD	Water Framework Directive
WWTP	Waste Water Treatment Plant
ZoI	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 realignment of Castletymon Road to facilitate cycle lanes on either side of the roadway, in Kilnamanagh 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.

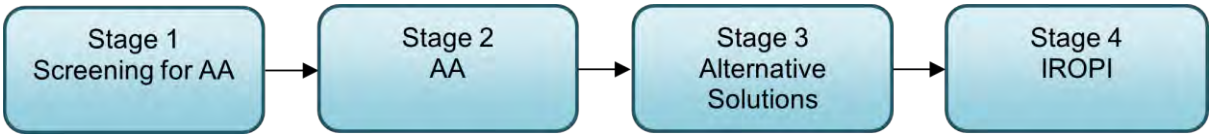

Figure 1-1: The Appropriate Assessment Process (from: Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland - Guidance for Planning Authorities, DEHLG, 2009)

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 impacts 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 impact 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 impacts 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 impacts 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 impacts need to be considered. If none can be found, the process proceeds to Stage 4.

1.3.4 Stage 4 - IROPI

Where adverse impacts 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 impacts 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 impacts 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 impact 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 impact on sites that are exceeding critical thresholds for input of damaging ammonia (but could also reasonably apply where other nutrients are impacting Natura 2000 sites). The judgements state that the use of thresholds to exclude project impacts 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 impacts on those habitat and species may impact 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 impact 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 and Esri World Imagery.
- NPWS website (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)
- NBDC Biodiversity Maps (maps.biodiversityireland.ie)
- Catchments (www.catchments.ie)
- Environmental Protection Agency Maps (https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps)
- Geological Survey Ireland (GSI) website (www.gsi.ie)
- GSI - Groundwater data viewer (https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com)
- Planning Applications (myplan.ie)

1.4.2 Ecological Site Survey

To inform this AA Screening an ecological site survey was performed by JBA Ecologist, William Mulville and Michael Coyle on the 1st of March 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 impacts 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.

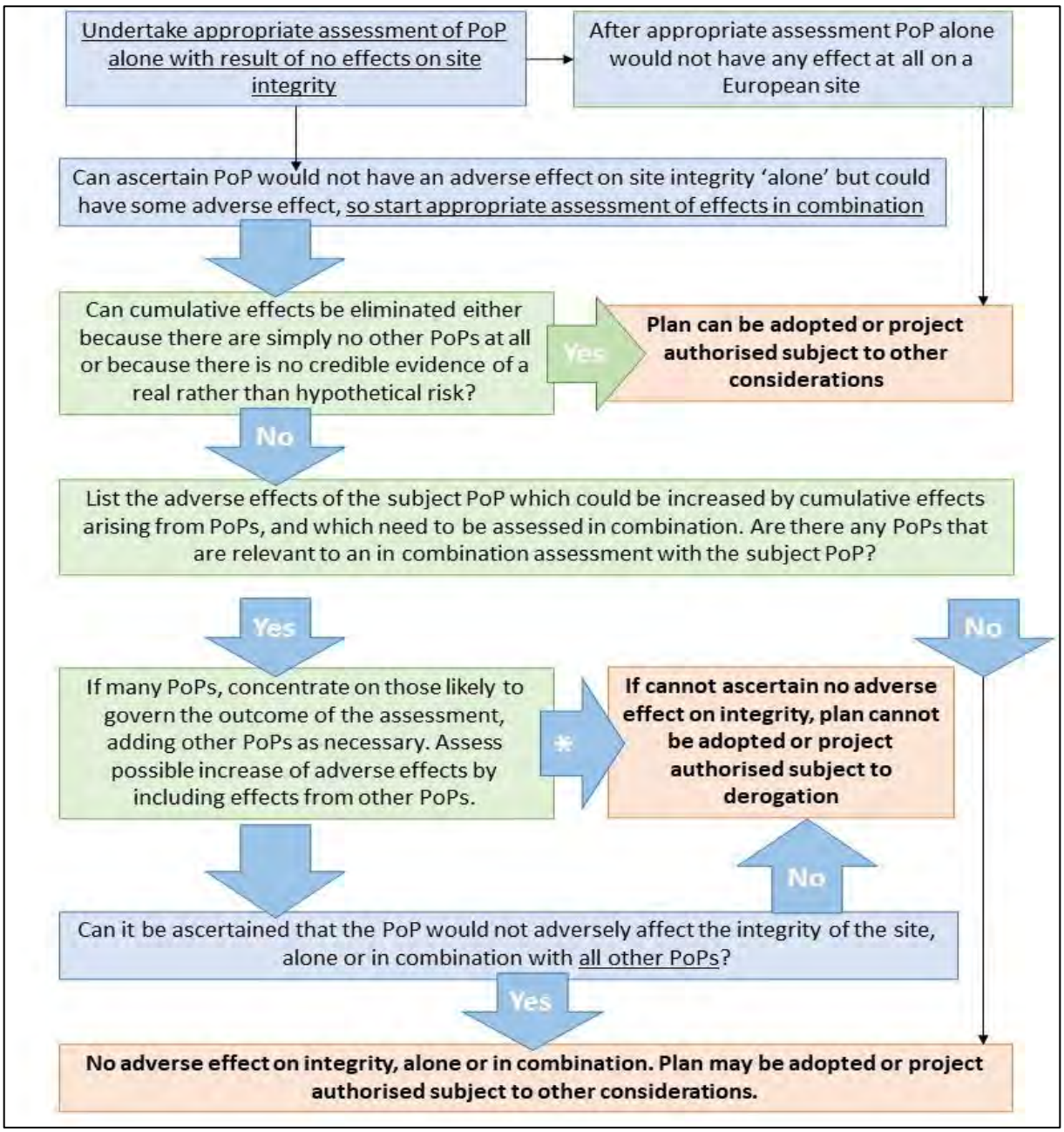

Figure 1-2: Flow diagram of process for in-combination assessment (modified from Tyldesley and Chapman, 2013)

Potential sources of cumulative impacts were identified based on the ecology of valued ecological features only for features where this is a residual or non-significant impact. Potential sources of cumulative impacts were sought within an area where there is the potential for a significant impact 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 1st of March 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 impacts 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 impacts 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 project is located along Castletymon Road, south of Tymon Park and east of Bancroft Park. The majority of this route is to be constructed on existing Castletymon roadways. The project is split into two sections, located north and south the Tallaght Community School. The River Poddle (Poddle_010) is located immediately north (<20m from site boundary) of the southern section of the works. Additionally, Whitestown Stream (Dodder_040) is located approximately 260m south of the southernmost point of the proposed works (Figure 2-1).

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

2.3 Proposed Project

The majority of the route with be built on top of the existing roadway. There will be sections where the edge of the cycle track (200mm) will be on the existing verge, The Proposed Project includes:

- The removal of the ghost island (centre white markings) of Castletymon Road;
- The realignment of Castletymon Road into a 6m wide road to accommodate 2m cycle tracks on either side of the roadway;
- In order to preserve the existing on-street parking, the cycle track will be located on the verge between Main Road and Castle Park near St. Aengus' Church. The on-street parking will be realigned into 9 parallel parking spaces;

- The scheme will tie into the District Enhancement Scheme, requiring the relocation of 12 parking spaces outside the Castletymon Library;
- Bus Stop locations will be aligned and upgraded to accommodate the new cycle tracks. All bus stops location will remain in their general location;
- Junction tightening at all side roads to improve pedestrian and cyclist safety;
- The removal of 12 existing semi-mature trees; and
- The planting of 20 trees.

The majority of the route with be built on top of the existing roadway. There will be sections where the edge of the cycle track (200mm) will be on the existing verge, in these sections a minimal build will be used (excavation depth ~150-250).

300 meters of new footpath will be built on existing grass / open space, which will be a traditional TII footpath build (excavation depth ~200-400mm). All elements are design to reduce impact on the verge and remove as few trees as possible.

The Proposed Project is scheduled to last for approximately 9-12 months.

These details can be seen in the Site Alignment Plan and Site Layout Plan, which can both be viewed in Appendix A.

2.3.1 Zone of Influence (ZoI)

The project will primarily affect the site only, but a wider area of influence is used for impacts relating to noise disturbance (1km), air (500m), groundwater pollution (5km), surface water (5km), and an additional hydrological buffer from connecting transitional waters to coastal areas; and any supporting habitat for SAC/SPA species within the vicinity of the site (15km).

3 Existing Environment

3.1 Baseline conditions

The proposed development is located along Castletymon Road, set within a largely urban environment. The site currently contains a footpath with a mown amenity-grass verge and treelines on either site of the road. At its nearest, the north section of this project is located approximately 20m from the River Poddle. Part of the southern section is located on a bridge that crosses over the River Poddle, while the south of this section is located approximately 250m north of Whitestown Stream

3.2 Habitats

The site is located along Castletymon Road. The site itself is primarily composed of amenity grassland, with a treeline present along the road's boundary. The site is segmented into an area north and south of the land of Tallaght Community Centre. In between these segments, is a bridge that crosses the River Poddle, and south of the site by approximately 250m is Whitestown Stream, on the opposite site of the N81.

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

Table 3-1: Habitats recorded during site visit

Habitat	Fossitt Code
Buildings and artificial surfaces	BL3
Amenity grassland (improved)	GA2
Amenity grassland (improved) / Treelines	GA2 / WL2

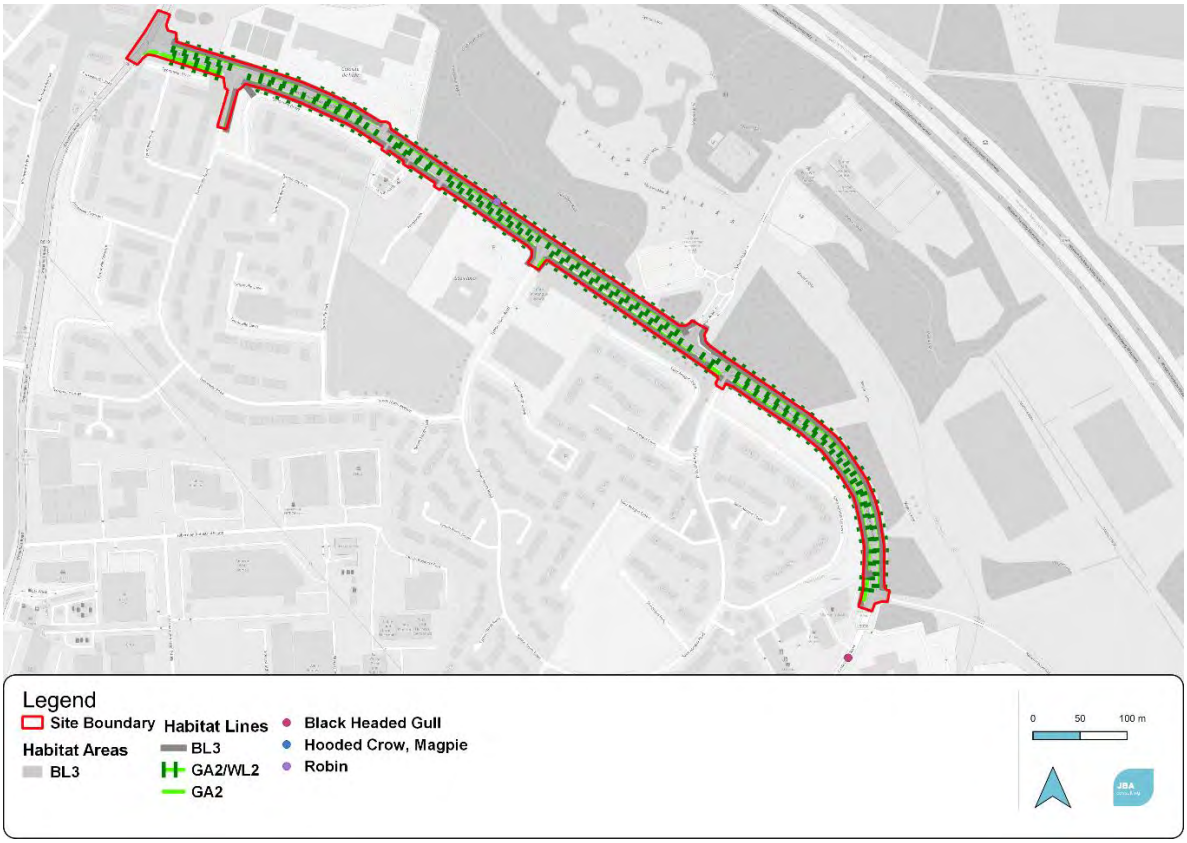

Figure 3-1: Habitat Map of the north section of the Project (© OpenStreetMap contributors, 2023)

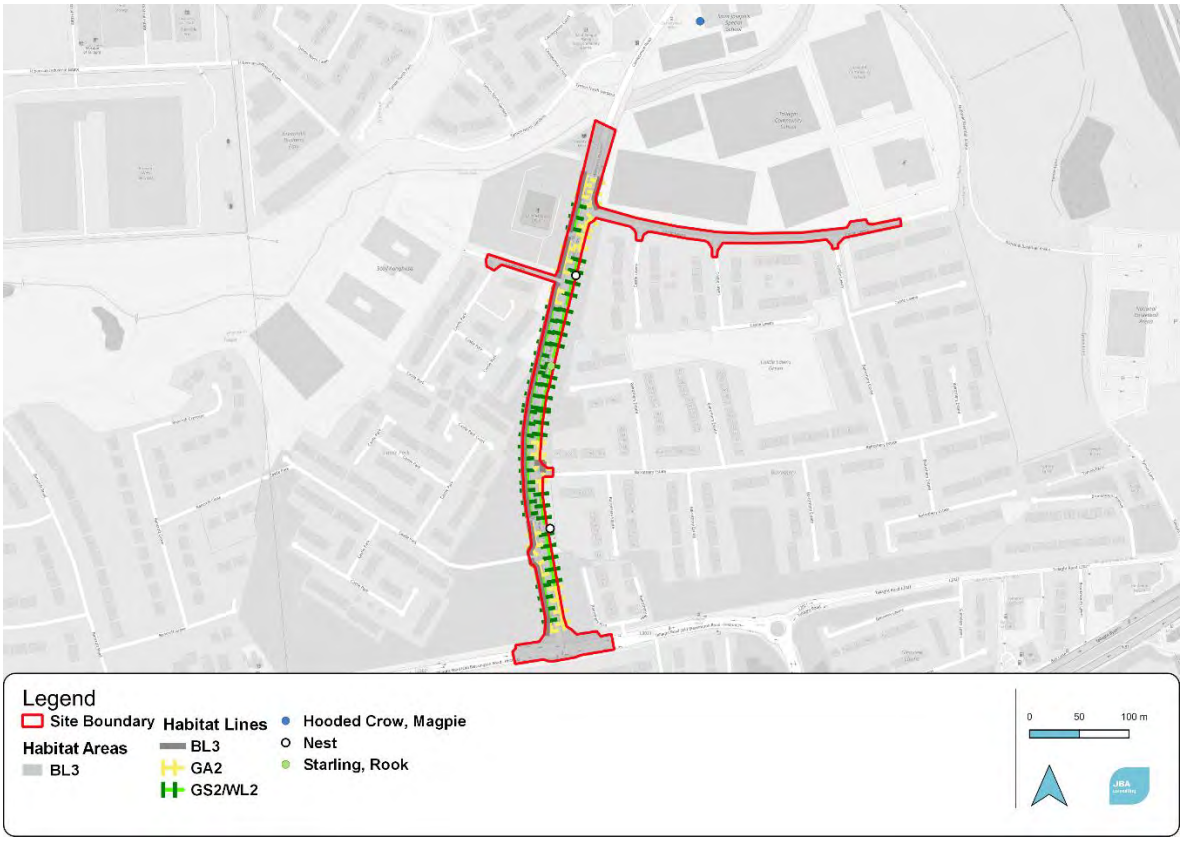

Figure 3-2: Habitat Map of the south section of the Project (© OpenStreetMap contributors, 2023)

3.2.1 Buildings and artificial surfaces (BL3)

The project runs along the Castletymon Road, artificial surfaces within this project boundary include the road and adjacent footpath.

3.2.2 Amenity grassland (improved) (GA2)

There are patches of grassland that is managed for amenity purposes that is located in small areas along sections of the project alongside areas of the footpath. Species in these areas included of Perennial Rye-grass *Lolium perenne*, Couch *Elytrigia repens*, Brome *Bromus* spp., Meadow Foxtail *Alopecurus pratensis,* Dandelion *Taraxacum* spp, Yarrow *Achillea millefolium*, Chickweed *Stellaria media*, Cleaver *Galium aparine*, Daisy *Bellis perennis*, Ribwort Plantain *Plantago lanceolata*, Nettle *Urtica dioica*, Herb-Robert *Geranium robertianum*, Groundsel *Senecio vulgaris*, Cardamine Bittercress *Cardamine hirsuta*, Bush Vetch *Vicia sepium*, Red Deadnettle *Lamium purpureum*, Petty Spurge *Euphorbia peplus*, Smooth Sowthistle *Sonchus oleraceus*, Ragwort *Jacobaea vulgaris*, Fleabane *Pulicaria dysenterica*. Ivy *Hedera helix*, Creeping Buttercup *Ranunculus repens*, a small growth of Bramble *Rubus fruticosus* (agg.), and Cow Parsley *Anthriscus sylvestris*

3.2.3 Amenity grassland (improved)/Treelines (GA2/WL2)

There was a treeline stretch located along the entire length of the proposed route, with a ground layer of maintained amenity grass located between the trees (Figure 3-3).

The northern site section contained the following tree species: Horse Chestnut *Aesculus hippocastanum*; Lime *Tilia cordata* and Wych Elm *Ulmus glabra*, while the ground layer was comprised of similar species found within the Amenity grassland sections.

The southern section of the project site contained additional species including the Ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, Maple *Acer campestre*, Silver Birch *Betula pendula* and Alder *Alnus glutinosa*, with Knapweed *Centaurea nigra* present between the trees. Additionally, Field Marigold *Calendula arvensis* was recorded at the base of some of the trees.

Figure 3-3: Amenity grassland (improved)/Treelines present on site

3.2.4 Protected Fauna

There were no evidence of protected mammal species listed under the Wildlife Act 1976 (and its Amendments) recorded by the JBA Ecologists during the ecological walkover survey.

JBA Ecologists came across incidental sightings of the Green-listed bird species Robin *Erithacus rubecula*, Hooded Crow *Corvus corone*, Magpie *Pica pica*, Rook *Corvus frugilegus*, and two Amber List bird species: Starling *Sturnus vulgaris* and Black Headed Gull *Larus ridibundus* (Gilbert et al., 2021).

Additionally, during the walkover survey, there were two birds' nests located within two of the trees along the southern section of the site. One of which is shown in Figure 3-4.

Figure 3-4: One of the bird's nests located within one of the trees on site

3.2.5 Invasive Non-native Species

There were no 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 survey.

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 Dodder_SC_010 sub-catchment (EPA, 2023). The nearest watercourse is the River Poddle (Poddle_010), located less then 20m away from the site boundary. Nearby, approximately 260m to the south of the site, and located on the opposite side of the N81, is the Whitestown Stream (Dodder_040). The River Poddle flows in a general north-easterly direction, before entering the Liffey Estuary Upper (IE_EA_090_0400) transitional waterbody, where it then flows into the Liffey Estuary Lower (IE_EA_090_0400) and then on into Dublin Bay. These waterbodies, along with their WFD status (2016-2021) and current risk are listed in Table 3-2 and are shown in Figure 3-5.

Table 3-2: WFD status and risk of local watercourses.

WFD Watercourse	WFD Status	WFD Risk	Approximate Distance from Site
River Poddle (Poddle_010)	Poor	At Risk	0.1km (from the North Section) >0.1km (from the South Section)
Whitestown Stream (Dodder_040)	Moderate	At Risk	0.3km
Liffey Estuary Upper (IE_EA_090_0400)	Good	Under Review	8.6km (via Poddle_010)
Liffey Estuary Lower (IE_EA_090_0300)	Moderate	At Risk	10.3km (via Poddle_010)

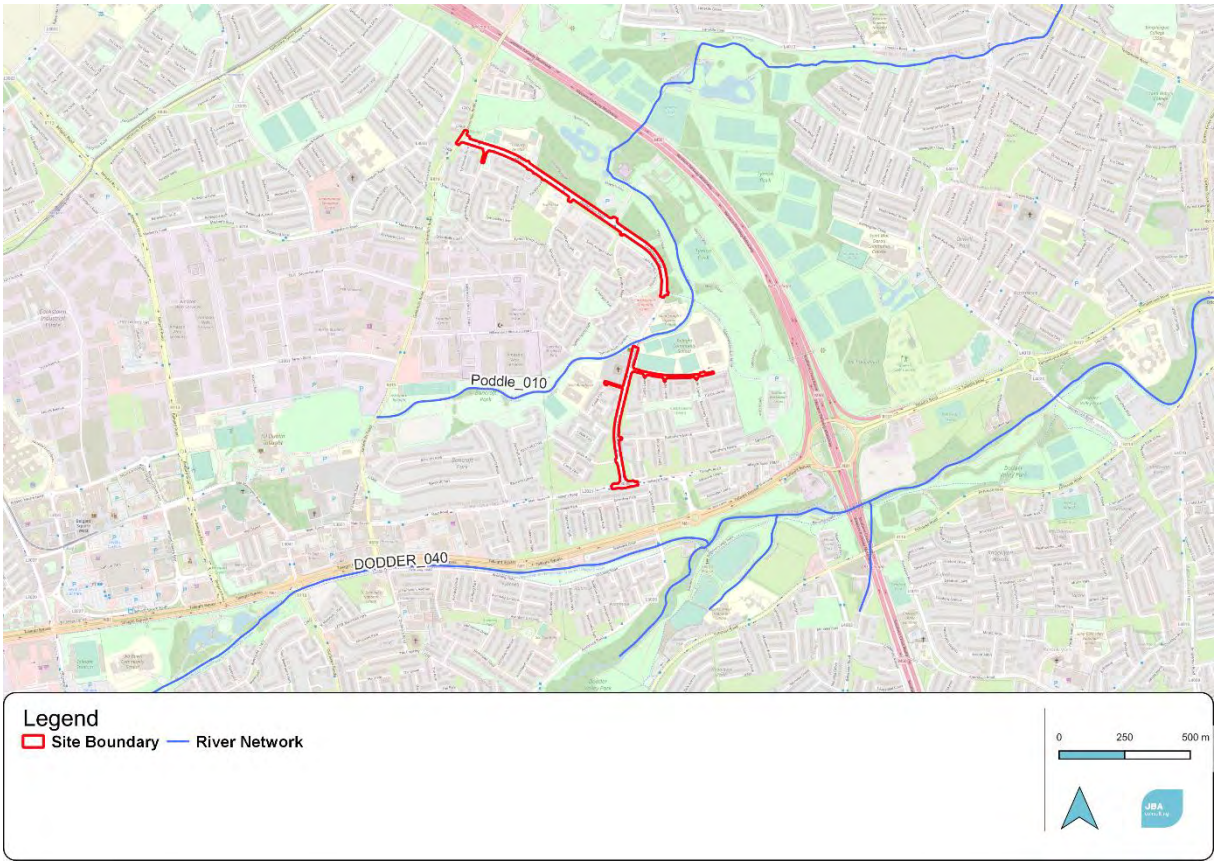

Figure 3-5: Local river waterbodies (© OpenStreetMap contributors, 2023)

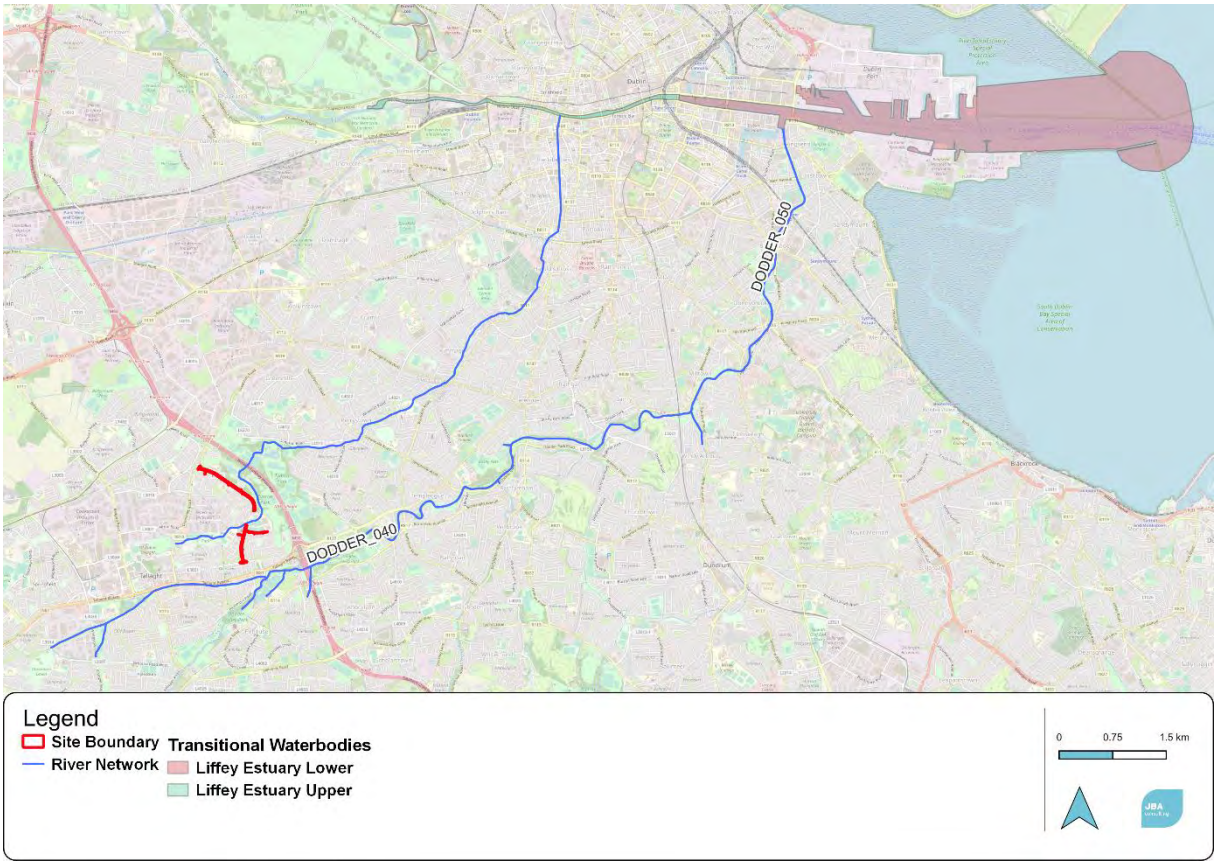

Figure 3-6: Local rivers to transitional waterbodies (© OpenStreetMap contributors, 2023)

3.4 Groundwater

The entirety of the site is located within the Dublin (IE_EA_G008) groundwater body (Figure 3-7). The Dublin groundwater body currently holds a 'Good' WFD status (2016-2021); and its risk status is currently listed as under Review (EPA, 2023).

The underlying bedrock of the site is dominated by dark limestone and shale ('calp) of the Lucan formation, the soil in the north section is Till derived chiefly from limestone, while the south section of the site derived of made ground. The permeability of all of the site's area is classified as Low with a low recharge capacity of 20%. The groundwater in the area of the site has an overall Low vulnerability (Figure 3-8).

The aquifer within the underlying bedrock is considered to be "Locally Important" with "Bedrock which is Moderately Productive only in Local Zones", with a poor network of connections, a relatively short flow path and a rapid discharge to local streams, springs and seeps. In the context of this site, this means that with a low level of retention or transferral within the groundwater any, pollutants which may infiltrate the groundwater system, are unlikely to travel far, and would be discharged into the River Poddle (GSI, 2023).

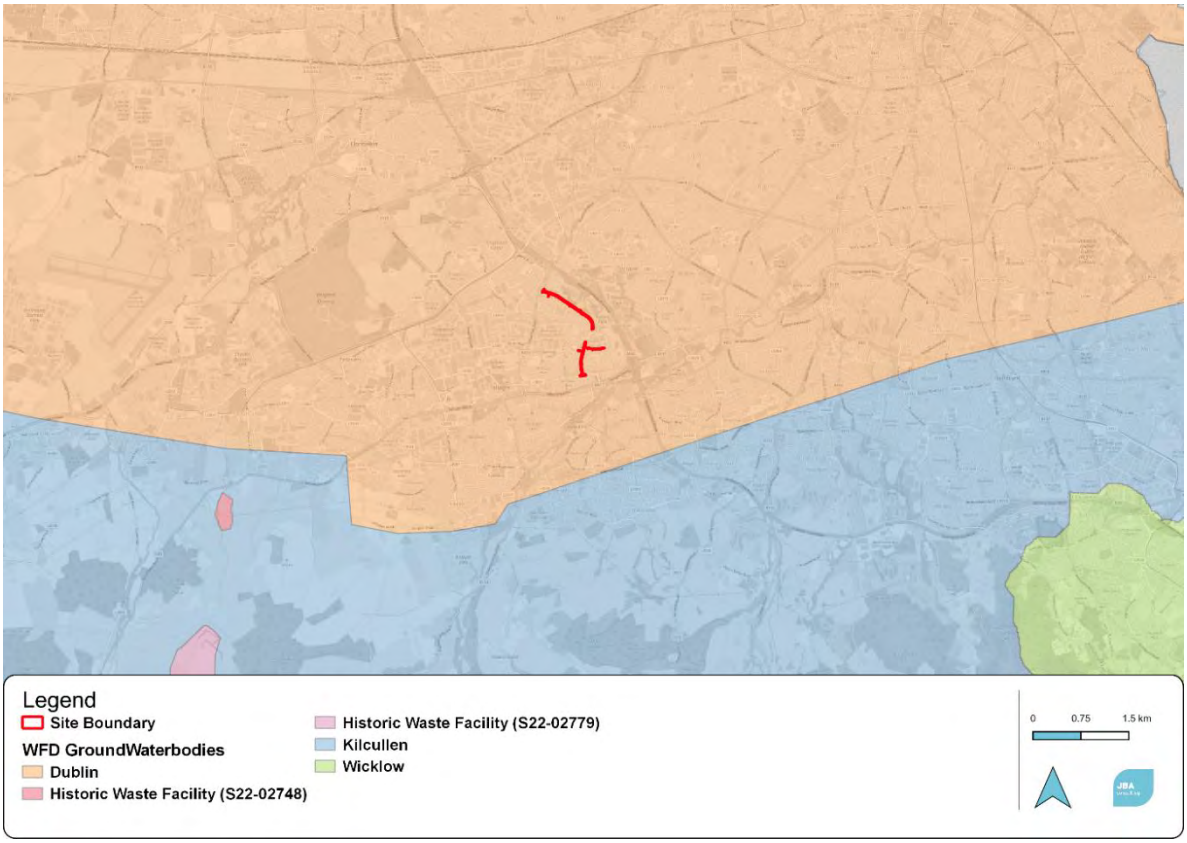

Figure 3-7: Groundwater bodies in the vicinity of site (© OpenStreetMap contributors, 2023)

Figure 3-8: Aquifer vulnerability of the site (© OpenStreetMap contributors, 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 impact 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 impacted upon, for example, through a hydrological connection.

