

Report for the purposes of Appropriate Assessment Screening

as required under Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive
(Council Directive 92/43/EEC)

Griffeen Community College

Prepared by: Moore Group – Environmental Services

28 May 2021



On behalf of
Department of Education and Skills
& South Dublin County Council

Project Proponent	Department of Education and Skills
Project	Griffeen Community College
Title	Report for the purposes of Appropriate Assessment Screening Griffeen Community College

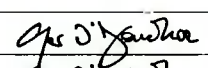
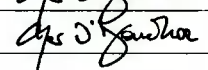
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Appendix A – Finding of No Significant Effects Report

Abbreviations

AA	Appropriate Assessment
EEC	European Economic Community
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
EU	European Union
GIS	Geographical Information System
LAP	Local Area Plan
NHA	Natural Heritage Area
NIS	Natura Impact Statement
NPWS	National Parks and Wildlife Service
OSI	Ordnance Survey Ireland
pNHA	proposed Natural Heritage Area
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SPA	Special Protection Area
SuDS	Sustainable Drainage System
WFD	Water Framework Directive

1. Introduction

1.1. General Introduction

This report for the purposes of Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening has been prepared to support a Planning Application for the Proposed Development (described in Section 3 below). This report contains information required for the competent authority to undertake screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA) on the potential construction and operation of a 3-storey school at Griffeen Avenue., Lucan South, Co. Dublin (hereafter referred to as the Proposed Development) to significantly affect European sites.

Screening is the process that addresses the first two tests of Article 6(3) of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (as amended) (referred to as the Habitats Directive):

- I). whether a plan or project is directly connected to or necessary for the management of the site, and
- II). whether a plan or project, alone or in combination with other plans and projects, is likely to have significant effects on a Natura 2000 site in view of its conservation objectives.

Having regard to the provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (section 177U and 177V), the purpose of a screening exercise under section 177U of the PDA 2000 is to assess, in view of best scientific knowledge, if the proposed development, individually or in combination with another plan or project is likely to have a significant effect on a European site.

If it cannot be *excluded* on the basis of objective information that the proposed development, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will have a significant effect on a European site then it is necessary to carry out a Stage 2 appropriate assessment.

When screening the project, there are two possible outcomes:

- the project poses no risk of a significant effect and as such requires no further assessment; and
- the project has potential to have a significant effect (or this is uncertain) and AA of the project is necessary.

This report has been prepared by Moore Group - Environmental Services to support an application for planning permission for the Proposed Development to allow South Dublin County Council to carry out AA screening in relation to the Proposed Development. The report was compiled by Ger O'Donohoe (B.Sc. Applied Aquatic Sciences (GMIT, 1993) & M.Sc. Environmental Sciences (TCD, 1999)) who has 25 years' experience in environmental impact assessment and has completed numerous Appropriate Assessment Screening Reports and Natura Impact Statements on terrestrial and aquatic habitats for various development types.

1.2. Legislative Background - The Habitats and Birds Directives

It is necessary that the Proposed Development has regard to Article 6 of the Habitats Directive. This is transposed into Irish Law by the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011 to 2015 (referred to as the Habitats Regulations). The Planning and Development Act 2000 (section 177U and 177V) govern the requirement to carry out appropriate assessment per Section 1.1 above.

The Habitats Directive is the main legislative instrument for the protection and conservation of biodiversity in the European Union (EU). Under the Habitats Directive, Member States are obliged to designate Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) which contain habitats or species considered important for protection and conservation in a EU context.

The Birds Directive (Council Directive 2009/147/EC on the Conservation of Wild Birds), transposed into Irish law by the Habitats Regulations 2011, is concerned with the long-term protection and management of all wild bird species and their habitats in the EU. Among other things, the Birds Directive requires that Special Protection Areas (SPAs) be established to protect migratory species and species which are rare, vulnerable, in danger of extinction, or otherwise require special attention.

