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# DODDER GREENWAY RAPID BUILD SCHEME MILLTOWN

## Appropriate Assessment Screening Report



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Client:  
Dublin City Council  
Civic Offices  
Wood Quay  
Dublin 8  
D08 RF3F

## Dodder Greenway Rapid Build Scheme Milltown

### Appropriate Assessment Screening Report

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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Background**

The Active Travel Support Office (ATSO) was commissioned by Dublin City Council to produce an Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening Report in respect of the proposed Dodder Greenway Rapid Build Scheme Milltown (“the proposed development”).

The AA Screening Report is intended to determine whether or not the proposed development, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, in view of best scientific knowledge, is likely to have a significant effect on areas designated as being of European importance for nature conservation (“European sites”), thereby enabling Dublin City Council, as the Competent Authority in this case, to fulfil its obligations under Article 6(3) of Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (“the Habitats Directive”).

This document comprises the AA Screening Report in respect of the proposed development and was prepared by ATSO in accordance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive, as transposed into Irish law by Part XAB of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) (“the Planning and Development Act”). The aim of this AA Screening Report is to inform and assist the Competent Authority in determining whether or not the proposed development, either individually or in combination with other plans and projects, has the potential to significantly affect one or more European sites in view of their Conservation Objectives.

It is the considered opinion of ROD, as the author of this AA Screening Report, that the proposed development, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, in view of best scientific knowledge, does not have the potential to significantly affect the South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA, South Dublin Bay SAC, North Bull Island SPA, North Dublin Bay SAC, North-west Irish Sea cSPA, or any other European site, in view of their Conservation Objectives. Therefore, that AA is not required in respect of the proposed development.

### **1.2 Competent Experts**

This AA Screening Report was prepared by Jane Stafford; and reviewed by Patrick O’Shea. Jane is a Graduate Ecologist with a BSc in Wildlife Biology from the University of Montana. Patrick is a Principal Ecologist with ten years’ experience in ecological assessment. He holds a degree in Botany from Trinity College Dublin and an MSc in Ecological Management and Conservation Biology from Queen’s University Belfast. Patrick is a Full member of the Chartered Institute of Ecological and Environmental Management (CIEEM).

### **1.3 Legislative Context**

Council Directive 92/43/EEC of the 21<sup>st</sup> May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats of wild fauna and flora (“the Habitats Directive”) and Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of the 30<sup>th</sup> November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds (“the Birds Directive”) list habitats and species which are, in a European context, important for conservation and in need of protection. This protection is afforded in part through the designation of sites which support significant examples of habitats or populations of species. (“European sites”). Sites designated for wild birds are termed “Special Protection Areas” (SPAs) and sites designated for natural habitat types or other species are termed “Special Areas of Conservation” (SACs). The complete network of European sites is referred to as “Natura 2000”.

In order to ensure the protection of European sites in the context of land use planning and development, Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive provides for the assessment of the implications of plans and projects for European sites, as follows:

*“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<sup>1</sup> 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.”*

In Case C-323/17 [§34], *People Over Wind*, the Court of Justice of the European Union (‘the CJEU’) referred to the nature of the test to be applied in making a screening determination as follows:

*“[...] it is settled case-law that Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive makes the requirement for an appropriate assessment of the implications of a plan or project conditional on there being a probability or a risk that the plan or project in question will have a significant effect on the site concerned. In the light, in particular, of the precautionary principle, such a risk exists if it cannot be excluded on the basis of objective information that the plan or project will have a significant effect on the site concerned (judgment of 26 May 2011, Commission v Belgium, C-538/09, EU:C:2011:349, paragraph 39 and the case-law cited). The assessment of that risk must be made in the light inter alia of the characteristics and specific environmental conditions of the site concerned by such a plan or project (see, to that effect, judgment of 21 July 2016, Orleans and Others, C-387/15 and C-388/15, EU:C:2016:583, paragraph 45 and the case-law cited).”*

Further clarification on the use of mitigation measures was provided in *Eco Advocacy*<sup>2</sup>, where the CJEU ruled that where constituent elements are incorporated into the design of a project as standard features required for all projects of that nature and not with the aim of reducing negative effects of a project on European sites, those features cannot be regarded as indicative of likely significant effects on European sites concerned and should not be interpreted as mitigation measures intended to avoid or reduce harmful effects of a plan or project on those European sites. The judgment stated that:

*“In the light of the foregoing considerations, the answer to the fourth question is that Article 6(3) of the Directive 92/43 must be interpreted as meaning that, in order to determine whether it is necessary to carry out an appropriate assessment of the implications of a plan or project for a site, account may be taken of the features of that plan or project which involve the removal of contaminants and which therefore may have the effect of reducing harmful effects of the plan or project on that site, where those features have been incorporated into that plan or project as standard features, inherent in such a plan or project, irrespective of any effect on the site.”*

Article 7 of the Habitats Directive provides that the provisions of, *inter alia*, Article 6(3) are to apply to SPAs under Directive 2009/147/EC (the ‘Birds Directive’).

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<sup>1</sup> Including, where applicable, ‘sites’.

The determination of whether or not a plan or project requires AA is referred to as “Stage 1” or “AA Screening”. A “Stage 1” or “AA Screening” is completed to determine whether or not the proposed development, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, in view of best scientific knowledge, is likely to have a significant effect on areas designated as being of European importance for nature conservation (“European sites”), thereby enabling the Applicant, to fulfil its obligations under Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive.

Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive specifies that AA must be undertaken by the “competent national authorities”. In Ireland, the “Competent Authority” is the relevant planning authority for each plan or project, e.g. the local authority or An Bord Pleanála. Consequently, the responsibility for carrying out AA Screening lies solely with the Competent Authority. In that respect, the AA Screening Report is not in itself an AA Screening Assessment but provides the Competent Authority with the information it needs in order to carry out its AA Screening.

## 1.4 Screening Methodology

At this stage of the process, the AA Screening Report assesses the potential effects from the plan or project on the European sites within the Zone of Influence and evaluates them in view of the sites' Conservation Objectives.

This AA Screening Report has had regard inter alia to the following matters<sup>2</sup>:

- The threshold test is that an appropriate assessment will be required if the proposed development is likely *to have a significant effect* on (a) European site(s) either individually or in combination with other plans or protects.
- It is not necessary, in order to trigger the requirement to proceed to stage 2 AA that the proposed development will *'definitely'* have significant effects on the protected site, but such a requirement will arise if it is a *'mere probability'* that such an effect exists. The requirement to carry out an AA will be satisfied if there is a *'probability or a risk'* that the proposed development will have *'significant effects'* on (a) European site(s).
- Consequent upon the application of the precautionary principle, such a *'risk'* will be found to exist if *'it cannot be excluded on the basis of objective information'* that the particular proposed development *'will have significant effects'* on (a) European site(s).
- An AA will be required if, on the basis of objective information, a *'significant effect'* on a European site *'cannot be excluded'*. An AA will not be required if, on the basis of objective information, a *'significant effect'* on (a) European site(s) *'can be excluded'*.
- In the case of *'doubt as to the absence of significant effects'* an AA must be carried out.
- The requirement to conduct an AA will arise where, at the screening stage, it is ascertained that the particular development is *'capable of having any effect'* (albeit this must be any *'significant effect'*) on (a) European site(s).
- The *'possibility'* of there being a *'significant effect'* on (a) European site(s) will give rise to a requirement to carry out an AA for the purposes of Article 6(3). There is no need to *'establish'* such an effect and it is merely necessary to determine that there *'may be'* such an effect.
- In order to meet the threshold of likelihood of significant effect, the word *'likely'* in Article 6(3) means less than the balance of probabilities. The test does not require any *'hard and fast evidence'* that such a significant effect was likely. It merely has to be shown that there is a *'possibility'* that this significant effect is likely.
- The assessment of whether there is a risk of *'significant effect'* on the European site must be made in light, inter alia, of the *'characteristics and specific environmental conditions of the site concerned'* by the relevant plan or project.
- Plans or projects or applications for developments which have *no appreciable effect* on European sites are excluded from the requirement to proceed to AA. If all applications for permission for proposed developments capable of having *any effect whatsoever* on such sites were to be caught by Article 6(3) *activities on or near the site would risk being impossible by reason of legislative overkill.*

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<sup>2</sup> See Eoin Kelly v. An Bord Pleanála [2019] IEHC 84; Kelly v. An Bord Pleanála [2014] IEHC 400; Connelly v. An Bord Pleanála [2018] IESC 31; [2018] ILRM 453.

While the threshold at the screening stage of Article 6(3) is very low nonetheless it is a threshold which must be met before it is necessary to proceed to the stage 2 AA.

Accordingly, best practice in undertaking AA Screening involves five steps as follows:

- (1) The first step involves gathering the information and data necessary to carry out a screening assessment. These include, but are not limited to, the details of all phases of the plan or project, environmental data pertaining to the area in which the plan or project is located, e.g. rare or protected habitats and species present or likely to be present, and the details of the European sites within the Zone of Influence.
- (2) The second step involves examining the information gathered in the first step and a scientific analysis of the potential impacts of the project on the receiving environment, particularly the European sites in the Zone of Influence.
- (3) The third step evaluates the impacts analysed in the second step against the Conservation Objectives of the relevant European sites, thereby determining whether or not those impacts constitute "likely significant effects", within the meaning of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive.
- (4) The fourth step involves considering the potential for likely significant effects to arise from the combination of the impacts of the plan or project with those of other plans or projects. If it is determined in the third step that Stage 2 (AA) is required, consideration of potential cumulative impacts may be deferred to that stage.
- (5) The last step involves the issuing of a statement of the determination of the AA Screening. Notwithstanding the recommendation made in the AA Screening Report, the responsibility for completing this step lies solely with the Competent Authority.

The following guidance documents informed the assessment methodology:

- European Commission (EC) (2021) *Assessment of plans and projects in relation to Natura 2000 sites: Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC*. Environment Directorate-General of the European Commission.
- European Commission (EC) (2018) *Managing Natura 2000 sites: The provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC*. European Commission, Brussels.
- Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DEHLG) (2010) *Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland – Guidance for Planning Authorities*. Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Dublin.
- National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) (2010) *Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive: Guidance for Planning Authorities*. Circular Letter NPW 1/10 & PSSP 2/10. National Parks & Wildlife Service, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Dublin.
- Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR) (2021) *Practice Note PN01: Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management*. Office of the Planning Regulator.

