

Grange Road to Tramore Valley Park Pedestrian

Alden Grove AA Screening Report

Cork City Council

09/03/2023



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1. Introduction

1.1. Background

Cork City Council, in conjunction with the National Transport Authority, intends to develop a pedestrian / cycle link from the Grange Road (R851) to Tramore Valley Park (TVP).

This pedestrian / cycle link would start on the Grange Road and pass through an existing green field site, known locally as the “*Donkey Field*”, through a steep wooded area north towards the N40 National Primary Road (South Ring Road) which would be traversed by a combined pedestrian / cycle bridge.

On the north side of this bridge, access to Tramore Valley Park would be provided via a ramp from the bridge’s northern abutment linking to the existing footpath on the north side of the N40.

In October 2018, Atkins was appointed to complete the detailed design of the pedestrian / cycle link based on the Preliminary Design which was granted Part 8 Planning Approval in October 2017. The scheme is currently under construction with expected completion in August 2023.

The project originally was headed by Cork County Council, however, in 2019, the boundary between Cork City and Cork County was extended thereby passing the administration of this project to Cork City Council.

In 2023 a modification to the scheme in the form of a link connection from Alden Grove housing estate to the new Grange Road to Tramore Valley Park Pedestrian and Cycle Link (GRTVP-PCL) (which is currently under construction) was proposed.

Atkins Ecology were engaged to prepare an Appropriate Assessment Screening report for the proposed Alden Grove housing estate GRTVP-PCL access link. This report considers the proposed access link’s potential to cause significant effects to habitats and species designated for nearby European Sites.

1.2. Project Location

Tramore Valley Park is a 70-hectare public open space amenity which has been developed approximately 3km south of Cork City along the N27 / South Link Road. It is located northeast of the Kinsale Road Roundabout, the junction between the N27 / South Link Road and the N40 / Southern Ring Road. The park is accessible by public and private transport, but connectivity to residential areas on the opposite side of the N40 remains a problem.

Grange is a suburb located southeast of Cork City, between Frankfield and Douglas. It comprises low density housing, primarily. It is located on the opposite side of the N40 to Tramore Valley Park, thus resulting in a lack of connectivity between the two areas. A wooded transect is located between Grange and the N40. It is connected to the Grange Road at its southern end and is closed off by the N40 at its northern end. The woodland runs along a section of the Grange Stream (EPA name Grange 19 19G87). This area is used by walkers and has in the past been subject to anti-social activity due to its secluded nature.

The original intended works comprise of creating a pedestrian and cycle route along the wooded tract mentioned above, linking Grange Road to Tramore Valley Park. The route will commence in an open area on the northern side of Grange Road and will travel northward through the woodland, along the Grange Stream, before crossing the N40 and entering Tramore Valley Park. North of the works area, within Tramore Valley Park, the works are close to the public pathway and the Tramore River.

Alden Grove is a residential housing estate which lies to the east of the pedestrian/cycle link (facing north) adjacent to the N40 / Southern Ring Road. A modification to the original intended works in the form of a 3.0m wide access link from Alden Grove to the new Grange Road to Tramore Valley Park Pedestrian and Cycle Link is proposed. The proposed modification will allow connectivity between Alden Grove and GRTVP-PCL through providing an alternate route for access to the original pedestrian/ cycle link. Figure 1.1 illustrates the site location for the proposed works (see also Figure 1.2 and Plate 4.1).

The proposed site does not lie within any European designated sites or other areas designated for conservation. However, the wooded tract of the Grange Stream which comprises the proposed site lies 1.6km upstream of Cork Harbour Special Protection Area for birds (site code: 004030).

1.3. Project Description

1.3.1. Overview of proposed project.

Currently the construction of the Grange Road to Tramore Valley Park Pedestrian and Cycle Link (GRTVP-PCL) is underway, with expected completion in August 2023. This link includes a pedestrian/cyclist bridge over the N40 South Ring Road which will connect the PCL to the existing footpath on the north side of the N40 leading to Tramore Valley Park. The proposed project, subject involves connection to the PCL from Alden Grove housing estate, Douglas, Cork. The extent of the proposed works is located between a residential housing estate with amenity grassland and woodland adjacent to the PCL. The total site area for the planned works equals 1097m² (0.110ha) which allows for the placement of two new speed bumps on the approach to the new access link. The new link will provide both pedestrian and cyclist access to and from the new GRTVP-PCL.

The construction of this link will include a mechanically stabilised embankment on the north side of the link with a vegetated facing. The majority of the new link will be below existing ground level in excavated ground with 2:1 side slopes which will be landscaped. The link will have new timber post and rail fencing on each side to direct users onto the link. The link itself will be constructed using the same materials as the PCL which consists 20mm "Topcoat" Stone Carpet surfacing (or equivalent approved) on 50mm Flexible Surfacing on 150mm Clause 804 Granular Material on suitable fill.

A number of trees within the extents of the proposed works would need to be felled prior to works, in order to accommodate the width and construction of the new link. The woodland around the main PCL at the location of the proposed Alden Grove Access link follows along the Grange Stream, south of the N40 and the southern margin of the existing Tramore Valley Park.

There would be an 8-12-week construction duration expected for the completion of proposed works from May to July 2023.

On the basis that project can proceed while the existing Contractor is still on the ground, the Construction workers and other personal on site will use existing compound and welfare facilities put in place for the current construction of the Grange Road to Tramore Valley Park Pedestrian and Cycle Link.

Access to the eastern side of the proposed works site from Alden Grove housing estate will only be used for the construction of the new 3.0m wide footpath behind the existing estate road kerb line and installation of the tactile paviers and the new speed bumps.

1.3.1.1. Overview of proposed works sequence.

The general order of works for the proposed project is as listed below: -

1. Installation of two speedbumps on Alden Grove housing estate road.
2. Excavation of bank to suitable formation of MSE (Mechanically Stabilised Embankments); ca. 0.6m below existing ground.
3. Installation of geotextile and MSE facing with compaction of clean fill between layers using rollers.
4. Placement of fill using dumper trucks before rolling.
5. Installation of ducting and filter drain.
6. Installation of surfacing.
7. Installation of lighting and fencing.

8. Installation of concrete path.

Construction of MSE will be the same methodology as the current construction ongoing in relation to the Grange Road to Tramore Valley Park greenway.

1.3.1.2. Embankment materials

The embankment will be a mechanically stabilised embankment made up of geotextile, clean stone well graded stone (6i/6j) with a vegetated facing. The footpath will be constructed of impermeable surfaces as described above.

1.3.2. Biosecurity protocols

Biosecurity protocols shall be implemented during the construction phase of the proposed project to prevent the introduction of invasive species listed on the 3rd Schedule of the 2011 Natural Habitats Regulations (S.I 477 of 2011) to site.

Biosecurity measures are required to avoid the spread of species within the site by machinery and operatives on site. The location of the proposed works overlaps with several invasive alien species (IAS) records, recorded in May and July 2020 by Atkins ecologists (Atkins, 2020). Site staff shall be familiar with Invasive Alien Species survey report (to be provided to the successful Contractor) and areas of infestations within and adjacent to the work sites. The site will also be subject to a pre-construction survey in April 2023.

In relation to 3rd Schedule species, but notably Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*), the following general biosecurity and containment measures shall be undertaken during the investigative works, where appropriate: -

- Identify and mark out areas of infestation close to works areas.
- Fence or tape off areas of infestation in advance of and during construction of new access link.
- Erect signage identifying restricted areas.
- Avoid, where possible, using plant and machinery in areas of IAS infestation.
- Plant and equipment used within areas of IAS infestation should be inspected post works and washed down in a contained area.
- Site staff should be aware that root zones / control zones for knotweed extends a minimum of 7m from the extent of IAS surface vegetation.

For non-3rd Schedule species, but notably Winter heliotrope, Himalayan honeysuckle and Butterfly bush, the following recommendations are given: -

- Site staff should be familiarised with the identification of the above-mentioned species, so avoidance can be undertaken.
- Plant and equipment should not encroach onto verges or area infested with Winter heliotrope, Himalayan honeysuckle, or Butterfly bush.
- Winter heliotrope, Himalayan honeysuckle, or Butterfly bush vegetation (both surface and rhizome materials) should not be unknowingly transported around or off-site.
- If verges infested with any of the above listed invasive species are to be excavated, the disposal of material should be undertaken with due caution to prevent accidental spread of the plant.
- Disposal methods for spoil materials containing Winter Heliotrope, Himalayan honeysuckle, or Butterfly bush rhizome materials should be either: -
 - Burial of material at a depth of 2m minimum.

- Incineration.
- Disposal to a licenced facility.
- Excavated verges should undergo follow up treatment with herbicide application.

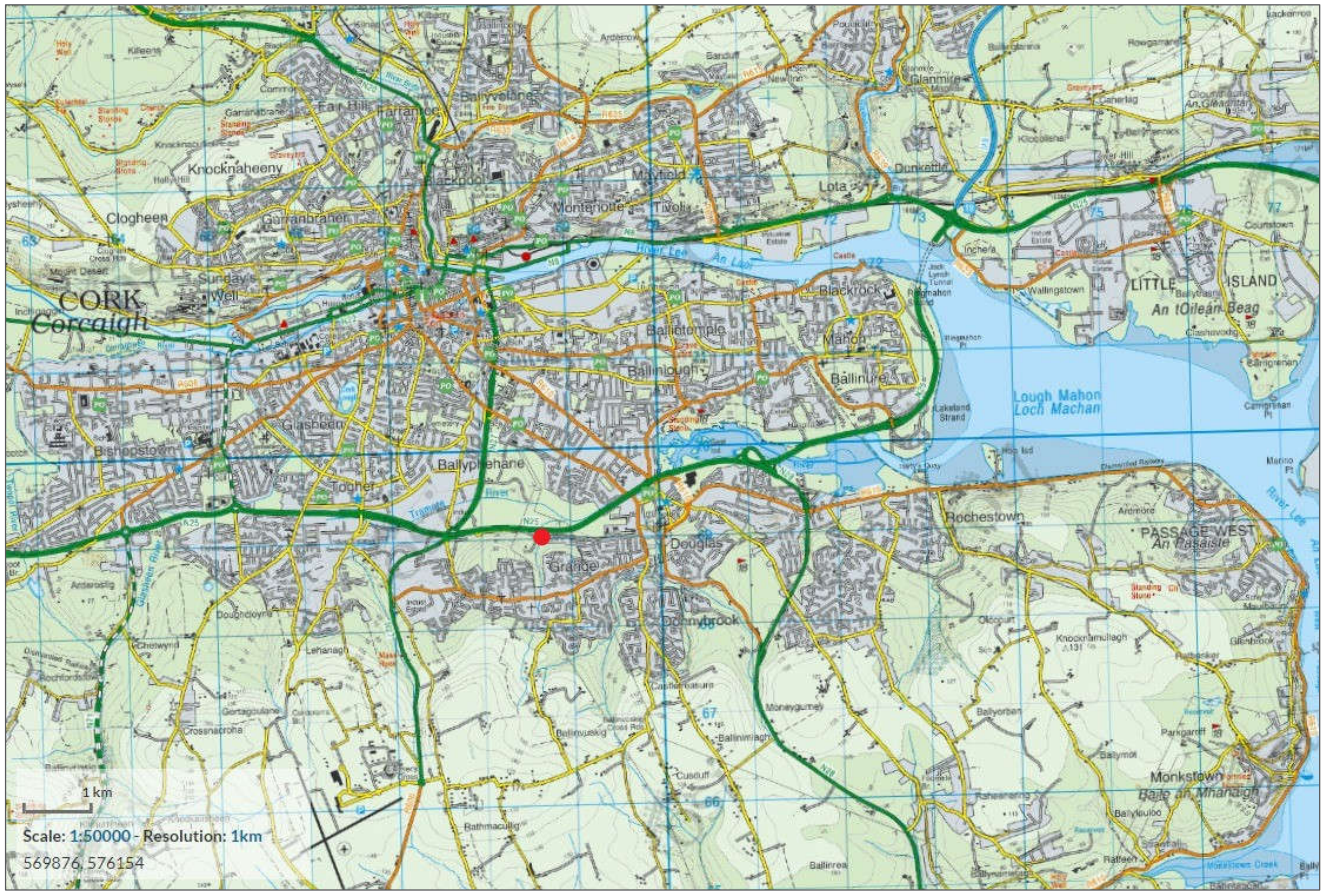


Figure 1.1 Project Location on OSI Discovery Series Map [Source: NBDC mapviewer].

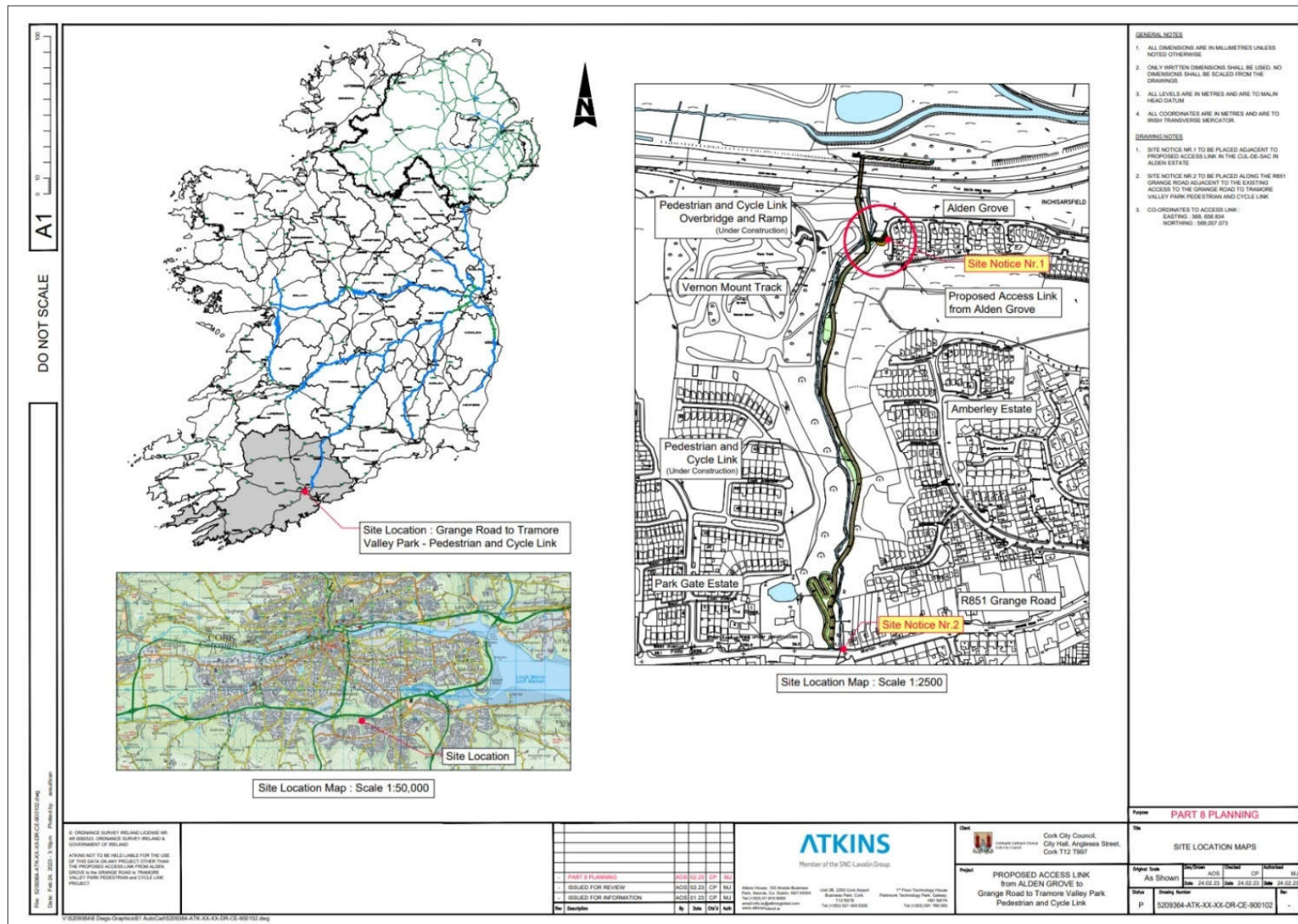


Figure 1.2 Site Location Maps.

2. Scope of Study

The purpose of this Screening for Appropriate Assessment is to determine the likelihood of significant effects, if any, that the proposed access link from Alden Grove housing estate to the new Grange Road to Tramore Valley Park Pedestrian and Cycle Link could have on any Natura 2000 sites.

2.1. Legislative Context

Natura 2000

Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (“the Habitats Directive”) is a legislative instrument of the European Union (EU) which provides legal protection for habitats and species of Community interest. Article 2 of the Directive requires the maintenance or restoration of such habitats and species at a favourable conservation status, while Articles 3 to 9, inclusive, provide for the establishment and conservation of an EU-wide network of special areas of conservation (SACs), known as Natura 2000, which also includes special protection areas (SPAs) designated under Article 4 of Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds (“the Birds Directive”). Both SACs and SPAs are commonly referred to as “European sites” or “Natura 2000 sites”.

SACs are selected for natural habitat types listed on Annex I to the Habitats Directive and the habitats of species listed on Annex II to the Habitats Directive. SPAs are selected for species listed on Annex I to the Birds Directive and other regularly occurring migratory species. The habitats and species for which a Natura 2000 site is selected are referred to as the “qualifying interests” of that site and each is assigned a “conservation objective” aimed at maintaining or restoring its “favourable conservation condition” at the site, which contributes to the maintenance or restoration of its “favourable conservation status” at national and European levels.

Appropriate Assessment

Article 6 of the Habitats Directive deals with the management and protection of Natura 2000 sites. Articles 6(3) and (4) set out the decision-making process, known as “Appropriate Assessment” (AA), for plans or projects in relation to Natura 2000 sites. Article 6(3) states: -

“Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site’s conservation objectives. In the light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implications for the site and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, the competent national authorities shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public.”

