Stage 1: Appropriate Assessment Screening Report

CLIENT

DUBLIN AND DÚN LAOGHAIRE EDUCATION AND TRAINING BOARD

PROJECT

COLÁISTE CHILLIAIN PE HALL, GAELSCOIL NA CAMÓIGE AGUS GAELSCOIL CHLUAIN DOLCÁIN, OLD NANGOR ROAD, CLONDALKIN, DUBLIN 22.

DATE

23 JANUARY 2017

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1.0 Introduction: Screening for Appropriate Assessment

In accordance with the Habitats Directive 92/33/EEC (2000) any plan or project that has the potential for a significant effect on Natura 2000 Sites i.e. a Special Area of Conservation (SAC)1 or Special Protected Area (SPA)2 must be screened in order to determine whether an Appropriate Assessment is required. On behalf of the Dublin and Dún Laoghaire Education and Training Board, NMA have prepared an Appropriate Assessment Stage 1 Screening Report to assess if the works associated with the proposed Coláiste Chilliain PE Hall, Gaelscoil Na Camóige agus Gaelscoil Chluain Dolcáin at the site of Coláiste Chilliain Old Nangor Road, Clondalkin, Dublin 22 will individually or in combination with other plans or projects, be likely to have a significant effect on any "Natura 2000" site.

1.1 Appropriate Assessment (AA)

An Appropriate Assessment is an assessment of the potential adverse or negative effects of a plan or project, in combination with other plans or projects, on a European site. An Appropriate Assessment must be carried out before any decision is made to allow the plan or project to proceed. The obligation to undertake Appropriate Assessment derives from both Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive. The European Union has provided guidance as to how to produce a Habitats Directive Assessment and identifies four main stages in the process as follows:

Stage One: Screening

The process identifies the likely impacts upon a Natura 2000 site of a project or plan, whether alone or in combination with other projects or plans, and considers whether these impacts are likely to be significant.

Stage Two: Appropriate Assessment

The consideration of the impact on the integrity of the Natura 2000 site of the project or plan, 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 adverse impacts, an assessment of the potential mitigation of those impacts.

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[1] A candidate Special Area of Conservation is designated under the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) for the protection of certain habitats and species as listed in the Directive

[2] A Special Protection Area is designated under the EU Birds Directive (79/409/EEC) for the conservation of wild birds as listed in the Directive

Stage Three: Assessment of Alternative Solutions

The process which examines alternative ways of achieving the objectives of the project or plan that avoid adverse impacts on the integrity of the Natura 2000 site.

Stage Four: Assessment where no Alternative Solutions Exist and where Adverse Impacts Remain.

An assessment of compensatory measures, where in the light of an assessment of imperative reasons of overriding public interest, it is deemed that the project or plan should proceed.

The Habitats Directive promotes a hierarchy of avoidance, mitigation and compensatory measures. First, the project should aim to avoid any negative impacts on European sites by identifying possible impacts early in the planning stage, and designing the project in order to avoid such impacts. Second, mitigation measures should be applied, if necessary, during the AA process to the point where no adverse impacts on the site(s) remain. If the project is still likely to result in adverse effects, and no further practicable mitigation is possible, then it is rejected. If no alternative solutions are identified and the project is required for imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI test) under Article 6 (4) of the Habitats Directive, then compensation measures are required for any remaining adverse effects.

1.2 Stage 1 Screening Report

This document brings together all of the information necessary to make determination as to whether there is likely to be significant impacts arising from the proposed works associated with the proposed Coláiste Chilliain Pe Hall, Gaelscoil Na Camóige agus Gaelscoil Chluain Dolcáin development on the **Glenasmole Valley SAC (Site Code: 001209)**

This represents the first stage of the Appropriate Assessment process, Stage 1 Screening. This Stage 1 Screening Report has been prepared in accordance with the guidelines of the European Commission; Managing Natura 2000 Sites: the provisions of Article 6 of the "Habitats" Directive 92/43/EEC (2000), Assessment of the plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites (2000), and the National Parks and Wildlife Service Guidance for Planning Authorities.

