

APPENDIX 1: SCREENING ASSESSMENT

1.0 OVERVIEW

The Natura 2000 sites and environmental effects under consideration are shown in the table below. This table presents the screening steps used to identify whether significant effects or impacts are likely to arise from the proposed development. The table demonstrates that no further environmental reports or investigations are required. In addition, strict controls will be put in place locally to contain any silt or run off from the construction works.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA	RESPONSE	REFERENCE SOURCE
Site Characteristics		
Site name	Mountain Park	
Co-Ordinates (ITM)	E: 709461, N: 727330	
Receptors		
Sensitive Receptors	Yes (School, 35m)	OS Map, Google Earth, Google Streetview
Flora & Fauna		
Nature Reserve (<1km*)	No	www.npws.ie
Ramsar Sites (<1km*)	No	www.ramsar.wetlands.org
National Heritage Area (<1km*)	No	www.npws.ie www.myplan.ie
Special Area of Conservation	No	www.npws.ie www.myplan.ie
Special Protection Area	No	www.npws.ie www.myplan.ie
Appropriate Assessment (AA) Required at this stage	No	
Further Field Surveys Required	No	
Water		
Proximity (<250m from water**)	Yes (Whitestown Stream, 160m)	http://gis.epa.ie OSi Mapping
River Crossings	No	
Archaeology & Material Assets		
Record of Monuments & Places (<250m to RMP Site)	No	http://www.archaeology.ie www.myplan.ie
Air, Noise & Traffic		
Emissions	Safety relief venting	

* Given the nature, size and location of the proposed plan, a 'zone of impact' radius of 1km is deemed more than adequate.

** Given that proposed plan does not involve any effect or extra loading on waste water, water systems or erosion of habitats, a radius of 250m is deemed sufficient.

1.1 Findings Summary

The proposed development/excavation site is not located within, or adjacent to any Natura 2000 site, nor does it require any resources from them. There will be no direct or indirect habitat loss/deterioration or impact on key fauna species within Natura 2000 sites as a result of the proposed works.

2.0 NATURA 2000 SITE SUMMARY

Natura 2000 Site	Summary & Conservation Objectives	Distance to Overall Excavation Area
Glenasmole Valley SAC (001209)	<p>The site is a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) selected for the following habitats and/or species listed on Annex I / II of the E.U. Habitats Directive:</p> <p>Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (* important orchid sites) [6210]</p> <p>Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae) [6410]</p> <p>Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220]</p>	3.0km
Wicklow Mountains SAC (002122)	<p>The site is a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) selected for the following habitats and/or species listed on Annex I / II of the E.U. Habitats Directive:</p> <p>Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (Littorelletalia uniflorae) [3110]</p> <p>Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160]</p> <p>Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix [4010]</p> <p>European dry heaths [4030]</p> <p>Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060]</p> <p>Calaminarian grasslands of the Violetalia calaminariae [6130]</p> <p>Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe) [6230]</p> <p>Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130]</p> <p>Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (Androsacetalia alpinae and Galeopsietalia ladani) [8110]</p> <p>Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8210]</p> <p>Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220]</p> <p>Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0]</p> <p>Lutra lutra (Otter) [1355]</p>	6.1km

<p>South Dublin Bay SAC (000210)</p>	<p>The site is a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) selected for the following habitats and/or species listed on Annex I / II of the E.U. Habitats Directive:</p> <p>Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]</p> <p>Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210]</p> <p>Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310]</p> <p>Embryonic shifting dunes [2110]</p>	<p>10.8km</p>
<p>South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA (004024)</p>	<p>The site is a Special Protection Area (SPA) under the E.U. Birds Directive, of special conservation interest for the following species:</p> <p>Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046]</p> <p>Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130]</p> <p>Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137]</p> <p>Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141]</p> <p>Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143]</p> <p>Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144]</p> <p>Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149]</p> <p>Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157]</p> <p>Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162]</p> <p>Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179]</p> <p>Roseate Tern (<i>Sterna dougallii</i>) [A192]</p> <p>Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193]</p> <p>Arctic Tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) [A194]</p> <p>Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]</p>	<p>10.8km</p>
<p>Red Bog, Kildare SAC (000397)</p>	<p>The site is a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) selected for the following habitats and/or species listed on Annex I / II of the E.U. Habitats Directive:</p> <p>Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140]</p>	<p>15.1km</p>

Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA (004063)	The site is a Special Protection Area (SPA) under the E.U. Birds Directive, of special conservation interest for the following species: Greylag Goose (Anser anser) [A043] Lesser Black-backed Gull (Larus fuscus) [A183]	14.3km
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3.0 POTENTIAL IMPACT OF PROJECT ELEMENTS ON THE NATURA 2000 SITES

The proposed development/excavation site is not located within, or adjacent to any Natura 2000 site, nor does it require any resources from them. There will therefore be no direct habitat loss from any Natura 2000 site as a result of the proposed gasworks.

Indirect habitat loss or deterioration of Natura 2000 sites within the surrounding landscape can occur from the effects of run-off or discharge into the aquatic environment through impacts such as increased siltation, nutrient release and/or contamination. This requires connectivity between the excavation area and the Natura 2000 sites in question through watercourses and/or drainage.

No waste water will be directly or indirectly discharged into nearby waterways as a result of the proposed works. An increase in run-off/sedimentation into any watercourses as a result of the proposed excavation work is deemed very unlikely due to the small scale of the excavation area, the brief duration of the construction period and the presence of existing buildings and roads (with associated drainage) between the work site and the watercourses.

Furthermore, there will be no disturbance or displacement of fauna within Natura 2000 sites as a result of the proposed development.

In summary, there will be no direct or indirect habitat loss/deterioration or impact on key fauna species within Natura 2000 sites as a result of the proposed works.

4.0 LIKELY IMPACTS OF THE PROJECT ON THE NATURA 2000 SITES

With reference to Section 2, it is deemed unlikely that the proposed project will significantly impact on the Natura 2000 sites with the following criteria taken into consideration.

Criteria	Impact
Size, Scale and Land-take	Not Applicable
Distance from or Key Features of the Natura 2000 Sites	Not Applicable
Resource Requirements	Not Applicable
Excavation Requirements	Not Applicable
Emission (disposal to land, water or air)	Not Applicable
Transportation Requirements	Not Applicable
Duration of Operations	Not Applicable

Cumulative and in-combination Effects

As outlined above, the proposed development will not have any significant impact on the Natura 2000 sites under consideration here. Therefore, cumulative and in-combination effects are not of concern in this case.

5.0 LIKELY CHANGES TO THE NATURA 2000 SITES

As outlined in Section 4 above, it is deemed unlikely that the proposed project will significantly impact on the Natura 2000 sites under consideration here with the following criteria taken into consideration.

Changes - Criteria	Impact
Reduction of Habitat Area	Not Applicable
Disturbance to Key Species	Not Applicable
Habitat or Species Fragmentation	Not Applicable
Reduction in Species Density	Not Applicable
Changes in Key Indicators of Conservation Value (water quality etc.)	Not Applicable

5.1 Likely Impacts on the Natura 2000 Sites as a Whole

As outlined in Section 4 above, it is deemed unlikely that the proposed project will significantly impact on the Natura 2000 sites under consideration here.

Impact (Whole) – Criteria	Impact
Interference with the Key Relationships that Define the Structure of the Natura 2000 Sites	Not Applicable
Interference with Key Relationships that Define the Function of the Natura 2000 Sites	Not Applicable

5.2 Indicators of Significance as a Result of the Identification of Effects Set Out Above

As outlined in Section 4 above, it is deemed unlikely that the proposed project will significantly impact on the Natura 2000 sites under consideration here.

Indicators	Impact
Loss	Not Applicable
Fragmentation	Not Applicable
Disruption	Not Applicable
Disturbance	Not Applicable
Change to Key Elements of the Site	Not Applicable

6.0 CONCLUSION

Taking all of the above into consideration, it can be objectively concluded that no significant effects arising from the proposed development are likely to occur in relation to the Natura 2000 sites in question, therefore no Natura Impact Statement (NIS) is required.

