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Marine & Environmental Consultancy

Appropriate Assessment Screening for a proposed LRD at Taylors Lane, Ballyboden, Dublin 16.

29th March 2023

Prepared by: Bryan Deegan (MCIEEM) of Altemar Ltd.
On behalf of: Shannon Homes Dublin Unlimited Company

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Introduction

The following Appropriate Assessment (AA) (Screening Stage) has been prepared by **Altemar Ltd.** at the request of Shannon Homes Dublin Unlimited Company for a proposed Large-scale Residential Development (LRD) at Taylors Lane, Ballyboden, Dublin 16.

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 28 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 European sites.

Description of the Proposed Project

The proposal is for a large-scale residential development on this site of net 3.5ha comprising the following:

- Demolition of existing former Institutional buildings and associated outbuildings (c.5231 sq.m);
- Construction of 402 residential units within 3 apartment/duplex blocks ranging in height from 2-5 storeys and comprising of 39 no. 1-Beds; 302 no. 2-Beds; and 61 no. 3-Beds all with associated private balconies/terraces to the north/south/east/west elevations;
- Provision of one crèche and two retail units.
- Provision of a new public park along Taylor's Lane
- Provision of 290 no. car parking spaces.
- Vehicular access to the site via Edmondstown Road to the west.
- Pedestrian Access to the site via Edmondstown Road to the west and Taylor's Lane to the north.

The proposed site outline, location, site plan, and elevations are demonstrated in Figures 1-5.

Landscape

The landscape strategy for the proposed development has been designed by Doyle & O'Troithigh Landscape Architecture to accompany this planning application. The proposed overall landscape plan and green infrastructure plan are demonstrated in Figures 6 & 7.

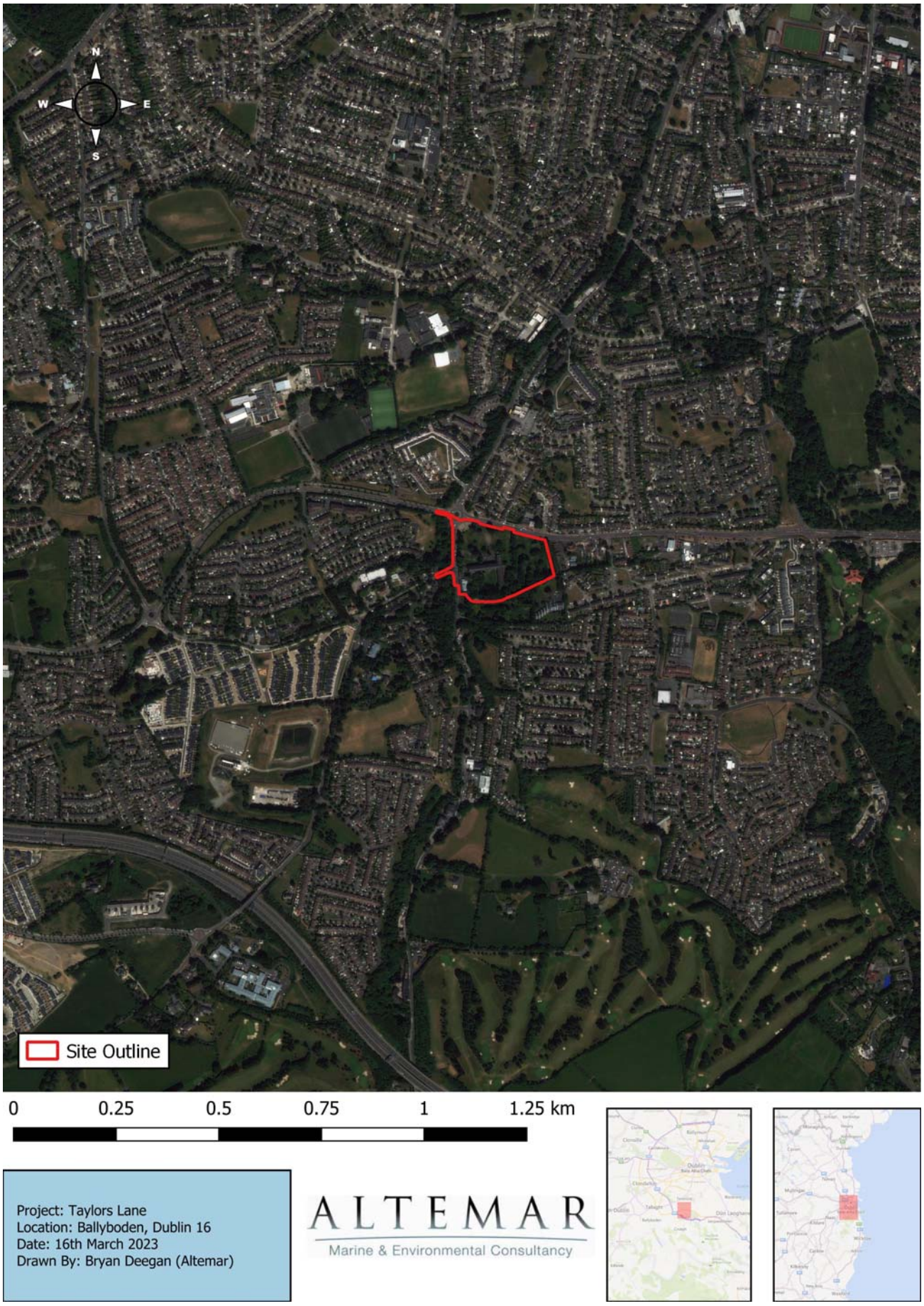

Figure 1. Proposed site outline and location

Figure 2. Proposed site outline

Figure 3. Proposed site plan

Figure 4. Proposed elevations (sheet 1)

Figure 5. Proposed elevations (sheet 2)

Figure 6. Proposed overall landscape plan

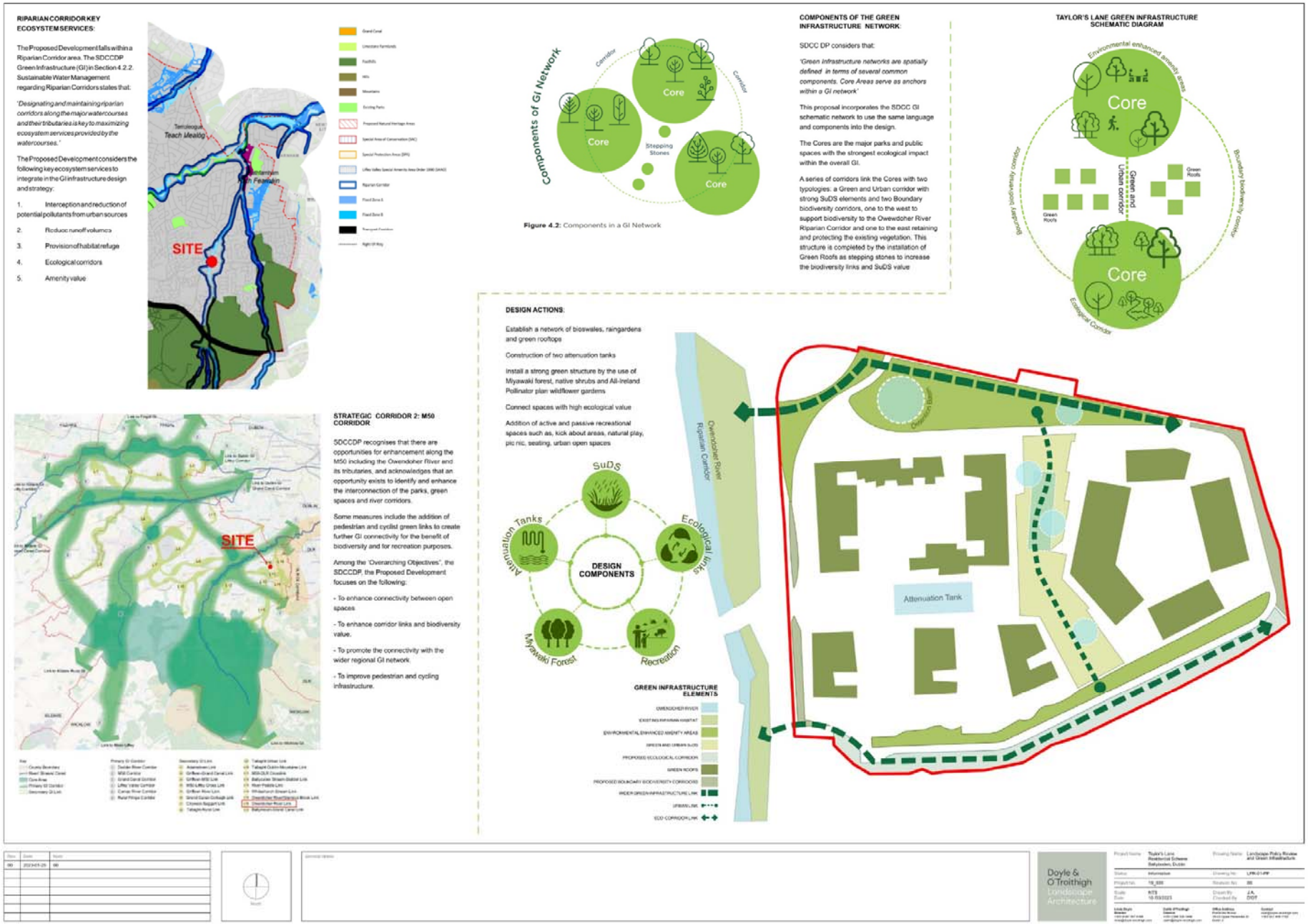

Figure 7. Landscape policy review and green infrastructure

Drainage

An Engineering Services Report has been prepared by DBFL Consulting Engineers to accompany this planning application. This report outlines the following drainage strategy for the proposed development:

Surface Water Drainage

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

'*The proposed site is serviced by an existing surface water sewer which crosses Edmondstown Road and discharges to the Owendoher River located to the west of the site. The records also show a 900mm diameter surface water culvert on the north-eastern boundary which crosses Taylors Lane, after investigations it is found the only connection to this culvert is an obsolete surface water drain which serviced an old water feature that is no longer used. No further surface water infrastructure serves the development*.'

In terms of the proposed surface water drainage strategy, this report outlines the following:

'*The site investigation shows relatively good infiltration rates to the north of the site with tests recording results between 4x10-4 ms-1 and 4x10-5 ms-1.*

Due to these results, infiltration techniques will be considered if only in part within the SUDS strategy

All runoff from impermeable surfaces on the site will initially drain via source control SUDS features as the first step in the management train. Where feasible, subsequent SUDS features have been linked to increase interception losses along the management train. For the remaining storage requirements, a number of attenuation features have been designed (discussed under section 5.3). A large portion of the open area of the site to the north has been reserved for open conveyance and detention basins. The remaining storage requirements were fulfilled using economical and sustainable underground attenuation features which promote infiltration. Outflows from the development will be restricted to greenfield rates before being discharged via a single outfall to the Owendoher River at the north-western corner of the subject site. The surface water network and the outfall have been designed to ensure that the network can continue to drain during high water levels in the Owendoher River.'

