

Appropriate Assessment Screening for a Proposed Residential Development at Scholarstown Road, Dublin 16, Co. Dublin.



21st October 2022

Prepared by: Bryan Deegan (MCIEEM) of Altemar Ltd.

On behalf of: Emmaville Ltd.

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Introduction

The following Appropriate Assessment (AA) (Screening Stage) has been prepared by **Alternar Ltd.** at the request of Emmaville Limited. The project relates to a proposed residential development at Scholarstown Road, Dublin 16, Co. Dublin.

An Appropriate Assessment is an assessment of the potential effects of a proposed project or plan, on its own, or in combination with other plans or projects, on one or more European sites. European sites are those sites designated as Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) or Special Protection Areas (SPA).

The AA (screening stage) examines the likely significant effects of a plan or project, either on its own, or in combination with other plans and projects, upon a European site and considers whether, on the basis of objective scientific evidence, it can be concluded that there are no likely significant effects on any European site, in view of best scientific knowledge and the conservation objectives of the relevant European sites.

Altemar Ltd.

Since its inception in 2001, Altemar has been delivering ecological and environmental services to a broad range of clients. Operational areas include residential, infrastructural, renewable, oil & gas, private industry, local authorities, EC projects and State/semi-State Departments. Bryan Deegan is the managing director of Altemar. Bryan is an environmental scientist and marine biologist with 26 years' experience working in Irish terrestrial and aquatic environments, providing services to the State, Semi-State and industry. Bryan Deegan (MCIEEM) holds a MSc in Environmental Science, BSc (Hons.) in Applied Marine Biology, NCEA National Diploma in Applied Aquatic Science and a NCEA National Certificate in Science (Aquaculture). Bryan Deegan carried out all elements of this Appropriate Assessment Screening.

Background to the Appropriate Assessment

The Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (together with the Birds Directive (2009/1477/EC)) forms the cornerstone of Europe's nature conservation policy. The Directive protects over 1000 animals and plant species and over 200 "habitat types" which are of European importance. In the Habitats Directive, Articles 3 to 9 provide the legislative means to protect habitats and species of European Community interest through the establishment and conservation of an EU-wide network of conservation sites (NATURA, 2000). These are Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) designated under the Habitats Directive and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) designated under the Birds Directive), Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive set out the decision-making tests for plans and projects likely to affect European sites (Annex 1.1). Article 6(3) establishes the requirement for Appropriate Assessment:

"Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the [EUROPEAN] site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans and projects, shall be subjected to 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 implication for the site and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, the component 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."

As outlined in "Managing European sites, The provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC" (European Commission, 21 November 2018) "The purpose of the appropriate assessment is to assess the implications of the plan or project in respect of the site's conservation objectives, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects. The conclusions should enable the competent authorities to ascertain whether the plan or project will adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned. The focus of the appropriate assessment is therefore specifically on the species and/or the habitats for which the European site is designated."

As outlined in the EC guidance document on Article 6(4) (January 2007)1:

"Appropriate assessments of the implications of the plan or project for the site concerned must precede its approval and take into account the cumulative effects which result from the combination of that plan or project with other plans or projects in view of the site's conservation objectives. This implies that all aspects of the plan or project which can, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, affect those objectives must be identified in the light of the best scientific knowledge in the field.

Assessment procedures of plans or projects likely to affect European sites should guarantee full consideration of all elements contributing to the site integrity and to the overall coherence of the network, both in the definition of the baseline conditions and in the stages leading to identification of potential impacts, mitigation measures and residual impacts. These determine what has to be compensated, both in quality and quantity. Regardless of whether the provisions of Article 6(3) are delivered following existing environmental impact assessment procedures or other specific methods, it must be ensured that:

- Article 6(3) assessment results allow full traceability of the decisions eventually made, including the selection of alternatives and any imperative reasons of overriding public interest.
- The assessment should include all elements contributing to the site's integrity and to the overall coherence of the network as defined in the site's conservation objectives and Standard Data Form, and be based on best available scientific knowledge in the field. The information required should be updated and could include the following issues:
 - Structure and function, and the respective role of the site's ecological assets;
 - Area, representativity and conservation status of the priority and nonpriority habitats in the site;
 - Population size, degree of isolation, ecotype, genetic pool, age class structure, and conservation status of species under Annex II of the Habitats Directive or Annex I of the Birds Directive present in the site;
 - Role of the site within the biographical region and in the coherence of the European network; and,
 - Any other ecological assets and functions identified in the site.
- It should include a comprehensive identification of all the potential impacts of the plan or
 project likely to be significant on the site, taking into account cumulative impacts and other
 impacts likely to arise as a result of the combined action of the plan or project under
 assessment and other plans or projects.
- The assessment under Article 6(3) applies the best available techniques and methods, to
 estimate the extent of the effects of the plan or project on the biological integrity of the site(s)
 likely to be damaged.
- The assessment provides for the incorporation of the most effective mitigation measures into the plan or project concerned, in order to avoid, reduce or even cancel the negative impacts on the site.
- The characterisation of the biological integrity and the impact assessment should be based on the best possible indicators specific to the European assets which must also be useful to monitor the plan or project implementation."

¹ 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 interest, compensatory measures, overall coherence, opinion of the commission;

Stages of the Appropriate Assessment

This Appropriate Assessment screening was undertaken in accordance with the European Commission Methodological Guidance on the provision of Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC (EC, 2001), Part XAB of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, in addition to the December 2009 publication from the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government; 'Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland: Guidance for Planning Authorities' and the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011. In order to comply with the above Guidelines and legislation, the Appropriate Assessment process must be structured as follows:

1) Screening stage:

- Description of plan or project, and local site or plan area characteristics;
- Identification of relevant European sites, and compilation of information on their qualifying interests and conservation objectives
- Identification and description of individual in combination effects likely to result from the proposed project;
- Assessment of the likely significance of the effects identified above. Exclusion of sites where it can be objectively concluded that there will be no likely significant effects; and,
 Conclusions

2) Appropriate Assessment (Natura Impact Statement):

- · Description of the European sites that will be considered further;
- Identification and description of potential adverse impacts on the conservation objectives of these sites likely to occur from the project or plan; and,
- Mitigation Measures that will be implemented to avoid, reduce or remedy any such potential adverse impacts
- Assessment as to whether, following the implementation of the proposed mitigation measures, it
 can be concluded, beyond all reasonable scientific doubt, that there will be no adverse impact on
 the integrity of the relevant European Site in light of its conservation objectives"
- Conclusions.

If it can be demonstrated during the AA screening phase (Stage 1), that the proposed project will not have a significant effect, whether alone or in combination with other plans or projects, on the conservation objectives of a European site, then no further AA (Stage 2) will be required. It is important to note that there is a requirement to apply a precautionary approach to AA screening. Therefore, where effects are possible, certain or unknown at the screening stage, AA will be required.