The first sentence of Article 6(3) provides a basis for determining which plans and projects require AA, i.e. those “not directly connected with or necessary to the management of [one or more Natura 2000 sites] but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects”. In *Waddenzee* (C-127/02), the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) ruled that significant effects must be considered “likely” if “it cannot be excluded, on the basis of objective information”, that they would occur. This clearly sets a low threshold, such that AA is required wherever there is a reasonable possibility of significant effects on a Natura 2000 site. In the same judgment, the CJEU established that the test of significance relates specifically to the conservation objectives of the site concerned, i.e. “significant effects” are those which, “in the light, *inter alia*, of the characteristics and specific environmental conditions of the site”, could undermine the site’s conservation objectives. In addition to the effects of the plan or project on its own, the combined effects arising from the plan or project under consideration and other plans and projects must also be.

The last part of the first sentence of Article 6(3) defines AA as an assessment of the “implications [of the plan or project] for the site in view of the site’s conservation objectives”. In the second sentence, Article 6(3) requires that, prior to agreeing to a plan or project, the competent authority must “ascertain” that “it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned”. In *Sweetman v. An Bord Pleanála* (C-258/11), the CJEU ruled that a plan or project “will adversely affect the integrity of that site if it is liable to prevent the lasting preservation of the constitutive characteristics of the site that are connected to the presence of a priority natural habitat whose

conservation was the objective justifying the designation of the site in the list of sites". On that basis, EC (2018) described the "integrity of the site" as "the coherent sum of the site's ecological structure, function and ecological processes, across its whole area, which enables it to sustain the habitats, complex of habitats and/or populations of species for which the site is designated". As such, the "integrity" of a specific site is defined by its conservation objectives and is "adversely affected" when those objectives are undermined. In *Waddenzee*, the CJEU ruled that the absence of adverse effects can only be ascertained "where no reasonable scientific doubt remains".

The "precautionary principle" applies to all of the legal tests in AA, i.e. in the absence of objective information to demonstrate otherwise, the worst-case scenario is assumed. Where the tests established by Article 6(3) cannot be satisfied, Article 6(4) applies (see explanation in Section 2.2 below).

Competent authority

The requirements of Articles 6(3) and (4) are transposed into Irish law by, inter alia, Part 5 of the European Communities (Birds and Natura Habitats) Regulations, 2011 (as amended) ("the Habitats Regulations") and Part XAB of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) ("the Planning and Development Acts"). As per the second sentence of Article 6(3), it is the "competent national authorities" who are responsible for carrying out AA and, by extension, for determining which plans and projects require AA. The competent authority in each case is the authority responsible for consenting to or licensing a plan or project, e.g. local authorities, An Bord Pleanála, Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) or a Government Minister. In all cases, it is the competent authority who is ultimately responsible for determining whether or not a plan or project requires AA and for carrying out the AA, where required.

2.2. Appropriate Assessment Process

The AA process can be described as being made up of three distinct stages, as described below, the need to progress to each stage being determined by the outcome of the preceding stage.

Stage 1: Screening – This stage involves a determination by the competent authority as to whether or not a given plan or project required AA. As explained in Section 2.1, AA is required in respect of any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of a Natura 2000 site, but for which the possibility of likely significant effects on one or more Natura 2000 sites cannot be excluded. In *People Over Wind* (C-323/17), the CJEU ruled that measures intended to avoid or minimise harmful effects on a Natura 2000 site cannot be considered in making this determination. Consideration of the potential for in-combination effects is also required at this stage.

Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment – This stage involves a detailed assessment of the implications of the plan or project, individually and in combination with other plans and projects, for the integrity of the Natura 2000 site(s) concerned. This stage also involves the development of appropriate mitigation to address any adverse effects and an assessment of the significance of any residual impacts following the inclusion of mitigation. In *Kelly v. An Bord Pleanála* (IEHC 400), the High Court ruled that a lawful AA must contain complete, precise and definitive findings based on examination and analysis, and conclusions and a final determination based on an evaluation of the findings. In the same judgment, the High Court stressed that, in order for the findings to be complete, precise and definitive, the AA must be carried out in light of best scientific knowledge in the field and cannot have gaps or lacunae. In *Holohan v. An Bord Pleanála* (C-461/17), the CJEU clarified that AA must "catalogue the entirety of habitat types and species for which a site is protected" (i.e. the qualifying interests of the site) and assess the implications of the plan or project for the qualifying interests, both within and outside the site boundaries, and other, non-qualifying interest habitats and species, whether inside or outside the site boundaries, "provided that those implications are liable to affect the conservation objectives of the site". The proposer of a plan or project requiring AA is furnishes the competent authority with the scientific evidence upon which to base its AA by way of a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) or Natura Impact Report (NIR). If it is not possible to ascertain that the plan or project will not adversely affect one or more Natura 2000 sites, authorisation can only be granted subject to Article 6(4).

Stage 3: Article 6(4) – If a plan or project does not pass the legal test at Stage 2, alternative solutions to achieve its aims must be considered and themselves subject to Article 6(3). If no feasible alternatives exist, authorisation can only be granted where it can be demonstrated that there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI) justifying its implementation. Where this is the case, all compensatory measures must be taken to protect the overall coherence of Natura 2000.

The three stages described above are illustrated in Figure below.

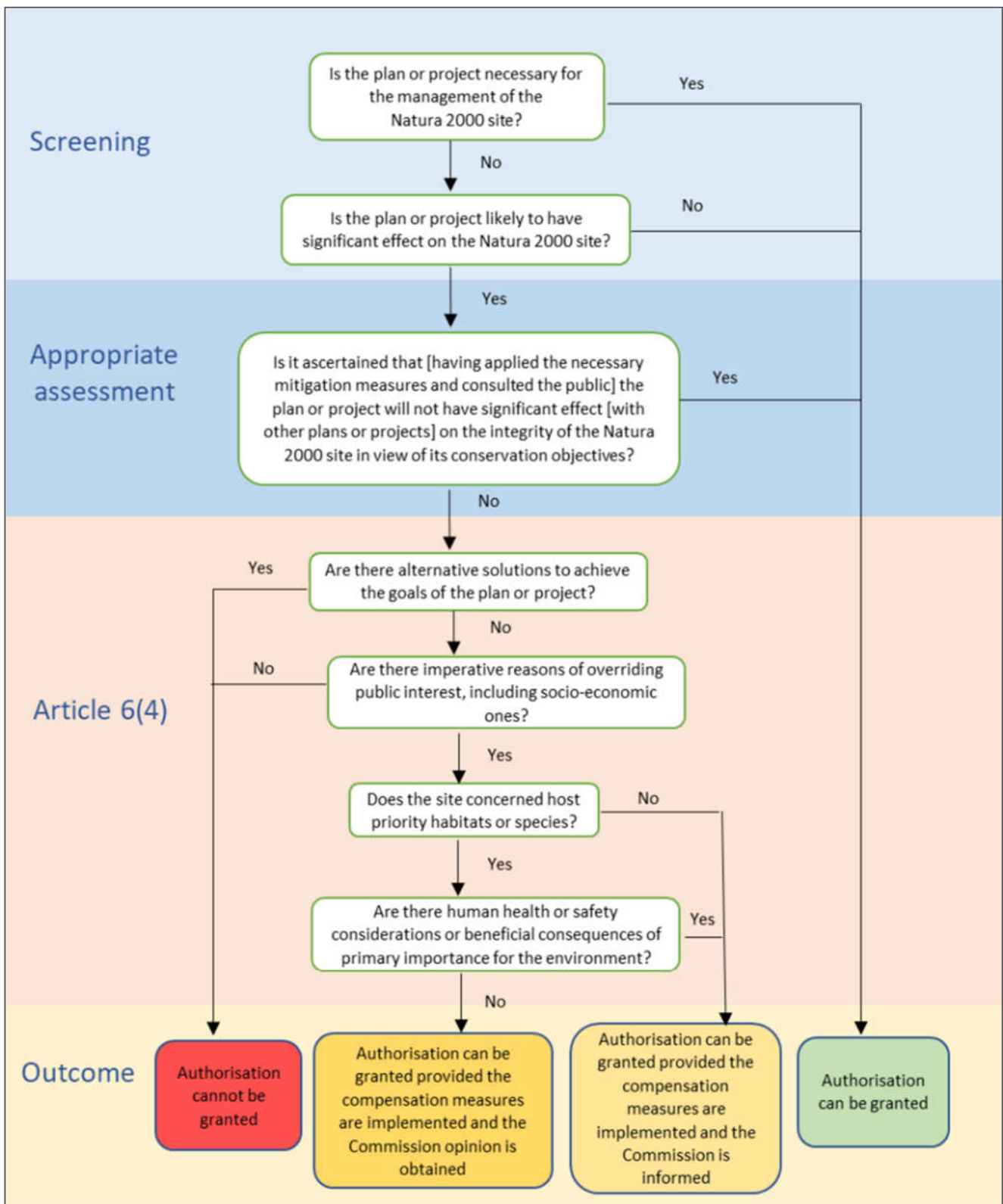


Figure 2.1 Stages of the Appropriate Assessment process (EC, 2021a).

3. Methods

3.1. Legislation & Guidance Documents

This report was prepared with due regard to the relevant European and Irish legislation, case law and guidance, including but not limited to: -

- Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild flora and fauna. *Official Journal of the European Communities* L 206/7-50.
- Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds. *Official Journal of the European Union* L 20/7-25.
- European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011. *S.I. No. 77/2011* (as amended) (“the Habitats Regulations”).
- Planning and Development Act, 2000. *No. 30 of 2000* (as amended) (“the Planning and Development Acts”).
- Planning and Development Regulations, 2001. *S.I. No. 600/2001* (as amended) (“the Planning Regulations”).
- EC (2018) *Managing Natura 2000 sites: The provisions of Article 6 of the ‘Habitats’ Directive 92/43/EEC*. European Commission, Brussels.
- EC (2021a) *Assessment of plans and projects in relation to Natura 2000 sites: Methodological guidance on the provisions of Articles 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC*. *C(2021) 6913*. European Commission, Brussels.
- EC (2021b) *Guidance document on the strict protection of animal species of Community interest under the Habitats Directive*. *C(2021) 7301*. European Commission, Brussels.
- DEHLG (2010a) *Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland: Guidance for Planning Authorities. Revised 11/02/2010*. Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Dublin.
- DEHLG (2010b) *Circular NPW 1/10 & PSSP 2/10. Dated 11/03/2010*. Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Dublin.
- NPWS (2012a) *Marine Natura Impact Statements in Irish Special Areas of Conservation. A Working Document. April 2012*. National Parks & Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Dublin.
- NPWS (2021) *Guidance on the Strict Protection of Certain Animal and Plant Species under the Habitats Directive in Ireland. National Parks & Wildlife Service Guidance Series 1*, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Dublin.
- Mullen, E., Marnell, F. and Nelson, B. (2021) *Strict Protection of Animal Species – Guidance for Public authorities on the Application of Articles 12 and 16 of the EU Habitats Directive to development/works undertaken by or on behalf of a Public authority. National Parks & Wildlife Service Guidance Series 2*, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Dublin.
- OPR (2021) *Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management. OPR Practice Note PN01*. Office of the Planning Regulator, Dublin.
- *Applications for Approval for Local Authority Developments made to An Bord Pleanála under 177AE of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended (Appropriate Assessment) – Guidelines for Local Authorities* <<https://www.pleanala.ie/getmedia/0f385f48-7e84-43e3-b405-1201e490740a/Applications-for-approval-for-LA-Developments-S177AE-EN.pdf>>. An Bord Pleanála, Dublin.

- Case law, including *Waddenzee* (C-127/02), *Sweetman v. An Bord Pleanála* (C-258/11), *Kelly v. An Bord Pleanála* (IEHC 400), *Commission v. Germany* (C-142/16), *People Over Wind* (C-323/17), *Holohan v. An Bord Pleanála* (C-461/17), *Eoin Kelly v. An Bord Pleanála* (IEHC 84) and *Heather Hill* (IEHC 450).
- Sundseth, K. and Roth, P. (2014) *Article 6 of the Habitats Directive – Rulings of the European Court of Justice*. Ecosystems LTD (N2K Group), Brussels.

3.2. Desk Study

A desk study was carried out to collate information available on Natura 2000 sites in the vicinity of the proposed project. These areas were viewed using Google Earth, Google maps and Bing maps (last accessed on 02/03/2023).

The National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and National Biodiversity Data Centre (NBDC) online databases were reviewed concerning Natura 2000 sites and their features of interest in the vicinity of the proposed project.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) mapping system was used to help identify any hydrological connection between the proposed project and Natura 2000 sites.

Locations and boundaries of all Natura 2000 sites within 15km of the proposed project were identified and reviewed using the NPWS online map viewer. Boundary shapefiles were also downloaded from this site to facilitate the preparation of project graphics.

Desktop information on relevant Natura 2000 sites were reviewed on the NPWS website, including the site synopsis for each SAC/SPA, the conservation objectives, the site boundaries as shown on the NPWS online map viewer, the standard Natura 2000 Data Form for the SAC/SPA which details conditions and threats of the sites and published information on the relevant Natura 2000 sites.

Where necessary relevant planning information for the surrounding area was reviewed using the planning enquiry systems of Cork County Council and Cork City Council. If potential impacts from the proposed project are identified, then reviewed information is used to determine potential cumulative impacts from other plans / projects with the proposed project.

An outline design of the proposed works provided by Atkins Engineers was used to inform the Appropriate Assessment Screening Report (see Appendix B).

An invasive species survey, an arborist survey and a breeding bird survey have been conducted within the study area of the proposed greenway link to the Grange to Tramore Valley Park cycleway from Alden Grove housing estate.

3.3. Site Visit

The proposed site has been visited several times for invasive species, arborist, and breeding bird surveys. The most recent site visit was undertaken on 16th February 2023 by Atkins engineers for the purpose of a general site survey to assess progress and acquire up to date photographs. Photographs from this visit were passed to Atkins Ecology for use in informing this screening. (As noted the site was also visited on a number of occasions as part of the wider scheme).

3.4. Statement of Authority

The Screening for Appropriate Assessment report was prepared by Caroline Downey and Paul O'Donoghue.

Caroline Downey is a Graduate Environmental Consultant holding a BSc (Hons) in Ecology and Environmental Biology from University College Cork. Caroline has worked in ecological consultancy since 2023; with a broad knowledge of Appropriate Assessment, Natura Impact Statements, Ecological Impact Statements and ecological theory and legislation resultant of her BSc. A focus of Caroline's work to date has been assisting Appropriate Assessment Screenings and supporting the preparation of AA and NIS.

Paul O'Donoghue has a BSc (Zoology), MSc (Behavioural Ecology) and a PhD in avian ecology and genetics. He is a chartered member of the Society for the Environment (CEnv) and a full member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (MCIEEM). Paul has over 20 years' experience in ecology; including extensive experience in the preparation of Habitat Directive Assessments / Natura Impact Statements (i.e., Appropriate Assessment under Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive).

4. Existing Environment

4.1. Desktop Review

The proposed site comprises of a residential cul-de-sac with a small amount of amenity grassland and a wooded area which extends to a wooded valley: this runs north from Grange to the N40 and the southern margin of Tramore Valley park along the N40 (see Plate 4.1). Grange Stream (EPA code: 19G87) is a first order tributary of the Tramore River which enters Cork Harbour and the Cork Harbour SPA (site code: 004030) 1.6km downstream of the proposed site. The Grange Stream and Tramore River have not been assigned a Water Framework Directive status; however, the status of Cork Harbour has been assigned a moderate status.

While Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) have not surveyed the Grange Stream or the Tramore River, Lough Mahon at the confluence between the Tramore River and Cork Harbour was found to be of moderate fisheries status in 2010, with 16 species recorded including cod, flounder, plaice and pollack. As part of the wider scheme a 2020 fisheries survey complete by Triturus Environmental on Grange Stream recorded low densities of European eel (2 mature individuals captured) and identified Grange Stream as having no salmonoid value or potential (Triturus, 2020).

A specialist arborist report produced in 2019 (at the time on behalf of Cork County Council) identified and classed all trees as well as made recommendation for tree works (Blackstock, 2019). A group of mature Italian alder (*Alnus incana*) in fair condition and a mature ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) in fair condition lie within the boundary for the proposed site of works. Italian alder is not a native species to Ireland.

According to records on the NBDC online viewer, otter (*Lutra lutra*) have been recorded within the proposed site within Tramore Valley Park on several occasions. It is unknown based on the desktop review whether it is possible for otter to access the Grange Stream on the southern side of the N40. However, otter are known from other watercourses in Douglas, such as the Ballybrack River, so it is possible that they may occur within the Grange valley.

There are no records of badger or squirrel on the NBDC database in the vicinity of the site [accessed: 03/03/2023]. A badger and squirrel survey was completed by Greenleaf Ecology in 2021 on behalf of Cork City Council in relation to the Grange Road to Tramore Valley Park greenway, with no evidence of either species recorded (Greenleaf, 2021). This also did not record any sign of Otter within the valley.

The common frog (*Rana temporaria*) has been recorded within the W66 10km grid square, according to the NBDC database, with records existing from 2014 and 2019. The works area for access to Alden does not include wetlands that could be used by Common frog.

There are no records on the NBDC online viewer for the following invasive species within the proposed site: Himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*), Giant hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*), Giant rhubarb (*Gunnera* sp.), or Three-cornered garlic (*Allium triquetrum*). NBDC records exist for Himalayan honeysuckle (*Leycesteria Formosa*) and Butterfly bush (*Buddleia davidii*) from 2020; Winter heliotrope (*Petasites pyrenaicus*) from 2021 and Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*) from 2022 [accessed: 03/03/2023]. Based on invasive species surveys carried out by Atkins Ecology, several invasive species have been recorded throughout the site, as described below (see Table 4.1).

Butterfly bush (*Buddleia davidii*) was identified using Google Maps street view [last accessed: 02/03/2023] growing at the bottom of the Alden Grove housing estate cul-de-sac. This plant does not lie within the site of the proposed project but does lie within < 50m of works.