Foul Wastewater Drainage

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

'*By reviewing records, the surrounding area predominately uses a separated drainage network. The subject site is serviced by an existing 225mm diameter foul sewer on Edmondstown Road which runs from south to north, continuing north within Ballyboden Road*.'

In terms of the proposed foul drainage design, this report outlines the following:

'*The proposed foul drainage has been designed to drain via one outfall to the Irish Water combined sewer in Edmondstown Road.*'

The proposed site services layout is demonstrated in Figure 8.

Flood Risk Assessment

A Site Specific Flood Risk Assessment Report was prepared by DBFL Consulting Engineers to accompany this planning application. This report concludes with the following:

- '*The proposed type of development for this site is to be residential and is categorised as* ***highly vulnerable development****.*
- *All Highly vulnerable development is located wholly in Flood Zone C.*
- *Only the north-western corner of the subject site is located in Flood Zone B and due to the infrastructure constraints (watermain wayleave), all proposed development is located well outside Flood Zone B.*
- *As part of the mitigation measures to reduce the associated Flood risk for site users, was by ensuring all 'highly vulnerable' finished floor levels are located above the 0.1% AEP flood level plus 500mm freeboard. As the flood extents relate to overland flows, the CFRAMS flood depth maps and site-specific topographical survey were used to calculate the levels at the flood extents. Where the difference between the calculated flood level and the FFL is not 500mm, landscaping will ensure the 500mm freeboard is included to ensure no further overland flow paths are created within the site.*
- *A possible source of flood risk from the surcharging or blockage of the development's drainage system has been identified. This risk is mitigated by suitable design of the drainage network (as detailed in DBFL Infrastructure Design Report 190068-X-05-X-XXXRP-DBFL-CE-0002), regular maintenance and inspection of the network and establishment of exceedance overland flow routes.*
- *The development's drainage design includes for a 20% climate change allowance.*
- *The proposed development will not increase run-off rate when compared with the existing site and satisfies the requirement of the SFRA to reduce flooding and improve water quality.'*

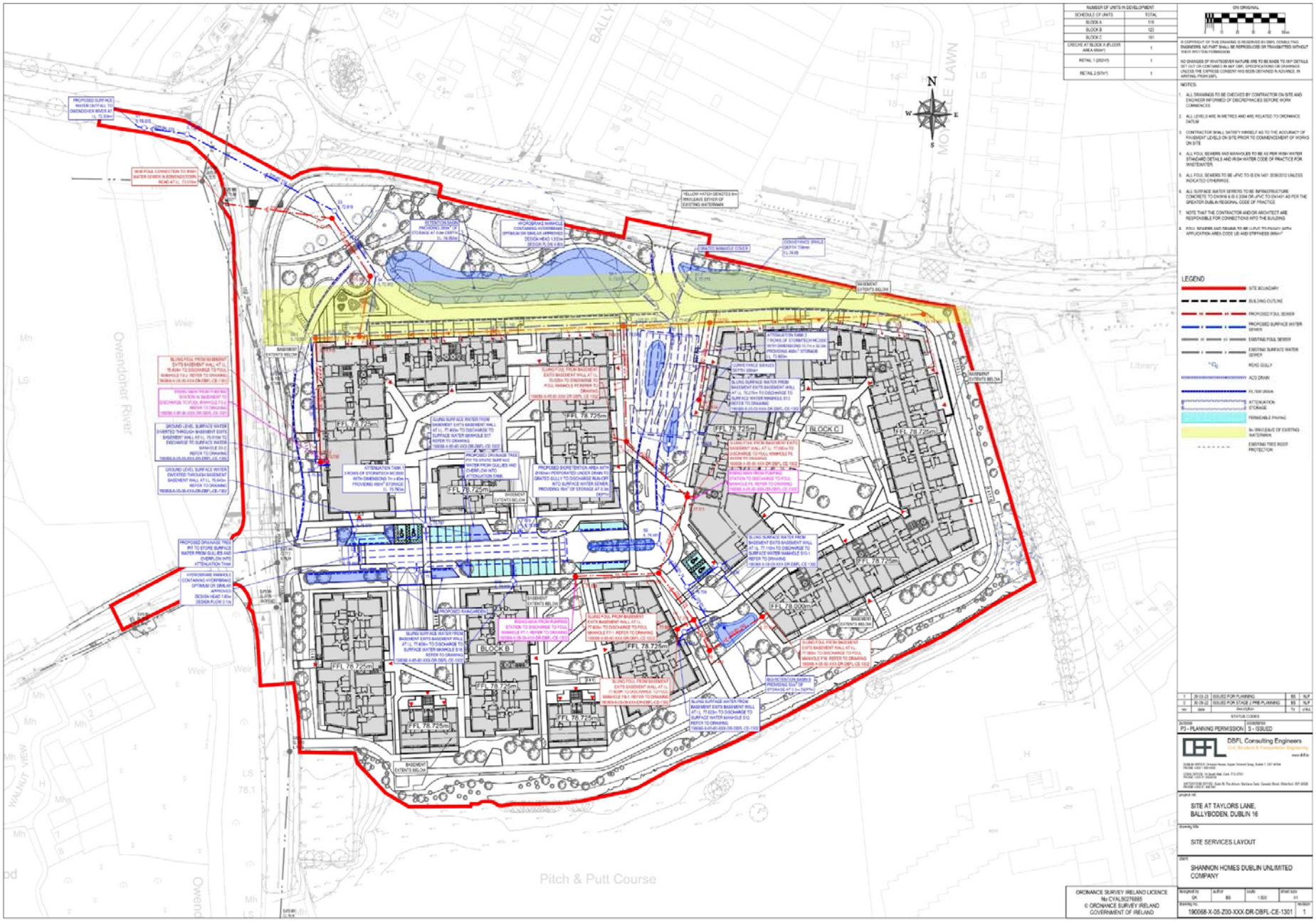

Figure 8. Proposed site services layout

Identification of Relevant European Sites

The proposed development site is not 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)*."

The proposed development site is located within a populated urban environment. The nearest European site is Wicklow Mountains SAC (4.6 km) (Figure 9). The nearest watercourse to the subject site is the Owendoher River, which flows through a western portion of the subject site (Figure 11). There is a direct hydrological connection to this watercourse via surface water drainage. Surface water drainage will be discharged via a single outfall to the Owendoher River at the north-western corner of the subject site. Given that the Owendoher River outfalls to the River Dodder, which in turn outfalls to the marine environment at Dublin Bay, it is considered that there is a direct hydrological connection to European Sites located within Dublin Bay via the proposed surface water drainage strategy. There is, therefore, a direct hydrological pathway from the proposed development site to the European sites located within Dublin Bay via surface water drainage (South Dublin Bay SAC, North Dublin Bay SAC, South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA, North Bull Island SPA).

It should be noted that there is an existing mill race that bounds the southern boundary of the subject site. During site surveys the presence of water in the mill race inconsistent, with water being absent in summer months and present during winter months. Following an examination of historical 6-inch mapping and site visits, it should be noted that there is a weir located along the Owendoher River upstream of the proposed development site, that acts as the source of this mill race. Based on the examination of 6 inch mapping this mill race then ultimately outfalls back to the Owendoher River (see Figure 12). Out of an abundance of caution, it is considered that there is the potential for silt and contaminated runoff to enter this mill race and transport pollutants to the Owendoher River. There is, therefore, a direct hydrological pathway from the proposed development site to the European sites located within Dublin Bay via the millrace (South Dublin Bay SAC, North Dublin Bay SAC, South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA, North Bull Island SPA). Foul wastewater will be directed to an existing public combined foul network located on Edmondstown Road, which in turn ultimately discharges to Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant (WwTP) for treatment. Foul wastewater will be treated at Ringsend WwTP. There is, therefore, an indirect hydrological pathway from the proposed development site to the European sites located within Dublin Bay via foul wastewater drainage (South Dublin Bay SAC, North Dublin Bay SAC, South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA, North Bull Island SPA).

In the interest of carrying out a thorough assessment in line with both the Habitats Directive and the precautionary principle, the area of assessment was expanded beyond the ZoI 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. All European sites within 15km and those with a hydrological pathway are listed in Table 1. The qualifying interests, and the potential impact of the proposed development on each European site and qualifying interest, are screened out in Table 2. No potential impacts are foreseen on European sites beyond 15km as there is no direct or indirect pathways to these sites. SACs and SPAs within 15km of the works site are demonstrated in Figures 9 & 10. Waterbodies, SACs, and SPAs located proximate to the proposed development are demonstrated in Figures 11-14.

Table 1. Proximity to designated sites of conservation importance

Code	European Site	Distance	Direct Hydrological / Biodiversity Connection
Special Areas of Conservation			
IE002122	Wicklow Mountains SAC	4.6 km	No
IE001209	Glenasmole Valley SAC	5.2. km	No
IE000210	South Dublin Bay SAC	7.1 km	Yes
IE000725	Knocksink Wood SAC	9.2 km	No
IE000206	North Dublin Bay SAC	11.5 km	Yes
IE000713	Ballyman Glen SAC	11.7 km	No
IE003000	Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC	13.5 km	No
Special Protection Area			
IE004040	Wicklow Mountains SPA	4.6 km	No
IE004024	South Dublin Bay and River Tolka SPA	7 km	Yes
IE004006	North Bull Island SPA	11.5 km	Yes
IE004172	Dalkey Islands SPA	13.2 km	No

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

European Site Code	Name	Screened IN/OUT	Details/Reason
Special Areas of Conservation			
IE000210	South Dublin Bay SAC	**IN**	**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** Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210] Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] Embryonic shifting dunes [2110] **Potential Impact** The proposed development site is located approximately 7.1 km from the South Dublin Bay SAC. There is a direct hydrological pathway from the proposed development to this SAC via the mill race and surface water drainage. During construction, there is the potential for dust and contaminated surface water runoff to enter the Owendoher River, a watercourse that traverses along the western portion of the subject site (Figure 11). During operation, surface water drainage will be discharged via a single outfall to the Owendoher River at the north-western corner of the subject site. Given that the Owendoher River outfalls to the River Dodder, which in turn outfalls to the marine environment at Dublin Bay, it is considered that there is a direct hydrological connection to this SAC. There is the potential for silt and contaminated surface water runoff to enter the Owendoher River with the potential for downstream impacts on this SAC. Mitigation measures are required. It should be noted that there is an existing mill race that bounds the southern boundary of the subject site. Following an examination of historical 6-inch mapping, there is a weir located along the Owendoher River that acts as the source of this mill race. This mill race then ultimately outfalls back to the Owendoher River (see Figure 12). Out of an abundance of caution, it is considered that there is the potential for silt and contaminated runoff to enter this waterbody and transport pollutants to the Owendoher River. Foul wastewater will be directed to an existing public foul combined network located on Edmondstown Road, which in turn discharges to Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant (WwTP) for treatment. Foul wastewater will be treated at Ringsend WwTP. In the absence of mitigation, no significant effects on the qualifying interests of this SAC are likely via the indirect hydrological pathway of foul wastewater drainage. In the absence of mitigation measures, it is considered that significant effects on the qualifying interests of this SAC are likely via the Owendoher River during the construction and operational phases of development. **Stage 2 AA (Natura Impact Statement) is Required.**

