

# Glanmire Park

Appropriate Assessment Screening Report

Cork City Council

Project number: 60767565

June 2026

Quality Information

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# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Background

AECOM Ireland Limited (AECOM) was commissioned by Cork City Council (CCC) to carry out an Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening in relation to a proposed public park in Glanmire, this will integrate the Glanmire and Riverstown Greenway and extend upon the John O'Callaghan Park. The Proposed Development involves the provision of seating, landscaping, play areas, parking, learn to cycle track, dogs park and other amenities. The location of the Proposed Development is shown in Figure 1. The extent of the Proposed Development is hereafter referred to as the 'Site'.

The Site comprises Glanmire Park, which is located approximately 6.8 km north-east of Cork City centre (Irish Grid Reference: W7297574592; ITM: 572927, 574631). The primary objective of the Proposed Development is to deliver a high-quality, multifunctional public park that enhances biodiversity, improves recreational opportunities, and strengthens connectivity with the Glanmire Riverstown Greenway. The project seeks to provide new and improved amenities, promote both active and passive recreation, and ensure safe, inclusive and accessible public spaces, while protecting and enhancing the ecological and environmental value of the Site.

A permitted greenway and floodplain scheme, which includes a new bridge across the Glashaboy River, is being developed within the Site boundary under separate planning permission. These works are considered in the in-combination section of this assessment.

## 1.2 Project Description

The Proposed Development comprises the enhancement and expansion of Glanmire Park across an area of approximately 4.32 ha. The project will deliver a multifunctional public park that enhances biodiversity, improves recreational opportunities and strengthens connectivity with the Glanmire–Riverstown Greenway. It will provide a range of new and improved amenities that support active and passive recreation while creating a safe, inclusive and accessible public space that protects and enhances the ecological and environmental value of the Site.

The proposed park will incorporate a range of recreational, community and passive amenity facilities suitable for all age groups. Key elements of the development include children's play areas, a learn-to-cycle track, a dedicated dog park, informal recreation spaces, seating areas, picnic facilities, public gathering spaces and landscaped parkland. The design also includes a network of pedestrian routes and shared-use paths that will connect existing facilities within John O'Callaghan Park to the Glanmire - Riverstown Greenway, improving accessibility and encouraging active travel throughout the area.

A central public plaza is proposed within the park and will provide an attractive focal point for visitors. Supporting infrastructure will include space for a future kiosk facility. Existing parking facilities will be upgraded and extended to provide approximately 38 car parking spaces. Additional recreational features include informal sports and activity areas, open play spaces and landscaped seating locations designed to take advantage of the site's natural topography and views across the surrounding landscape.

The park layout has been developed to retain and complement existing natural features, including mature trees, hedgerows and riparian habitats associated with the Glashaboy River. The majority of existing vegetation and habitat features will be retained and protected where possible, with extensive new planting proposed throughout the site. Biodiversity enhancement measures form a key component of the scheme and include the creation of a biodiversity corridor, pollinator-friendly planting, native tree and shrub planting, habitat enhancement areas and landscape treatments intended to increase ecological connectivity between the river corridor, greenway and surrounding green infrastructure network.

The proposed works will require a range of civil engineering, landscaping and construction activities. These include site clearance, earthworks and regrading of landforms, excavation and movement of soils, importation of fill material where necessary, installation of underground services, drainage infrastructure and utility connections. Construction of new hardstanding areas, paths and public

spaces will include asphalt pathways, resin-bound surfacing within plaza areas and polymeric and rubber surfacing associated with play and fitness facilities. Foundations will be installed for park furniture, signage, lighting columns, play equipment, fencing, and fitness equipment.

Additional works will include the installation of playground equipment, dog park fencing, benches, bins, cycle parking facilities, sports equipment, wayfinding signage and landscaping features throughout the park. Significant soft landscaping works will also be undertaken, including the importation of growing media, tree and shrub planting, establishment of planting beds, grassland seeding and mulching operations.

The design has been developed with particular consideration for the site's proximity to the Glashaboy River and associated floodplain. Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) have been incorporated throughout the scheme and include landscaped drainage features, attenuation measures and dry-bed detention areas designed to improve surface water management and contribute to the long-term resilience of the park. The development seeks to work with existing site levels, hydrology and ecological features while creating an accessible and attractive recreational resource for the local community.

During operation, the park will function as a permanent public amenity and recreational facility. Long-term management activities are expected to be limited to routine maintenance of paths, planting, play equipment, public furniture, drainage features and biodiversity enhancement areas. The completed development will provide a significant expansion of existing recreational facilities in Glanmire while supporting active travel, community wellbeing, landscape enhancement and biodiversity gain.

### 1.3 Legislative Context

Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora, which is more commonly known as the Habitats Directive, requires Member States of the European Union (EU) to take measures to maintain or restore, at favourable conservation status, natural habitats and wild species of fauna and flora of Community interest. The provisions of the Habitats Directive require that Member States designate Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) for habitats listed in Annex I and for species listed in Annex II.

Similarly, Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds, more commonly known as the Birds Directive, provides a framework for the conservation and management of wild birds. It also requires Member States to identify and classify Special Protection Areas (SPA) for rare or vulnerable species listed in Annex I of the Birds Directive, as well as for all regularly occurring migratory species. Collectively, SACs and SPAs are known as European sites.

In Ireland, the habitats and/or species which are the reason(s) for designation of an SAC are referred to as Qualifying Interests (QI). In relation to SPAs, the bird species for which a particular site is designated are referred to as the Special Conservation Interests (SCI).

Under Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive, any plan or project which is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of a European site, but likely to have a significant effect on such a site, either individually or in-combination with other plans or projects, must be subject to an AA of its implications for the SAC/SPA in view of the European site's Conservation Objectives.

Following the repeal of the Planning and Development Act 2000, the requirements of Article 6(3) are transposed into national law through Part 6 of the Planning and Development Act 2024 for planning matters (this is the case for the Proposed Development), and by the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (the Habitats Regulations) for other matters (e.g. relevant approvals or consents). The legislative provisions for Appropriate Assessment Screening for planning applications are set out in Section 212 of the Planning and Development Act 2024. The Appropriate Assessment process must be carried out by a Competent Authority, under Section 212(2) of the Planning and Development Act 2024.

The Competent Authority that is responsible for carrying out the AA is the relevant consenting body for each project or plan, which in this case is CCC. In fulfilling its duty as competent authority, CCC is required to apply the Precautionary Principle (as defined in European Commission (EC) (2021)

guidance) to European sites and can only grant consent once it has been ascertained that the Proposed Development will not adversely affect the integrity of any European site.

## 1.4 Purpose of this Document

This AA Screening Report has been prepared by AECOM to inform CCC in their determination of whether the Proposed Development will, or is likely to, result in significant effects on European sites.

Whilst the various steps involved in the AA process must be carried out by a competent authority, project proponents or their consultants may provide the information required to inform this assessment. This document has therefore been prepared to provide CCC with the information needed to undertake an AA Screening of the Proposed Development. It has been prepared with regard to best scientific knowledge and an examination of the potential impacts and effects of the Proposed Development on European sites.

The objective of this AA Screening is to identify any likely significant effects arising from the Proposed Development to any European site or their qualifying interest features, either in isolation or in combination with other plans and projects and thus determine whether AA is required. CCC will, on the basis of information presented in this Report, and any other information they consider relevant, reach their own AA Determination for the Proposed Development.

## 1.5 Statement of Authority

This AA Screening has been prepared by Alison Bourke, checked by Laura Cappelli, and verified by Eleanor Ballard.

Fieldwork was carried out by Alison Bourke, Fred Mosley, and Laura Cappelli under suitable weather conditions.

Alison Bourke holds an Honours degree in Agri-Environmental Science from University College Dublin and has over three years of professional consultancy experience in Ireland. She has prepared a range of ecological reports, including AA Screening Reports, Ecological Impact Assessments, and Ecological Appraisals to support planning applications for a variety of development types. Alison completed the initial habitat survey for this project and contributed to the preparation of this report.

Fred Mosley is a Graduate Ecologist at AECOM and a Qualifying Member of CIEEM. He holds an Honours degree in Biological and Biomedical Sciences with a specialisation in Zoology from Trinity College Dublin and has over one year of professional consultancy experience.

Laura Cappelli BSc (Hons) MSc MCIEEM is a Senior Ecologist with over seven years of professional ecological consultancy experience throughout Ireland. Laura has extensive experience in delivering ecological assessments for a wide range of projects, including infrastructure, residential, and energy developments. For this project, Laura led and completed the bat emergence and activity surveys and reviewed this AA Screening Report.

Eleanor is a Chartered Environmentalist and full member of CIEEM with over 19 years' postgraduate experience spanning academia, the not-for-profit sector, and ecological consultancy. She holds a first-class honours degree in Environmental Science and a PhD in Plant Ecology from Ulster University, alongside a postgraduate diploma in GIS. For the past eight years, Eleanor has served as an ecological technical team lead within multinational consultancies across Ireland, delivering a wide range of terrestrial, aquatic, marine and coastal assessments, including Habitats Regulations Assessments for Competent Authorities and over 30 BREEAM/CfSH evaluations. She has extensive experience in ecological survey, mitigation design, and licensing for protected species, and has led biodiversity, habitat management and research initiatives throughout her career.

## 1.6 Quality Assurance

This AA Screening Report has been prepared in line with AECOM's Integrated Management System (IMS). The IMS places great emphasis on professionalism, technical excellence, and quality, as well as covering all aspects of environmental and Health and Safety management. All staff members are committed to establishing and maintaining our accreditation to the relevant international standards,

including ISO 9001:2015, ISO 14001:2015, and ISO 45001:2018. In addition, the IMS requires careful selection and monitoring of the performance of all sub consultants and contractors.