## 1.5 Ecological Assessment

In order to fully inform this AA Screening Report in respect of the proposed development, it was necessary to establish the baseline ecological conditions in the receiving environment, particularly with regard to European sites.

### 1.5.1 Desk Study

During the desk study, the statutory consultee, the National Parks & Wildlife Service (NPWS), provided data on designations of sites, habitats and species of conservation interest. This included reporting pursuant to Article 17 of the Habitats Directive<sup>3</sup> (NPWS, 2019a, b, c) and Article 12 of the Birds Directive<sup>4</sup> (Eionet, 2018), as well as the Site Synopses and Conservation Objectives for the relevant European sites.

The desk study involved a thorough review of existing information relating to ecology in the vicinity of the proposed development and in the surrounding area. A number of web-based geographic information systems (GISs) were used to obtain information relating to the natural environment surrounding the proposed development. These included the NPWS *Map Viewer* (NPWS, 2023c), which provided information on the locations of protected sites, the National Biodiversity Data Centre's *Biodiversity Maps* (NBDC, 2023), which provided recent and historic records of rare and protected species in the area as well as the Environmental Protection Agency's *Unified GIS Application* (EPA, 2023) which provided additional information on the wider environment.

Ecological surveys were conducted as part of the Dodder Greenway scheme between March and July 2016, and updated in August and September 2019. The surveys aimed to identify and record habitats and rare, protected, and invasive species. The results of these surveys were reviewed as part of the desk study.

As with all desk studies, the data considered were only as good as the data supplied by the recorders and recording schemes. The recording schemes provide disclaimers in relation to the quality and quantity of the data they provide, and these were considered when examining outputs of the desk study.

### 1.5.2 Assessment

The ecological baseline which was established by the desk study described above. This informed the assessment of the potential ecological effects likely to arise from the proposed development, particularly with regard to European sites. Any assumptions that were made in view of gaps in the ecological data were made in accordance with the Precautionary Principle.

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<sup>3</sup> Under Article 17, to report to the European Commission every six years on their status and on the implementation of the measures taken under the Directive.

<sup>4</sup> Every three years, Member States of the European Union are required by Article 12 of the Birds Directive to report on implementation of the Directive. The most recent reporting available is for the period 2008-2012.



## 2.0 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

### 2.1 Overview of the Proposed Development

The proposed development will consist of a 0.9km walking and cycling route along the Milltown Road between Dartry Park and the Packhorse Bridge and onwards to the Dundrum Road. The proposed development will form part of the Dodder Greenway Project, which will eventually link Grand Canal Dock with Bohernabreena.

On the southern side of Milltown Road, a two-way segregated cycling route is proposed from Dodder Walk to west of the Nine Arches Bridge. This will include junction upgrades to the Dodder Walk, and South Hill and Churchtown Roads, a new toucan crossing at the existing western entrance to Shanagarry Park, two bus stops, and the provision of cyclist access to Shanagarry Park on the southside and Richmond Avenue South on the northside of Milltown Road. Tree removal, public lighting column relocation and ESB cable grounding is required to overcome road space pinch points between South Hill and the Dropping Well.

The existing one-way cycle lanes on the Nine Arches Bridge to the Dundrum Road will be retained and upgraded to current standards and protected with segregation bollards. The existing cycle lane layout will be altered on the approach to the Dundrum Road. A new toucan crossing will be provided at the existing eastern entrance to Shanagarry Park. This will allow access to the Packhorse Bridge, and the south side of the River Dodder and the Dodder Trail.

### 2.2 Location

The proposed development is located on the Milltown Road in Milltown, Co. Dublin.



**Figure 2.2.1 Proposed Dodder Greenway Rapid Build Scheme Milltown Location. Basemap was provided by Google.**

## 2.3 Construction Methodology

The following activities will be undertaken as part of the construction of the proposed development:

- Tree removal
- Wall retention and strengthening works
- Site clearance
- New ducting, allowing for grounding of existing overhead ESB service and relocation of public lighting
- Relocation of public lighting to the back of new footpaths
- Casting of footpaths, kerbs, traffic islands and bus stops
- Carriageway construction and pavement installation
- Traffic signal installation
- Paving, line markings, signage and traffic signals at toucan crossing
- Bollard installation

The construction methodology for the proposed development will vary. Full depth construction will be undertaken where for the construction of ducting and the grounding of ESB services. This will involve excavating to a depth of 665mm. The scheme will then be made up of 300mm of subbase material (if required), 250mm base course, 65mm binder course and 50mm surface course. The construction of footpaths, kerbs and traffic islands will utilize typical cast in-situ concrete. Roads and cycle tracks will be surfaced using asphalt. Traffic signal poles will comprise of stainless steel. Thermoplastic ducting and general reflectorised thermoplastic road markings will also be utilized for the proposed development. While exact quantities of materials required have not been determined, the amount of aggregates that will be required during the construction phase will be relatively minor as the footprint of the proposed development is confined to the existing footpaths and carriageway along Milltown Road and Dodder Walk.

Where ducting etc is not required, a proposed works will involve a simple plane of the existing surface to a depth of 50mm, resurfacing and painting of new line markings.

Eleven Hornbeam trees (*Carpinus betulus*) which currently block street lighting in the area will be removed. Any trees removed will be replaced at a 2:1 ratio in the area.