2.0 Appropriate Assessment Screening Matrix

2.1 Description of the proposed development

The project comprises of the construction of a new three storey school building comprising of two Gaelscoileanna and the construction of a PE Hall with internal works to existing School building complete with ancillary site services, circa 6,251sqm at a brownfield suburban site. External works propose a landscaped site with paying pitches, a new one-way road access with new vehicle access, to South Eastern boundary, See figure 1 below. A survey has been undertaken of the existing trees and that is included with the application. The retention of as many existing trees as possible and the proposed additional landscaping will increase the number and variety of plants on site. This will improve the bio-diversity on the site.

External works propose a landscaped campus with in and out vehicle gates, to Old Nangor Road. External works include hard and soft landscaping, bicycle parking and staff car parking. Surface water drainage from the schools and PE Hall will be directly to the sewer network and will not discharge to any nearby watercourse. Details of the proposed works are presented in the drawings enclosed.

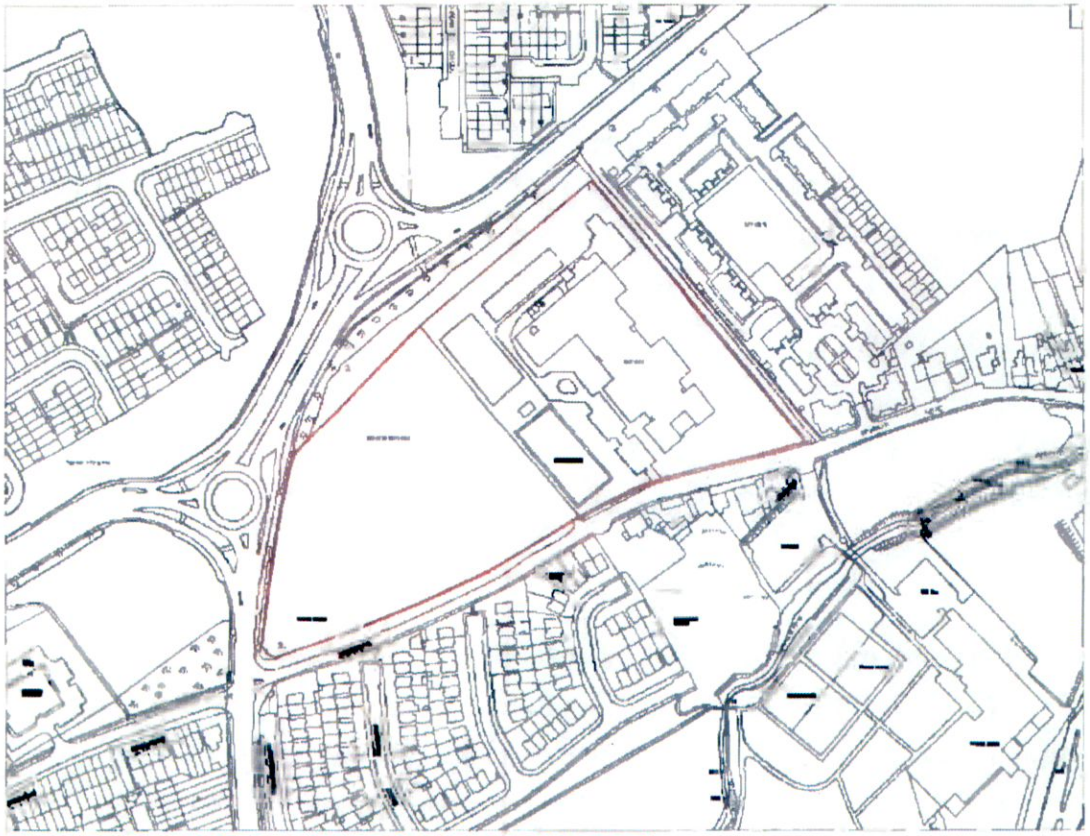

Fig. 1: Location of Coláiste Chilliain Site (source: OS Ireland)

2.2 Distance from Designated Sites

The proposed works are located between 5-10km from Glenasmole Valley SAC (Site Code: 001209) as shown in Figure 2 below. There are no planned discharges from the proposed works to the designated SAC site. The NPWS conservation objective documents listed below have been consulted as part of this Stage 1 Screening Report:

- Glenasmole Valley SAC

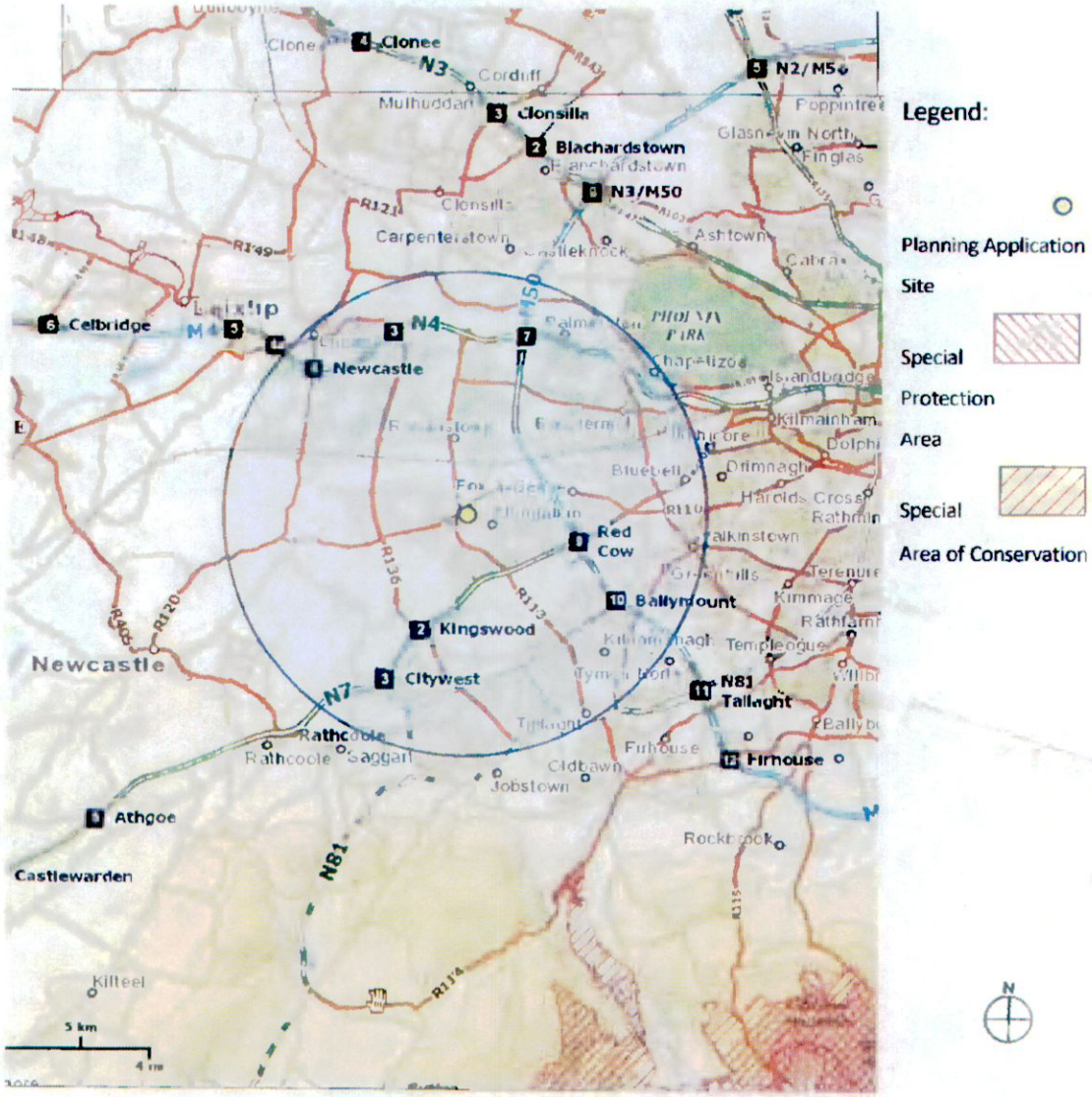

fig. 2. Location of Schools site and locations of SPAs and SAC (source: National Parks and Wildlife Services)

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2.3 Description of Natura 2000 Site Potentially Affected

2.3.1 Glenasmole Valley SAC (Site Code: 001209)

Glenasmole Valley in south Co. Dublin lies on the edge of the Wicklow uplands, approximately 5 km from Tallaght. The River Dodder flows through the valley and has been impounded here to form two reservoirs which supply water to south Dublin. The non-calcareous bedrock of the Glenasmole Valley has been overlain by deep drift deposits which now line the valley sides. They are partly covered by scrub and woodland, and on the less precipitous parts, by a herb-rich grassland. There is much seepage through the deposits, which brings to the surface water rich in bases, which induces local patches of calcareous fen and, in places, petrifying springs.