## 2. Appropriate Assessment

### 2.1 Sources of Guidance

This Report has been prepared with cognisance to the European Commission (EC) guidance document *Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly affecting Natura 2000 Sites: Methodological Guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC* (EC, 2021). In addition, the following sources of guidance were also considered:

- *Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly affecting Natura 2000 Sites: A Summary* (European Commission, 2022).
- *Managing Natura 2000 Sites: the provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC* (European Commission, 2018).
- *Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management* (OPR, 2021).
- *Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland - Guidance for Planning Authorities* (Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DoEHLG), 2010).
- *Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive: Guidance for Planning Authorities. Circular Letter NPWS 1/10 & PSSP 2/10* (National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), 2010).

### 2.2 The Precautionary Principle

Under EC guidance, the Precautionary Principle, which is referenced in Article 191 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, explains that “*absence of scientific evidence on the significant negative effect of an action cannot be used as justification for approval of this action. When applied to Article 6(3) procedure, the Precautionary Principle implies that the absence of a negative effect on European [Natura 2000] sites has to be demonstrated before a plan or project can be authorised. In other words, if there is a lack of certainty as to whether there will be any negative effects, then the plan or project cannot be approved*” (EC, 2021).

### 2.3 The Stages in Appropriate Assessment

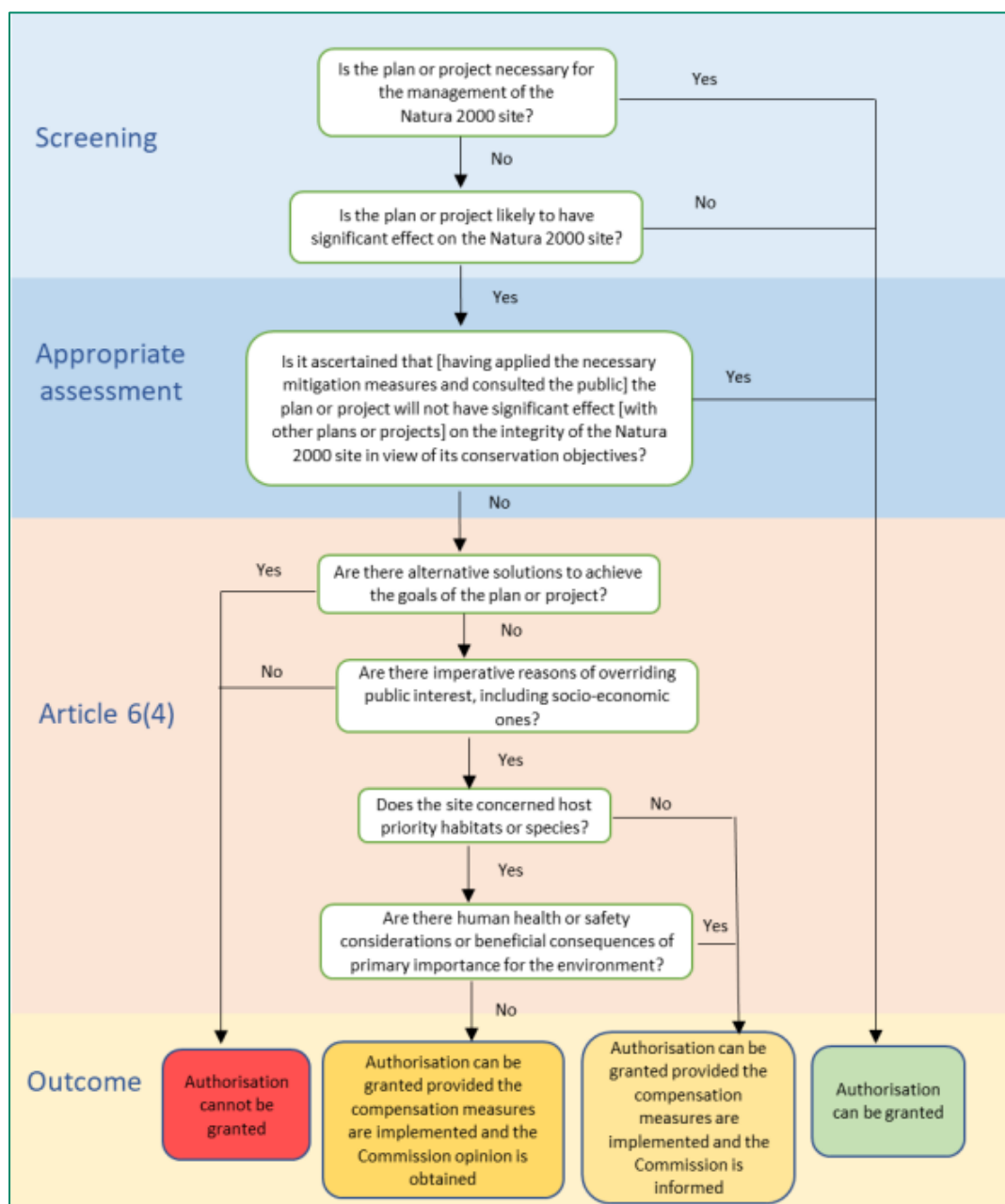
#### 2.3.1 Summary of the Stages

Article 6(3) and (4) sets out a step-by-step procedure for assessing plans or projects that are likely to impact European sites. This involves three main stages, as outlined in the EC (2021) guidance document and shown in Plate 1. Each stage of the procedure is influenced by the previous one. The order in which the stages are followed is therefore essential for applying Article 6(3) and (4) correctly. The following is a summary of these steps.

- **Stage 1 – Screening:** This stage consists of a pre-assessment stage (i.e. Screening) to ascertain whether the plan or project is directly connected with, or necessary to, the management of a European site, and if not, subsequently examines whether it is likely to have significant effects to the European site(s), either alone or in-combination with other projects, in view of the Conservation Objectives.
- **Stage 2 – Appropriate Assessment:** If likely significant effects cannot be excluded at Stage 1, an assessment is made of the impact of the plan or project (either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects) on the integrity of the European site(s) (in view of Conservation Objectives) and ascertaining whether it will affect the integrity of the European site. If relevant, mitigation measures specifically designed to protect the European site can be considered.
- **Stage 3 – Derogation from Article 6(3) under certain conditions:** The third stage of the procedure governed by Article 6(4) and is relevant where, despite a negative assessment, the developer considers that the plan or project should still be carried out for imperative reasons of

overriding public interest (IROPI). This is only possible if there are no alternative solutions, the IROPI are duly justified, and if suitable compensatory measures are adopted to ensure that the overall coherence of European site is protected.

**Plate 1: The Steps in AA (EC, 2021).**



### 2.3.2 Screening

The first stage of AA examines the likelihood of a plan or project having significant effects upon a European site, either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects. The EC states that it supports a broad interpretation of the terms project and plan (EC, 2021), and these are defined as follows (with reference to EC (2022) guidance):

- A project can involve construction works, installations and other interventions in the natural environment, including regular activities aimed at utilising natural resources.
- The term plan has also, for the purposes of Article 6(3), a potentially broad meaning, including land-use or spatial plans and sectoral plans (e.g. for transport, energy, waste management, water management, forest management, etc.).

In the context of this Report, the Proposed Development constitutes a project. The finding of the AA Screening will identify whether the subsequent stage (i.e. AA, and an Natura Impact Assessment

NIS) is required. Plate 2 outlines the steps of the AA Screening according to Office of the Planning Regulation (OPR) (2021).

**Plate 2: The Appropriate Assessment Screening Process (OPR, 2021).**



The essential question is: *“Is the project, either alone or in-combination with other relevant projects and plans, likely to result in a significant effect upon any European site?”*.

For this purpose and as a result of case law, likely in practice means possible, and significant means not trivial or inconsequential, but an effect that has the potential to undermine the European site's Conservation Objectives (European Court of Justice (ECJ) case C-127/02 – *Waddenzee*). In other words, any effect that compromises the functioning and viability of a site and interferes with achieving the Conservation Objectives for the site would constitute a significant effect.

The significance of effects should be determined in relation to the specific features and environmental conditions of the European site concerned by the plan or project, taking particular account of the site's conservation objectives and ecological characteristics (EC, 2018). The nature of the likely interactions between the plan or project and the integrity of a European site will depend upon:

- The sensitivity of the European site's QI/SCI to potential impacts arising from the project.
- The current conservation status of the European site and its QI/SCI.
- Any likely changes to key environmental indicators (e.g. water quality) that underpin the conservation status of European sites and their qualifying features, in-combination with other plans and projects.

The EC guidelines (European Commission, 2021) outline the stages involved in carrying out an AA Screening of a project that has the potential to have likely significant effects on European sites. The method adopted for this AA Screening was informed by these guidelines and was conducted in the following stages:

- Determine whether the Proposed Development is connected with, or necessary for, the conservation management of European sites.
- With reference to the baseline environment, define and identify the relevant elements of the Proposed Development and their likely impacts (specifying the stage, e.g. construction, operation, and decommissioning phases).
- Identify European sites likely to be influenced by the project (i.e. those which are potentially connected to the Proposed Development by source-pathway-receptor links and therefore lie in the zone of influence of potential impacts).
- Identify other plans or projects that, in-combination with the project, have the potential to affect European sites.
- Assess whether the project has the potential to affect European sites and determine whether the Proposed Development could give rise to likely significant effects.

If it can be demonstrated that significant effects are unlikely, no further assessment is required.

#### **2.3.2.1 Establishing the Zone of Influence**

The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government guidance (DoEHLG, 2010) guidance states that European sites with the potential to be affected by a plan or project should be identified taking into consideration the potential for direct, indirect and / or cumulative (in-combination) effects. It also states that the specific approach in each case is likely to differ depending on the scale and likely effects of the plan or project. However, it advises that the following sites should generally be included:

- European sites within or immediately adjacent to the plan or project area.
- European sites within the likely Zol of the plan or project.
- European sites for which there is doubt as to whether or not such sites might be significantly affected (adopting the Precautionary Principle).