The existing drainage network will be utilized and there will be no impact to the existing flood regime in the area. Dublin City Council is aware of the current Flood Defence Scheme currently being undertaken along the Dodder River and are engaging with the Flood Defence design team as this project progresses.

### **Phasing of the Construction Phase**

The construction phase of the proposed development is expected to take between eight and ten months to complete and will be undertaken in three phases. The works will be undertaken during daylight hours. The three phases are presented below in sequence order:

### **Phase 1: Milltown Road (west of Churchtown Road inclusive of junction)**

Where ducting etc is not required, the proposed works will involve a simple plane of the existing surface to a depth of 50mm, resurfacing and painting of new line markings. New ducting will be installed to allow for the grounding of existing overhead ESB services and the relocation of public lighting. Traffic signals will also be installed at the toucan crossing at the Dodder Walk and at the upgraded junction at Churchtown Road Lower and Milltown Road. Dodder Walk will remain designated as a mixed traffic street. The 11 no. trees along the north side of the Milltown Road will be removed and the retaining wall on the north side of the Milltown Road will be strengthened, as required.

### **Phase 2: Milltown Road (east of Churchtown Road and west of Nine Arches Bridge)**

Where ducting etc is not required, the proposed works will involve a simple plane of the existing surface to a depth of 50mm, resurfacing and painting of new line markings. New ducting will be installed to allow for the grounding of existing overhead ESB services and the relocation of public lighting. Traffic signals will be installed at the toucan crossing to the west of the Nine Arches Bridge. New pavements and associated paving, line markings and signage will be installed for the cycle facility.

### **Phase 3: Milltown Road (east of Nine Arches Bridge)**

Where ducting etc is not required, the proposed works will involve a simple plane of the existing surface to a depth of 50mm, resurfacing and painting of new line markings. New ducting will be installed to allow for the grounding of existing overhead ESB services and the relocation of public lighting. Ducting will be installed at the Dundrum Road junction for revised traffic signals. Traffic signals will be installed at the toucan crossing at Pack Horse Bridge and at the Dundrum Road junction. Carriageway pavement and associated paving, line markings, signage and a new toucan crossing will be installed at the Dundrum Road junction. New bollards will be installed along the cycle track.

## **2.4 Receiving Natural Environment**

The primary land uses in this area are residential, commercial, and recreational. Habitats found in proximity of the proposed development include Buildings and artificial surfaces (BL3), Flower beds and borders (BC4), Depositing/lowland rivers (FW2), Amenity grassland (improved) (GA2), Broadleaved woodland (mixed) (WD1), and Treelines (WL2), according to Fossitt (2000). The proposed development will be constructed on the existing Milltown Road and Dodder Walk and will therefore largely be constructed on existing paved and artificial surfaces.

### **Water courses**

The River Dodder runs in a north easterly direction adjacent to the proposed development. The distance from the River to the proposed development ranges from 15m to 100m. A number of smaller watercourses flow into the River Dodder upstream of the proposed development including the Little Dargle and the Slang. The River Dodder joins the River Liffey approximately 4.8km downstream of the proposed development.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is responsible for monitoring the quality of all waterbodies in Ireland and these results are available online. The nearest EPA water monitoring station is located at the Milltown Bridge, adjacent to the proposed development. The results for the River Dodder are summarised below in Table 2.1.

**Table 2.1 EPA Q Values**

Rating	Score	Distance from Proposed Development
Moderate	3-4	Adjacent to the proposed development
Moderate	3-4	1.4km downstream
Poor	2-3	1.5km upstream
Poor	2-3	2.6km downstream

The Water Frameworks Directive (WFD) provides information regarding waterbody statuses recorded in accordance with European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations 2003 (SI no. 722/2003), and the level of risk for each waterbody of failing to meet their WFD objectives by 2027. The previously mentioned Slang River, Little Dargle River and the River Dodder tributary are monitored under 'Dodder\_050.'

The current WFD status for the river, transitional, coastal, and ground waterbodies in proximity to the proposed development are presented in Table 2.2.

**Table 2.2 WFD Water Monitoring Results**

Waterbody	Waterbody WFD Status 2016 – 2021	Waterbody Risk
River Dodder (050)	Moderate	At risk
Liffey Estuary Lower	Moderate	At risk
Dublin Bay	Good	Not at risk
Dublin Groundwater	Good	Review

## 2.5 Likely Effects on the Natural Environment

### Disturbance

Noise, vibration, and visual disturbance will cause impacts during the construction phase and have the potential to impede the movement of species, including mammals and birds, in and around the area of the proposed development.

The operation phase of the proposed development has the potential to cause disturbance to wildlife via the increase in artificial light spill and increased human presence.

### Water Quality

The River Dodder is directly adjacent to the proposed development. There is potential for negative impacts on the River Dodder as a result of the proposed development. Run-off such as pollutants from the machinery and materials have the potential to cause negative effects on water quality. During the operation phase of the proposed development, negative impacts to water quality in the surrounding environment as a result of surface water runoff are not expected to increase from the baseline, given that the proposed development is on an existing roadway and will not lead to an increase in motorised traffic.