In addition, it should be noted that Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive must be interpreted as meaning that, in order to determine whether it is necessary to carry out, subsequently, an AA of the implications, for a site concerned, of a plan or project, it is not appropriate, at the screening stage, to take account of the measures intended to avoid or reduce the harmful effects of the plan or project on that site.

Stage 1 Screening Assessment

Management of the Site

The plan or project is not directly connected with, or necessary to the management of NATURA 2000 sites.

Description of the Proposed Project

Emmaville Limited intend to apply for: Permission for development at this site: Scholarstown House, Scholarstown Road, Dublin 16, D16 E2H9.

The development will consist of:

- a) The demolition of the 4 no. existing shed structures on site within the curtilage of the protected structure;
- b) The retention and conversion of Scholarstown House (Protected Structure) into two no. units comprised of 1 no. 2-bed and 1 no. 3-bed units served by private open space in the form of ground floor terraces. The proposed works to Scholarstown House include but are not limited to internal re-configuration; the relocation of the staircase to its original location within the house; the removal of non-original features including the closing up of non-original openings; and the creation of a new door opening within the existing alcove, and the blocking up of a window opening both located on the northern elevation.
- c) The construction of a 5-storey apartment block containing 74 no. apartment units comprised of 32 no. 1-bed apartments, 33 no. 2-bed apartments, and 9 no. 3-bed apartments all served by private open space in the form of balconies and/or ground floor terraces.
- d) The proposed development also includes 100 sq.m of residential amenities and facilities consisting of but not limited to a reception, communal amenity room and parcel room.
- e) The development will be served by a total of 40 no. car parking spaces including 8 no. EV parking spaces and 183 no. cycle parking spaces accessed via a new pedestrian and vehicular access off Orlagh Grove with the existing entrances on Scholarstown Road and Orlagh Grove being re-configured to provide for pedestrian and cycle access.
- f) The development will also consist of all ancillary development works required to facilitate the development including but not limited to, plant rooms, a substation, bin stores, landscaping, boundary treatments and lighting.

The development to be applied for includes a building on the South Dublin County Council Record of Protected Structures: Scholarstown House (RPS Ref: 322).

The proposed site outline, location, site layout, and sections are demonstrated in Figures 1 - 4.

Landscape

The landscape strategy for the proposed development has been prepared by Cunnane Stratton Reynolds to accompany this planning application. The proposed overall landscape plan is demonstrated in Figure 5.

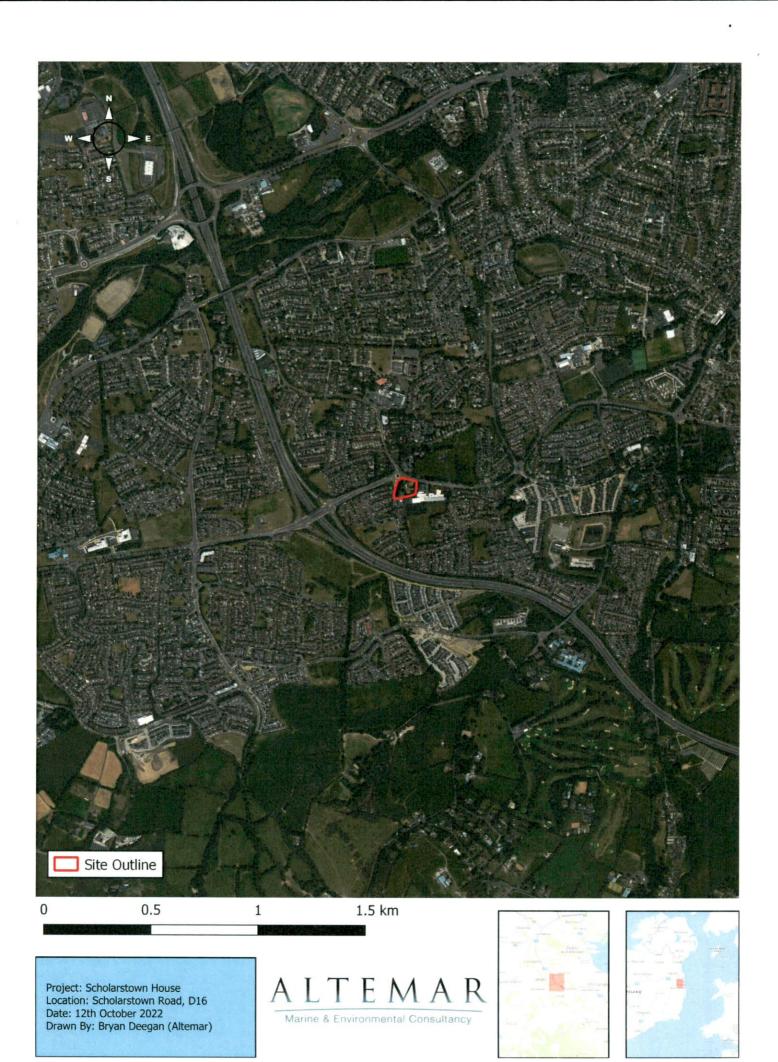


Figure 1. Site outline and location



Figure 2. Outline of proposed site.





Figure 4. Proposed site sections



Drainage

An Engineering Report has been prepared by Horganlynch Consulting Engineers to accompany this planning application. This report outlines the following foul and surface water drainage strategy for the proposed development:

Foul Water

In relation to foul wastewater drainage, this report outlines the following:

'Record drawings as issued by Irish Water in response to a pre connection enquiry identify foul drainage networks south west of the site at Orlagh Green and west of the site in Orlagh Crescent. These networks being as follows:

- 225mm dia. foul along at junction of Orlagh Grove and Orlagh Green
- 225mm dia. foul along Orlagh Way'

'A topographical survey was carried out at the site and this was extended to include the invert levels of the nearest foul drainage manholes. Resulting from this survey it was found that the invert levels were such that the development could not be served solely by a gravity foul sewerage system and the pumping of foul is required. It is proposed that the foul from the development be collected in a gravity foul sewer which will discharge to a pumping station at the south west corner of the site, The foul will be pumped a height of circa 1m a short distance to a manhole at the entrance to the site and from this manhole will discharge via a gravity foul sewer to the Irish Water network at the junction of Orlagh Grove and Orlagh Green.'

Surface Water

In relation to surface water drainage, this report outlines the following:

'Record drawings as issued by Irish Water identify storm drainage pipework along Orlagh Grove and Scholarstown Road. These services being as follows:

- 1200mm concrete pipe and 225mm unknown pipe on Orlagh Grove
- 1200mm concrete pipe and 225mm unknown pipe on Scholarstown Road

A pre-planning meeting was held between the design team for the development and South Dublin City Council, the agenda of which included a discussion on the strategy for the disposal of surface water from the site. Arising from this meeting, it is the desired wish of SDCC that all surface water, where possible, be addressed within the site by means of site infiltration etc. and that little to no surface water from the site be discharged to the local authority storm drainage system.