The likely Zol of a plan or project is the geographic extent over which it could affect the receiving environment in a way that could have significant effects on the QIs and / or SCIs of a European site (OPR, 2021). In the case of projects, the DoEHLG guidance advises that the Zol must be devised on a case-by-case basis with reference to the following criteria:

- The nature, size/scale and location of the project.
- Sensitivity of ecological features under consideration.
- Potential for cumulative effects.

When seeking to identify the relevant European sites, consideration was given to identified impact pathways and the source-pathway-receptor approach (OPR, 2021), rather than adopting a purely zones-based approach whereby European sites within, potentially arbitrary, set distances from the Proposed Development would be assessed.

The source-pathway-receptor approach is a standard tool in environmental assessment. For an effect to occur, all three elements of this mechanism must be in place. The absence or removal of one of the elements of the mechanism means there is no possibility of an effect occurring. If, for example, there is a sensitive European site in the vicinity of the Proposed Development but no mechanism by which the Proposed Development could affect that site then there is no potential for a likely significant effect. Furthermore, even where an impact is predicted to occur, it may not result in significant effects.

A plan or project may have the potential to result in numerous impacts, which could potentially affect the qualifying features of European sites. The analysis of these effects, using scientific knowledge and professional judgement, leads to the identification of a Zol for each impact and effect (i.e. the geographic extent at which the impact of the Proposed Development could have potential effects, using professional judgement and published guidance).

### 2.3.2.2 Mitigation

EC (2021) guidance states mitigation should not be considered during AA Screening, based on the ruling in the Courts of Justice of the EU (CJEU) case C-323/17 (People over Wind v Coillte) that states *“in order to determine whether it is necessary to carry out, subsequently, an appropriate assessment 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”*.

However, on 15 June 2023, the CJEU subsequently ruled in Case C-721/21 (Eco Advocacy v An Bord Pleanála) that should measures be incorporated into a project design as standard features of similar type and not with the aim of reducing any negative effects of that project on a European site, then those measures cannot be regarded as indicative of probable significant harm to that site.

As such, to comply with the CJEU ruling, no mitigation specifically for the protection of European sites is included in the AA Screening Assessment.

However, it is worth noting that, according to EC guidance (European Commission, 2021), projects can be planned in such ways that avoids or minimises potential impacts from the outset. This can be done by using best available technologies and practices, or by applying pre-emptive measures. The guidance states that *“Such generic components of the project can be considered in the screening, contrary to the plan- or project-specific mitigation measures that must not be taken into account at this stage. These components should be clearly identified in the project description”* (European Commission, 2021).

### 2.3.2.3 Assessment In-combination

It is necessary to consider the impacts and effects of any plan or project not only in isolation but also in-combination with those which may arise from other plans and projects that may also affect the European site(s) in question. In accordance with OPR (2021), the assessment of in-combination effects must examine:

- Completed projects.
- Projects which are approved but not completed.
- Proposed projects (i.e. for which an application for approval or consent has been made, including refusals subject to appeal and not yet determined).
- Proposals in adopted plans.
- Proposals in finalised draft plans formally published or submitted for consultation or adoption.

## 2.4 Identifying the Ecological Baseline

This AA Screening was informed by ecological walkover surveys of the Site carried out on 10 February 2026 and by bat emergence and bat activity transect surveys conducted on 6 and 28 May 2026 by suitably experienced AECOM ecologists.

In addition to field survey, information relevant to the ecological evaluation of the Site was obtained from ordnance survey maps, historical and recent aerial photography, and internet searches. The following online resources were used to inform the baseline ecology of the Site:

- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Maps (EPA, 2026).
- NPWS Designations Viewer (NPWS, 2026).
- NPWS website for published documents regarding site citations and conservation objectives.

## 3. Method

### 3.1 Data Sources

A desk-based study was carried out to help establish the baseline conditions relevant to the Proposed Development. The following resources were analysed to inform the baseline description of the site of the Proposed Development and for assessing sensitivities of European sites:

- Information on all relevant European sites in Ireland and their QI for which sites are designated (i.e., non- bird species and habitats), and SCIs (bird species and their associated habitats). Available online from the NPWS website and referenced individually in (Section 5.2).
- Information on ranges of mobile QI populations (i.e., the area over which mobile species are known to occur) from sources such as '*Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland, Volume 1*' (NPWS, 2019).
- Mapping of relevant European site boundaries and known locations of QIs and SCIs in Conservation Objective mapping for relevant European sites (NPWS, 2026).
- Distribution records for QI populations held online by the National Biodiversity Data Centre (NBDC, 2026), and data including surface water quality (including transitional waters) and groundwater quality status, and river catchment boundaries available from the online database of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA, 2026) [bookmark3](#).

## 3.2 Identifying the Ecological Baseline

This screening assessment was informed by a field survey, carried out by a suitably experienced AECOM ecologist in April 2026.

In addition to field survey, information relevant to the ecological evaluation of the Site was obtained from ordnance survey maps, historical and recent aerial photography, internet searches, and database searches for European sites and species data. The following online resources were used to inform the baseline ecology of the Site:

- EPA Maps (EPA, 2026).
- NBDC Biodiversity Maps (NBDC, 2026).
- NPWS Designations Viewer (NPWS, 2026).
- The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland (NPWS, 2025).
- NPWS website for published documents regarding site citations and conservation objectives.
- Online data available on European sites and protected habitats/species as held by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) from [www.npws.ie](http://www.npws.ie), including conservation objectives documents.
- Ordnance Survey of Ireland mapping and aerial photography available from [www.osi.ie](http://www.osi.ie).
- Information on the location, nature and design of the proposed development supplied by the applicant's design team.

Information on the conservation status of birds in Ireland from Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland 4 (Gilbert *et al.*, 2021)

## 3.3 Field Survey

### 3.3.1 Walkover Survey

Ecological walkover surveys were carried out within the Site on 10 February 2026 by experienced AECOM ecologists.

The walkover surveys involved an inspection of habitats in accordance with *A Guide to Habitats in Ireland* (Fossitt, 2000) and *Best Practice Guidance for Habitat Survey and Mapping* (Smith *et al.* 2011). The standard habitat survey method was extended to search for evidence of or potential for target species (i.e., protected and notable species) if viable habitat existed and was accessible. Direct sightings and indirect signs (e.g., field signs) of protected species or auditory evidence were recorded if present.

### 3.3.2 Bat Emergence and Activity Surveys

In addition, dusk bat emergence surveys and walked bat activity transect surveys were undertaken on 6 May 2026 and 28 May 2026, in accordance with current best practice guidance outlined in *Bat*

*Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines* (4th Edition) (Collins (Ed.), 2023), published by the Bat Conservation Trust. Surveys were designed following a preliminary roost assessment of the Site and were carried out under suitable weather conditions to optimise bat detectability. Emergence surveys were completed on a Scots pine tree within the central area of Riverside Football Grounds, targeting potential roosting features, while transect surveys recorded bat passes and behaviour across representative habitats within and adjacent to the Site using walked survey methods. These surveys were undertaken to determine the presence, distribution and relative activity levels of bats within the Site and its immediate surroundings, and to inform an assessment of the Site's ecological value for bats in line with relevant policy and guidance.

## 4. Ecological Baseline and Project Description

### 4.1 Establishing the Zone of Influence

#### 4.1.1 Potential Sources of Impact

Development activities can give rise to a range of impacts on the QIs/SCIs of European sites. It is important to note that the impacts described under the following sub-headings are mainly generic. The impacts apply to a range of possible development activities and, to the full suite of QIs/SCIs for which European sites are designated in Ireland. Some may not be specifically relevant to the Proposed Development. However, they are discussed for the purpose of demonstrating that all potential sources of impact and all QIs/SCIs were considered when initially seeking to establish the European sites within the potential ZoI of the Proposed Development.

##### 4.1.1.1 Direct Loss of or Damage to Habitat within the Boundary of a European Site

This could only occur if the Proposed Development was located within the boundary of an SAC or SPA. Habitat lost could be a QI/SCI itself or could support QI/SCI species.

##### 4.1.1.2 Loss of Habitat of European Sites that Supports QI/SCI Species

Habitat outside of the boundary of a European site that supports the QI/SCI species, is defined as being functionally linked. The ruling in the *Holohan and Others v An Bord Pleanála* (C-461/17) case concluded that the loss of functionally linked habitat could result in significant effects on the QI/SCI of a European site, if this prevented the Conservation Objectives from being met.

This impact can only occur on mobile animal species that could be present outside of the European site for which they are designated. For several bird species, NatureScot (formerly Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH)) has published guidance on the distances up to which qualifying species may use functionally linked habitat outside of European sites (SNH, 2016). The distances given in this guidance were used when searching for SPAs within the ZoI of the Proposed Development. Accordingly, SPAs up to 20 km were searched for, as this is given as the largest core foraging range for any species (non-breeding pink-footed goose *Anser brachyrhynchus* and greylag goose *Anser anser*).

Based on research by Dún Laoghaire–Rathdown County Council (DLRCC), light-bellied brent geese *Branta bernicla hrota* are increasingly foraging in urban improved grassland such as parks and pitches due to pressures on feeding areas. Clausen *et al.* (2013) also found foraging distances to range from 5-10 km per day. SPAs designated for seabirds that exclusively inhabit the marine environment and do not use the terrestrial habitats within the Site of the Proposed Development were excluded.

For other mobile terrestrial, aquatic or amphibious animals for which SACs are designated in Ireland, the following distances were used when searching for European sites that could be impacted by loss of functionally linked habitat:

- Marsh fritillary *Euphydryas aurinia* – research by Wahlberg *et al.* (2002) found that the average dispersal distance of male marsh fritillaries was 1.3 km, and up to 510 m for females. On a precautionary basis, therefore, a distance of 1.5 km was adopted.
- Otter *Lutra lutra* – studies quoted in Reid *et al.* (2013) are that otter have large home ranges in Ireland (approximately 6.5 to 13.2 km). Thus, a buffer of 15 km, and only where there is direct

hydrological connectivity to the Proposed Development, was used when searching for SACs designated for otter.