## 3.0 IDENTIFICATION OF LIKELY SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS

### 3.1 Establishing the Zone of Influence

Section 3.2.3 of DEHLG (2010) outlines the procedure for selecting the European sites to be considered in AA. It states that European sites potentially affected should be identified and listed, bearing in mind the potential for direct, indirect and in-combination effects. It also states that the specific approach in each case is likely to differ depending on the scale and likely effects of the plan or project. However, it advises that the following sites should generally be included:

- All European sites within or immediately adjacent to the plan or project area;
- All European sites within the Zone of Influence of the plan or project; and,
- In accordance with the Precautionary Principle, all European sites for which there is doubt as to whether or not they might be significantly affected.

The “Zone of Influence” of a project is the geographic extent over which significant ecological effects are likely to occur. In the case of projects, the guidance recognises that the Zone of Influence must be established on a case-by-case basis using the Source-Pathway-Receptor Model (OPR, 2021). A project may only lead to significant effects on the integrity of the European site where all three elements of Source-Pathway-Receptor are linked. In the absence of one element of this model, likely significant effects can be screened out with confidence. The assessment should make reference to the following key variables:

- The nature, size and location of the project;
- The nature of the impacts which may arise from the project;
- The sensitivities of the ecological receptors; and,
- The potential for in-combination effects.

For example, in the case of a project that could affect a watercourse, it may be necessary to include the entire upstream and/or downstream catchment in order to capture all European sites with water-dependent features of interest.

Having regard to the above key variables, the Zone of Influence was defined as:

- The proposed development site plus a 1 km buffer.
- The downstream extent of the River Dodder from the proposed development including the Liffey Estuary Lower transitional waterbody.

This area was defined as the Zone of Influence as it extends to the maximum distance at which potential likely significant effects could occur including via hydrological connections. Additionally, 550m is considered the maximum distance at which waterbirds may be disturbed (Cutts et al. 2013). Therefore, 1km around the proposed development site is a conservative distance within which there will be no discernible increase in noise, vibration, or visual disturbance.

A geographical representation of the Zone of Influence was produced in QGIS 3.26.1 using the proposed development boundary and publicly available OpenStreetMaps. This was used in combination with NPWS shapefiles to identify the boundaries of European sites in relation to the Zone of Influence (Figure 3.1).

It was determined that five European sites occur within or adjacent to the Zone of Influence for the proposed development. The Zone of Influence is illustrated in Figure 3.1. Table 3.1 assesses if and how these sites are connected to the proposed development. A detailed description of these sites are provided in Section 3.2.

On the 13th of July 2023, in accordance with Regulation 16 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 as amended (S.I. No.477 of 2011), the Minister for Heritage and Electoral Reform published a notice of intention to designate the North-West Irish Sea cSPA. Site-specific Conservation Objectives were published on the 19th of September 2023.

The processes for designating SPAs and SACs are different. In order to designate an SAC, a member state sends a list of 'proposed sites of community importance' to the European Commission for assessment, and formal adoption. Proposed sites of community importance are afforded full protection as European sites from the moment they are proposed. SPAs on the other hand, are designated by each Member State, with no direct input from the EC.

In Ireland, the Habitats Regulations set out the process for designating SPAs which includes the proposal of the SPA, a 'candidate SPA' and a public consultation. Following the public consultation, the SPA is formally designated by Statutory Instrument no less than three months and no more than 18 months from the date it was proposed as a cSPA. Until the Statutory Instrument is published, the site is not designated.

In anticipation of the formal designation of this European site, an assessment of potential significant effects on the North-west Irish Sea cSPA has been included in this AA Screening Report.