A geotechnical site investigation was carried out at the site and in the case of soil infiltration, this investigation found as follows:

5.5. Soakaway Design

At the locations of SA02 the water level dropped too slowly to allow calculation of 'f' the soil infiltration rate. These locations are therefore not recommended as suitable for soakaway design and construction.

In view of the findings from the Geotechnical site investigation it is evident that 100% on-site infiltration cannot be achieved. That said, by implementing suds features throughout the development, a sustainable strategy for surface water drainage design can be achieved and the run-off from the site should reflect the present green field run off.

The strategy for surface water drainage design is to include the following suds features:

- Green roof technology throughout the development
- Introduction of swales to the west of the development
- Introduction of retention basins/winter gardens to the north of the development
- Permeable paving for the length of the access road

The public realm will include a significant area of soft landscaping and it is proposed to incorporate Suds features such as tree planters & hardstand areas complete with underlying free draining aggregate and drainage board throughout the development.

At the south west corner of the site, surface water will be discharged to the existing surface water drainage system on Orlagh Grove. This discharge will be controlled by means of a flow restrictor to reflect the present green field run off from the site.'

The proposed foul and surface water drainage layout is demonstrated in Figures 6 & 7.

Flood Risk Assessment

A Site-specific Flood Risk Assessment Report has been prepared by Horganlynch Consulting Engineers to accompany this planning application. This report concludes with the following:

'It is the considered view that the proposed development can be delivered on the subject site in the context of flood risk to same and that the mitigating measures can be accommodated by the site's detail design and surface water drainage design. The OPW's document 'The Planning System and Flood Risk Assessment Management – Guidelines For Planning Authorities' require that the proposed development is compatible with the flood risk for the site. In accordance with these guidelines, the subject site is located within Flood Zone 'C'. Lands in Flood Zone 'C' are suitable for all types of land use, including Residential type developments such as this, which is classified as 'less vulnerable development' in the Guidelines. In light of this, the proposed development is suitable for this type of flooding zoning and the Planning Guidelines Sequential Approach is passed.

In summary, it is concluded that the proposed development meets the requirements of the Flood Risk Assessment Guidelines and that the proposed development is appropriate to this zone and a justification test is not required.'







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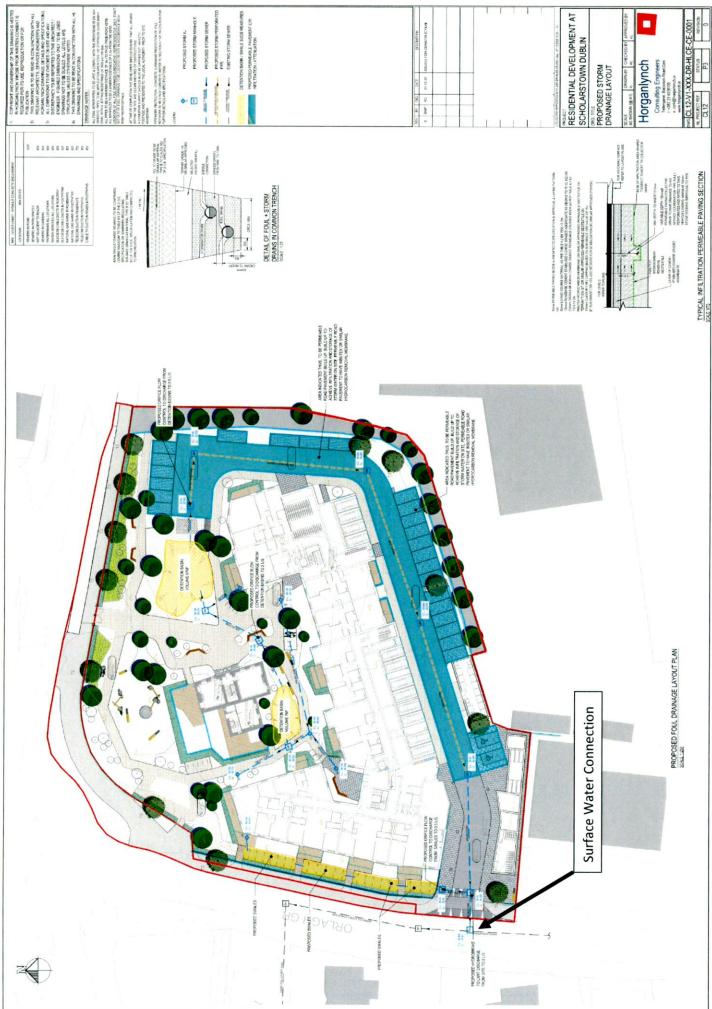
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PROBEITS DEVELOPMENT AT RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT AT SCHOLARSTOWN DUBLIN

PROPOSED FOUL DRAINAGE LAYOUT

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Identification of Relevant Natura 2000 Sites

The proposed development site is not located within a European site. As outlined in Office of the Planning Regulator (2021) "The 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)."

A key factor in the consideration as to whether or not a particular European site is likely to be affected by the proposed works is its distance from the location of the works. It is generally, but not necessarily, the case that the greater the distance from the plan or project the smaller the likelihood of impacts. In this case, the nearest European site to the proposed development is 4 km away (Glenasmole Valley SAC). The ZoI of the proposed project would be seen to be restricted to the site outline, with potential for minor localised noise and lighting impacts during construction which would not be expected to not extend significantly beyond the site outline nor are they likely to have any significant effects on any European sites. Foul wastewater drainage will be directed to an existing public foul network located on Orlagh Grove, with ultimate treatment in Ringsend WwTP. Surface water drainage will be directed to an existing public surface water drainage system located on Orlagh Grove, which ultimately outfalls to the marine environment at Dublin Bay via the River Dodder. Therefore, it is considered that there is an indirect hydrological pathway from the subject site to European Sites located within Dublin Bay.

Despite the lack of a direct hydrological connection to European Sites, but in the interest of carrying out a thorough assessment in line with both the Habitats Directive, and the precautionary principle, the ZoI was expanded for this assessment to include designated sites within 15km of the proposed development site, and sites beyond 15km with the potential for a hydrological connection. This was done in the interest of ensuring that any pathways, however indirect or remote, were taken into account. The Natura 2000 sites within 15km and those with a potential hydrological connection are seen in Figures 8 & 9. Watercourses proximate to the proposed development are demonstrated in Figure 10. All Natura 2000 sites within 15km and those with a potential hydrological connection are listed in Table 1. The conservation objectives, qualifying interests, and the potential impact of the development on each European site and qualifying interest, are outlined in Table 2. Due to the significant dilution and mixing across the marine environment it is considered that there is no direct or indirect pathway to Natura 2000 sites beyond 15km. No European Sites outside of the 15km zone of influence could be impacted by the proposed development