SACs designated under the Habitats Directive and SPAs, designated under the Birds Directive, form a pan-European network of protected sites known as Natura 2000. The Habitats Directive sets out a unified system for the protection and management of SACs and SPAs. These sites are also referred to as European sites.

Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive set out the requirement for an assessment of proposed plans and projects likely to affect Natura 2000 sites.

Article 6(3) establishes the requirement to screen all plans and projects and to carry out a further assessment if required (Appropriate Assessment (AA)). Article 6(4) establishes requirements in cases of imperative reasons of overriding public interest:

Article 6(3): *“Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subjected to an appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site’s conservation objectives. In light of the conclusions of the assessment of the 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): *“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, Member States shall take all*

compensatory measures necessary to ensure that the overall coherence of the Natura 2000 is protected. It shall inform the Commission of the compensatory measures adopted. Where the site concerned hosts a priority natural habitat type and/or a priority species the only considerations which may be raised are those relating to human health or public safety, to the beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment or, further to an opinion from the Commission, to other imperative reasons of overriding public interest.”

2. Methodology

The Commission’s methodological guidance (EC, 2002 & 2018, see Section 2.1 below) promotes a four-stage process to complete the AA and outlines the issues and tests at each stage. An important aspect of the process is that the outcome at each successive stage determines whether a further stage in the process is required.

Stages 1 and 2 deal with the main requirements for assessment under Article 6(3). Stage 3 may be part of Article 6(3) or may be a necessary precursor to Stage 4. Stage 4 is the main derogation step of Article 6(4).

Stage 1 Screening: This stage examines the likely effects of a project either alone or in combination with other projects upon a Natura 2000 site and considers whether it can be objectively concluded that these effects will not be significant. In order to screen out a project, it must be excluded, on the basis of objective information, that the Proposed Development, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will have a significant effect on a European site.

Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment: In this stage, there is a consideration of the impact of the project with a view to ascertain whether there will be any adverse effect on the integrity of the Natura 2000 site either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, with respect to the site’s structure and function and its conservation objectives. Additionally, where there are predicted impacts, an assessment of the potential mitigation of those impacts is considered.

Stage 3 Assessment of Alternative Solutions: This stage examines alternative ways of implementing the project that, where possible, avoid any adverse impacts on the integrity of the Natura 2000 site.

Stage 4 Assessment where no alternative solutions exist and where adverse impacts remain: Where imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI) exist, an assessment to consider whether compensatory measures will or will not effectively offset the damage to the sites will be necessary.

To ensure that the Proposed Development complies fully with the requirements of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive and all relevant Irish transposing legislation, Moore Group compiled this report to support an application for planning permission for the Proposed Development to allow South Dublin County Council to carry out AA screening in relation to the Proposed Development to determine whether the Proposed Development, individually or in combination with another plan or project will have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site.

2.1. Guidance

This report has been compiled in accordance with guidance contained in the following documents:

- Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland - Guidance for Planning Authorities. (Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2010 rev.).
- Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive: Guidance for Planning Authorities. Circular NPWS 1/10 & PSSP 2/10.
- Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly Affecting Natura 2000 sites: Methodological Guidance on the Provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (European Commission Environment Directorate-General, 2001); hereafter referred to as the EC Article Guidance Document.
- Managing Natura 2000 Sites: The Provisions of Article 6 of the Habitat's Directive 92/43/EEC (EC Environment Directorate-General, 2000); hereafter referred to as MN2000.
- Managing Natura 2000 Sites: The Provisions of Article 6 of the Habitat's Directive 92/43/EEC (EC, 2018).
- OPR Practice Note PN01 Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management (OPR, 2021).