As the scale of proposed works are considered of 'Project' status, Natura 2000 sites within a 5km range of the proposed development were examined, and within a 15km range for those with a hydrological connection on the basis that there were no source-pathway-receptors identified outside these ranges. 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 Zone of Influence (ZoI) of the proposed development.

Natura 2000 site	Site Code	Approximate Distance from Site	Hydrological Distance from Site
Glenasmole Valley SAC	001209	3.8km	n/a
North Dublin Bay SAC	000206	12.8km	17km
South Dublin Bay SAC	000210	9.4km	15.1km
North Bull Island SPA	004006	10.1km	17km
South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA	004024	9.4km	14.5km

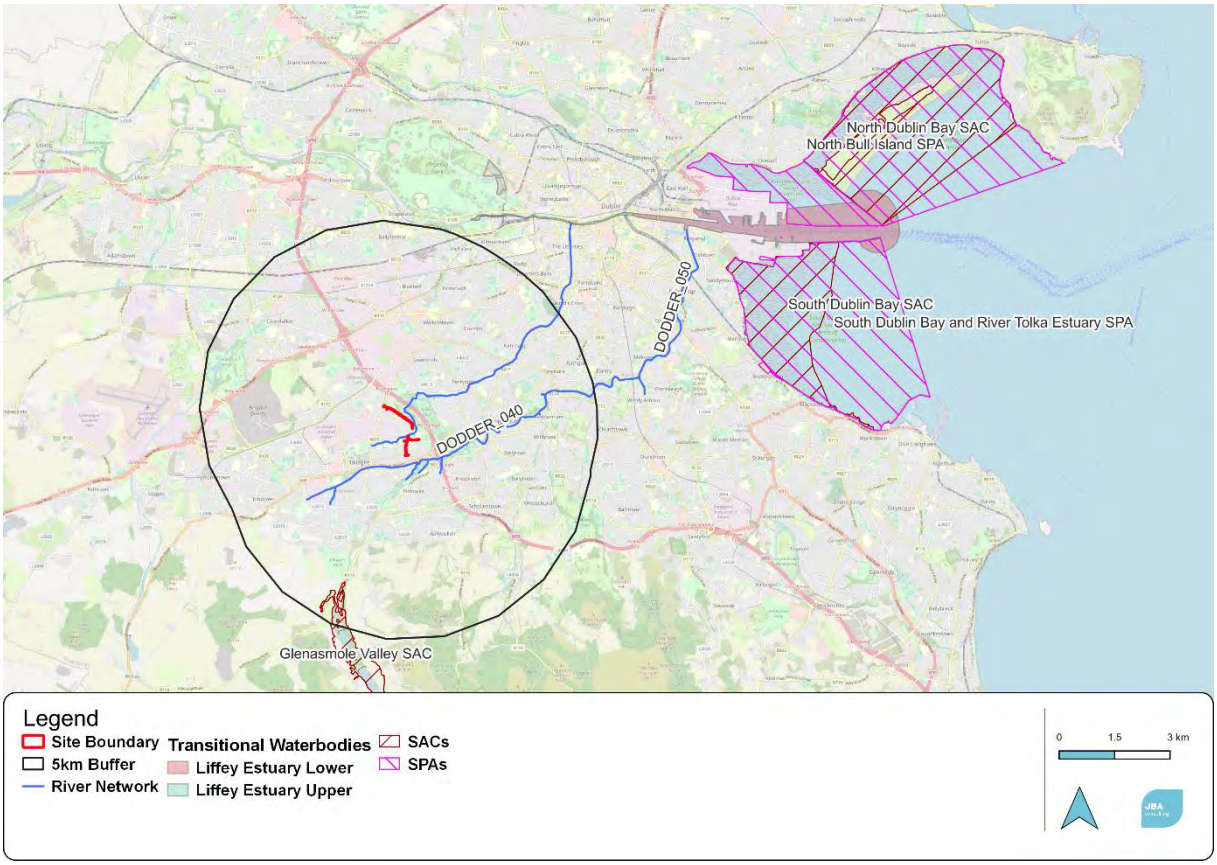

Figure 4-1: Location of proposed site, Natura 2000 sites, and ZoI including the extended hydrological connections (© OpenStreetMap contributors, 2023)

Table 4-2: Site briefs; Qualifying Interests; and project-relevant threats /pressures and their impacts and sources in relation to the Natura 2000 sites within the 5km ZoI (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-calcarerous 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).	- Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates Festuco-Brometalia) (* important orchid sites) [6210] - Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae) [6410] - Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220] (NPWS, 2018)	No project-relevant threats or pressures (EEA, 2018)
North Dublin Bay SAC	This site covers the inner part of north Dublin Bay extending from the Bull Wal lighthouse as far as the martello Tower. The building of the South Wall and the Bull Wall in the 18th and 19th centuries contributed to the formation of the 5km sandy spit on location which can be 1km wide at parts, containing an assortment of dunes. The saltmarsh extends the length of the landward side of the island, which is marked by an eroding edge that varies between 20cm and 60cm high (NPWS, 2013b).	- Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] - Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210] - Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] - Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae) [1330] - Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) [1410] - Embryonic shifting dunes [2110] - Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria (white dunes) [2120] - Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130] - Humid dune slacks [2190] - Petalwort *Petalophyllum ralfsii* [1395] (NPWS, 2013c)	Urbanised areas, human habitation: High impact (outside) (EEA, 2020a)

Site Name	Brief	Qualifying Interests	Project-relevant Threats / Pressures: Impact (Source)
South Dublin Bay SAC	South Dublin Bay SAC lies south of the Liffey, extending from South Wall to the western pier of Dun Laoghaire. The site is intertidal, with extensive sand and mudflats. There are several small, sandy beaches with incipient dune formation in the north and western sectors of the site. Of interest is the area of Booterstown salt marsh, which is a relatively new formation. There is early-stage saltmarsh development occurring here, covering a small area for now, but with the possibility to extend further thanks to ample areas of substrate and shelter (NPWS 2015a).	- Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] - Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210] - Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] - Embryonic shifting dunes [2110] (NPWS, 2013d)	Roads, motorways: Low impact (outside) Urbanised areas, human habitation: High impact (outside) (EEA, 2020b)
North Bull Island SPA	This site covers all of the inner area of north Dublin Bay, including a seaward boundary that extends from the Bull Wall lighthouse across to Drumleck Point at Howth Head. It is almost 5km long, it is 1km wide and it runs parallel to the coast between Sutton and Clontarf. The length of the site is covered with Saltmarshes, there are two intertidal lagoons located in the area which provide roosts and feeding grounds for wintering birds. It is one of the tops sites for wintering waterfowl in Ireland, and is of international importance for its sustainability of birdlife (NPWS, 2014).	- Light-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla hrota* [A046] - Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna* [A048] - Teal *Anas crecca* [A052] - Pintail *Anas acuta* [A054] - Shoveler *Anas clypeata* [A056] - Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus* [A130] - Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria* [A140] - Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola* [A141] - Knot *Calidris canutus* [A143] - Sanderling *Calidris alba* [A144] - Dunlin *Calidris alpina* [A149] - Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa* [A156] - Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica* [A157] - Curlew *Numenius arquata* [A160] - Redshank *Tringa totanus* [A162] - Turnstone *Arenaria interpres* [A169] - Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus* [A179] - Wetland and Waterbirds [A999] (NPWS, 2015c)	No project-relevant threats or pressures (EEA, 2020b)

Site Name	Brief	Qualifying Interests	Project-relevant Threats / Pressures: Impact (Source)
South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA	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, 2015d).	- Light-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla hrota* [A046] Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus* [A130] - Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula* [A137] - Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola* [A141] - Knot *Calidris canutus* [A143] - Sanderling *Calidris alba* [A144] - Dunlin *Calidris alpina* [A149] - Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica* [A157] - Redshank *Tringa totanus* [A162] - Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus* [A179] - Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii* [A192] - Common Tern *Sterna hirundo* [A193] - Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea* [A194] - Wetland and Waterbirds [A999] (NPWS, 2015e)	Roads, motorways: Low impact (outside) Urbanised areas, human habitation: High impact (outside) (EEA, 2021b)

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 impacts must also be considered at this stage.

5.2 Plans

The following projects or plans were identified as potential sources of cumulative impacts:

- 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, May 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 key design principles which includes the promotion of sustainable energy and environmental services. These goals include the requirement 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.

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 impacts.**

5.2.2 Greater Dublin Drainage Strategy

The Greater Dublin Drainage Strategy sets out the strategic planning for the development of waste water treatment in the Greater Dublin area in relation to the Ringsend WWTP Upgrade, Greater Dublin Drainage Project and associated wastewater network drainage projects (Irish Water, 2018b). 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 Clonshaugh, 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 Q1 2020 and the ultimate capacity of 2.4 million PE to be in operation by 2024 (Irish Water, 2018b).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, 2018b).

Overall, the Greater Dublin Drainage Strategy is not considered to adversely impact any Natura 2000 site, nor is it expected to contribute to any cumulative or in-combination effects with respect to the proposed project.

5.2.3 River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2022-2027

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 first cycle of River Basin Management Plans included the Eastern River Basin District - River Basin Management Plan 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 River Basin Management Plan for Ireland (2018-2021) outlines the new approach that Ireland will take to protect our waters over the period to 2021. It builds on lessons learned from the first planning cycle in a number of areas:

- stronger and more effective delivery structures have been put in place to build the foundations and momentum for long-term improvements to water quality
- a new governance structure, which brings the policy, technical and implementation actors together with public and representative organisations. This will ensure the effective and coordinated delivery of measures.

Ireland's third River Basin Management Plan 2022-2027 (EPA, 2021a) was out for public consultation until March 31st 2022. The Consultation report was published in July 2022. Following review of the submissions, the DHLGH will commence a review and where necessary update the draft RBMP with a view to finalisation and publication in Q3/Q4 of 2022.

The 3rd cycle draft Catchment Reports were published in August 2021. The draft Catchment Reports provides a summary of the water quality assessment outcomes for respective catchments, including status and risk categories, significant threats and pressures, details on protected areas and a comparison between cycle 2 and cycle 3.

The third cycle draft Catchment Report for Liffey and Dublin Bay Catchment (EPA, 2021b) identified that between Cycles 2 and 3 there has been an overall slight improvement in the catchment's status. The overall change in quality between Cycles 2 and 3 include 8 waterbodies achieving a High Status, which is an increase three, 46 which are achieving a Good Status which remains unchanged between Cycles, 18 achieving a Moderate Status which is a decrease by four waterbodies, 9 achieving a Poor Status which remains unchanged between Cycles, and 2 achieving a Bad Status which is an increase of one.

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: Projects granted planning permission since 2020 in vicinity of the proposed site

Planning Reference	Address	Application Status	Decision date	Summary of development
SHD3ABP-305763-19	Site at the corner of Airton Road and Belgard Road, Tallaght, Dublin 24, D24 HD35	Permission Granted	20 Feb 2020	Demolition of the existing industrial buildings on site (4,800sq.m) and the construction of 2 blocks comprising: 328 apartments (93 1-bed, 222 2-bed and 13 3-bed), ancillary residential support facilities and commercial floorspace measuring 31,147sq.m gross floor space above a single basement level measuring 5,861sq.m. Block A is a part-5 to part-7 storey (13,710sq.m) over basement block comprising 149 apartments with office space (222sq.m). Block B is a part-6 to part-9 storey (17,437sq.m) over basement block comprising 179 apartments, 2 double-height retail/commercial (Class 1/Class 2) units (354sq.m), a café/restaurant (313sq.m) , a creche (360sq.m), internal residents amenity area (644sq.m) at ground floor including reception (37.7sq.m), residents lounge (91.3sq.m), private dining area (52.6sq.m), co-working space (45.5sq.m), games room (47.3sq.m), gym (80sq.m) and communal lounge (220sq.m) at 6th floor level. The development also consists of the provision of a landscaped courtyard; public plaza at the corner of Airton and Belgard Road; pedestrian access from Airton Road to the Technological University campus; balconies; landscaped roof terrace at 6th floor level (7th Storey) of Block B (671sq.m); 184 car parking spaces at basement level including 14 club car spaces, 10 disabled parking spaces and 4 creche parking spaces; 727 basement and surface bicycle parking spaces; 4 motorbike parking spaces; bin storage; boundary treatments; green roofs; hard and soft landscaping; plant; lighting; Vodafone cabin sub-station; ESB sub-stations, switch rooms and generators; and all other associated site works above and below ground.
SHD3ABP-306705-20	Former Gallaher's Cigarette Factory site, at the junction of Airton Road and Greenhills Road, Tallaght, Dublin 24	Permission Granted	16 Jun 2020	Demolition of existing factory/warehouse buildings on site (total floor area c. 10,076.8sq.m). Construction of 502 apartments (comprising 197 1-bed; 257 2-bed; and 48 3-bed units) within 6 blocks ranging in height from 4 to 8 storeys. All residential units provided with associated private balconies/terraces to the north/south/east/west elevations. Provision of residential amenity facilities, 3 retail units, creche and services/bin store areas (total non-residential floor area c.1,839sq.m). A total of 202 car parking spaces (at basement and undercroft levels) and 584 no. bicycle parking spaces. Vehicular/pedestrian/cyclist accesses from Greenhills Road and Airton Road. Provision of road improvements and pedestrian crossings. All associated site development works, open space, landscaping, boundary treatments, plant areas, pv panels (at roof level), waste management areas, and services provision (including ESB substations).

Planning Reference	Address	Application Status	Decision date	Summary of development
SD22A/0097	Scoil Aonghusa Senior National School, Balrothery, Dublin 24	Permission Granted	13 July 2022	Provision of 1 approx. 100sq.m single storey temporary prefab (prefab 01 comprising 1 classroom & 3 resource rooms) adjacent to the south-east boundary of the site and 1 approx. 70sq.m single storey temporary prefab (prefab 02 comprising 1 classroom) adjacent to the north-west boundary of the site and all associated site works.
SD22A/0339	Lidl Complex, Main Road, Tallaght, Dublin 24	Permission Granted	22 August 2022	Erect 1074sq.m or 204.20KWP of photovoltaic panels on the roof of existing commercial building, in cafe / restaurant and 4 retail / commercial, with all associated site works.
SD20A/0140	Lands adjacent to Carmel of the Assumption Convent, Firhouse Road, Firhouse, Dublin 24	Permission Granted	11 May 2021	Construction of 2 grass playing pitches: pitch No.1 will measure some 145m long by 90m wide and pitch No.2 will measure some 133m long by 80m wide; club facilities including 4 changing rooms measuring 51sq.m each; storage facilities; function rooms; meeting rooms; physiotherapy facilities; kitchen facilities; wc and circulation space; site works include removal of existing hedgerows and trees; replanting areas; formation of a new pedestrian and vehicular entrance on Firhouse road; 67 car parking spaces; 24 bicycle spaces; perimeter pathway; fencing and attendant landscaping works.
SD21A/0074	26, Castle Lawns, Balrothery, Tallaght, Dublin 24	Permission Granted	29 March 2021	Construction of a two bedroom, two storey semi-detached dwelling (floor area 91sq.m max height 7.31m) and all ancillary works.
SD22A/0411	Airton Road, Tallaght, Dublin 24	Permission Granted	1 November 2022	Display and sale of commercial vehicles, the erection of single storey prefabricated temporary building for display of commercial vehicles, 6 Flag poles, with the building and display areas to remain on site for a period of 36 months.

5.4 Summary

The County and Local Development Plan; Greater Dublin Drainage Strategy and River Basin Management Plan 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 impacts which may arise as result of the proposed project. It then goes on to identify how these impacts could potentially impact on Natura 2000 sites listed in Table 4-1. The significance of potential impacts is also assessed, with any potential in-combination effects also identified.

The Natura 2000 sites to be assessed are:

- Glenasmole Valley SAC 001209
- North Dublin Bay SAC 000206
- South Dublin Bay SAC 000210
- North Bull Island SPA 004006
- South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA 004024

This section identifies the potential impacts which may arise as result of the proposed project. It then goes on to identify how these impacts could potentially impact on Natura 2000 sites listed in Table 4-1. The significance of potential impacts 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 impacts on the Natura 2000 sites

Potential adverse impacts 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 impact on the sites via surface water pathways, groundwater pathways and land and air pathways. Surface water pathways can impact on surface water quality and surface water dependent habitat quality. Groundwater pathways can impact on groundwater quality and quality of groundwater dependent habitats. Land and air pathways can impact by release or discharges of sediment or chemicals to surface or groundwater. Potential pollutants used on site include cement for the laying of the new cycle track, dust creation during excavations works, and potential spillage events that would arise from the machinery used on site.

The proposed project is not anticipated to impact on the qualifying interests of the five Natura 2000 sites. The rationale for excluding impacts via the main pathways is given in more detail in the following sub-section.

6.2.2 Surface Water Pathways

The proposed project is located within the WFD Liffey and Dublin Bay catchment, and the Dodder_SC_010 sub-catchment. (Figure 6-1). The site does not share its sub-catchment with the North Dublin Bay Natura 2000 sites; however, they are still considered as they are hydrologically linked as the Poddle_010 reaches the River Liffey and Dublin Bay. The Glenasmole Valley is not located downstream of the project and therefore is not considered any further within the surface water screening assessment.

The nearest local waterbody, the River Poddle, flows in a north-easterly direction connecting to the Natura 2000 sites via the River Liffey Estuary. Any pollutants accidentally introduced to surface water network on-site would then need to travel a minimum of approximately 14.5km before reaching the closest of the Dublin Bay Natura sites. With this distance, it is expected that pollutants would firstly undergo retention within local drainage infrastructure (including integrated petrol interceptors and silt-traps), followed by a high level of dilution by larger freshwater and estuarine systems (River Liffey and tributaries catchment) before entering the Dublin Bay, where it would be further diluted by the coastal waters containing the Dublin Bay Natura 2000 sites.

Therefore, significant impacts are not anticipated, during the construction phase, for these four Natura 2000 site due to the retention of pollutants within the local drainage infrastructure, as well as the high level of dilution any pollutants would experience enroute to the Dublin Bay Natura 2000 sites, and their respective QIs.

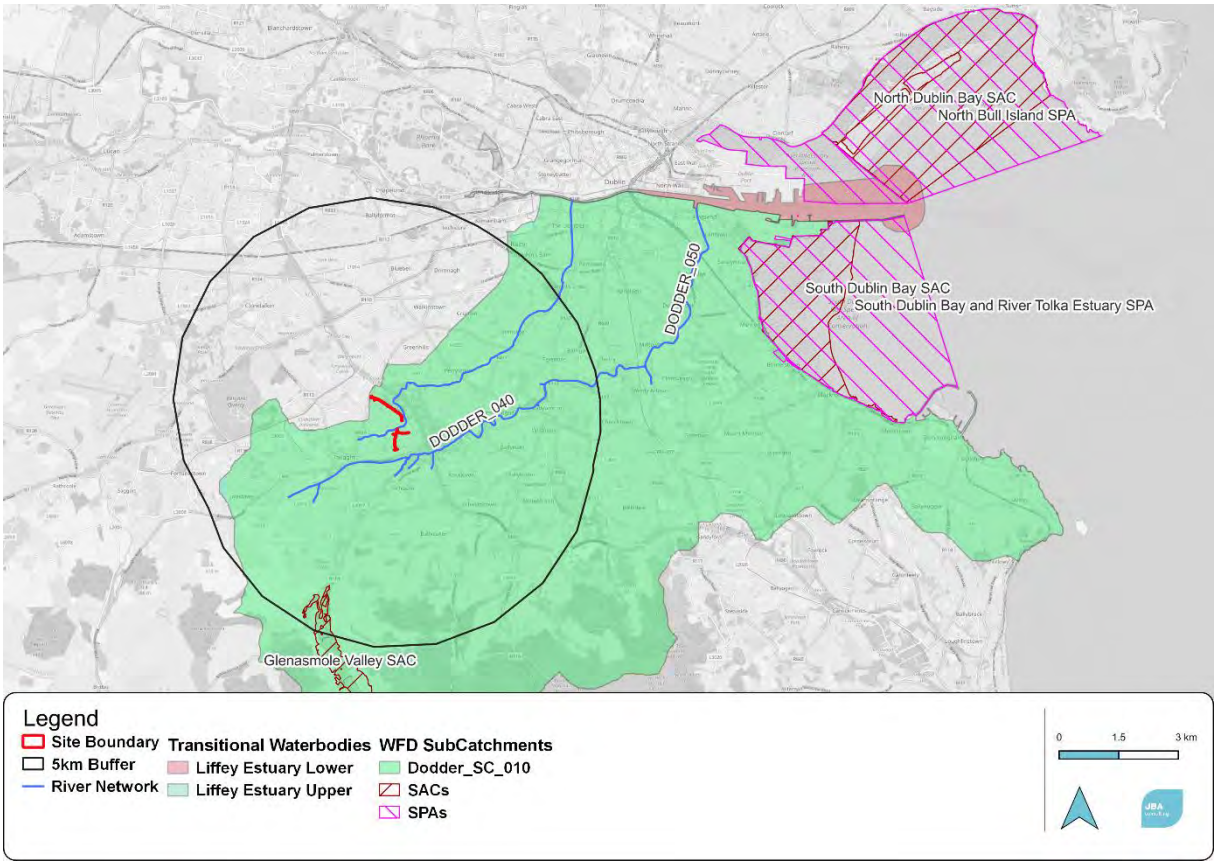

Figure 6-1: WFD sub-catchment of the surrounding area, and hydrological connection of the project site (© OpenStreetMap contributors, 2023)

Operational Phase

Given that the operational nature of the proposed development is identical to the site's current operations, **significant adverse impacts via the surface water pathway are not anticipated for any of the Natura 2000 sites; and their respective QIs.**

6.2.3 Groundwater

The whole site is encompassed by the Dublin groundwater body (Figure 6-2). The Glenasmole Valley SAC is not located within this groundwater body and is therefore not considered any further in this groundwater screening assessment.

The Dublin Bay Natura 2000 sites are within the same groundwater body as the project. Given the low recharge capability, low aquifer vulnerability and low sub-soil permeability of the site's underlying geology, pollutants are unlikely enter the groundwater body / aquifer below in any significant quantity.

Given the small-scale of the proposed development limiting the quantities of potential pollutants being present on-site at any given time and retention capacity of the underlying sub-soil geology, **significant adverse impacts via groundwater pollution events during the construction phase are not anticipated for the Natura 2000 sites, and their respective QIs.**

Operational Phase

During the operation phase, potential pollutants will enter the existing sewer system and will not be able to infiltrate the groundwater, therefore, adverse impacts to any Natura 2000 site are not anticipated during the operational phase.

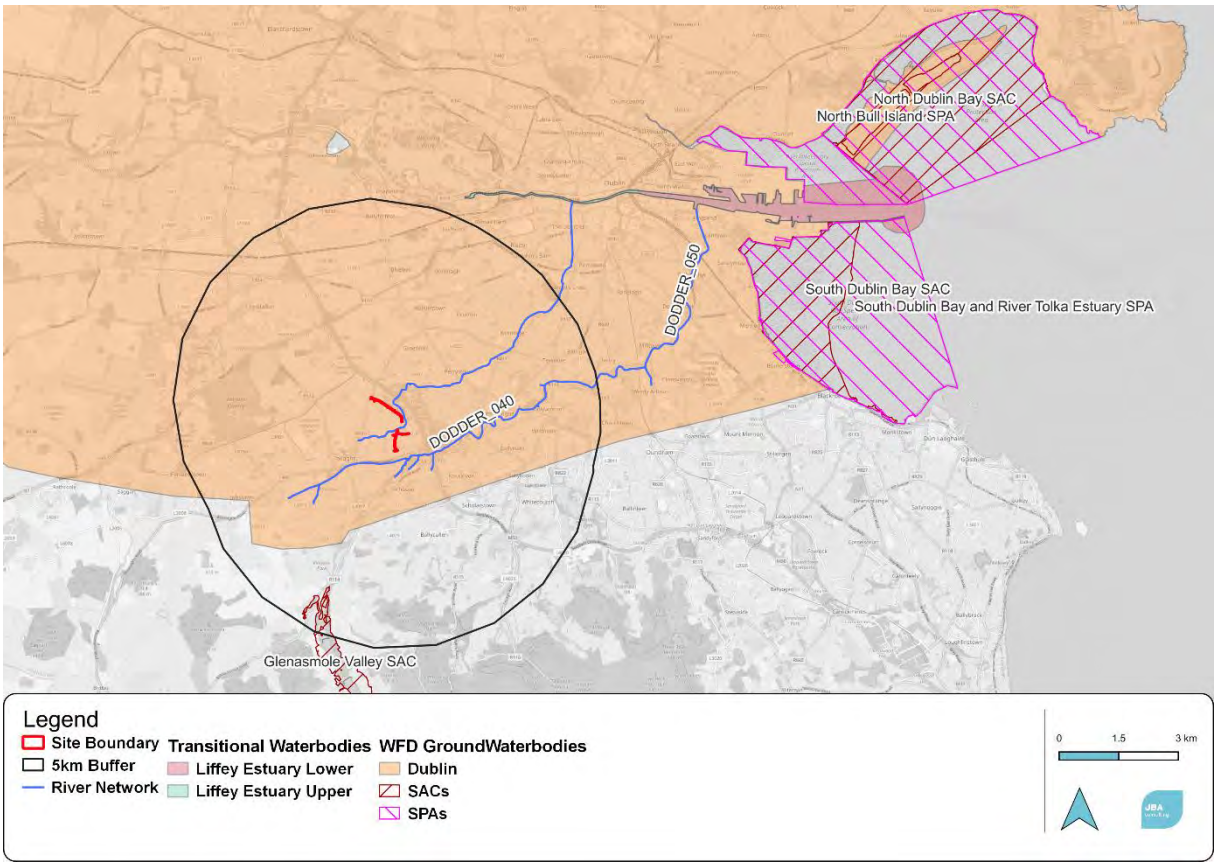

Figure 6-2: Groundwater bodies around the proposed site in respect to Natura 2000 sites (© OpenStreetMap contributors, 2023)

6.2.4 Land and Air

The loss or degradation of supporting habitats outside the identified Natura 2000 sites via land- and air-based impacts could have potential adverse impacts 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)

The construction works will temporarily increase the noise level and disturbance locally. Direct physical impacts and indirect impacts, such as visual and noise impacts, do not have the potential to physically disturb habitats as well as the 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, physical land-take impacts 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 mainly of built-up features, therefore, impacts via land pathways in terms of ex-situ supporting habitats are not anticipated to have a significant impact on any of the Natura 2000 sites.

Therefore, disturbance-based impacts are not anticipated during the construction phase for any of the Natura 2000 sites, and their respective QIs.

Operation Phase

The operational phase of the project is not anticipated to contribute to land take or any dust pollution, and therefore there is no anticipated impacts during the operational phase for any of the Natura 2000 sites, and their respective QIs.

Air Pollution

Excavations at the site will be shallow, to accommodate the excavations and the concrete management, and this will disturb the present top and sub soil, and emissions may arise from working machinery. Dust release and vehicle emissions can travel considerable distances and could potentially impact the QIs of Natura 2000 sites. The recommended buffer for dust and air pollution is all sensitive ecological receptors within a distance of 500m of the proposed project, however, the distance and direction of travel is also influenced by wind speed and direction.

The prevailing wind in the area is west-south-west (based on measurements carried out between 2021-2022 from Churchtown/Dublin (Windfinder.com, 2023)). Therefore, any dust that is generated on-site will most likely be transported in a north-east direction towards the South Dublin Bay Natura 2000 sites within the ZoI. The urban setting of the proposed development also provides barriers, such as buildings, which will prevent further dispersal of particles.

Access to the site will be on pre-existing roads, and 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 impact the QIs of the any Natura 2000 sites due to the relatively small size and temporary nature of proposed works.

Therefore, due to the distance, the relatively small size and temporary nature of proposed works, along with the distance between the project route and the Natura 2000 sites, potential adverse impacts via the air pathway are not anticipated during the construction phase for the Natura 2000 sites and their respective QIs.

Air pollution-based impacts from dust / emissions are not anticipated during the operational phase of the proposed development.

6.2.5 Cumulative Impact

In assessing the plans outlined in Section 5, the respective AA screening reports were consulted to assess the potential of any cumulative impacts due to their proximity of the site. All of these plans were concluded to not pose any threat to Natura 2000 sites.

As the proposed project is not anticipated to have any significant impact on QIs or conservation objectives on any Natura 2000 site and based on the screening statements of the above plans and planning applications, there is no potential for other plans or projects to act in combination with it to result in likely significant impacts on Natura 2000 sites.

6.2.6 Summary

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

6.2.7 Description of likely direct, indirect or secondary impacts 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 majority of the route with be built on top of the existing roadway. There will be sections where the edge of the cycle track (200mm) will be on the existing verge, The Proposed Project includes: The removal of the ghost island (centre white markings) of Castletymon Road; The realignment of Castletymon Road into a 6m wide road to accommodate 2m cycle tracks on either side of the roadway;

Project Elements	Comment
	In order to preserve the existing on-street parking, the cycle track will be located on the verge between Main Road and Castle Park near St. Aengus' Church. The on-street parking will be realigned into 9 parallel parking spaces; The scheme will tie into the District Enhancement Scheme, requiring the relocation of 12 parking spaces outside the Castletymon Library; Bus Stop locations will be aligned and upgraded to accommodate the new cycle tracks. All bus stops location will remain in their general location; Junction tightening at all side roads to improve pedestrian and cyclist safety; The removal of 12 existing semi-mature trees; and The planting of 20 trees.
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	• Glenasmole Valley SAC — 3.8km • North Dublin Bay SAC — 12.8km • South Dublin Bay SAC — 9.4km • North Bull Island SPA — 10.1km • South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA — 9.4km
Resource requirements (water abstraction etc.)	There will be no water abstraction requirement.
Emissions (disposal to land, water or air)	Construction Phase: **Water** Potential pollutants will be utilised at the site, including diesel and engine/hydraulic oils. These could potentially spill or leak into the surface water and groundwater. The proposed site lacks any direct hydrological links with the Natura 2000 sites within the ZoI. It is expected that pollutants would firstly undergo retention within local drainage infrastructure (including integrated petrol interceptors and silt-traps), followed by a high level of dilution by larger freshwater and estuarine systems. No significant impacts are anticipated via groundwater pathways given the ground conditions, where the aquifer vulnerability is low and sub-soil permeability is low. **Air** Excavations at the site will produce loose top and sub soil, and emissions may arise from working machinery. While the proposed site has a west-south-west prevailing wind year-round transporting, any dust and emissions in the direction of the Dublin Bay Natura 2000 sites. However, due to the distance between the project site and these Natura 2000 sites, along with the obstruction of the wind pathway by the urban setting of the project, impacts through air-based pollutants are not anticipated. Operation Phase: **Water** Given that the operational nature of the proposed development is identical to the site's current operations significant impacts via the surface water pathway or the groundwater pathway are not

Project Elements	Comment
	anticipated for any Natura 2000 sites. **Air** The operational nature of the proposed development is not anticipated to generate dust pollutants and therefore No significant impacts are anticipated via air pollutants.
Excavation requirements	The majority of the route with be built on top of the existing roadway. There will be sections where the edge of the cycle track (200mm) will be on the existing verge, in these sections a minimal build will be used (excavation depth ~150-250).
Transportation requirements	Construction Phase (impacts): 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. Operational Phase (impacts): Given the scale and location of the proposed project, operational transportation requirements will not affect Natura 2000 sites.
Duration of construction, operation, decommissioning etc.	Construction is expected to take 9-12months.
Other	None

6.2.8 Description of likely changes to the Natura 2000 sites

Potential Impact	Comments
Reduction of habitat area	There will be no reduction in habitat area for any of the Natura 2000 sites.
Disturbance to key species	Temporary Impacts: The construction works will temporarily increase the noise level and disturbance locally. However, no significant impacts are anticipated to key species given scale and temporary nature of the construction phase and distance from the Natura 2000 sites. Permanent Impacts: No disturbance to key species is anticipated during operation of the project.
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.
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

6.2.9 Description of likely impacts on the Natura 2000 sites as a whole

Potential Impact	Comments
Interference with the key relationships that define the structure of the site	Interference with the key relationships that define the structure of the sites are not anticipated.
Interference with key relationships that define the function of the site	Interference with key relationships that define the function of the sites are not anticipated.