Woodland at the site of proposed works provides habitat with significant roost potential for bats. According to the NBDC online viewer [accessed: 02/03/2023], there are no records of any of Ireland's bat species within the immediate vicinity of the project. However, within a 4km radius of the proposed works, records of pipistrelle species, soprano pipistrelle, Leisler's bat, Brown long-eared bat and Daubenton's bat have been recorded (NBDC mapviewer). A 2021 bat survey was undertaken by Greenleaf Ecology on the behalf of Cork City Council indicated through passive monitoring and activity surveys, the presence of 4 bat species, namely soprano pipistrelle, common pipistrelle, Leisler's bat and *Myotis* species. No roosts were recorded as a result of this survey, however a medium to high potential for roosts remains (Greenleaf, 2021b).

A breeding bird survey was undertaken in June 2020 for the Grange Road to Tramore Valley Park area on behalf of Cork City Council. 28 species were recorded at Grange Wood with 26 of these confirmed to be breeding.

No Annex I species were recorded. Stock doves (*Columba oenas*) are red-listed species and were recorded breeding in Grange Wood (Nagle, 2020; Gilbert & Lewis, 2021); swift were noted over the wood and Vernon Mount House. Amber listed species, goldcrest (*Regulus regulus*) and swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) were also recorded. No owls or other nocturnal species were recorded.

Proposed works are set to take place from May to July 2023, within the bounds of Ireland's Hedge Cutting Ban which 'prohibits the cutting, burning or otherwise destroying of vegetation not then cultivated between Sunday 1st March to August 31st' under the Wildlife Act 1976-2000. It will therefore be necessary to survey the area for any nesting birds prior to any vegetation clearance being permitted.

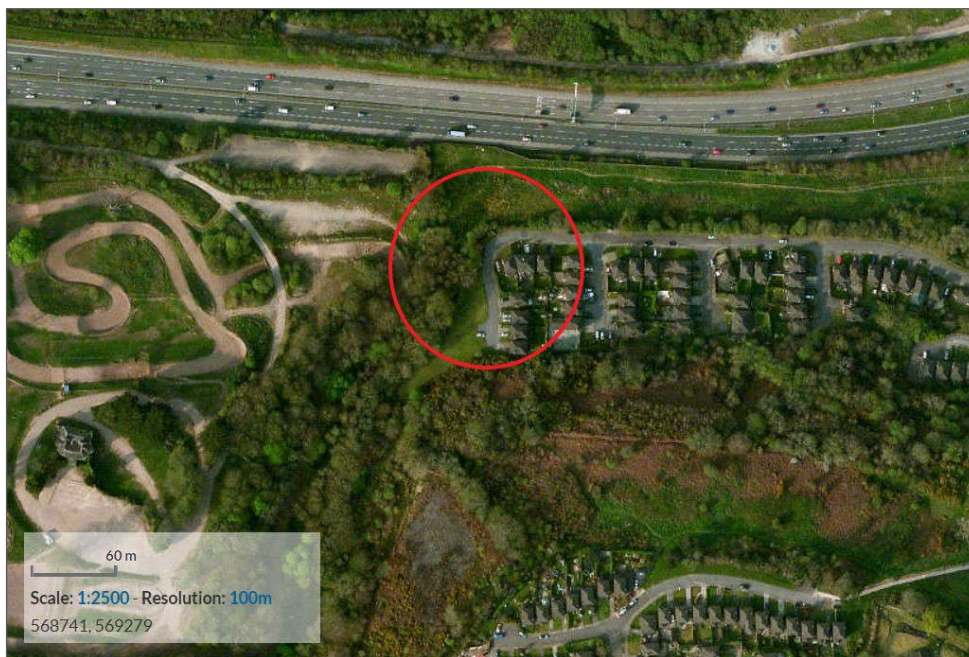


Plate 4.1. Aerial view of proposed works area at Alden [Source: NBDC mapviewer].

4.2. Site Visit

The proposed site has been visited several times for invasive species surveys (Atkins, 2020), arborist (Blackstock, 2019) and breeding bird surveys (Nagle, 2020). The most recent visit was undertaken on the 16th of February 2023 by Atkins engineers.

4.2.1. Invasive Species Survey (2020)

An invasive species study was undertaken on the 14th of May 2020 and 17th of July 2020, for the entire area associated with the new Grange Road to Tramore Valley Park Pedestrian and Cycle Link (construction ongoing) which is inclusive of the site of the proposed access link from Alden Grove housing estate to GRTVP - PCL.

The southern portion of the site comprises a valley of mixed broadleaf woodland either side of a first order eroding stream, the Grange Stream. There is currently a small pedestrian path through the woodland, on the eastern side of the stream. On the opposite side of the N40, there are berms bordering an existing pathway within Tramore Valley Park. These berms comprise grassy verges and patches of scrub and hedgerows.

During the invasive species survey, several species were recorded throughout the site. Japanese Knotweed was recorded in numerous areas throughout the study area. Several large pockets of Japanese Knotweed were located on the eastern bank within the woodland close to the Amberly housing estate; this, however, is well south of the proposed works at Alden Grove.

A large stand (circa 20m²) of Japanese Knotweed was recorded south of the N40 just beyond the western boundary of the scheme, it appears this stand is undergoing chemical treatment. Another large stand (circa 15m x 25m) was recorded to the east of the woodland adjoining the N40. Japanese Knotweed was also recorded sporadically along the bank north of the footpath within the TVP section of the site. Plate 4.3 displays some of the Japanese knotweed recorded in these areas; none of these stands are close to Alden Grove; nor would they be impacted by the proposed works at Alden Grove.

Himalayan balsam was recorded along the riparian corridor of the stream within Tramore Valley Park. It was present at both sides of the footbridge that crossed the stream within the Park and in downstream sections towards Douglas. None of these stands are close to Alden Grove; nor would they be impacted by the proposed works at Alden Grove.

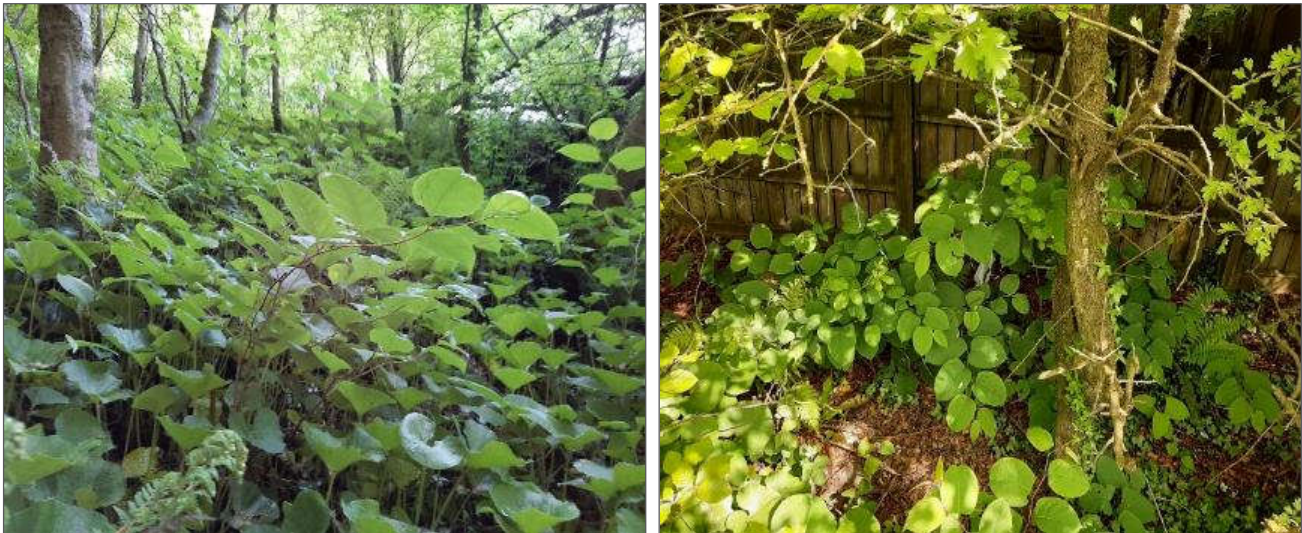


Plate 4.2 Japanese Knotweed recorded within the proposed site [Source: Atkins, 2020].

Figure 4.1 is an extract from the recent Invasive Plant Species Report prepared by Atkins (2020). As can be seen to the both winter heliotrope and butterfly-bush were recorded west of Alden Grove. Neither Japanese knotweed nor Himalayan balsam were noted in this area. As noted, however, the area will be surveyed for invasive species again in April 2023.

[Record no. 25 (Butterfly bush) and record no. 26 (Winter heliotrope) lie within and immediately adjacent to the proposed works site boundary North of the site, records no. 31 to 36 inclusive are growing <50m from site of proposed works].

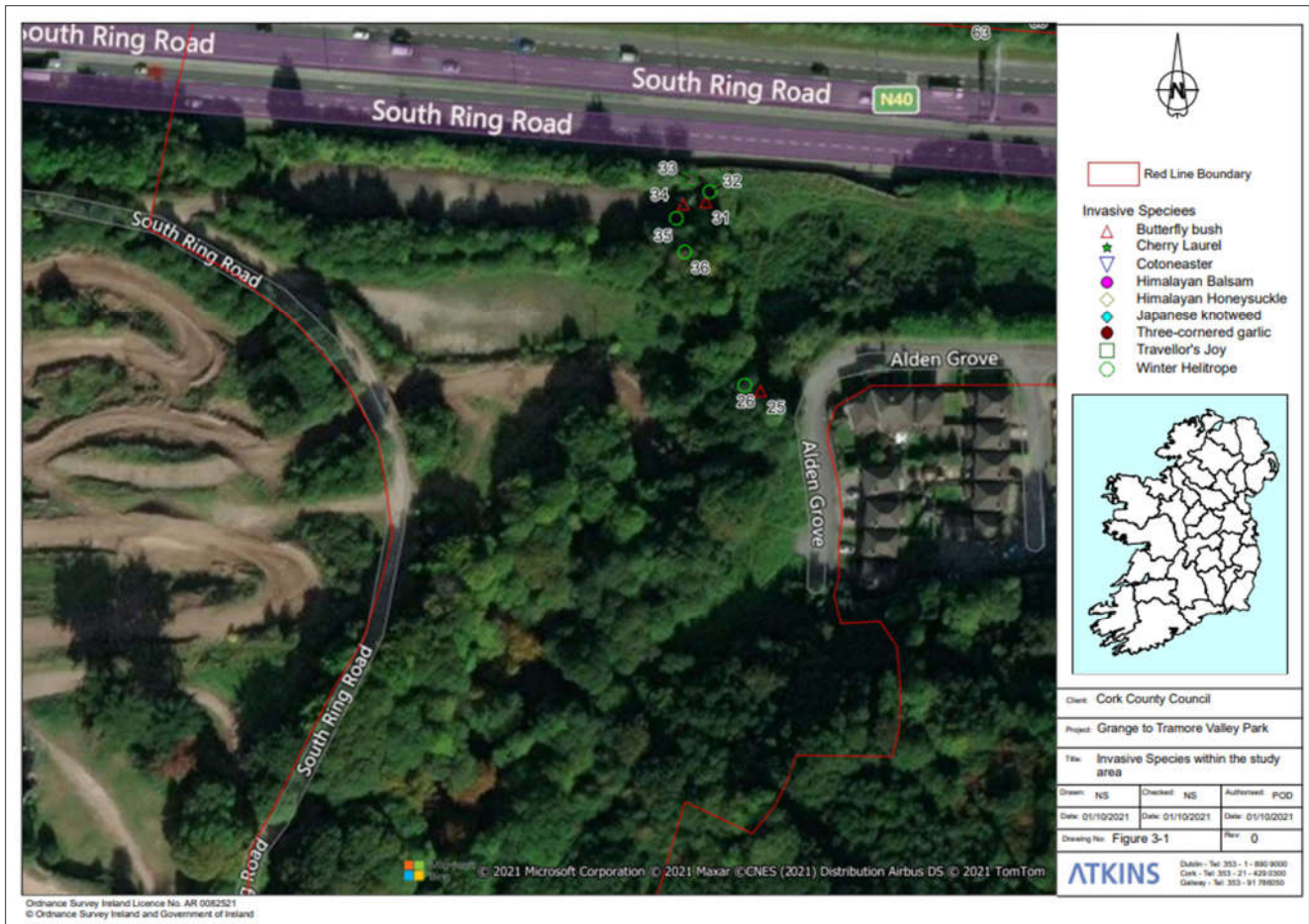


Figure 4.1 Invasive Species survey results at site of proposed works [Source: Atkins, 2020].

Table 4.1 Records of Invasive Species within the Grange Road to Tramore Valley Park greenway study area [Source: Atkins, 2020; co-ordinates in ITM].

Key: -

In this table invasive records lying within or immediately adjacent the site boundary of proposed works are highlighted in orange; invasive records lying <50m from the site of proposed works are highlighted in yellow.

No.	X	Y	Species	Note
1	568554	568445	Butterfly bush	Located on LHS of track through grass & bramble area after entering from Grange Road.
2	568593	568461	Winter Heliotrope	Located on track before entering under the tree canopy.
3	568595	568484	Cherry Laurel	Located under tree canopy at crossing point of stream. Cherry laurel very prominent in understory growth on west riverbank.
4	568605	568508	Winter Heliotrope	Located at crossing point of stream on east riverbank.
5	568638	568563	Winter Heliotrope	Located within wood at end of private garden.
6	568695	568594	Winter Heliotrope	Located immediately south of path that enters wood from housing estate.
7	568679	568614	Cotoneaster	Located approx. 20m north of track from housing estate entrance.
8	568672	568625	Himalayan Honeysuckle	Located east of primary track. 3 plants present.
9	568633	568599	Himalayan Honeysuckle	Located beside large, felled tree and hazel. Cherry Laurel still present on both banks.
10	568620	568606	Himalayan Honeysuckle	Located on east side of track.
11	568611	568598	Himalayan Honeysuckle	
12	568694	568641	Japanese knotweed	5 stands of JK present. Ca. 5x5m.
13	568694	568641	Winter Heliotrope	Present among stands of JK.
14	568711	568653	Japanese knotweed	Large stands of JK present. Ca. 10x20m.
15	568690	568657	Japanese knotweed	ca. 5x5m of JK.
16	568603	568645	Himalayan Honeysuckle	Located on east bank between the stream and the track.
17	568604	568686	Winter Heliotrope	
18	568597	568701	Himalayan Honeysuckle	
19	568597	568701	Winter Heliotrope	Present adjacent to Himalayan Honeysuckle.
20	568583	568714	Himalayan Honeysuckle	Located on east bank between the stream and the track.
21	568611	568800	Japanese knotweed	JK on hill at BMX Trails. Ca. 8x5m.
22	568643	568808	Japanese knotweed	Large area of JK stands. Ca. 25x8m.
23	568554	568847	Butterfly bush	Located on east bank between the stream and the track.
24	568557	568870	Butterfly bush	Located on east bank between the stream and the track.
25	568660	569083	Butterfly bush	
26	568660	569083	Winter Heliotrope	Present on both sides of track to housing estate.
27	568820	569129	Winter Heliotrope	
28	568895	569130	Winter Heliotrope	Beside new gantry.
29	569079	569102	Japanese knotweed	Large area of JK in bracken and bramble. Ca. 50x10m.
30	569116	569098	Japanese knotweed	Large area of JK. Butterfly bush intermixed.
31	568645	569136	Butterfly bush	Immediately east of culvert.
32	568645	569136	Winter Heliotrope	Present on both banks of stream.
33	568639	569135	Traveller's Joy	Present on wall on west of stream.
34	568636	569134	Butterfly bush	Present on tarmac area to west of stream.

No.	X	Y	Species	Note
35	568636	569134	Winter Heliotrope	Present on tarmac area to west of stream.
36	568637	569124	Winter Heliotrope	Located on west bank of stream.
37	568579	569286	Butterfly bush	3 plants behind palisade fencing.
38	568574	569259	Butterfly bush	
39	568574	569250	Butterfly bush	2 plants behind palisade fencing.
40	568571	569243	Butterfly bush	4 plants behind palisade fencing.
41	568561	569226	Himalayan balsam	Within river channel and on riverbank
42	568568	569225	Himalayan balsam	West side of bridge. Instream and on riverbank.
43	568568	569225	Winter Heliotrope	West side of bridge on riverbank.
44	568563	569212	Japanese knotweed	On bank between channel and path.
45	568563	569212	Winter Heliotrope	On bank between channel and path.
46	568563	569212	Butterfly bush	On bank between channel and path.
47	568574	569213	Butterfly bush	
48	568587	569214	Butterfly bush	
49	568587	569214	Winter Heliotrope	
50	568593	569201	Japanese knotweed	JK on river side of embankment.
51	568593	569201	Winter Heliotrope	Present for ca. 30m.
52	568615	569208	Butterfly bush	
53	568622	569203	Japanese knotweed	
54	568634	569197	Butterfly bush	At culvert of stream flowing from the south.
55	568634	568634	Winter Heliotrope	Located at culvert of stream flowing from the south. Also present on opposite side of path to the culvert.
56	568649	569195	Traveller's Joy	
57	568649	569195	Winter Heliotrope	
58	568681	569196	Butterfly bush	
59	568681	569196	Winter Heliotrope	
60	568681	569196	Japanese knotweed	
61	568699	569192	Japanese knotweed	
62	568699	569192	Winter Heliotrope	
63	568718	569187	Japanese knotweed	
64	568718	569187	Winter Heliotrope	
65	568734	569190	Winter Heliotrope	
66	568760	569189	Butterfly bush	
67	568760	569189	Winter Heliotrope	
68	568802	569193	Butterfly bush	
69	568802	569193	Winter Heliotrope	

4.2.2. Site Context

Photos were provided to Atkins Ecology by Atkins engineers post site visit on the 16/02/2023 to inform the decision of this AA screening.



Plate 4.3 Area of proposed works facing west onto the Grange Road to Tramore Valley Park greenway currently under construction [Source: Atkins, 2023].



Plate 4.4 Area of proposed site of works facing southeast [Source: Atkins, 2023].



