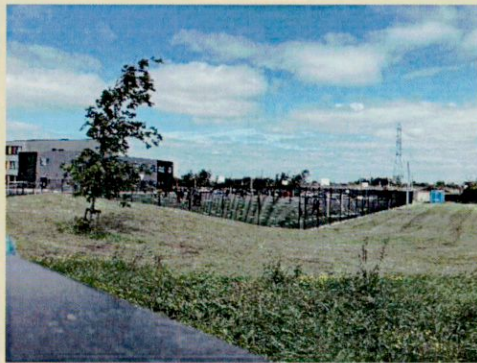


**Kishoge Primary School Development  
Ecological Impact Assessment**



**Prepared By:**

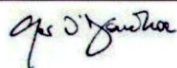
**Moore Group -  
Environmental Services**

**On behalf of:  
Department of Education & Skills**

**Job Number 22099  
1 June 2022**



<b>Project Proponent</b>	Department of Education & Skills
<b>Project</b>	Kishoge Primary School Development
<b>Title</b>	Kishoge Primary School Development Ecological Impact Assessment

<b>Project Number</b>	22099	<b>Document Reference</b>	22093 Kishoge School EclA Rev0	
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<b>Moore Archaeological and Environmental Services Limited</b>				



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**Appendix 1** TII Evaluation of Habitats

**Appendix 2** Site Photos

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Moore Group was commissioned by AFEC International on behalf of the Department of Education & Skills to undertake a Habitat Survey and EclA in respect of the development of a Primary School Development at Kishoge, Lucan, Co. Dublin, referred to as the 'Proposed Development'.

This report provides information on ecological features if present within the potential Zone of Influence of the Proposed Development, of particular significance, primarily designated habitats and species, including habitats/species listed in Annex I, II and IV of the EU Habitats Directive, rare flora listed in the Flora Protection Order along with other semi-natural habitats of conservational value.

This report was compiled by Ger O'Donohoe M.Sc. of Moore Group providing information on habitats in the study area. Ger is the principal ecologist with Moore Group and has over 27 years' experience in ecological impact assessment. He graduated from GMIT in 1993 with a B.Sc. in Applied Freshwater & Marine Biology and subsequently worked in environmental consultancy while completing an M.Sc. in Environmental Sciences, graduating from Trinity College, Dublin in 1999. (He also has over 15 years' experience of carrying out bat surveys and has completed the Bat Conservation Ireland, Bat Detector Workshop which is the standard training for the carrying out of bat surveys in Ireland and follows the Bat Conservation Ireland 'Bat Survey Guidelines' (Aughney et al., 2008). In addition, Ger is an active member of the Galway Bat Group and Bat Conservation Ireland, which monitors bat populations in Ireland, and facilitates the education of bat communities to the public.)

The following important ecological receptors were considered in planning and designing the Proposed Development, and in assessing its likely ecological effects:

- Sites with nature conservation designations, including proposed NHAs, the reasons for their designation, and their conservation objectives, where available;
- Annex IV (Habitats Directive) species of fauna and flora, and their breeding sites and resting places, which are strictly protected under the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011;
- Other species of fauna and flora which are protected under the Wildlife Acts, 1976-2012;
- '*Protected species and natural habitats*', as defined in the Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC) and European Communities (Environmental Liability) Regulations, 2008, including:
  - Birds Directive – Annex I species and other regularly occurring migratory species, and their habitats (wherever they occur);
  - Habitats Directive – Annex I habitats, Annex II species and their habitats, and Annex IV species and their breeding sites and resting places (wherever they occur);
- Other habitats of ecological value in a national to local context, including rocky habitats in the general area;



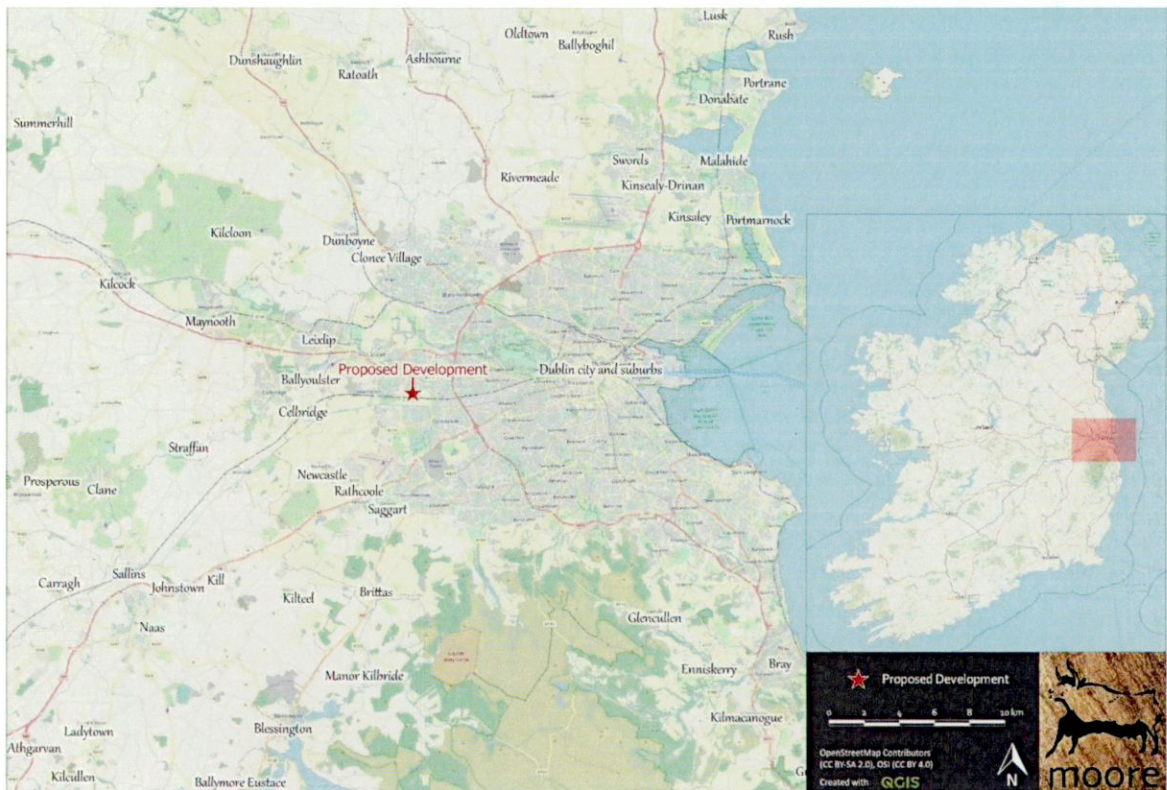
- Stepping stones and ecological corridors encapsulated by Article 10 of the Habitats Directive.