Provide indicators of significance as a result of the identification of effects set out above in terms of:

Potential Impact	Indicators
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)	Potential temporary changes to key elements (e.g., water quality) of the site are not anticipated.

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

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

Proposed Signalized Pedestrian Crossing to be added to existing junction

6 trees to be removed

Proposed Bus Island

5 Proposed Street Trees

Lay-by/Loading Bay to be removed

Lay-by/Loading Bay to be removed

1 trees to be removed

Raised Crossing and Junction Tightening

Proposed School Bus Drop-off

1 trees to be removed

Proposed Bus Island

Cycle track to be integrated into existing Pedestrian Crossing

Sheet P102

GREENHILLS ROAD

PARKVIEW

CASTLETYMON

TYMONVILLE DRIVE

TYMONVILLE CRESCENT

TYMONVILLE CRST

TYMONVILLE AVENUE

TYMONVILLE ROAD

BIRCHVIEW AVENUE

Coláiste De Hide

N

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South Dublin County Council

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South Dublin County Council

LAND USE PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

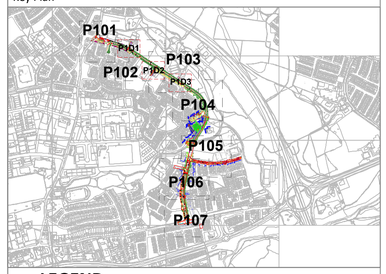
Director:

Mick Mulhern

Senior Engineer:

Michael McAdam

Key Plan



LEGEND:

- EXISTING KERB TO BE MAINTAINED
- EXISTING KERB TO BE REMOVED
- NEW KERB TO BE CONSTRUCTED
- DROP KERB/KERB CUT FOR CYCLE EGRESS
- RAISED CYCLE TRACK
- MANDATORY CYCLE LANE
- RAISED CROSSING RAMPS
- BUS STOP
- BUS STOP ISLAND
- EXISTING FOOTPATH
- FOOTPATH TO BE REMOVED
- PROPOSED FOOTPATH
- EXISTING FOOTPATH TO BE RESURFACED INTO CYCLE LANE
- CARRIAGEWAY
- EXISTING VEGETATION/GRASS
- VEGETATION/GRASS
- PROPOSED PENCIL BOLLARDS
- PROPOSED TRAFFIC SIGNAL POLE
- CYCLE RAMP
- RED TACTILE PAVING
- YELLOW TACTILE PAVING
- TRAMLINE AND LADDER TACTILE PAVING
- EXISTING TREE TO BE RETAINED
- EXISTING TREE TO BE REMOVED
- PROPOSED STREET TREE

Revision	Description	Date
0	Issue for Section 38	12/05/23

Location:

Castletymon Road

Drawing Title:

Active Travel Scheme Section 38 Plan

Drawn by:	O.S. Reference:
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Murphy Geospatial	**1:500**
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MMc	**12/05/2023**

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Lay-by/Loading Bay to be removed

Proposed Accessible Pedestrian/Cycle Pathway Entrance to Coláiste de hÍde

Raised Crossing and Junction Tightening

Cycle track to be integrated into existing Pedestrian Crossing

Raised Crossing

Raised Crossing and Junction Tightening

Sheet P103

1 tree to be removed

Proposed Bus Island

Raised Crossing and Junction Tightening

School entrance improvement including entrance tightening, pencil bollards, etc.

School

Scoil Náisiúnta Iosa

TYMONVILLE AVENUE

TYMONVILLE PARK

HAZELBROOK

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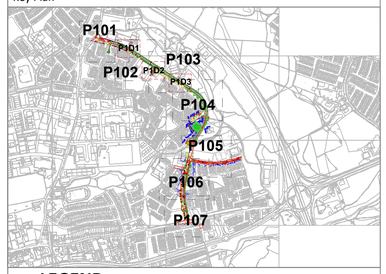

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Pond

Pond

TYMON LANE

1 tree to be removed

Proposed Bus Island

Raised Crossing and Junction Tightening

School entrance improvement including entrance tightening, pencil bollards, etc.

Proposed Bus Island

Park Entrance Improvement: Raised Crossing and Junction Tightening

Cycle track to be integrated into existing Pedestrian Crossing

Proposed Bus Island

Raised Crossing and Junction Tightening

SAINT AONGUS GROVE

TYMON NORTH

TK

ANGUS ROAD

Sheet P104

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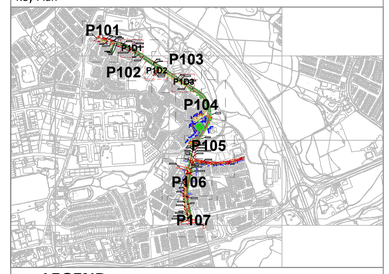

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Cycle track to be integrated into existing Pedestrian Crossing

Proposed Bus Island

Raised Crossing and Junction Tightening

Sheet P103

District Enhancement Scheme
(SD218/0010)

SAINT AONGUS GROVE
SAINT AONGUS ROAD
ST AONGUS LAWN
SAINT AONGUS CRESCENT
SAINT AONGUS COURT
ST AONGUS GREEN
SAINT AONGUS RD
SAINT AONGUS ROAD
TK

N

Dublin
Baile Átha
Cliath

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South Dublin County Council

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South Dublin County Council

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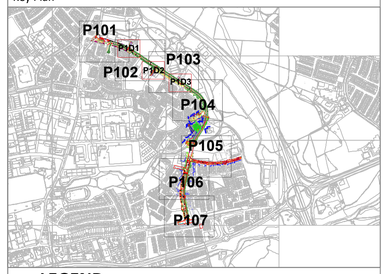

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Section 38 Plan

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Drawing Number:
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District Enhancement Scheme (SD218/0010)

New Location of Library Parking

Accessible parking space to be retained

Potential SuDs Area (TBC)

Cycle track to be integrated into existing Pedestrian Crossing

Parking Bays to be converted in to School Bus Loading Zone

Existing On-street Library Parking to be relocated, adjacent to Bancroft Park Entrance

Shared Pathway for section in front of library

Proposed belisha beacon crossing

1 tree to be removed

Sheet P106

1 tree to be removed

Existing footpath widen to 3m average

Raised Crossing and Junction Tightening

Junction Tightening

Junction Tightening

Junction Tightening

Proposed Bus Island

Raised Crossing and Junction Tightening

Cycle track to be integrated into existing Pedestrian Crossing

CASTLETYMON GREEN

TYMON NORTH GARDENS

Saint Joseph's Special School

Tallaght Community School

CASTLE LAWNS

ES

N

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South Dublin County Council

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South Dublin County Council

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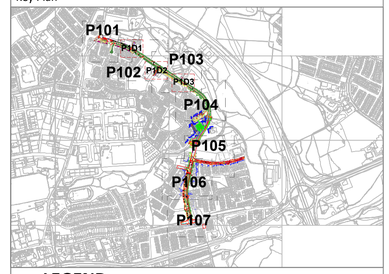

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1 tree to be removed

Existing footpath widen to 3m averag

Raised Crossing and Junction Tightening

Junction Tightening

Proposed Bus Island

Raised Crossing and Junction Tightening

Raised Crossing and Junction Tightening

Cycle track to be integrated into existing Pedestrian Crossing

9 parking spaces to replace 12 existing parking spaces (loss of 3 spaces)

1 tree to be removed

11 proposed street trees

Raised Crossing and Junction Tightening

Sheet P105

Sheet P107

Saint Aonghusa Junior and Senior National School

Scoil Aenghusa Scoil Náisiúnta

CASTLE PARK

CASTLE LAWNS

BALROTHERY ESTATE

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South Dublin County Council

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South Dublin County Council

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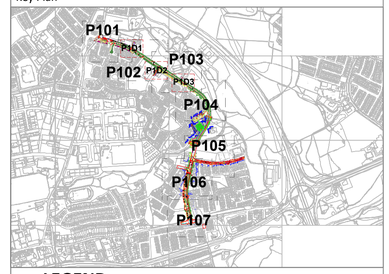
Michael McAdam

Key Plan



LEGEND:

- EXISTING KERB TO BE MAINTAINED
- EXISTING KERB TO BE REMOVED
- NEW KERB TO BE CONSTRUCTED
- DROP KERB/KERB CUT FOR CYCLE EGRESS
- RAISED CYCLE TRACK
- MANDATORY CYCLE LANE
- RAISED CROSSING RAMPS
- BUS STOP
- BUS STOP ISLAND
- EXISTING FOOTPATH
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- PROPOSED FOOTPATH
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- CARRIAGEWAY
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- VEGETATION/GRASS
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- PROPOSED TRAFFIC SIGNAL POLE
- CYCLE RAMP
- RED TACTILE PAVING
- YELLOW TACTILE PAVING
- TRAMLINE AND LADDER TACTILE PAVING
- EXISTING TREE TO BE RETAINED
- EXISTING TREE TO BE REMOVED
- PROPOSED STREET TREE

Revision	Description	Date
0	Issue for Section 38	12/05/23

Location:

Castletymon Road

Drawing Title:

Active Travel Scheme Section 38 Plan

Drawn by:	O.S. Reference:
AG	3389
Surveyed by:	Scale:
Murphy Geospatial	1:500
Checked:	Date:
MMc	12/05/2023

Drawing Number:

SDCC-AT-Castletymon-P106

Raised Crossing and Junction Tightening

Existing Bus Stop to be retained

Proposed Bus Island

Raised Crossing and Junction Tightening

4 proposed street trees

Existing Footpath to be resurfaced as Cycle Track

Existing Footpath realignment to connect with new footpath

Proposed protected cycling turns with integrated pedestrian crossing

Junction Tightening

Sheet P106

BALROTHERY ESTATE

CASTLE PARK

TALLAGHT ROAD

GLENVIEW PARK

N

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South Dublin County Council

Comhairle Contae Átha Cliath Theas
South Dublin County Council

LAND USE PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

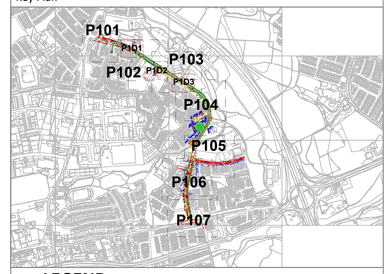
Director:

Mick Mulhern

Senior Engineer:

Michael McAdam

Key Plan



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Location:

Castletymon Road

Drawing Title:

Active Travel Scheme
Section 38 Plan

Drawn by:	O.S. Reference:
AG	**3389**
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Murphy Geospatial	**1:500**
Checked:	Date:
MMc	**12/05/2023**

Drawing Number:

SDCC-AT-Castletymon-P107

Lay-by/Loading Bay to be removed

Proposed Accessible Pedestrian/Cycle Pathway Entrance to Coláiste de hÍde

Raised Crossing and Junction Tightening

Cycle track to be integrated into existing Pedestrian Crossing

Raised Crossing

N

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South Dublin County Council

LAND USE PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

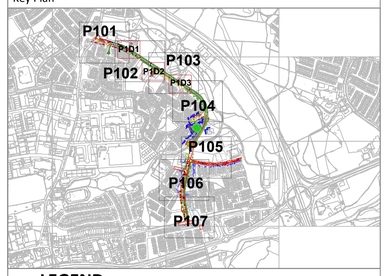
Director:

Mick Mulhern

Senior Engineer:

Michael McAdam

Key Plan



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Location:

Castletymon Road

Drawing Title:

Active Travel Scheme
Section 38 Plan

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Murphy Geospatial	1:200
Checked:	Date:
MMc	12/05/2023

Drawing Number:

SDCC-AT-Castletymon-P1D1

1 tree to be removed

Proposed Bus Island

Raised Crossing and Junction Tightening

School entrance improvement including entrance tightening, pencil bollards, etc.

School

N

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Comhairle Contae Átha Cliath Theas
South Dublin County Council

LAND USE PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

Director:

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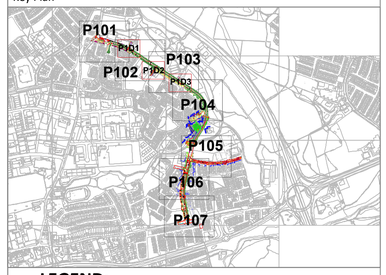

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Castletymon Road

Drawing Title:

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Section 38 Plan

Drawn by:	O.S. Reference:
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Murphy Geospatial	1:200
Checked:	Date:
MMc	12/05/2023

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South Dublin County Council

LAND USE PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

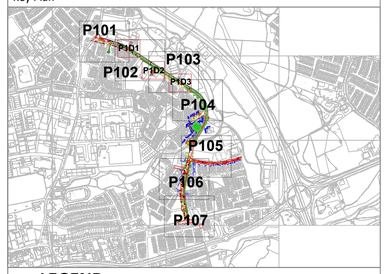
Director:

Mick Mulhern

Senior Engineer:

Michael McAdam

Key Plan



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Castletymon Road

Drawing Title:

Active Travel Scheme Section 38 Plan

Drawn by:	O.S. Reference:
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Checked:	Date:
MMc	12/05/2023

Drawing Number:

SDCC-AT-Castletymon-P1D3

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Castletymon Active Travel Scheme, Co. Dublin

Ecological Impact Assessment

15 June 2023

Project number: 2023s0254

South Dublin County Council

JBA Project Manager

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

Revision History

Revision Ref / Date Issued	Amendments	Issued to
S3 - P01 / 09-06-2023	Draft Report	Alanagh Gannon (SDCC)
A3 - C01 / 15-06-2023	Final Report	Alanagh Gannon (SDCC)

Contract

This report describes work commissioned by Alanagh Gannon of South Dublin County Council, by an email dated 06th January 2023. Michael Coyle of JBA Consulting carried out this work.

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

.....Assistant Ecologist

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

.....Project Ecologist

Purpose

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JBA Consulting has no liability regarding the use of this report except to South Dublin County Council.

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JBA is aiming to reduce its per capita carbon emissions.

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Abbreviations

BoCCI	Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland
CEMP	Construction and Environment Management Plan
CIEEM	Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management
CIRIA	Construction Industry Research and Information Association
EcIA	Ecological Impact Assessment
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
EU	European Union
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
INNS	Invasive Non-Native Species
NBDC	National Biodiversity Data Centre
NPWS	National Parks and Wildlife Services
pNHA	Proposed Natural Heritage Area
QI	Qualifying Interest
RBMP	River Basin Management Plan
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SDCC	South Dublin County Council
SPA	Special Protection Area
TII	Transport Infrastructure Ireland
WFD	Water Framework Directive
ZoI	Zone of Influence

1 Introduction

JBA Consulting Ireland Ltd. has been commissioned by South Dublin County Council to undertake an Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA) for the proposed realignment of Castletymon Road to facilitate cycle lanes on either side of the roadway, in Kilnamanagh Co. Dublin.

1.1 Aims

The aims of this EcIA are to:

- Establish baseline ecological conditions to enable identification of potentially important ecological features within the zone of influence of the project
- Determine the ecological value of identified ecological features
- Assess the significance of impacts of the proposed project on ecological features of value
- Identify avoidance, mitigation or compensatory measures
- Identify residual impacts after mitigation and the significance of their effects
- Identify opportunities for ecological / biodiversity enhancement

1.2 Site location

The project is located along Castletymon Road, south of Tymon Park and east of Bancroft Park. The majority of this route is to be constructed on existing Castletymon roadways. The project is split into two sections, located north and south the Tallaght Community School. The River Poddle (Poddle_010) is located immediately north (<20m from site boundary) of the southern section of the works. Additionally, Whitestown Stream (Dodder_040) is located approximately 260m south of the southernmost point of the proposed works (Figure 1-1).

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

2 Project Description

2.1 Proposed project

The majority of the route with be built on top of the existing roadway. There will be sections where the edge of the cycle track (200mm) will be on the existing verge, The Proposed Project includes:

- The removal of the ghost island (centre white markings) of Castletymon Road;
- The realignment of Castletymon Road into a 6m wide road to accommodate 2m cycle tracks on either side of the roadway;
- In order to preserve the existing on-street parking, the cycle track will be located on the verge between Main Road and Castle Park near St. Aengus' Church. The on-street parking will be realigned into 9 parallel parking spaces;
- The scheme will tie into the District Enhancement Scheme, requiring the relocation of 12 parking spaces outside the Castletymon Library;
- Bus Stop locations will be aligned and upgraded to accommodate the new cycle tracks. All bus stops location will remain in their general location;
- Junction tightening at all side roads to improve pedestrian and cyclist safety;
- The removal of 12 existing semi-mature trees; and
- The planting of 20 trees.

These details can be seen in the Site Alignment Plan and Site Layout Plan, which can both be viewed in Appendix A.

2.1.1 Duration of the Works

The construction of the proposed site will last approximately 9-12 months.

2.1.2 Excavation Details

The majority of the route with be built on top of the existing roadway. There will be sections where the edge of the cycle track (200mm) will be on the existing verge, in these sections a minimal build will be used (excavation depth ~150-250).

300 meters of new footpath will be built on existing grass / open space, which will be a traditional TII footpath build (excavation depth ~200-400mm). All elements are design to reduce impact on the verge and remove as few trees as possible.

3 Methodology

3.1 The EcIA Team

This EcIA was completed by JBA Ecologists Michael Coyle, BA (Hons), MSc and the report has been reviewed by JBA Project Ecologist William Mulville, BSc (Hons), MSc, ACIEEM.

These staff members thus fulfil the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive personnel requirements of 'competent persons'.

3.2 Policy and Legislation

Policy and legalisation for nature conservation; and protected and priority species relevant to the proposed project is provided in Appendix B.

3.3 Methods

This EcIA assesses the ecological features present within the site and its surrounding area (the Zone of Influence (ZoI)) in relation to the proposed works. This allows for identification of the potential impacts of the proposed works upon the ecological features of the site at an early stage, whilst identifying the potential ecological constraints upon the proposed works. The assessment is based on a desk-based assessment, which determines the baseline conditions at the site of the proposed works, and site surveys, which provided information on habitats and species present on the site and its surroundings.

This EcIA will outline the findings of the desk-based assessment and the surveys and identify any potential impacts of the proposed works on ecological features within the ZoI of the site; and propose mitigation measures to avoid or reduce impacts where necessary.

3.4 Guidance

This assessment was conducted in accordance with the following guidance documents:

- Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the United Kingdom and Ireland: Terrestrial, Freshwater, Coastal and Marine. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM, 2018).
- Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports Environmental Protection Agency (EPA, 2022).

3.5 Baseline

To determine the baseline conditions at the site a review of all available information was made. When determining the pre-work conditions on-site, including the presence or absence of protected habitats and/or species, the precautionary principle was used where limited information was available.

A desk-based assessment was carried out to collate information regarding protected/notable species and statutorily designated nature conservation sites in, or within close proximity to, the study area. This included a data search for protected and notable species using the National Biodiversity Data Centre (NBDC) Mapping System (NBDC, 2023). A customised 2km polygon was created to extract all the species data from the project site and its surrounding area, while an extended customised 5km polygon was created to extract all species data in the set Zone of Influence for this project.

Information for statutory designated sites including Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Ramsar Sites, Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) and proposed NHAs (pNHA) was collected from the online resources provided by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS).

Other information on the local area was obtained, including:

- EPA, 2023a. EPA Catchments.ie [online]. Available online at: https://www.catchments.ie/maps/
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- National Biodiversity Data Centre, 2023 – Species Distribution Maps; Available online at www.biodiversityireland.ie Accessed on various dates;
- All Ireland Red Data lists for vascular flora, mammals, butterflies, non-marine molluscs, dragonflies & damselflies, amphibians and fish;
- Water Framework Directive water maps (available online at http://www.wfdireland.ie/maps.html and https://www.catchments.ie/); and
- International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species (available online at http://www.iucnredlist.org).

3.5.1 Zone of Influence

The Zone of Influence (ZoI) for the project is based on a judgement of the likely extent of the ecological impacts. This will vary for different ecological features, depending on their sensitivities to environmental change. For the majority of the project, impacts will be limited to within the site boundary. **The Zone of Influence for this project is noise disturbance (1km), air pollution (500m), surface water (5km) and groundwater (5km), with an additional hydrological buffer from connecting transitional waters to coastal areas; and any supporting habitat for SAC/SPA species (15km).**

3.5.2 Field Surveys

A general ecological site walkover, including habitat mapping, mammal and preliminary bat roost surveys were conducted on the 1st of March 2023 by JBA Ecologists William Mulville and Michael Coyle of JBA Consulting to inform the initial ecological baseline of the site.

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

- Guidelines for Assessment of Ecological Impacts of National Road Schemes (NRA, 2009)
- Best Practice Guidance for habitat Survey and Mapping. The Heritage Council. (Smith et al., 2011)
- Collins, J. (Ed.), 2016. Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practise Guidelines (3rd Edition)

Aerial photographs and site maps assisted the habitat survey. Habitats have been named and described following A Guide to Habitats in Ireland by 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).

3.5.3 Water Framework Directive

In response to the increasing threat of pollution and the increasing demand from the public for cleaner rivers, lakes and beaches, the EU developed the Water Framework Directive (WFD). This Directive is unique in that, for the first time, it establishes a framework for the protection of all waters including rivers, lakes, estuaries, coastal waters and groundwater, and their dependent wildlife/habitats under one piece of environmental legislation for all European member states.

The WFD (Directive 2000/60/EC) is a substantial piece of EU water legislation that came into force in 2000. The overarching objective of the WFD is for the water bodies in Europe to attain Good or High Ecological Status. The Environment Protection Agency (EPA) is the competent authority in Ireland responsible for delivering the WFD. River Basin Management Plans (RBMP) have been created which set out measures to ensure that water bodies in the country achieve 'Good Ecological Status'.

Good Ecological Quality will depend on the quality of the individual quality elements on which the Ecological status is scored; namely the biological, chemical and morphological condition in a particular water body. Any reduction in any of these elements will result in a reduction of the overall ecological status.

3.5.4 Water Framework Status and Objectives

It is understood that Draft River Basin Management Plan for Ireland (2022-2027) has been adopted by all local authorities in order to achieve the aims of the WFD. The Plan sets out the new approach that Ireland will take to enhance protection, prevention, and monitoring of Irish waterbodies. The main actions include:

- Improve waste water treatment;
- Conservation and leakage reduction;
- Scientific assessment of water bodies and implementation of local measures;
- A new collaborative Sustainability and Advisory Support Programme;
- Dairy Sustainability Initiative;
- Development of water and planning guidance for local authorities;
- Extension of Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems grant Schemes; and
- A new Community Water Development Fund

Regardless of their current quality, surface waters should be treated the same in terms of the level of protection and mitigation measures employed, i.e., there should be no negative change in status.

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

3.6 Screening of Ecological Features

The ecological features identified during the walkover surveys and from desk-based assessments were reviewed.

An informal screening process is presented at the start of the results section to ensure that the assessment focuses only on features where the impact could have important consequences for biodiversity (valued ecological features). Any features which are important beyond the site level were identified for further evaluation. Ecological features with little or no value beyond the site level were screened out and a short statement explaining this is given in the screening section.

An Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening Report has been produced separate to this EcIA (JBA, 2023), to assess the potential for effects on Designated Natura 2000 sites. The AA Screening Report concluded there was **no potential for adverse significant effects on European sites** arising from the proposed development, either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects.

3.7 Assessment of the Effects on Features

Ecological features include nature conservation sites, habitats, species assemblages/ communities, populations or groups of species. The assessment of the significance of predicted impacts on ecological features is based on both the 'value' of a feature, and the nature and magnitude of the impact that the project will have on it. The impact is based on the project which includes a certain amount of designed-in mitigation, including construction best practice measures that will be implemented with a high degree of certainty.

3.8 Valuation of Receptors

The value of designated sites, habitats and species populations is assessed with reference to:

- Their importance in terms of 'biodiversity conservation' value (which relates to the need to conserve representative areas of different habitats and the genetic diversity of species populations).
- Any social benefits that habitats and species deliver (e.g., relating to enjoyment of flora and fauna by the public).
- Any economic benefits that they provide.

The valuation of designated sites considers different levels of statutory and non-statutory protection. Assessment of habitat depends on several factors, including the size of the habitat, its conservation status and quality. The assessment also takes account of connected off-site habitat that may increase the value of the on-site habitat through association. Valuation of species depends on a number of factors including distribution, status, rarity, vulnerability, and the population size present.

Designated sites, habitats and species populations have been valued using the scale in Table 3-1.

Table 3-1: Examples of criteria used to define the value of ecological features (derived NRA, 2008, rev. 2009)

Level of Value	Examples of Criteria
International	An internationally important site e.g. Special Protection Area (SPA), Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Ramsar (or a site considered worthy of such designation). A regularly occurring substantial population of an internationally important species (listed on Annex IV of the Habitats Directive). Designated shellfish waters. Major fisheries area.
National	A nationally designated site e.g. Natural Heritage Area (NHA), a proposed Natural Heritage Area (pNHA), statutory Nature Reserve, or a site considered worthy of such designation. A viable area of a habitat type listed in Annex I of the Habitats Directive or of smaller areas of such habitat which are essential to maintain the viability of a larger whole. A regularly occurring substantial population of a nationally important species, e.g. listed on The Wildlife Act 1976 or The Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000. A species included in the Irish Red Data Lists/Books. Significant populations of breeding birds.
Regional/County (County Dublin)	Species and habitats of special conservation significance within County Dublin. An area subject to a project/initiative under the County's Biodiversity Action Plan. A regularly occurring substantial population of a nationally scarce species.
Local (works site and its vicinity)	Areas of internationally or nationally important habitats which are degraded and have little or no potential for restoration. A good example of a common or widespread habitat in the local area. Species of national or local importance, but which are only present very

Level of Value	Examples of Criteria
	infrequently or in very low numbers within site area.
Less than local	Areas of heavily modified or managed vegetation of low species diversity or low value as habitat to species of nature conservation interest. Common and widespread species.

Guidance published by CIEEM (2018) recommends breaking down the importance of ecological features in a geographic context similar to the NRA guidance shown in Table 3-1 with the following frame of reference to be adapted to local circumstances.

- International and European
- National
- Regional
- Metropolitan, County, vice-county or other local authority-wide area
- River Basin District
- Estuarine system/Coastal cell
- Local

The NRA (2009) guidance is congruent with this CIEEM (2018) guidance and includes a 'Less than local' level. The NRA (2009) guidance on geographic criteria for ecological valuation, as described in Table 3-1 is followed in this report.

Ecological Valuation may also be considered of Local Importance (higher value) or Local Importance (lower value) (Table 3-2).

Table 3-2: Examples of criteria used to define the value of ecological features of local importance (NRA, 2009)

Level of Value	Examples of Criteria
Local Importance (higher value)	Locally important populations of priority species or habitats or natural heritage features identified in the Local Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP), if this has been prepared. Resident or regularly occurring populations (assessed to be important at the Local level) of the following: *Species of bird, listed in Annex I and/or referred to in Article 4(2) of the Birds Directive; *Species of animal and plants listed in Annex II and/or IV of the Habitats Directive; *Species protected under the Wildlife Acts; and/or *Species listed on the relevant Red Data List. Sites containing semi-natural habitat types with high biodiversity in a local context and a high degree of naturalness, or populations of species that are uncommon in the locality. Sites or features containing common or lower value habitats, including naturalised species that are nevertheless essential in maintaining links and ecological corridors between features of higher ecological value.
Local Importance (lower value)	Sites containing small areas of semi-natural habitat that are of some local importance for wildlife; Sites or features containing non-native species that are of some importance in maintaining habitat links.

3.8.1 Magnitude of Impacts

Ecological effects or impacts can be described and categorised in a number of ways. Examples of relevant terms are listed in the table below.

Table 3-3: Categories of Effects (derived EPA, 2022a).

Description	Categories of Effects
Quality of Effects	**Positive Effects** A change which improves the quality of the environment (for example, by increasing species diversity; or the improving reproductive capacity of an ecosystem, or by removing nuisances or improving amenities).
	Neutral Effects No effects or effects that are imperceptible, within normal bounds of variation or within the margin of forecasting error.
	Negative/adverse Effects A change which reduces the quality of the environment (for example, lessening species diversity or diminishing the reproductive capacity of an ecosystem; or damaging health or property or by causing nuisance).
Describing the Significance of Effects	**Imperceptible** An effect capable of measurement but without significant consequences.
	Not Significant An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.
	Slight Effects An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.
	Moderate Effects An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner that is consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.
	Significant Effects An effect which, by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity, alters a sensitive aspect of the environment.
	Very Significant An effect which, by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity, significantly alters most of a sensitive aspect of the environment.
	Profound Effects An effect which obliterates sensitive characteristics.
Describing the Extent and Context of Effects	**Extent** Describe the size of the area, the number of sites and the proportion of a population affected by an effect.
	Context Describe whether the extent, duration or frequency will conform or contrast with established (baseline) conditions (is it the biggest, longest effect ever?).
Describing the Probability of Effects	**Likely Effects** The effects that can reasonably be expected to occur because of the planned project if all mitigation measures are properly implemented.
	Unlikely Effects The effects that can reasonably be expected not to occur because of the planned project if all mitigation measures are properly implemented.
Describing the	**Momentary Effects**

Description	Categories of Effects
Duration and Frequency of Effects	Effects lasting from seconds to minutes.
	Brief Effects Effects lasting less than a day.
	Temporary Effects Effects lasting less than a year.
	Short-term Effects Effects lasting one to seven years.
	Medium-term Effects Effects lasting seven to fifteen years.
	Long-term Effects Effects lasting fifteen to sixty years.
	Permanent Effects Effects lasting over sixty years.
	Reversible Effects Effects that can be undone, for example through remediation or restoration.
	Frequency of effects Describe how often the effect will occur (once, rarely, occasionally, frequently, constantly – or hourly, daily, weekly, monthly, annually).
Describing the Types of Effects	**Indirect Effects (a.k.a. Secondary or Off-site Effects)** Effects on the environment. Which are not a direct result of the project, often produced away from the project site of because of a complex pathway.
	Cumulative Effects The addition of many minor or insignificant effects, including effects of other projects, to create larger, more significant effects.
	Do-nothing Effects The environment as it would be in the future should the subject project not be carried out.
	Worst Case Effects The effects arising from a project in the case where mitigation measures substantially fail.
	Indeterminable Effects The effects arising from a project in the case where mitigation measures substantially fail.
	Irreversible Effects When the character, distinctiveness, diversity or reproductive capacity of an environment is permanently lost.
	Residual Effects The degree of environmental change that will occur after the proposed mitigation measures have taken effect.
	Synergistic Effects Where the resultant effect is of greater significance than the sum of its constituents (e.g. combination of SOx and NOx to produce smog).