Plate 4.5 View facing north of existing Alden Grove housing estate [Source: Atkins, 2023].



Plate 4.6 View facing south showing existing hammerhead cul-de-sac at Alden Grove housing estate [Source: Atkins, 2023].



Plate 4.7 View facing north at Alden Grove housing estate [Source: Atkins, 2023].

5. Appropriate Assessment Screening

5.1. Connectivity of Works Area to Natura 2000 Sites

The 'zone of influence' (Zoi) for a project is the area over which ecological features may be subject to significant effects as a result of the proposed project and associated activities. This is likely to extend beyond the project site, for example where there are ecological or hydrological links beyond the site boundaries. The zone of influence will vary for different ecological features depending on their sensitivity to an environmental change (CIEEM, 2018).

A distance of 15km is currently recommended in the case of plans, as a potential zone of influence, and this distance is derived from UK guidance (Scott Wilson *et al.*, 2006). For some projects, the distance could be much less than 15km, and in some cases less than 100m, but National Parks and Wildlife Service guidance advises that this must be evaluated on a case-by-case basis with reference to the nature, size and location of the project, the sensitivities of the ecological receptors, and the potential for in-combination effects.

It follows that given the nature of the proposed project the potential zone of influence will be limited to the closest Natura 2000 sites or to those hydrologically connected to the proposed project.

5.1.1. Special Area of Conservation

There is only 1 SAC located within 15km of the proposed site; Great Island Channel SAC (site code: 001058) (see Figure 5.1). The proposed site is hydrologically to Great Island Channel SAC. It is located ca. 9.3km upstream of this SAC to which it is linked via the Grange Stream and the Tramore River / Douglas Estuary. These waterbodies enter Cork Harbour at the opposite side (west) to the SAC, which is predominantly fed by the Owenacurra River (near Middleton), to the east.

Great Island Channel SAC is therefore considered to be within the potential zone of influence of proposed works. The details of the SAC, including the qualifying interests are detailed in Table 5.1 and Section 5.2.1 of the report.

Table 5.1 SACs within 15km of the proposed project.

Site Name	Approximate distance	Features of Interest	Within Zoi
Great Island Channel SAC (001058)	9.3km instream distance	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>) [1330]	Yes There is no overlap or direct connectivity from the proposed project to the SAC. The SAC is situated within the inner area of Cork Harbour at a distance of ca. 9.3km from the proposed development; thus, there is at most weak and remote hydrological connectivity between the proposed project and the SAC.

5.1.2. Special Protection Areas

There is only 1 SPA located within 15km of the proposed site; Cork Harbour SPA (site code: 004030) (see Figure 5.2). Cork Harbour SPA is located 1.6km downstream of the proposed site via the Grange Stream and the Tramore River. The site is designated for waterbirds that are dependent on the wetlands within the harbour for feeding and roosting; as well as breeding Common tern (*Sterna hirundo*) and the wetlands that support these species. The confluence between the Tramore River and the harbour comprises intertidal mudflat habitat which is an important resource for the designated bird species. Therefore, given the hydrological connectivity between the proposed site and the SPA, Cork Harbour SPA is considered to be within the zone of influence of the proposed works. The details of the SPA, including qualifying interests, are detailed in Table 5.2 and Section 5.2.2.

Table 5.2 SPAs within 15km of the proposed project.

Site Name	Approximate distance	Features of Interest	Within Zol
Cork Harbour SPA (004030)	1.6km instream distance	Little Grebe (<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>) [A004] Great Crested Grebe (<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>) [A005] Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017] Grey Heron (<i>Ardea cinerea</i>) [A028] Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048] Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050] Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052] Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) [A054] Shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>) [A056] Red-breasted Merganser (<i>Mergus serrator</i>) [A069] Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130] Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140] Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142] Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149] Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156] Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157] Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160] Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162] Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179] Common Gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) [A182] Lesser Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>) [A183] Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	Yes The proposed project is located ca. 1.6km upstream from the SPA and thus, is within the potential zone of influence of the proposed project.

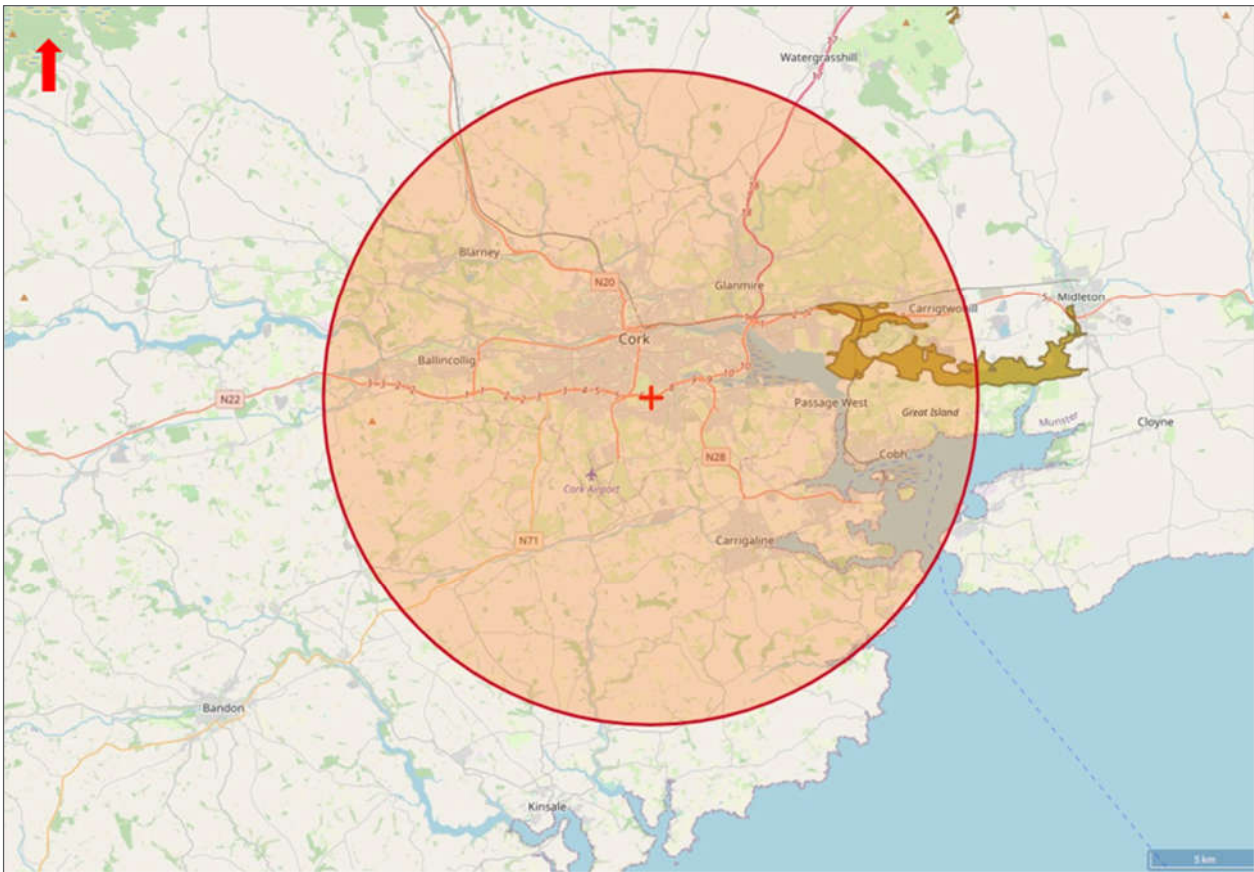


Figure 5.1 SACs within 15km (brown polygon) [Source: EPA maps].

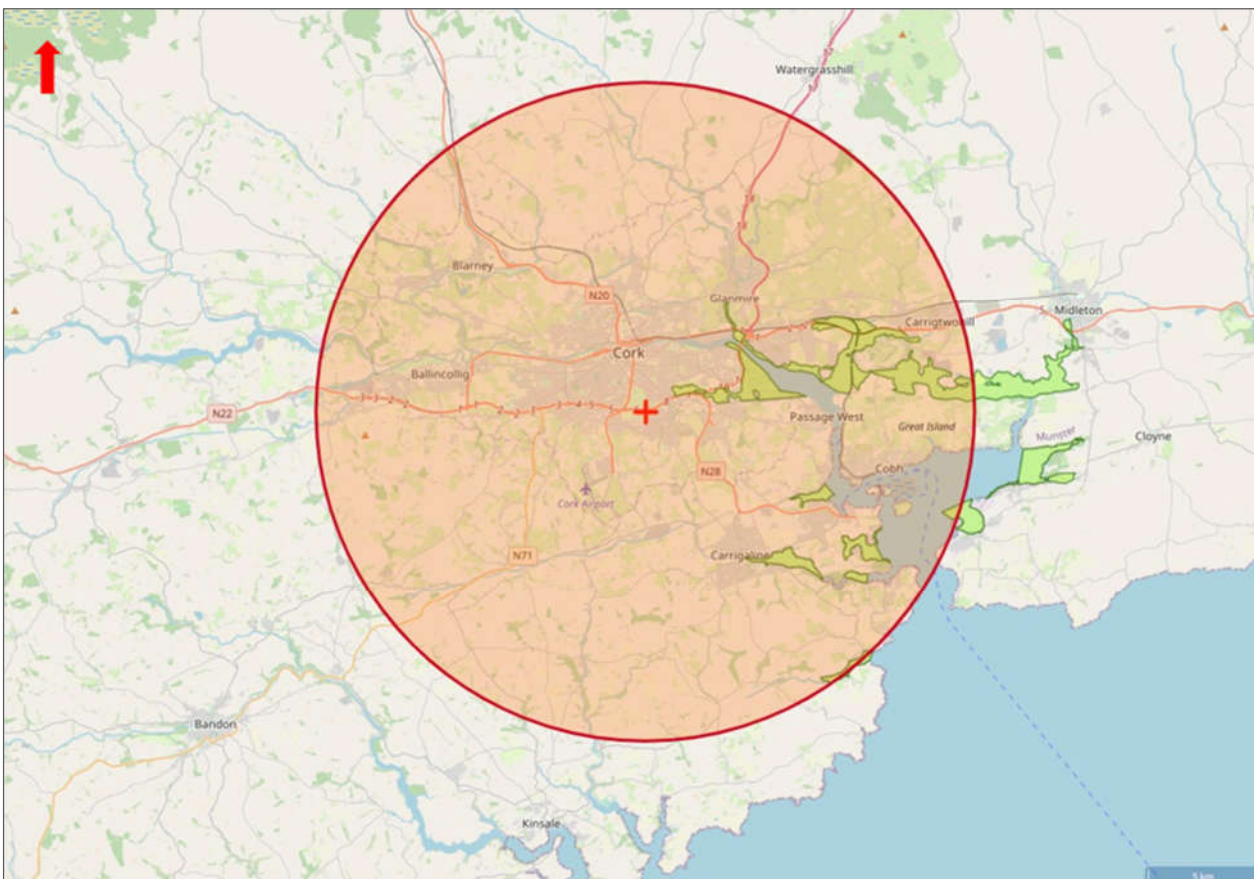


Figure 5.2 SPAs (green polygon) within 15km [Source: EPA maps].

5.2. Brief Description of Natura 2000 Sites

5.2.1. Great Island Channel SAC [site code: 001058]

The Great Island Channel stretches from Little Island to Middleton, with its southern boundary being formed by Great Island. It is an integral part of Cork Harbour which contains several other sites of conservation interest. Geologically, Cork Harbour consists of two large areas of open water in a limestone basin, separated from each other and the open sea by ridges of Old Red Sandstone. Within this system, Great Island Channel forms the eastern stretch of the river basin and compared to the rest of Cork Harbour, is relatively undisturbed. Within the site is the estuary of the Owennacurra and Dungourney Rivers. These rivers, which flow through Middleton, provide the main source of freshwater to the North Channel.

*The main habitats of conservation interest in Great Island Channel SAC are the sheltered tidal sand and mudflats and the Atlantic salt meadows. Owing to the sheltered conditions, the intertidal flats are composed mainly of soft muds. These muds support a range of macro-invertebrates, notably *Macoma balthica*, *Scrobicularia plana*, *Hydrobia ulvae*, *Nephtys hombergi*, *Nereis diversicolor* and *Corophium volutator*. Green algal species occur on the flats, especially *Ulva lactuca* and *Enteromorpha* spp. Cordgrass (*Spartina* spp.) has colonised the intertidal flats in places, especially at Rossleague and Belvelly.*

*The saltmarshes are scattered through the site and are all of the estuarine type on mud substrate. Species present include Sea Purslane (*Halimione portulacoides*), Sea Aster (*Aster tripolium*), Thrift (*Armeria maritima*), Common Saltmarsh-grass (*Puccinellia maritima*), Sea Plantain (*Plantago maritima*), Greater Sea-spurrey (*Spergularia media*), Lax-flowered Sea-lavender (*Limonium humile*), Sea Arrowgrass (*Triglochin maritimum*), Sea Mayweed (*Matricaria maritima*) and Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*).*

The site is extremely important for wintering waterfowl and is considered to contain three of the top five areas within Cork Harbour, namely North Channel, Harper's Island and Belvelly-Marino Point. Shelduck is the most frequent duck species with 800-1,000 birds centred on the Fota/Marino Point area. There are also large flocks of Teal and Wigeon, especially at the eastern end. Waders occur in the greatest density north of Rosslare, with Dunlin, Godwit, Curlew and Golden Plover the commonest species. A population of about 80 Grey Plover is a notable feature of the area. All the mudflats support feeding birds; the main roost sites are at Weir Island and Brown Island, and to the north of Fota at Killacloyne and Harper's Island. Ahanesk supports a roost also but is subject to disturbance. The numbers of Grey Plover and Shelduck, as given above, are of national importance. The site is an integral part of Cork Harbour which is a wetland of international importance for the birds it supports. Overall, Cork Harbour regularly holds over 20,000 waterfowl and contains internationally important numbers of Black-tailed Godwit (1,181) and Redshank (1,896), along with nationally important numbers of nineteen other species. Furthermore, it contains large Dunlin (12,019) and Lapwing (12,528) flocks. All counts are average peaks, 1994/95 – 1996/97. Much of the site falls within Cork Harbour Special Protection Area, an important bird area designated under the E.U. Birds Directive.

5.2.1.1. Conservation Objectives

The conservation objectives for the Great Island Channel SAC (001058) and the list of specific attributes and targets defining the conservation objectives for each feature of interest can be found at the link below [accessed: 02/03/2023]: -

https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_objectives/CO001058.pdf

The overall aim is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation status of the habitats of community interest, i.e., the habitats for which the SAC is designated.

5.2.1.2. Threats and Pressures

The specific threats and pressures affecting the Great Island Channel SAC (001058) are listed in the link below [accessed: 02/03/2023]: -

<https://natura2000.eea.europa.eu/Natura2000/SDF.aspx?site=IE0001058>

5.2.2. Cork Harbour SPA [site code: 004030]

Cork Harbour is a large, sheltered bay system, with several river estuaries - principally those of the Rivers Lee, Douglas, Owenboy and Owennacurra. The SPA site comprises most of the main intertidal areas of Cork Harbour, including all of the North Channel, the Douglas River Estuary, inner Lough Mahon, Monkstown Creek, Lough Beg, the Owenboy River Estuary, Whitegate Bay, Ringabella Creek and the Rostellan and Poul nabibe inlets.

*Owing to the sheltered conditions, the intertidal flats are often muddy in character. These muds support a range of macro-invertebrates, notably *Macoma balthica*, *Scrobicularia plana*, *Hydrobia ulvae*, *Nephtys hombergi*, *Nereis diversicolor* and *Corophium volutator*. Green algae species occur on the flats, especially *Ulva* spp. Cordgrass (*Spartina* spp.) has colonised the intertidal flats in places, especially where good shelter exists, such as at Rossleague and Belvelly in the North Channel. Salt marshes are scattered through the site, and these provide high tide roosts for the birds. Some shallow bay water is included in the site. Rostellan Lake is a small brackish lake that is used by swans throughout the winter. The site also includes some marginal wet grassland areas used by feeding and roosting birds.*

The site is a Special Protection Area (SPA) under the E.U. Birds Directive, of special conservation interest for the following species: Little Grebe, Great Crested Grebe, Cormorant, Grey Heron, Shelduck, Wigeon, Teal, Mallard, Pintail, Shoveler, Red-breasted Merganser, Oystercatcher, Golden Plover, Grey Plover, Lapwing, Dunlin, Black-tailed Godwit, Bar-tailed Godwit, Curlew, Redshank, Greenshank, Black headed Gull, Common Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull and Common Tern. The site is also of special conservation interest for holding an assemblage of over 20,000 wintering waterbirds. The E.U. Birds Directive pays particular attention to wetlands and, as these form part of this SPA, the site and its associated waterbirds are of special conservation interest for Wetland & Waterbirds.

Cork Harbour is an internationally important wetland site, regularly supporting in excess of 20,000 wintering waterfowl. Of particular note is that the site supports internationally important populations of Black-tailed Godwit (1,896) and Redshank (2,149) - all figures given are five year mean peaks for the period 1995/96 to 1999/2000. Nationally important populations of the following 19 species occur: Little Grebe (57), Great Crested Grebe (253), Cormorant (521), Grey Heron (80), Shelduck (2,009), Wigeon (1,791), Teal (1,065), Mallard (513), Pintail (57), Shoveler (103), Red-breasted Merganser (121), Oystercatcher (1,809), Golden Plover (3,342), Grey Plover (95), Lapwing (7,569), Dunlin (9,621), Bar-tailed Godwit (233), Curlew (2,237) and Greenshank (46). The Shelduck population is the largest in the country (over 10% of national total). Other species using the site include Mute Swan (38), Whooper Swan (5), Pochard (72), Gadwall (6), Tufted Duck (64), Goldeneye (21), Coot (53), Ringed Plover (73), Knot (26) and Turnstone (113). Cork Harbour is an important site for gulls in winter and autumn, especially Black-headed Gull (3,640), Common Gull (1,562) and Lesser Black-backed Gull (783), all of which occur in numbers of national importance. Little Egret and Mediterranean Gull, two species which have recently colonised Ireland, also occur at this site.