European Site Code	Name	Screened IN/OUT	Details/Reason
IE0000206	North Dublin Bay SAC	**IN**	**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 [2130] Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2190] Humid dune slacks **Potential Impact** The proposed development site is located approximately 11.5 km from the North Dublin Bay SAC. There is a direct hydrological pathway from the proposed development to this SAC via the Owendoher River. During construction, there is the potential for dust and contaminated surface water runoff to enter the Owendoher River, a watercourse that traverses along the western portion of the subject site (Figure 11). During operation, surface water drainage will be discharged via a single outfall to the Owendoher River at the north-western corner of the subject site. Given that the Owendoher River outfalls to the River Dodder, which in turn outfalls to the marine environment at Dublin Bay, it is considered that there is a direct hydrological connection to this SAC. There is the potential for silt and contaminated surface water runoff to enter the Owendoher River with the potential for downstream impacts on this SAC. Mitigation measures are required. It should be noted that there is an existing mill race that bounds the southern boundary of the subject site. Following an examination of historical 6-inch mapping, there is a weir located along the Owendoher River that acts as the source of this mill race. This mill race then ultimately outfalls back to the Owendoher River (see Figure 12). Out of an abundance of caution, it is considered that there is the potential for silt and contaminated runoff to enter this waterbody and transport pollutants to the Owendoher River. Foul wastewater will be directed to an existing public combined foul network located on Edmondstown Road, which in turn discharges to Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant (WwTP) for treatment. Foul wastewater will be treated at Ringsend WwTP. In the absence of mitigation, no significant effects on the qualifying interests of this SAC are likely via the indirect hydrological pathway of foul wastewater drainage.

European Site Code	Name	Screened IN/OUT	Details/Reason
			In the absence of mitigation measures, it is considered that significant effects on the qualifying interests of this SAC are likely via surface water drainage during the construction and operational phases of development. **Stage 2 AA (Natura Impact Statement) is Required.**
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 waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (*Littorelletalia uniflorae*) [3110] Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160] Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix* [4010] European dry heaths [4030] Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060] Calaminarian grasslands of the *Violetalia calaminariae* [6130] 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] *Lutra lutra* (Otter) [1355] **Potential Impact** The proposed development site is located within a populated urban environment, 4.6 km from this SAC. There is no 'direct' or 'indirect' Source-Pathway linkage between the proposed development site and the SAC. No potential impact is foreseen. There is no direct or indirect pathway from this 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.**
IE001209	Glenasmole Valley 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** 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 proposed development site is located within a populated urban environment, 5.2 km from this SAC. There is no 'direct' or

European Site Code	Name	Screened IN/OUT	Details/Reason
			'indirect' Source-Pathway linkage between the proposed development site and the SAC. No potential impact is foreseen. There is no direct or indirect pathway from this 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.**
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] Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0] Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (*Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae*) [91E0] **Potential Impact** The proposed development site is located within a populated urban environment, 9.2 km from this SAC. There is no 'direct' or 'indirect' Source-Pathway linkage between the proposed development site and the SAC. No potential impact is foreseen. There is no direct or indirect pathway from this 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.**
IE000713	Ballyman Glen 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] Alkaline fens [7230] **Potential Impact** The proposed development site is located within a populated urban environment, 11.7 km from this SAC. There is no 'direct' or 'indirect' Source-Pathway linkage between the proposed development site and the SAC. No potential impact is foreseen. There is no direct or indirect pathway from this 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 Dalkey Island SAC	**OUT**	**Conservation Objectives** 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 targets: • The permanent habitat area is stable or increasing, subject to natural processes.

European Site Code	Name	Screened IN/OUT	Details/Reason
			• 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] **Potential Impacts** The proposed development is located 13.5 km from this SAC. No potential impact is foreseen. There is no direct hydrological pathway to the SAC. There is a weak indirect hydrological pathway to this SAC via the proposed foul and surface water drainage networks (during construction and operation). Foul wastewater will discharge to an existing public foul network and will undergo treatment under licence at Ringsend WwTP. Surface water drainage will be discharged via a single outfall to the Owendoher River at the north-western corner of the subject site. Given that the Owendoher River outfalls to the River Dodder, which in turn outfalls to the marine environment at Dublin Bay, it is considered that there is an indirect hydrological connection to this SAC. However, given that the mouth of the River Dodder is located 9.3 km from this SAC, the indirect hydrological pathways of surface water drainage will not impact on the conservation objectives of this SAC. No potential impact is foreseen. There is no direct pathway from this 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.**

European Site Code	Name	Screened IN/OUT	Details/Reason
Special Protection Areas			
IE004024	South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA	**IN**	**Conservation Objectives** To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Conservation Interests for this SPA. 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] **Potential Impact** The proposed development site is located approximately 7 km from this SPA. There is a direct hydrological pathway from the proposed development to this SPA via surface water drainage and mill race. During construction, there is the potential for dust and contaminated surface water runoff to enter the Owendoher River, a watercourse that traverses along the western portion of the subject site (Figure 11). During operation, surface water drainage will be discharged via a single outfall to the Owendoher River at the north-western corner of the subject site. Given that the Owendoher River outfalls to the River Dodder, which in turn outfalls to the marine environment at Dublin Bay, it is considered that there is a direct hydrological connection to this SPA. There is the potential for silt and contaminated surface water runoff to enter the Owendoher River with the potential for downstream impacts on this SPA. Mitigation measures are required. It should be noted that there is an existing mill race that bounds the southern boundary of the subject site. Following an examination of historical 6-inch mapping, there is a weir located along the Owendoher River that acts as the source of this mill race. This mill race then ultimately outfalls back to the Owendoher River (see Figure 12). Out of an abundance of caution, it is considered that there is the potential for silt and contaminated runoff to enter this waterbody and transport pollutants to the Owendoher River. Foul wastewater will be directed to an existing public combined foul network located on Edmondstown Road, which in turn discharges to Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant (WwTP) for

European Site Code	Name	Screened IN/OUT	Details/Reason
			treatment. Foul wastewater will be treated at Ringsend WwTP. In the absence of mitigation, no significant effects on the qualifying interests of this SPA are likely via the indirect hydrological pathway of foul wastewater drainage. Given the minimum distance to this SPA (7 km) across a densely populated urban environment, no significant noise or vibration impacts on the bird species protected as qualifying interests of this SPA are foreseen. Further, as outlined in Wintering Bird Survey prepared for this planning application (Appendix I): '*Results suggest that the site is not significant ex-situ foraging or roosting site for species of qualifying interest from nearby Special protection areas (SPA's). Species of more significant interest in the context of the site's location such as Brent Geese, Curlew, Oystercatcher etc. were not recorded passing over the site. Herring Gull were noted to regularly pass over especially the north side of the site, none were noted foraging on-site with the few small open areas on-site noted as sub-optimal for foraging (long rough grass type).'* No significant effects on the qualifying interests of this SPA are likely. Out of an abundance of caution, in the absence of mitigation measures, it is considered that significant effects on the qualifying interests of this SPA are likely via surface water drainage during the construction and operational phases of development. **Stage 2 AA (Natura Impact Statement) is Required.**
IE004006	North Bull Island SPA	**IN**	**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*) A179 Black-headed Gull (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*) A999 Wetlands **Potential Impact** The proposed development site is located approximately 11.5 km from this SPA. There is a direct hydrological pathway from the proposed development to this SPA via surface water drainage. During

European Site Code	Name	Screened IN/OUT	Details/Reason
			construction, there is the potential for dust and contaminated surface water runoff to enter the Owendoher River, a watercourse that traverses through a western portion of the subject site (Figure 11). During operation, surface water drainage will be discharged via a single outfall to the Owendoher River at the north-western corner of the subject site. Given that the Owendoher River outfalls to the River Dodder, which in turn outfalls to the marine environment at Dublin Bay, it is considered that there is a direct hydrological connection to this SPA. There is the potential for silt and contaminated surface water runoff to enter the Owendoher River with the potential for downstream impacts on this SPA. Mitigation measures are required. It should be noted that there is an existing mill race that bounds the southern boundary of the subject site. Following an examination of historical 6-inch mapping, there is a weir located along the Owendoher River that acts as the source of this waterbody. This mill race then ultimately outfalls back to the Owendoher River (see Figure 12). Out of an abundance of caution, it is considered that there is the potential for silt and contaminated runoff to enter this waterbody and transport pollutants to the Owendoher River. Foul wastewater will be directed to an existing public foul network located on Edmondstown Road, which in turn discharges to Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant (WwTP) for treatment. Foul wastewater will be treated at Ringsend WwTP. In the absence of mitigation, no significant effects on the qualifying interests of this SPA are likely via the indirect hydrological pathway of foul wastewater drainage. Given the minimum distance to this SPA (11.5 km) across a densely populated urban environment, no significant noise or vibration impacts on the bird species protected as qualifying interests of this SPA are foreseen. Further, as outlined in Wintering Bird Survey prepared for this planning application (Appendix I): '*Results suggest that the site is not significant ex-situ foraging or roosting site for species of qualifying interest from nearby Special protection areas (SPA's). Species of more significant interest in the context of the site's location such as Brent Geese, Curlew, Oystercatcher etc. were not recorded passing over the site. Herring Gull were noted to regularly pass over especially the north side of the site, none were noted foraging on-site with the few small open areas on-site noted as sub-optimal for foraging (long rough grass type).'* No significant effects on the qualifying interests of this SPA are likely. In the absence of mitigation measures, it is considered that significant effects on the qualifying interests of this SPA are likely via surface water drainage during the construction and operational phases of development. **Stage 2 AA (Natura Impact Statement) is Required.**
IE004040	Wicklow Mountains 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** Merlin (*Falco columbarius*) [A098]