Table 1. Proximity to designated sites of conservation importance

Code	NATURA 2000 Site	Distance	Direct Hydrological / Biodiversity Connection
Special Areas	of Conservation		
IE001209	Glenasmole Valley SAC	4 km	No
IE002122	Wicklow Mountains SAC	4.8 km	No
IE000210	South Dublin Bay SAC	8.4 km	No
IE000725	Knocksink Wood SAC	10 km	No
IE000206	North Dublin Bay SAC	12.6 km	No
IE000713	Ballyman Glen SAC	12.6 km	No
IE001398	Rye Water Valley / Carton SAC	14.7 km	No
IE003000	Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC	15 km	No
Special Protect	tion Area		
IE004040	Wicklow Mountains SPA	4.6 km	No
IE004024	South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA	8.4 km	No
IE004006	North Bull Island SPA	12.6 km	No
IE004172	Dalkey Islands SPA	14.6 km	No

Table 2. Initial screening of NATURA 2000 sites within 15km and NATURA 2000 sites within 15km with potential of hydrological connection to the proposed development

NATURA Code	Name	Screened IN/OUT	Details/Reason
	as of Conservation		
IE001209	Glenasmole Valley SAC	ОИТ	Conservation Objectives The maintenance of habitats and species within Natura 2000 sites at favourable conservation condition will contribute to the overall maintenance of favourable conservation status of those habitats and species at a national level.
			Qualifying Interests Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (* important orchid sites) [6210] Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae) [6410] Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220]
			Potential Impact The development site is located 4 km from the Glenasmole Valley SAC. No potential impact is foreseen. There is no direct or indirect pathway from the proposed development site to the SAC. The construction and operation of the proposed development will not impact on the conservation interests of the site.
			No significant effects are likely.
IE002122	Wicklow Mountains SAC	Out	Conservation Objectives 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.
			Qualifying Interests Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the Littorelletea uniflorae and/or Isoeto-Nanojuncetea [3130] Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160] Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix [4010] European dry heaths [4030] Apine and Boreal heaths [4060] Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe) [6230] Blanket bogs (if active bog) [7130] Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (Androsacetalia alpinae and Galeopsietalia ladani) [8110] Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8210] Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220] Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0]
			Potential Impact The development site is located 4.8 km from the Wicklow Mountains SAC. No potential impact is foreseen. There is no direct or indirect pathway from the proposed development site to the SAC. The construction and operation of the proposed development will not impact on the conservation interests of the site. No significant effects are likely.
			-

NATURA Code	Name	Screened IN/OUT	Details/Reason
IE000210	South Dublin Bay SAC	Out	Conservation Objectives To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide in South Dublin Bay SAC, which is defined by the following targets: • The permanent habitat area is stable or increasing, subject to natural processes. • Maintain the extent of the Zostera –dominated community, subject to natural processes. Qualifying Interests [1140] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1210] Annual vegetation of drift lines [1310] Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [2110] Embryonic shifting dunes Potential Impact The development site is located within a suburban area 8.4 km from this SAC. This SAC is coastal in nature and its features of interest are coastal habitats. The development is not proximate to watercourses and there is no direct pathway to Natura 2000 sites.
			There is an indirect hydrological pathway to this SAC via the proposed foul and surface water drainage strategy. Foul wastewater drainage will be directed to an existing public sewer located on Orlagh Grove, which in turn discharges to Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant (WwTP) for treatment. Any silt or pollutants will be treated along this network under licence and will not significantly impact on the qualifying interests of this SAC. Surface water drainage will be directed to an existing surface water drainage system located on Orlagh Grove, which in turn outfalls to the River Dodder, which in turn outfalls to the marine environment at Dublin Bay. Given the minimum distance (8.4 km) to this SAC, and given the scale of the proposed development, in the absence of mitigation, any silt or pollutants that may enter this surface water network will settle, be dispersed, or diluted. No significant effects on the qualifying interests of this SAC are likely.
			No potential impact is foreseen. The construction and operation of the proposed development will not impact on the conservation interests of the site. No significant effects are likely
IE000725	Knocksink Wood SAC	Out	Conservation Objectives 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 Qualifying Interests Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220] Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0].
			Potential Impact The development is 10 km from the Knocksink Wood SAC. No potential impact is foreseen. There is no direct or indirect pathway from the proposed development site to the SAC. The construction and operation of the proposed development will not impact on the conservation interests of the site.
			No significant effects are likely.

NATURA Code	Name	Screened IN/OUT	Details/Reason
IE000206	North Dublin Bay SAC	Out	Conservation Objectives: 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.
			Qualifying Interests 1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide 1210 Annual vegetation of drift lines 1310 Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand 1330 Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae) 1395 Petalwort (Petalophyllum ralfsii) 1410 Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) 2110 Embryonic shifting dunes 2120 Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria 2130 Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) 2190 Humid dune slacks
_		-	Potential Impact The development site is located within a suburban area 12.6 km from this SAC. This SAC is coastal in nature and its features of interest are coastal habitats. The development is not proximate to watercourses and there is no direct pathway to Natura 2000 sites.
			There is an indirect hydrological pathway to this SAC via the proposed foul and surface water drainage strategy. Foul wastewater drainage will be directed to an existing public sewer located on Orlagh Grove, which in turn discharges to Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant (WwTP) for treatment. Any silt or pollutants will be treated along this network and will not significantly impact on the qualifying interests of this SAC. Surface water drainage will be directed to an existing surface water drainage system located on Orlagh Grove, which in turn outfalls to the River Dodder, which in turn outfalls to the marine environment at Dublin Bay. Given the minimum distance (12.6 km) to this SAC, and given the scale of the proposed development, in the absence of mitigation, any silt or pollutants that may enter this surface water network will settle, be dispersed, or diluted. No significant effects on the qualifying interests of this SAC are likely.
			No potential impact is foreseen. The construction and operation of the proposed development will not impact on the conservation interests of the site.
IE000713	Ballyman Glen SAC	Out	Conservation Objectives To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected.
			Qualifying Interests Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220] Alkaline fens [7230]
			Potential Impact The development is 12.6 km from the Ballyman Glen SAC. No potential impact is foreseen. There is no direct or indirect pathway from the proposed development site to the SAC. The construction

NATURA	Name	Screened	Details/Reason
Code		IN/OUT	and operation of the proposed development will not impact on the
-			conservation interests of the site.
			No significant effects are likely.
IE001398	Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC	ОШТ	Conservation Objectives The maintenance of habitats and species within Natura 2000 sites at favourable conservation condition will contribute to the overall maintenance of favourable conservation status of those habitats and species at a national level. Qualifying Interests Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220] Vertigo angustior (Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail) [1014]
			Potential Impact The development is 14.7 km from the Rye Water Valley / Carton SAC. No potential impact is foreseen. There is no direct or indirect pathway from the proposed development site to the SAC. The construction and operation of the proposed development will not impact on the conservation interests of the site. No significant effects are likely.
IE003000	Rockabill to	Out	Conservation Objectives
	Dalkey Island SAC		To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Reefs and Harbour porpoise in Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets: • The permanent habitat area is stable or increasing, subject to natural processes. • Distribution of habitat is stable or increasing, subject to natural processes. • Conserve the following community types in a natural condition: Intertidal reef community complex; and Subtidal reef community complex. • Porpoise range within site should not be restricted by artificial barriers to site use. • Human activities should occur at levels that do not adversely affect the harbour porpoise community at the site. Qualifying Interests Reefs [1170] Phocoena phocoena (Harbour porpoise) [1351]
			The development site is located within a suburban area 15 km from this SAC. This SAC is marine in nature and its features of interest are a marine habitat and marine mammal. The development is not proximate to watercourses and there is no direct pathway to Natura 2000 sites. Given the minimum distance to this SAC (15km) across a substantial marine environment, it is considered that there is no direct or indirect hydrological pathway from the subject site to this SAC. Foul wastewater will be directed to an existing public foul drainage network, and will in turn be treated at Ringsend WwTP. Surface water drainage will be directed to an existing surface water drainage system on Orlagh Grove, which ultimately outfalls to the marine