The report has been compiled in compliance with the European Communities Legal requirements and follows EPA Draft Guidelines on Information to be contained in an EIAR (EPA, 2022) and on Transport Infrastructure Ireland TII policy and guidance outlined in Section 2.

The European Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (Article 6) indicates the need for plans and projects to be subject to Habitats Directive Assessment (also known as Appropriate Assessment) if the plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of a Natura 2000 site (which includes SACs and SPAs) but which has the potential to have implications on a site's conservation objectives. These implications can be significant effects either individually or in combination with other plans or projects.

As such, a report for the purposes of Appropriate Assessment Screening was undertaken by Moore Group for the Proposed Development in support of the application to South Dublin County Council. This stand-alone report is presented separately as part of the response to Further Information.

The site location is presented in Figure 1 below.



**Figure 1.** Showing the site location Kishoge in west Dublin.





**Figure 2.** Showing the site boundary in blue and the Proposed Development boundary in red adjacent to the recently completed Kishoge Community College PP School (left).

## 2. ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

### 2.1. POLICY & LEGISLATION

#### 2.1.1. EU Habitats Directive

The "*Habitats Directive*" (Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Flora and Fauna) is the main legislative instrument for the protection and conservation of biodiversity within the European Union and lists certain habitats and species that must be protected within wildlife conservation areas, considered to be important at a European as well as at a national level. A "*Special Conservation Area*" or SAC is a designation under the Habitats Directive. The Habitats Directive sets out the protocol for the protection and management of SACs.

The Directive sets out key elements of the system of protection including the requirement for "*Appropriate Assessment*" of plans and projects. The requirements for an Appropriate Assessment are set out in the EU Habitats Directive. Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Directive.



### 2.1.2. EU Birds Directive

The “*Birds Directive*” (Council Directive 79/409/EEC as amended by Directive 2009/147/EC) provides for a network of sites in all member states to protect birds at their breeding, feeding, roosting and wintering areas. This directive identifies species that are rare, in danger of extinction or vulnerable to changes in habitat and which need protection (Annex I species). Appendix I indicates Annex I bird species as listed on the Birds Directive. A “*Special Protection Area*” or SPA, is a designation under The Birds Directive.

Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas form a pan-European network of protected sites known as Natura 2000 sites and any plan or project that has the potential to impact upon a Natura 2000 site requires appropriate assessment.

### 2.1.3. Wildlife Acts 1976 - 2012

The primary domestic legislation providing for the protection of wildlife in general, and the control of some activities adversely impacting upon wildlife is the Wildlife Act of 1976. The aims of the wildlife act according to the National Parks and Wildlife Service are “... *to provide for the protection and conservation of wild fauna and flora, to conserve a representative sample of important ecosystems, to provide for the development and protection of game resources and to regulate their exploitation, and to provide the services necessary to accomplish such aims.*” All bird species are protected under the act. The Wildlife (Amendment) Act of 2000 amended the original Act to improve the effectiveness of the Act to achieve its aims.

## 2.2. SURVEY METHODOLOGY

### 2.2.1. Desk Study

The assessment was carried out in three stages, firstly through desktop assessment to determine existing records in relation to habitats and species present in the potential Zone of Influence of the Proposed Development. This included research on the NPWS metadata website, the National Biodiversity Data Centre (NBDC) database and a literature review of published information on flora and fauna occurring in the development area.

Sources of information that were used to collate data on biodiversity in the potential Zone of Influence 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 1995-2022;
- Online data available on Natura 2000 sites as held by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) from [www.npws.ie](http://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 in neighbouring areas:
  - South Dublin County Development Plan 2021-2027

### 2.2.2. Field Study

The second phase of the assessment involved a site visit to establish the existing environment in the footprint of the Proposed Development area. Areas which were highlighted during desktop assessment were investigated in closer detail according to the Heritage Council Best Practice Guidance for Habitat Survey and Mapping (Smith *et al.*, 2011). Habitats in the Proposed Development area were classified according to the Heritage Council publication "*A Guide to Habitats in Ireland*" (Fossitt, 2000). This publication sets out a standard scheme for identifying, describing and classifying wildlife habitats in Ireland. This form of classification uses codes to classify different habitats based on the plant species present. Species recorded in this report are given in both their Latin and English names. Latin names for plant species follow the nomenclature of "*An Irish Flora*" (Parnell & Curtis, 2012).