3.8.2 Significance of impacts

The overall significance of an impact can be derived from the total description of the effect compared against the sensitivity and significance (value) of the receptor as shown overleaf in Figure 3-1 which is taken from the EPAs EIAR Guidelines (EPA, 2022). The context and character of the receptor must also be assessed, such as its position in relation to the effect and its connectivity to the effect, however this should be determined before assessing the significance of the impact.

The total description of the effect includes the character, magnitude, probability and consequences of the effect as described in Table 3-4 which are combined to give a general description of the effect on an ordinal scale from Negligible to High. The sensitivity and significance of the receptor is also described on an ordinal scale from Negligible to High.

The placement of the general description of the effect, and the sensitivity/significance of the receptor on this scale is determined by a Competent Person (a qualified ecologist in this case) as they interpret the qualities of the effect from the categories listed in Figure 3-1 and the receptors sensitivity and significance. Level of significance, also described as value of the receptor is previously set out in sub-section 3.8 above. Sensitivity of the receptor is assessed by the Competent Person based on the receptor's characteristics and how susceptible to impact they are from the type of effect.

The overall significance of an effect is then categorised into one of the following seven classifications:

- Imperceptible
- Not Significant
- Slight
- Moderate
- Significant
- Very Significant
- Profound

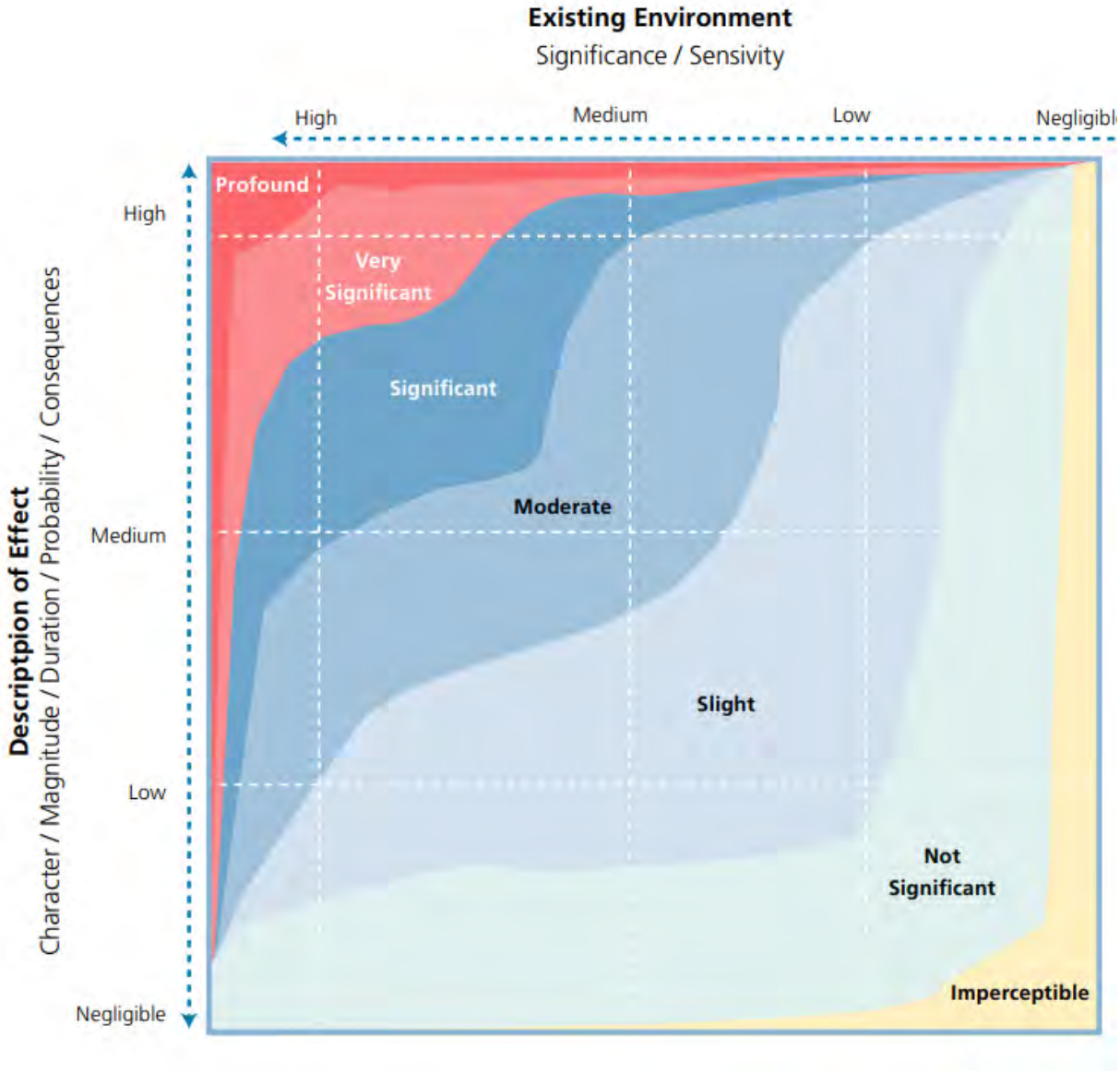

Figure 3-1: Chart showing the typical classifications of the significance of effects (EPA, 2022)

This chart has been interpreted in Table 3-4 as a significance of impacts matrix below, the scale has been ordered into an upper and lower bound for each qualitative category, so that degrees of significance within subcategories can be interpreted by the Competent Person.

Table 3-4: Significance of impacts matrix (derived from Figure 3-1, re EPA, 2022)

Magnitude of impact	Sensitivity/ Value of Receptor							
	High +	**High -**	**Medium +**	**Medium -**	**Low +**	**Low -**	**Negligible +**	**Negligible -**
High +	Profound	Very significant	Very significant	Significant	Moderate	Moderate	Not Significant	Imperceptible
High -	Very Significant	Very significant	Significant	Moderate	Moderate	Slight	Not Significant	Imperceptible
Medium +	Very Significant	Significant	Moderate	Moderate	Slight	Slight	Not Significant	Imperceptible
Medium -	Significant	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Slight	Slight	Not Significant	Imperceptible
Low +	Moderate	Slight	Slight	Slight	Slight	Slight	Not Significant	Imperceptible
Low -	Slight	Slight	Slight	Slight	Slight	Not Significant	Not Significant	Imperceptible
Negligible +	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not significant	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant	Imperceptible
Negligible -	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not significant	Not Significant	Not Significant	Imperceptible	Imperceptible	Imperceptible

3.8.3 Residual Impacts

The project is assessed including some designed-in mitigation (e.g., appropriate drainage design). This is done where mitigation is proven to be effective and will be implemented effectively with a high certainty. Where significant residual impacts are still identified, further mitigation measures will be proposed as part of the Ecological Impact Assessment process to avoid, reduce or minimise them. Each impact assessment section assigns a final significance level to the impact described, which considers and includes the implementation of any stated mitigation measures; these are the residual impacts.

3.9 Cumulative Impacts

Potential sources of cumulative impacts were identified based on the ecology of valued ecological features. Potential sources of cumulative impacts were sought within an area where there is the potential for a significant impact on a site or species. The plans and projects identified as potential sources of cumulative impacts are described in Section 5.

3.10 Limitations and Constraints

This EcIA is based on ecological site surveys and existing data from the above-mentioned sources. The report necessarily relies on some assumptions and is inevitably subject to some limitations. These do 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 surveys were undertaken cannot be accounted for. However, the site surveys have followed CIEEM (2019) Advice note on the lifespan of ecological reports and surveys. Any changes to the proposed works will require an assessment by a suitably qualified ecologist to determine if re-assessment is required.
- Adverse weather can cause delays to the schedule and alter the timing of works. This has been accounted for using a worst-case scenario where possible.
- The precautionary principle is used at all times when determining potential ecological sensitivity of the site.
- Ecological surveys were conducted outside of the optimal window for vegetation and invertebrates (early-March 2023), as such, some vegetation species may not have been present at the time of survey efforts, however as this was taking place along managed roadway the side of a roadway, no protected floral species were anticipated.

4 Baseline Conditions

These baseline conditions present information gathered from existing reports and desk-based sources as detailed in Section 3.6. To inform this EcIA the initial baseline ecological walkover survey was carried out by JBA Ecologists William Mulville and Michael Coyle of JBA Consulting on a site visit conducted on 1st of March 2023.

4.1 Desk-based Assessment

4.1.1 Designated Sites

This section lists the designated sites of international and national importance. The ZoI for this project is a 5km general radius and any downstream hydrological connection (including transitional waters buffer) for statutory sites; and a general 5km radius for non-statutory sites. Table 4-1 below lists these designated sites with their respective importance and distance from the proposed site development Figure 4-1 displays the locations of the statutory designated sites, with Figure 4-2 displaying the non-statutory (proposed and existing Natural Heritage Area) designated sites within the ZoI of the site.

displays site descriptions and their respective ecological features. The length of the project is split into two sections, north and south. The River Poddle (Poddle _010) flows under the road in between these two sections, however there is no direct contact between the site, and this watercourse.

Table 4-1: Proximity and importance of designated sites within their respective ZoI buffers.

Designated Site	Designation	Importance	Distance from site	Hydrological distance from site
Glenasmole Valley [001209]	SAC	International	3.8km	n/a
North Dublin Bay [000206]	SAC	International	12.8km	17km
South Dublin Bay [000210]	SAC	International	9.4km	15.1km
North Bull Island [004006]	SPA	International	10.1km	17km
South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary [004024]	SPA	International	9.4km	14.5km
Glenasmole Valley [001209]	pNHA	National	3.8km	n/a
Dodder Valley [000991]	pNHA	National	0.4km	n/a
North Dublin Bay [000206]	pNHA	National	10.7km	15.8km
South Dublin Bay [000210]	pNHA	National	9.4km	15.1km
Dolphins, Dublin Bay [000201]	pNHA	National	10.9km	14.1km
Grand Canal [002104]	pNHA	National	3.3km	n/a
Lugmore Glen [001212]	pNHA	National	4.7km	n/a

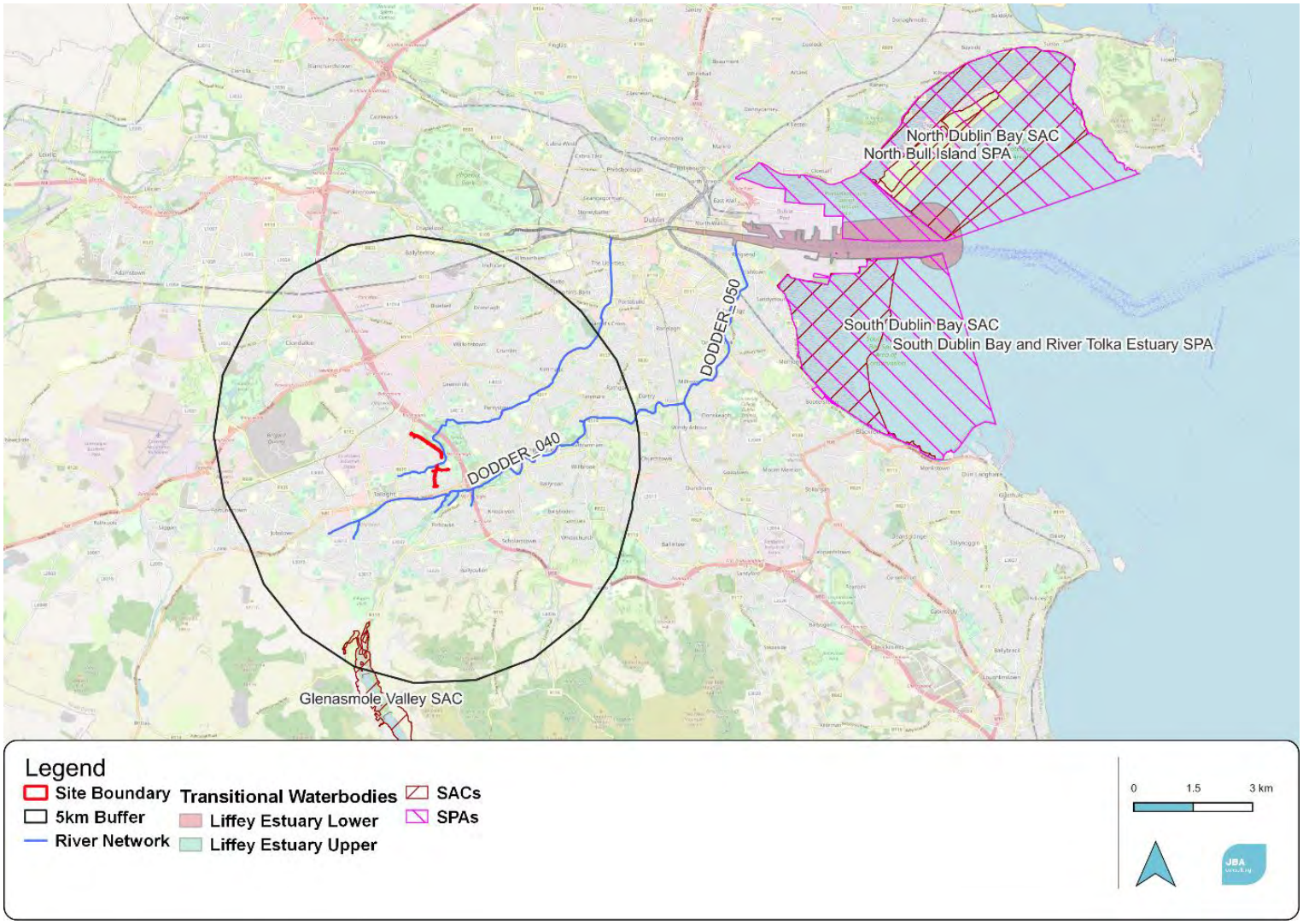

Figure 4-1: Natura 2000 sites within the ZoI of the development (© OpenStreetMap contributors, 2023)

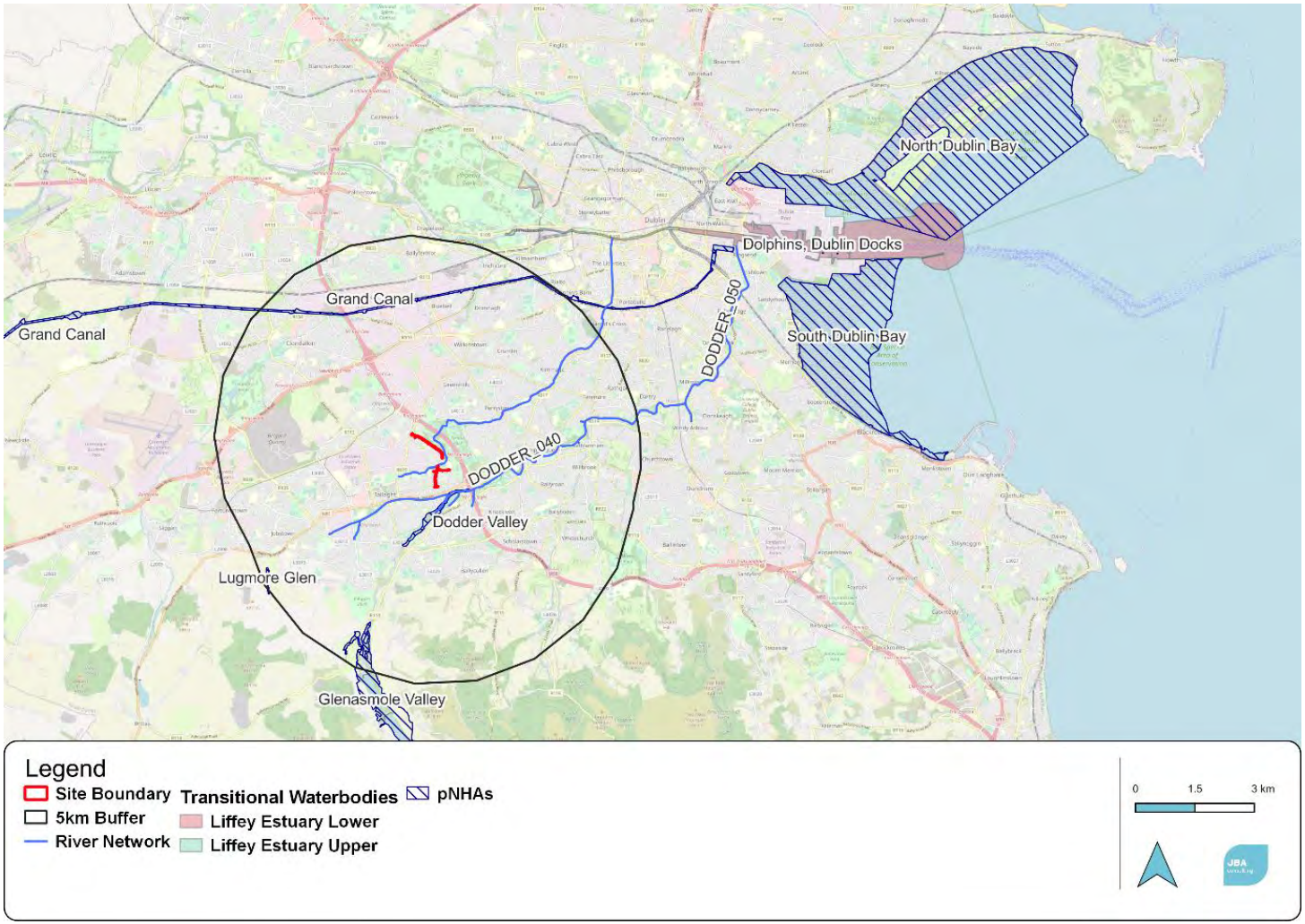

Figure 4-2: pNHA designated sites within the ZoI of the development (© OpenStreetMap contributors, 2023)

Table 4-2: Site briefs; Qualifying Interests; and project threats and their impacts and sources to the Natura 2000 sites within the ZoI.

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).	- Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates Festuco-Brometalia) (* important orchid sites) [6210] - Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae) [6410] - Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220] (NPWS, 2018)	No project-relevant threats or pressures (EEA, 2018)
North Dublin Bay SAC	This site covers the inner part of north Dublin Bay extending from the Bull Wal lighthouse as far as the martello Tower. The building of the South Wall and the Bull Wall in the 18th and 19th centuries contributed to the formation of the 5km sandy spit on location which can be 1km wide at parts, containing an assortment of dunes. The saltmarsh extends the length of the landward side of the island, which is marked by an eroding edge that varies between 20cm and 60cm high (NPWS, 2013b).	- Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] - Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210] - Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] - Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae) [1330] - Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) [1410] - Embryonic shifting dunes [2110] - Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria (white dunes) [2120] - Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130] - Humid dune slacks [2190] - Petalwort *Petalophyllum ralfsii* [1395] (NPWS, 2013c)	Urbanised areas, human habitation: High impact (outside) (EEA, 2020a)

Site Name	Brief	Qualifying Interests	Project-relevant Threats / Pressures: Impact (Source)
South Dublin Bay SAC	South Dublin Bay SAC lies south of the Liffey, extending from South Wall to the western pier of Dun Laoghaire. The site is intertidal, with extensive sand and mudflats. There are several small, sandy beaches with incipient dune formation in the north and western sectors of the site. Of interest is the area of Booterstown salt marsh, which is a relatively new formation. There is early-stage saltmarsh development occurring here, covering a small area for now, but with the possibility to extend further thanks to ample areas of substrate and shelter (NPWS 2015a).	- Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] - Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210] - Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] - Embryonic shifting dunes [2110] (NPWS, 2013d)	Roads, motorways: Low impact (outside) Urbanised areas, human habitation: High impact (outside) (EEA, 2020b)
North Bull Island SPA	This site covers all of the inner area of north Dublin Bay, including a seaward boundary that extends from the Bull Wall lighthouse across to Drumleck Point at Howth Head. It is almost 5km long, it is 1km wide and it runs parallel to the coast between Sutton and Clontarf. The length of the site is covered with Saltmarshes, there are two intertidal lagoons located in the area which provide roosts and feeding grounds for wintering birds. It is one of the tops sites for wintering waterfowl in Ireland, and is of international importance for its sustainability of birdlife (NPWS, 2014).	- Light-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla hrota* [A046] - Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna* [A048] - Teal *Anas crecca* [A052] - Pintail *Anas acuta* [A054] - Shoveler *Anas clypeata* [A056] - Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus* [A130] - Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria* [A140] - Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola* [A141] - Knot *Calidris canutus* [A143] - Sanderling *Calidris alba* [A144] - Dunlin *Calidris alpina* [A149] - Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa* [A156] - Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica* [A157] - Curlew *Numenius arquata* [A160] - Redshank *Tringa totanus* [A162] - Turnstone *Arenaria interpres* [A169] - Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus* [A179] - Wetland and Waterbirds [A999] (NPWS, 2015c)	No project-relevant threats or pressures (EEA, 2020b)

Site Name	Brief	Qualifying Interests	Project-relevant Threats / Pressures: Impact (Source)
South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA	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, 2015d).	- Light-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla hrota* [A046] Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus* [A130] - Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula* [A137] - Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola* [A141] - Knot *Calidris canutus* [A143] - Sanderling *Calidris alba* [A144] - Dunlin *Calidris alpina* [A149] - Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica* [A157] - Redshank *Tringa totanus* [A162] - Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus* [A179] - Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii* [A192] - Common Tern *Sterna hirundo* [A193] - Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea* [A194] - Wetland and Waterbirds [A999] (NPWS, 2015e)	Roads, motorways: Low impact (outside) Urbanised areas, human habitation: High impact (outside) (EEA, 2021b)

Table 4-3: Site briefs and ecological features of conservation concern of proposed Natural Heritage Areas within the ZoI.

Site Name	Brief	Ecological Features of Conservation Concern
Glenasmole Valley pNHA [001209]	As per the Natura 2000 SAC description.	As per those outlined in Natura 2000 SAC description.
Dodder Valley pNHA [000991]	This stretch of the River Dodder extends for about 2 km between Firhouse Bridge and Oldbawn Bridge in the south-west of Dublin City. The vegetation consists of woodland scrub mainly comprising Willows spp., but up to thirteen species of tree have been recorded. The understorey vegetation contains a good variety of plant species, including Early-purple Orchid *Orchis mascula* and Bugle. Along the banks there are wildflower meadows with a good diversity of plant species. Forty-eight bird species have been recorded recently in the area, including Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*, Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*, White-throated Dipper *Cinclus cinclus* and Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*. Part of the riverbank supports a Sand Martin *Riparia riparia* colony of up to 100 pairs. The site also supports a population of Otter. The site represents the last remaining stretch of natural riverbank vegetation on the River Dodder in the built-up Greater Dublin Area (NPWS, 2009a).	- Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis* - Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis* - Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea* - Sand Martin *Riparia riparia* - Otter *Lutra lutra*
North Dublin Bay pNHA [000206]	As per North Dublin Bay SAC description in Table 4-2.	As per those outlined in SAC description
South Dublin Bay pNHA [000210]	As per South Dublin Bay SAC description in Table 4-2.	As per those outlined in SAC description
Dolphins, Dublin Bay pNHA [000201]	As per Red Bog, Kildare SAC descriptions in Table 4-2.	As per those outlined in SAC description
Grand Canal pNHA [002104]	The Grand Canal is a man-made waterway linking the River Liffey at Dublin with the Shannon at Shannon Harbour and the Barrow at Athy. The Grand Canal proposed Natural Heritage Area (pNHA) comprises the canal channel and the banks on either side of it. A number of different habitats are found within the canal boundaries - hedgerow, tall herbs, calcareous grassland, reed fringe, open water, scrub and woodland. The diversity of the water channel is particularly high in the eastern section of the Main Line - between the Summit level at Lowtown and Inchicore. Otter spraints are found along the towpath, particularly where the canal passes over a river or stream. The Smooth Newt *Lissotriton vulgaris* breeds in the ponds on the bank at Gollierstown in Co. Dublin. The rare and legally protected Opposite-leaved Pondweed *Groenlandia densa* (Flora Protection Order 1987) is	- Opposite-leaved Pondweed *Groenlandia densa* - Smooth Newt *Lissotriton vulgaris* - Otter *Lutra lutra*

Site Name	Brief	Ecological Features of Conservation Concern
	present at a number of sites in the eastern section of the Main Line, between Lowtown and Ringsend Basin in Dublin (NPWS, 2009b).	
Lugmore Glen pNHA [001212]	This small, wooded glen is located about 2km south-east of Saggart in Co. Dublin. It is quite a narrow valley cut in glacial drift. A small stream winds through the valley. The wood is mainly comprised of dense Hazel *Corylus avellana* but also contains Ash, Elder *Sambucus nigra* and Blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*. The herb layer is quite rich, especially towards the stream, with species such as Wood-sorrel, Bugle *Ajuga reptans*, Primrose *Primula vulgaris*, Honeysuckle *Lonicera periclymenum*, Bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*, Ivy *Hedera hibernica*, Wood-sedge *Carex sylvatica*, Woodruff *Galium odoratum* and Wood Speedwell occurring. The importance of this site is that it is a fine example of a wooded glen with a good representation of woodland plants. The flora of the site is notable for the presence of the rare Red Data Book species, Yellow Archangel *Lamiastrum galeobdolon*.	- Yellow Archangel *Lamiastrum galeobdolon*

4.1.2 Screening of designated sites

An AA Screening has been carried out for this project by JBA (2023). Following initial screening, and based upon best scientific judgement it is concluded that **adverse significant effects are not anticipated** from the project on the following Natura 2000 sites within the Zone of Influence:

- Glenasmole Valley SAC
- North Dublin Bay SAC
- South Dublin Bay SAC
- North Bull Island SPA
- South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA

The pNHA sites below, are being **screened out** due one or more of the following: lack of hydrological connectivity (surface water and groundwater) and/or distance (rentention and dilution factors) from the proposed site; and the development's scale (capacity for dust generation):

- Glenasmole Valley pNHA
- Dodder Valley pNHA
- North Dublin Bay pNHA
- South Dublin Bay pNHA
- Dolphins, Dublin Bay pNHA
- Grand Canal pNHA
- Lugmore Glen pNHA

4.1.3 Protected Species

National Biodiversity Data Centre (NBDC)

Records of protected flora and fauna including invertebrates, amphibians, birds, reptiles and mammals collated from the NBDC (2023) database, present within the surrounding 5km within the past 10 years are listed in Appendix C. This list includes their level of protection, if they are red or amber listed on the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) Red List or the Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland (2020-2026) and the date of the last record of this species at this location.

4.1.4 Invasive Non-native Species

The records from the NBDC (2023) database, show that there is nine high-impact and three medium-impact, invasive non-native species listed on the Third Schedule of Non-native species (subject to restrictions under Regulations 49 and 50) present within the 2km buffer zone of the proposed site within the past 10 years (Table 4-4). A full list of non-native invasive species within 5km of the site is found within Appendix C.

Table 4-4: Invasive non-native species listed on the Third Schedule of Non-native species present within 5km of the site

Invasive Non-Native Species	Impact Rating	Proximity to Site
Giant-rhubarb *Gunnera tinctoria*	High Impact	0.3km
Brown Rat *Rattus norvegicus*	High Impact	Within vicinity of site
Giant Hogweed *Heracleum mantegazzianum*	High Impact	0.5km
American Mink *Mustela vison*	High Impact	0.6km
American Skunk-cabbage *Lysichiton americanus*	Medium Impact	1.7km
Giant Knotweed *Fallopia sachalinensis*	High Impact	1.9km
Three-cornered Garlic *Allium triquetrum*	Medium Impact	0.7km
Spanish Bluebell *Hyacinthoides hispanica*	Low Impact	0.7km

Invasive Non-Native Species	Impact Rating	Proximity to Site
Red-eared Terrapin *Trachemys scripta*	Medium Impact	0.7km
Indian Balsam *Impatiens glandulifera*	High Impact	0.7km
Japanese Knotweed *Fallopia japonica*	High Impact	0.6km
Eastern Grey Squirrel *Sciurus carolinensis*	High Impact	Within vicinity of site
Harlequin Ladybird *Harmonia axyridis*	High Impact	0.4km

4.2 Water Framework Directive

4.2.1 Surface Water Status

The entirety of the proposed project is located within the Water Framework Directive (WFD) Liffey and Dublin Bay catchment, and within the Dodder_SC_010 sub-catchment (EPA, 2023). The nearest watercourse is the River Poddle (Poddle_010), located less then 20m away from the site boundary. Nearby, approximately 260m to the south of the site, and located on the opposite side of the N81, is the Whitestown Stream (Dodder_040). The River Poddle flows in a general north-easterly direction, before entering the Liffey Estuary Upper (IE_EA_090_0400) transitional waterbody, where it then flows into the Liffey Estuary Lower (IE_EA_090_0400) and then on into Dublin Bay. These waterbodies, along with their WFD status (2016-2021) and current risk are listed in Table 4-5 and are shown in Figure 4-3.

Table 4-5: WFD status and risk of local watercourses.