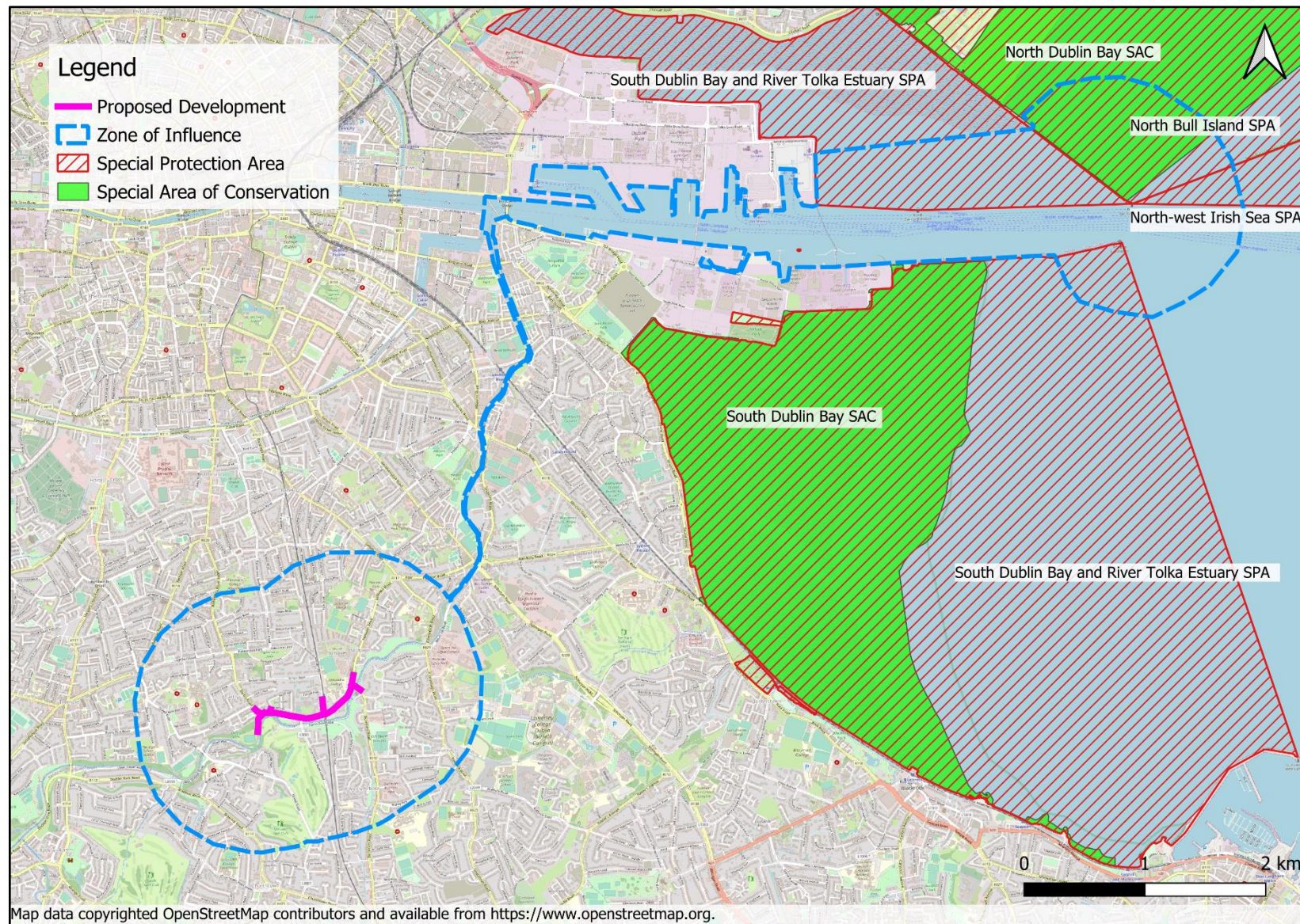


Figure 3.1 Location of European sites in relation to the Zone of Influence of the proposed development.

**Table 3.1 European sites located within and adjacent to Zone of Influence.**

European site [site code]	Are there potential pathways for impacts from the Project to this site? Explain.
<b>South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA [004024]</b>	<b>Yes.</b> This site is approximately 2.9km east of the proposed development. The shortest distance from the proposed development to this site via a hydrological connection is approximately 5 km (through the River Liffey) to the ESB Dolphin in Dublin Port, which is within the Zone of Influence. The proposed development has the potential the negatively impact qualifying interest species for this site through disturbance and negative impacts to water quality. Therefore, there are potential pathways for impacts on this site.
<b>South Dublin Bay SAC [000210]</b>	<b>No.</b> This site is approximately 2.9km east of the proposed development. It is separated from the Zone of Influence by the Great South Wall. The shortest distance from the proposed development to this site via a hydrological connection is approximately 11.5 km (through the River Liffey and Dublin Bay) to the southern side of the Great South Wall. As this site is not located within the Zone of Influence and is sheltered from the Liffey and its transitional waters by the Great South Wall, there are no potential pathways for impacts on this site.
<b>North Bull Island SPA [004006]</b>	<b>Yes.</b> The shortest distance from the proposed development to this site via a hydrological connection is approximately 9.5 km (through the River Liffey and Dublin Bay). This is within the Zone of Influence. The proposed development has the potential the negatively impact qualifying interest species for this site through disturbance and negative impacts to water quality. Therefore, there are potential pathways for impacts on this site.
<b>North Dublin Bay SAC [000206]</b>	<b>Yes.</b> The shortest distance from the proposed development to this site via a hydrological connection is approximately 9.5 km (through the River Liffey and Dublin Bay). This is within the Zone of Influence. This is within the Zone of Influence. The proposed development has the potential the negatively impact qualifying interest species for this site through negative impacts to water quality and habitat degradation. Therefore, there are potential pathways for impact on this site.
<b>North-west Irish Sea cSPA [004236]</b>	<b>Yes.</b> The shortest distance from the proposed development to this site via a hydrological connection is approximately 10 km (through the River Liffey and Dublin Bay). This is within the Zone of Influence. The proposed development has the potential the negatively impact qualifying interest species for this site through disturbance and negative impacts to water quality. Therefore, there are potential pathways for impacts on this site.



## 3.2 Site Description

### 3.2.1 South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA

The description of the South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA provided here is based on the Conservation Objectives (NPWS, 2015b) and Site Synopsis (NPWS, 2015c) for the site.

- [A046] Light-bellied Brent Goose (*Branta bernicla hrota*)
- [A130] Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*)
- [A137] Ringed Plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*)
- [A141] Grey Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*)
- [A143] Knot (*Calidris canutus*)
- [A144] Sanderling (*Calidris alba*)
- [A149] Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*)
- [A157] Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*)
- [A162] Redshank (*Tringa tetanus*)
- [A179] Black-headed Gull (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*)
- [A192] Roseate Tern (*Sterna dougallii*)
- [A193] Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*)
- [A194] Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*)
- [A999] Wetlands

The South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA comprises a substantial part of Dublin Bay. It includes the intertidal area between the River Liffey and Dun Laoghaire, and the estuary of the River Tolka to the north of the River Liffey, as well as Booterstown Marsh. A portion of the shallow marine waters of the bay is also included.