A range of passage waders occurs regularly in autumn, including such species as Ruff (5-10), Spotted Redshank (1-5) and Green Sandpiper (1-5). Numbers vary between years and usually a few of each of these species' over-winter.

Cork Harbour has a nationally important breeding colony of Common Tern (102 pairs in 1995). The birds have nested in Cork Harbour since about 1970, and since 1983 on various artificial structures, notably derelict steel barges and the roof of a Martello Tower. The birds are monitored annually, and the chicks are ringed.

Cork Harbour is of major ornithological significance, being of international importance both for the total numbers of wintering birds (i.e., > 20,000) and also for its populations of Black-tailed Godwit and Redshank. In addition, it supports nationally important wintering populations of 22 species, as well as a nationally important breeding colony of Common Tern. Several of the species which occur regularly are listed on Annex I of the E.U. Birds Directive, i.e., Whooper Swan, Little Egret,

Golden Plover, Bar-tailed Godwit, Ruff, Mediterranean Gull and Common Tern. The site provides both feeding and roosting sites for the various bird species that use it. Cork Harbour is also a Ramsar Convention site and part of Cork Harbour SPA is a Wildfowl Sanctuary.

5.2.2.1. Conservation Objectives

The Conservation Objectives for Cork Harbour SPA are to maintain the favourable conservation condition of the bird species as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA.

The favourable conservation status of a species is achieved when:

- Population dynamics data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself on a long-term basis as a viable component of its natural habitats, and
- The natural range of the species is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future, and
- There is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis.

The conservation objective for Cork Harbour SPA are summarised below.

Objective 1: To maintain the favourable conservation condition of the waterbird Special Conservation Interest species listed for Cork Harbour SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets: -

Parameter	Attribute	Measure	Target
Population	Population Trend	Percentage change as per population trend assessment using waterbird count data collected through the Irish Wetland Bird Survey and other surveys	The long-term population trend should be stable or increasing
Range	Distribution	Range, timing or intensity of use of areas used by waterbirds, as determined by regular low tide and other waterbird surveys	There should be no significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by the waterbird species of Special Conservation Interest other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation.

Objective 2: To maintain the favourable conservation condition of the wetland habitat at Wexford Harbour and Slobbs SPA as a resource for the regularly occurring migratory waterbirds that utilise it, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets: -

Parameter	Attribute	Measure	Target
Area	Wetland habitat	Area (Ha)	The permanent area occupied by the wetland habitat should be stable and not significantly less than the area of 2,587ha, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation.

5.2.2.2. Threats and Pressures

The negative threats and pressures on Cork Harbour SPA, as listed in the Natura 2000 form are detailed in the table below.

Table 5.3 Threats and pressures of the SPA.

Threats and pressures	Rank	Inside/ Outside
F02.03 - Leisure fishing	Medium	inside
G01.06 - Attraction park	Medium	inside
E02 - Industrial or commercial areas	High	outside
G01.01 - Nautical sports	Medium	inside
D03.02 - Shipping lanes	Medium	inside
G01.02 - Walking, horse riding and non-motorised vehicles	Medium	inside
D01.02 - Roads, motorways	High	outside
E01 - Urbanised areas, human habitation	High	outside
E01.03 - Dispersed habitation	Low	outside
F01 - Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture	High	inside
A08 - Fertilisation	Medium	outside
D03.01 - Port areas	High	outside

5.3. Likelihood of Significant Effects on Natura 2000 Sites

The available information on Natura 2000 sites was reviewed to establish whether or not the proposed works are likely to have a significant effect on the conservation objectives of the designated sites. The likelihood of impacts on the qualifying interests of the Natura 2000 sites identified in this report is based on information collated from the desk study, site plans and other available existing information.

The likelihood of impacts occurring are established in light of the type and scale of the proposed works, the location of the proposed works with respect to Natura 2000 sites and the features of interest and conservation objectives of the Natura 2000 sites.

This report is prepared following the Cause – Pathway – Effect model. The potential impacts are summarised into the following categories for screening purposes.

- Direct impacts refer to habitat loss or fragmentation arising from land-take requirements for development or agricultural purposes. Direct impacts can be as a result of a change in land use or management, such as the removal of agricultural practices that prevent scrub encroachment. There are no direct impacts associated with the proposed investigative works.
- Indirect and secondary impacts do not have a straight-line route between cause and effect. It is potentially more challenging to ensure that all the possible indirect impacts of the project – in combination with other plans and projects - have been established. These can arise, for example, when a development alters the hydrology of a catchment area, which in turn affects the movement of groundwater to a site and the qualifying interests that rely on the maintenance of water levels. Deterioration in water quality can occur as an indirect consequence of development, which in turn changes the aquatic environment and reduces its capacity to support certain plants and animals. The introduction of invasive species can also be defined as an indirect impact. Disturbance to fauna can arise directly through the loss of habitat (e.g., displacement of roosting bats) or indirectly through noise, vibration and increased activity associated with construction and operation.

The proposed project do not lie within any European sites. However, the proposed project is hydrologically connected to the Cork Harbour SPA and Great Island Channel SAC. The proposed project is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the SAC and SPA. Therefore, it is necessary for the competent authority to assess whether the proposed project, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, would be likely to have significant effects on the European sites.

5.3.1. Identification of Potential Impacts

Construction

The proposed works area is not located within a European site (neither SAC nor SPA). The proposed development site Alden Grove is ca. 1.6km along watercourses from Cork Harbour SPA and ca. 9.3km from Great Island Channel SAC. Grange Stream is located to the west of the works at Alden Grove. There is no direct link, however, between the proposed works area and Grange Stream. The scale of earthworks is also limited in extent.

The only connection to European sites is therefore potentially via a remote hydrological linkage through the existing surface water drainage system - Grange Stream – Tramore River – Douglas Estuary. There is, accordingly, a potential hydrological link between the proposed development site and European sites in Cork Harbour. However, it should be noted that this link is weak and via a very large body of water which offers substantial dilution of surface waters.

As noted, wetland habitats are vulnerable to deterioration in water quality within the Grange Stream or Tramore River. However, no in-stream works will occur. Proposed works will be undertaken at a remove from waterbodies and are small in scale. It is not permitted to refuel adjacent to the Grange Stream. Arisings from excavations will be contained at a remove from watercourses and no machinery will be permitted to enter the any watercourse. Any holes, pits and trenches will be open for no more 2 days a piece; they will therefore be refilled no more than 2 days after being opened. Any bare soil to be left overnight is to be covered, so no bare soil will be left exposed. For this reason, it is not anticipated that there will be risks posed to the water quality of the Grange Stream or Tramore River, or therefore, the Cork Harbour SPA.

During the construction phase of the project a construction compound is generally established within the site boundary; however, in this instance the site compound and associated welfare facilities etc. in the neighbouring site will be use. Therefore, no dedicated site compound is required at Alden Grove.

When considering *1140 - Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide* – it is not anticipated that the proposed development at Alden Grove would affect either of the listed Attributes for this habitat – i.e. either *Habitat Area* or *Distribution* of this habitat within the SAC; nor would they affect any of the Attributes listed for *1330 Atlantic salt meadows*. Even in a worst case scenario where silt laden waters might enter the local surface water drainage network and reach Cork Harbour during construction on the Alden Grove site, the dilution offered by the adjoining harbour, together with the character of the qualifying interests, is such that negative impacts to Great Island Channel SAC are not anticipated; nor to the Wetlands for which Cork Harbour SPA is also designated.

Cork Harbour SPA is designated for several wintering waterbirds. As noted, there is no overlap with the SPA. While several species for which the SPA has been designated do feed in fields outside of the SPA (e.g. Curlew, Oystercatcher, and Black-tailed Godwit) the proposed works area at Alden Grove does not support suitable habitat for these species (see Plate 4.1-4.5). The proposed works are sufficiently remote from the SPA that waterbirds within the SPA will not be impacted / disturbed by proposed works. The SPA is also designated for Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]; however, as noted above for Great Island Channel SAC no impact to wetland habitats within the SPA are anticipated.

The introduction and spread of invasive species can also result in negative impacts within a designated site. As noted, no species listed on the 3rd Schedule of the EC (Bird and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011 (S.I. 477/2011), have been recorded close to Alden Grove. As a result, no adverse effects shall occur on the Great Island Channel SAC or Cork Harbour SPA as a result of the potential spread of invasive species. However, as is good practice strict biosecurity measures will be implemented on site.

Operation

During the operation phase, the proposed link from Alden Grove will facilitate access from this housing estate to the walk – facilitating access to the north to Tramore Valley Park; to the south towards Grange Road. No significant additional run-off from the path is anticipated.

The path will be screened from Tramore Valley Park / Douglas Estuary; no disturbance of birds within the SPA is anticipated. As a result, no negative impacts to European sites are therefore anticipated surface arising during operation of the site.

5.4. Likelihood of Significant Effects on Natura 2000 Sites

In summary, due to the nature of proposed works; i.e. no in-stream works along the Grange Stream; the distance between Alden Grove and Great Island Channel SAC / Cork Harbour SPA, as well as the extent and duration of the proposed works; no negative impacts to European sites, notably Great Island Channel SAC / Cork Harbour SPA through surface waters or via disturbance are anticipated during construction or operation of this scheme.

6. Potential In-combination Effects

6.1. Requirement for Assessment

The requirement for AA arising out of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive covers plans and projects that, “*either individually or in combination with other plans or projects*”, are likely to have a significant effect on one or more Natura 2000 sites. This means that AA is required for any plan or project that, in combination with other plans or projects, would have a significant effect on one or more Natura 2000 sites, irrespective of the presence or absence of such effects from that plan or project on its own. Therefore, regardless of the significance of the effects of the plan or project individually, the potential for significant effects in combination with other plans and projects must be considered in all cases.

6.2. Approach and Methodology

The objective of this requirement is to capture significant effects potentially arising from the cumulation or other interaction of non-significant effects from multiple plans and projects. Consequently, the assessment of potential in-combination effects is not a pair-wise assessment, rather, it considers the totality of the effects arising from all plans and projects affecting the Natura 2000 site(s) in question. In identifying the plans and projects to be included in this assessment, it is important to define an appropriate geographical scope and timescale over which potential in-combination effects are to be considered and the sources of information to be consulted, as described below. It is also important to consider the nature of the interactions between effects, which may be additive, antagonistic, synergistic or complex.

6.2.1. Geographical Scope

In defining the geographical scope for identifying potential in-combination effects, it is important to remember that effects are evaluated in view of the conservation objectives of the Natura 2000 site(s) concerned. As such, two or more effects relating to the same conservation objective for a given Natura 2000 site would combine even if their geographical extents did not overlap. For example, the loss of a small area of an Annex I habitat type listed as a qualifying interest of a Natura 2000 site would combine with the loss of an entirely unconnected area of the same habitat type from a remote part of the same site to produce an in-combination effect, the significance of which would need to be evaluated in view of the relevant conservation objective. On that basis, the scope of the assessment of in-combination effects extends to all plans and projects affecting the same conservation objectives as the plan or project under consideration, irrespective of whether those effects are significant or not.

6.2.2. Timescale

As stated in Section 1.3, the proposed works are predicted to take 8-12 weeks to complete. As explained in the preceding sections, impacts potentially arising from the proposed works include disturbance to habitats and species, as well as impacts on water quality. Any non-significant effects arising from disturbance to habitats or species, or water quality impacts, will be brief or temporary, i.e. there will be full recovery of any effects within one year. On this basis, plans and projects which were scheduled to be built at the same time as the proposed project were considered.

6.2.3. Sources of Information

The following sources of information were consulted to gather information on other plans and projects: -

- Local authority development plans and their AA documents
- Local authority online planning enquiries (Cork County Council)
- EIA Portal (DHLGH, 2022)

Potential in-combination effects with the following plans and projects were considered during the preparation of this report. The search of Cork City Council was based on a map-based search (MyPlan.ie).

The Cork City Development Plan 2022-2028¹ sets out how the city will grow and develop over the next six years, while complementing a longer 2040 vision. The main objectives of the Plan are as follows: -

- To preserve, protect, maintain and, where appropriate, enhance the terrestrial, aquatic and soil biodiversity, particularly EU designated sites and protected species;
- Ensure no adverse effects on the integrity of any European site, with regard to its qualifying interests, associated conservation status, structure and function;
- Safeguard national, regional and local designated sites and supporting features which function as stepping stones for migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species;
- Enhance biodiversity in line with the National Biodiversity Strategy and its targets; and
- To protect, maintain and conserve the City's natural capital.

The Plan contains a number of Biodiversity objectives, which includes the protection and enhancement of designated sites and areas of natural heritage and biodiversity and the habitats, flora and fauna for which it is designated, and to protect, enhance and conserve designated species. An Appropriate Assessment Screening Report was prepared for the Plan, which assessed the Plan regarding its potential to adversely affect the integrity of European sites. The findings of the AA were integrated into the Plan, ensuring that potential adverse effects have been and will be avoided, reduced or offset (CAAS, 2022). As outlined in the Plan, this AA Screening report is being prepared to ensure that the proposed works will not have likely significant effects on European sites. Given the elements outlined above, the Cork City Council Development Plan 2022-2028 is not anticipated to have any significant effect in combination with the proposed works.

Farmers and landowners may also undertake general agricultural operations in areas adjacent to the proposed works and along the river, which could potentially give rise to impacts of a similar nature to those arising from the proposed works. This could potentially result in additional an increased risk to water quality. Many agricultural operations are periodic, not continuous in nature, and qualify as Activities Requiring Consent (ARCs) that require consultation with the NPWS in advance of the works, e.g. reclamation, infilling or land drainage within 30m of the river, removal of trees or any aquatic vegetation within 30m of the river, and harvesting or burning of reed or willow (NPWS, 2022a). Agricultural operations must also comply with the European Communities (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Agriculture) Regulations, 2011 (as amended) in relation to: -

- Restructuring of rural land holdings,
- Commencing use of uncultivated land or semi-natural areas for intensive, and
- Land drainage works on lands used for agriculture.

A Natura Impact Statement (NIS) is required under Regulation 9 if it is likely to have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site. The drainage or reclamation of wetlands is controlled under the Planning and Development (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations, 2011 and the European Communities (Amendment to Planning and Development) Regulations, 2011. Therefore, the in-combination effects of agricultural operations and the proposed works are not likely to be significant.

A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Natura Impact Report (NIR) was prepared for the draft Cork County Development Plan, which assessed the CDP and its potential to adversely affect the environment as a

¹ Cork City Council Development Plan 2022-2028 <https://www.corkcity.ie/en/cork-city-development-plan/>

whole and the integrity of Natura 2000 sites². This sets out in full the approach to the Appropriate Assessment, how aspects of the Plan were considered and how the Plan will be implemented and delivered while protecting European sites; thus, ensuring that potential impacts were avoided, reduced or offset. Thus, the finding of the assessments was that the Plan will not adversely affect the general biodiversity and the integrity of Natura 2000 sites due to the incorporation of mitigation measures into the Plan as a result of the assessment processes. A summary of the Screening Assessment is presented in Table 5.2 of the NIR. Chapter 6.0 of the NIR further outlines the consideration of In-Combination Impacts. Of particular relevance here is Section 6.4 - Coastal and Marine Habitats and Species. Primary concerns of relevance here include e.g. - pressure on water quality in coastal and transitional waters. Table 6.1 sets out in full the Policy and Plans With Potential To Contribute to In-Combination Effects on EU Sites. Measures for strict protection of watercourses, waterbodies and water quality and expanded upon in Chapter 7.0 Appropriate Assessment; “Policies for zoned land adjoining EU sites have been reviewed to ensure that they provide appropriate caveats highlighting the sensitive location of the site and the likely or potential need for set-backs and screening to ensure the protection of habitats and the avoidance of disturbance to protected species”. Great Island Channel SAC and Cork Harbour SPA are discussed specifically in Section 7.3.2 of the NIR.

Projects that have been granted planning permission in the vicinity of the proposed works within the last 5 years were reviewed through the Cork County Council Cork Planning Enquiry System and the National Planning Application Map Viewer (MyPlan.ie). A summary of the developments within the immediate environs of the site is presented in Table 6.1 below

There are also a number of significant road projects in the environs of Cork Harbour, such as the M8/M40 Dunkettle Interchange Upgrade³ (where works are ongoing); as well as proposed schemes such as the M28 Ringaskiddy Road Scheme⁴ (not yet on site). A number of Flood Relief Projects are also underway – such as Douglas FRS⁵, Glashaboy FRS⁶ and Midleton FRS⁷. All these schemes are linked to Cork Harbour; however, they have also all been subject to Appropriate Assessment and have conditions attached to their planning permission relating to sustainable development, such as siting of septic tanks, foul surface water and effluent drainage facilities, and clean surface water run-off drainage facilities. The Office of Public Work’s Lower Lee (Cork City) Flood relief scheme⁸ is currently in the design / preplanning stage.

There has been significant growth in the development of Greenways and Blueways in recent years. As mentioned there is a public walk cycleway under construction in the neighbouring valley which leads to Tramore Valley Park to the north and its associated walks and amenities. The public walk extends along the N40 to link with Douglas at Willow Park / South Douglas Road. Further east this connects to the Greenway at Douglas Estuary. A Greenway also runs along the western side of Lough Mahon which runs alongside Jacobs Island. In time this is to be part of the network of Greenways linking Lee to Sea – details of the Lee to Sea Greenway can be viewed at - <https://lee2sea.com/>.