- Lesser horseshoe bat *Rhinolophus hipposideros* – the Lesser Horseshoe Bat Species Action Plan (NPWS and Vincent Wildlife Trust (VWT), 2022) estimates that presence of suitable commuting and foraging habitat within at least 2.5 km is important for the success of a maternity colony. According to the NPWS (2018), some researchers have also found that lesser horseshoe bats normally forage in woodlands/scrub within 2.5 km of their roosts (e.g. Bontadina *et al.*, 2002). Therefore, for each roost, a 2.5 km zone is considered an appropriate distance when considering potential foraging areas. The Zol of the Proposed Development on lesser horseshoe bats was therefore considered to extend to at least 2.5 km from the Proposed Development.
- All fish species – no set distance was used when considering potential impacts on fish species. Where a direct hydrological link exists between the Proposed Development and an SAC designated for these species, it was considered that there could be impacts on these QI species.

Marine mammals were not considered as the Proposed Development has no potential to cause the loss of any habitat used by these animals.

Although the whorl snails *Vertigo angustior*, *Vertigo geyeri* and *Vertigo moulinsiana*, and the Kerry slug *Geomalacus maculosus* are all mobile species, their ability to move over any substantial distance is extremely limited. Functionally linked habitat for these species was therefore considered to only exist up to a distance of 100 m from any SAC for which these species are a QI.

Freshwater pearl mussel and Nore pearl mussel *Margaritifera durrovensis* are not mobile species. However, they rely upon salmonid fish for part of their lifecycle. Therefore, in cases where a direct hydrological connection exists between the Proposed Development and an SAC designated for freshwater pearl mussel/Nore pearl mussel, the potential impacts on these species would be considered, with additional cognisance of freshwater pearl mussel catchments (NPWS, 2020).

#### 4.1.1.3 Waterborne Pollution

Proposed Developments have the potential to pollute watercourses and/or waterbodies. These could:

- Represent a QI of a European site (qualifying interest).
- Be within a European site and support the QI of that site (supporting).
- Be outside a European site and used by the QI species (functionally linked).

Waterborne pollution may arise through spillages of fuels, oils, chemicals or other pollutants, or from the uncontrolled released of sediment. Discharges of effluent, which could increase the nutrient levels in the water would also fall under this category of impact.

Waterborne pollution can degrade habitats and can lead to the direct mortality of QI species such as fish and freshwater pearl mussel. The distance over which such impacts could have effects would depend on the severity of the pollution. However, any European site which has a direct hydrological connection to the Proposed Development has the potential to be within the Zol.

#### 4.1.1.4 Airborne Pollution

Airborne pollution could occur during the Proposed Development due to the generation of dust or from emissions from vehicles. As for waterborne pollution, above, airborne pollution could impact on qualifying, supporting or functionally linked habitats.

Dust can directly impact vegetation or aquatic environments and can indirectly impact animal species (for example where these habitats are used by them for foraging). During extended periods of dry weather, dust can cover plant foliage and adversely affect photosynthesis or other biological functions. Rainfall can then remove deposited dust and rapidly leach chemicals into the soil (IAQM, 2024). Guidance published by the Institute of Air Quality Management (IAQM) advises that construction-related air quality impacts on nature conservation sites are likely to be 'medium' within 20-50 m of construction sites, and that impacts decline further with increasing distance (IAQM, 2024).

Vehicles that operate via internal combustion engines emit airborne pollutants. The most important of these for European sites are oxides of nitrogen (NO<sub>x</sub>). At close distances to source and very high concentrations, NO<sub>x</sub> can have a directly toxic effect on vegetation. However, likely to be of greater concern is the contribution NO<sub>x</sub> makes to the deposition of nitrogen to soils. Increases in nitrogen

deposition from the atmosphere can, if sufficiently great, enhance soil fertility and lead to eutrophication. This can have adverse effects on community composition and quality of semi-natural, nitrogen-limited terrestrial and aquatic habitats (e.g. Wolseley *et al.*, 2006; Dijk, 2011; <http://www.apis.ac.uk/search-pollutant-impacts>). Both the IAQM and the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB) advise that such impacts are only likely to extend to a maximum of 200 m from a road (or Proposed Development area), and that air pollution levels fall sharply within the first few tens of metres (Highways England *et al.*, 2019; IAQM, 2020).

#### 4.1.1.5 Changes to Surface Water Hydrology

Changes to surface water hydrology can occur as a result of development activities. Abstraction of water (e.g. for use in dust suppression or other construction works) can also reduce water levels, as can changes to the existing flows of surface water to a watercourse.

These impacts can act on the QI of a European site if they pass through or occur within the relevant part of the watercourse. Therefore, any European site with direct freshwater hydrological connectivity (i.e. not including marine sites) could be impacted by changes to surface water hydrology.

#### 4.1.1.6 Changes to Groundwater Flow or Volume

Changes to groundwater conditions can occur as a result of excavations or the installation of piled structures (for example by interrupting groundwater flows). Guidance published by the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) suggests that such activities could impact on groundwater dependent terrestrial ecosystems (GWDTE) up to 100 m from excavations less than 1 m in depth, extending up to 250 m for deeper excavations (SEPA, 2017). Considering the activities required for the Proposed Development, and that large, deep excavation will not be required, it is very unlikely that groundwater impacts will extend more than 100 m.

#### 4.1.1.7 Disturbance of Qualifying Species

Construction activities have the potential to cause disturbance of qualifying animal species. Disturbance can be caused visually (for example by the presence of personnel and plant, or as a result of artificial illumination of habitats) and/or by the noise and vibration. This could impact qualifying species when inside the boundary of a European site, or outside of a European site when using functionally linked habitat.

The potential for disturbance to be caused will depend on the location and nature of activities, the distribution of the QI/SCI, and the sensitivity of the species to noise and visual disturbance from human activities. Where disturbance is caused, it can have multiple adverse effects on species including increased energy expenditure, reduced feeding time, behavioural changes, and displacement.

Based on the published guidance referenced below, the following distances were used when considering how far activities may disturb qualifying species:

- Otter – 150 m, in accordance with Transport Infrastructure Ireland (formerly National Roads Authority (NRA), 2008), which suggests this distance for otter breeding sites, reduced to 20 m for other resting sites not used for breeding purposes.
- Lesser horseshoe bat – on a precautionary basis, a distance of 150 m is considered the maximum at which disturbance could be caused to roosting lesser horseshoe bat by development activities.
- Non-breeding waterbirds – the Waterbird Disturbance Mitigation Toolkit (Cutts *et al.* 2013) provides species-specific information on the sensitivity of several bird species which are qualifying features of SPAs. However, it suggests that, in general, disturbance of non-breeding waterbirds can occur up to distances of around 300 m from construction/decommissioning works.
- Breeding birds 1 km, this being the maximum distance at which NatureScot consider disturbance could occur on the most sensitive species for which SPAs are designated (Goodship and Furness, 2022).
- Disturbance of fish species is considered to be possible where works take place within 50 m of watercourses, although even within this distance disturbance is unlikely due to the vibration damping effect of intervening soil and rock.
- Snail and slug species have no acoustic sense (Chase, 2001) and are not considered to be vulnerable to disturbance as a result of decommissioning works.

#### 4.1.1.8 Injury or Mortality of Qualifying Species

The direct injury or mortality of QI species could occur where the species in question may be using functionally linked habitat outside of a European site boundary.

The potential for the direct mortality of fish species as a result of waterborne pollution is also considered above.

#### 4.1.1.9 Prevention of Migratory Movements of Qualifying Species

The only feasible way in which development activities could impact on species in such a way that their migratory movements could be prevented is where they take place in or near to watercourses. The pollution of a watercourse, or noise/visual disturbance could all act to prevent the migratory movement of QI fish species.

This impact was therefore considered to be possible where the Proposed Development is located adjacent to a river which is hydrologically linked to a SAC for which fish are a qualifying species.

#### 4.1.1.10 Spread of Invasive Non-native Species

Invasive non-native species can have detrimental effects on native flora and fauna. The activities involved with the Proposed Development are very unlikely to result in the spread of any non-native animal species. However, they do have the potential to spread invasive non-native plant species. This could introduce such species to a European site and have impacts on habitats and species.

When preparing this AA Screening Report, it has been assumed that the spread of invasive non-native plants could occur where Proposed Development take place up to a distance of 50 m from a European site, or where there is a direct hydrological connection between the Proposed Development and a European site.

#### 4.1.1.11 Summary of Potential Sources of Impact

A summary of the maximal search areas for establishing the Zol distances for the identified potential sources of impacts and the QI/SCI(s) to which they relate are listed in Table 1. Where a distance is provided for the Zol, this is measured from the European site boundary to the Proposed Development site boundary.

**Table 1. Summary of the search areas for establishing the Zol for the identified potential sources of impacts**

| Potential source                           | QI/SCI                                                 | Search area                                 |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| Direct habitat loss within European site   | Any/all                                                | Within European site boundaries             |
| Direct loss of functionally linked habitat | Fish species                                           | Direct hydrological link                    |
|                                            | Freshwater pearl mussel and Nore pearl mussel          | Direct hydrological link                    |
|                                            | Bird species (initial search for certain species)      | 20 km                                       |
|                                            | Otter                                                  | 15 km                                       |
|                                            | Lesser horseshoe bat                                   | 2.5 km                                      |
|                                            | Marsh fritillary                                       | 1.5 km                                      |
|                                            | Whorl snails, and Kerry slug                           | 0.1 km                                      |
| Waterborne pollution                       | Any/all                                                | Direct hydrological link                    |
| Airborne pollution                         | Qualifying, supporting or functionally linked habitats | 50 m (dust)                                 |
|                                            |                                                        | 200 m (vehicle emissions)                   |
| Changes to surface water hydrology         | Any/all                                                | Direct freshwater hydrological connectivity |
| Changes to groundwater                     | GWDTE                                                  | 100 m                                       |
| QI species disturbance                     | Otter breeding holts                                   | 20 m                                        |
|                                            | Otter resting sites                                    | 150 m                                       |
|                                            | Roosting lesser horseshoe bats                         | 150 m                                       |
|                                            | Non-breeding waterbirds                                | 300 m                                       |

| Potential source                | QI/SCI                            | Search area                                                    |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                 | Breeding birds                    | 1 km                                                           |
|                                 | Fish species                      | 50 m                                                           |
| QI species injury or mortality  | Any/all                           | Considered within functionally linked and waterborne pollution |
| QI species migration prevention | Fish species                      | Adjacent to direct hydrological link                           |
| Invasive non-native species     | Invasive non-native plant species | 50 m or direct hydrological link                               |

## 4.2 European sites within the Zone of Influence

The process of determining European sites that lie within the Zol of the Proposed Development is an iterative assessment of the potential for each impact source to affect the QIs / SCIs in such sites as described above in Section 4.1. This process was carried out in Table 2, below and was conducted with cognisance of all potential impact sources described above in Section 4.1.