In the south bay, the intertidal flats extend for almost 3km at their widest. The sediments are predominantly well-aerated sands. Several permanent channels exist, the largest being Cockle Lake. A small sandy beach occurs at Merrion Gates, while some bedrock shore occurs near Dun Laoghaire. The landward boundary is now almost entirely artificially embanked. There is a bed of Dwarf Eelgrass (*Zostera noltii*) below Merrion Gates which is the largest stand on the east coast. Green algae (*Ulva* spp.) are distributed throughout the area at a low density. The macro-invertebrate fauna is well-developed, and is characterised by annelids such as Lugworm (*Arenicola marina*), Nephthys spp. and Sand Mason (*Lanice conchilega*), and bivalves, especially Cockle (*Cerastoderma edule*) and Baltic Tellin (*Macoma balthica*). The small gastropod Spire Shell (*Hydrobia ulvae*) occurs on the muddy sands off Merrion Gates, along with the crustacean *Corophium volutator*. Sediments in the Tolka Estuary vary from soft thixotropic muds with a high organic content in the inner estuary to exposed, well-aerated sands off the Bull Wall. The site includes Booterstown Marsh, an enclosed area of saltmarsh and muds that is cut off from the sea by the Dublin/Wexford railway line, being linked only by a channel to the east, the Nutley stream. Sea water incursions into the marsh occur along this stream at high tide. An area of grassland at Poolbeg, north of Irishtown Nature Park, is also included in the site.

The site is a Special Protection Area (SPA) under the E.U. Birds Directive, of special conservation interest for the following species: Light-bellied Brent Goose, Oystercatcher, Ringed Plover, Grey Plover, Knot, Sanderling, Dunlin, Bar-tailed Godwit, Redshank, Black-headed Gull, Roseate Tern, Common Tern and Arctic Tern. The E.U. Birds Directive pays particular attention to wetlands, and as these form part of the SPA, the site and its associated waterbirds are of special conservation interest for Wetland & Waterbirds.

The site is an important site for wintering waterfowl, being an integral part of the internationally important Dublin Bay complex – all counts for wintering waterbirds are five year mean peaks for the period 1995/96 to 1999/2000. Although birds regularly commute between the south bay and the north bay, recent studies have shown that certain populations which occur in the south bay spend most of their time there. An internationally important population of Light-bellied Brent Goose (368) occurs regularly and newly arrived birds in the autumn feed on the Eelgrass bed at Merrion. At the time of designation the site supported nationally important numbers of a further nine species: Oystercatcher (1,145), Ringed Plover (161), Grey Plover (45), Knot (548), Sanderling (321), Dunlin (1,923), Bar-tailed Godwit (766), Redshank (260) and Black-headed Gull (3,040). Other species occurring in smaller numbers include Great Crested Grebe (21), Curlew (127) and Turnstone (52). Little Egret, a species which has recently colonised Ireland, also occurs at this site.

South Dublin Bay is a significant site for wintering gulls, with a nationally important population of Black-headed Gull, but also Common Gull (330) and Herring Gull (348). Mediterranean Gull is also recorded from here, occurring through much of the year, but especially in late winter/spring and again in late summer into winter.

Both Common Tern and Arctic Tern breed in Dublin Docks, on a man-made mooring structure known as the E.S.B. dolphin – this is included within the site. Small numbers of Common Tern and Arctic Tern were recorded nesting on this dolphin in the 1980s. A survey in 1995 recorded nationally important numbers of Common Tern nesting here (52 pairs). The breeding population of Common Tern at this site has increased, with 216 pairs recorded in 2000. This increase was largely due to the ongoing management of the site for breeding terns. More recent data highlights this site as one of the most important Common Tern sites in the country with over 400 pairs recorded here in 2007.

South Dublin Bay is an important staging/passage site for a number of tern species in the autumn (mostly late July to September). The origin of many of the birds is likely to be the Dublin breeding sites (Rockabill and the Dublin Docks) though numbers suggest that the site is also used by birds from other sites, perhaps outside the state. This site is selected for designation for its autumn tern populations: Roseate Tern (2,000 in 1999), Common Tern (5,000 in 1999) and Arctic Tern (20,000 in 1996).

The South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA is of ornithological importance as it supports an internationally important population of Light-bellied Brent Goose and nationally important populations of a further nine wintering species. Furthermore, the site supports a nationally important colony of breeding Common Tern and is an internationally important passage/staging site for three tern species. It is of note that four of the species that regularly occur at this site are listed on Annex I of the E.U. Birds Directive, i.e. Bar-tailed Godwit, Common Tern, Arctic Tern and Roseate Tern. Sandymount Strand/Tolka Estuary is also a Ramsar Convention site.

### 3.2.2 North Bull Island SPA

The description of the North Bull Island SPA provided here is based on the Conservation Objectives (NPWS, 2015a) and Site Synopsis (NPWS, 2014) for the site.