2.2. Data Sources

Sources of information that were used to collect data on the Natura 2000 network of sites, and the environment within which they are located, are listed below:

- The following mapping and Geographical Information Systems (GIS) data sources, as required:
 - National Parks & Wildlife (NPWS) protected site boundary data;
 - Ordnance Survey of Ireland (OSI) mapping and aerial photography;
 - OSI/Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) rivers and streams, and catchments;
 - Open Street Maps;
 - Digital Elevation Model over Europe (EU-DEM);
 - Google Earth and Bing aerial photography 1995-2021;
- Online data available on Natura 2000 sites as held by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) from www.npws.ie including:
 - Natura 2000 - Standard Data Form;
 - Conservation Objectives;
 - Site Synopses;
- National Biodiversity Data Centre records;
 - Online database of rare, threatened and protected species;
 - Publicly accessible biodiversity datasets.
- Status of EU Protected Habitats in Ireland. (National Parks & Wildlife Service, 2019); and
- Relevant Development Plans;
 - South Dublin County Development Plan 2016-2022

- Draft South Dublin County Development Plan 2022-2028

3. Description of the Proposed Development

The development consists of the provision of a 3 storey, 1,000 No. pupil Post Primary School (roll no. 764545), including a 4 No. classroom Special Educational Needs Unit, with a gross floor area of 11,443sq.m, including a sports hall and all ancillary teacher and pupil facilities. The development will also include the provision of bicycle parking; staff parking; vehicle drop off/setdown areas; internal access roads; hard and soft play areas, piped infrastructure and ducting; plant; landscaping and boundary treatments; PV panels; external courtyards; disabled car parking spaces; ESB substation, ramps and stairs; signage; changes in level and all associated site development and excavation works above and below ground. The proposed development is located within the Clonburris Strategic Development Zone Planning Scheme 2019 area.

Figure 1 shows the Proposed Development location and Figure 2 shows a detailed view of the Proposed Development boundary on recent aerial photography. Figure 3 shows the layout of the Proposed Development.



Figure 2. Showing the Proposed Development boundary on recent aerial photography.



Figure 3. Plan of the Proposed Development.

4. Identification of Natura 2000 Sites

4.1. Description of Natura Sites Potentially Affected

The Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government (previously DoEHLG)'s Guidance on Appropriate Assessment (2009) recommends an assessment of European sites within a Zone of Influence (Zol) of 15km. This distance is a guidance only and a zone of influence of a proposed development is the geographical area over which it could affect the receiving environment in a way that could have significant effects on the Qualifying Interests of a European site. This should be established on a case-by-case basis using the Source- Pathway- Receptor framework and not by arbitrary distances (such as 15 km).

The Zone of Influence may be determined by connectivity to the Proposed Development in terms of:

- Nature, scale, timing and duration of works and possible impacts, nature and size of excavations, storage of materials, flat/sloping sites;
- Distance and nature of pathways (dilution and dispersion; intervening 'buffer' lands, roads etc.); and
- Sensitivity and location of ecological features.

The potential for source pathway receptor connectivity is firstly identified and detailed information is then provided on sites with connectivity. European sites that are located within 15km of the Proposed Development are listed in Table 1 and presented in Figures 4 and 5, below. Spatial boundary data on the Natura 2000 network was extracted from the NPWS website (www.npws.ie) on the 28 May 2021.

Table 1 European Sites located within 15km or the potential Zone of Influence¹ of the Proposed Development.

Site Code	Site name	Distance (km) ²
000210	South Dublin Bay SAC	14.36
001209	Glenasmole Valley SAC	9.76
001398	Rye Water Valley/Carlton SAC	4.63
002122	Wicklow Mountains SAC	11.74
004024	South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA	13.46
004040	Wicklow Mountains SPA	14.08

The Project is located on a greenfield site at Lucan. The closest European site is the Rye Water Valley/Carlton SAC (Site Code 001398) which is located approximately 4.6km to the north. There is no connectivity with this site or

¹ All European sites potentially connected irrespective of the nature or scale of the Proposed Development.

² Distances indicated are the closest geographical distance between the Proposed Development and the European site boundary, as made available by the NPWS. Connectivity along hydrological pathways may be significantly greater.

with the Glenasmole Valley SAC or Wicklow Mountains SAC to the south and they are excluded from the assessment at this stage.