When seeking to identify the relevant European sites, consideration was given to identified impact pathways and the source-pathway-receptor approach (OPR, 2021), rather than adopting solely a distance-based approach.

Therefore, all European sites have been considered using the source-pathway-receptor approach. All European sites within the Zol are displayed in Figure 2 and Table 3. Not all impacts will have pathways for effects to the QIs/SCIs of all European sites within the Zol. Consequently, some sites may be within the Zol for certain impacts, but not for others.

**Table 2. Establishing the Zol of the Proposed Development**

| Impact source                                                                                                               | Pathway(s) to European site(s)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | European sites within the potential Zol                                               |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Construction/Decommissioning Phase</b>                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                       |
| Direct loss of or damage to habitat within a European site                                                                  | The Site does not overlap with any European sites, with the closest European sites (Cork Harbour SPA) being approximately 0.6 km south of the Site.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | None.                                                                                 |
| Loss of habitat outside of European sites but which supports qualifying species (i.e., loss of functionally linked habitat) | <p>On a precautionary basis, and in line with SNH (2016), an initial Zol of 20 km from the Site was applied when considering the potential loss of functionally linked habitat for SCI bird species of SPAs. The only SPA within this distance is Cork Harbour SPA [004030], located approximately 0.6 km south of the Site.</p> <p>Cork Harbour SPA, located approximately 0.6 km from the Site, is designated for a range of SCI bird species, many of which are known to forage over considerable distances from their roosting or breeding areas. Several wader species associated with the SPA can utilise habitats located several kilometres away, depending on the availability and suitability of foraging resources. Given the proximity of the Site to Cork Harbour SPA, and the presence of habitats such as amenity and semi-improved grassland which may provide limited foraging opportunities, there is potential for some SCI species, particularly gulls, to occasionally utilise the Site for foraging.</p> <p>The only other European site that is designated for mobile species which may utilise habitats within and/or adjacent to the Site is the Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) SAC as otter could use the Glashaboy River for foraging and/or commuting. It is located approximately 12.5 km north of the Site as the crow flies, however it is located 14.8 km upstream of the Site. Furthermore, the Glashaboy River will not be altered and there will be no instream works. Therefore, there will be no loss of habitat that could support QI otter.</p> <p>Accordingly, the only potential pathway for the Proposed Development to result in the loss of functionally linked habitat for European sites within the Zol relates to habitats that may support SCI bird species associated with Cork Harbour SPA.</p>                                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cork Harbour SPA, c. 0.6 km south</li> </ul> |
| Disturbance of qualifying species                                                                                           | <p>Disturbance of SCI bird species during the construction phase could occur where individuals are using functionally linked habitat outside the boundary of a European site. As such, the potential Zol for disturbance effects is considered to be the same as that applied for the assessment of the loss of functionally linked habitat.</p> <p>Disturbance of non-breeding waterbirds can occur up to 300 m from construction works. There is abundant suitable habitat, consisting of amenity and agricultural grassland, within this disturbance distance for SCI bird species associated with Cork Harbour SPA, which is located approximately 0.6 km south of the Site. However, these habitats are of relatively low suitability and are subject to existing disturbance, and there are extensive areas of higher-quality habitat available closer to the SPA.</p> <p>With regard to otter the species is known to utilise extensive territories, with home ranges typically between approximately 6.5 km and 13.2 km (Reid <i>et al.</i>, 2013). The Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) SAC is located approximately 12.5 km north of the Site as the crow flies, however it is located 14.8 km upstream of the Site. Furthermore, the Glashaboy River will not be altered, there will be no instream works, and there will be no disturbance to otter resting or breeding sites. Works in proximity to the riverbank will be limited to minor, temporary activities (e.g. installation of benches), which will not result in any disturbance to the watercourse or associated habitats. Therefore, given the distance, no alteration of the stream and minor nature of the works no disturbance to QI otter is anticipated.</p> <p>There are no other European sites with qualifying species that could be affected by disturbance arising from the Proposed Development.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cork Harbour SPA, c. 0.6 km south</li> </ul> |

| Impact source                                           | Pathway(s) to European site(s)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | European sites within the potential Zol                                                                                                        |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Injury or mortality of qualifying species               | Injury or mortality of qualifying species could theoretically occur where construction works take place within, or immediately adjacent to, functionally linked habitat used by these species. However, the only qualifying species which may be using functionally linked habitat are mobile species (i.e., birds), which are easily able to move away from sources of injury or mortality, should any be present. Therefore, there is no risk of injury or mortality to qualifying species of any European sites.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | None.                                                                                                                                          |
| Prevention of migratory movements of qualifying species | The Site is indirectly hydrologically connected to the Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) SAC, which is located approximately 12.5 km upstream of the Proposed Development. While the SAC is designated for a number of aquatic species, including migratory fish and freshwater pearl mussel, there will be no instream works and no possibility for barriers to movement of these qualifying species.<br><br>As such, the Proposed Development will not result in any barrier to migratory movements or otherwise affect the conservation objectives of these qualifying species.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | None.                                                                                                                                          |
| Changes to surface water or groundwater hydrology       | During the construction phase, changes to surface water hydrology could arise where works take place within or in close proximity to a watercourse, or where a hydrological pathway exists between the Proposed Development and a European site.<br><br>The Proposed Development does not involve in-stream works or the modification of the Glashaboy River channel. However, the Site is located adjacent to the Glashaboy River along its western boundary, and therefore a potential indirect hydrological pathway exists. The Glashaboy River flows southwards into the River Lee and ultimately discharges into Cork Harbour, which supports designated European sites including Cork Harbour SPA and Great Island Channel SAC.<br><br>Given the small scale and nature of the proposed works, which comprise largely minor excavation, landscaping, and the installation of park infrastructure, and the incorporation of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) (including detention basins and a pond feature), there will be no alteration to surface water flow or hydrological regimes.<br><br>Furthermore, all construction works will be undertaken in accordance with standard best practice and pollution prevention measures, ensuring that there is no viable pathway for sediment or contaminants to enter the Glashaboy River. As such, there will be no impact on surface water hydrology or associated downstream European sites.<br><br>With respect to groundwater, European sites containing groundwater-dependent qualifying interests may be at risk where there is a direct hydrogeological connection. However, no such groundwater-dependent European sites are located within proximity to the Proposed Development. The nature of the works (shallow excavation and surface-level interventions) and the absence of significant groundwater abstractions or dewatering activities mean that there will be no interaction with groundwater regimes.<br><br>Accordingly, there is no pathway for changes to surface water or groundwater hydrology that could give rise to effects on any European site as a result of the Proposed Development. | None.                                                                                                                                          |
| Waterborne pollution                                    | The Site is hydrologically connected to downstream European sites via the Glashaboy River, which flows into the River Lee and subsequently into Cork Harbour. As such, there is a potential pathway for waterborne pollution to reach downstream European sites.<br><br>During the construction phase, there is a risk of waterborne pollution arising from surface water runoff, particularly during periods of rainfall. Construction activities, including minor excavation and ground disturbance, may result in the mobilisation of sediment or other contaminants. These materials could enter the adjacent watercourse via overland flow or existing drainage pathways.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cork Harbour SPA, c. 0.6 km south</li> <li>• Great Island Channel SAC, c. 3.7 km southeast</li> </ul> |

| Impact source                                                                                                              | Pathway(s) to European site(s)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | European sites within the potential ZOI |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                            | While much of the Site, including areas along the riverbank, will remain unchanged and no in-stream works are proposed, the proximity of works to the Glashaboy River means that a potential pathway exists for sediment or pollutants to enter the aquatic environment.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                         |
| Airborne pollution                                                                                                         | <p>Dust from construction/decommissioning is not generally significant beyond a short distance, hence construction/decommissioning dust assessment for ecological receptors is recommended to extend to 50 m from a development site and to 50 m from roads used by construction vehicles (for roads up to 500 m from the development site) (IAQM, 2014). Gaseous vehicle emissions (in this case from construction vehicles, and in particular oxides of nitrogen (NO<sub>x</sub>)) are insignificant beyond 200 m and not required to be assessed beyond this distance (IAQM, 2020).</p> <p>There is no pathway for direct impacts on European sites as there are none located within the distances up to which airborne pollution can have significant effects. The habitats within and immediately surrounding the Site which could support QI/SCI species are not susceptible to dust or other airborne pollutants in such a way that they would become unsuitable for the QI/SCI of any European site (for example agricultural grassland will remain as such regardless of air quality impacts and watercourses are not vulnerable to air quality impacts of the type which can be generated by the Proposed Development).</p> | None.                                   |
| Spread of invasive non-native species                                                                                      | No invasive non-native species were identified during field survey. Therefore, there is no pathway for the spread of invasive non-native species to any European sites.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | None.                                   |
| <b>Operational Phase</b>                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                         |
| Loss of habitat outside of European sites but which supports qualifying species (i.e. loss of functionally-linked habitat) | <p>During the operational phase, the Site will continue to comprise a managed public park with a mix of amenity grassland, planted areas, and retained woodland. Much of the Site is already subject to recreational use and disturbance. While some areas of open grassland will be modified to accommodate paths, amenities, and SuDS features, these habitats are of low ecological value and are not considered important for supporting qualifying species associated with nearby European sites.</p> <p>Therefore, there will be no additional loss of functionally linked habitat during the operational phase, and no pathway for adverse effects on any European site.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | None.                                   |
| Disturbance of qualifying species                                                                                          | <p>Operational use of the Site will involve increased recreational activity, including pedestrian use of pathways, use of park amenities, and occasional vehicle movements associated with parking areas. However, the Site is already subject to existing recreational disturbance, and any bird species present are likely to be habituated to these baseline conditions.</p> <p>While Cork Harbour SPA is located approximately 0.6 km south of the Site, the habitats within the Site are of limited suitability for SCI bird species (primarily amenity grassland and managed parkland) and are not considered important for roosting or foraging. In addition, extensive areas of more suitable, less disturbed habitat are available closer to the SPA.</p> <p>Operational lighting within the Site will be limited in extent and primarily associated with parking areas and is not expected to result in disturbance to any qualifying species.</p> <p>Therefore, operational activities will not give rise to significant disturbance effects, and there is no pathway for disturbance to qualifying species of any European site during operation of the Proposed Development.</p>                                         | None.                                   |