European Site Code	Name	Screened IN/OUT	Details/Reason
			Peregrine (*Falco peregrinus*) [A103] **Potential Impact** The site is 4.6 km from the Wicklow Mountains SPA. The development has no direct or indirect hydrological connection to this SPA that is located at a higher elevation. Given the minimum distance to this SPA (4.6 km) across a populated urban environment, no significant noise or vibration impacts on the bird species protected as qualifying interests of this SPA are foreseen. In the absence of mitigation measures, no significant impacts on this SPA are likely. The proposed development would not impact on the qualifying interests or the conservation objectives of this SPA. **No significant effects are likely.**
IE004172	Dalkey Island 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 within a populated urban area approximately 13.2 km from this SPA. There is no direct hydrological pathway from the proposed development to this SPA. There is an indirect hydrological pathway to this SPA via the proposed foul and surface water drainage networks (during construction and operation). Foul wastewater will discharge to an existing public foul network and will undergo treatment under licence at Ringsend WwTP. Surface water drainage will be discharged via a single outfall to the Owendoher River at the north-western corner of the subject site. Given that the Owendoher River outfalls to the River Dodder, which in turn outfalls to the marine environment at Dublin Bay, it is considered that there is an indirect hydrological connection to this SPA. However, given that the mouth of the River Dodder is located 11.4 km from this SPA, the indirect hydrological pathways of surface water drainage will not impact on the conservation objectives of this SPA. Given the minimum distance to this SPA (13.2 km) across a populated urban environment, no significant noise or vibration impacts on the bird species protected as qualifying interests of this SPA are foreseen. In the absence of mitigation measures, no significant impacts on this SPA are likely. No potential impact is foreseen. There is no direct pathway from this site to the SPA. The construction and operation of the proposed development will not impact on the conservation interests of the site. **No significant effects are likely.**

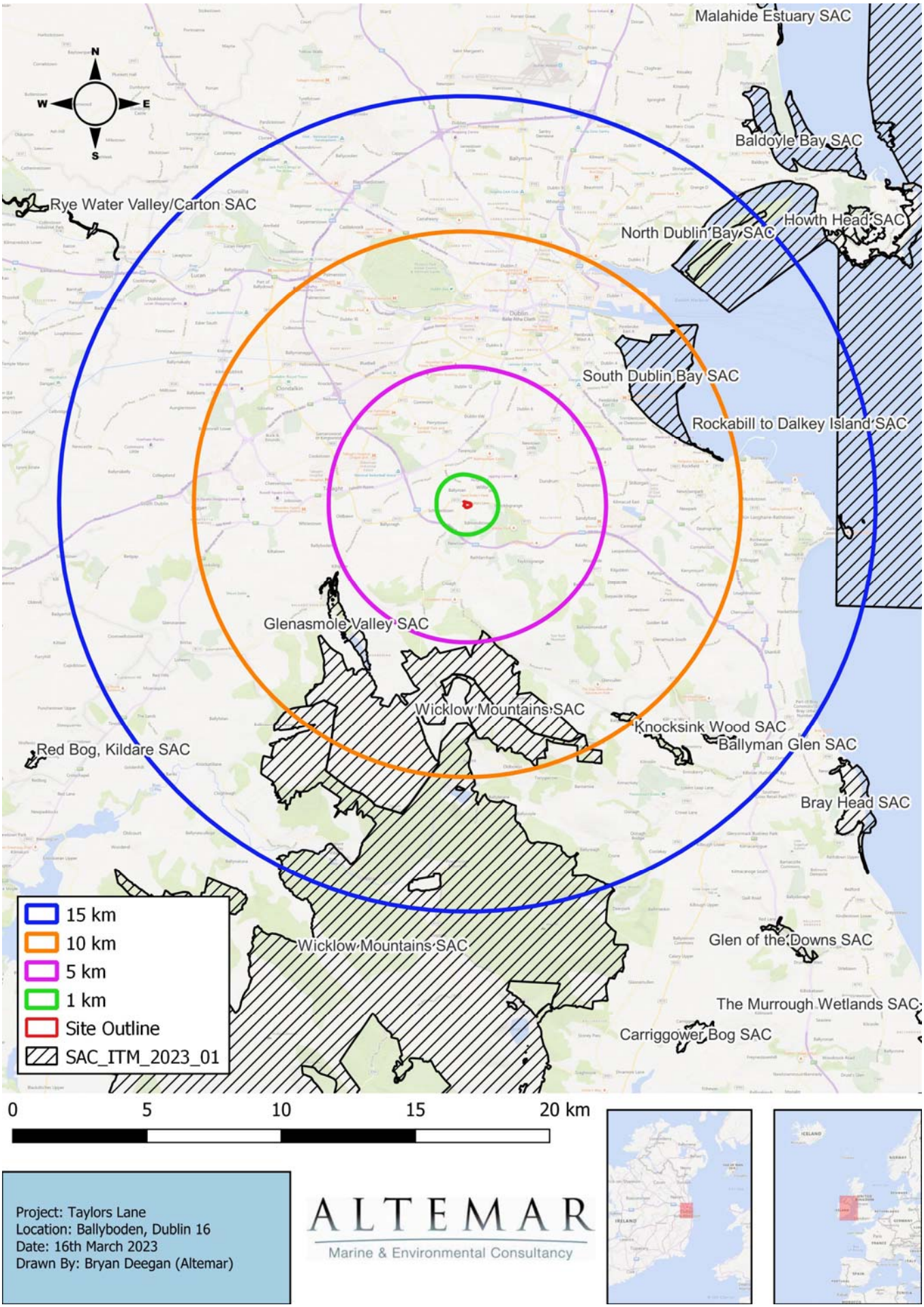

Figure 9. Special Areas of Conservation located within 15km of the proposed development

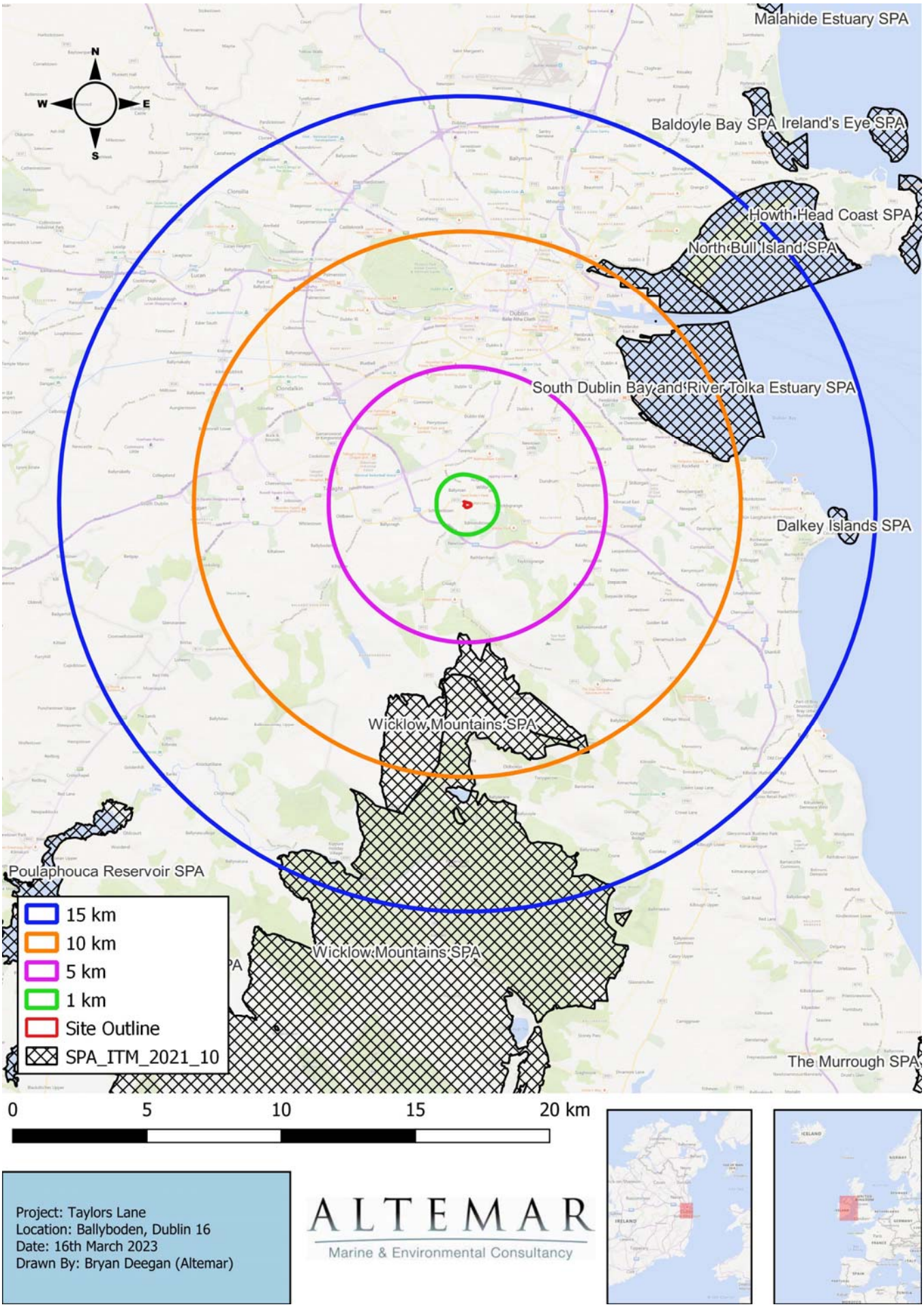

Figure 10. Special Protected Areas located within 15km of the proposed development