There is tentative connectivity to Dublin Bay via municipal sewer. However, all wastewater from the proposed development will be appropriately treated prior to discharge to Dublin Bay and therefore potential effects on European sites in Dublin can be excluded. The Qualifying Interests (QIs) and Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) of the European sites in the vicinity of the Proposed Development are provided in Table 2 below.

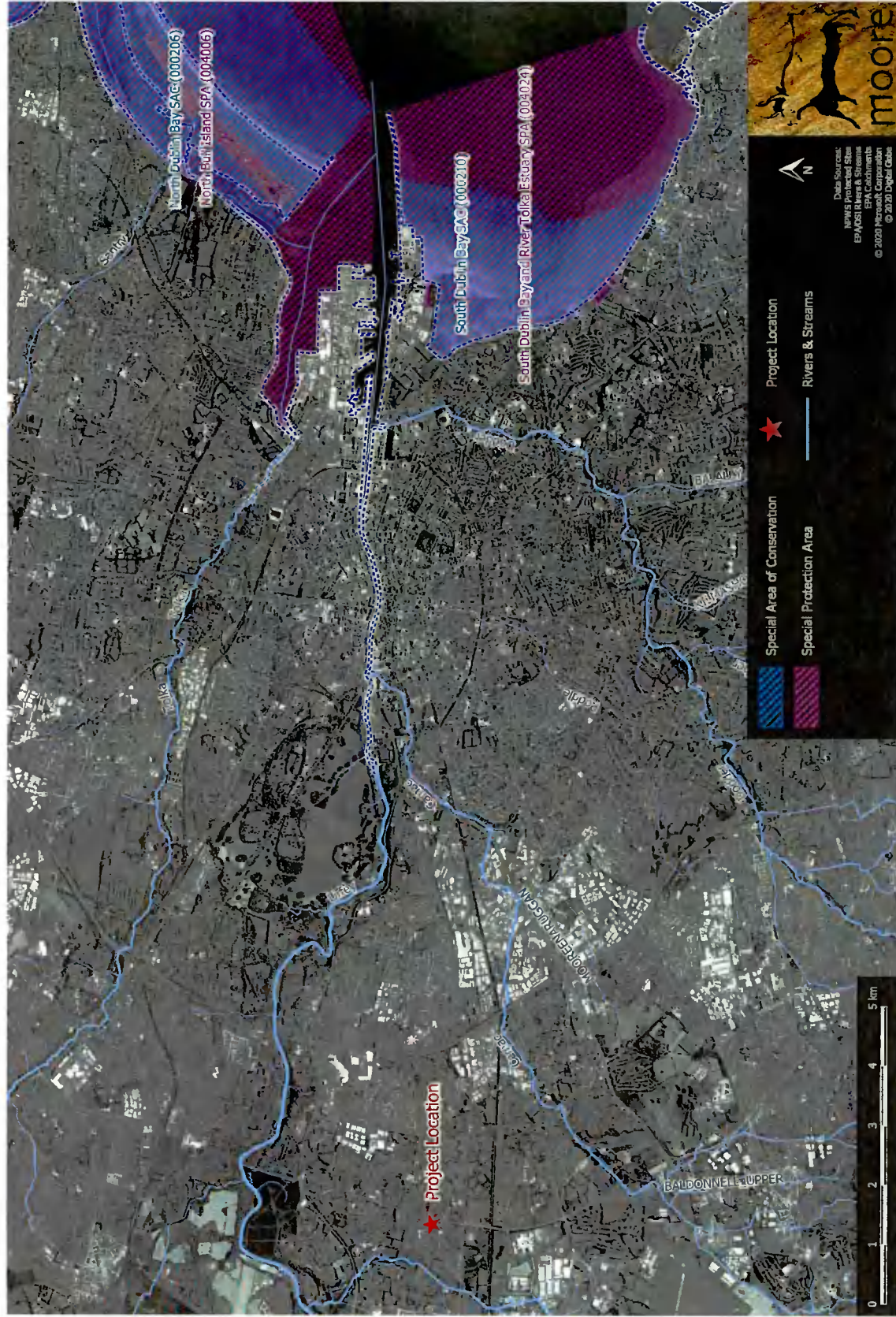


Figure 5. Detailed view of European sites in the vicinity of the Proposed Development.