WFD Watercourse	WFD Status	WFD Risk	Approximate Distance from Site
River Poddle (Poddle_010)	Poor	At Risk	0.1km (from the North Section) <0.1km (from the South Section)
Whitestown Stream (Dodder_040)	Moderate	At Risk	0.3km
Liffey Estuary Upper (IE_EA_090_0400)	Good	Under Review	8.6km (via Poddle_010)
Liffey Estuary Lower (IE_EA_090_0300)	Moderate	At Risk	10.3km (via Poddle_010)

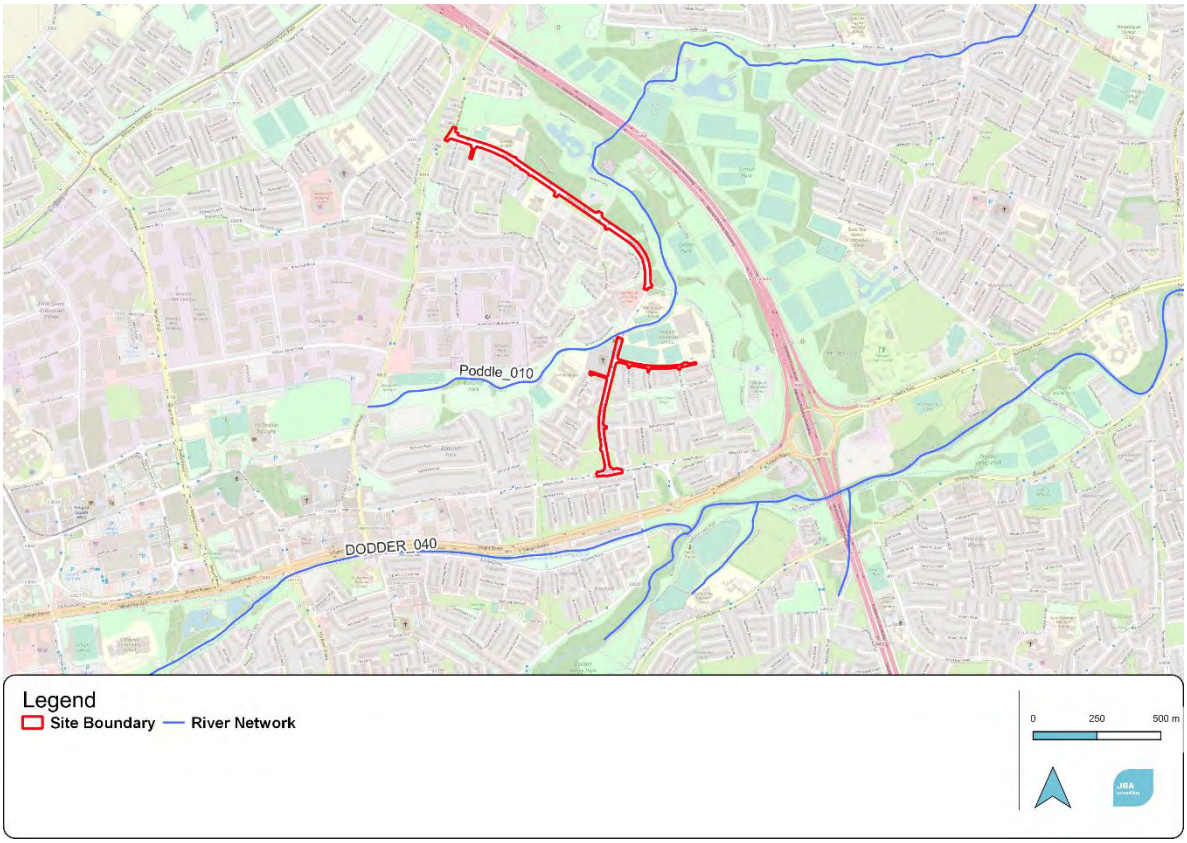

Figure 4-3: Local river waterbodies (© OpenStreetMap contributors, 2023)

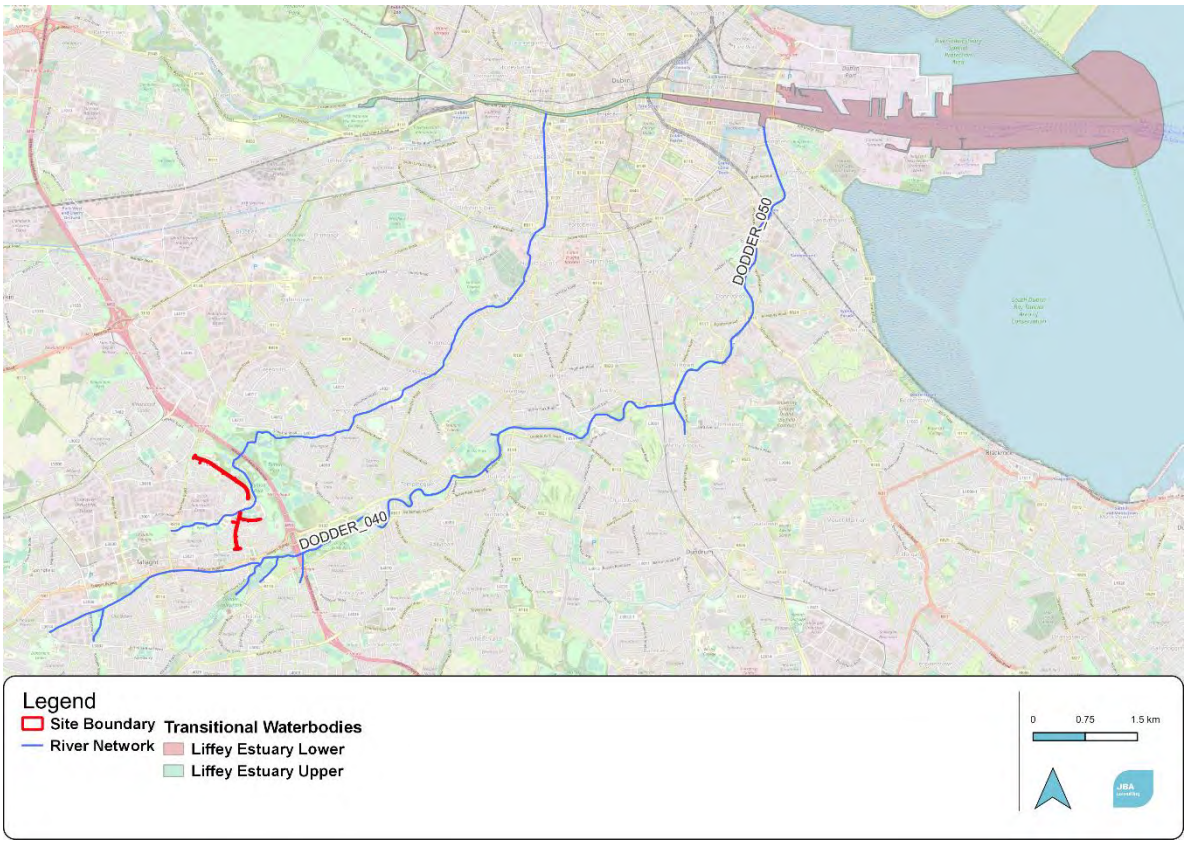

Figure 4-4: Local rivers to transitional waterbodies (© OpenStreetMap contributors, 2023)

4.3 Groundwater

The entirety of the site is located within the Dublin (IE_EA_G008) groundwater body (Figure 4-5). The Dublin groundwater body currently holds a 'Good' WFD status (2016-2021); and its risk status is currently listed as under review (EPA, 2023).

The underlying bedrock of the site is dominated by dark limestone and shale ('calp) of the Lucan formation, the soil in the north section is Till derived chiefly from limestone, while the south section of the site derived of made ground. The permeability of all of the site's area is classified as Low with a low recharge capacity of 20%. The groundwater in the area of the site has an overall Low vulnerability (Figure 4-6).

The aquifer within the underlying bedrock is considered to be "Locally Important" with "Bedrock which is Moderately Productive only in Local Zones", with a poor network of connections, a relatively short flow path and a rapid discharge to local streams, springs and seeps. In the context of this site, this means that with a low level of retention or transferral within the groundwater any, pollutants which may infiltrate the groundwater system, are unlikely to travel far, and would be discharged into the River Poddle (GSI, 2023).

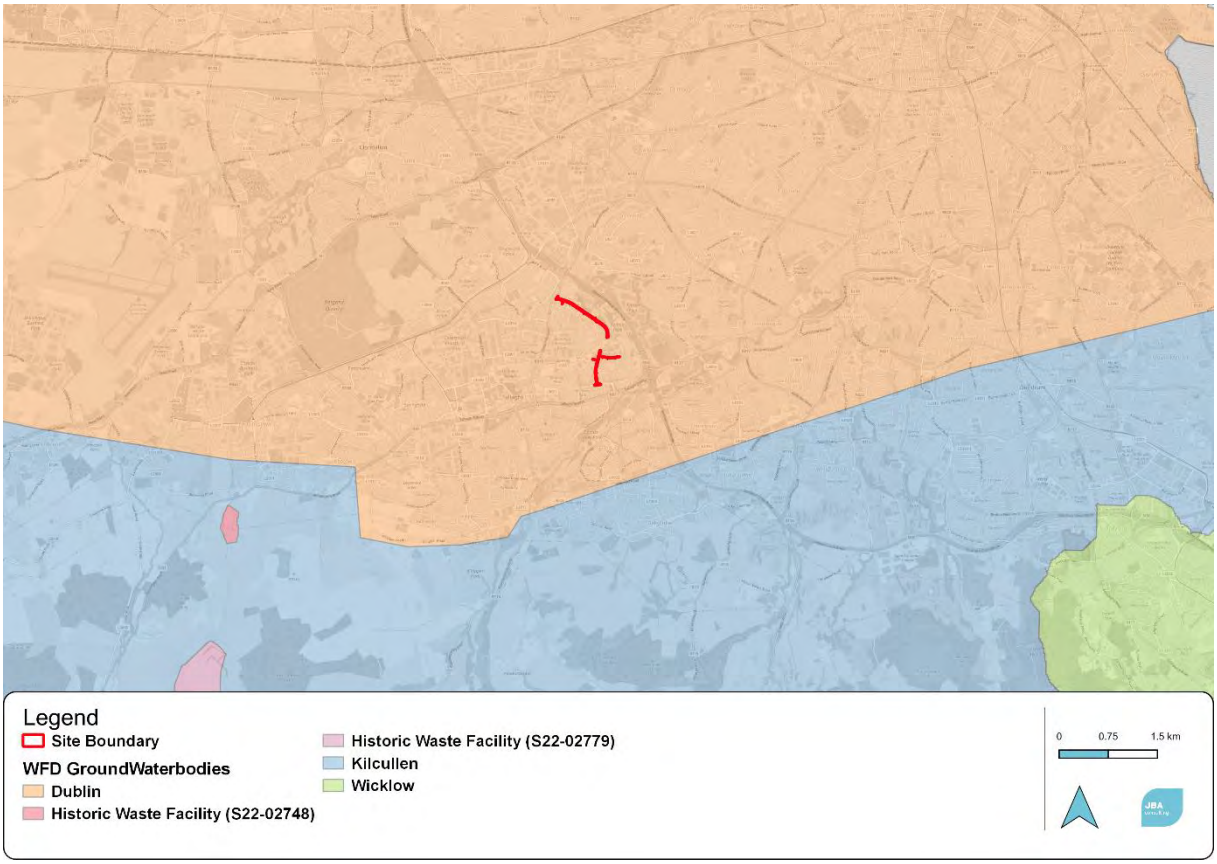

Figure 4-5: Groundwater bodies in the vicinity of site (© OpenStreetMap contributors, 2023)

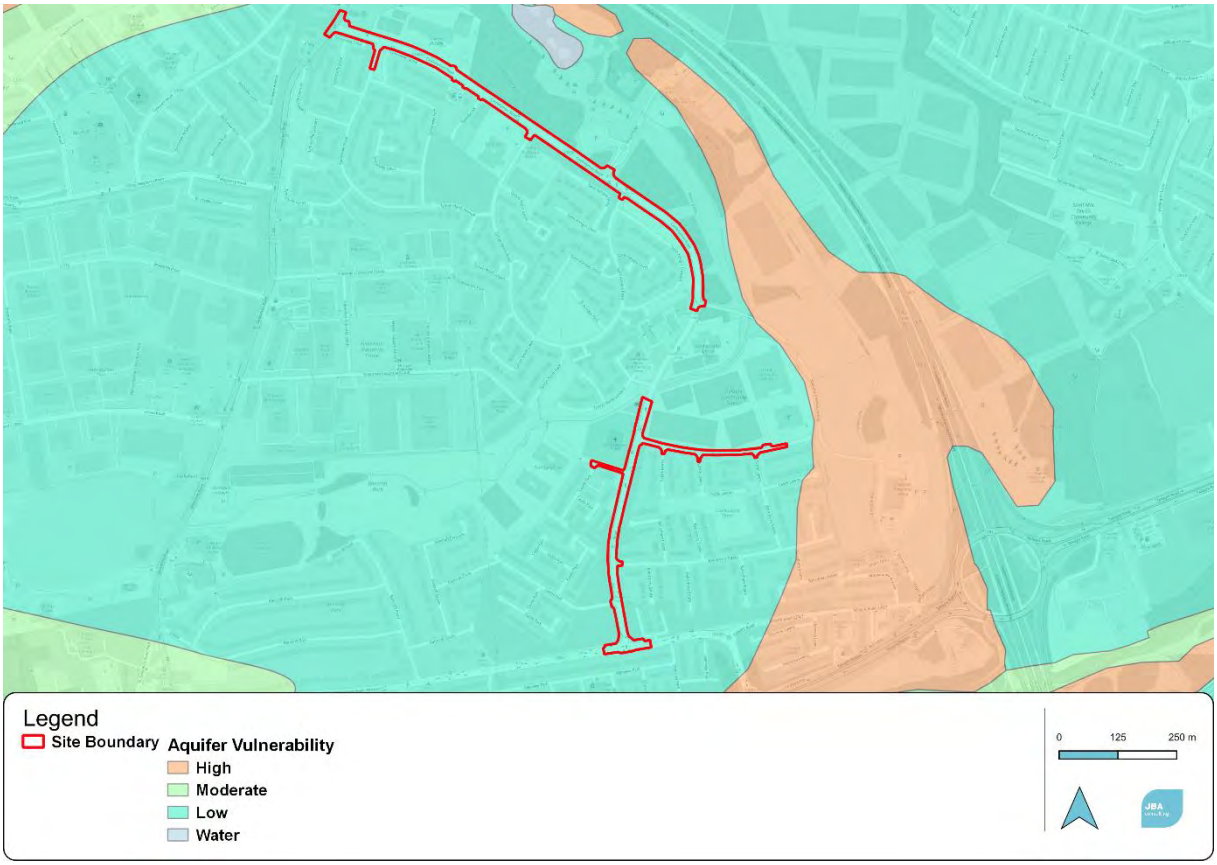

Figure 4-6: Aquifer vulnerability of the site (© OpenStreetMap contributors, 2023)

4.4 Site Visits

A baseline ecological site walkover, including habitat mapping, was conducted by JBA Ecologist, William Mulville and Michael Coyle on the 1st of March 2023. Habitats and species recorded are presented in detail in the following sections.

4.5 Habitats

The site is located along Castletymon Road. The site itself is primarily composed of amenity grassland, with a treeline present along the road's boundary. The site is segmented into an area north and south of the land of Tallaght Community Centre. In between these segments, is a bridge that crosses the River Poddle, and south of the site by approximately 250m is Whitestown Stream, on the opposite site of the N81.

Table 4-6: List of habitats recorded on site

Habitat	Fossitt Code
Buildings and artificial surfaces	BL3
Amenity grassland (improved)	GA2
Amenity grassland (improved) / Treelines	GA2 / WL2

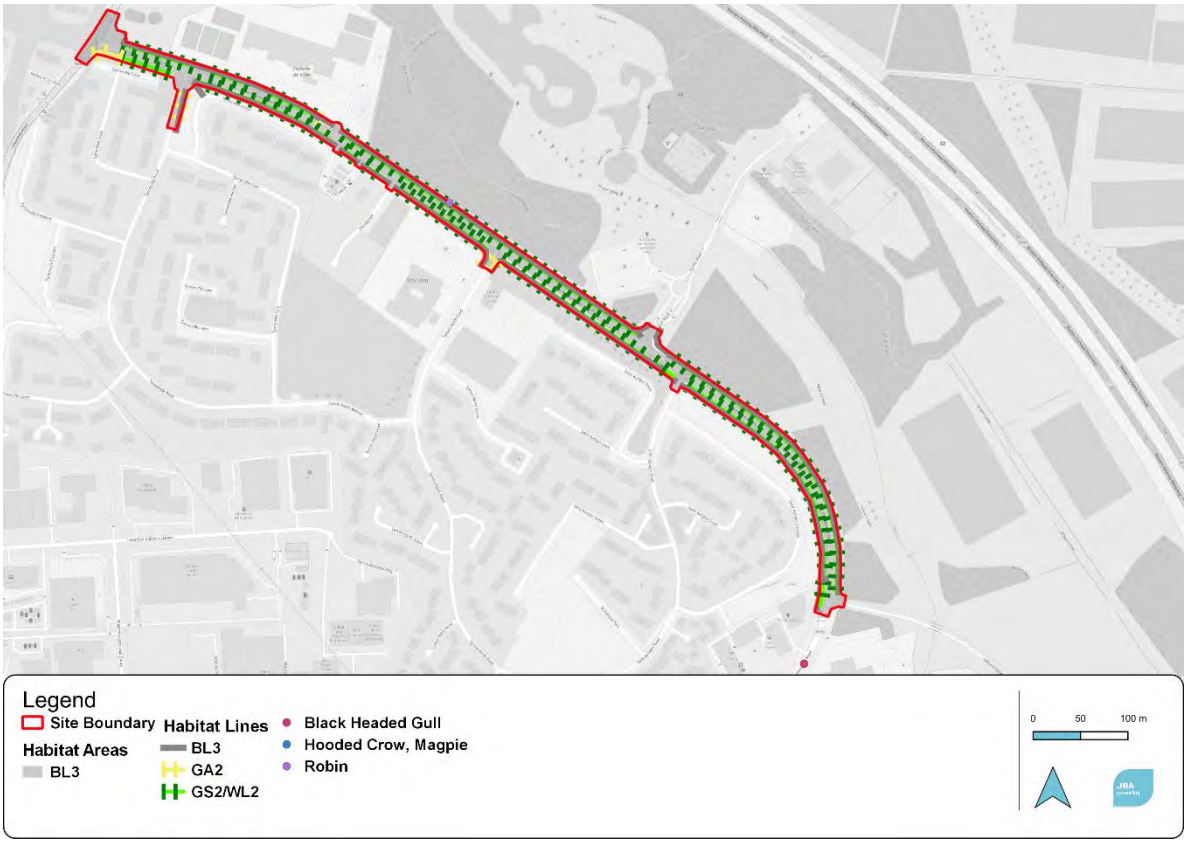

Figure 4-7: Habitat Map of the north section of the Project (© OpenStreetMap contributors, 2023)

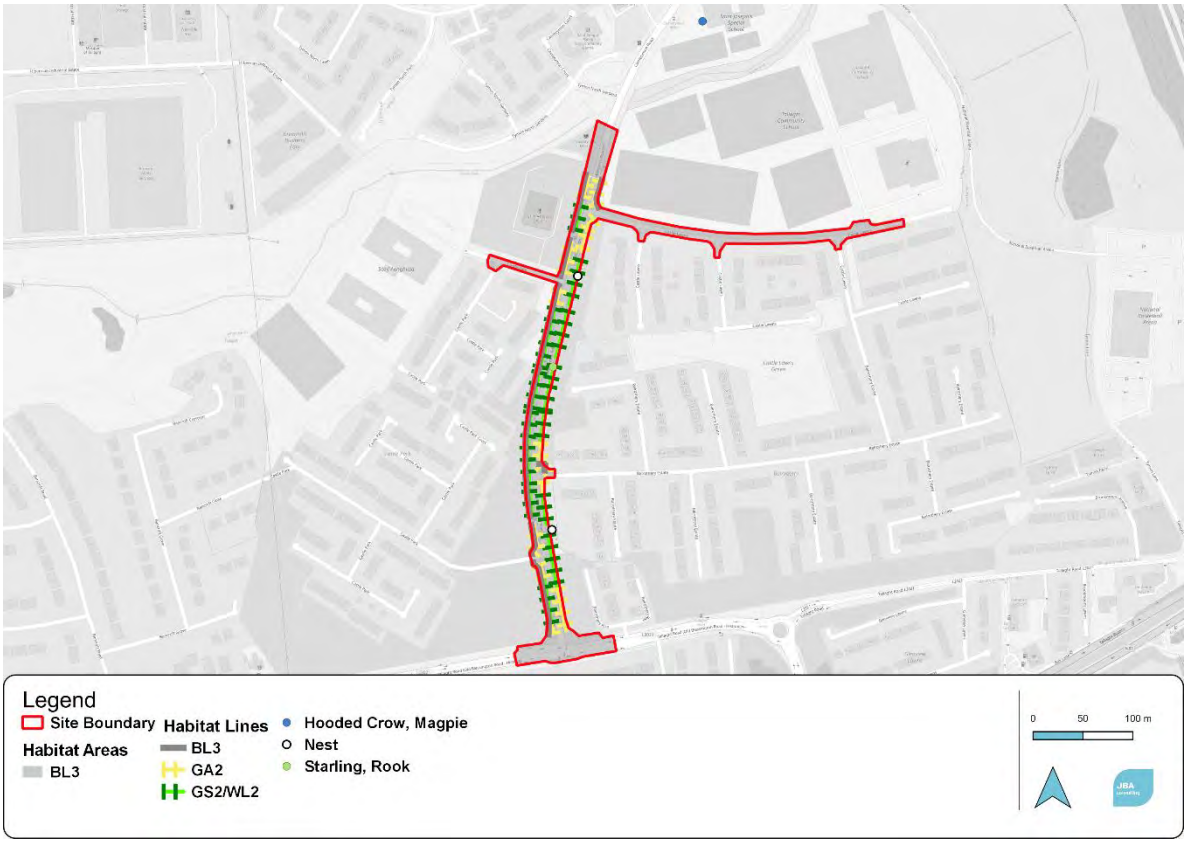

Figure 4-8: Habitat Map of the south section of the Project (© OpenStreetMap contributors, 2023)

4.5.1 Buildings and artificial surfaces (BL3)

The project runs along the Castletymon Road, artificial surfaces within this project boundary include the road and adjacent footpath.

In the context of the site and the lands immediately adjacent, the manmade surfaces are considered to be of **less than local ecological importance,** given the lack of features of ecological value.

4.5.2 Amenity grassland (improved) (GA2)

There are patches of grassland that is managed for amenity purposes that is located in small areas along sections of the project alongside areas of the footpath. Species in these areas included of Perennial Rye-grass *Lolium perenne*, Couch *Elytrigia repens*, Brome *Bromus* spp., Meadow Foxtail *Alopecurus pratensis,* Dandelion *Taraxacum* spp, Yarrow *Achillea millefolium*, Chickweed *Stellaria media*, Cleaver *Galium aparine*, Daisy *Bellis perennis*, Ribwort Plantain *Plantago lanceolata*, Nettle *Urtica dioica*, Herb-Robert *Geranium robertianum*, Groundsel *Senecio vulgaris*, Cardamine Bittercress *Cardamine hirsuta*, Bush Vetch *Vicia sepium*, Red Deadnettle *Lamium purpureum*, Petty Spurge *Euphorbia peplus*, Smooth Sowthistle *Sonchus oleraceus*, Ragwort *Jacobaea vulgaris*, Fleabane *Pulicaria dysenterica*. Ivy *Hedera helix*, Creeping Buttercup *Ranunculus repens*, a small growth of Bramble *Rubus fruticosus* (agg.), and Cow Parsley *Anthriscus sylvestris.*

In the context of the site and the lands immediately adjacent, the amenity grassland surfaces are considered to be of **less than local ecological importance,** given the lack of features of ecological value**.**

4.5.3 Amenity grassland (improved) / Treelines (GA2/WL2)

There was a treeline stretch located along the entire length of the proposed route, with a ground layer of maintained amenity grass located between the trees Figure 4-9.

The northern site section contained the following tree species: Horse Chestnut *Aesculus hippocastanum*; Lime *Tilia cordata* and Wych Elm *Ulmus glabra*, while the ground layer was comprised of similar species found within the Amenity grassland sections.

The southern section of the project site contained additional species including the Ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, Maple *Acer campestre*, Silver Birch *Betula pendula* and Alder *Alnus glutinosa*, with Knapweed *Centaurea nigra* present between the trees. Additionally, Field Marigold *Calendula arvensis* was recorded at the base of some of the trees.

Treelines can provide nesting opportunities for birds, however, and a small number of trees had evidence of this. Treelines can also increase the number and diversity of invertebrates, which provides foraging opportunities for mammals, bats and birds. Therefore, in the context of the site and the lands immediately adjacent, the treelines are considered to be of **high local ecological importance** given their capacity to provide foraging opportunities for mammals, bats and birds, as well as future nesting opportunities for breeding birds.

Figure 4-9: Amenity grassland (improved) / Treelines present on site

4.6 Protected Flora

No protected floral species were recorded by the JBA Ecologist during the ecological walkover survey of the proposed site. Furthermore, the NBDC shows no record of any protected flora species being present within site or its immediate vicinity (NBDC, 2023).

4.7 Protected Fauna

4.7.1 Ground-dwelling Mammals

JBA staff did not record any direct or indirect evidence of protected mammals was recorded on-site during the ecological walkover survey. The following mammals are recorded within 2km of the site within recent years, while there is a list of previously reported species within a 5km radius of the site is found in the Appendix C:

- Hedgehog *Erinaceus europaeus*
- Pygmy Shrew *Sorex minutus*
- Red Squirrel *Sciurus vulgaris*
- Badger *Meles meles*

Species that are granted further legal status in addition to the Wildlife Act includes:

- Otter *Lutra lutra* (EU Habitats Directive Annex II and IV)

Of these mammalian species Hedgehog, Pygmy Shrew, Red Squirrel and Badger are species that are sometimes found within urban and suburban parklands, where they might use this site for commuting and foraging, while the lack of suitable environment for Otter makes it unlikely for them to be found along the proposed route.

This site is considered to be of **low local ecological importance** for the mammalian species Hedgehog, Pygmy Shrew, Red Squirrel and Badger.

4.7.2 Bats

Desk Study

There were no direct or indirect evidence of bat species listed under the Wildlife Act 1976 and its Amendments or the EU Habitats Directive recorded by the JBA Ecologists during the ecological walkover survey. Bat species protected under the Wildlife Act and/or the EU Habitats Directive that have been recorded under the NBDC within 2km of the site in recent years include:

- Daubenton's Bat *Myotis daybentonii*
- Leisler's Bat *Nyctalus leisleri*
- Soprano Pipistrelle, *Pipistrellus pygmaeus*
- Common Pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus sensu lato*

Additionally, NBDC records of bats within an extended 5km are found within Appendix C.

Preliminary Bat Roost Survey

During the ecological walkover of the proposed site, it was determined that there was no potential roost features present within the site.

Bat presence / activity on-site

In the absence of bat activity survey data, under the precautionary principal, we must assume that one or more bat species (e.g., Soprano Pipistrelle, Common Pipistrelle and Leisler's Bat - common urban area bat species) are likely utilising this site for opportunistic foraging and commuting activities, given the presence of grassy verges and treelines on-site.

The proposed site has been valued as being **of high local ecological importance for local bat species**, given the site's role as a commuting corridor, with opportunistic foraging.

4.7.3 Breeding and Wintering Birds

JBA Ecologists came across incidental sightings of the Green and Amber List bird species of conservation concern (Gilbert et al., 2021). Green List species recorded include Robin *Erithacus rubecula*, Hooded Crow *Corvus corone*, Magpie *Pica pica*, Rook *Corvus frugilegus*, and the Amber List bird species: Starling *Sturnus vulgaris* and Black Headed Gull *Larus ridibundus.* Additionally, during the walkover survey, there were two birds' nests located within some of the trees along the south section of the route. One of which is shown in Figure 4-10.

Recent NBDC records within 2km of the site in recent years highlight the presence of a number of other Amber and Red-listed bird species. These records include the Amber List species Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus* (Breeding & Wintering), Coot *Fulica atra* (Breeding), Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis* (Breeding), Linnet *Linaria cannabina* (Breeding), Starling *Sturnus vulgaris* (Breeding), Teal *Anas crecca* (Breeding and Wintering), Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo* (Breeding and Wintering), Herring Gull *Larus argentatus* (Breeding and Wintering), House Martin *Delichon urbicum* (Breeding), House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* (Breeding), Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus* (Breeding), Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* (Breeding and Wintering), Common Gull *Larus canus* (Breeding and Wintering), Mute Swan *Cygnus olor* (Breeding and Wintering), Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe* (Breeding), Skylark *Alauda arvensis* (Breeding), Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula* (Breeding and Wintering), Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris* (Breeding), Goldcrest *Regulus regulus* (Breeding), Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus* (Breeding). These records also include Red List species Swift *Apus apus* (Breeding), Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea* (Breeding), Redwing *Turdus iliacus* (Wintering).

While not recorded on the Amber or Red list of birds of conservation concern, Wood Pigeon *Columba palumbus*, Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*, Rock Pigeon *Columba livia* have also been recorded in the vicinity of the site and are afforded protection under the EU Birds Directive Annex II.

The proposed site has been valued as being of **high local ecological importance for a subset of the above breeding bird species of conservation concern,** such as Starling, Goldcrest, or Willow

Warbler given the nesting opportunities within the treelines. Similarly, the site has been valued as being **low local ecological importance for wintering birds** given that species, such as Redwing, may forage within the site during the winter.

Figure 4-10: One of the bird's nests located within one of the trees on site

4.7.4 Amphibians

Surveyors did not record any direct or indirect evidence of amphibians during the ecological walk over. There are recent records observing amphibian species Common Frog *Rana temporaria* within 2km of the site, and there are no additional amphibians previously reported within a 5km radius of the site is found in the Appendix C.

The proposed site has been valued as being of **less than local ecological importance** for amphibian species due to the lack of waterbodies on the site and the low foraging and refuge resources available for amphibians.

4.7.5 Invertebrates - Terrestrial and Aquatic

The surveyors did not record any invertebrate species of conservation concern within the site, and there are no records of any protected invertebrates within 2km of the site. Additional records of protected invertebrates within 5km of the site include terrestrial invertebrate species Marsh Fritillary butterfly *Euphydryas aurinia* and aquatic invertebrate, White-clawed Crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes*, however there is no downstream connection between the site and any recordings of this aquatic species.

The proposed site has been valued as being of **low importance for terrestrial invertebrates**, given the absence of records of invertebrates of conservation importance in the immediate vicinity of the site, while both the treeline presence and the limited floral diversity available contribute to a low number of foraging opportunities within the site.

The site has been valued as being of **less than local importance** for aquatic invertebrates due to the lack of connection to any areas inhabited by Freshwater Crayfish.

4.7.6 Invasive Non-native Species

There were no direct or indirect evidence of 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 survey.

4.8 Screening of Designated Sites & Ecological Features

The screening of designated sites and ecological features identified during the desktop study and ecological survey are given in Table 4-7. Sites and features screened out are not considered further in this assessment. Ecological features carried forward are assessed for potential impact during construction and operation in the following sections.

Table 4-7: Summary of ecological features and the screening assessment.

Designated Site / Ecological Feature	Value	Screening	Reasoning
Glenasmole Valley SAC	International	Screened out	JBA, 2023 - AA Screening Conclusion
North Dublin Bay SAC	International	Screened out	JBA, 2023 - AA Screening Conclusion
South Dublin Bay SAC	International	Screened out	JBA, 2023 - AA Screening Conclusion
North Bull Island SPA	International	Screened out	JBA, 2023 - AA Screening Conclusion
South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA	International	Screened out	JBA, 2023 - AA Screening Conclusion
Glenasmole Valley pNHA	National	Screened out	Lack of connectivity
Dodder Valley pNHA	National	Screened out	Lack of connectivity
North Dublin Bay pNHA	National	Screened out	Hydrological distance - retention and dilution factors
South Dublin Bay pNHA	National	Screened out	Hydrological distance - retention and dilution factors
Dolphins, Dublin Bay pNHA	National	Screened out	Hydrological distance - retention and dilution factors
Grand Canal pNHA	National	Screened out	Lack of connectivity
Lugmore Glen pNHA	National	Screened out	Lack of connectivity
Built Land	Less than Local	Screened out	Low ecological value
Amenity Grassland	Less than Local	Screened out	Low ecological value
Amenity grassland (improved) / Treelines	High Local	**Screened in**	Offers nesting, refuge and foraging opportunity for various species
Mammals	Low Local	**Screened in**	Treelines and grassland offer foraging and commuting opportunity
Bats	High Local	**Screened in**	Treelines, hedgerow and grassland offer foraging and commuting opportunity
Breeding Birds	High Local	**Screened in**	Treelines offer nesting, and commuting opportunities
Wintering Birds	Low Local	**Screened in**	Treelines offer foraging opportunities
Amphibians	Less than Local	Screened out	Site lacking in suitable habitat
Terrestrial Invertebrates	Low Local	**Screened in**	Treelines offer foraging and commuting opportunities
Aquatic Invertebrates	Less than Local	Screened out	Site lacking suitable habitat
Invasive species	-	Screened out	None present in the area of works

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 impacts must also be considered at this stage.