| Impact source                                           | Pathway(s) to European site(s)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | European sites within the potential ZOI |
|---------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Injury or mortality of qualifying species               | <p>The operational phase will not introduce structures or activities that could give rise to collision risk (e.g. tall lighting structures or reflective surfaces). Additionally, the only qualifying species potentially using the Site are highly mobile SCI bird species, which can easily avoid any potential sources of harm. Therefore, there is no pathway for injury or mortality to SCI bird species.</p> <p>With regard to otter, the Proposed Development will not result in any direct or indirect impacts on the Glashaboy River or its riparian corridor, which may provide suitable habitat for this species. No in-stream works or alterations to the watercourse are proposed, and the Site will remain suitable for otter usage under existing conditions. As such, there is no mechanism by which the Proposed Development could result in injury or mortality to otter.</p> <p>Therefore, there is no pathway for injury or mortality of any qualifying species associated with European sites.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | None.                                   |
| Prevention of migratory movements of qualifying species | The Proposed Development will not interfere with hydrological continuity or ecological connectivity, and there is no pathway for the prevention of migratory movements of any qualifying species associated with European sites.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | None.                                   |
| Changes to surface water or groundwater hydrology       | The Glashaboy River on the western boundary of the Site and downstream European sites will remain as-is and will not be affected by the operation of the Proposed Development.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | None.                                   |
| Waterborne pollution                                    | <p>The Site is hydrologically connected to downstream European sites via the Glashaboy River, which flows into the River Lee and subsequently Cork Harbour. This establishes a theoretical pathway for waterborne pollution to reach downstream European sites. However, the Proposed Development comprises enhancements to an existing recreational park, where land use and management practices (e.g. mowing regimes, pedestrian use, and general maintenance activities) will remain broadly consistent with the current baseline. While there will be minor additions of infrastructure and limited areas of impermeable surfaces, these changes are not considered to introduce a new or significant source of pollutants beyond those already associated with the existing use of the Site.</p> <p>Furthermore, the retention of existing vegetation, particularly along the riverbank, will continue to provide a natural buffer, reducing the potential for sediment or contaminants to enter the adjacent Glashaboy River. As such, the risk of waterborne pollution during the operational phase is not expected to materially increase compared to the current situation.</p> <p>On this basis, no new pathway for significant waterborne pollution is identified, and therefore no likely significant effects on downstream European sites are predicted.</p> | None.                                   |
| Airborne pollution                                      | The Proposed Development will not emit to air and there will only be occasional vehicle movements and parking within the southern end of the Site. Additionally, there are no European sites within the 200 m of the Proposed Development. Therefore, there is no possible pathway of dust or other airborne pollution on European sites. Air quality will be similar to the levels prior to the Proposed Development.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | None.                                   |
| Spread of invasive non-native species                   | No invasive non-native species were identified during field survey. Therefore, there is no pathway for the spread of invasive non-native species to any European sites.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | None.                                   |

## 5. Test of Likely Significant Effects

### 5.1 Overview

This section assesses the potential for the identified impacts, for which pathways exist to European sites, to have likely significant effects on those sites. Likely in this context is taken to mean possible, while a significant effect is one which could undermine the Conservation Objectives of a European site.

The purpose of AA Screening is to determine those elements of a project regarding which it can be stated, without detailed appraisal, that likely significant effects on a European site can be excluded on the basis of objective evidence. In line with case law, consideration cannot be given at this stage to specific measures intended to avoid or reduce harmful effects on a European site.

However, according to more recent case law and European Commission (2021) guidance, projects can be planned in such ways that avoids or minimises potential impacts from the outset and measures to avoid environmental impacts more generally (e.g. the removal of contaminants), which are not specific to European sites, and have been incorporated in/are inherent to the plan or project, can be considered during the AA Screening Stage.

The test of likely significant effects in this section is therefore a high-level assessment, carried out without consideration of specific mitigation measures, and with a precautionary approach adopted when reaching a conclusion.

For any impacts for which likely significant effects cannot be screened out (i.e. excluded), further assessment at the Appropriate Assessment stage will be required.

### 5.2 European Sites Identified within the Potential Zone of Influence

As determined in Table 2, two European sites are within the potential ZOI of the Proposed Development. These European sites and their QIs/SCIs are presented in Table 3, with their locations shown in Figure 1.

**Table 3. European sites within the potential ZOI**

| Designated site (Code)       | Reason(s) for Designation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Distance from Site       |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>European Sites</b>        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                          |
| Cork Harbour SPA<br>[004030] | <b>Birds</b><br>Little grebe <i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i> [A004]<br>Great crested grebe <i>Podiceps cristatus</i> [A005]<br>Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> [A017]<br>Grey heron <i>Ardea cinerea</i> [A028]<br>Shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> [A048]<br>Wigeon <i>Anas penelope</i> [A050]<br>Teal <i>Anas crecca</i> [A052]<br>Pintail <i>Anas acuta</i> [A054]<br>Shoveler <i>Anas clypeata</i> [A056]<br>Red-breasted merganser <i>Mergus serrator</i> [A069]<br>Oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> [A130]<br>Golden plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> [A140]<br>Grey plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> [A141]<br>Lapwing <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> [A142]<br>Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina</i> [A149]<br>Black-tailed godwit <i>Limosa limosa</i> [A156]<br>Bar-tailed godwit <i>Limosa lapponica</i> [A157]<br>Curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i> [A160]<br>Redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i> [A162]<br>Black-headed gull <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> [A179]<br>Common gull <i>Larus canus</i> [A182] | 0.6 km south of the Site |

| Designated site (Code)            | Reason(s) for Designation                                                                                                                                    | Distance from Site           |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
|                                   | Lesser black-backed gull <i>Larus fuscus</i> [A183]<br>Common tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i> [A193]                                                              |                              |
|                                   | <b>Habitats</b><br>Wetlands                                                                                                                                  |                              |
| Great Island Channel SAC [001058] | <b>Habitats</b><br>Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]<br>Atlantic salt meadows <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i> [1330] | 3.7 km southeast of the Site |

## 5.3 Impacts with Pathways to European Sites

### 5.3.1 Impacts screened out of Further Assessment

On the basis of the initial assessment described in Section 5.2 of this document, the following possible impacts have been screened out of further assessment because there is clearly no potential for them to occur on the qualifying features of any European site:

- Construction/Decommissioning Phase
  - Direct loss of or damage to habitat within a European site
  - Injury or mortality of qualifying species
  - Prevention of migratory movements of qualifying species
  - Changes to surface water or groundwater hydrology
  - Airborne pollution
  - Spread of invasive non-native species
- Operational Phase
  - Direct loss of or damage to habitat within a European site
  - Loss of habitat outside of European sites but which supports qualifying species (i.e. loss of functionally- linked habitat)
  - Disturbance of qualifying species
  - Injury or mortality of qualifying species
  - Prevention of migratory movements of qualifying species
  - Changes to surface water or groundwater hydrology
  - Waterborne pollution
  - Airborne pollution
  - Spread of invasive non-native species

### 5.3.2 Impacts Tested for Likely Significant Effects

The following potential impacts have been screened in for assessment of likely significant effects:

- Construction / Decommissioning Phase
  - Loss of habitat outside of European sites but which supports qualifying species (i.e., loss of functionally linked habitat)
  - Disturbance of qualifying species
  - Waterborne pollution

## 5.4 Screening Assessment

For European sites determined to be within the Zol of the Proposed Development, the impacts for which that site was determined to be within the Zol are examined in Table 4 for their potential to result in likely significant effects on the qualifying feature.