Table 2 Identification of relevant European sites using Source-Pathway-Receptor model and compilation of information QIs and conservation objectives.

European site name & Site code	Location Relative to the Proposed Development Site	Connectivity – Source-Pathway-Receptor	Considered further in Screening – Y/N
<p>South Dublin Bay SAC (000210)</p> <p>Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]</p> <p>NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives: South Dublin Bay SAC 000210. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.</p>	<p>14.36km to the east of the Proposed Development</p>	<p>No</p> <p>There are no pathways or connectivity to the habitats of this site.</p>	<p>N</p>
<p>Glenasmole Valley SAC (001209)</p> <p>3 Qualifying Interests</p> <p>Including the Priority Habitat - Semi-natural dry grasslands</p> <p>NPWS (2021) Conservation objectives for Glenasmole Valley SAC [001209]. Generic Version 8.0. Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.</p>	<p>9.76km to the south of the Proposed Development</p>	<p>No</p> <p>There are no pathways or connectivity to the habitats of this site.</p>	<p>N</p>
<p>Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC (001398)</p> <p>3 Qualifying Interests</p> <p>Including the Priority Habitat – [7220] Petrifying springs</p> <p>NPWS (2021) Conservation objectives for Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC [001398]. Generic Version 8.0. Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage</p>	<p>4.63km to the north-west of the Proposed Development</p>	<p>No</p> <p>There are no pathways or connectivity to the habitats or species of this site.</p>	<p>N</p>
<p>Wicklow Mountains SAC (004080)</p> <p>14 Qualifying Interests</p> <p>Including Priority Habitat: [6230] Species-rich <i>Nardus</i> grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe) [7130] Blanket bogs (* if active bog)</p> <p>NPWS (2017) Conservation Objectives: Wicklow Mountains SAC 002122. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.</p>	<p>11.74km to the south-east of the Proposed Development</p>	<p>No</p> <p>There are no pathways or connectivity to the habitats or species of this site.</p>	<p>N</p>
<p>South Dublin and River Tolka Estuary SPA (004024)</p>	<p>13.46km to the east of</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>N</p>

European site name & Site code	Location Relative to the Proposed Development Site	Connectivity – Source-Pathway-Receptor	Considered further in Screening – Y/N
14 SCI's NPWS (2015) Conservation Objectives: South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA 004024. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.	the Proposed Development	Due to distance and the lack of any relevant ex-situ factors of significance to these species or habitat.	
Wicklow Mountains SPA (004232) [A098] Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>) [A103] Peregrine (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>) NPWS (2021) Conservation objectives for Wicklow Mountains SPA [004040]. Generic Version 8.0. Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.	14.08km to the south-east of the Proposed Development	No Due to distance and the lack of any relevant ex-situ factors of significance to these species or habitat.	N

4.2. Ecological Network Supporting Natura 2000 Sites

An analysis of the proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHA) and designated Natural Heritage Areas (NHA) in terms of their role in supporting the species using Natura 2000 sites was undertaken. It was assumed that these supporting roles mainly related to mobile fauna such as mammals and birds which may use pNHAs and NHAs as “stepping stones” between Natura 2000 sites.

Article 10 of the Habitats Directive and the Habitats Regulations 2011 place a high degree of importance on such non-Natura 2000 areas as features that connect the Natura 2000 network. Features such as ponds, woodlands and important hedgerows were taken into account during the preparation of this AA Screening report .

There are no other areas of conservation concern that would be affected by the Proposed Development.

The NHAs and pNHAs identified in Figure 4 are located outside the Zone of Influence. There are no areas of supporting habitat that will be affected by the Proposed Development.