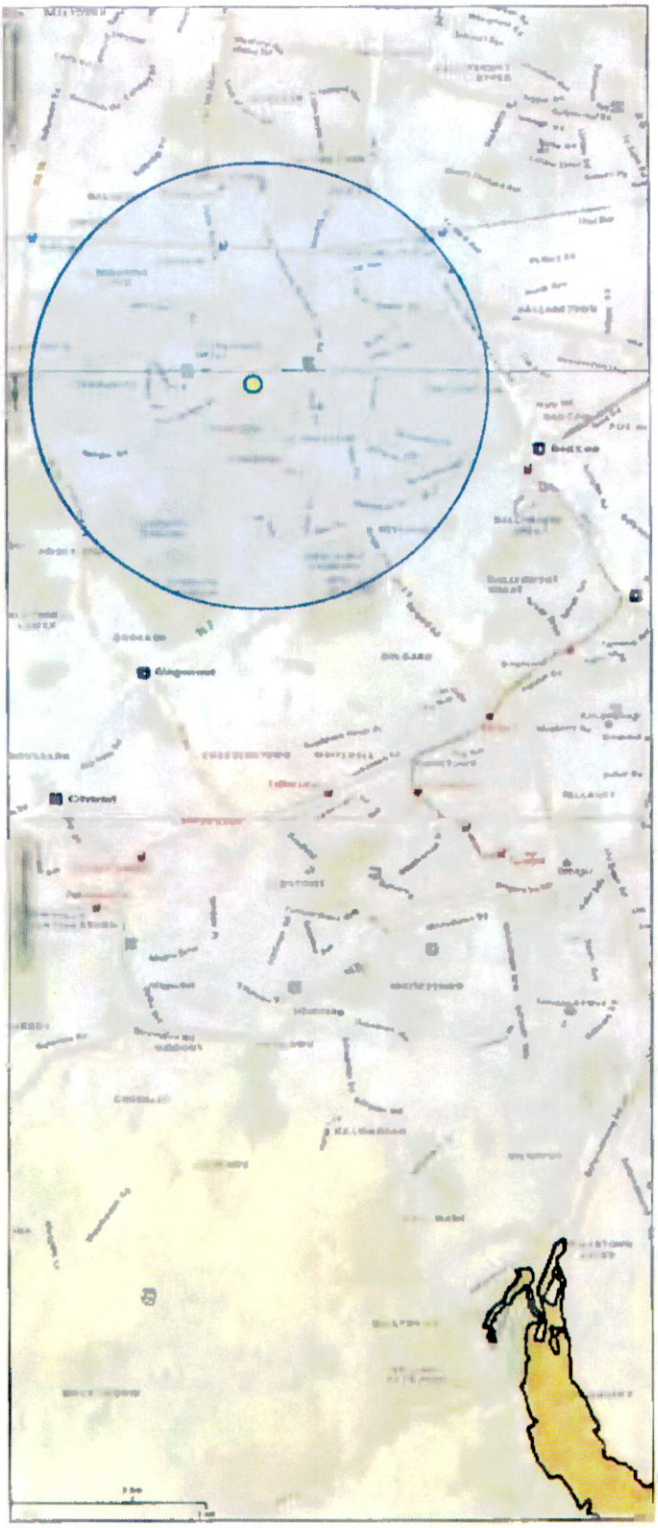

Fig. 3. Location of Schools site (with 2km radius shown) and location of Glenasmole Valley SAC (Site Code: 001209) (source: National Parks and Wildlife Service

Glenasmole Valley c ontains a high diversity of habitats and **plant communities**, including three habitats listed on Annex I of the E.U. Habitats Directive. The presence of four Red Data Book plant species further adds to the value of the site, as does the presence of **populations of several mammal and bird species** of conservation interest.

The site is a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) selected for the following habitats and/or species listed on Annex I / II of the E.U. Habitats Directive (* = priority; numbers in brackets are Natura 2000 codes):
Orchid-rich Calcareous Grassland* Molinia Meadows Petrifying Springs*

Table 4. Data source - NPWS Site synopsis, Glenasmole Valley SAC

The Glenasmole Valley SAC site provides excellent habitat for bats, with at least four species recorded: Pipistrelle, Leisler's, Daubenton's and Brown Long-eared. Otter occurs along the river and reservoirs. The site supports Kingfisher, an Annex I species under the E.U. Birds Directive.