5.2 Plans

The following projects or plans were identified as potential sources of cumulative impacts:

- 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, May 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 key design principles which includes the promotion of sustainable energy and environmental services. These goals include the requirement 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.

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 impacts.**

5.2.2 Greater Dublin Drainage Strategy

The Greater Dublin Drainage Strategy sets out the strategic planning for the development of waste water treatment in the Greater Dublin area in relation to the Ringsend WWTP Upgrade, Greater Dublin Drainage Project and associated wastewater network drainage projects (Irish Water, 2018b). 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 Clonshaugh, 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 Q1 2020 and the ultimate capacity of 2.4 million PE to be in operation by 2024 (Irish Water, 2018b).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, 2018b).

Overall, the Greater Dublin Drainage Strategy is not considered to adversely impact any Natura 2000 site, nor is it expected to contribute to any cumulative or in-combination effects with respect to the proposed project.

5.2.3 River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2022-2027

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 first cycle of River Basin Management Plans included the Eastern River Basin District - River Basin Management Plan 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 River Basin Management Plan for Ireland (2018-2021) outlines the new approach that Ireland will take to protect our waters over the period to 2021. It builds on lessons learned from the first planning cycle in a number of areas:

- stronger and more effective delivery structures have been put in place to build the foundations and momentum for long-term improvements to water quality
- a new governance structure, which brings the policy, technical and implementation actors together with public and representative organisations. This will ensure the effective and coordinated delivery of measures.

Ireland's third River Basin Management Plan 2022-2027 (EPA, 2021a) was out for public consultation until March 31st 2022. The Consultation report was published in July 2022. Following review of the submissions, the DHLGH will commence a review and where necessary update the draft RBMP with a view to finalisation and publication in Q3/Q4 of 2022.

The 3rd cycle draft Catchment Reports were published in August 2021. The draft Catchment Reports provides a summary of the water quality assessment outcomes for respective catchments, including status and risk categories, significant threats and pressures, details on protected areas and a comparison between cycle 2 and cycle 3.

The third cycle draft Catchment Report for Liffey and Dublin Bay Catchment (EPA, 2021b) identified that between Cycles 2 and 3 there has been an overall slight improvement in the catchment's status. The overall change in quality between Cycles 2 and 3 include 8 waterbodies achieving a High Status, which is an increase three, 46 which are achieving a Good Status which remains unchanged between Cycles, 18 achieving a Moderate Status which is a decrease by four waterbodies, 9 achieving a Poor Status which remains unchanged between Cycles, and 2 achieving a Bad Status which is an increase of one.

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: Projects granted planning permission since 2020 in vicinity of the proposed site

Planning Reference	Address	Application Status	Decision date	Summary of development
SHD3ABP-305763-19	Site at the corner of Airton Road and Belgard Road, Tallaght, Dublin 24, D24 HD35	Permission Granted	20 Feb 2020	Demolition of the existing industrial buildings on site (4,800sq.m) and the construction of 2 blocks comprising: 328 apartments (93 1-bed, 222 2-bed and 13 3-bed), ancillary residential support facilities and commercial floorspace measuring 31,147sq.m gross floor space above a single basement level measuring 5,861sq.m. Block A is a part-5 to part-7 storey (13,710sq.m) over basement block comprising 149 apartments with office space (222sq.m). Block B is a part-6 to part-9 storey (17,437sq.m) over basement block comprising 179 apartments, 2 double-height retail/commercial (Class 1/Class 2) units (354sq.m), a café/restaurant (313sq.m) , a creche (360sq.m), internal residents amenity area (644sq.m) at ground floor including reception (37.7sq.m), residents lounge (91.3sq.m), private dining area (52.6sq.m), co-working space (45.5sq.m), games room (47.3sq.m), gym (80sq.m) and communal lounge (220sq.m) at 6th floor level. The development also consists of the provision of a landscaped courtyard; public plaza at the corner of Airton and Belgard Road; pedestrian access from Airton Road to the Technological University campus; balconies; landscaped roof terrace at 6th floor level (7th Storey) of Block B (671sq.m); 184 car parking spaces at basement level including 14 club car spaces, 10 disabled parking spaces and 4 creche parking spaces; 727 basement and surface bicycle parking spaces; 4 motorbike parking spaces; bin storage; boundary treatments; green roofs; hard and soft landscaping; plant; lighting; Vodafone cabin sub-station; ESB sub-stations, switch rooms and generators; and all other associated site works above and below ground.
SHD3ABP-306705-20	Former Gallaher's Cigarette Factory site, at the junction of Airton Road and Greenhills Road, Tallaght, Dublin 24	Permission Granted	16 Jun 2020	Demolition of existing factory/warehouse buildings on site (total floor area c. 10,076.8sq.m). Construction of 502 apartments (comprising 197 1-bed; 257 2-bed; and 48 3-bed units) within 6 blocks ranging in height from 4 to 8 storeys. All residential units provided with associated private balconies/terraces to the north/south/east/west elevations. Provision of residential amenity facilities, 3 retail units, creche and services/bin store areas (total non-residential floor area c.1,839sq.m). A total of 202 car parking spaces (at basement and undercroft levels) and 584 no. bicycle parking spaces. Vehicular/pedestrian/cyclist accesses from Greenhills Road and Airton Road. Provision of road improvements and pedestrian crossings. All associated site development works, open space, landscaping, boundary treatments, plant areas, pv panels (at roof level), waste management areas, and services provision (including ESB substations).

Planning Reference	Address	Application Status	Decision date	Summary of development
SD22A/0097	Scoil Aonghusa Senior National School, Balrothery, Dublin 24	Permission Granted	13 July 2022	Provision of 1 approx. 100sq.m single storey temporary prefab (prefab 01 comprising 1 classroom & 3 resource rooms) adjacent to the south-east boundary of the site and 1 approx. 70sq.m single storey temporary prefab (prefab 02 comprising 1 classroom) adjacent to the north-west boundary of the site and all associated site works.
SD22A/0339	Lidl Complex, Main Road, Tallaght, Dublin 24	Permission Granted	22 August 2022	Erect 1074sq.m or 204.20KWP of photovoltaic panels on the roof of existing commercial building, in cafe / restaurant and 4 retail / commercial, with all associated site works.
SD20A/0140	Lands adjacent to Carmel of the Assumption Convent, Firhouse Road, Firhouse, Dublin 24	Permission Granted	11 May 2021	Construction of 2 grass playing pitches: pitch No.1 will measure some 145m long by 90m wide and pitch No.2 will measure some 133m long by 80m wide; club facilities including 4 changing rooms measuring 51sq.m each; storage facilities; function rooms; meeting rooms; physiotherapy facilities; kitchen facilities; wc and circulation space; site works include removal of existing hedgerows and trees; replanting areas; formation of a new pedestrian and vehicular entrance on Firhouse road; 67 car parking spaces; 24 bicycle spaces; perimeter pathway; fencing and attendant landscaping works.
SD21A/0074	26, Castle Lawns, Balrothery, Tallaght, Dublin 24	Permission Granted	29 March 2021	Construction of a two bedroom, two storey semi-detached dwelling (floor area 91sq.m max height 7.31m) and all ancillary works.
SD22A/0411	Airton Road, Tallaght, Dublin 24	Permission Granted	1 November 2022	Display and sale of commercial vehicles, the erection of single storey prefabricated temporary building for display of commercial vehicles, 6 Flag poles, with the building and display areas to remain on site for a period of 36 months.

5.4 Summary

The County and Local Development Plan; Greater Dublin Drainage Strategy and River Basin Management Plan are considered in combination with the currently proposed project in the Screening Assessment section below.

6 Impact Assessment

6.1 Introduction

The impacts on the valued ecological features are assessed here. The initial assessment considers the potential impact pathways and whether these apply to the ecological features. The impact assessment considers the project and the anticipated effects in the absence of any mitigation.

The potential impacts from the works are assessed under the following:

- Disturbance to habitats and species
- Small-scale habitat loss (foraging, commuting, general refuge and nesting)
- Degradation of on-site habitats, and site adjacent habitats via surface water, groundwater and dust-based pollution events

The following sections describe the nature of immediate / short-term impacts, as well as any medium- or long-term impacts, predicted for designated protected sites, habitats and species in the absence of implemented mitigation measures during the maintenance works.

6.2 Do Nothing Scenario

If the proposed works were not to go ahead and the present land management continues as is, the ecological value of the site would remain unchanged.

6.3 Habitats & Species

6.3.1 Amenity grassland (improved) / Treelines (GA2/WL2)

The majority of existing treeline habitats are not expected to suffer any direct habitat loss as they are intended to be retained along the roadside, however 12 trees are selected to be removed accommodate the works. The full extend of these treelines would be vulnerable to any polluting events (e.g., leaking or spilled hydrocarbons and dust generation) which may occur within the site. Additionally, physical root compaction and limb damage from machinery during the construction phase of the development may degrade this habitat. Furthermore, minor impacts will have a knock-on effect on the protected faunal groups which frequent this habitat for nesting, commuting, foraging or refuge purposes.

Therefore, in the absence of mitigation, during the construction phase, a **long term, negative impact of slight significance** is anticipated for this habitat due to small scale tree removal of 12 trees and a **short term, negative impact of slight significance** accidental damage from pollutants and machinery.

6.3.2 Mammals

While no signs of Hedgehog, Red Squirrel, Pygmy Shrew or Badger habitation were present during the ecological walkover, this does not ensure that these local mammal species do not occasionally visit the site area for foraging and commuting purposes. Bearing this in mind, impacts may arise in the form of disturbance or degradation to foraging and commuting habitats, as well as potential loss of life to individuals in the case of accidents within the construction site (e.g., accidental trappings), after failure to exclude entry.

Therefore, in the absence of appropriate mitigation during the construction phase, there is likely to be **short-term negative impacts of slight significance** for these ground-dwelling mammal species.

6.3.3 Bats (Commuting and Foraging)

While no signs of bat roosts were present during the ecological walkover, this does not ensure that the three local bat species found within the NBDC records (Common Pipistrelle, Soprano Pipistrelle and Leisler's Bat) do not use the site area for commuting and foraging.

Impacts during construction relate to the external lighting a which could reduce the quality of foraging and commuting within this habitat for bats. Potential minor impacts on individuals using the site could be posed by the construction-based external lighting and noise.

Therefore, in the absence of appropriate mitigation, during the construction phase, there is likely to be a **short-term negative impact of slight significance** for local bats**.**

6.3.4 Breeding Birds

Local breeding bird species will potentially be physically disturbed from their nesting and foraging activities during the construction works. While there are a number of bird species in the general area of conservation concern, the extent of the works on the site are small, contained and temporary, there are many alternate grass pitches in the vicinity of the site that will provide the birds ample opportunity for foraging.

Therefore, in the absence of mitigation during the construction phase, a **short-term negative impact of slight significance** is anticipated for breeding bird species due to small-scale tree removal and habitat damage.

6.3.5 Wintering Birds

Local wintering bird species will potentially be physically disturbed from their foraging opportunities during the construction works. While there are a number of bird species in the general area of conservation concern, the extent of the works on the site are small, contained and temporary, there are many alternate grass pitches in the vicinity of the site that will provide the birds ample opportunity for foraging.

Therefore, in the absence of mitigation during the construction phase, a **short-term negative impact of slight significance** is anticipated for wintering bird species due to minor disturbance of foraging activities from habitat damage.

6.3.6 Terrestrial Invertebrates

The foraging and commuting activities of the local invertebrates, including pollinators; will be adversely impacted as result of the works that will take place during the developments construction phase. Therefore, in the absence of mitigation, during the construction phase, a **short-term negative impact of slight significance** is anticipated for terrestrial invertebrates due to small-scale tree removal and habitat damage.

6.4 Operational Phase

6.4.1 Treelines/Amenity grassland - WS2/GA2

Due to the nature of the project, direct impacts from the operation of this project on this habitat type are not anticipated. During the operational phase of the project, it will take some time before newly planted trees have matured to fulfil their ecological role

Therefore, a **short-term negative impact of slight significance is anticipated** for this habitat while the 20 planted trees reach the maturity to function at the same level as the 12 cleared semi-mature trees.

6.4.2 Ground-dwelling Mammals, Bats, Birds and Terrestrial Invertebrates

Due to the nature of the project, direct impacts from the operation of this project on these species' groups are not anticipated. During the operational phase of the project, it will take some time before newly planted trees have matured to fulfil their ecological role.

Therefore a **short-term negative impact of slight significance is anticipated** for these species' groups while the planted trees reach the maturity to provide at the same level of resource provision (nesting, foraging and commuting) as the cleared semi-mature trees.

6.5 Invasive Non-native Species

Given the absence of invasive non-native species on-site within the proposed site, adverse impacts from invasive species are not anticipated during the construction and operational phases of this enhancement project.

6.6 Summary

The following potential significant impacts have been identified below, with the necessary mitigation is discussed in the next chapter:

- Disturbance and/or degradation commuting and foraging habitats for terrestrial mammals, Bat species and birds, as well as potentially accidental fatal entrapment for these faunal groups during the construction phase.
- Degradation of the treeline habitats via pollution events; root compaction; and direct habitat loss, thus reducing the capacity of these habitats to support local wildlife.
- Direct removal of a minimum of 12 trees within the treeline.

The mitigation is based on existing guidance documentation and where necessary additional mitigation is proposed to reduce the impacts identified above.

7 Mitigation

The following mitigation is recommended to ensure that the proposed works do not adversely impact on the ecological receptors outlined in Section 6.

Mitigation measures for anticipated impacts on designated sites and ecological features are outlined below.

7.1 Mitigation for Project Construction Phase

The activities of the project for the construction phase shall remain within the boundary of the proposed site. Within this area, the mitigation measures outlined below shall be implemented.

- A Construction and Environment Management Plan (CEMP) will be submitted to South Dublin County Council for agreement prior to site works commencing. This CEMP will incorporate the mitigation measures listed here.
- The CEMP will also strictly adhere to best practice environmental guidance including but not limited to the following:

  - CIRIA Guidance C532 Control of water pollution from construction sites. Guidance for consultants and contractors. (CIRIA, 2019 - www.ciria.org);

  - CIRIA Guidance C741: *Environmental good practice on site guide* (Charles & Edwards, 2015; CIRIA, 2019 - www.ciria.org);

  - CIRIA Guidance C750D: *Groundwater control: design and practice* (Preene *et al.*, 2016; CIRIA, 2019 - www.ciria.org);
- Construction method statements will be submitted to South Dublin County Council for agreement prior to site works commencing.

7.1.1 Site Compound

- The works compound will be sited on artificial land including roadways and car parks and away from the treelines on site.
- Only plant and materials necessary for the construction of the works will be permitted to be stored at the compound location.
- Site establishment by the Contractor will include the following:

  - Site offices;

  - Site facilities (canteen, toilets, drying rooms, etc.);

  - Office for construction management team;

  - Secure compound for the storage of all on-site machinery and materials;

  - Temporary car parking facilities;

  - Temporary fencing;
- Site Security to restrict unauthorized entry;
- Bunded storage of fuels and refuelling area. Bunds shall be 110% capacity of the largest vessel contained within the bunded area.
- A separate container will be located in the Contractors compound to store absorbents used to contain spillages of hazardous materials. The container will be clearly labelled, and the contents of the container will be disposed of by a licenced waste contractor at a licenced site. Records will be maintained of material taken off site for disposal.
- A maintenance programme for the bunded areas will be managed by the site environmental manager. The removal of rainwater from the bunded areas will be their responsibility. Records will be maintained of materials taken off site for disposal.
- The site environmental manger will be responsible for maintaining all training records.
- Drainage collection system for washing area to prevent run-off into surface water system.
- Wherever reasonably practical, refuelling of vehicles will be carried out off site to reduce risk of accidental hydrocarbon pollution events.

7.1.2 Water Quality

Relevant legislation and best practice guidance that have been considered includes but not limited to the following:

- Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC);
- European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface Waters) Regulations, 2009 (S.I. No. 272 of 2009;
- Local Government (Water Pollution) Acts 1977-1990;
- CIRIA C532 *Control of water pollution from construction sites*. Guidance for consultants and contractors. (www.ciria.org);
- CIRIA Guidance C750D: *Groundwater control: design and practice* (Preene *et al.*, 2016) (www.ciria.org);
- CIRIA C515 Groundwater control – design and practice, 2nd ed. (CIRIA, 2021 - www.ciria.org)
- CIRIA Guidance C741: *Environmental good practice on site guide* (Charles & Edwards, 2015; CIRIA, 2020 - www.ciria.org)

To prevent watercourse pollution:

- Adoption of a surface water plan including appropriate barrier controls to prevent any polluted surface water from the site reaching the adjacent habitats of high local ecological value.
- Minimise area of exposed ground by maintaining existing vegetation in vicinity of site compound/pier infrastructure.
- Oil booms and oil soakage pads should be maintained on-site to enable a rapid and effective response to any accidental spillage or discharge. These shall be disposed of correctly and records will be maintained by the environmental manager of the used booms and pads taken off site for disposal.
- Fail-safe site drainage and bunding through drip trays on plant and machinery will be provided to prevent discharge of chemical spillage from the sites to surface water.
- Any accidental discharge will be controlled by use of oil booms in the water prior to construction starting.

7.1.3 Dust generation management

The following measures will be implemented to prevent the generation and spread of dust from the site to nearby areas:

- Limit the breaking of the topsoil or earth stripping from occurring during dry and windy weather.
- Wheel washing of vehicles leaving the site, covering of fine dry loads or spraying of loads prior to exiting the site, and if necessary regular cleaning of public roads in the vicinity of the entrance.
- Appropriate maintenance of vehicles and machinery.

7.1.4 Concrete Management Procedures

The following measures will be implemented to prevent liquid concrete/ cement-based dust entering the adjacent habitats of ecological value.

- Wherever reasonably possible, pre-cast concrete bridge features should be utilised to minimise the risk of a concrete-based pollution event.
- Concrete delivery, concrete pours and related construction methodologies will be part of the procedure agreed with the contractor to mitigate any possibility of spillage or contamination of the local environment. Particular attention will be paid during the pouring process in order to avoid leakages or spills of concrete.
- Washout of concrete plant will occur off site at a designated impermeable area with waste control facilities.
- Raw, uncured or waste concrete will be stored appropriately prior to disposal by licenced contractor.
- The contractor's construction methodology will require the use of precast elements where practical; the use of secondary protection shuttering for concrete pours; all pours to be carried out in dry weather conditions; and that all trucks be cleaned prior to leaving respective depots.

- The contractor will be required to use experienced operators for the work; provide an appropriate level of continuous monitoring during any concrete pours by experienced management; and have method statements approved by the client prior to commencing works. Works will be carried out using recommendations from current guidance and relevant codes of practise as outlined in EA (2011) - *Managing concrete wash waters on construction sites: good practice and temporary discharges to ground or to surface waters*.

7.1.5 Pollution Control and Spill Prevention

Spill kits containing absorbent pads, granules and booms will be stored in the site compound with easy access for delivery to site in the case of an emergency. A minimum stock of spill kits will be maintained at all times and site foremen's vehicles will carry large spill kits at all times. Absorbent material will be used with pumps and generators at all times and used material disposed of in accordance with the Waste Management Plan. All used spill materials e.g., Absorbent pads will be placed in a bunded container in the contractor's compound. The material will be disposed of by a licenced waste contractor at a licenced facility. Records will be maintained by the environmental site manager.

Regular inspections and maintenance of plant and machinery checking for leaks, damage or vandalism will be made on all plant and equipment.

In the event of a spill the Contractor will ensure that the following procedure are in place:

- Emergency response awareness training for all Project personnel on-site works.
- Appropriate and sufficient spill control materials will be installed at strategic locations within the site. Spills kits for immediate use will be kept in the cab of mobile equipment.
- Spill kits will be stored in the site compound with easy access for delivery to site in the case of an emergency. A minimum stock of spill kits will be maintained at all times and site vehicles will carry spill kits at all times. Spill kits must include suitable spill control materials to deal with the type of spillage that may occur and where it may occur. Typical contents of an on-site spill kit will include the following as a minimum:

  - Absorbent granules;

  - Absorbent mats/cushions;

  - Absorbent booms

  -Track-mats, geotextile material and drain covers.
- All potentially polluting substances such as oils and chemicals used during construction will be stored in containers clearly labelled and stored with suitable precautionary measures such as bunding within the site compound.
- All tank and drum storage areas on the site will, as a minimum, be bunded to a volume not less than the following;

  - 110% of the capacity of the largest tank or drum within the bunded area, or

  - 25% of the total volume of substances which could be stored within the bunded area.
- The site compound fuel storage areas and cleaning areas will be rendered impervious and will be constructed to ensure no discharges will cause pollution to surface or ground waters.
- Designated locations for refuelling are within Site Compound.
- Potentially contaminated run off from plant and machinery maintenance areas will be managed within the site compound surface water collection system.
- Damaged or leaking containers will be removed from use and replaced immediately.

7.1.6 General Avoidance Measures

Although it has been identified that there will be no permanent impact through disturbance to wildlife during the work, it is advised that general avoidance measures be undertaken to protect wildlife while the works are being carried out.

General avoidance measures that should be incorporated by the contractors working on site include:

- Limit the hours of working to daylight hours, to limit disturbance to nocturnal and crepuscular animals;

- Contractors must ensure that no harm comes to wildlife by maintaining the site efficiently and clearing away materials which are not in use, such as wire or bags in which animals can become entangled; and
- Any pipes should be capped when not in use (especially at night) to prevent local fauna becoming trapped. Any excavations (including the dry cell area) should be covered overnight to prevent animals from falling and getting trapped. If that is not possible, a strategically placed plank should be placed to allow animals to escape.

7.1.7 Site Lighting Design

Hours of illumination during construction phase:

Site lighting should be switched off or at lower light output during inactive site hours; this would benefit the bats, Hedgehog and Badger foraging and/or commuting in the locality. If the use of lighting is essential, then a directional cowl should be fitted to all lights to prevent light spill and to be directed away from the adjacent treelines and wooded areas.

7.1.8 Root Compaction and Limb Damage avoidance

Machinery should avoid being parked within the root protection zones of trees and hedges within and/or adjacent to the proposed site to ensure the health of these ecological features.

7.1.9 Mitigation for clearance of the trees

The clearance of tree vegetation is to be conducted outside of the breeding bird season (March – August inclusive). If this is not possible, a pre-works nest check will be conducted by an appropriately qualified ecologist will be undertaken in advance of the works to ensure that there will be no impacts on nesting birds. Any trees that have nests present, will be safeguarded, with an appropriate buffer, until the chicks have successfully fledged.

7.2 Mitigations and Recommendations for the Project Operational Phase

7.2.1 Remedial Tree Planting

The proposed remedial tree planting will mitigate for tree loss during construction and will additionally help enhance floral diversity within the site. The tree blossoms will improve the area for terrestrial invertebrates, while the fruits will be consumed by mammals and birds. Additionally, the trees once mature will provided ample nesting opportunities for local bird species. Furthermore, the increased invertebrate presence as a result of the new trees will provide additional prey items for insectivorous bird species, as well as the local bat populations.

7.2.2 Sowing of Remedial Grassland

The areas outside of the zone of development that are damaged as a result of machinery accessing the site will have remedial sowing of grass. This sowing mix combined with the natural seedbank within the soil will help replace the functionality provided by the current grassland habitat.

7.2.3 All Ireland Pollinator Plan (Recommendation)

It is recommended that actions from the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan be implemented through the operation and management of the grassy areas along the roadside. Measures outlining pollinator-friendly management of Public land are detailed in this guidance document: Pollinator Planting Code Guide All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025 (pollinators.ie).

8 Residual Impact

Residual ecological impacts are those that remain once the development proposals have been implemented. The main aim of ecological mitigation, compensation and enhancement is to minimise or eliminate residual impacts.

8.1 Construction Phase

Preparatory and construction works will result in temporary disturbance to the foraging and commuting habitat for protected species such as ground-dwelling mammals, bats, birds and terrestrial invertebrates.

Implementation of mitigation measures during the construction works phase, along with good site management and construction practices will help to minimise any significant and/or permanent impact on the environment. This will be included in a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP). Included in this will be best practice measures for disturbance, as well as control of surface water, groundwater and dust-based pollution, which will minimise any impact on local habitats and the species reliant on them.

With the proposed mitigation implemented the residual impact during the construction phase is assessed to be of temporary to short-term negative impact on account of the disturbance to / clearance of habitats of local ecological importance, as well as the local protected species.

8.2 Operational Phase

The proposed remedial planting and sowing within the development will help maintain the overall floral and faunal biodiversity of the site. Overall, the works will have a negligible residual impact on the biodiversity within and adjacent to the site.

9 Summary of Impact Assessment

9.1 EcIA Table

Table 9-1 presents a summary of the impacts envisaged when mitigation approaches are included. Residual impacts are also described.

All other ecological impacts can be avoided, mitigated or compensated so there is no anticipated significant impact for the remaining species considered in the assessment.

Table 9-1: Summary of Impacts; Mitigations; and Significance of Residual Impacts on ecological features

Ecological Features	Impacts	Importance of Feature	Significance of impact without Mitigation	Mitigation	Significance of Residual Impacts
Treelines/ Amenity Grassland	Accidental introduction of pollutants into the habitat, degrading its condition and its ability to support the protected species associated with the habitat. Direct habitat loss. Root compaction leading to degradation of tree species.	High Local	Short term, negative impact of slight significance due to pollution events Long term, negative impact of slight significance due to tree removal	Strict adherence to: - The mitigations outlined in Sub-sections 7.1.1, 7.1.2, 7.1.3, 7.1.4 and 7.1.5 pertaining to the protection of surface and ground water; as well as the control of dust emissions, ensuring the protection treeline habitats bordering the site; and the protected species they support. - The mitigations outlined in Sub-section 7.1.8, 7.1.9 outlining the prevention of accidental damage to trees timing of vegetation clearance; ensuring the safety of breeding bird nests. - The mitigations outlined in Sub-section 7.2.1 relating to the remedial planting of trees to compensate for tree loss during construction - The mitigations outlined in Sub-section 7.2.2 and 7.2.3 in relation to the sowing and upkeep of remedial grasslands to compensate for habitat loss.	Short-term negative impact of slight significance during the operational phase, while newly planted trees mature to provide optimum range of ecological services for local wildlife.
Mammals	Accidental introduction of pollutants into the habitats utilised by local mammal populations, reducing their ability to provide refuge, safe commuting routes and foraging opportunities.	Low Local	Short term, negative impact of slight significance due to pollution events impacting habitats and disruption during construction.	Strict adherence to: - The mitigations outlined in Sub-sections 7.1.1, 7.1.2, 7.1.3, 7.1.4 and 7.1.5 pertaining to the protection of surface and ground water; as well as the control of dust emissions, ensuring the protection of the refuge, commuting and foraging habitat for local mammals. - The mitigations outlined in Sub-sections 7.1.6,	Temporary negative impact of negligible significance during the construction phase. Long-term Positive impacts once the trees have matured and provide additional resources.

Ecological Features	Impacts	Importance of Feature	Significance of impact without Mitigation	Mitigation	Significance of Residual Impacts
	Physical, visual and audible disturbance from construction works. Accidental entrapment and/or injuries caused by on-site machinery or supplies.			7.1.7 and 7.1.8 relating to the prevention of disturbance and/or accidental entrapment of the local mammals. - The biodiversity measures outlined in Sub-section 7.2.1 and 7.2.2 pertaining to the remedial tree planting and management of the grasslands for providing future resources for mammals.	
Bats	Accidental introduction of pollutants into the habitats utilised by local bats, reducing their ability to provide refuge, safe commuting routes and foraging opportunities. Physical, visual and audible disturbance from construction works.	High Local	Short term, negative impact of slight significance due to pollution events impacting habitats and disruption during construction.	Strict adherence to: - The mitigations outlined in Sub-sections 7.1.1, 7.1.2, 7.1.3, 7.1.4 and 7.1.5 pertaining to the protection of surface and ground water; as well as the control of dust emissions, ensuring the protection of the refuge, commuting and foraging habitat for local bats. - The mitigations outlined in Sub-sections 7.1.6, 7.1.7 and 7.1.8 relating to the prevention of disturbance and/or accidental entrapment of the local bats. - The biodiversity measures outlined in Sub-section 7.2.1 and 7.2.2 pertaining to the remedial tree planting and management of the grasslands for providing future resources for bats.	Temporary negative impact of negligible significance during the construction phase. Long-term Positive impacts once the trees have matured and provide additional resources
Breeding Birds	Accidental introduction of pollutants into the	High Local	Short-term, negative impact of slight significance due to	Strict adherence to: - The mitigations outlined in Sub-sections 7.1.1,	Temporary negative impact of slight significance during the

Ecological Features	Impacts	Importance of Feature	Significance of impact without Mitigation	Mitigation	Significance of Residual Impacts
	habitats utilised by breeding birds and migrant wintering birds, reducing their ability to provide refuge, safe commuting routes and foraging opportunities. Physical, visual and audible disturbance from construction works. Accidental entrapment and/or injuries caused by on-site machinery or supplies.		pollution events impacting habitats and disruption during construction. Long-term negative impact of slight significance due to tree removal and loss of nesting opportunities.	7.1.2, 7.1.3, 7.1.4 and 7.1.5 pertaining to the protection of surface and ground water; as well as the control of dust emissions, ensuring the protection of the refuge, commuting and foraging habitat for local breeding birds. - The mitigations outlined in Sub-sections 7.1.6, 7.1.7 and 7.1.8 relating to the prevention of disturbance and/or accidental entrapment of the local breeding birds. - The biodiversity measures outlined in Sub-section 7.2.1 and 7.2.2 pertaining to the remedial planting of trees and management of the grasslands for providing future resources for breeding birds.	operational phase, while newly planted trees mature to provide nesting opportunities. Long-term positive impact of slight significance given increased nesting capacity within the site.
Wintering Birds	Accidental introduction of pollutants into the habitats utilised by wintering bird populations, reducing their foraging opportunities.	Low Local	Short term, negative impact of slight significance due to pollution events impacting habitats and disruption during construction	Strict adherence to: - The mitigations outlined in Sub-sections 7.1.1, 7.1.2, 7.1.3, 7.1.4 and 7.1.5 pertaining to the protection of surface and ground water; as well as the control of dust emissions, ensuring the protection of the refuge, commuting and foraging habitat for local wintering birds. - The mitigations outlined in Sub-sections 7.1.6, 7.1.7 and 7.1.8 relating to the prevention of disturbance and/or accidental entrapment of the local wintering birds.	Temporary negative impact of negligible significance during construction phase and early operational phase.