5. Identification of Potential Impacts & Assessment of Significance

The Proposed Development is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the sites considered in the assessment and therefore potential impacts must be identified and considered.

5.1. Assessment of Likely Significant Effects

The Proposed Development is located within the hydrological catchment of the Griffeen River, approximately 767m to the east of the River and in the suburbs of Dublin city. A review of aerial photography, Ordnance Survey Ireland (OSI) mapping and OSI Geographical Information System (GIS) data for rivers and streams indicates that there are no notable surface water features onsite and no direct hydrological pathways to offsite surface water bodies.

There is tentative connectivity to Dublin Bay via municipal sewer. However, all wastewater from the proposed development will be appropriately treated prior to discharge to Dublin Bay and therefore potential effects on European sites in Dublin can be excluded.

The consideration of all potential direct and indirect impacts that may result in significant effects on the conservation objectives of a European site, taking into account the size and scale of the Proposed Development are presented in Table 3.

Table 3 Assessment of Likely Significant Effects.

Identification of all potential direct and indirect impacts that may result in significant effects on the conservation objectives of a European site, taking into account the size and scale of the project.	
Impacts:	Significance of Impacts:
Construction phase e.g. Vegetation clearance Demolition Surface water runoff from soil excavation/infill/landscaping (including borrow pits) Dust, noise, vibration Lighting disturbance Impact on groundwater/dewatering Storage of excavated/construction materials Access to site Pests	The Proposed Development site is located in a greenfield area of west Dublin with no hydrological connectivity to the wider environment.

<p>Operational phase e.g.</p> <p>Direct emission to air and water</p> <p>Surface water runoff containing contaminant or sediment</p> <p>Lighting disturbance</p> <p>Noise/vibration</p> <p>Changes to water/groundwater due to drainage or abstraction</p> <p>Presence of people, vehicles and activities</p> <p>Physical presence of structures (e.g. collision risks)</p> <p>Potential for accidents or incidents</p>	<p>All foul and surface water runoff, once the school is operational, will be contained on site and discharged to urban drainage systems.</p> <p>There is no real likelihood of any significant effects on European Sites in the wider catchment area.</p> <p>The school is located at a distance of removal such that there will be no disturbance to qualifying interest species in any European sites.</p>
<p>In-combination/Other</p>	<p>No likely significant in-combination effects are identified.</p>
<p>Describe any likely changes to the European site:</p>	
<p>Examples of the type of changes to give consideration to include:</p> <p>Reduction or fragmentation of habitat area</p> <p>Disturbance to QI species</p> <p>Habitat or species fragmentation</p> <p>Reduction or fragmentation in species density</p> <p>Changes in key indicators of conservation status value (water quality etc.)</p> <p>Changes to areas of sensitivity or threats to QI</p> <p>Interference with the key relationships that define the structure or ecological function of the site</p> <p>Climate change</p>	<p>None.</p> <p>The Proposed Development site is not located adjacent or within a European site, therefore there is no risk of habitat loss or fragmentation or any effects on QI habitats or species directly or ex-situ.</p> <p>It can be noted that the level of development recorded during fieldwork and distance from the coastal SPAs do not present opportunities to support the bird species for which the Dublin Bay SPAs are designated.</p>
<p>Are 'mitigation' measures necessary to reach a conclusion that likely significant effects can be ruled out at screening?</p>	
<p>No</p>	<p>While best practice construction methods may be employed for the local environment these are not</p>

	required to avoid or reduce any effects on a European site. These measures are not relied upon to reach a conclusion of no likely significant effects on any European site.
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On the basis of the information supplied, which is considered adequate to undertake a screening determination and having regard to:

- the nature and scale of the proposed development,
- the intervening land uses and distance from European sites,
- the lack of direct connections with regard to the Source-Pathway-Receptor model,

It may be concluded that the proposed development, individually or in-combination with other plans or projects, would not be likely to have a significant effect on the above listed European sites or any other European site, in view of the said sites' conservation objectives.