Irish Water are engaged in an ongoing programme of work in Cork Harbour. For example, wastewater from Passage West, Glenbrook and Monkstown now no longer discharges untreated to Cork Harbour. The sewer network has been extended as part of the Cork Lower Harbour Main Drainage Project to connect these area to the Shanbally Wastewater Treatment Plant. In 2020, Irish Water completed the Cobh to Monkstown Estuary Crossing. This involved drilling under the Lee Estuary; these drilled bores allowed the installation of sewer pipelines at a depth of 60m under the Lee Estuary – creating a vital connection between Cobh and Monkstown. (Source: - <https://www.water.ie/projects/local-projects/cork-lower-harbour/news-updates/>). Such measures should result in progressive improvement in water quality within the harbour. As above, in each case these projects have been subject to stand alone Screening for Appropriate Assessment and / or prepared a Natura

² <https://www.corkcity.ie/en/proposed-cork-city-development-plan-2022-2028/draft-plan-documents/phase-2-draft-development-plan-2022-2028/natura-impact-report-for-appropriate-assessment/>

³ <https://www.dunkettle.ie/>

⁴ <https://www.corkrdo.ie/major-schemes/m28-cork-to-ringaskiddy-project/>

⁵ <https://www.floodinfo.ie/frs/en/douglas/home/>

⁶ <https://www.floodinfo.ie/frs/en/glashaboy/home/>

⁷ <https://www.floodinfo.ie/frs/en/midleton/home/>

⁸ <https://www.floodinfo.ie/frs/en/lower-lee/home/>

Impact Statement. As mentioned in Section 1.2.1, there will be no change to the existing outfall rate to Lough Mahon from the proposed works.

There are no current planning applications in Alden Grove.

7. Conclusion

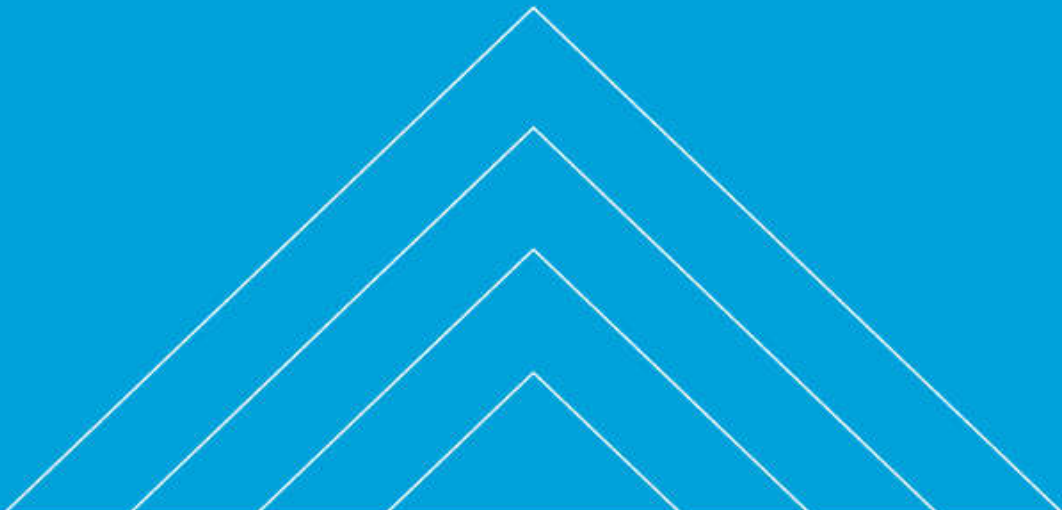
This Appropriate Assessment Screening Report has examined the details of the proposed works at Alden Grove, and the Natura 2000 sites in their Zone of Influence. It has analysed the potential impacts of the proposed works on the receiving natural environment and evaluated their effects, both individually and in combination with other plans and projects, in view of the conservation objectives of the relevant Natura 2000 sites. This report has been prepared in line with the Habitats Directive, as transposed into Irish Law by the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011 (as amended), relevant case law and guidance from the European Commission, the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and the Office of the Planning Regulator, on the basis of objective information and adhering to the precautionary principle.

Following the assessment detailed in this report, it can be concluded beyond reasonable scientific doubt that the proposed development will not, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, give rise to any impacts which would constitute significant effects on Cork Harbour SPA (site code: 004030), Great Island Channel SAC (site code: 001058) or any other Natura 2000 site, in view of their conservation objectives. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the authors of this report that Cork City Council, as the competent authority in this case may determine that Appropriate Assessment is not required in respect of the proposed works. Should the scope of the proposed works change, a new Appropriate Assessment Screening Report and final determination will be required.

8. References

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- Scott Wilson and Levett-Therivel, (2006). *Appropriate Assessment of Plans*. Scott Wilson, Levett-Therivel Sustainability Consultants, Treweek Environmental Consultants and Land Use Consultants.
- Triturus (2020). *Grange Stream Fisheries Report, prepared for the Grange Road to Tramore Valley Park Cycle Link Project*. Triturus Environmental. Unpublished Report prepared for Cork City Council.

Appendices



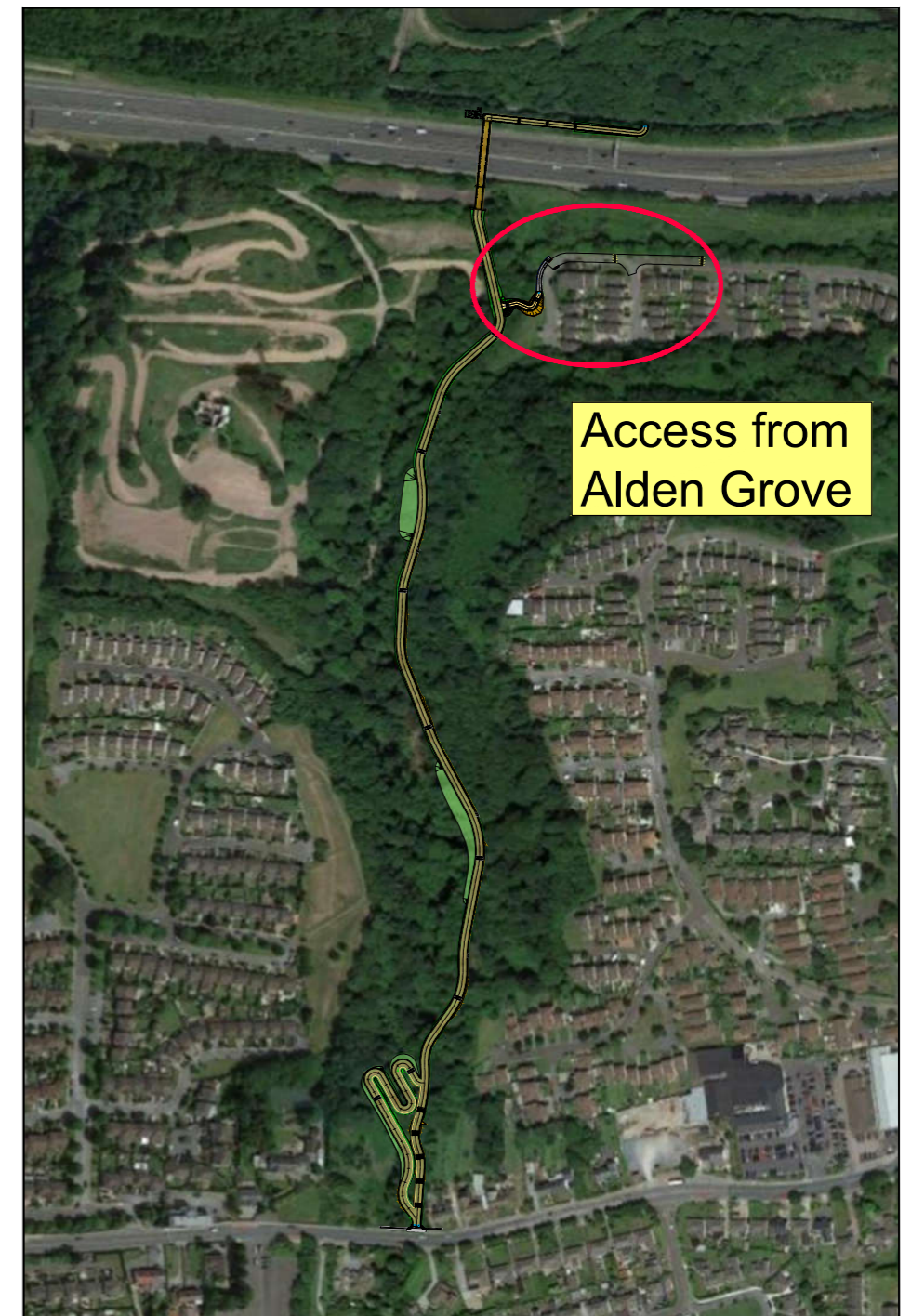
Grange Road to Tramore Valley Park Pedestrian and Cycle Link

Cork City Council, City Hall, Anglesea Street, Cork. T12 T997

Part 8 Planning for Access Link from Alden Grove

Planning and Development Act 2000 (As Amended)
Planning and Development Regulations (2001 to 2022)

Drawing Number	Revision	Drawing Title
5209364-ATK-XX-XX-DR-CE-900101	-	Cover Sheet / Drawing List
5209364-ATK-XX-XX-DR-CE-900102	-	Site Location Maps
5209364-ATK-XX-XX-DR-CE-900103	-	Existing Site Layout Plan
5209364-ATK-XX-XX-DR-CE-900104	-	Proposed Site Layout Plan
5209364-ATK-XX-XX-DR-CE-900105	-	Proposed Works Layout Plan
5209364-ATK-XX-XX-DR-CE-900106	-	Developed Longitudinal Section along Access Link
5209364-ATK-XX-XX-DR-CE-900107	-	Typical Cross Sections

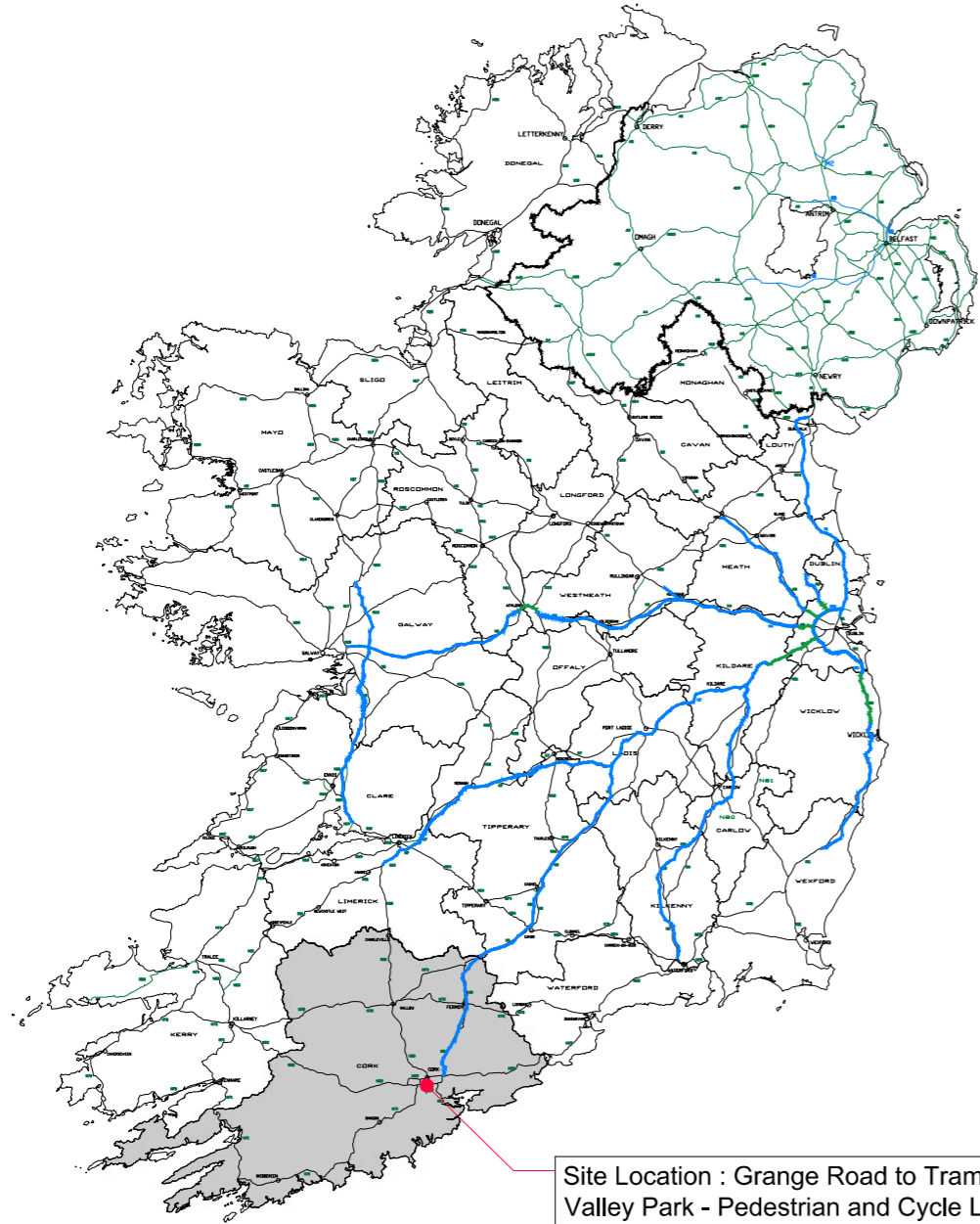


March 2023

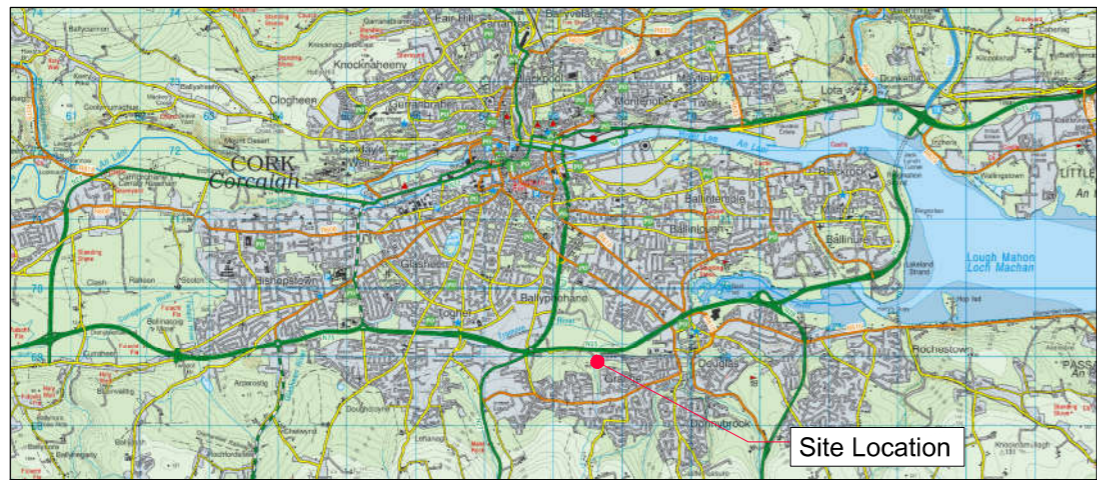


Comhairle Cathrach Chorcaí
Cork City Council

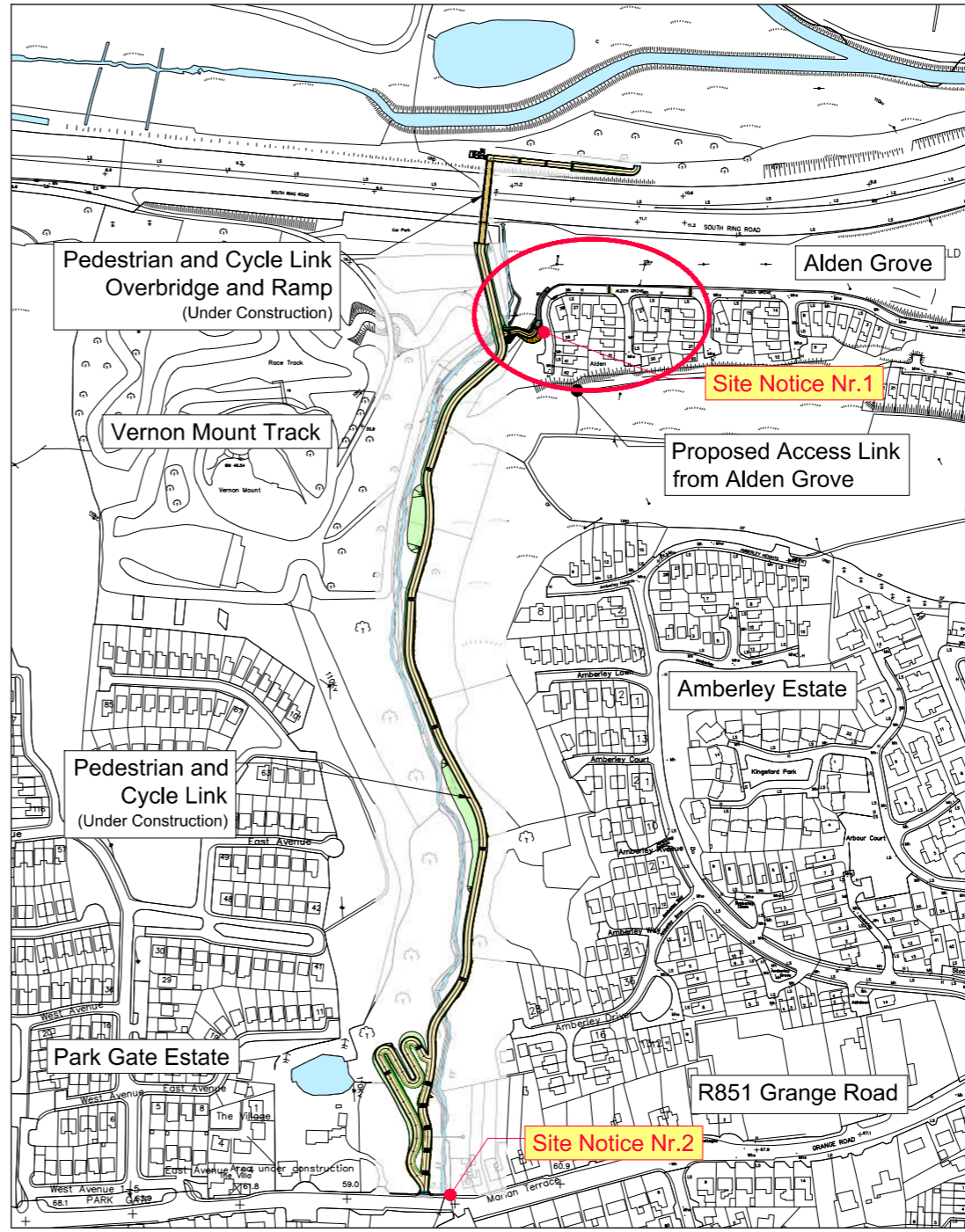
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Site Location : Grange Road to Tramore Valley Park - Pedestrian and Cycle Link