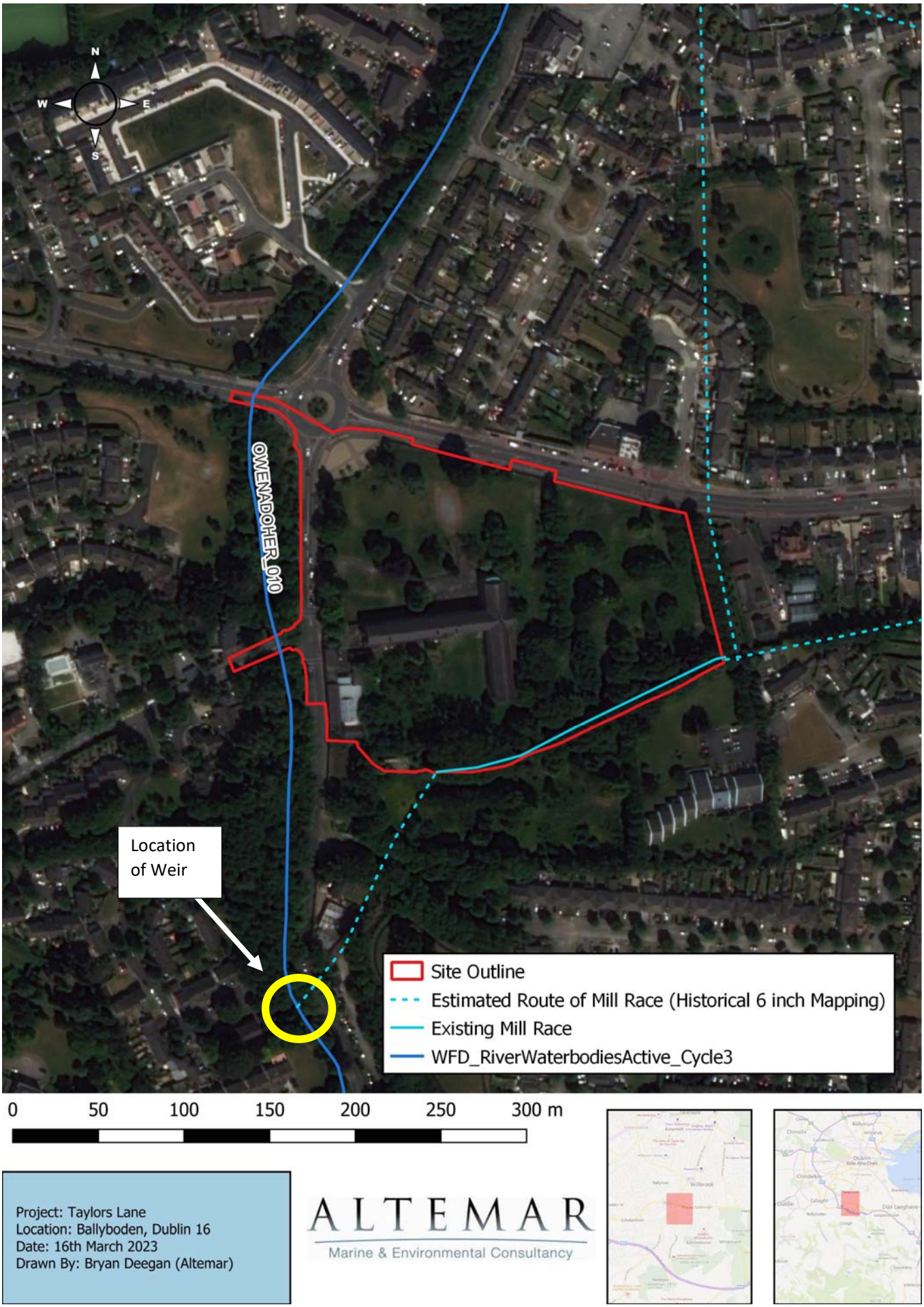

Figure 11. Waterbodies within the proposed development site.

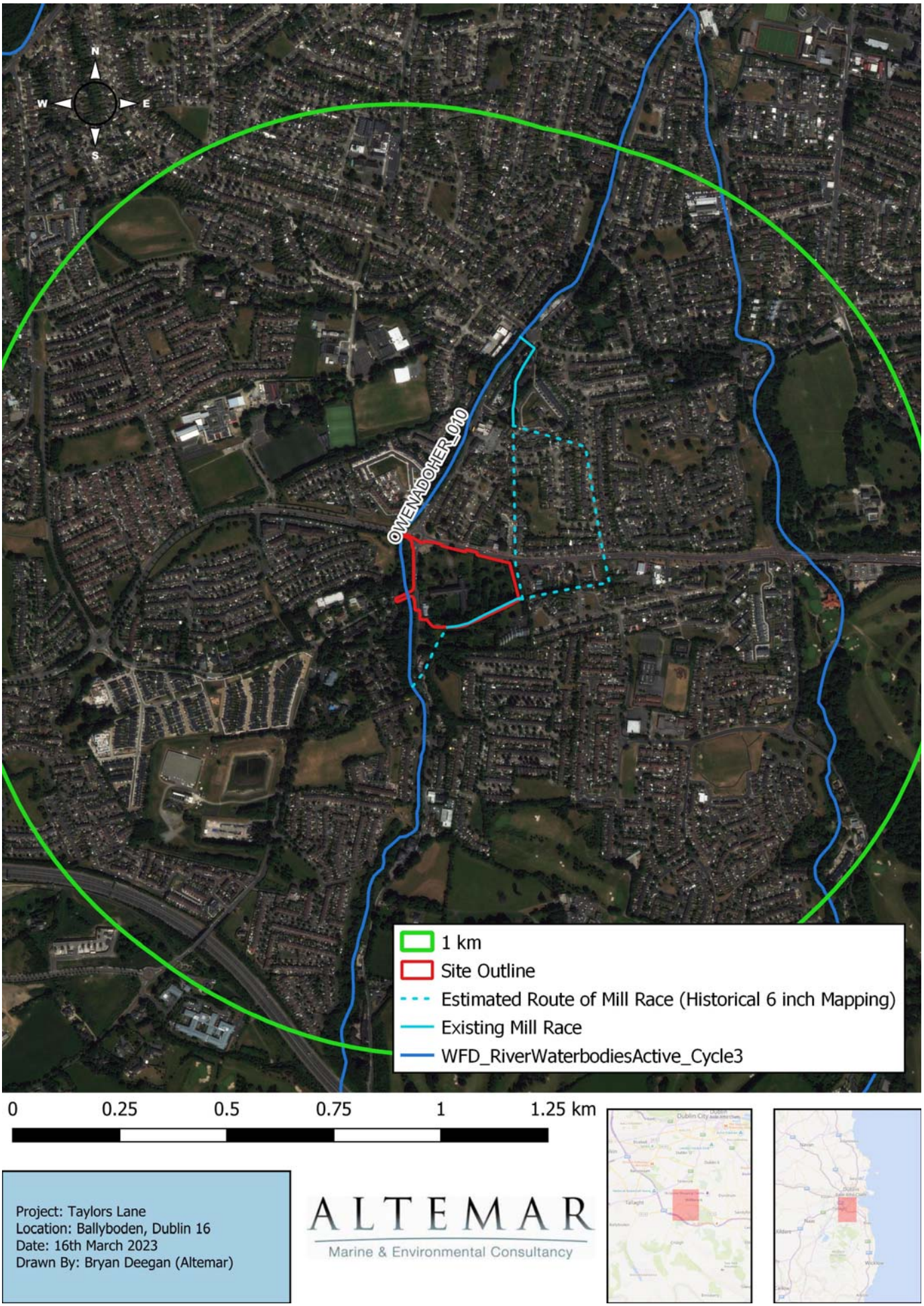

Figure 12. Waterbodies within 1km of the proposed development site.

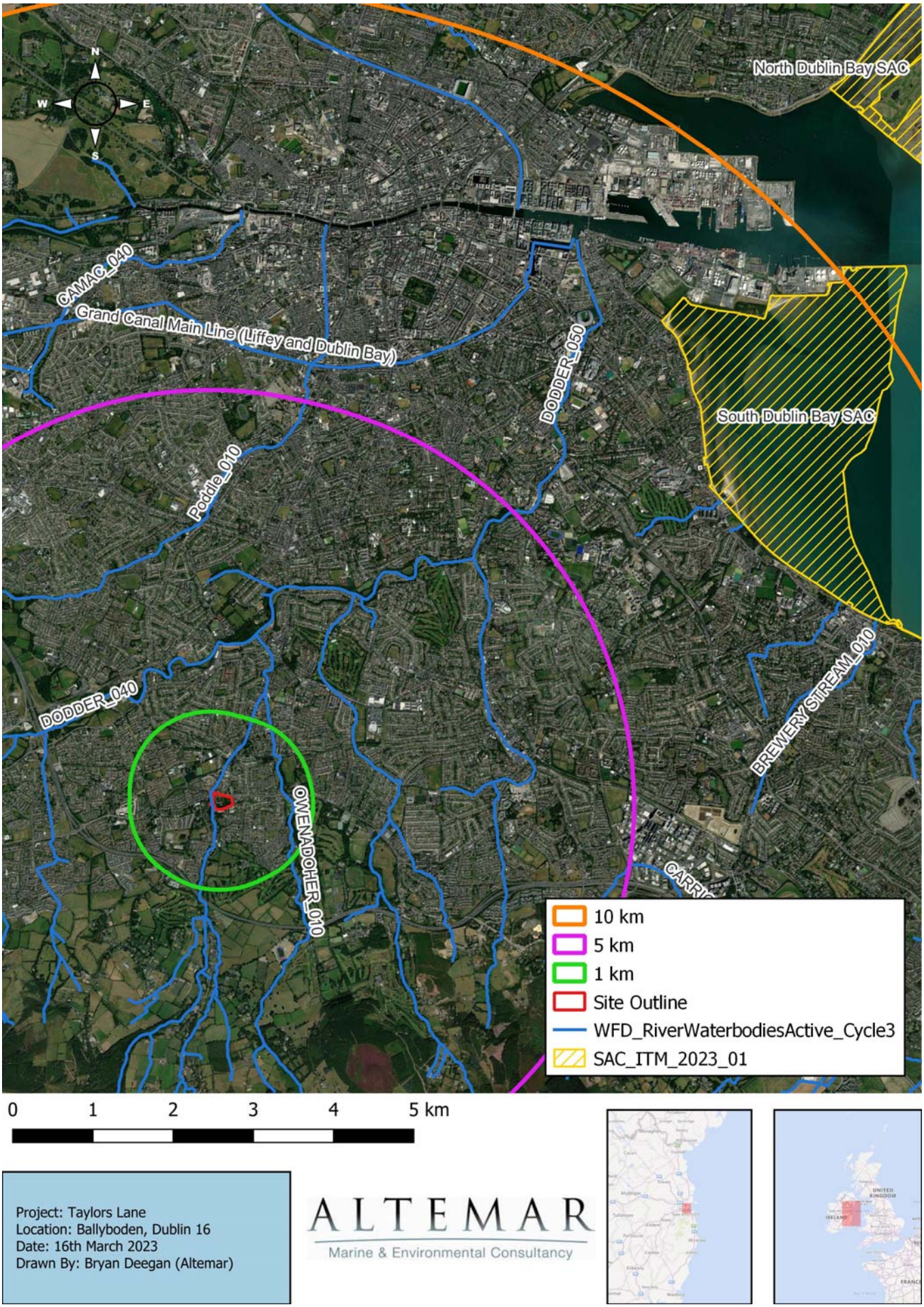

Figure 13. Watercourses and SACs with a hydrological pathway to the proposed development site