5.2. Assessment of Potential In-Combination Effects

In-combination effects are changes in the environment that result from numerous human-induced, small-scale alterations. In-combination effects can be thought of as occurring through two main pathways: first, through persistent additions or losses of the same materials or resource, and second, through the compounding effects as a result of the coming together of two or more effects.

As part of the Screening for an Appropriate Assessment, in addition to the Proposed Development, other relevant plans and projects in the area must also be considered at this stage. This step aims to identify at this early stage any possible significant in-combination effects of the Proposed Development with other such plans and projects on European sites.

A review of the National Planning Application Database was undertaken. The first stage of this review confirmed that there were no data outages in the area where the Proposed Development is located. The database was then queried for developments granted planning permission within 500m of the Proposed Development within the last three years.

There are 30 applications relating to small scale and building alterations. There are no predicted in-combination effects given the enclosed nature and location of the proposed works.

The South Dublin County Development Plan in complying with the requirements of the Habitats Directive requires that all Projects and Plans that could affect the Natura 2000 sites in the same zone of impact of the Project site would be initially screened for Appropriate Assessment and if requiring Stage 2 AA, that appropriate employable mitigation measures would be put in place to avoid, reduce or ameliorate negative impacts. In this

way, in-combination impacts with Plans or Projects for the development area and surrounding townlands in which the development site is located, would be avoided.

Any new applications for the Project area will be initially assessed on a case by case basis by South Dublin County Council which will determine the requirement for AA Screening as per the requirements of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive.

6. Conclusion

There is no connectivity to any European sites within or outside the guideline 15km zone of potential influence.

There are no predicted effects on any European sites given:

- The distance between the Proposed Development and any European Sites;
- The lack of connectivity between the Proposed Development and any hydrological pathways;
- The Proposed Development is to be connected to the existing public sewer network for the treatment of wastewater;
- There are no predicted emissions to air, water or the environment during the construction or operational phases that would result in significant effects.

It has been objectively concluded by Moore Group Environmental Services that:

1. The Proposed Development is not directly connected with, or necessary to the conservation management of the European sites considered in this assessment.
2. The Proposed Development is unlikely to either directly or indirectly significantly affect the Qualifying interests or Conservation Objectives of the European sites considered in this assessment.
3. The Proposed Development, alone or in combination with other projects, is not likely to have significant effects on the European sites considered in this assessment in view of their conservation objectives.
4. It is possible to conclude that significant effects can be excluded at the screening stage.

It can be *excluded*, on the basis of objective information, that the Proposed Development, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will have a significant effect on a European site.

An appropriate assessment is not, therefore, required.

A finding of no significant effects report is presented in Appendix A in accordance with the EU Commission's methodological guidance (European Commission, 2002).

7. References

Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (2010) Guidance on Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland (as amended February 2010).

European Commission (2000) Managing Natura 2000 sites: the provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC.

European Commission Environment DG (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. European Commission, Brussels.

European Commission (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 interests, compensatory measures, overall coherence and opinion of the Commission. European Commission, Brussels.

European Commission (2018) Managing Natura 2000 sites: the provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC.

NPWS (2019) The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Dublin.

NPWS (2021) National Parks and Wildlife Service Metadata available online at <https://www.npws.ie/maps-and-data>

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

Appendix A

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS REPORT

Finding no significant effects report matrix

Name of project or plan

Griffeen Community College

Name and location of the Natura 2000 site(s)

The closest European site is the Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC (Site Code 001398) which is located approximately 4.6km to the north. There is no connectivity with this site or with the Glenasmole Valley SAC or Wicklow Mountains SAC to the south and they are excluded from the assessment at this stage.

There is tentative connectivity to Dublin Bay via municipal sewer. However, all wastewater from the proposed development will be appropriately treated prior to discharge to Dublin Bay and therefore potential effects on European sites in Dublin can be excluded. There is no connectivity to any European sites within or outside the guideline 15km zone of potential impact.