Ecological Features	Impacts	Importance of Feature	Significance of impact without Mitigation	Mitigation	Significance of Residual Impacts
				- The biodiversity measures outlined in Sub-section 7.2.1 and 7.2.2 pertaining to the remedial tree planting and management of the grasslands for providing future resources for wintering birds.	
Terrestrial Invertebrates	Accidental introduction of pollutants into the habitats utilised by invertebrate populations, reducing their foraging opportunities.	Low Local	Short-term, negative impact of slight significance due to pollution events impacting habitats and disruption during construction.	Strict adherence to: - The mitigations outlined in Sub-sections 7.1.1, 7.1.2, 7.1.3, 7.1.4 and 7.1.5 pertaining to the protection of surface and ground water; as well as the control of dust emissions, ensuring the protection of the refuge, commuting and foraging habitat for local breeding birds. - The mitigations outlined in Sub-sections 7.1.6, 7.1.7 and 7.1.8 relating to the prevention of disturbance and/or accidental entrapment of the local breeding birds. - The biodiversity measures outlined in Sub-section 7.2.1 and 7.2.2 pertaining to the remedial tree planting and management of the grasslands for providing future resources for local invertebrates. - The biodiversity measurements outlined in Sub-section 7.2.3 pertaining to the implementation of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan to improve resource availability for local pollinators species	Temporary negative impact of negligible significance during the construction phase. Long-term Positive impacts once the trees have matured and management of the grassland cater additional pollinator resources.

9.2 Cumulative Impacts

As there are no significant residual impacts on ecological features (following mitigation measures) from this development, there is therefore no potential for other plans or projects identified in Section 5 to act in combination with it. Therefore, significant cumulative impacts are not expected to occur on the ecological features within the proposed site.

10 Conclusion

The proposed development project has been shown to potentially impact a habitat with high local importance (treelines/amenity grassland) and faunal groups (ground-dwelling mammals; bats; breeding birds; wintering birds and terrestrial invertebrates), whose ecological importance ranges from low to high local level in the context of this proposed site.

Based upon the information supplied, and provided that the development is constructed in accordance with the mitigation measures outlined above, there will be no significant impacts alone or in-combination with other projects and plans, as result of the development and associated works on the ecology and local species of the area and on any designated conservation sites.

Given the scale of this development and its suitable landscape plan, the local ecology, including mammals, bats, birds, and terrestrial invertebrates will benefit from the maintained ecological function of the site (remedial planting and sowing) associated with the operational phase of this project.

a

A Site Sections and Layout Plan

Proposed Signalized Pedestrian Crossing to be added to existing junction

6 trees to be removed

Proposed Bus Island

5 Proposed Street Trees

Lay-by/Loading Bay to be removed

Lay-by/Loading Bay to be removed

1 trees to be removed

Raised Crossing and Junction Tightening

Proposed School Bus Drop-off

1 trees to be removed

Proposed Bus Island

Cycle track to be integrated into existing Pedestrian Crossing

Sheet P102

GREENHILLS ROAD

PARKVIEW

CASTLETYMON

TYMONVILLE DRIVE

TYMONVILLE CRESCENT

TYMONVILLE CRST

TYMONVILLE AVENUE

TYMONVILLE ROAD

BIRCHVIEW AVENUE

Coláiste De Hide

N

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South Dublin County Council

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South Dublin County Council

LAND USE PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

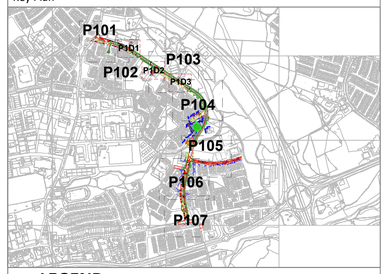
Director:

Mick Mulhern

Senior Engineer:

Michael McAdam

Key Plan



LEGEND:

- EXISTING KERB TO BE MAINTAINED
- EXISTING KERB TO BE REMOVED
- NEW KERB TO BE CONSTRUCTED
- DROP KERB/KERB CUT FOR CYCLE EGRESS
- RAISED CYCLE TRACK
- MANDATORY CYCLE LANE
- RAISED CROSSING RAMPS
- BUS STOP
- BUS STOP ISLAND
- EXISTING FOOTPATH
- FOOTPATH TO BE REMOVED
- PROPOSED FOOTPATH
- EXISTING FOOTPATH TO BE RESURFACED INTO CYCLE LANE
- CARRIAGEWAY
- EXISTING VEGETATION/GRASS
- VEGETATION/GRASS
- PROPOSED PENCIL BOLLARDS
- PROPOSED TRAFFIC SIGNAL POLE
- CYCLE RAMP
- RED TACTILE PAVING
- YELLOW TACTILE PAVING
- TRAMLINE AND LADDER TACTILE PAVING
- EXISTING TREE TO BE RETAINED
- EXISTING TREE TO BE REMOVED
- PROPOSED STREET TREE

Revision	Description	Date
0	Issue for Section 38	12/05/23

Location:

Castletymon Road

Drawing Title:

Active Travel Scheme Section 38 Plan

Drawn by:	O.S. Reference:
AG	**3389**
Surveyed by:	Scale:
Murphy Geospatial	**1:500**
Checked:	Date:
MMc	**12/05/2023**

Drawing Number:

SDCC-AT-Castletymon-P101

Lay-by/Loading Bay to be removed

Proposed Accessible Pedestrian/Cycle Pathway Entrance to Coláiste de hÍde

Raised Crossing and Junction Tightening

Cycle track to be integrated into existing Pedestrian Crossing

Raised Crossing

Raised Crossing and Junction Tightening

Sheet P103

1 tree to be removed

Proposed Bus Island

Raised Crossing and Junction Tightening

School entrance improvement including entrance tightening, pencil bollards, etc.

School

Scoil Náisiúnta Iosa

TYMONVILLE AVENUE

TYMONVILLE PARK

HAZELBROOK

N

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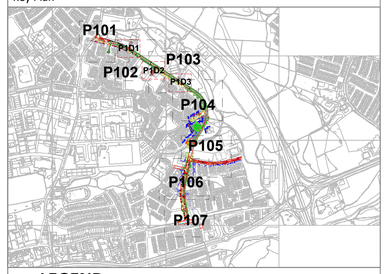

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Drawing Number:

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Pond

Pond

TYMON LANE

1 tree to be removed

Proposed Bus Island

Raised Crossing and Junction Tightening

School entrance improvement including entrance tightening, pencil bollards, etc.

Proposed Bus Island

Park Entrance Improvement: Raised Crossing and Junction Tightening

Cycle track to be integrated into existing Pedestrian Crossing

Proposed Bus Island

Raised Crossing and Junction Tightening

SAINT AONGUS GROVE

TYMON NORTH

TK

ANGUS ROAD

Sheet P104

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LAND USE PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

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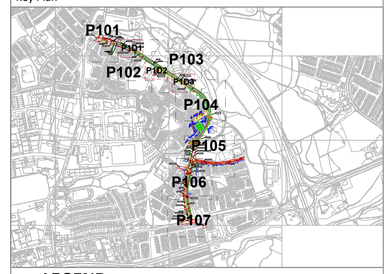

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MMc	12/05/2023

Drawing Number:

SDCC-AT-Castletymon-P103

Cycle track to be integrated into existing Pedestrian Crossing

Proposed Bus Island

Raised Crossing and Junction Tightening

Sheet P103

District Enhancement Scheme
(SD218/0010)

SAINT AONGUS GROVE
SAINT AONGUS ROAD
ST AONGUS LAWN
SAINT AONGUS CRESCENT
SAINT AONGUS COURT
ST AONGUS GREEN
SAINT AONGUS RD
SAINT AONGUS ROAD
TK

N

Dublin
Baile Átha
Cliath

Comhairle Contae Átha Cliath Theas

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South Dublin County Council

LAND USE PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

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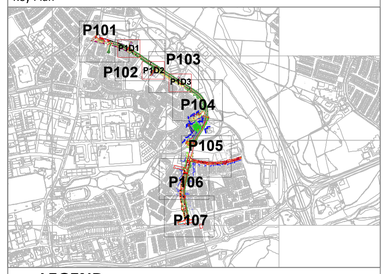

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Drawing Title:
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Section 38 Plan

Drawn by:	O.S. Reference:
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Murphy Geospatial	1:500
Checked:	Date:
MMc	12/05/2023

Drawing Number:
SDCC-AT-Castletymon-P104

District Enhancement Scheme (SD218/0010)

New Location of Library Parking

Accessible parking space to be retained

Potential SuDs Area (TBC)

Cycle track to be integrated into existing Pedestrian Crossing

Parking Bays to be converted in to School Bus Loading Zone

Existing On-street Library Parking to be relocated, adjacent to Bancroft Park Entrance

Shared Pathway for section in front of library

Proposed belisha beacon crossing

1 tree to be removed

Sheet P106

1 tree to be removed

Existing footpath widen to 3m average

Raised Crossing and Junction Tightening

Junction Tightening

Junction Tightening

Junction Tightening

Proposed Bus Island

Raised Crossing and Junction Tightening

Cycle track to be integrated into existing Pedestrian Crossing

CASTLETYMON GREEN

TYMON NORTH GARDENS

Saint Joseph's Special School

Tallaght Community School

CASTLE LAWNS

ES

N

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South Dublin County Council

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South Dublin County Council

LAND USE PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

Director:

Mick Mulhern

Senior Engineer:

Michael McAdam

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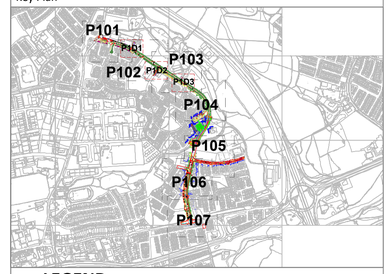

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Revision	Description	Date
0	Issue for Section 38	12/05/23

Location:

Castletymon Road

Drawing Title:

Active Travel Scheme Section 38 Plan

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Checked:	Date:
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Drawing Number:

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1 tree to be removed

Existing footpath widen to 3m averag

Raised Crossing and Junction Tightening

Junction Tightening

Proposed Bus Island

Raised Crossing and Junction Tightening

Raised Crossing and Junction Tightening

Cycle track to be integrated into existing Pedestrian Crossing

9 parking spaces to replace 12 existing parking spaces (loss of 3 spaces)

1 tree to be removed

11 proposed street trees

Raised Crossing and Junction Tightening

Sheet P105

Sheet P107

Saint Aonghusa Junior and Senior National School

Scoil Aenghusa Scoil Náisiúnta

CASTLE PARK

CASTLE LAWNS

BALROTHERY ESTATE

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South Dublin County Council

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South Dublin County Council

LAND USE PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

Director:

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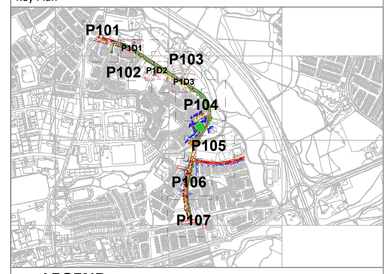
Key Plan



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Revision	Description	Date
0	Issue for Section 38	12/05/23

Location:

Castletymon Road

Drawing Title:

Active Travel Scheme Section 38 Plan

Drawn by:	O.S. Reference:
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Surveyed by:	Scale:
Murphy Geospatial	1:500
Checked:	Date:
MMc	12/05/2023

Drawing Number:

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Raised Crossing and Junction Tightening

Existing Bus Stop to be retained

Proposed Bus Island

Raised Crossing and Junction Tightening

4 proposed street trees

Existing Footpath to be resurfaced as Cycle Track

Existing Footpath realignment to connect with new footpath

Proposed protected cycling turns with integrated pedestrian crossing

Junction Tightening

Sheet P106

BALROTHERY ESTATE

CASTLE PARK

TALLAGHT ROAD

GLENVIEW PARK

N

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Director:

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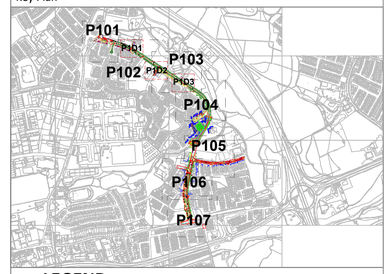
Key Plan



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Revision	Description	Date
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Location:

Castletymon Road

Drawing Title:

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Section 38 Plan

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MMc	**12/05/2023**

Drawing Number:

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Lay-by/Loading Bay to be removed

Proposed Accessible Pedestrian/Cycle Pathway Entrance to Coláiste de hÍde

Raised Crossing and Junction Tightening

Cycle track to be integrated into existing Pedestrian Crossing

Raised Crossing

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LAND USE PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

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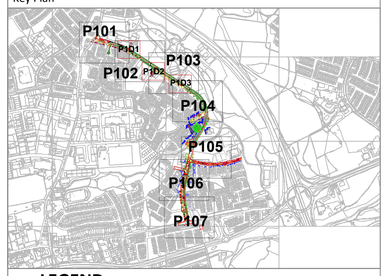

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Revision	Description	Date
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Location:

Castletymon Road

Drawing Title:

Active Travel Scheme
Section 38 Plan

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1 tree to be removed

Proposed Bus Island

Raised Crossing and Junction Tightening

School entrance improvement including entrance tightening, pencil bollards, etc.

School

N

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LAND USE PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

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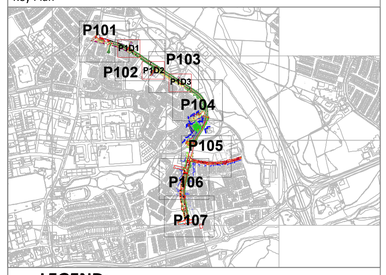

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Castletymon Road

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Section 38 Plan

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SDCC-AT-Castletymon-P1D2

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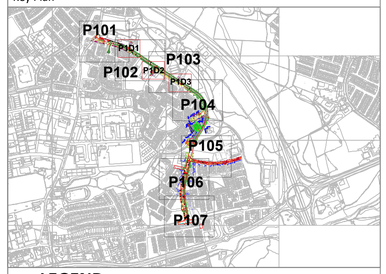

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- NEW KERB TO BE CONSTRUCTED
- DROP KERB/KERB CUT FOR CYCLE EGRESS
- RAISED CYCLE TRACK
- MANDATORY CYCLE LANE
- RAISED CROSSING RAMPS
- BUS STOP
- BUS STOP ISLAND
- EXISTING FOOTPATH
- FOOTPATH TO BE REMOVED
- PROPOSED FOOTPATH
- EXISTING FOOTPATH TO BE RESURFACED INTO CYCLE LANE
- CARRIAGEWAY
- EXISTING VEGETATION/GRASS
- VEGETATION/GRASS
- PROPOSED PENCIL BOLLARDS
- PROPOSED TRAFFIC SIGNAL POLE
- CYCLE RAMP
- RED TACTILE PAVING
- YELLOW TACTILE PAVING
- TRAMLINE AND LADDER TACTILE PAVING
- EXISTING TREE TO BE RETAINED
- EXISTING TREE TO BE REMOVED
- PROPOSED STREET TREE

Revision	Description	Date
0	Issue for Section 38	12/05/23

Location:

Castletymon Road

Drawing Title:

Active Travel Scheme Section 38 Plan

Drawn by:	O.S. Reference:
AG	3389
Surveyed by:	Scale:
Murphy Geospatial	1:200
Checked:	Date:
MMc	12/05/2023

Drawing Number:

SDCC-AT-Castletymon-P1D3

B Relevant Policy and Legislation

The legislation discussed below is intended as a guide only and does not replace formal legal advice.

B.1 Biodiversity Policy Guidance

'Biodiversity: The National Biodiversity Action Plan 2017-2021 (DCHG, 2017) sets out actions through which a range of government, civil and private sectors will undertake to achieve Ireland's 'Vision for Biodiversity' and has been developed in response to The Earth Summit, held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 (UN Convention on Biological Diversity) and subsequent EU and International Biodiversity strategies and policies.

As part of the Action Plan process Local Authorities (LA) must produce Biodiversity Action Plans (BAP). BAPs highlight local biodiversity issues and set out a series of objectives and action plans for the conservation of priority species and habitats where they occur in each district or county.

B.2 Designated Sites and Nature Conservation

B.2.1 Statutory Designated Nature Conservation Sites

Sites with statutory designations receive varying degrees of legal protection under Irish statute (i.e. Wildlife Act 1976 and Wildlife (Amendment) Act (2000) and European Directives (i.e. the EC Birds Directive (2009/147/EC) and EC Habitats Directive (92/43/EC). The EU directives were transposed into Irish national law and subsequent amendments were revised and consolidated in the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 and Irish Statutory Instrument 477/2011

There are a number of statutory designations used for sites of high nature conservation value in Ireland, which are applied depending upon the importance of the site in a local, regional, national or international context. These include:

- National
- Natural Heritage Area (NHA)
- Wildfowl Sanctuary
- Statutory Nature Reserve
- Refuge for Fauna
- European
- Special Protection Area (SPA)
- Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
- International
- UNESCO Biosphere Reserve
- Ramsar Convention Site
- National Park (Category II) Sites

B.2.2 Non-Statutory Designations

Non-statutory sites are afforded no statutory legal protection, but are normally recognised by local planning authorities and statutory agencies as being of local nature conservation value

A proposed Natural Heritage Area (pNHA) is an area deemed to be of special interest containing important wildlife habitat and often containing rare or threatened species. They may also be selected on the basis of their geology or geomorphology.

B.2.3 Protected and Notable Species

A number of species are protected under Irish and international legislation. In Ireland, primary protection is provided under the 1976 Wildlife Act and Wildlife (Amendment) Acts (2000 & 2010) and revision

2018. Species of European importance receive additional protection in Ireland under the Birds and Natural habitats Regulations 2011.

The Flora (Protection) Order (2015) makes it illegal to cut, uproot or damage a listed species in any way. It is illegal to alter, damage or interfere in any way with their habitats.

C National Biodiversity Data Centre (2023)

C.1 Recent records (within 10 years) of protected species within the 5km of the site

Species Name	Date of Last Record	Designation
Amphibians		
Common Frog *Rana temporaria*	19/05/2020	EU Habitats Directive >> Annex V Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
Smooth Newt *Lissotriton vulgaris*	21/05/2020	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
Birds		
Barn Owl *Tyto alba*	21/07/2021	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts Birds of Conservation Concern - Red List
Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*	07/05/2020	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List
Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*	30/01/2023	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts Birds of Conservation Concern - Red List
Black-legged Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*	01/03/2018	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List
Brent Goose *Branta bernicla*	23/01/2023	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List
Common Coot *Fulica atra*	11/01/2023	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts EU Birds Directive >> Annex II & Annex III Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List
Common Eider *Somateria mollissima*	18/05/2015	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts EU Birds Directive >> Annex II & Annex III Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List
Common Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*	18/05/2015	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts EU Birds Directive >> Annex II Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List
Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*	27/11/2022	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List
Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*	29/01/2023	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts EU Birds Directive >> Annex I Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List
Common Linnet *Carduelis cannabina*	16/01/2021	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List
Common Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*	09/05/2020	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts EU Birds Directive >> Annex II & Annex III
Common Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*	16/01/2023	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List
Common Swift *Apus apus*	16/07/2022	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List
Common Wood Pigeon *Columba palumbus*	30/01/2023	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts EU Birds Directive >> Annex II & Annex III
Eurasian Teal *Anas crecca*	03/12/2022	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts EU Birds Directive >> Annex II & Annex III

Species Name	Date of Last Record	Designation
		Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List
Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*	03/03/2018	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List
Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*	30/12/2022	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List
Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*	30/12/2022	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List
Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*	01/01/2023	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List
Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*	21/01/2023	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts Birds of Conservation Concern - Red List
Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*	30/01/2023	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List
Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*	22/03/2019	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts EU Birds Directive >> Annex I Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List
Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*	16/12/2022	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List
House Martin *Delichon urbicum*	07/05/2020	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List
House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*	11/01/2023	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List
Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*	17/04/2020	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List
Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*	05/01/2023	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts EU Birds Directive >> Annex I Bird Species
Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*	11/01/2023	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List
Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*	11/01/2023	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts EU Birds Directive >> Annex II & Annex III
Common Gull *Larus canus*	28/01/2023	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List
Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*	11/01/2023	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List
Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*	11/08/2021	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List
Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*	16/07/2016	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts EU Birds Directive >> Annex I Bird Species
Red Kite *Milvus milvus*	06/08/2016	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List
Redwing *Turdus iliacus*	01/01/2023	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts Birds of Conservation Concern - Red List
Rock Pigeon *Columba livia*	31/12/2022	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts EU Birds Directive >> Annex II
Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*	29/01/2023	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List
Sky Lark	09/05/2020	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts

Species Name	Date of Last Record	Designation
Alauda arvensis		Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List
Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*	22/01/2023	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts EU Birds Directive >> Annex II & Annex III Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List
Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*	27/02/2018	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts EU Birds Directive >> Annex I Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List
Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*	09/05/2020	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List
Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*	10/06/2021	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts Birds of Conservation Concern - Red List
Invertebrates		
Freshwater White-clawed Crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes*	18/08/2013	EU Habitats Directive >> Annex II Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
Marsh Fritillary *Euphydryas aurinia*	22/08/2019	EU Habitats Directive >> Annex II
Reptiles		
Common Lizard *Zootoca vivipara*	15/06/2019	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
Mammals		
Daubenton's Bat *Myotis daubentonii*	27/08/2014	EU Habitats Directive >> Annex IV Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
Eurasian Badger *Meles meles*	28/07/2018	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
Eurasian Pygmy Shrew *Sorex minutus*	12/07/2018	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
Eurasian Red Squirrel *Sciurus vulgaris*	21/05/2017	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
European Otter *Lutra lutra*	05/12/2022	EU Habitats Directive >> Annex II & Annex IV Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
Lesser Noctule *Nyctalus leisleri*	24/08/2012	EU Habitats Directive >> Annex IV Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
Pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus sensu lato*	24/08/2012	EU Habitats Directive >> Annex IV Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
Soprano Pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pygmaeus*	24/08/2012	EU Habitats Directive >> Annex IV Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
West European Hedgehog *Erinaceus europaeus*	15/06/2021	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts

C.2 Invasive Species recorded within a 5km radius of the site over the last 10 years

Common Name	Designation	Record Date
Flora		
Butterfly-bush *Buddleja davidii*	08/12/2022	Medium Impact Invasive Species
Cherry Laurel *Prunus laurocerasus*	18/04/2022	High Impact Invasive Species
Common Broomrape *Orobanche minor*	26/06/2021	Medium Impact Invasive Species
Fallopia japonica x *sachalinensis* = *F.* x *bohemica*	17/06/2015	High Impact Invasive Species Regulation S.I. 477 (Ireland)
Fringed Water-lily *Nymphoides peltata*	15/06/2016	High Impact Invasive Species Regulation S.I. 477 (Ireland)
Giant Hogweed *Heracleum mantegazzianum*	31/12/2017	High Impact Invasive Species Regulation S.I. 477 (Ireland)
Giant Knotweed *Fallopia sachalinensis*	06/06/2021	High Impact Invasive Species Regulation S.I. 477 (Ireland)
Giant-rhubarb *Gunnera tinctoria*	12/07/2015	High Impact Invasive Species Regulation S.I. 477 (Ireland)
Himalayan Honeysuckle *Leycesteria formosa*	04/08/2022	Medium Impact Invasive Species
Indian Balsam *Impatiens glandulifera*	16/08/2022	High Impact Invasive Species Regulation S.I. 477 (Ireland)
Japanese Knotweed *Fallopia japonica*	16/08/2022	High Impact Invasive Species Regulation S.I. 477 (Ireland)
Japanese Rose *Rosa rugosa*	27/04/2022	Medium Impact Invasive Species
Narrow-leaved Ragwort *Senecio inaequidens*	09/08/2020	Medium Impact Invasive Species
Nuttall's Waterweed *Elodea nuttallii*	22/07/2019	High Impact Invasive Species Regulation S.I. 477 (Ireland)
Rhododendron ponticum	29/11/2021	High Impact Invasive Species Regulation S.I. 477 (Ireland)
Spanish Bluebell *Hyacinthoides hispanica*	18/04/2022	Low Impact Invasive Species Regulation S.I. 477 (Ireland)
Sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus*	18/04/2022	Medium Impact Invasive Species
Three-cornered Garlic *Allium triquetrum*	10/04/2022	Medium Impact Invasive Species Regulation S.I. 477 (Ireland)
Traveller's-joy *Clematis vitalba*	08/09/2021	Medium Impact Invasive Species
Wall Cotoneaster *Cotoneaster horizontalis*	31/03/2014	Medium Impact Invasive Species
Wild Parsnip *Pastinaca sativa*	11/07/2015	Medium Impact Invasive Species
Invertebrates		
Harlequin Ladybird	29/03/2023	High Impact Invasive Species

Common Name	Designation	Record Date
Harmonia axyridis		Regulation S.I. 477 (Ireland)
Jenkins' Spire Snail *Potamopyrgus antipodarum*	09/09/2016	Medium Impact Invasive Species
Arthurdendyus triangulatus	01/07/2014	High Impact Invasive Species
Reptiles		
Red-eared Terrapin *Trachemys scripta*	07/05/2022	Medium Impact Invasive Species EU Regulation No. 1143/2014
Mammals		
American Mink *Mustela vison*	30/07/2018	High Impact Invasive Species Regulation S.I. 477 (Ireland)
Brown Rat *Rattus norvegicus*	22/05/2016	High Impact Invasive Species Regulation S.I. 477 (Ireland)
Eastern Grey Squirrel *Sciurus carolinensis*	16/01/2023	High Impact Invasive Species EU Regulation No. 1143/2014 Regulation S.I. 477 (Ireland)
European Rabbit *Oryctolagus cuniculus*	25/10/2018	Medium Impact Invasive Species
Fallow Deer *Dama dama*	16/09/2018	High Impact Invasive Species Regulation S.I. 477 (Ireland) Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
Greater White-toothed Shrew *Crocidura russula*	26/03/2020	Medium Impact Invasive Species
House Mouse *Mus musculus*	10/11/2017	High Impact Invasive Species
Sika Deer *Cervus nippon*	24/10/2017	High Impact Invasive Species Regulation S.I. 477 (Ireland) Protected Species: Wildlife Acts

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Castletymon Active Travel Scheme, Co. Dublin

Screening for Environmental Impact Assessment

June 2023

Project number: 2023s0254

South Dublin Country Council

Final

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Revision History

Revision Ref / Date Issued	Amendments	Issued to
S3-P01 / 07/06/2023	Draft Report	SDCC
A3-C01 / 15/06/2023	Final Report	SDCC

Contract

This report describes work commissioned by South Dublin County Council, by a letter dated 16/02/2023. Jemima Kivikoski and Conor O'Neill of JBA Consulting carried out this work.

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Purpose

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Abbreviations

AA - Appropriate Assessment

CDP - County Development Plan

CEMP - Construction Environmental Management Plan

EcIA - Ecological Impact Assessment

EIAR - Environmental Impact Assessment Report

LAP - Local Area Plan

NIAH - National Inventory of Architectural Heritage

NMS - National Monuments Service

SDCC - South Dublin County Council

SFRA - Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

WFD - Water Framework Directive

ZoI - Zone of Influence

1 Introduction

JBA Consulting Engineers and Scientists Ltd. (hereafter JBA) has been commissioned by South Dublin County Council (SDCC) to prepare an EIA Screening Report for the proposed extension of a cycle lane along the existing Castletymon Road in Kilnamanagh Co. Dublin. This development is Phase 1 of the Castletymon Road and Bancroft Park Active Travel Scheme and will be submitted under Part 8 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended.

1.1 Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is to identify if there is a need, under the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, for an EIAR for the proposed development.

Schedule 5 (Parts 1 and 2) of the Act lists groups of development projects which are subject to EIA screening under the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU, as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU. Projects listed in Part 1 are subject to mandatory EIAR due to their scale and nature. Projects listed in Part 2 are likely to have significant environmental effects subject to threshold criteria regarding their size and nature.

Projects that fall below the threshold criteria set out under Part 2 may, upon further examination, be found to have significant environmental effect due to their location within a catchment, size, or proximity to sensitive areas. These projects are considered sub-threshold developments.

This report documents the methodology used in determining if the proposed development falls under any category of development that will have significant environmental impacts. Rationale for the decision made in reference to the relevant legislation has been provided. Additional documents have been referenced where necessary.

This report is intended for the project as described below. Any significant changes to the project description or location would require a new EIA screening report.

An Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening Report and an Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA) have been prepared by JBA Consulting and have identified any potential impacts to Natura 2000 sites and other ecological receptors, respectively. The AA Screening Report and EcIA will be submitted with this EIA Screening Report as part of the Part 8 planning process for the proposed development.

2 Description of Proposed Works

2.1 Site Location

The cycle route extension will occur along the Castletymon Road (L3036), adjacent to the east side of Bancroft Park and Castle Park estate and the west side of Tymon Park. The road is situated north of the N81 and west of the M50. The project is split into north and south sections see Figure 2.1. The Tymon River (Poddle_010) is culverted under the part of Castletymon Road in between the northern and southern sections of the proposed development adjacent to the north of Tallaght Community School.

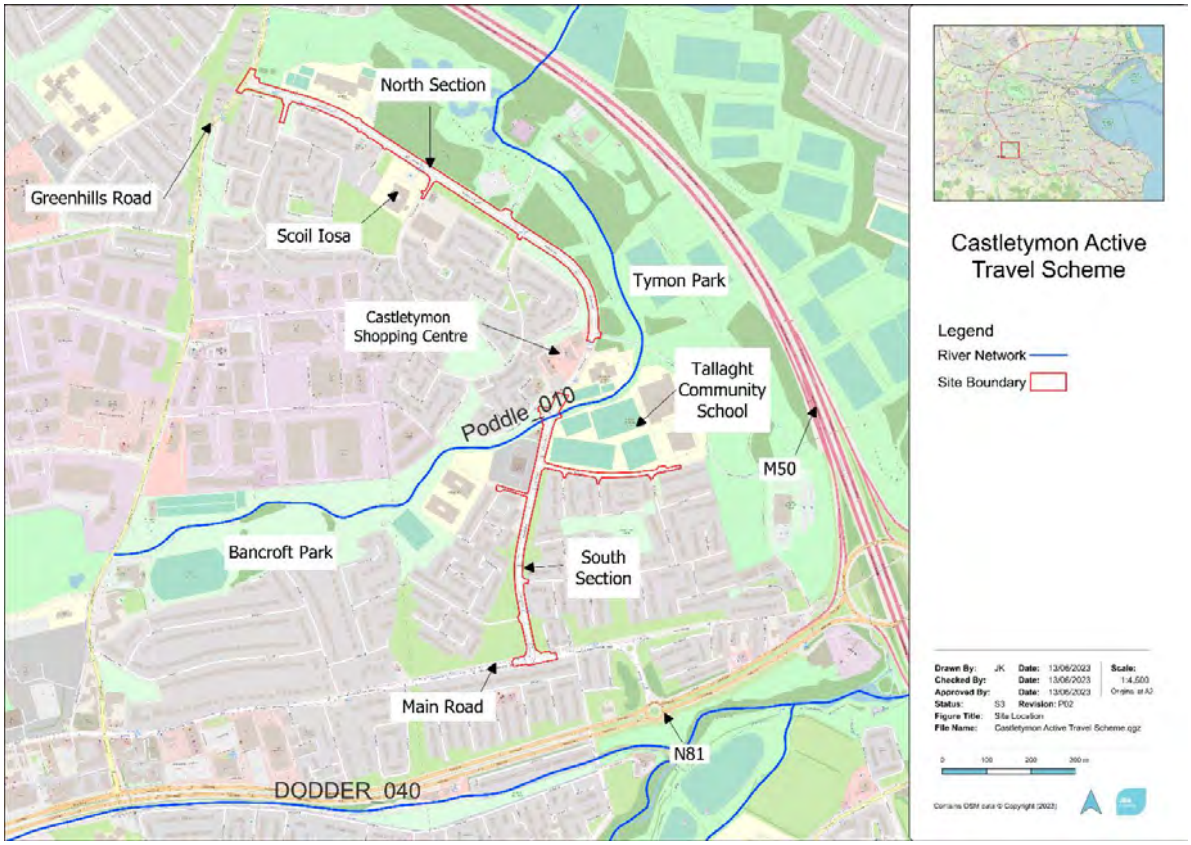

Figure 2.1: Site Location and boundary of work

2.2 Proposed Development

The project will involve a narrowing of the Castletymon Road by removal of the existing ghost island to accommodate 2m cycle tracks on either side. Majority of the development will be constructed on top of existing roadway or footpath. The final width of the road will be 6m. On street parking between Main Road and Castle Park will be modified into 9 parallel parking spaces and 12 parking spaces outside of Castletymon library will be relocated adjacent to Bancroft Park entrance. Up to 20 trees may be removed, with 12 confirmed.