Site Location Map : Scale 1:50,000



Site Location Map : Scale 1:2500

- GENERAL NOTES**
1. ALL DIMENSIONS ARE IN MILLIMETRES UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE
 2. ONLY WRITTEN DIMENSIONS SHALL BE USED. NO DIMENSIONS SHALL BE SCALED FROM THE DRAWINGS
 3. ALL LEVELS ARE IN METRES AND ARE TO MALIN HEAD DATUM
 4. ALL COORDINATES ARE IN METRES AND ARE TO IRISH TRANSVERSE MERCATOR.
- DRAWING NOTES**
1. SITE NOTICE NR.1 TO BE PLACED ADJACENT TO PROPOSED ACCESS LINK IN THE CUL-DE-SAC IN ALDEN ESTATE
 2. SITE NOTICE NR.2 TO BE PLACED ALONG THE R851 GRANGE ROAD ADJACENT TO THE EXISTING ACCESS TO THE GRANGE ROAD TO TRAMORE VALLEY PARK PEDESTRIAN AND CYCLE LINK
 3. CO-ORDINATES TO ACCESS LINK :
EASTING : 568,656.834
NORTHING : 569,057.073

Rev	Description	By	Date	Chk'd	Auth
-	PART 8 PLANNING	AOS	03.23	CP	MJ
-	ISSUED FOR REVIEW	AOS	02.23	CP	MJ
-	ISSUED FOR INFORMATION	AOS	01.23	CP	MJ

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Project
PROPOSED ACCESS LINK
from ALDEN GROVE to
Grange Road to Tramore Valley Park
Pedestrian and Cycle Link

Purpose: **PART 8 PLANNING**

Title: **SITE LOCATION MAPS**

Original Scale	Des/Drawn	AOS	Checked	CP	Authorised	MJ
As Shown		24.02.23	Date	24.02.23	Date	24.02.23
Status	Drawing Number	Rev				
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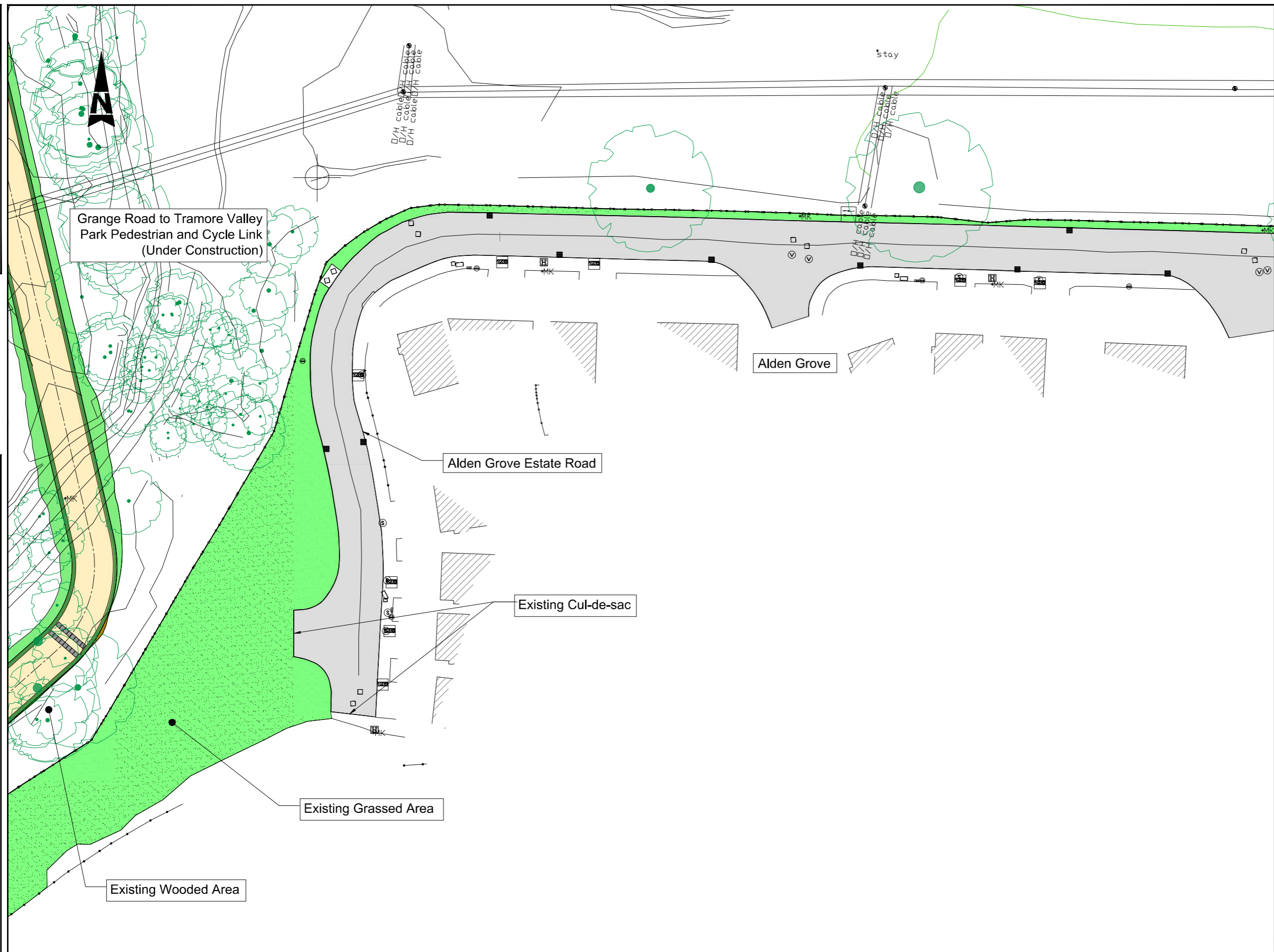
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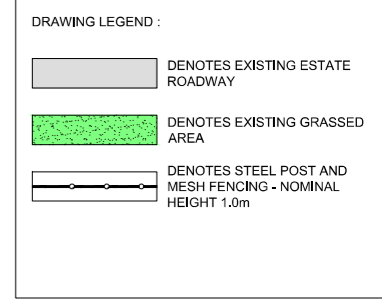
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Date: Mar 08, 2023 - 5:07pm
Plotted by: aocullivan



- GENERAL NOTES**
1. ALL DIMENSIONS ARE IN MILLIMETRES UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE
 2. ONLY WRITTEN DIMENSIONS SHALL BE USED. NO DIMENSIONS SHALL BE SCALED FROM THE DRAWINGS
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 4. ALL COORDINATES ARE IN METRES AND ARE TO IRISH TRANSVERSE MERCATOR.



Purpose **PART 8 PLANNING**

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Rev	Description	By	Date	Chk'd	Auth
-	PART 8 PLANNING	AOS	03.23	CP	MJ
-	ISSUED FOR REVIEW	AOS	02.23	CP	MJ
-	ISSUED FOR INFORMATION	AOS	01.23	CP	MJ

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1st Floor, Technology House Parkmore Technology Park, Galway, H91 NXY4
Tel (+353) 091 786 050

Client Cork City Council, City Hall, Anglesea Street, Cork T12 T997

Project **PROPOSED ACCESS LINK from ALDEN GROVE to Grange Road to Tramore Valley Park Pedestrian and Cycle Link**

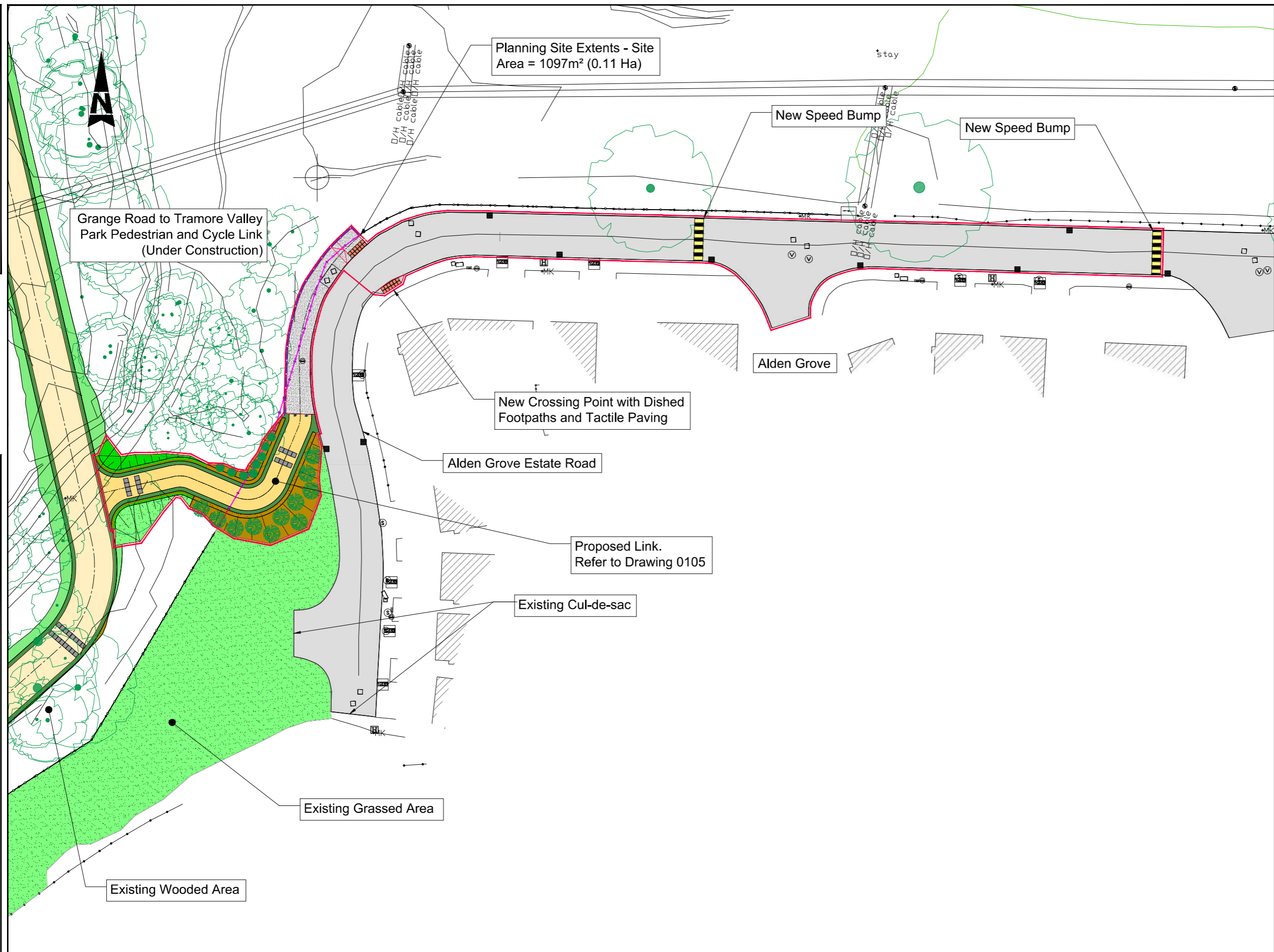
Title **EXISTING SITE LAYOUT PLAN**

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Status	Drawing Number	Rev			
P	5209364-ATK-XX-XX-DR-CE-900103	-			

A1

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Date: Mar 08, 2023 - 5:08pm
Plotted by: aocullivan



Planning Site Extents - Site Area = 1097m² (0.11 Ha)

Grange Road to Tramore Valley Park Pedestrian and Cycle Link (Under Construction)

New Speed Bump

New Speed Bump

Alden Grove

New Crossing Point with Dished Footpaths and Tactile Paving

Alden Grove Estate Road

Proposed Link. Refer to Drawing 0105

Existing Cul-de-sac

Existing Grassed Area

Existing Wooded Area

- GENERAL NOTES
1. ALL DIMENSIONS ARE IN MILLIMETRES UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE
 2. ONLY WRITTEN DIMENSIONS SHALL BE USED. NO DIMENSIONS SHALL BE SCALED FROM THE DRAWINGS
 3. ALL LEVELS ARE IN METRES AND ARE TO MALIN HEAD DATUM
 4. ALL COORDINATES ARE IN METRES AND ARE TO IRISH TRANSVERSE MERCATOR.

DRAWING LEGEND :

	DENOTES SITE EXTENT FOR PLANNING
	DENOTES AREA IN CUT (EXCAVATED SURFACE)
	DENOTES VEGETATED STRENGTHENED EMBANKMENT
	DENOTES NEW PLANTING
	DENOTES NEW CONCRETE FOOTPATH CONSTRUCTION
	DENOTES NEW STEEL POST AND MESH FENCING TO MATCH EXISTING - NOMINAL HEIGHT 1.0m
	DENOTES EXISTING STEEL POST AND MESH FENCING TO BE REMOVED
	DENOTES EXISTING STEEL POST AND MESH FENCING TO BE RETAINED
	DENOTES NEW TIMBER POST AND FOUR RAIL FENCE WITH MESH - NOMINAL HEIGHT 1.40m
	DENOTES EXISTING ESTATE ROADWAY
	DENOTES EXISTING GRASSED AREA

Purpose **PART 8 PLANNING**

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Rev	Description	By	Date	Chk'd	Auth
-	PART 8 PLANNING	AOS	03.23	CP	MJ
-	ISSUED FOR REVIEW	AOS	02.23	CP	MJ
-	ISSUED FOR INFORMATION	AOS	01.23	CP	MJ

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Client
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Project
PROPOSED ACCESS LINK from ALDEN GROVE to Grange Road to Tramore Valley Park Pedestrian and Cycle Link

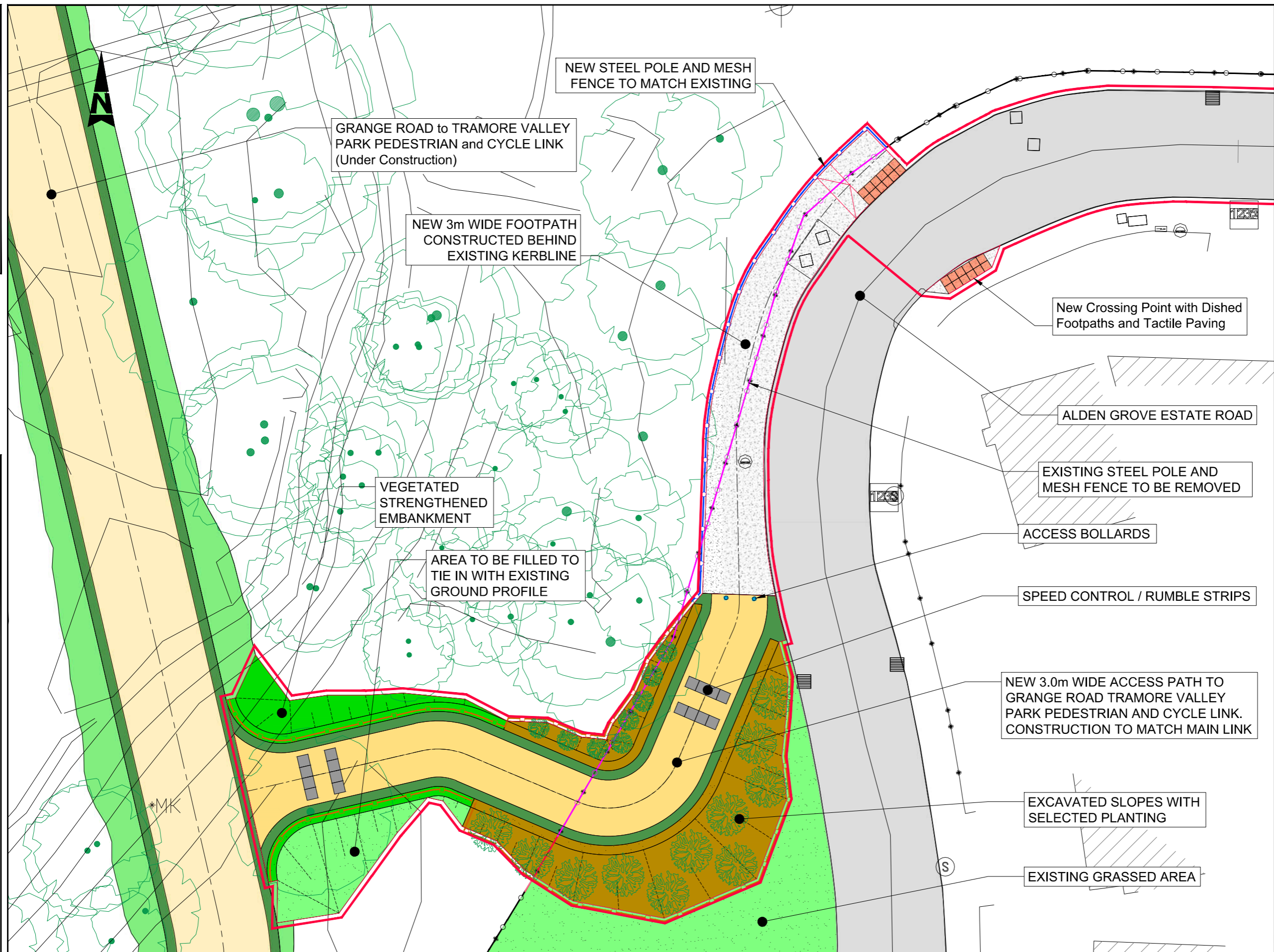
Title **PROPOSED SITE LAYOUT PLAN**

Original Scale	Des/Drawn	Checked	Authorised
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Date	Date	Date	Date
24.02.23	24.02.23	24.02.23	24.02.23
Status	Drawing Number	Rev	
P	5209364-ATK-XX-XX-DR-CE-90104	-	

100
0 10
A1

DO NOT SCALE

File: 5209364-ATK-XX-XX-DR-CE-900104 to 0105.dwg
Date: Mar 08, 2023 - 5:08pm Plotted by: acaullivan



- GENERAL NOTES**
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 3. ALL LEVELS ARE IN METRES AND ARE TO MALIN HEAD DATUM
 4. ALL COORDINATES ARE IN METRES AND ARE TO IRISH TRANSVERSE MERCATOR.