Description of the project or plan

The development consists of the provision of a 3 storey, 1,000 No. pupil Post Primary School (roll no. 76454S), including a 4 No. classroom Special Educational Needs Unit, with a gross floor area of 11,443sq.m, including a sports hall and all ancillary teacher and pupil facilities. The development will also include the provision of bicycle parking; staff parking; vehicle drop off/setdown areas; internal access roads; hard and soft play areas, piped infrastructure and ducting; plant; landscaping and boundary treatments; PV panels; external courtyards; disabled car parking spaces; ESB substation, ramps and stairs; signage; changes in level and all associated site development and excavation works above and below ground.

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

No

Are there other projects or plans that together with the projects or plan being assessed could affect the site

A review of the National Planning Application Database was undertaken. The first stage of this review confirmed that there were no data outages in the area where the Proposed Development is located. The database was then queried for developments granted planning permission within 500m of the Proposed Development within the last three years.

There are 30 applications relating to small scale and building alterations. There are no predicted in-combination effects given the enclosed nature and location of the proposed works.

The South Dublin County Development Plan in complying with the requirements of the Habitats Directive requires that all Projects and Plans that could affect the Natura 2000 sites in the same zone of impact of the Project site would be initially screened for Appropriate Assessment and if requiring Stage 2 AA, that appropriate employable mitigation measures would be put in place to avoid, reduce or ameliorate negative impacts. In this way, in-combination impacts with Plans or Projects for the development area and surrounding townlands in which the development site is located, would be avoided.

Any new applications for the Project area will be initially assessed on a case by case basis by South Dublin County Council which will determine the requirement for AA Screening as per the requirements of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive.

THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS

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

A review of aerial photography, Ordnance Survey Ireland (OSI) mapping and OSI Geographical Information System (GIS) data for rivers and streams indicates that there are no watercourses in the vicinity of the Proposed Development site.

There is no connectivity to any European sites within or outside the guideline 15km zone of potential impact.

Explain why these effects are not considered significant.

There are no predicted effects on any European sites given:

There are no predicted effects on any European sites given:

- The distance between the Proposed Development and any European Sites;
- The lack of connectivity between the Proposed Development and any hydrological pathways;
- The Proposed Development is to be connected to the existing public sewer network for the treatment of wastewater;
- There are no predicted emissions to air, water or the environment during the construction or operational phases that would result in significant effects.

List of agencies consulted: provide contact name and telephone or e-mail address

N/A.

Response to consultation

N/A.

DATA COLLECTED TO CARRY OUT THE ASSESSMENT

Who carried out the assessment

Moore Group Environmental Services.

Sources of data

NPWS database of designated sites at www.npws.ie

National Biodiversity Data Centre database <http://maps.biodiversityireland.ie>

Level of assessment completed

Desktop Assessment. Fieldwork was carried out as part of the EIA process.

Where can the full results of the assessment be accessed and viewed

South Dublin County Council Planning web portal.

OVERALL CONCLUSIONS

There is no connectivity to any European sites within or outside the guideline 15km zone of potential impact.

There are no predicted effects on any European sites given:

- The distance between the Proposed Development and any European Sites;
- The lack of connectivity between the Proposed Development and any hydrological pathways;
- The Proposed Development is to be connected to the existing public sewer network for the treatment of wastewater;
- There are no predicted emissions to air, water or the environment during the construction or operational phases that would result in significant effects.

It has been objectively concluded by Moore Group Environmental Services that:

1. The Proposed Development is not directly connected with, or necessary to the conservation management of the European sites considered in this assessment.
2. The Proposed Development is unlikely to either directly or indirectly significantly affect the Qualifying interests or Conservation Objectives of the European sites considered in this assessment.
3. The Proposed Development, alone or in combination with other projects, is not likely to have significant effects on the European sites considered in this assessment in view of their conservation objectives.
4. It is possible to conclude that significant effects can be excluded at the screening stage.

It can be *excluded*, on the basis of objective information, that the Proposed Development, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will have a significant effect on a European site.

An appropriate assessment is not, therefore, required.