NATURA Code	Name	Screened IN/OUT	Details/Reason
Code		111,001	environment at Dublin Bay via the River Dodder. Any silt or pollutants that may enter this surface water network will settle, be dispersed or diluted within the network and will not significantly impact on the qualifying interests of this SAC.
			No potential impact is foreseen. The construction and operation of the proposed development will not impact on the conservation interests of the site.
			No significant effects are likely
IE004040	tected Areas Wicklow	Out	Conservation Objectives
12004040	Mountains SPA	out	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA.
			Features of Interest Falco colombarius (Merlin) [A098] Falco peregrinus (Peregrine) [A103]
			Potential Impact The site is 4.6 km from the Wicklow Mountains SPA. No potential impact is foreseen. There is no direct or indirect pathway from the proposed development site to the SPA. The site is not an important foraging or roosting area for these species. Further, given the distance between the subject site and this SPA (4.6 km), in the absence of mitigation, no significant impacts on the qualifying interests of this SPA are predicted via noise and vibration during the construction phase of development. The construction and operation of the proposed development will not impact on the conservation interests of the site.
			No significant effects are likely.
IE004024	South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary	Out	Conservation Objectives To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Conservation Interests for this SPA.
	SPA	γΑ	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of the wetland habitat in South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA as a resource for the regularly occurring migratory waterbirds that utilise it.
			Qualifying Interests Branta bernicla hrota (Light-bellied Brent Goose) [A046] Haematopus ostralegus (Oystercatcher) [A130] Charadrius hiaticula (Ringed Plover) [A137] Pluvialis squatarola (Grey Plover) [A141] Calidris canutus (Knot) [A143) Calidris alba (Sanderling) [A144] Calidris alpina (Dunlin) [A149] Limosa lapponica (Bar-tailed Godwit) [A157] Tringa totanus (Redshank) [A162] Chroicocephalus ridibundus (Black-headed Gull) [A179] Sterna dougallii (Roseate Tern) [A192] Sterna hirundo (Common Tern) [A193] Sterna paradisaea (Arctic Tern) [A194] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]

NATURA Code	Name	Screened IN/OUT	Details/Reason
			Potential Impact The development site is located 8.4 km from the South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA. This SPA and its features of interest are marine based. The site consists of existing buildings and an area of grassland surrounded by tall treelines. The development is not proximate to watercourses and there is no direct pathway to Natura 2000 sites.
			There is an indirect hydrological pathway to this SPA via the proposed foul and surface water drainage strategy. Foul wastewater drainage will be directed to an existing public sewer located on Orlagh Grove, which in turn discharges to Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant (WwTP) for treatment. Any silt or pollutants will be treated along this network under licence and will not significantly impact on the qualifying interests of this SPA. Surface water drainage will be directed to an existing surface water drainage system located on Orlagh Grove, which in turn outfalls to the River Dodder, which in turn outfalls to the marine environment at Dublin Bay. Given the minimum distance (8.4 km) to this SPA, and given the scale of the proposed development, in the absence of mitigation, any silt or pollutants that may enter this surface water network will settle, be dispersed, or diluted. The River Dodder will enter the estuarine element of the River Liffey where flocculation will also occur. No significant effects on the qualifying interests of this SPA are likely.
			Further, given the distance between the subject site and this SPA (8.4 km), in the absence of mitigation, no significant impacts on the qualifying interests of this SPA are predicted via noise and vibration during the construction phase of development.
			No potential impact is foreseen. The construction and operation of the proposed development will not impact on the conservation interests of the site.
-			No significant effects are likely
IE004006	North Bull Island SPA	Out	Conservation Objective: To maintain or restore the favourable conservation conditions of the species and/or habitats listed as Qualifying Interests for this SPA.
			Qualifying Interests A046 Light-bellied Brent Goose (Branta bernicla hrota) A048 Shelduck (Tadorna tadorna) A052 Teal (Anas crecca) A054 Pintail (Anas acuta) A056 Shoveler (Anas clypeata) A130 Oystercatcher (Haematopus ostralegus) A140 Golden Plover (Pluvialis apricaria) A141 Grey Plover (Pluvialis squatarola) A143 Knot (Calidris canutus) A144 Sanderling (Calidris alba) A149 Dunlin (Calidris alpina alpine) A156 Black-tailed Godwit (Limosa limosa) A157 Bar-tailed Godwit (Limosa lapponica) A160 Curlew (Numenius arquata) A162 Redshank (Tringa tetanus) A169 Turnstone (Arenaria interpres)

NATURA	Name	Screened	Details/Reason
Code		IN/OUT	
			A179 Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) A999 Wetlands
			Potential Impact The proposed development site is located 12.6 km from the North Bull Island SPA. The site is not an important foraging or roosting area for these species. The development is not proximate to watercourses and there is no direct pathway to Natura 2000 sites.
			There is an indirect hydrological pathway to this SPA via the proposed foul and surface water drainage strategy. Foul wastewater drainage will be directed to an existing public sewer located on Orlagh Grove, which in turn discharges to Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant (WwTP) for treatment. Any silt or pollutants will be treated along this network and will not significantly impact on the qualifying interests of this SPA. Surface water drainage will be directed to an existing surface water drainage system located on Orlagh Grove, which in turn outfalls to the River Dodder, which in turn outfalls to the marine environment at Dublin Bay. Given the minimum distance (12.6 km) to this SPA, and given the scale of the proposed development, in the absence of mitigation, any silt or pollutants that may enter this surface water network will settle, be dispersed, or diluted. The River Dodder will enter the estuarine element of the River Liffey where flocculation will also occur. No significant effects on the qualifying interests of this SPA are likely.
			No significant effects on the qualifying interests of this SPA are likely.
			Further, given the distance between the subject site and this SPA (12.6 km), in the absence of mitigation, no significant impacts on the qualifying interests of this SPA are predicted via noise and vibration during the construction phase of development.
			No potential impact is foreseen. The construction and operation of the proposed development will not impact on the conservation interests of the site.
			No significant effects are likely
IE004172	Dalkey Islands SPA	Out	Conservation Objectives To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA.
			Qualifying Interests Sterna dougallii (Roseate Tern) [A192] Sterna hirundo (Common Tern) [A193] Sterna paradisaea (Arctic Tern) [A194]
			Potential Impact The development site is located 14.6 km from the Dalkey Islands SPA. The features of interest of this SPA are summer migratory bird species and the site is not an important foraging or roosting area for these species. The development is not proximate to watercourses and there is no direct pathway to Natura 2000 sites.
			Given the minimum distance to this SPA (14.6 km) across a substantial marine environment, it is considered that there is no direct or indirect hydrological pathway from the subject site to this SPA. Foul wastewater will be directed to an existing public foul