Habitats were surveyed on the 27 May 2022 by conducting a study area walkover covering the main ecological areas identified in the desktop assessment. The survey date is within the optimal botanical survey period. A photographic record was made of features of interest.

Signs of mammals such as badgers and otters were searched for while surveying the study area noting any sights, signs or any activity in the vicinity especially along adjacent boundaries.

Birds were surveyed using standard transect methodology and signs were recorded where encountered during the field walkover surveys.

A Bat detector survey was not undertaken given the proposed development is located in an open field. Any trees to be removed were examined from ground level for potential for bat roosting.



### 2.2.3. Site Evaluation and Impact Assessment

The final part of the assessment involves an evaluation of the study area and determination of the potential impacts on the habitats of the study area. This part of the assessment forms the basis for Impact Assessment and is based on the following guidelines and publications:

- Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK And Ireland Terrestrial, Freshwater, Coastal and Marine September 2018 Version 1.1 - Updated September 2019 (CIEEM, 2019);
- EPA Draft Guidelines on Information to be contained in an EIAR (EPA, 2022);
- Best Practice Guidance for Habitat Survey and Mapping (Heritage Council, 2011);
- Ecological Surveying Techniques for Protected Flora & Fauna (NRA, 2008);
- Guidelines for Assessment of Ecological Impacts of National Road Schemes (NRA, 2009);
- Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland - Guidance for Planning Authorities (DEHLG, December 2009, Rev 2010);
- Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites (EC, 2002);
- Guidance document on Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (EC, 2007).

While prepared for linear projects the TII Guidelines for Assessment of Ecological Impacts of National Road Schemes (NRA, 2009) are still relevant and outlines the methodology for evaluating ecological impacts of the Proposed Development in the present report. According to the TII Guidelines, the Ecological Study should address:

- Designated conservation areas and sites proposed for designation within the zone(s) of influence of any of the Project options,
- All the main inland surface waters (e.g. rivers, streams, canals, lakes and tanks) that are intersected by any of the route corridor options, including their fisheries value and any relevant designations,
- Aquifers and dependent systems and turloughs and their subterranean water systems,
- Any known or potentially important sites for rare or protected flora or fauna that occur along or within the zone(s) of influence of any of the route options,
- Any other sites of ecological value, that are not designated, along or in close proximity to any of the route corridor options,
- Any other relevant conservation designations or programmes (e.g. catchment management schemes, habitat restoration or creation projects, community conservation projects, etc.),
- Any other features of particular ecological or conservation significance along any of the route options.

The TII Guidelines set out a method of evaluating the importance of sites identified and in turn the evaluation of the significance of impacts. The Evaluation Scheme is presented in Appendix 1 for reference.

Impact Assessment is then based on CIEEM Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland, 2019.

### **3. PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT DESCRIPTION**

The Proposed Development consists of the construction of a two-storey, 16 classroom Primary School including a 2 classroom Special Educational Needs unit, with a gross floor area of 3521m<sup>2</sup>, at Kishoge, Lucan, Co. Dublin. The development will include a sports hall and all ancillary teacher and pupil facilities, bicycle parking, staff parking, vehicle drop off and set down areas, internal access road, hard and soft play areas, piped infrastructure and ducting, plant landscaping and boundary treatments, PV Panels, external courtyard, disabled car parking spaces, ESB substation and a packaged biomass heating plant.

Works to develop the link road and local streets to connect to the main Thomas Omer Way as per the Clonburris Strategic development zone Planning Scheme are also required, with the local street to incorporate a turning circle at the school entrance, external bus and vehicular set down, public footpath and landscaping, and all other site development works above and below ground.

Figure 2 shows a detailed view of the existing site on high resolution aerial photography. Figure 3 shows the layout of the Proposed Development.