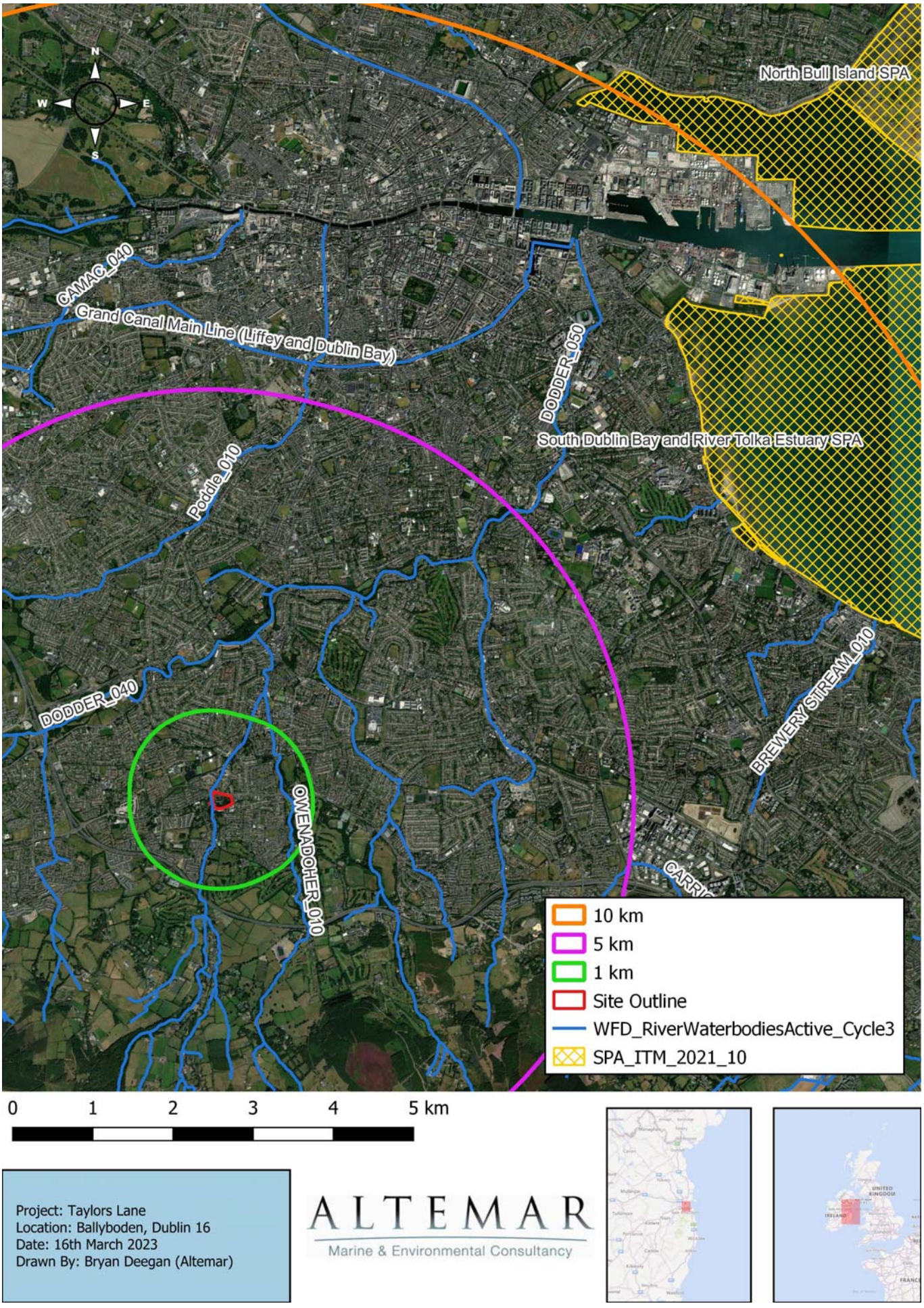

Figure 14. Watercourses and SPAs with a hydrological pathway to the proposed development site

In-Combination Effects

A review of developments and proposed developments was completed as part of this assessment. The following projects and plans were reviewed and considered for possible in combination effects with the Proposed Development. Table 3 details the existing, proposed and granted planning permissions on record in the area:

***Table 3**. In combination effects evaluated.*

Ref. No.	Address	Proposal
SHD3ABP-311616-21	Stocking Lane, Ballyboden, Dublin 16.	131 residential units including 21 houses (1 three bed, 11 four bed, 9 five bed)
SD20A/0059	Taylor's Lane, Ballyboden, Dublin 16	Alteration and additions (increasing the overall floor area from 2042.3sq.m to 2
SHD3ABP-308763-20	Stocking Lane, Ballyboden, Dublin 16.	131 residential units including: 21 houses, 51 duplex apartment units
SD18A/0225	2.4 ha, Stocking Lane, Ballyboden, Dublin 16.	Three apartment blocks, two and three storeys in height
SD13A/0222/EP	Grounds adjoining St. Augustines Priory, Edmondstown Road, Dublin 16.	Erection of a new Primary Care Centre of 3,841sq.m. of 1-4 storeys; construction of new vehicle/bicycle entranceway in Edmondstown Road to replace the existing entrance; a new pedestrian entranceway on Edmondstown Road and two new pedestrian entranceways on Moyville; extensive new site landscaping works to include new boundary treatment, pedestrian and cycle paths and planting and parking for 81 cars, 2 ambulances and 26 bicycles; site signage to be erected at Edmonstown Road entrance.
SD13A/0222	Grounds adjoining St. Augustines Priory, Edmondstown Road, Dublin 16.	Erection of a new Primary Care Centre of 3,841sq.m. of 1-4 storeys; construction of new vehicle/bicycle entranceway in Edmondstown Road to replace the existing entrance; a new pedestrian entranceway on Edmondstown Road and two new pedestrian entranceways on Moyville; extensive new site landscaping works to include new boundary treatment, pedestrian and cycle paths and planting and parking for 81 cars, 2 ambulances and 26 bicycles; site signage to be erected at Edmonstown Road entrance.

In relation to Planning Ref. **SHD3ABP-311616-21**, an Appropriate Assessment Screening Report was prepared by Biosphere Environmental Services to accompany this application. This report concludes with the following:

'*On the basis of the findings of this screening report for Appropriate Assessment, it is concluded that the project:*

(i) is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of a Natura 2000 site, and
(ii) significant impacts on the Natura 2000 network are not foreseen.

Based on this information, and beyond reasonable scientific doubt, we have demonstrated that the development, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, would not be likely to have a significant effect on any Natura 2000 site. Therefore, it is considered that a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment is not required.'

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 alone or combination with other projects.

From a review of the above, it is concluded that no projects in the vicinity of the proposed development would be seen to have a significant in combination effect on Natura 2000 sites.

Appropriate Assessment Screening Conclusions

An initial screening of the proposed works, using the precautionary principle (without the use of any standard construction phase controls or mitigation measures) and the Source/Pathway/Receptor links between the proposed works and European sites with the potential to result in significant effects on the conservation objectives and features of interest of the European sites was carried out in Table 2. Based on best scientific knowledge and objective information and assessment, the possibility of significant effects caused by the proposed project was excluded for the following European sites within 15km in addition to sites beyond 15km with a direct/indirect pathway:

Special Areas of Conservation

- IE002122 Wicklow Mountains SAC
- IE001209 Glenasmole Valley SAC
- IE000725 Knocksink Wood SAC
- IE000713 Ballyman Glen SAC
- IE003000 Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC

Special Protection Areas

- IE004040 Wicklow Mountains SPA
- IE004172 Dalkey Islands SPA

The project is large in scale and extent and the potential zone of influence is restricted to the immediate vicinity of the proposed development. However, in the absence of mitigation measures, there is potential for silt laden material or pollution to enter the marine environment at Dublin Bay via surface water drainage/mill race that outfall to the River Owenadoher and impact on local biodiversity and European sites immediately downstream from the works.

Acting on a strictly precautionary basis, an NIS is required in respect of the effects of the project on the South Dublin Bay SAC, North Dublin Bay SAC, South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA, and North Bull Island SPA because it cannot be excluded on the basis of best objective scientific information following screening, in the absence of control or mitigation measures that the plan or project, individually and/or in combination with other plans or projects, will have a significant effect on the named European Site/s.

A NIS or Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment is not required for the effects of the project on all other listed Natura sites above because it can be excluded on the basis of the best objective scientific information following screening that the plan or project, individually and/or in combination with other plans or projects, will have a significant effect on the European Site/s.

A Natura Impact Statement is required for the proposed development.

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 Bing road maps and satellite imagery.

References

1. 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
2. Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly Affecting EUROPEAN Sites: Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC;
3. Department of Environment 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.
4. 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;
5. 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
6. Managing EUROPEAN Sites: the provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, European Commission 2000;
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 (2013) Conservation Objectives: South Dublin Bay SAC 000210. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
9. NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives: North Dublin Bay SAC 000206. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
10. NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives: Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC 003000. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
11. NPWS (2017) Conservation Objectives: Wicklow Mountains SAC 002122. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.
12. NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives: Glenasmole Valley SAC 001209. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
13. NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives: Knocksink Wood SAC 000725. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
14. NPWS (2019) Conservation Objectives: Ballyman Glen SAC 000713. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
15. 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.
16. NPWS (2015) Conservation Objectives: North Bull Island SPA 004006. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
17. NPWS (2022) Conservation objectives for Dalkey Islands SPA [004172]. First Order Sitespecific Conservation Objectives Version 1.0. Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
18. NPWS (2022) Conservation objectives for Wicklow Mountains SPA [004040]. First Order Site-specific Conservation Objectives Version 1.0. Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

Appendix I – Wintering Bird Surveys

Introduction

Between November 2022 and March 2023 10 winter bird surveys (two per month) were undertaken at lands at off Taylor's Lane, Ballyboden, in South County Dublin, by Hugh Delaney, a freelance Ecologist (Birds primarily) having completed work on numerous sites with ecological consultancies over 10+ years. Hugh is local to the Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown area in Dublin and is especially familiar with the bird life and its ecology in the environs going back over 30 years.

Winter Bird Survey Methodology

Winter bird surveys are conducted from soon after sunrise until late in the afternoon, or alternatively started later in the day until sunset, the site is monitored throughout the survey period and all bird species utilizing the site recorded, including species flying through overhead. Checks are also made on suitable habitat nearby or adjacent the site for comparative purposes and to monitor any interchange of birds between sites. Target species (species of more special interest) utilizing the site will be mapped and estimates of the time these species frequented the site recorded.

Site Location

Fig 1. Taylor's Lane site. Indicative site outlined in red, yellow 'x' marking the primary site for vantage point or 'VP' observations, providing a good overview of the site.

Site Description

Site located in urban South County Dublin, site dominated by a large building situated at the west side of the site surrounded by rough grass and bramble/willowherb with trees interspersed widely across the site (mainly deciduous), especially towards the east side of the site.

Specific site survey methodology

Vantage point observations were undertaken at several locations around the site, the primary VP location being the position marked 'x' in yellow on map above, this location giving optimal views of species passing over the site and also to note any species foraging in this surrounding area. Additionally, the entire site was traversed over (generally clockwise from west to east then south of the building and back towards the west) every 1.5-2 hours during surveys in order to collect any further data on species utilizing the site. Early survey visits and later survey visits were made alternatively between surveys to ascertain bird movements early in the day and later in the day.