NATURA Code	Name	Screened IN/OUT	Details/Reason
			drainage network, and will in turn be treated at Ringsend WwTP. Surface water drainage will be directed to an existing surface water drainage system on Orlagh Grove, which ultimately outfalls to the marine environment at Dublin Bay via the River Dodder. Any silt or pollutants that may enter this surface water network will settle, be dispersed or diluted within the network and will not significantly impact on the qualifying interests of this SPA.
			Further, given the distance between the subject site and this SPA (14.6 km), in the absence of mitigation, no significant impacts on the qualifying interests of this SPA are predicted via noise and vibration during the construction phase of development.
			No potential impact is foreseen. The construction and operation of the proposed development will not impact on the conservation interests of the site.
			No significant effects are likely

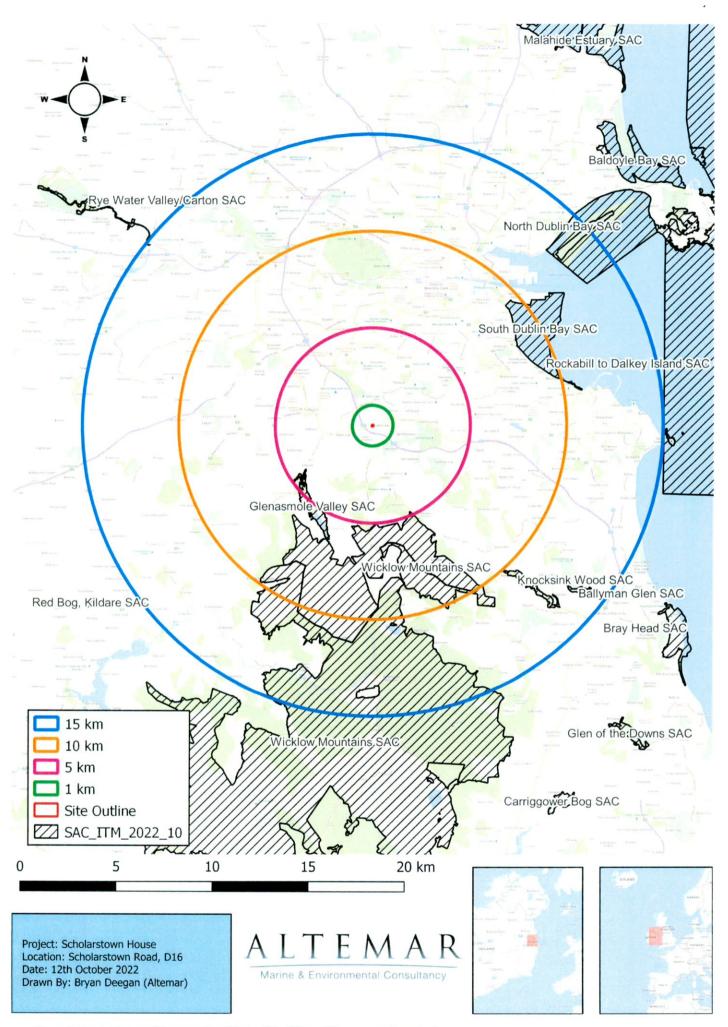


Figure 8. Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) within 15km of the proposed works site