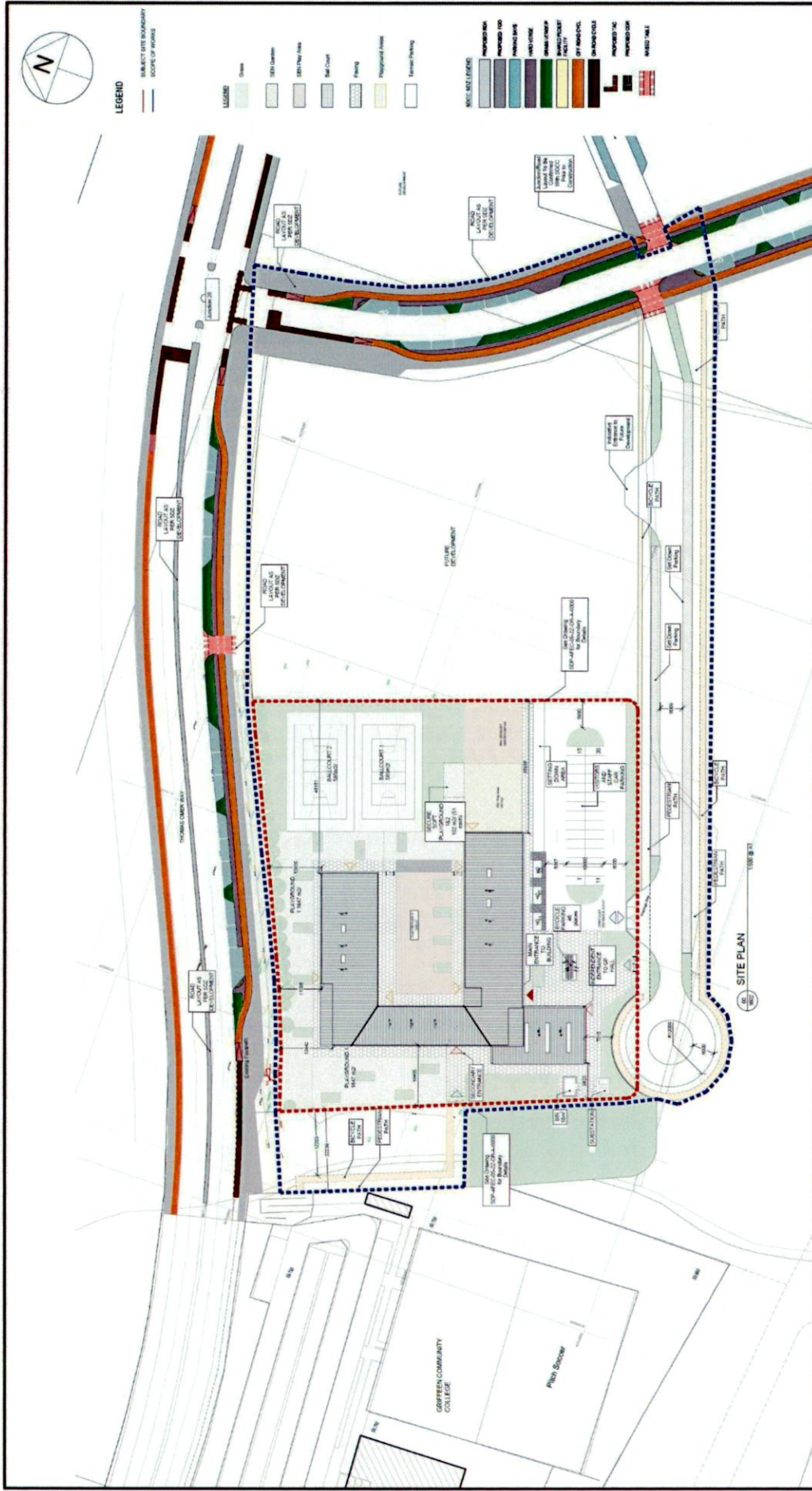


Figure 3. Showing the proposed development layout in the dashed red line and link roads inside the dashed blue line.

#### 4. EXISTING ENVIRONMENT

##### 4.1. DESIGNATED CONSERVATION AREAS

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 (Zoi) of 15km. However, this distance is a guidance only and a zone of influence of a Project 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. In accordance with the OPR Practice Note, PN01, the Zoi should be established on a case-by-case basis using the Source- Pathway-Receptor framework and not by arbitrary distances (such as 15km).

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 through GIS interrogation and detailed information is then provided on sites with connectivity. European sites that are located within a potential Zone of Influence of the Proposed Development are presented in Figures 4 and 5 below. Spatial boundary data on the Natura 2000 network was extracted from the NPWS website ([www.npws.ie](http://www.npws.ie)) on 1 June 2022. This data was interrogated using GIS analysis to provide mapping, distances, locations and pathways to all sites of conservation concern including pNHAs, NHA and European sites.

The nearest European site to the Proposed Development is the Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC (Site Code 001398), over 5km to the northwest. However, there are no pathways or connectivity to this site and so it is excluded from the assessment at this preliminary stage.

The Proposed Development is located within the hydrological catchment of the River Liffey, and sits to the north of the Dublin to Portarlington railway line, in Lucan, Co. Dublin. 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. This was confirmed during fieldwork on habitat assessment on 27 May 2022.