DRAWING LEGEND :

- [Red line] DENOTES SITE EXTENT FOR PLANNING
- [Brown area] DENOTES AREA IN CUT (EXCAVATED SURFACE)
- [Green area] DENOTES VEGETATED STRENGTHENED EMBANKMENT
- [Green tree symbols] DENOTES NEW PLANTING
- [Grey area] DENOTES NEW CONCRETE FOOTPATH CONSTRUCTION
- [Blue dashed line] DENOTES NEW STEEL POST AND MESH FENCING TO MATCH EXISTING - NOMINAL HEIGHT 1.0m
- [Pink dashed line] DENOTES EXISTING STEEL POST AND MESH FENCING TO BE REMOVED
- [Black dashed line] DENOTES EXISTING STEEL POST AND MESH FENCING TO BE RETAINED
- [Orange dashed line] DENOTES NEW TIMBER POST AND FOUR RAIL FENCE WITH MESH - NOMINAL HEIGHT 1.40m
- [Grey hatched area] DENOTES EXISTING ESTATE ROADWAY
- [Green area] DENOTES EXISTING GRASSED AREA

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Rev	Description	By	Date	Chk'd	Auth
-	PART 8 PLANNING	AOS	03.23	CP	MJ
-	ISSUED FOR REVIEW	AOS	02.23	CP	MJ
-	ISSUED FOR INFORMATION	AOS	01.23	CP	MJ

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Project
PROPOSED ACCESS LINK from ALDEN GROVE to Grange Road to Tramore Valley Park Pedestrian and Cycle Link

Purpose: **PART 8 PLANNING**

Title: **PROPOSED WORKS LAYOUT PLAN**

Original Scale	Des/Drawn	Checked	Authorised
1:100	AOS	CP	MJ
Date	Date	Date	Date
24.02.23	24.02.23	24.02.23	24.02.23

Status	Drawing Number	Rev
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A1

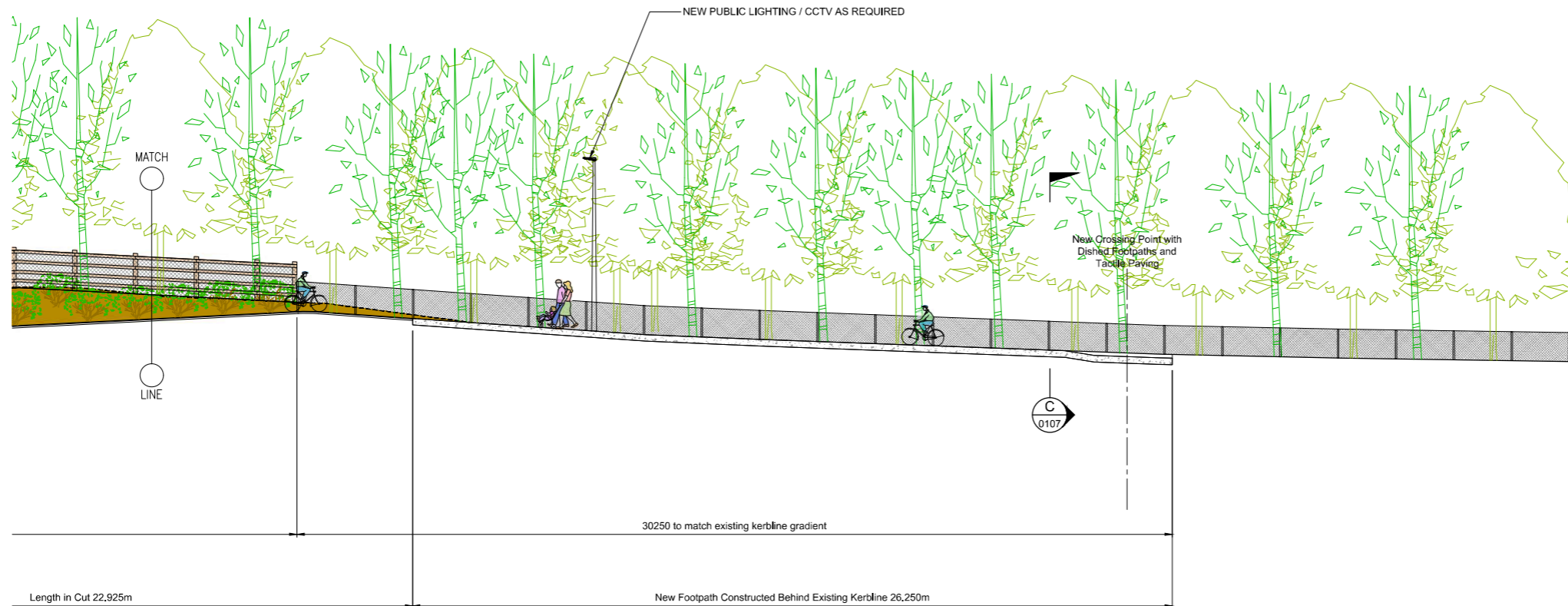
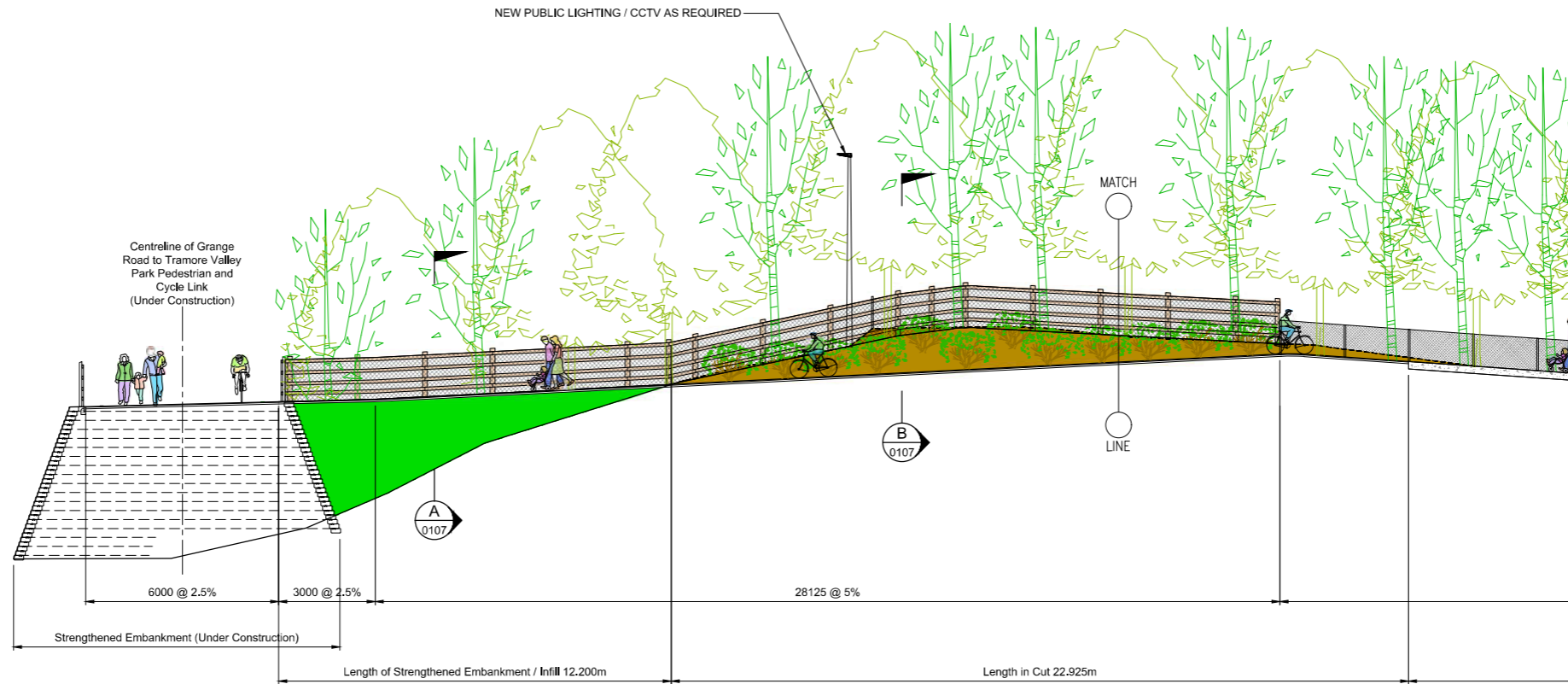
DO NOT SCALE

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Date: Mar 08, 2023 - 5:09pm
Plotted by: aocullivan

100

0

10



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Rev	Description	By	Date	Chk'd	Auth
-	PART 8 PLANNING	AOS	03.23	CP	MJ
-	ISSUED FOR REVIEW	AOS	02.23	CP	MJ
-	ISSUED FOR INFORMATION	AOS	01.23	CP	MJ

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Cork T12 T997

Project
PROPOSED ACCESS LINK
from ALDEN GROVE to
Grange Road to Tramore Valley Park
Pedestrian and Cycle Link

Purpose **PART 8 PLANNING**

Title **DEVELOPED ELEVATION ALONG ACCESS LINK**

Original Scale	Des/Drawn	Checked	CP	Authorised	MJ
1:100	AOS	CP	CP	MJ	MJ
Date	24.02.23	Date	24.02.23	Date	24.02.23

Status	Drawing Number	Rev
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A1

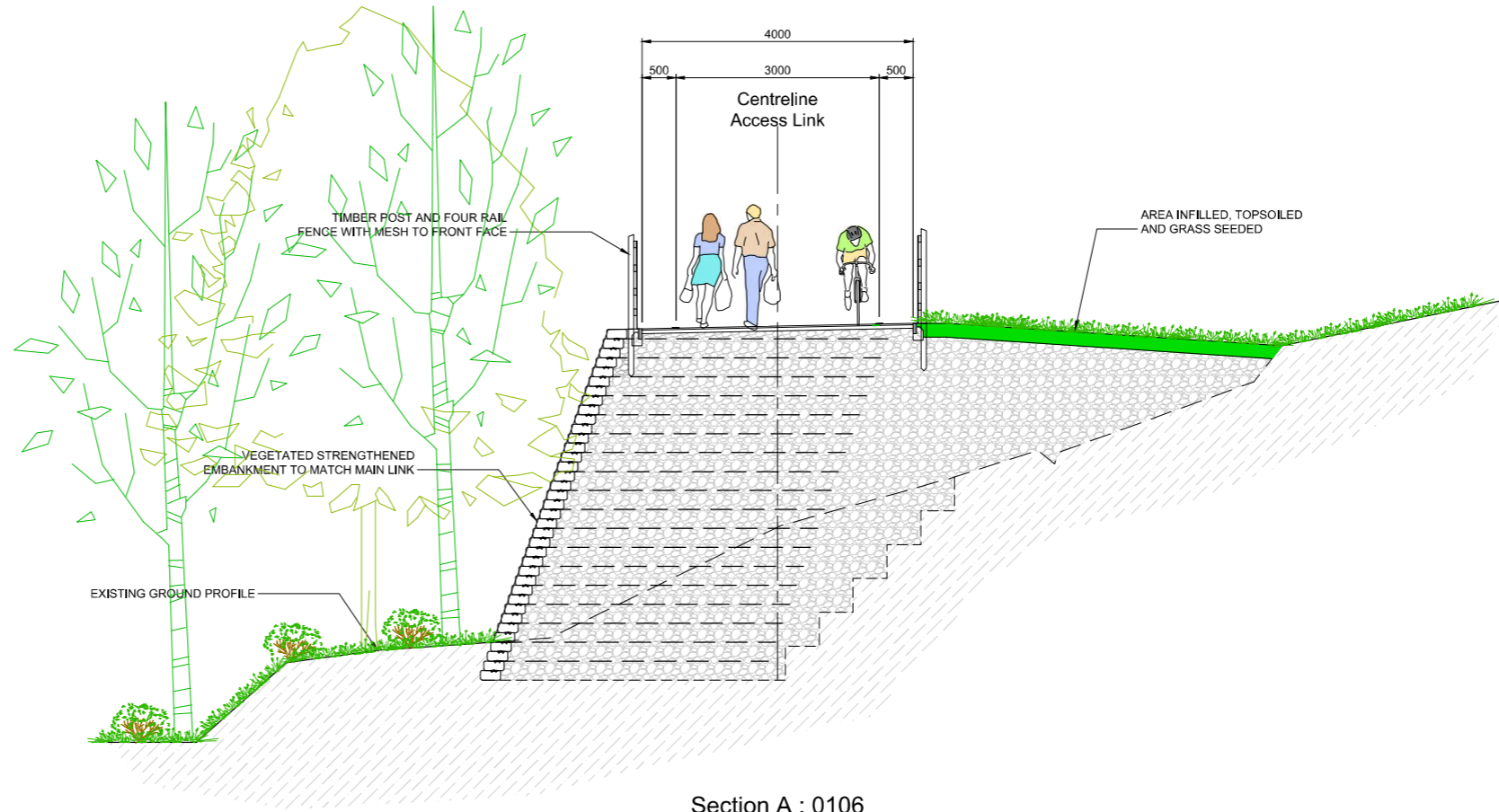
DO NOT SCALE

File: 5209364-ATK-XX-XX-DR-CE-900106 to 0107.dwg
Date: Mar 08, 2023 - 5:09pm
Plotted by: aocullivan

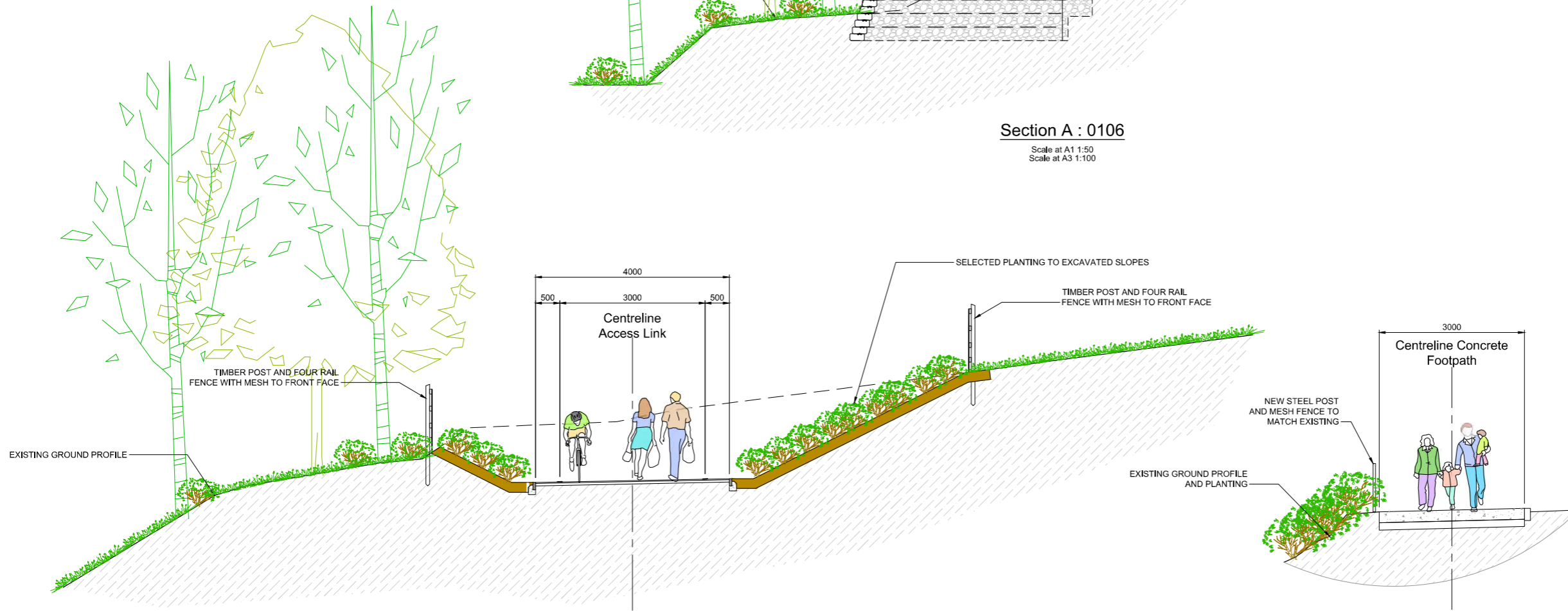
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0 10

GENERAL NOTES

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4. ALL COORDINATES ARE IN METRES AND ARE TO IRISH TRANSVERSE MERCATOR.



Section A : 0106
Scale at A1 1:50
Scale at A3 1:100



Section B : 0106
Scale at A1 1:50
Scale at A3 1:100

Section C : 0106
Scale at A1 1:50
Scale at A3 1:100

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Rev	Description	By	Date	Chk'd	Auth
-	PART 8 PLANNING		AOS 03.23	CP	MJ
-	ISSUED FOR REVIEW		AOS 02.23	CP	MJ
-	ISSUED FOR INFORMATION		AOS 01.23	CP	MJ

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Project
PROPOSED ACCESS LINK
from ALDEN GROVE to
Grange Road to Tramore Valley Park
Pedestrian and Cycle Link

Purpose
PART 8 PLANNING

Title
TYPICAL CROSS SECTIONS

Original Scale	Des/Drawn	Checked	Authorised
1:50	AOS	CP	MJ
Date	24.02.23	Date	24.02.23
Status	Drawing Number	Rev	
P	5209364-ATK-XX-XX-DR-CE-90107	-	

Appendix A. Part 8 Drawings

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<contact info>

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