**Table 4. AA Screening Assessment of identified impact pathways in relation to specific European site receptors**

| Impact source                                                                                                               | European site(s)                                                                                     | Discussion of potential effects                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Likely significant effects? |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Construction/Decommissioning Phase</b>                                                                                   |                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                             |
| Loss of habitat outside of European sites but which supports qualifying species (i.e. loss of functionally linked habitat). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cork Harbour SPA</li> </ul>                                   | The Site comprises predominantly amenity grassland, which may provide limited foraging habitat for some mobile SCI wintering bird species associated with Cork Harbour SPA, such as gulls. Whilst the Site lies within the potential foraging range of some species, these habitats are of low ecological value and subject to ongoing recreational disturbance. The Proposed Development will result in the loss of only a very small area of grassland associated with minor works, which is negligible in the context of the extensive areas of suitable and higher-quality foraging habitat available adjacent to and within the wider landscape surrounding the SPA.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | No                          |
| Disturbance of qualifying species (visual, noise, vibration)                                                                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cork Harbour SPA</li> </ul>                                   | Disturbance of non-breeding waterbirds may occur within approximately 300 m of construction activities. While suitable habitat for a range of SCI bird species associated with Cork Harbour SPA, such as gulls, occurs within this distance, the works are minor in scale and temporary in duration. Birds utilising the area are likely to be habituated to existing levels of disturbance due to ongoing recreational park activities. In addition, extensive areas of suitable foraging habitat are available between the Site and the SPA, and more widely within the surrounding landscape.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | No                          |
| Waterborne pollution                                                                                                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cork Harbour SPA</li> <li>Great Island Channel SAC</li> </ul> | <p>There is a hydrological connection between the Site and downstream European sites via the Glashaboy River, which flows along the western boundary of the Site and connects to the River Lee and subsequently to Cork Harbour, providing a potential pathway for sediment or pollutants to be transported downstream.</p> <p>However, the nature and scale of the Proposed Development are limited, comprising minor and localised excavation works, with no in-stream activities and no alteration to existing hydrological pathways. The majority of the riverbank and adjacent habitats will remain undisturbed. In addition, the Proposed Development incorporates embedded SuDS, which will provide attenuation and treatment of surface water runoff.</p> <p>Given the small scale, temporary nature, and low intensity of construction activities, there is no realistic potential for significant pollutant discharge to the aquatic environment.</p> | No                          |

| Impact source | European site(s) | Discussion of potential effects                                                                                                                                                         | Likely significant effects? |
|---------------|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
|               |                  | Accordingly, there is no pathway for likely significant effects via waterborne pollution on downstream European sites, including the Cork Harbour SPA and the Great Island Channel SAC. |                             |

## 5.5 In-combination Assessment

Cumulative effects can result from individually insignificant but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time or concentrated in a location (CIEEM, 2018). Effects which arise in-combination with other projects or plans must be considered as part of AA Screening. In accordance with OPR (2021), the assessment of in-combination effects must examine:

- Completed projects.
- Projects which are approved but not completed.
- Proposed projects (i.e. for which an application for approval or consent has been made, including refusals subject to appeal and not yet determined).
- Proposals in adopted plans.
- Proposals in finalised draft plans formally published or submitted for consultation or adoption.

A review of the National Planning Application Database, CCC and An Coimisiún Pleanála (ACP) planning applications were carried out to identify any planning applications from the last five years within 1 km of the Proposed Development (Table 4.2). All planning applications were assessed for in-combination effects. The majority of recent planning applications were small scale domestic applications or change in usage of existing structures, such as extensions, alterations to roofs and windows, and solar panels on existing roofs. Therefore, Table 4.2 does not list these small-scale applications.

The Proposed Development does not directly impact direct loss of or damage to habitat within a European site, injury or mortality of qualifying species, changes to surface water or groundwater hydrology, prevention of migratory movements of qualifying species, airborne pollution or the spread of invasive non-native species. Consequently, there cannot be in-combination effects of these types.

The only identified potential impacts of the Proposed Development were loss of habitat outside of European sites but which supports qualifying species (i.e., loss of functionally linked habitat), disturbance of qualifying species and waterborne pollution.

The Waterbird Disturbance Mitigation Toolkit (Cutts *et al.* 2013) provides species-specific information on the sensitivity of several bird species which are qualifying features of SPAs. However, it suggests that, in general, disturbance of non-breeding waterbirds can occur up to distances of around 300 m - 400m from construction/decommissioning works. On a precautionary basis therefore, to include all bird species sensitivity thresholds, all planning applications within 500 m were assessed for in-combination effects in relation to potential disturbance.

With regard to disturbance of SCI, limited numbers of SCI individuals are likely to use the vicinity, there is widespread availability of other suitable habitat, and the works will be non-concurrent. Moreover, even where one of these planning applications is associated with material noise and visual disturbance impacts, each application will be required to mitigate its own disturbance impacts. As such, planning applications will not result in likely significant in-combination effects with the Proposed Development involving SCI.

Planning applications must adequately manage other issues such as waterborne pollution to be compliant with other relevant legislation. In addition, a range of embedded mitigation measures will be adopted by the Proposed Development during all phases of its life cycle to ensure that pollution of the water environment will not occur. It can therefore be reliably concluded that there will be no likely significant effects on European sites regarding waterborne pollution in-combination with the Proposed Development.

The Glanmire–Riverstown Greenway and the Glashaboy River Flood Relief Scheme were identified as potentially significant planning applications with the potential for in-combination effects. The majority of works associated with these projects are confined to pathways within the existing parkland areas, which are of low suitability for qualifying species of nearby European sites. Works are largely minor in nature and undertaken within already modified environments. In addition, standard embedded mitigation measures have been incorporated into both projects to avoid impacts on

adjacent habitats and watercourses. As such, no in-combination effects arising from these developments are anticipated.

Therefore, in light of the above information there is no potential for in-combination effects to undermine the integrity of any European sites from the Proposed Development and other plans or projects.

**Table 5.5: Selected larger-scale applications in proximity to the Proposed Development**

| Planning reference | Address                                                                        | Summary of development description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Grant date |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| 1938812            | Glyntown House ,<br>Eastcliffe Road ,<br>Glyntown<br>Ballinglanna              | Permission for five residential serviced sites and associated site works including a new junction with the public road, new internal access road, connection to services, internal and external boundary treatment and other ancillary site works.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 16/12/2020 |
| 308063             | Glyntown House ,<br>Eastcliffe Road ,<br>Glyntown,<br>Ballinglanna, Co<br>Cork | Five residential serviced sites and associated site works including a new junction with the public road, new internal access road.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 16/12/2020 |
| 2140507            | Ballinglanna ,<br>Riverstown ,<br>Glanmire                                     | Permission for a residential development on an existing site at Ballinglanna, Riverstown, Glanmire, Co.Cork. The development will comprise the following: (1) The demolition of 2 no. existing derelict warehouse buildings and (2) The construction of 3 no. buildings of 3-storeys in height accommodating 30 no. apartments in total (12 no. 1-bedroom units, 12 no. 2-bedroom units and 6 no. 3-bedroom units), 33 no. car parking spaces, refuse storage, cycle shelter, landscaping, revised site entrance and road markings, new footpath and access road with vehicle turning area and all associated site works. A Natura Impact Statement has been prepared in respect of the proposed development and accompanies the application.                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 7/6/2022   |
| 1939006            | Ballinglanna ,<br>Riverstown ,<br>Glanmire                                     | Permission for a mixed use development on a brownfield, town centre zoned site at Ballinglanna, Riverstown, Glanmire, Co.Cork. The development comprises the construction of 2 no. buildings of 7 no. and 6 no. stories in height over basement level. The development provides for : 1) Ground floor comprising 1 no. café (124 sqm) and 3 no. commercial/retail units (total 276 sqm) with circulation space to access the apartments overhead; 2) 42 no. apartments comprising 12 no. 1 bed; 24 no. 2 bed; and 6 no. 3 bed; 3) 2 no. levels of basement car parking providing 42 no. car parking spaces; 4) Enhanced connectivity across the Butlerstown River with the provision of a footbridge; 5) Provision of a public plaza and associated landscaping; 6) ESB substation and bin storage area and 7) All associated site works. A Natura Impact Statement has been prepared in respect of the proposed development and accompanies the application. | 3/11/2020  |
| 2039584            | Woodlawn and<br>Well Cottage ,<br>Glyntown ,<br>Glanmire                       | Permission for (I) The demolition of existing shed and portion of roadside boundary, (II) The subdivision of the site for new house, (III) The construction of a new detached, two-storey, 4-bed dwelling house, as well as new entrance along roadside boundary, (IV) The decommissioning of two septic tanks serving the existing houses at "Woodlawn" and "Well Cottage" and the connection of these houses to the public mains drainage, (V) All ancillary work necessary to facilitate the development.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 16/08/2021 |
| 2140654            | Irish Water<br>Pumping Station ,<br>Eastcliffe Road ,<br>Ballinglanna          | Permission is sought for (1) Site preparation works and landscaping of open grassed areas, (2) Construction of an access road to extend current site hardstanding areas to the substation location, including drainage, (3) Construction of an ESB medium voltage substation to include an adjacent customer switchroom on a concrete foundation, (4) Construction of a concrete foundation for installation of a transformer adjacent to the customer switchroom, with a palisade fence perimeter and gate, (5) Installation of a transformer on the above foundation and connection of it to the electricity supply from the switchroom, (6) Construction of underground ducting between the transformer and the existing pump station building, (7) Underground ducting and connection of substation to the existing buried ESB medium voltage electrical supply on site.                                                                                  | 14/09/2022 |
| 2039179            | Ballinglanna ,<br>Glanmire                                                     | full planning permission for changes and amendments to 2 no duplex apartment blocks (Blocks E & f) permitted under ABP 300-                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 28/09/2020 |