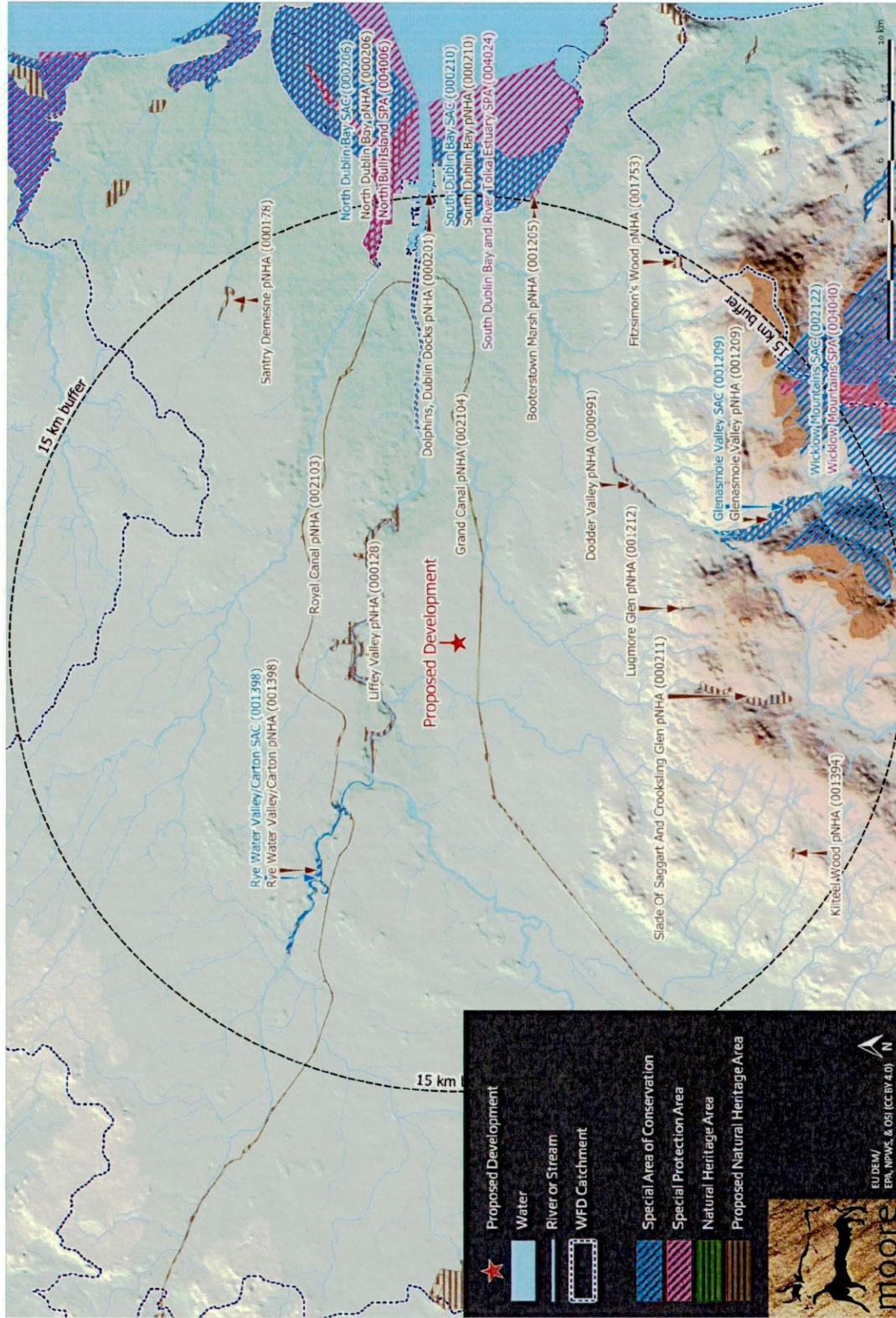


Figure 4. Showing European sites and NHAs/pNHAs within the wider Potential Zone of Influence of the Proposed Development.



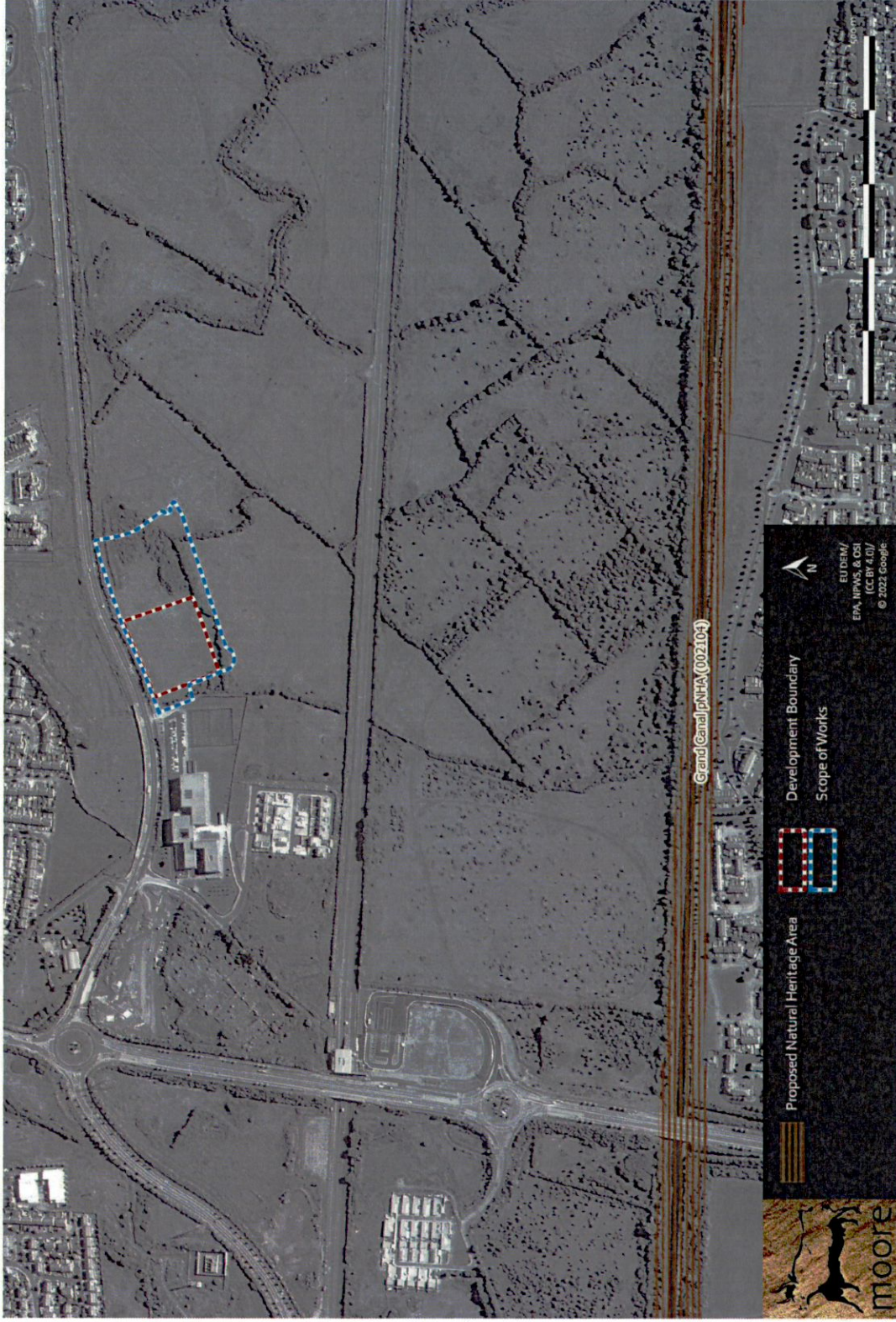


Figure 1. Detailed view of conservation sites in the nearer Potential Zone of Influence of the Proposed Development