November 17th, 2022

Sunrise- 07.54hrs/Sunset 16.26hrs. Weather – Wind F2 Southwest, Cloud 6/8, Dry, 5c, Excellent visibility. On-site 08.00hrs – 15.00hrs.

Species recorded – Robin, Dunnock, Wren, Woodpigeon, Herring Gull, Goldcrest, Chaffinch, Goldfinch, Greenfinch, Siskin, Linnet, Blue Tit, Coal Tit, Long-tailed Tit, Blackbird, Starling, Grey Wagtail, Hooded Crow, Magpie, Jackdaw, Feral Pigeon.

08.00hrs-12.00hrs – Observing from VP from 08.00-12.00hrs, also site traversed twice. Herring Gull (<30) noted passing mainly over the north end of the site, foraging around houses north of the site, none observed to land on-

site. Siskin (<18), Grey Wagtail (<1), Dunnock (<1), Greenfinch (<1) Chaffinch (<3), Linnet (<5), Goldcrest (<4), Coal Tit (<2), Blue Tit (<1), Long-tailed Tit (<6), Jackdaw (<15 mainly on building), noted foraging on-site. Most passerines observed in the larger trees at east side of the site. No other target species recorded.

12.00hrs-15.00hrs – Monitoring from VP from 12.30-15.00hrs, site traversed also twice, Herring Gull (<22) again mainly at the north end of site passing over the boundary of site occasionally, none observed foraging on-site. Chaffinch (<4), Linnet (<2), Goldfinch (<7), Goldcrest (<5), Dunnock (<2), Robin (2), Long-tailed Tit (<19), Blue Tit (<3), Coal Tit (<1), Blackbird (<2), Starling (<10 passing through site only), Hooded Crow (<4), Feral Pigeon (<6) noted on-site. No other target species noted on-site.

November 27th, 2022

Sunrise- 08.11hrs/Sunset 16.14hrs. Weather – Wind F3 Southwest, Cloud 2/8, Dry, 10c, Excellent visibility. On-site 10.00hrs – 16.00hrs.

Species recorded – Robin, Dunnock, Wren, Woodpigeon, Herring Gull, Black-headed Gull, Goldcrest, Blackcap, Chaffinch, Greenfinch, Goldfinch, Siskin, Blue Tit, Long-tailed Tit, Blackbird, Song Thrush, Redwing, Starling, Grey Wagtail, Pied Wagtail, Hooded Crow, Magpie, Jackdaw, Rook, Feral Pigeon.

10.00hrs-12.00hrs – Observing from VP from 08.00-12.00hrs, also site traversed once. Herring Gull (<15) noted passing mainly over the north end of the site, none observed to land on-site. Siskin (<4), Grey Wagtail (<1 foraging around building), Dunnock (<2), Robin (<4), Greenfinch (<1) Chaffinch (<1), Linnet (<5), Blackcap (<1 at east side), Goldcrest (<4 at east side), Coal Tit (<2), Blue Tit (<3), Long-tailed Tit (<12 at east side), Jackdaw (<10 mainly on building), noted foraging on-site. No other target species recorded.

12.00hrs-16.00hrs – Monitoring from VP from 12.30-16.00hrs, site traversed also twice, Herring Gull (14) and also Black-headed Gull (<3) again mainly at the north end of site passing over the boundary of site occasionally, none observed foraging on-site. Goldfinch (<5), Chaffinch (<4), Goldcrest (<3 at east side), Dunnock (<2), Wren (<2), Robin (2), Long-tailed Tit (<17 in two foraging flocks), Blue Tit (<3), Blackbird (<2), Redwing (<1 passed over site at 12.45hrs), Song Thrush (<1), Pied Wagtail (<1), Starling (<15 passing through site only), Hooded Crow (<2), Rook (<5 passing over site only). Feral Pigeon (<8) noted on-site. No other target species noted on-site.

December 10th, 2022

Sunrise- 08.28hrs/Sunset 16.06hrs. Weather – Wind F2 West, Cloud 8/8, Dry, 2c, Good visibility. On-site 08.45hrs – 14.30hrs.

Species recorded – Robin, Dunnock, Wren, Woodpigeon, Herring Gull, Black-headed Gull, Goldcrest, Chaffinch, Linnet, Goldfinch, Blue Tit, Long-tailed Tit, Great Tit, Blackbird, Song Thrush, Redwing, Starling, Grey Wagtail, Pied Wagtail, Hooded Crow, Magpie, Jackdaw, Rook, Raven, Feral Pigeon.

08.45hrs-12.00hrs – Observing from VP from 08.45-12.00hrs, and site traversed twice. Herring Gull (<24) and Black-headed Gull (<4) noted passing mainly over the north end of the site, none observed to land on-site. Grey Wagtail (<2 foraging around building), Dunnock (<3), Robin (<2), Chaffinch (<6), Linnet (<10 passing over site only at 10.15hrs), Goldcrest (<3 foraging at east side), Great Tit (<1 at east side), Blue Tit (<3), Long-tailed Tit (<14), Jackdaw (<10 mainly as usual roosting on building), Rook (<8 passing over site only), noted foraging on-site. No other target species recorded.

12.00hrs-16.00hrs – Monitoring from VP from 12.00-14.30hrs, site traversed also twice, Herring Gull (8) and also Black-headed Gull (<5) again mainly at the north end of site passing over the boundary of site occasionally, none observed foraging on-site. Goldfinch (<10), Chaffinch (<5), Goldcrest (<2 at east side), Dunnock (<3), Wren (<2), Robin (<3), Long-tailed Tit (<10) Blue Tit (<4), Blackbird (<1), Redwing (<22 passed over south side of site at 13.40hrs), Song Thrush (<2), Pied Wagtail (<1), Starling (<35 passing through site only in several flocks), Hooded Crow (<2), Rook (<15 passing over site only), Raven (<2 passed east over the middle of site at 13.50hrs), Feral Pigeon (<8) noted on-site. No other target species noted on-site.

December 19th, 2022

Sunrise- 08.36hrs/Sunset 16.07hrs. Weather – Wind F3 Southeast, Cloud 3/8, Dry, 9c, Good visibility. On-site 09.45hrs – 16.00hrs.

Species recorded – Robin, Dunnock, Wren, Woodpigeon, Herring Gull, Black-headed Gull, Goldcrest, Chaffinch, Bullfinch, Redpoll, Goldfinch, Blue Tit, Long-tailed Tit, Blackbird, Song Thrush, Starling, Grey Wagtail, Pied Wagtail, Sparrowhawk, Hooded Crow, Magpie, Jackdaw, Rook, Feral Pigeon.

09.45hrs-12.00hrs – Observing from VP from 08.45-12.00hrs, and site traversed twice. Herring Gull (<32) and Black-headed Gull (<5) noted passing mainly over the north end of the site, none observed to land on-site. Grey Wagtail (<1 foraging around building), Dunnock (<4), Robin (<3), Chaffinch (<8), Bullfinch (<2 foraging at south end of site),

Goldcrest (<4 foraging at east side), Blue Tit (<5), Long-tailed Tit (<10), Jackdaw (<8 mainly as usual roosting on building), Rook (<10 passing over site only), noted foraging on-site. No other target species recorded.

12.00hrs-16.00hrs – Monitoring from VP from 12.00-14.30hrs, site traversed also twice, Herring Gull (20) and also Black-headed Gull (<7) again mainly at the north end of site passing over the boundary of site occasionally, none observed foraging on-site. Goldfinch (<12), Chaffinch (<3), Redpoll (<2 foraging at east side of site at 15.00hrs), Goldcrest (<2 at east side), Dunnock (<2), Wren (<3), Robin (<1), Long-tailed Tit (<12), Blue Tit (<2), Blackbird (<4), Song Thrush (<1), Pied Wagtail (<1 around main building), Woodpigeon (<6), Starling (<25 passing through site only in several flocks), Sparrowhawk (<1 male observed hunting at east side of site at 13.40hrs), Hooded Crow (<3), Rook (<4 passing over site only), Feral Pigeon (<8) noted on-site. No other target species noted on-site.

January 9th, 2022

Sunrise- 08.37hrs/Sunset 16.27hrs. Weather – Wind F3 Southwest, Cloud 2/8, Dry, 4c, Excellent visibility. On-site 10.30hrs – 16.30hrs.

Species recorded – Robin, Dunnock, Wren, Woodpigeon, Herring Gull, Black-headed Gull, Goldcrest, Chaffinch, Bullfinch, Goldfinch, Blue Tit, Long-tailed Tit, Coal Tit, Blackbird, Mistle Thrush, Song Thrush, Redwing, Starling, Grey Wagtail, Pied Wagtail, Hooded Crow, Magpie, Jackdaw, Rook, Feral Pigeon.

09.45hrs-12.00hrs – Observing from VP from 08.45-12.00hrs, and site traversed twice. Herring Gull (<40) and Black-headed Gull (<6) noted occasionally passing mainly over the north end of the site, none observed to land on-site. Grey Wagtail (<2 foraging around building), Dunnock (<2), Robin (<1), Chaffinch (<4), Bullfinch (<3 foraging at east end of site), Goldcrest (<3 foraging at east side), Blue Tit (<4), Long-tailed Tit (<6), Coal tit (<3), Blackbird (<2), Mistle Thrush (<2 passing over south end at 11.20hrs), Jackdaw (<7 mainly as usual roosting on building), Rook (<15 passing over site only), noted foraging on-site. No other target species recorded.

12.00hrs-16.00hrs – Monitoring from VP from 12.00-14.30hrs, site traversed also twice, Herring Gull (25) and also Black-headed Gull (<8) again mainly at the north end of site passing over the boundary of site occasionally, none observed foraging on-site. Goldfinch (<8), Chaffinch (<6), Goldcrest (<3 at east side), Dunnock (<3), Wren (<2), Robin (<2), Blue Tit (<3), Blackbird (<5), Song Thrush (<2), Redwing (<14 in trees at south end at 14.15hrs), Pied Wagtail (<2 around main building), Starling (<12 passing through site only), Hooded Crow (<2), Rook (<9 passing over site only), Feral Pigeon (<12) noted on-site. No other target species noted on-site.

January 21st, 2022

Sunrise- 08.26hrs/Sunset 16.46hrs. Weather – Wind F2 Southeast, Cloud 5/8, Dry, 7c, Excellent visibility. On-site 08.15hrs – 14.15hrs.

Species recorded – Robin, Dunnock, Wren, Woodpigeon, Herring Gull, Black-headed Gull, Common Gull, Goldcrest, Chaffinch, Bullfinch, Goldfinch, Redpoll, Blue Tit, Long-tailed Tit, Coal Tit, Song Thrush, Starling, Pied Wagtail, Buzzard, Hooded Crow, Magpie, Jackdaw, Rook, Feral Pigeon.