At this site, examples of calcareous fen and flush occur between the two reservoirs, where sedges (including *Carex flacca* and *C. panicea*) are joined by such species as Grass-of-parnassus (*Parnassia palustris*), Few-flowered Spike-rush (*Eleocharis quinqueflora*), Zig-zag clover (*Trifolium medium*) and the scarce Fen Bedstraw (*Galium uliginosum*). Tufa depositing springs are long-known from the site, along the valley sides, and some have substantial tufa mounds and banks. Tufa formation is also known from small streams within the woodland at the site. Within the hazel woods, and associated with the springs and flushes, a distinctive flora with Marsh Hawk's-beard (*Crepis paludosa*) and luxuriant stands of Great Horsetail (*Equisetum telmateia*) has developed.

Orchid-rich grassland occurs in the drier parts of this site and in places grades into *Molinia* meadow.

Orchids recorded in these habitats include Frog Orchid (*Coeloglossum viride*), Northern Marsh-orchid (*Dactylorhiza purpurella*), Fragrant Orchid (*Gymnadenia conopsea*), Marsh Helleborine (*Epipactis palustris*), Early-purple Orchid (*Orchis mascula*) and Greater Butterfly Orchid (*Platanthera chlorantha*). Two further orchid species, both Red Data Book-listed, have also been found here, Green-winged Orchid (*Orchis morio*) and Small-white Orchid (*Pseudorchis albida*). Common grasses in the sward include Sweet Vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), Creeping Bent (*Agrostis stolonifera*) and Crested Dog's-tail (*Cynosurus cristatus*). Other species which occur are Common Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), Kidney Vetch (*Anthyllis vulneraria*), Common Restharrow (*Ononis repens*), Yellow-wort (*Blackstonia perfoliata*) and Autumn Gentian (*Gentianella amarella*). While much of the calcareous grassland has been improved to some extent for agriculture, a suite of typical species still remain.

The areas of *Molinia* meadows at the site occur associated with the grasslands on the valley sides, and in particular in seepage and flushed areas.

Typical and indicative species include Greater Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus uliginosus*), Tormentil (*Potentilla erecta*), Purple Moor-grass (*Molinia caerulea*), Sharp-flowered Rush (*Juncus acutiflorus*), Adder's-tongue (*Ophioglossum vulgatum*), Meadow Thistle (*Cirsium dissectum*) and Fen Bedstraw. As noted above, orchids are frequent in the grasslands at this site.
Woodland occurs in patches around the site. On the east side of the valley, below the northern lake, a Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) wood has developed on the unstable calcareous slopes and includes other species such as Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Downy Birch (*Betula pubescens*), Goat Willow (*Salix caprea*) and (Irish) Whitebeam (*Sorbus hibernica*). Spring Wood-rush (*Luzula pilosa*), Wood Speedwell (*Veronica montana*) and Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) are present in the ground flora.
Wet semi-natural broadleaved woodland is also found around the reservoirs and includes Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) and willow (*Salix* spp.), with Yellow Iris (*Iris pseudacorus*), horsetails (*Equisetum* spp.), Bramble and localised patches of Japanese Knotweed (*Reynoutria japonica*), an introduced and invasive species.
The lake shore vegetation is not well developed, which is typical of a reservoir. There are occasional patches of Reed Canary-grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) and Purple-loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), which are more extensive around the western shore of the northern lake, along with Common Marsh-bedstraw (*Galium palustre*) and Water Mint (*Mentha aquatica*). Other vegetation includes Shoreweed (*Littorella uniflora*) and the scarce Water Sedge (*Carex aquatilis*). As well as the Green-winged Orchid and Small-white Orchid, two other threatened species which are listed in the Irish Red Data Book occur in the site, Yellow Archangel (*Lamiastrum galeobdolon*) and Yellow Bird's-nest (*Monotropa hypopitys*). Small-white Orchid is legally protected under the Flora (Protection) Order, 1999.

2.4 Conservation Objectives of Natura 2000 Sites

A site's conservation objectives are a statement of the overall nature conservation requirements for a site, expressed in terms of the favourable conditions required for the qualifying features.