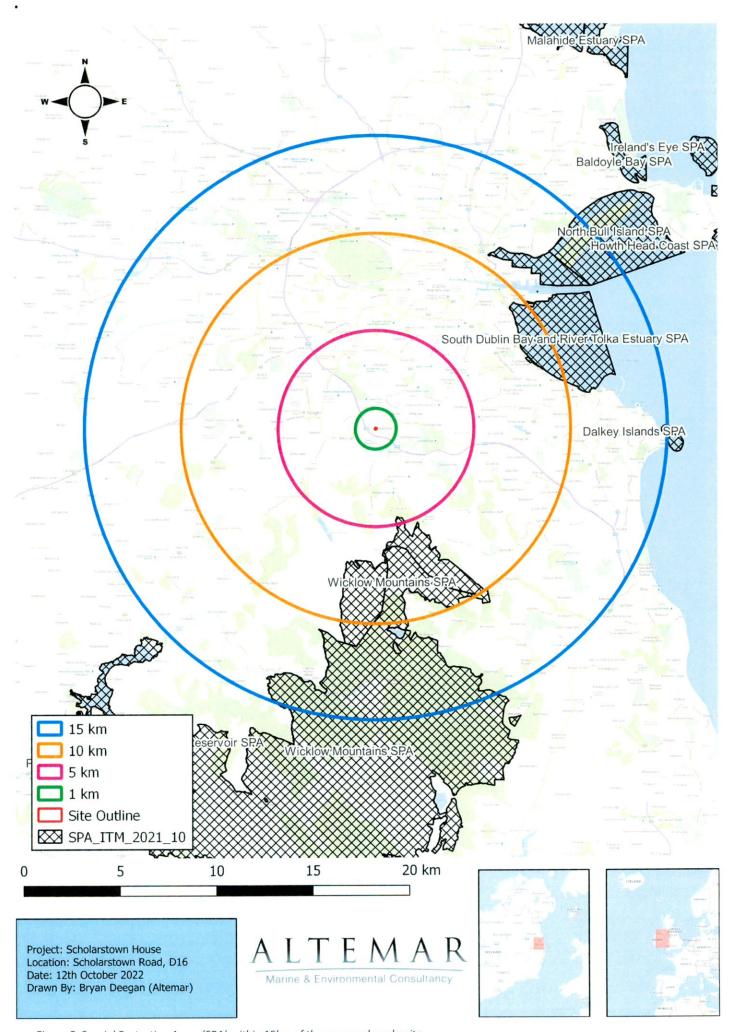


Figure 9. Special Protection Areas (SPA) within 15km of the proposed works site

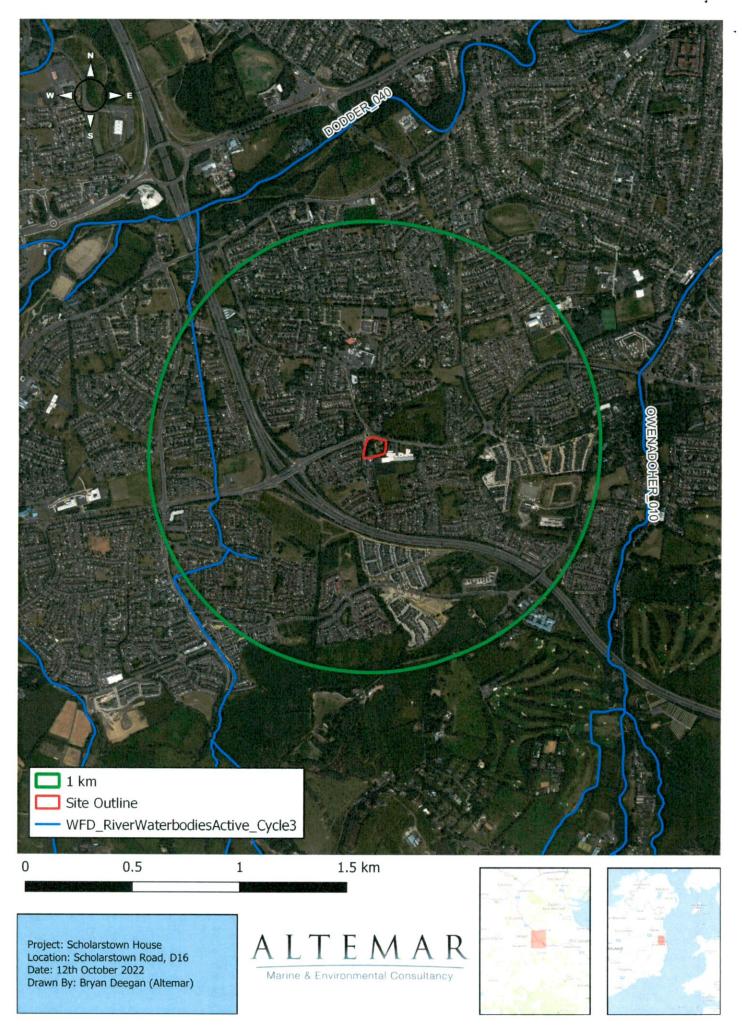


Figure 10. Waterbodies proximate to the proposed works site

In-Combination Effects

There are several development proposals located in the areas surrounding the subject site. These have been analysed for potential in-combination effects. The following is a list of planning application(s) as identified on the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage's 'National Planning Application Database' portal:

Table 3. In-combination effects examined

Ref. No.	Address	Proposal
SD22A/0128	Site at Scholarstown Road, Rathfarnham, Dublin 16	Amendment to Block D2, located towards the south-eastern corner of the site located north of Scholarstown Road called 'Two Oaks', formally incorporating dwellings known as 'Beech Park' and 'Maryfield (657sq.m) of the scheme granted under ABP Ref: 305878-19 and the non-material amendments permitted under ABP Ref: 311752-21; Block D2 as granted provided two retail units at ground floor level measuring 135sq.m and 112sq.m and a restaurant/cafe at first floor level measuring 271.5sq.m; The amendment proposes the provision of a single retail unit in Block D2 comprising the amalgamation of the two permitted ground floor units and the change of use of the first-floor unit from restaurant/cafe to ancillary retail floor area principally providing storage/back-of-house/office space for the retail unit at ground floor level; and all associated works. Retention permission is sought for minor elevational changes to Block D2.
SHD3ABP- 305878-19	'Beechpark' and 'Maryfield', Scholarstown Road, Dublin 16	Demolition of all existing structures on site which include a single storey dwelling known as 'Beechpark' (172sq.m), a 2 storey dwelling known as 'Maryfield' (182sq.m), with associated garage/shed (33.5sq.m) and associated outbuildings (47.1sq.m); and the construction of 590 residential units (480 Build-to-Rent apartment units and 110 Build-to-Sell duplex units and apartments), ancillary residential support facilities and commercial floorspace. The total gross floor space of the development is 51,252sq.m over a partial basement of 5,888sq.m (which principally provides car and bicycle parking, plant and bin stores). The 480 'Build-to-Rent' units will be provided in 8 blocks as follows: 7 blocks ranging in height from part 5 to part 6 storeys (Block B1B5, C1 and C3) and 1 block ranging in height from part 4 to part 6 storeys (Block C2) and will comprise 246 one bed units and 234 two bed units. The 110 'Build-to-Sell' units will be provided in 9 duplex blocks which will be 3 storeys in height (Blocks A1-A9) and will comprise 55 two bed units and 55 three bed units. The development will also consist of the provision of a part 1 to part 2 storey ancillary amenity block (Block D1) (414sq.m) within the central open space which comprises a gymnasium, lobby, kitchenette and lounge at ground floor level and lounge at first floor level in addition to a roof terrace (facing north, south and west) to serve the 'Build-to-Rent' residents; a 2 storey retail/café/restaurant building(Block D2 - 657sq.m) comprising 2 retail units at ground floor level (328.5sq.m) and a café/restaurant unit at first floor level (328.5sq.m); a creche (438sq.m) within Block C2 at ground floor level; and a Management Suite (261sq.m) and café/restaurant (288sq.m) within Block C3 at ground floor level all at a 5.35 hectare site located north of Scholarstown Road incorporating dwellings known as 'Beechpark' and 'Maryfield', Scholarstown Road incorporating dwellings known as 'Beechpark' and 'Maryfield', Scholarstown Road and Woodfield junction including
SD19A/0088	Site at Scholarstown Road, Rathfarnham, Dublin 16	Demolition and enabling works on a 5.2 hectare site located north of Scholarstown Road incorporating a dwelling known as 'Beechpark'; demolition of the 172sq.m, single storey dwelling located towards the western portion of the site (known as 'Beechpark); diversion of existing private foul drainage network within the boundary of the subject site (maintaining services to existing third party connections)
SD18A/0297	St Colmcilles Community School, Scholarstown Road, Knocklyon, Dublin 16	Three storey split level extension to side of existing sports hall to consist of changing and toilet facilities at lower ground floor, performance space at upper ground floor and multi-function space at first floor. Works will also include all associated demolition, landscaping, drainage and site works.

In relation to Planning Ref. **SHD3ABP-305878-19**, a Screening Report for Appropriate Assessment was prepared by OPENFIELD Ecological Services to accompany this planning application. This report concludes with the following:

"This project has been screened for AA under the appropriate methodology. It has found that significant effects are not likely to arise, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects to the Natura 2000 network."

In relation to Planning Ref. **SD19A/0088**, a Screening Report for Appropriate Assessment was prepared by OPENFIELD Ecological Services to accompany this planning application. This report concludes with the following:

"This project has been screened for AA under the appropriate methodology. It has found that significant effects are not likely to arise, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects to the Natura 2000 network."

It should be noted that the Ringsend WWTP upgrade which is currently being constructed will result in improved water quality by Q4 2023 to ensure compliance with Water Framework Directive requirements. Given this, it is considered that in combination effects with other existing and proposed developments in proximity to the application area would be unlikely, neutral, not significant and localised. It is concluded that no significant effects on Natura 2000 sites will be seen as a result of the proposed development in combination with other projects. No in combination effects are foreseen.