## 4.2. HABITAT DESCRIPTIONS

There are no records of rare plants in the 1km square in which the Proposed Development site is located (O0532).

### *Si-GA1 Semi-improved Agricultural grassland*

The greater part of the site consists of improved agricultural grassland (GA1) which is occasionally grazed and poached by horses from the adjacent Halting site. The grassland area has typical species of improved grassland such as Creeping buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*), Dandelion (*Taraxacum* Spp.) and Perennial Ryegrass (*Lolium perenne*) with spreads of Germander speedwell (*Veronica chamaedrys*), Common Mouse-ear (*Cerastium fontanum ssp. vulgare*), Creeping Cinquefoil (*Potentilla reptans*), Cocks foot (*Dactylis glomerata*), Bent (*Agrostis* spp.), and Meadow grass (*Poa* spp.), Ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), Creeping buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*), Daisy (*Bellis perennis*), along with Dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale* agg.) and Common Vetch (*Vicia sativa* agg.) Taller herbs include Hogweed (*Heracleum sphondylium*), Broad-leaved Dock (*Rumex obtusifolius*), Ragwort, (*Senecio jacobaea*), Nettle (*Urtica dioica*), Thistles (*Cirsium* spp.), Creeping buttercup, Clovers (*Trifolium* spp.), Lesser burdock (*Arctium minus*) and occasional Curled dock (*Rumex crispus*). Teasel (*Dipsacus fullonum*) was occasional in the field and more common in the scrubby patches to the south and east of the site.

The field on the outside of the southern hedgerow was similar in composition with the exception of a greater abundance of Silverweed (*Potentilla anserina*) and Cuckoo flower (*Cardamine pratensis*) indicating slightly wetter conditions.

The field on the outer easter perimeter was also similar but again showed an abundance of Broad dock and Cuckoo-flower and occasional patches of Soft rush (*Juncus effuses*).

### *WS1 Scrub*

There are large scrub areas to the east of the site comprised of predominantly Willow (*Salix* spp.) along with Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) and dense Nettles, Thistles and Hogweed. Teasel was more common in the scrub verges with Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*) indicating the mounded areas on which scrub occurred and slightly drier conditions. In places the scrub merges with the hedgerow to the south of the site.

### *WL1 Hedgerows*

There is a broad outgrown hedgerow to the southern boundary of the site which is predominantly Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) with more Blackthorn and Willow at its eastern end. One Horse Chestnut toward the eastern end was notable for its girth and age, but it was heavily reduced by repeated cutting. The understorey of the hedgerows comprised dense Nettle and

Thistle with Bramble (*Rubus fructus* agg.) and Cleavers (*Galium aparine*). One Weld plant (*Reseda luteola*) was recorded in a gap in the Hedgerow, probably introduced by horse movement.

The western boundary of the site is formed by a gappy poor quality hedgerow which has been poached by horses and disturbed by dumping. A couple of Dame's Violet plants (*Hesperis matronalis*) were found on this boundary hedgerow.

The northern boundary of the site is bounded by a Palisade fence which forms a landscaped verge with the main road which is planted with Cherry trees, Pine and Birch.