| Planning reference | Address                                                                                                  | Summary of development description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Grant date |
|--------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
|                    |                                                                                                          | 543-18, consisting of 16 no apartments (8 no. two storey 2 bed apartments and 8 no 1 bed apartments).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |            |
| 1938922            | Ballinglanna ,<br>Glyntown ,<br>Glanmire                                                                 | Permission for demolition of existing shed and construction of 4 no dwelling houses and all associates site development works including alterations to the existing front boundary wall and provision of a new vehicular entrance onto Glyntown Road (L-6996-0)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 28/06/2020 |
| 2241448            | Existing Glanmire Wastewater Pumping Station ,<br>East Cliff Road ,<br>Ballinglanna and Poulacurry South | Permission is sought for works to upgrade the existing Glanmire Wastewater Pumping Station to accommodate an increase in flow capacity from 140 litres per second (l/s) to 346 l/s, including the installation of 3 additional pumps within the existing pumping station building, new cover slabs and access covers to the existing valve chamber, new Motor Control Centre (MCC) and any associated works within the existing building, new belowground pipework, new surge vessels, new washwater booster kiosk, all necessary mechanical, electrical and civil works to accommodate the above, all associated site works. A Natura Impact Statement will be submitted to the Planning Authority with the application.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | 28/03/2023 |
| 317703             | Glanmire Bridge,<br>Glanmire, Co.<br>Cork                                                                | Repair and rehabilitation of Glanmire Bridge                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 13/02/2024 |
| 2443051            | Duneen<br>Ballincrossig ,<br>Barnavara Road ,<br>Glanmire                                                | Permission for the construction of 15 no. townhouse units in 3 no. blocks, the refurbishment of the existing dwelling on site including the provision of a first floor balcony to the rear elevation of the existing dwelling and fenestration alterations and the extension of the existing dwelling on site to provide 1 no. 4 bed dwelling and all associated ancillary development works including pedestrian access, 1 no. pedestrian crossing on the R615, parking, footpaths, drainage and landscaping.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 7/4/2025   |
| 2544047            | Colaiste an<br>Phiarsaigh ,<br>Glanmire , Cork                                                           | Permission for (I) The demolition of an existing sports hall, office building, canteen building, swimming pool, changing rooms, sheds, canopies, playground basketball court, carparking, roads, ancillary hard-standing areas and landscaping, (II) The construction of a partly 3-storey and a partly 4-storey post-primary school extension (7,600sqm) comprising classrooms, science laboratories, specialist teaching rooms, offices, PE Hall, changing rooms, fitness suite, general purpose room, special education needs base, stores, toilets and ancillary spaces, plant rooms, roof mounted photovoltaic panels, canopies, a covered link bridge to connect to a new multi-use games area, (III) The construction of a standalone ESB substation building, (IV) Minor alterations to the existing school building and Glanmire House (A protected structure, PS1179), (V) The demolition of existing temporary buildings, the installation of single storey temporary buildings for the duration of construction of the new school extension, (VI) The site works will include the construction of a landscaped courtyard, play areas, multi-use games area with permitter fencing, roads, vehicular turning area, footpaths, steps, ramps, stepped seating areas, site retaining walls, set-down areas, surface car parking, sheltered bicycle parking, alterations to existing walls, alterations to existing boundary walls, gates and entrances from Church Hill, the drainage and surface water attenuation works, below ground static fire water storage tank, installation of air source heat pumps at ground level, LPG gas compound, bin storage, external storage building, fencing, gates, landscaping, signage, external lighting and all associated site works. Glanmire House, a protected structure, PS1179 is located on the school grounds. | 3/11/2025  |
| 2039459            | Glanmire<br>Community<br>College ,                                                                       | Permission for the following at Glanmire Community College, Brooklodge, Glanmire, Co. Cork (A) Construction of a 65m x 32.5m multipurpose astro turf playing pitch including the following (1) 6 no. 12m high floodlight columns, each column fitted with 2                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 28/12/2020 |

| Planning reference | Address                                                     | Summary of development description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Grant date |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
|                    | Brooklodge ,<br>Glanmire                                    | no. led floodlights (2) Perimeter fencing/ball nets (5.4m high) to perimeter of astro turf pitch area (3) A 30m long, 5m high hurling wall to the western end of the astro turf pitch area (4) Ball stopping nets (9.15m high) behind the goals on the western and eastern end of the astro turf pitch area (5) Surface water drainage to the astro turf pitch area (B) Realignment of the existing grassed surface hurling pitch to accommodate the construction of the astro turf pitch, and to allow for the construction of a 3m wide walking/running track around same including 13 no. 6m high highlighting columns, each fitted with 1 no. led fitting (C) All associated siteworks.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |            |
| 2039719            | Glanmire Lodg ,<br>Dunkettle ,<br>Glanmire                  | Permission for (1) The demolition of existing dwelling house and garage, (2) The construction of 30 no. dwelling houses and all ancillary site development works.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 9/9/2021   |
| 1938980            | The former<br>Glanmire Rectory<br>, Dunkettle ,<br>Glanmire | Permission for the construction of a nursing home at the former Glanmire Rectory, Dunkettle, Glanmire, Cork. The proposed development comprises of : 1) The demolition of an existing garage and extensions to the existing dwelling and coach house; 2) Modifications to the existing coach house and dwelling and the construction of a 3 storey extension to provide a 100 no. bed space nursing home and a staff training centre. Photovoltaic panels are proposed at roof level; 3) The construction of a childcare facility; 4) And all associated landscaping, car parking, bicycle storage, signage and site development works. The proposed site development works include: the construction of an ESB substation and switch room, external plant enclosure , water tank enclosure, external store and bin store. Access to the proposed nursing home will be via the existing driveway and a new entrance on to the L2999 (as realigned). | 14/07/2020 |

## 6. Appropriate Assessment Screening Statement

The following two European sites were considered to be within the potential ZOI of the Proposed Development:

- Cork Harbour SPA
- Great Island Channel SAC

Pathways for the following impacts to reach the QI/SCI of these sites were identified and tested for likely significant effects:

- Construction / Decommissioning Phase
  - Loss of habitat outside of European sites but which supports qualifying species (i.e., loss of functionally linked habitat)
  - Disturbance of qualifying species
  - Waterborne pollution

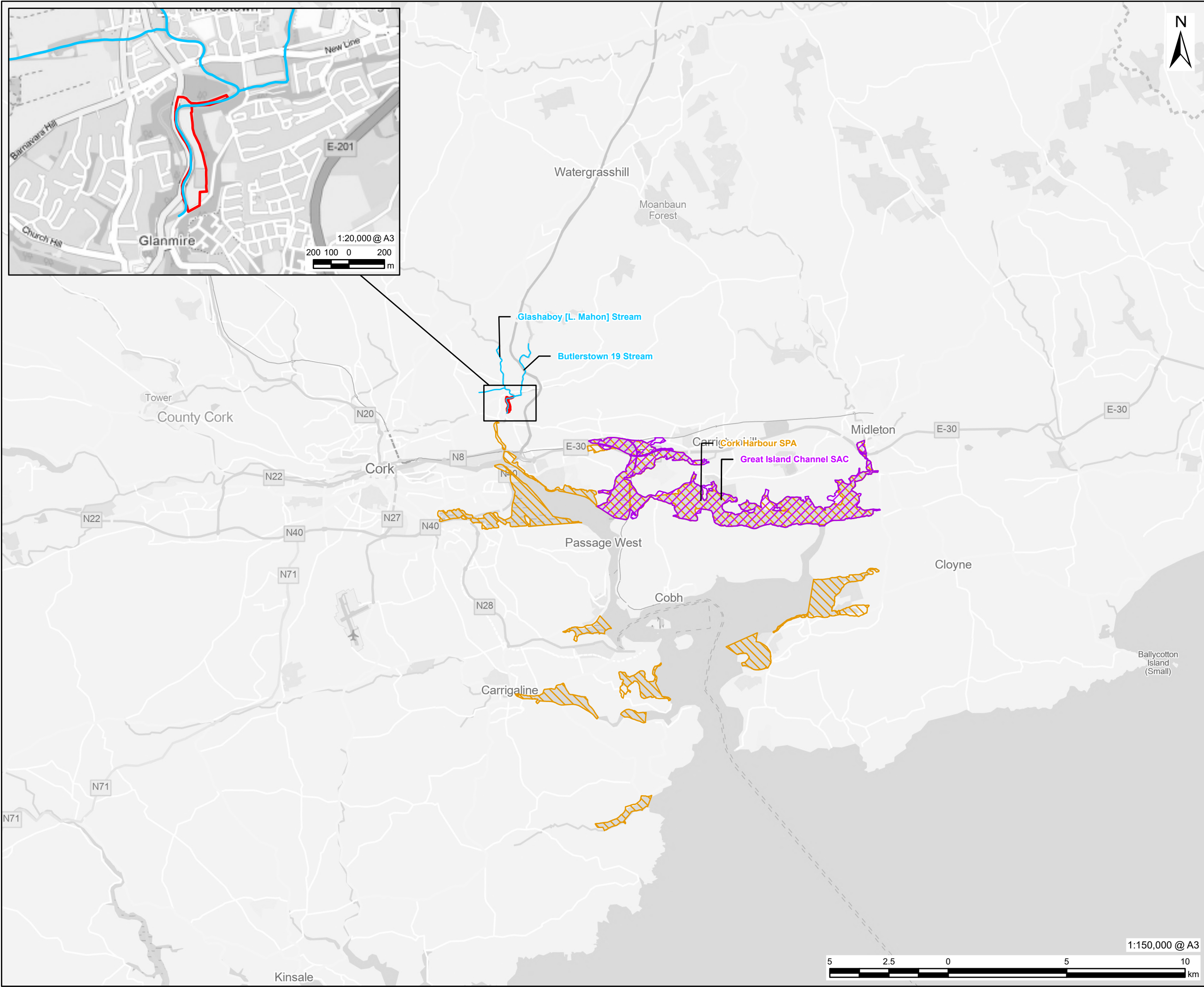
No likely significant effects from these impacts were identified from the Proposed Development alone or in-combination with any other plans or projects. The assessment considered no measures intended to avoid or reduce harmful effects on European sites.

Therefore, in view of best scientific knowledge and on the basis of objective information, it is concluded that likely significant effects from the Proposed Development on any European site, whether individually or in-combination with other plans or projects can be excluded.

There is consequently no requirement to proceed to the next stage of AA.

## 7. Figures

**Figure 1. European sites within the Potential ZOI of the Proposed Development**



# AECOM

## PROJECT

Glanmire Local Park

## CLIENT



## CONSULTANT

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## LEGEND

- Development
- Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)
- Special Protection Areas (SPA)
- Watercourses

## NOTES

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## ISSUE PURPOSE

FINAL

## PROJECT NUMBER

60767565

## FIGURE TITLE

European sites within the potential  
Zone of Influence of Glanmire Local  
Park

## FIGURE NUMBER

Figure 1

## 8. References

A Guide to Habitats in Ireland (Fossitt, 2000) and Best Practice Guidance for Habitat Survey and Mapping (Smith *et al.* 2011).

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