No significant effects are likely from in combination effects

Conclusions

The proposed site is located in a suburban environment 4 km from the nearest Natura 2000 site (Glenasmole Valley SAC). Watercourses and surface runoff are seen as the main potential pathway for impacts on Natura 2000 sites. There is no direct hydrological pathway linking the proposed development site to a Natura 2000 site. There is an indirect pathway to Natura 2000 sites located within Dublin Bay via the proposed foul and surface water drainage networks. Foul wastewater drainage will be directed to an existing public foul network located on Orlagh Grove, which in turn discharges to Ringsend WwTP for treatment. Any silt or pollutants will be treated along this network and within Ringsend WwTP. Surface water drainage will be directed to an existing surface water drainage system located on Orlagh Grove, which ultimately outfalls to the marine environment at Dublin Bay via the River Dodder. In the absence of mitigation, any silt or pollutants will settle, be dispersed or diluted along this network. No significant impacts on the qualifying interests of Natura 2000 sites are predicted. Further, the subject site is not an important foraging or roosting site for bird species protected as qualifying interests in nearby SPAs. As such, the proposed development project will not have a significant impact on the conservation objectives of Natura 2000 sites.

Having taken into consideration the effluent discharge from the proposed development works, the distance between the proposed development site to designated conservation sites, lack of direct hydrological pathway or biodiversity corridor link to conservation sites and the dilution effect with other effluent and surface runoff, it is concluded that this development would not give rise to any significant effects to designated sites. The construction and operation of the proposed development will not impact on the conservation objectives of features of interest of Natura 2000 sites.

This report presents a Stage 1 Appropriate Assessment Screening for the Proposed Development, outlining the information required for the competent authority to screen for appropriate assessment and to determine whether or not the Proposed Development, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects, in view of best scientific knowledge, is likely to have a significant effect on any European or Natura 2000 site.

On the basis of the content of this report, the competent authority is enabled to conduct a Stage 1 Screening for Appropriate Assessment and consider whether, in view of best scientific knowledge and in view of the conservation objectives of the relevant European sites, the Proposed Development, individually or in combination with other plans or projects is likely to have a significant effect on any European site.

Data Used for AA Screening

NPWS site synopses and Conservation objectives of sites within 15km were assessed. The most recent SAC and SPA boundary shapefiles were downloaded and overlaid on ESRI road maps and satellite imagery. Site visits were carried out on the 8th and 21st of September 2022.

Findings of No Significant Effects Report

Details of Project	Appropriate Assessment Screening for a Proposed
and the second second	Residential Development at Scholarstown Road, Dublin 16,
	Co. Dublin
Name and Location of NATURA 2000 Sites	Glenasmole Valley SAC
Within 15km	Wicklow Mountains SAC
	South Dublin Bay SAC
	Knocksink Wood SAC
	North Dublin Bay SAC
	Ballyman Glen SAC
	Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC
	Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC
	Wicklow Mountains SPA
	South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA
	North Bull Island SPA
Puriose Proprietion	Dalkey Islands SPA
Project Description	Residential Development
Is the Project directly connected with the management of the NATURA 2000 site?	No
Details of any other projects or plans that	None
together with this project could affect the	Hone
NATURA 2000 site	
The assessment of significant effects	
Describe how the project is likely to affect	No Impact Predicted
the NATURA 2000 site	
Response to consultation	N/A
Data collected to carry out the assessment	Supporting NPWS data.
Who carried out the assessment	Altemar Ltd.
Sources of data	NPWS website, standard data form, conservation objectives
	data of the site and references outlined in the AA Screening
	Report.
Explain why the effects are not considered	Having taken into consideration the effluent discharge from
significant	the proposed development works, the distance between
	the proposed development site to designated conservation
	sites, lack of direct hydrological pathway to conservation
	sites and the dilution effect and treatment of effluent and surface runoff, it is concluded that this development that
	surface runon, it is concluded that this development that
	would not give rise to any significant effects to designated
	would not give rise to any significant effects to designated sites.
Level of assessment completed	sites.
Level of assessment completed Overall conclusions	1 March 1995 10
	sites. Stage 1 Screening
	sites. Stage 1 Screening On the basis of the content of this report, the competent
	sites. Stage 1 Screening On the basis of the content of this report, the competent authority is enabled to conduct a Stage 1 Screening for
	sites. Stage 1 Screening On the basis of the content of this report, the competent authority is enabled to conduct a Stage 1 Screening for Appropriate Assessment and consider whether, in view of best scientific knowledge and in view of the conservation objectives of the relevant European sites, the Proposed
	sites. Stage 1 Screening On the basis of the content of this report, the competent authority is enabled to conduct a Stage 1 Screening for Appropriate Assessment and consider whether, in view of best scientific knowledge and in view of the conservation objectives of the relevant European sites, the Proposed Development, individually or in combination with other
	sites. Stage 1 Screening On the basis of the content of this report, the competent authority is enabled to conduct a Stage 1 Screening for Appropriate Assessment and consider whether, in view of best scientific knowledge and in view of the conservation objectives of the relevant European sites, the Proposed

References

The following references were used in the preparation of this AA screening report.

- 1. Department of Environmental Heritage and Local Government Circular NPW 1/10 and PSSP 2/10 on Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive Guidance for Planning Authorities March 2010.
- Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland: Guidance for Planning Authorities, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government 2009; http://www.npws.ie/publications/archive/NPWS 2009 AA Guidance.pdf
- 3. Managing NATURA 2000 Sites: the provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, European Commission 2000;
- 4. 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;
- Guidance document on Article 6(4) of the 'Habitats Directive' 92/43/EEC Clarification of the concepts of: alternative solutions, imperative reasons of overriding public interest, compensatory measures, overall coherence, opinion of the commission;
- 6. Guidance document on the implementation of the birds and habitats directive in estuaries and coastal zones with particular attention to port development and dredging; http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/Natura2000/management/docs/guidance_doc.pdf
- 7. The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland.

 http://www.npws.ie/publications/euconservationstatus/NPWS 2007 Conservation Status Report.pdf
- 8. NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives: Glenasmole Valley SAC 001209. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
- 9. NPWS (2017) Conservation Objectives: Wicklow Mountains SAC 002122. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.
- NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives: South Dublin Bay SAC 000210. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
- 11. NPWS (2021) Conservation objectives for Knocksink Wood SAC [000725]. Generic Version 8.0. Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
- 12. NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives: North Dublin Bay SAC 000206. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
- 13. NPWS (2019) Conservation Objectives: Ballyman Glen SAC 000713. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
- 14. NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives: Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC 001398. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
- 15. NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives: Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC 003000. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
- 16. 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.
- 17. NPWS (2022) Conservation objectives for Dalkey Islands SPA [004172]. Generic Version 9.0. Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
- 18. NPWS (2015) Conservation Objectives: North Bull Island SPA 004006. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
- 19. NPWS (2022) Conservation objectives for Wicklow Mountains SPA [004040]. Generic Version 9.0. Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