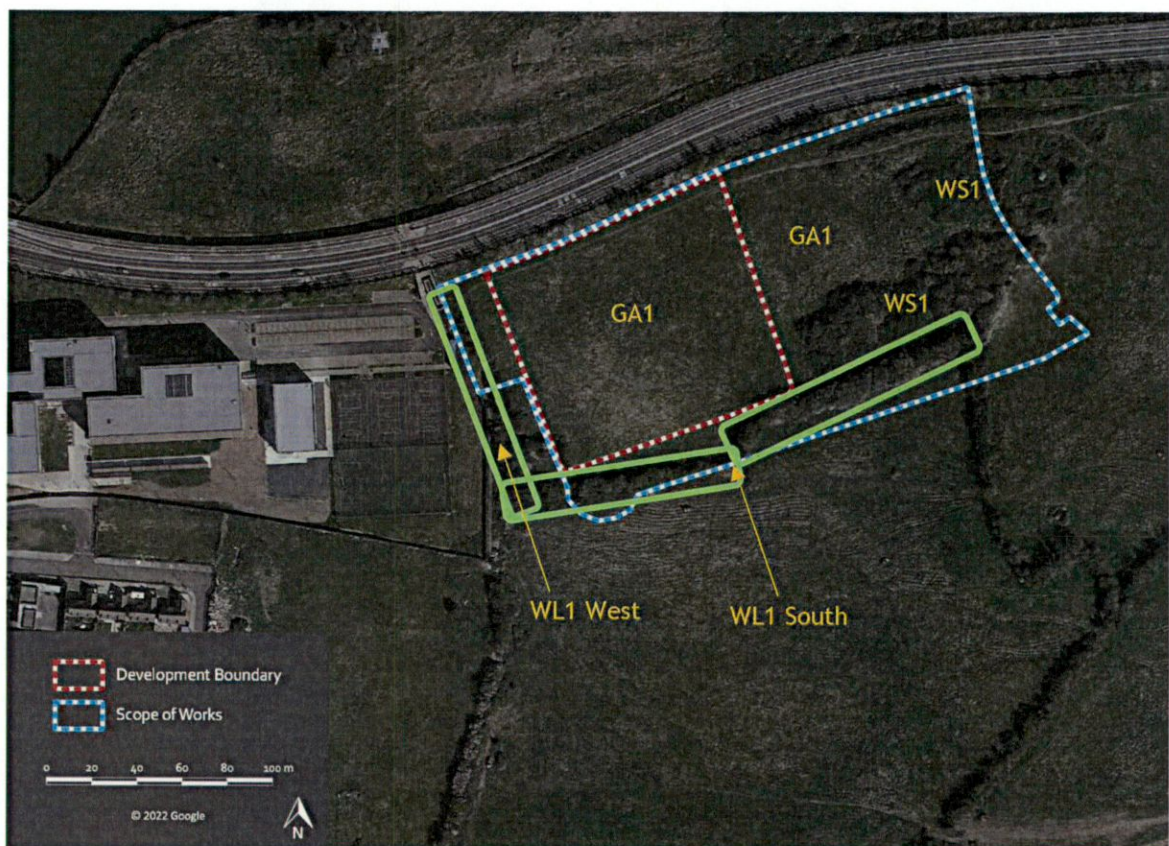


Figure 6. Habitat map based on recent aerial photography.



#### 4.1. FAUNA

##### 4.1.1. Mammals

###### Otters

The site is not suitable for otters. No signs were noted.

###### Badgers

The field boundaries were surveyed and showed no usage by badgers. Burrows observed were by rabbits.

###### Bats

Results from the NBDC datacentre show that there are no records of bats in a specific polygon surrounding the school site. A search of the wider area including the Grand Canal to the south returns records for Daubenton's Bat (*Myotis daubentonii*), Leisler's Bat (*Nyctalus leisleri*), Common Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus sensu lato*) and Soprano Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*). These species are commonly occurring species in the area of the Grand Canal ecological corridor while Daubenton's Bats prefer to feed over open water ways such as canals and slow moving rivers.

There are no mature trees to be removed and no bat roosts to be disturbed.

##### 4.1.2. Birds

All birds are protected under the Wildlife Acts. A list of breeding bird species recorded during fieldwork in May 2022 is presented in Table 1 below.

Table 1. Birds recorded during fieldwork in May 2022.

Birds	Scientific name	BWI Status	Habitat Type
Hooded crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	Green	Farmland, parks
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	Green	Gardens, woods, hedges
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	Green	Woods, gardens, hedgerows
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	Green	Hedgerows, parks, gardens

## 5. ASSESSMENT OF IMPACTS

### 5.1. SITE EVALUATION

Due cognisance of features of the landscape which are of major importance for wild flora and fauna, such as those with a "stepping stone" and ecological corridors function, as referenced in Article 10 of the Habitats Directive were considered in this assessment.

The ecological value of the site was assessed following the guidelines set out in the Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management's Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment (2019) and according to the Natura Scheme for evaluating ecological sites (after Nairn & Fossitt, 2004). Judgements on the evaluation were made using geographic frames of reference, e.g. European, National, Regional or Local.

Following a detailed literature review, desktop assessment and field survey the footprint of the Proposed Development site can be categorised into the following habitat types:

- Semi-improved Grassland (Si-GA1)
- Scrub (WS1)
- Hedgerow (WL1)

There were no rare or protected floral species recorded on the site and there were no records of invasive species seen during the habitat survey.

The habitats under the footprint of the Proposed Development are of high local ecological value.

There is no direct connectivity with any European sites and significant adverse effects have been ruled out in AA Screening.

### 5.2. IMPACT ASSESSMENT

#### 5.2.1. Direct Impacts

##### Habitats

There will be a loss of approximately 1 Ha of improved grassland which is *not significant* given the availability of surrounding farmland used for grazing and silage in the general area.

There will be a loss of approximately 0.4 Ha of Scrub which is *not significant*.



There will be a loss of c. 50m of Hedgerow in the western boundary which is of low local value and c. 200m of Hedgerow in the southern boundary of the site which is of high local value. The loss would be *not significant* in the context of overall availability of hedgerows in this area of west Dublin.

#### **Fauna**

##### ***Otters***

There will be no direct or indirect impact on otters.

##### ***Badgers***

There will be no direct or indirect impact on badgers.

##### ***Bats***

There will be no impacts on roosting bats and the potential effect on commuting bats due to loss of the southern hedgerow is considered *not significant* given the availability of hedgerows and linear commuting feature in the wider area and that there will be no effects on the Grand Canal ecological corridor.

##### ***Birds***

Potential impacts on birds can be avoided by cutting vegetation outside the bird nesting season March 1 to August 31.

#### **5.2.2. Indirect Impacts**

Given the lack of connectivity with the River Liffey, there will be no indirect impacts on any European sites.

#### **5.2.3. Cumulative Impacts**

Cumulative impacts or effects are changes in the environment that result from numerous human-induced, small-scale alterations. Cumulative impacts 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.