Where existing footpath is converted to cycle track new footpath will be constructed upon 300 m of grass open space. Impact on the verge has been minimised by design with maximum excavation depths between 150 – 250mm.

In conjunction with improving cycle infrastructure in the area, the proposed development will also involve several additional improvements including, junction tightening at all junctions connecting with the new cycle track, bus islands and pencil bollards and entrance tightening at Scoil Iosa.

The construction phase of the development is estimated to be 9 – 12 months.

3 Purpose of Screening

3.1 Legislative Context for EIAR in Ireland

EU legislation dictates the mandatory requirements for Environmental Impact Assessments under Directive 2011/92/EU, as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU which together form the EIA Directive. The Directive identifies projects, outlined in Annex I, that will always have significant environmental effects by virtue of their size and nature. These kinds of project must be subject to obligatory EIAR in every Member State.

For the projects listed in Annex II, the Directive gives Member States the option to decide the limits of the projects which should require an EIAR. This has been transposed into Irish law as the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, and the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended. Mandatory thresholds for projects that fall under Annex II are described in Schedule 5 Parts 1 and 2 of the Regulations.

Those that fall under Part 1 are always subject to an EIAR due to their nature and size. Those that fall under Part 2 may be subject to an EIAR if they meet or go beyond specific limits. Projects that fall below thresholds detailed in Part 2 are classified as sub-threshold. In some cases, sub threshold projects may still have the potential to have significant environmental impacts, such as those located in or in close proximity to protected sites. Such projects may be subject to an EIAR and are reviewed by the Planning Authority on a case-by-case basis.

This legislation is examined below in relation to the project.

3.2 The Planning and Development Act 2000 - Mandatory EIAR

The Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, Section 172 sets out the types of projects that require an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR):

An environmental impact assessment shall be carried out by the planning authority or the Board, as the case may be, in respect of an application for consent for proposed development where either:

a. the proposed development would be of a class specified in

- i. Part 1 of Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, and either-
- I. such development would exceed any relevant quantity, area or other limit specified in that Part, or
- II. no quantity, area or other limit is specified in that Part in respect of the development concerned, or
- ii. Part 2 of Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 and either-
- I. such development would exceed any relevant quantity, area or other limit specified in that Part, or
- II. no quantity, area or other limit is specified in that Part in respect of the development concerned, or

b.

- i. the proposed development would be of a class specified in Part 2 of Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 but does not exceed the relevant quantity, area or other limit specified in that Part, and
- ii. the planning authority or the Board, as the case may be, determines that the proposed development would be likely to have significant effects on the environment.

3.2.1 Part 1 of Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001-2018

Projects which fall under Schedule 5, Part 1 are typically large infrastructure and energy projects and by their nature will always have significant environmental effects. The proposed addition of two cycle routes does not fall under Schedule 5, Part 1.

3.2.2 Part 2 of Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001-2018

With regards to Part 2 projects, the categories and thresholds were examined for the following category:

10. Infrastructure projects

(a) Industrial estate development projects, where the area would exceed 15 hectares.

(b) (i) Construction of more than 500 dwelling units.

(ii) Construction of a car-park providing more than 400 spaces, other than a car-park provided as part of, and incidental to the primary purpose of, a development.

(iii) Construction of a shopping centre with a gross floor space exceeding 10,000 square metres.

(iv) Urban development which would involve an area greater than 2 hectares in the case of a business district, 10 hectares in the case of other parts of a built-up area and 20 hectares elsewhere.

(In this paragraph, "business district" means a district within a city or town in which the predominant land use is retail or commercial use.)

3.2.3 Roads Act 1993, as amended

The Roads Act 1993, as amended, stipulates the requirement for EIAR under certain circumstances. The proposed development lies upon existing road infrastructure falling under the Roads Act, 1993.

Under the Roads Act 1993, the following forms of road projects require an EIA:

1) 50 (1)(a)(i) - Construction of a motorway.

2) 50 (1)(a)(ii) - Construction of a busway.

3) 50 (1)(a)(iii) - Construction of a service area.

4) Article 8 of the Roads Regulations, 1994 (prescribed for the purposes of Section 50(1)(a) of the Roads Act 1993) - Construction of a new road of four or more lanes, or construction of a new bridge or tunnel which would be 100 metres or more in length.

The proposed development does not fall under any of the other categories above, either under the Planning and Development Regulations or the Roads Act. Therefore, an EIAR has not been automatically triggered for this proposed development.

However, it is necessary to consider if this development could result in significant environmental effects under the category of sub-threshold developments.

3.3 Sub-threshold EIAR

In accordance with the requirement to submit an EIAR with sub-threshold planning application (Article 103 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001-2018), where a planning application for sub-threshold development is not accompanied by an EIAR, and the Planning Authority considers that the development is likely to have significant effects on the environment it shall, by notice in writing, require the applicant to submit an EIAR. This process therefore occurs after submission of an application, if that application is not accompanied by an EIAR.

The decision as to whether a development is likely to have 'significant effects' on the environment must be taken with reference to the criteria set out in Schedule 7A of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001-2018. Schedule 7A requires that the following information be provided for the purposes of screening sub-threshold development for EIAR:

1. A description of the proposed development, including in particular—

a) a description of the physical characteristics of the whole proposed development and, where relevant, of demolition works, and

b) a description of the location of the proposed development, with regard to the environmental sensitivity of geographical areas likely to be affected.

2. A description of the aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected by the proposed development.

3. A description of any likely significant effects, to the extent of the information available on such effects, of the proposed development on the environment resulting from—

a) the expected residues and emissions and the production of waste, where relevant, and

b) the use of natural resources, in particular soil, land, water and biodiversity.

c) The compilation of the information at paragraphs 1 to 3 shall take into account, where relevant, the criteria set out in Schedule 7 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001-2018 (DHPLG 2018).

In order to assist planning and other consenting authorities in deciding if significant effects on the environment are likely to arise in the case of development below the national mandatory EIAR thresholds, the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government published a Guidance document in August 2003, the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Guidance for Consent Authorities regarding Sub-threshold Development and the Guidelines for Planning Authorities and An Bord Pleanála on carrying out Environmental Impact Assessment (DHPLG 2018b)

The criteria, as transposed in Irish legislation, are grouped under three headings:

i. Characteristics of Proposed Development

ii. Location of Proposed Development

iii. Characteristics of Potential Impacts

For the purposes of assessing if the development is likely to have significant effects on the environment in reference to these three parameters, the project is examined below in further detail.

4 Overview of Environmental Impacts

The potential environmental impacts, their severity and duration are discussed below in line with EIAR categories.

4.1 Population and Human Health

Once completed, the cycle lanes, footpath and bus islands will serve to benefit the community by way of expanding the cycle lane network in the area and improving the safety and quality of road infrastructure. The northern section will connect the existing cycle lane on Greenhills Road to the cycle lane on Tymon Lane and will provide road access to the cycle tracks in Tymon Park. Segregated cycle lanes offer a safer travel option and serve to better the flow of traffic.

During construction, there will be a risk to the health and safety of site workers which can be expected for any construction project. These will be mitigated against by the contractors' operational plans.

There will be some negative impacts to the residents in the area during construction as a certain level of disruption cannot be avoided completely. They will, however, be temporary and minimal. Best practice regarding control of noise and vibration, dust and a limit on operational hours will be outlined and adhered to in the operational plans of the contractor.

4.2 Biodiversity

Any ecological receptors that may be directly or indirectly impacted by the development must be examined. This includes protected Natura 2000 sites under the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and Birds Directive (2009/147/EC) as well as protect species under the Wildlife Act 1976.

4.2.1 Proximity to Protected Sites

An AA Screening Report was completed by JBA Consulting for this project to determine if impact on proximal Natura 2000 sites is likely to occur.

Sites within the 15km Zone of Influence (ZoI) are presented in Table 4.1.

The AA screening found no direct or indirect effects from the proposed development likely to impact Natura 2000 sites.

Table 4.1: Natura 2000 sites within 15km of the proposed development

Natura 2000 site	Site Code	Approximate Distance from Site	Hydrological Distance from Site
Glenasmole Valley SAC	001209	3.8km	n/a
North Dublin Bay SAC	000206	12.8km	17km
South Dublin Bay SAC	000210	9.4km	15.1km
North Bull Island SPA	004006	10.1km	17km
South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA	004024	9.4km	14.5km

4.2.2 Other Ecological Receptors

An EcIA was undertaken by JBA Consulting to identify any other vulnerable ecological receptors that may be impacted by construction or the development. The EcIA found that the proposed development has the capacity to impact the treeline habitat along the route and are considered to have high ecological importance in this context. No. 12 trees are confirmed for removal. No. 8 of those marked are situated along the northern section near Greenhills Road. The remaining trees may be vulnerable to polluting events such as spilled or leaked hydrocarbons, dust generation and damage from machinery including limb loss and root compaction.

The EcIA outlines mitigation measures to be implemented to protect flora and fauna surrounding the proposed development. An overview of the measures are summarised below, however, the EcIA should be read in full. The summary of measures includes:

- A Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) will be submitted to SDCC for agreement prior to works commencing.
- The site compound will be situated away from the existing tree line and make use of a drainage collection system to prevent run-off into surface water.
- Pollution will be controlled through the use of appropriate barriers, concrete management procedures and dust generation management.
- Tree clearance will be conducted outside of the bird breeding season, 1st March - 31st August.
- General avoidance measures and noise and vibration limits.
- Remediation through tree and hedge planting will be implemented to mitigate any negative impacts to the treeline that may occur during the construction phase.

Site lighting design during the construction phase will meet the lowest levels permitted under health and safety guidelines to minimise impact on bats in the vicinity with an emphasis on blue light reduction. The EcIA concluded that the proposed developments site lighting design is compliant with the bat mitigation element.

Tree planting or replanting of No. 20 trees is outlined in development plans and will mitigate against any long term significant impacts. However, the EcIA notes that there will be a delay before newly planted trees have matured to a level where they can fulfil their ecological role. Therefore, a short-term negative impact of slight significance is anticipated during the operational phase.

4.3 Soils and Geology

The development sits upon limestone and shale bedrock. The subsoil under the development is classified as “made ground” with some limestone till in proximity and alluvium associated with the Tymon river.

Soils that may be directly impacted by excavation were identified as “urban” using the Teagasc soil database. In proximity are fine, loamy soils with limestone drift. Excavations will be shallow for the development, with no significant impacts on soils and geology anticipated during construction or operation.

Excavated material will be reused as fill where appropriate. Material not required for fill will be exported from the site and disposed of at appropriate licensed facilities. The expected amount of material to be exported as waste is not significant.

4.4 Surface Water

The site is contained within the Water Framework Directive (WFD) Liffey and Dublin Bay catchment and Dodder_SC_010 sub-catchment. The Tymon River (Poddle_010) is culverted under the Castletymon Road north of the library. This flows in a northeast direction where it eventually reaches the Liffey River and Dublin Bay.

Minimal contact between the site and Tymon River is located north of the library where the river is culverted under Castletymon Road. Transport of dust and silt into the water way may still occur through wind transport, however, significant impacts are not expected. The mitigation measures for the protection of water quality and silt and pollution control outlined in the EcIA and summarised above in Section 4.2.2 are expected to be effective. These will be put in place by the appointed contractor and will ensure that risks of watercourse pollution and sedimentation are minimised.

The northern part of the southern section of cycle track partially lies in the extent of Flood Zone B of the Tymon River outlined in the SDCC SFRA, however, the site is not in direct contact with these areas. The most recent flooding events within 2 km of the site occurred downstream of the Tymon River in the Templeogue area during 2011. Groundwater flooding probability in the area is low. Therefore, it is unlikely the proposed development will have any significant impact on surface or groundwater flooding risk in the area during construction or operation.

4.5 Groundwater

Underlying the site is the Dublin (IE_EA_G008) groundwater body which currently holds a Good WFD status and it's risk status is Under Review.

Groundwater vulnerability is low. Given that minimal, shallow excavation is planned for the project it is unlikely that the project will contribute any contamination to the groundwater bodies during construction or operation.

4.6 Cultural Heritage

Two historically significant sites are located along the Castletymon Road. St Aengus's R. C. Church (Reg. No. 11215006) is identified as a site of architectural heritage and there is a moated site (DU022-008) located in Castle Lawns directly adjacent to Castletymon Road. The zone of notification extends onto Castle Lawns. Due to a minimal excavation depth, the moated site is unlikely to be impacted by construction or operation. Neither of the sites are listed in the Record of Protected Structures in Appendix 3a of the SDCC Development Plan 2022-2028.

There are also a number of NMS sites clustered in an estate to the northwest of Greenhills Road. Construction activities are unlikely to have any significant impact and operation will have no impact.

4.7 Air and Climate

Traffic and machinery required for the transport of materials and construction have the potential to create additional emissions and localised pollution. These impacts will be confined to the construction phase of the development and will not be significant. Once completed the expected promotion of cycling and walking in the area may reduce traffic resulting in overall lower emissions and improved air quality.

4.8 Noise and Vibration

Baseline noise levels for the Castletymon Road are considered low (54 - 59 dB). During the construction phase of the development there will be a certain amount of additional noise arising from machinery. This will be temporary and appropriate mitigation measures will be outlined in the operating plans by the contractor.

Significant vibration impacts are unlikely due to the minimal excavation planned for the construction phase. Once completed, the development may reduce the number of motorists on the road therefore leading to a reduction in normal noise levels.

4.9 Landscape and Visual

The removal of No. 12 trees will have a minor negative impact on the visual amenity of the tree corridor.

During construction, on site machinery and equipment may have a minor negative visual impact for areas in immediate contact with active construction activities. However, these impacts will be temporary.

The proposed development is congruent with the surrounding landscape character which is defined as "urban". There are no national trails, scenic routes or protected views in the vicinity. Therefore, the proposed development is unlikely to have significant long-lasting impacts on the landscape or visual characteristics of the surrounding area during the construction or operational phase.

4.10 Material Assets including Traffic, Utilities, and Waste

4.10.1 Traffic

The Dublin bus routes 77a and 77x operate along the proposed cycle route. During construction minimal disruption in the form of rerouting and temporary bus stops is likely. These disruptions will cease once the development is complete.

4.10.2 Utilities

No impacts on utilities from the development have been identified for the site in either the construction or operational phases.

4.10.3 Waste

A small amount of waste will be generated during construction, and will be disposed of at an appropriate licensed waste facility. There will not be a requirement for any specialised licences or permits in relation to waste. For waste such as debris or rubbish, this will be collected and deposited with a licenced agent.

Once operational, the proposed development will not generate waste.

4.11 Cumulative Impacts

4.11.1 Plans

South Dublin County Development Plan 2022-2028

The Castletymon Active Travel Scheme is in line with the South Dublin County Development Plan 2022-2028. The development is in accordance with the following objectives outlined in the Plan:

- SM1 Objective 1: To achieve and monitor a transition to more sustainable travel modes including walking, cycling and public transport over the lifetime of the County Development Plan, in line with the County mode share targets of 15% Walk; 10% Cycle; 20% Bus; 5% Rail; and 50% Private (Car/Van/HGV/Motorcycle).
- SM1 Objective 2: To ensure consistency with the NTA's Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area (2016-2035) and any superseding document, as required by RPO 8.4 of the RSES.
- SM1 Objective 3: To support the delivery of key sustainable transport projects including DART and Luas expansion programmes, BusConnects and the Greater Dublin Metropolitan Cycle Network in accordance with RPO 5.2 of the RSES/MASP.
- SM1 Objective 4: To ensure that future development is planned and designed in a manner that facilitates sustainable travel patterns, with a particular focus on increasing the share of active modes (walking and cycling) and public transport use and creating a safe and attractive street environment for pedestrians and cyclists, in accordance with RPO 5.3 of the RSES/MASP.
- SM1 Objective 5: To ensure that future development is planned and designed in a manner that maximises the efficiency and protects the strategic capacity of the metropolitan area transport network, both existing and planned, and to protect and maintain regional accessibility, in accordance with RPO 8.3 of the RSES.
- SM1 Objective 6: To safeguard the County's strategic road network and to improve the local road and street network in a manner that will better utilise existing road space and encourage a transition towards more sustainable modes of transport.
- SM1 Objective 7: To engage with relevant agencies including the National Transport Authority (NTA) and Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) in relation to strategic and local transportation issues including delivery of transport projects and to encourage consultation with local communities.
- SM1 Objective 8: To prepare Integrated Transport Studies for urban areas within the County, as need arises, to provide a long-term plan for the movement of pedestrians, cyclists, public transport and private vehicles and to have regard to the European Commission's Guidelines for Developing and Implementing a Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan (2nd Edition, 2019) in the preparation of such studies.

4.11.2 Projects

There are several applications for planning permission in the last three years, which are not retention application, home extensions, and /or internal alterations that have the potential for cumulative impacts with the proposed development.

Planning Application Reference	SD22A/0097
Development address	Scoil Aonghusa Senior National School, Balrothery, Dublin 24
Description: Provision of 1 approx. 100sq.m single storey temporary prefab (prefab 01 comprising 1 classroom & 3 resource rooms) adjacent to the south-east boundary of the site and 1 approx. 70sq.m single storey temporary prefab (prefab 02 comprising 1 classroom) adjacent to the north-west boundary of the site and all associated site works.	
Final Decision on Application	Permission Granted
Decision Date	20/05/2022

Planning Application Reference	SD218/0010
Development address	Castletymon Shopping Centre, Tallaght, Dublin 24
Description: Upgrading and modernisation of Castletymon Shopping Centre and its environs. This will involve improvements within and around the shopping centre and along the roadway from the new Library / Bancroft Park and Tymon Park / National Basketball Arena. South Dublin County Council, In conjunction with the National Transport Authority, is actively trying to develop an improved cycle network throughout the county. This new network is intended to provide more sustainable transport options for commuters as well as active travel benefits for local communities. The proposed route no. 27 of the Cycle South Dublin is the Castletymon Road Cycle Scheme. It will provide cycle connectivity from Greenhills's Road to Tallaght Main Street and has a length of 1.8m. Under this scheme South Dublin County Council proposed to construct 250m length of cycleway as a first stage of this network. This provides a better active travel link to Castletymon shopping centre, local amenities, NBA arena, schools, and parks within the length of the road. Scheme objectives: The Castletymon Shopping Centre District Centre Enhancement Programme has a number of objectives; To modernise and support local businesses; To enhance pedestrian and cycle facilities to and within the centre; To create links to and between the shopping centre, Bancroft Park and Tymon Park; To create more amenity space within the centre; To widen pedestrian areas in front of the shops footpaths; To combat anti-social behaviour; To modernise the look and support local businesses; To create a vibrant and distinctive place. Works include: Working with traders regarding the scheme and shopfront upgrades; Narrowing the carriageway; Provision of new cycle way; Creation of a landscaped plaza with street furniture; Rationalisation of the carpark layout; Improvement to the rear pedestrian access to the shopping centre; Upgrade works to the façade of the shopping centre; Commission of Art in the form of a Mural	
Final Decision on Application	Not disclosed
Decision Date	Not disclosed

5 Screening Assessment

5.1 Characteristics of the Proposed Development

To determine whether the characteristics of the proposed development are likely to have significant impacts on the environment, the following questions are answered in Table 5.1, following guidelines set out in Guidance for Consenting Authorities regarding Sub-Threshold Development (DoEHLG 2003).

Table 5.1: Characteristics of the proposed development

Characteristics of the Proposed Development - Screening Questions	Comment
Could the scale (size or design) of the proposed development be considered significant?	The proposed development involves the construction of cycle lanes, wider footpath and junction tightening along the Castletymon Road, Castle Lawns and Tymon Road North. The development will be on existing roads and is split into southern and northern sections approximately 0.68 km and 1.14 km in length respectively. The size of the development is not considered significant.
Considered cumulatively with other adjacent proposed developments, would the size of the proposed development be considered significant?	The size of the development is regarded as small. It will connect existing cycle lanes currently disconnected, and integrate with the upgrade and modernisation of Castletymon Shopping Centre and its environs. Residents of the area will benefit from improved and safer travel networks. The cumulative effects are projected to be largely positive once completed.
Will the proposed development utilise a significant quantity of natural resources, in particular land, soil, water or biodiversity?	A 300 m portion of new footpath will be constructed atop grass areas and No. 12 trees will be removed. The development has been designed to minimise excavation. A significant quantity of natural resources will not be used.
Will the proposed development produce a significant quantity of waste?	No. A small amount of standard construction waste for developments of this nature will be generated and disposed of at an appropriate licenced facility.
Will the proposed development create a significant amount or type of pollution?	No. The temporary air and noise pollution will occur only during the construction phase and will be mitigated against through operational plans outlined by the contractor.
Will the proposed development create a significant amount of nuisance?	No. Noise associated with machinery and excavation will be slight and short-term. Construction will be limited to specific daily hours to limit the amount of nuisance created for residents. Temporary disruptions regarding bus stops and relocated on-street car parking will occur during construction. Once completed the proposed development will not cause any ongoing nuisance to residents.

Will there be a risk of major accidents having regard to substances or technologies used?	No. The risks are standard regarding construction activities for this kind of development. Typical construction machinery will be used and operated by licensed contractors following best practice guidelines.
Will there be a risk of natural disasters which are relevant to the project, including those caused by climate change?	No. A small section of the southern part of the proposed cycle track overlaps with a Flood Zone B, however, the risk associated with this is low and the proposed development is not projected to exacerbate flooding risk in this area. Historic flooding events are not significantly close to the site. The risk of natural disasters linked to the development is low.
Will there be a risk to human health (for example due to water contamination or air pollution)?	No. Likely amounts of pollution will be confined to the construction phase and mitigated against by the contractor through best practices. The development will not be a risk to human health once completed.
Would any combination of the above factors be considered likely to have significant effects on the environment?	No. The development is of a small scale. The development will be constructed largely on existing road and does not require deep excavation. Any impacts likely to occur will be small and restricted to the construction part of the development.

Conclusion: The characteristics of the proposed development have been deemed unlikely to result in significant environmental impact.

Reasoning: The size of the proposed development is small, it will be built on existing road and will generate minimal amounts of waste. Minor excavation will be carried out and no natural resources will be required. Some nuisance will occur during construction, however, this will be mitigated against by the on-site contractor using best practice outlined in the operational plan.

5.2 Location of the Proposed Development

The following questions are answered below in Table 5.2 to determine whether the geographical location of the proposed development can be considered ecologically or environmentally sensitive.

Table 5.2: Location of the proposed development

Location of the Proposed Development - Screening Questions	Comment
Has the proposed development the potential to impact directly or indirectly on any site designated for conservation interest (e.g., SAC, SPA, pNHA)?	No. The AA Screening for the site concluded that there are no Natura 2000 sites likely to be directly or indirectly impacted by the development.
Has the proposed development the potential to impact directly or indirectly on any habitats listed as Annex I in the EU Habitats Directive?	No. The AA Screening for the site found no potential impacts on habitats listed as Annex I in the EU Habitats Directive.
Has the proposed development the potential to impact directly or indirectly on any habitats listed as Priority Annex I in the EU Habitats Directive?	No. The AA Screening for the site found no potential impacts on habitats listed as Priority Annex I in the EU Habitats Directive.
Has the proposed development the potential to impact directly or indirectly on any species listed as Annex II in the EU Habitats Directive?	No. The AA Screening for the site found no potential impacts on species listed as Annex II in the EU Habitats Directive.
Has the proposed development the potential to impact directly or indirectly on the breeding places of any species protected under the Wildlife Act?	No. The AA Screening and EcIA screening found no potential impacts on Natura 2000 sites or on breeding places of any protected species under the Wildlife Act 2000, as amended, respectively.
Has the proposed development the potential to impact directly or directly on the existing or approved land use?	No. The proposed development is in line with the approved land use under the SDCC CDP, in which the layout of the area facilitated the addition and extension of two cycle routes.
Has the proposed development the potential to significantly impact directly or indirectly the relative abundance, availability, quality or regenerative capacity of natural resources (including soil, land, water and biodiversity) in the area and its underground?	No. The proposed development will not impact the relative abundance, availability, or regenerative capacity of natural resources. Once operational, there are no potential impacts to natural resources.
Has the proposed development the potential to impact directly or indirectly on any protected structures or Recorded Monuments and Places of Archaeological Interest?	There are several National Monuments and NIAH sites in the vicinity of the proposed development, however, they are not in direct contact with areas planned for excavation. Construction activities are unlikely to cause any significant impact.
Has the proposed development the potential to impact directly or indirectly on listed or scenic views or	No.

protected landscapes as outlined in the County Development Plan?

Conclusion: The location of the proposed development is unlikely to result in significant environmental impact.

Reasoning: The location of the proposed development is on an existing road in an urban environment. The site is not proximal to any Natura 2000 sites. The Poddle River is culverted under a section of the Castletymon Road that will not be subject to any construction. Dust generated from the nearby construction works or any spilled/leaked fuel may reach the river, however, mitigation measures outlined in the EcIA will ensure that any impacts are unlikely to be significant.

5.3 Characteristics of Potential Impacts

The following questions were answered in Table 5.3, in line with Guidance on EIA Screening - June 2001, prepared for the European Commission by ERM (UK), to determine whether the environmental impacts of the development can be considered significant.

Table 5.3: Characteristics of potential impacts

Characteristics of Potential Impacts - Screening Questions	Comment
Will there be a large change in environmental conditions?	No. There will be minor changes including the removal of 12 no. trees and sections of new footpath to be laid atop green areas. Development will be largely constructed along the existing road and footpath. The environmental conditions of the area will largely remain the same.
Will new features be out of scale with the existing environment?	No. The proposed development will be in scale with the surrounding environment.
Will the effect be particularly complex?	No. Impacts will be confined to the construction phase of the development. Mitigation measures for any impacts likely to occur are outlined in the EcIA and will be included in the operational plans of the on-site contractor. These include temporary minor impacts to surface water quality, air quality, noise and vibration, waste generation and traffic disruption.
Will the effect extend over a large area?	No. Impacts will be confined to the area of the proposed development which is small in scale and involves only one stretch of road.
Will there be any potential for trans-frontier impacts?	No.
Will many people be affected?	Residents and business owners in the vicinity of the development will be impacted during the construction phase. This will be temporary and impacts on residents and business owners during the operational phase are projected to be positive.
Will many receptors of other types (fauna and flora, businesses, facilities) be affected?	There is a likely impact on fauna and flora during the construction phase due to the removal of trees. However, the tree corridor is to remain largely intact and effects on fauna and flora will be temporary during the construction phase and insignificant during the operational phase.
Will valuable or scarce features or resources be affected?	No. There will be no effect on valuable or scarce features or resources.
Is there a risk that environmental standards will be breached?	No. The designated contractor will be contractually obligated to abide by environmental standards and appropriate mitigation measures that will be outlined in the operational plans.
Is there a risk that protected sites, areas, features will be affected?	No.
Is there a high probability of the effect occurring?	No.

Will the effect continue for a long time?	No. The likely impacts to occur will be minimal and temporary, restricted to the construction phase which is projected to last 9 – 12 months.
Will the effect be permanent rather than temporary?	No. Any likely impacts will be during the construction phase and therefore temporary.
Will the impact be continuous rather than intermittent?	No. Potential impacts would be intermittent.
If it is intermittent will it be frequent rather than rare?	No. Any impacts likely to occur would be due to a breach in environmental best practices or a failure to implement mitigation measures during the construction phase.
Will the impacts be irreversible?	No.
Will it be difficult to avoid, or reduce or repair or compensate for the effect?	No. Mitigation measures outlined in the EcIA and operational plans will be sufficient to avoid or reduce potential impacts.

Conclusions: The characteristics of the potential impacts are unlikely to result in significant environmental impacts.

Reasoning: The potential impacts from this development will be largely restricted to the construction phase. Any likely impacts are considered to be minor and can be mitigated against. Potential impacts are unlikely to occur during the operational phase.

6 Conclusions and Recommendations

The purpose of this report was to identify if there is a need under the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, for an EIAR for the proposed Castletymon Active Travel Scheme.

The project was not found to fall under Parts 1 or 2 of Schedule 5 of the Act and therefore an EIAR has not been automatically triggered. To determine whether the project is of the sub-threshold category with potential to give rise to significant environmental impact, this screening was undertaken.

During construction, typical impacts of noise, dust, traffic disruption and some waste generation are expected. These are standard construction impacts which will be mitigated against to minimise impact through environmental best practices outlined in the operational plans of the contractor.

An AA Screening Report was completed by JBA for the proposed development and found no likely significant effect are to be expected as a result of the construction or operational phases of the project. This is largely due to the small size of the development and direct and indirect proximity to Natura 2000 sites.

An EcIA Report was completed by JBA consulting, and found that with appropriate mitigation measures to be put in place by the contractor, no significant impacts on ecology will occur during the construction or operational phases of the development.

Once operational, the proposed development will have a slight, short-term negative environmental impact during tree maturation, thereafter becoming negligible once trees have matured. The project will provide a link between existing cycle tracks on Greenhills Road and Tymon Lane which will improve the travel amenities in the area. These outcomes are in line with the SDCC CDP.

Based on the information provided it has been concluded that the proposed development does not fall under the category of sub-threshold developments and therefore an EIAR will not be required.

Should the size, nature or construction methods of the project change this EIA Screening assessment should be reviewed and repeated if necessary.

7 References

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determination that an Environmental Impact Assessment Report will not be required for the proposed Castletymon Road Active Travel Scheme.

Date: 24/11/23

Senior Planner

To whom the appropriate powers have been delegated by order number DELG (10123) of the Chief Executive of South Dublin County Council.