According to the EU Habitats Directive, favourable conservation status of a habitat is achieved when:

its natural range, and area it covers within that range, are stable or increasing, and

- the specific structure and functions which are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future, and
- the conservation status of its typical species is favourable.

The favourable conservation status of a species is achieved when:

- population dynamics data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself on a long-term basis as a viable component of its natural habitats, and

• the natural range of the species is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future, and

• there is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis.

2.5 Conservation Objectives of the Glenasmole Valley SAC (Site Code: 001209)

The overarching Conservation Objective for Glenasmole Valley Special Areas of Conservation, is Objective: To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected:

To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected - Code Description:
Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco Brometalia) (* important orchid sites)*
Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae)
Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion)*
* denotes a priority habitat

2.6 Assessment Criteria

2.6.1 Individual Elements of the Project with Potential to give rise to Impacts on Natura 2000 Sites

The individual elements of the project with potential to give rise to impacts (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) on these habitats and species are listed overleaf.

Construction works

Habitat modification: There will be no direct impact on habitat within the SAC from the proposed schools site. Potential indirect impacts on water quality are discussed below.

Disturbance: The proposed construction works at the schools to the SAC are conventional in nature and therefore there is no potential for disturbance associated with construction works to impact on

protected plant communities and populations of several mammal and bird species, these will not be disturbed during construction works.

Ex-situ factors: No contamination of the **Glenasmole Valley** with substances associated with the proposed construction works will occur and therefore there will not impact on plant communities and populations of mammal and bird species protected by the SAC.

Operation

Disturbance: All foul water drainage is designed to connect into existing foul sewer system, as standard. All surface water drainage is designed to connect into existing surface water system, as standard. Therefore there will not be any disturbance due to site run-off to plant communities and populations of several mammal and bird species within and adjacent to the SAC.

2.6.2 Likely Impacts of the Project on Natura 2000 Sites

Construction works

Habitat modification: None

Disturbance: None

Ex-situ factors: It is unlikely that the construction activities have potential to significantly impact on the water quality of the Glenasmole Valley SAC (Site Code: 001209) as a number of standard mitigation measures will be put in place to ensure risk from surface water runoff is minimised in accordance with the Water Pollution Act 1977 and other relevant legislation. A Construction Management Plan will be prepared for the construction phase of the development to ensure all construction related impacts are controlled and mitigated.

Operation

2.6.3 Likely Changes to the Site as a Result of the Project

Table 2 below presents the likely changes to Natura 2000 sites as a result of the proposed works.

Impact Type	No Significant Changes Anticipated
Disturbance	No disturbance of plant communities and populations of several mammal and bird species during construction and operation of the schools and PE Hall.
Water Quality	No adverse impacts on water quality anticipated.
Fragmentation	No fragmentation of habitats anticipated.
Species density/ abundance	No adverse impact on species abundance associated with disturbance from the schools or PE Hall.
Water resources	No adverse change anticipated.

Table 2.2 Summary of Changes to the Sites as a Result of the Project.

2.6.4 Likely Impacts on the Natura 2000 Site as a Whole

There is no impact on the plant communities and populations of several mammal and bird species protected by the Glenasmole Valley SAC during the construction and operation of the schools.

3.0 Screening Conclusion and Statement

According to the National Parks and Wildlife Service Guidance for Planning Authorities, Screening can result in the following possible conclusions or outcomes:

- AA is not required: Screening, followed by consultation and agreement with the NPWS, establishes that the plan or project is directly connected with or necessary to the nature conservation management of the site.
- No potential for significant effects/AA is not required: Screening establishes that there is no potential for significant effects and the project or plan can proceed as proposed.
- Significant effects are certain, likely or uncertain: The plan or project must either proceed to Stage 2 (AA), or be rejected if significant effects are certain, likely or uncertain.

The scheme is not directly connected with or necessary to the nature conservation management of the site. The findings of the report are presented below

The construction and operation of the proposed schools and PE Hall at the site of the existing school, Coláiste Chilliain will not impact on plant communities and populations of several mammal and bird species protected by the Glenasmole Valley SAC (Site Code: 001209). This Stage 1 Screening Report therefore concludes that further assessment in the form of a **Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment is not required** for the proposed school at Coláiste Chilliain, Old Nangor Road, Clondalkin, Dublin 22.