A review of the National Planning Application Database was undertaken. The first stage of this review confirmed that there were no data gaps 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, these are presented in Table 2 below.

**Table 2. Planning applications granted permission in the vicinity of the Proposed Development.**

Planning Ref.	Description of development	Comments
SD19A/0382	Retention to change from part use of the house to the entire use of the house for a child care centre.	No potential for in-combination effects given the scale and location of the project.
SD19B/0364	Part demolition of existing single storey extension to the rear of the house and construction of a two storey extension to the side of the existing house which will incorporate a garage at ground floor level and en-suite bedroom at first floor level.	No potential for in-combination effects given the scale and location of the project.
SD20A/0109	2 storey modular classroom building and a single storey toilet building, steel framed covered walkway structure linking to the existing school, relocation of existing bicycle shelters and all associated site development works.	No potential for in-combination effects given the scale and location of the project.
SD21B/0297	Attic conversion to bedroom with dormer window to rear roof plane and 2 rooflights to front roof plane.	No potential for in-combination effects given the scale and location of the project.
SD21B/0514	Retention of single storey extension to front, side and rear of existing house, extension with new utility, bedroom and games/storage room; all associated site works.	No potential for in-combination effects given the scale and location of the project.

The listed developments have been granted permission in most cases with conditions relating to sustainable development by the consenting authority in compliance with the relevant Local Authority Development Plan and in compliance with the Local Authority requirement with regard to the Planning Acts. The development cannot have received planning permission without having met the consenting authority requirement in this regard.

There are no predicted in-combination effects given that there are no predicted significant impacts from the development.

## 6. CONCLUSIONS

There are no significant impacts predicted from the development on habitats, flora, fauna or biodiversity.

Should best practice guidelines for the prevention of invasive species spread be adhered to, no potential for the spread or introduction of high impact invasive species are foreseen as a result of this Proposed Development.



## 7. REFERENCES

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## **Appendix 1**

### **TII Evaluation of Habitats**

#### **Ecological valuation: Examples**

##### **International Importance:**

- 'European Site' including Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Site of Community Importance (SCI), Special Protection Area (SPA) or proposed Special Area of Conservation.
- Proposed Special Protection Area (pSPA).
- Site that fulfills the criteria for designation as a 'European Site' (see Annex III of the Habitats Directive, as amended).
- Features essential to maintaining the coherence of the Natura 2000 Network.<sup>4</sup>
- Site containing 'best examples' of the habitat types listed in Annex I of the Habitats Directive.
- Resident or regularly occurring populations (assessed to be important at the national level)<sup>5</sup> of the following:
  - Species of bird, listed in Annex I and/or referred to in Article 4(2) of the Birds Directive; and/or
  - Species of animal and plants listed in Annex II and/or IV of the Habitats Directive.
- Ramsar Site (Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially Waterfowl Habitat 1971).
- World Heritage Site (Convention for the Protection of World Cultural & Natural Heritage, 1972).
- Biosphere Reserve (UNESCO Man & The Biosphere Programme).
- Site hosting significant species populations under the Bonn Convention (Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, 1979).
- Site hosting significant populations under the Berne Convention (Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, 1979).
- Biogenetic Reserve under the Council of Europe.
- European Diploma Site under the Council of Europe.
- Salmonid water designated pursuant to the European Communities (Quality of Salmonid Waters) Regulations, 1988, (S.I. No. 293 of 1988).<sup>6</sup>

##### **National Importance:**

- Site designated or proposed as a Natural Heritage Area (NHA).
- Statutory Nature Reserve.
- Refuge for Fauna and Flora protected under the Wildlife Acts.
- National Park.
- Undesignated site fulfilling the criteria for designation as a Natural Heritage Area (NHA); Statutory Nature Reserve; Refuge for Fauna and Flora protected under the Wildlife Act; and/or a National Park.
- Resident or regularly occurring populations (assessed to be important at the national level)<sup>7</sup> of the following:
  - Species protected under the Wildlife Acts; and/or
  - Species listed on the relevant Red Data list.
- Site containing 'viable areas'<sup>8</sup> of the habitat types listed in Annex I of the Habitats Directive.



**County Importance:**

- Area of Special Amenity.<sup>9</sup>
- Area subject to a Tree Preservation Order.
- Area of High Amenity, or equivalent, designated under the County Development Plan.
- Resident or regularly occurring populations (assessed to be important at the County level)<sup>10</sup> 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.
- Site containing area or areas of the habitat types listed in Annex I of the Habitats Directive that do not fulfil the criteria for valuation as of International or National importance.
- County important populations of species, or viable areas of semi-natural habitats or natural heritage features identified in the National or Local BAP,<sup>11</sup> if this has been prepared.
- Sites containing semi-natural habitat types with high biodiversity in a county context and a high degree of naturalness, or populations of species that are uncommon within the county.
- Sites containing habitats and species that are rare or are undergoing a decline in quality or extent at a national level.

**Local Importance (higher value):**

- Locally important populations of priority species or habitats or natural heritage features identified in the Local BAP, if this has been prepared;
- Resident or regularly occurring populations (assessed to be important at the Local level)<sup>12</sup> 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.



## **Appendix 2**

### **Site Photos**



**Photo 1.** The site of the proposed school and open grassland.



**Photo 2.** The southern hedgerow from the outer southern side.





**Photo 3.** Example of scrub areas to the east of the site.



**Photo 4.** The southern end of the western hedgerow with local impacts.