08.15hrs-12.00hrs – Observing from VP from 08.15-12.00hrs, and site traversed twice. Herring Gull (<30), Black-headed Gull (<8) and Common Gull (<2) noted occasionally passing mainly over the north end of the site, none observed to land on-site. Pied Wagtail (<2 foraging around building), Dunnock (<3), Robin (<1), Redpoll (<3), Chaffinch (<2), Goldfinch (<5), Bullfinch (<2 foraging at south end of site), Goldcrest (<5 foraging at east side), Blue Tit (<2), Long-tailed Tit (<15), Coal tit (<5), Blackbird (<2), Jackdaw (<14 mainly as usual roosting on building), Rook (<12 passing over site only), noted foraging on-site. No other target species recorded.

12.00hrs-14.15hrs – Monitoring from VP from 12.00-14.15hrs, site traversed once, Herring Gull (35) and also Black-headed Gull (<5) again mainly at the north end of site passing over the boundary of site occasionally, none observed foraging on-site. Goldfinch (<8), Chaffinch (<4), Goldcrest (<2 at east side), Dunnock (<1), Wren (<2), Robin (<3), Blue Tit (<6), Blackbird (<4), Song Thrush (<1), Woodpigeon (<10), Pied Wagtail (<2 around main building), Starling (<20 passing through site only), Buzzard (<1 soaring over east end of site at 13.10hrs), Hooded Crow (<2), Rook (<4 passing over site only), Feral Pigeon (<12) noted on-site. No other target species noted on-site.

February 7th, 2022

Sunrise- 07.59hrs/Sunset 17.19hrs. Weather – Wind F1 Southwest, Cloud 6/8, Dry, 7c, Excellent visibility. On-site 11.00hrs – 17.00hrs.

Species recorded – Robin, Dunnock, Wren, Woodpigeon, Herring Gull, Black-headed Gull, Goldcrest, Chaffinch, Goldfinch, Blue Tit, Long-tailed Tit, Coal Tit, Great Tit, Song Thrush, Mistle Thrush, Starling, Grey Wagtail, Pied Wagtail, Sparrowhawk, Hooded Crow, Magpie, Jackdaw, Rook, Feral Pigeon.

11.00hrs-12.00hrs – Observing from VP from 11.00-12.00hrs. Herring Gull (<32) and Black-headed Gull (<8) noted occasionally passing mainly over the north and west end of the site, none observed to land on-site. Pied Wagtail (<1 foraging around building), Grey Wagtail (<1), Dunnock (<2), Robin (<2), Chaffinch (<8), Goldfinch (<14),

Goldcrest (<2 foraging at east side), Blue Tit (<3), Long-tailed Tit (<9), Coal tit (<2), Great Tit (<1), Blackbird (<3), Sparrowhawk (<1 female passed west over south side of site at 14.30hrs), Jackdaw (<6 mainly as usual roosting on building), Rook (<6 passing over site only), noted foraging on-site. No other target species recorded.

12.00hrs-17.00hrs – Monitoring from VP from 12.00-17.00hrs, site traversed three times, Herring Gull (18) and Black-headed Gull (<12) again mainly at the north end of site passing over the boundary of site occasionally, none observed foraging on-site. Goldfinch (<5), Chaffinch (<7), Goldcrest (<3 at east side), Dunnock (<1), Wren (<3), Robin (<3), Blue Tit (<4), Blackbird (<3), Song Thrush (<2), Woodpigeon (<15), Pied Wagtail (<1 around main building), Starling (<15 passing through site only), Hooded Crow (<2), Feral Pigeon (<12) noted on-site. No other target species noted on-site.

February 22nd, 2022

Sunrise- 07.29hrs/Sunset 17.48hrs. Weather – Wind F3 West, Cloud 3/8, Dry, 4c, Excellent visibility. On-site 08.00hrs – 14.00hrs.

Species recorded – Robin, Dunnock, Wren, Woodpigeon, Herring Gull, Black-headed Gull, Goldcrest, Chaffinch, Goldfinch, Redpoll, Blue Tit, Long-tailed Tit, Coal Tit, Song Thrush, Redwing, Fieldfare, Mistle Thrush, Starling, Grey Wagtail, Hooded Crow, Magpie, Jackdaw, Rook, Feral Pigeon.

08.00hrs-12.00hrs – Observing from VP from 08.00-12.00hrs and site traversed three times. Herring Gull (<20) and Black-headed Gull (<10) noted occasionally passing mainly over the north and west end of the site, none observed to land on-site. Grey Wagtail (<1), Dunnock (<4), Robin (<2), Chaffinch (<3), Goldfinch (<8), Goldcrest (<1 foraging at east side), Blue Tit (<5), Long-tailed Tit (<14), Coal tit (<4), Blackbird (<3), Song Thrush (<3), Redwing (<5 at east side of site), Fieldfare (<2 south over site at 13.40hrs), Jackdaw (<10 mainly as usual roosting on building), Rook (<20 passing over site only), noted foraging on-site. No other target species recorded.

12.00hrs-14.00hrs – Monitoring from VP from 12.00-14.00hrs, site traversed once, Herring Gull (15) and Black-headed Gull (<12) again mainly at the north and west end of site passing over the boundary of site occasionally, none observed foraging on-site. Goldfinch (<10), Chaffinch (<4), Redpoll (<3 at south side of site at 13.00hrs), Goldcrest (<3 at east side), Dunnock (<2), Wren (<3), Robin (<2), Blue Tit (<6), Blackbird (<2), Redwing (<10 at east side of site), Woodpigeon (<10), Starling (<40 passing through site only), Hooded Crow (<1), Feral Pigeon (<10) noted on-site. No other target species noted on-site.

March 8th, 2022

Sunrise- 06.57hrs/Sunset 18.15hrs. Weather – Wind F2 East, Cloud 4/8, Dry, 3c, Excellent visibility. On-site 12.00hrs – 18.00hrs.

Species recorded – Robin, Dunnock, Wren, Woodpigeon, Herring Gull, Lesser black-backed Gull, Black-headed Gull, Common Gull, Goldcrest, Chaffinch, Goldfinch, Siskin, Bullfinch, Blue Tit, Long-tailed Tit, Coal Tit, Song Thrush, Redwing, Mistle Thrush, Starling, Grey Wagtail, Hooded Crow, Magpie, Jackdaw, Rook, Feral Pigeon.

12.00hrs-18.00hrs – Observing from VP from 12.00-18.00hrs and site traversed four times. Herring Gull (<40), Lesser black-backed Gull (<2), Black-headed Gull (<15) and Common Gull (<3) noted occasionally passing mainly over the north and west end of the site, none observed to land on-site. Grey Wagtail (<2), Dunnock (<3), Robin (<4), Wren (<2), Chaffinch (<5), Siskin (<6 foraging at south side of site), Goldfinch (<12), Bullfinch (<2), Goldcrest (<3 foraging at east side), Blue Tit (<6), Long-tailed Tit (<10), Coal tit (<3), Blackbird (<5), Song Thrush (<1), Mistle Thrush (<2 at east side of site), Redwing (<8 at east side of site), Starling (<20 passing over site in small numbers), Woodpigeon (<14 mainly at east and south side of site), Jackdaw (<10 mainly as usual roosting on building), Rook (<12 passing over site only), noted foraging on-site. No other target species recorded.

March 20th, 2022

Sunrise- 06.28hrs/Sunset 18.37hrs. Weather – Wind F2 South, Cloud 5/8, Dry, 9c, Excellent visibility. On-site 07.30hrs – 14.00hrs.

Species recorded – Robin, Dunnock, Wren, Woodpigeon, Herring Gull, Lesser black-backed Gull, Black-headed Gull, Goldcrest, Chaffinch, Goldfinch, Siskin, Blue Tit, Great Tit, Long-tailed Tit, Coal Tit, Great Tit, Song Thrush, Redwing, Starling, Pied Wagtail, Grey Wagtail, Meadow Pipit, Sparrowhawk, Hooded Crow, Magpie, Jackdaw, Rook, Feral Pigeon.

07.30hrs-12.00hrs – Observing from VP from 07.30-12.00hrs and site traversed three times. Herring Gull (<30), Lesser black-backed Gull (<5) and Black-headed Gull (<4) noted occasionally passing mainly over the north and west end of the site, none observed to land on-site, birds observed often landing on residential houses north of the site. Grey Wagtail (<1), Meadow Pipit (<8 passing over site only), Pied Wagtail (<2), Dunnock (<5), Robin (<3), Wren (<3), Chaffinch (<2), Siskin (<20 passing over site only), Goldfinch (<10), Goldcrest (<5 foraging at east side), Blue Tit (<8), Long-tailed Tit (<15), Coal tit (<2), Great Tit (<2), Blackbird (<4), Song Thrush (<1), Redwing (<3 at south

side of site), Starling (<30 passing over site in small numbers), Woodpigeon (<8 mainly at east and side of site), Jackdaw (<6 mainly as usual roosting on building), Rook (<20 passing over site only), noted foraging on-site. No other target species recorded.

12.00hrs-14.00hrs – Observing from VP from 12.00-14.00hrs and site traversed once. Herring Gull (<30) and Lesser black-backed Gull (<3) noted occasionally passing mainly over the north and west end of the site, none observed to land on-site. Dunnock (<5), Robin (<2), Wren (<3), Chaffinch (<5), Goldfinch (7), Goldcrest (<5 foraging at east and south side), Blue Tit (<4), Long-tailed Tit (<8), Coal tit (<3), Blackbird (<4 including one observed nest building), Song Thrush (<1), Starling (<25 passing over site in small numbers), Woodpigeon (<12 mainly at east of site), Sparrowhawk (<1 soaring over northeast corner of site at 13.45hrs), Jackdaw (<5 mainly as usual roosting on building), Rook (<8 passing over site only), noted foraging on-site. No other target species recorded.

Comments and observations on survey results

In total 37 Bird species were recorded overall at the Taylor's Lane site in Ballyboden during 10 surveys over the course of the winter bird survey period 2022-2023. Species recorded that are red listed as a wintering species of conservation concern (Birdwatch Ireland's birds of conservation concern in Ireland 2020-2026) that were recorded on-site were Redwing, recorded in small numbers (less on 20 foraging on-site on all visits).

Results suggest that the site is not significant ex-situ foraging or roosting site for species of qualifying interest from nearby Special protection areas (SPA's). Species of more significant interest in the context of the site's location such as Brent Geese, Curlew, Oystercatcher etc. were not recorded passing over the site. Herring Gull were noted to regularly pass over especially the north side of the site, none were noted foraging on-site with the few small open areas on-site noted as sub-optimal for foraging (long rough grass type). A selection of passerines typical of parkland in suburban Dublin were recorded and remained consistent throughout the surveys.