#### Qualifying Interests of the Site

- [A048] Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*)
- [A052] Teal (*Anas crecca*)
- [A054] Pintail (*Anas acuta*)
- [A056] Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*)
- [A130] Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*)
- [A140] Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*)
- [A141] Grey Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*)
- [A143] Knot (*Calidris canutus*)
- [A144] Sanderling (*Calidris alba*)
- [A149] Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*)
- [A156] Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*)
- [A157] Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*)
- [A160] Curlew (*Numenius arquata*)
- [A162] Redshank (*Tringa totanus*)
- [A169] Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*)
- [A179] Black-headed Gull (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*)
- [A999] Wetland and Waterbirds

This site covers all of the inner part of north Dublin Bay, with the seaward boundary extending from the Bull Wall lighthouse across to Drumleck Point at Howth Head. The North Bull Island sand spit is a relatively recent depositional feature, formed as a result of improvements to Dublin Port during the 18th and 19th centuries. It is almost 5km long and 1km wide and runs parallel to the coast between Clontarf and Sutton. Part of the interior of the island has been converted to golf courses.

Saltmarsh extends along the length of the landward side of the island and provides the main roost site for wintering birds in Dublin Bay. The island shelters two intertidal lagoons which are divided by a solid causeway. These lagoons provide the main feeding grounds for the wintering waterfowl. The sediments of the lagoons are mainly sands with a small and varying mixture of silt and clay. Green algal mats (*Ulva spp.*) are a feature of the flats during summer. These sediments have a rich macro-invertebrate fauna, with high densities of Lugworm (*Arenicola marina*) and Ragworm (*Hediste diversicolor*).

The site is a Special Protection Area (SPA) under the E.U. Birds Directive, of special conservation interest for the following species: Light-bellied Brent Goose, Shelduck, Teal, Pintail, Shoveler, Oystercatcher, Golden Plover, Grey Plover, Knot, Sanderling, Dunlin, Black-tailed Godwit, Bar-tailed Godwit, Curlew, Redshank, Turnstone and Black-headed Gull. 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.

The North Bull Island SPA is of international importance for waterfowl on the basis that it regularly supports in excess of 20,000 waterfowl. The site supports internationally important populations of three species, Light-bellied Brent Goose (1,548), Black-tailed Godwit (367) and Bar-tailed Godwit (1,529) - all figures are mean peaks for the five winters between 1995/96 and 1999/2000. The site is one of the most important in the country for Light-bellied Brent Goose. A further 14 species have populations of national importance – Shelduck (1,259), Teal (953), Pintail (233), Shoveler (141), Oystercatcher (1,784), Grey Plover (517), Golden Plover (2,033), Knot (2,837), Sanderling (141), Dunlin (4,146), Curlew (937), Redshank (1,431), Turnstone (157) and Black-headed Gull (2,196). The populations of Pintail and Knot are of particular note as they comprise 14% and 10% respectively of the all-Ireland population totals. Other species that occur regularly in winter include Grey Heron, Little Egret, Cormorant, Wigeon, Goldeneye, Red-breasted Merganser, Ringed Plover and Greenshank. Gulls are a feature of the site during winter and, along with the nationally important population of Black-headed Gull (2,196), other species that occur include Common Gull (332) and Herring Gull (331). While some of the birds also frequent South Dublin Bay and the River Tolka Estuary for feeding and/or roosting purposes, the majority remain within the site for much of the winter. The wintering bird populations have been monitored more or less continuously since the late 1960s and the site is now surveyed each winter as part of the larger Dublin Bay complex.

The North Bull Island SPA is a regular site for passage waders, especially Ruff, Curlew Sandpiper and Spotted Redshank. These are mostly observed in single figures in autumn but occasionally in spring or winter.

The site formerly had an important colony of Little Tern but breeding has not occurred in recent years. Several pairs of Ringed Plover breed, along with Shelduck in some years. Breeding passerines include Skylark, Meadow Pipit, Stonechat and Reed Bunting. The island is a regular wintering site for Short-eared Owl, with up to 5 present in some winters.

The North Bull Island SPA is an excellent example of an estuarine complex and is one of the top sites in Ireland for wintering waterfowl. It is of international importance on account of both the total number of waterfowl and the individual populations of Light-bellied Brent Goose, Black-tailed Godwit and Bar-tailed Godwit that use it. Also of significance is the regular presence of several species that are listed on Annex I of the E.U. Birds Directive, notably Golden Plover and Bar-tailed Godwit, but also Ruff and Short-eared Owl. North Bull Island is a Ramsar Convention site, and part of the North Bull Island SPA is a Statutory Nature Reserve and a Wildfowl Sanctuary.

### 3.2.3 North Dublin Bay SAC

The description of the North Dublin Bay SAC provided here is based on the Conservation Objectives (NPWS, 2013a) and Site Synopsis (NPWS, 2013b) for the site.

#### Qualifying Interests of the Site

- [1140] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide
- [1210] Annual vegetation of drift lines
- [1310] *Salicornia* and other annuals colonising mud and sand
- [1330] Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*)
- [1395] Petalwort (*Petalophyllum ralfsi*)
- [1410] Mediterranean salt meadows (*Juncetalia maritimi*)
- [2110] Embryonic shifting dunes
- [2120] Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* (white dunes)
- [2130] Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes)
- [2190] Humid dune slacks

#### Site Overview

North Bull Island is a sandy spit which formed after the building of the South Wall and Bull Wall in the 18th and 19th centuries. It now extends for about 5km in length and is up to 1km wide in places. A well-developed and dynamic dune system stretches along the seaward side of the island. Various types of dunes occur, from fixed dune grassland to pioneer communities on foredunes. Marram Grass (*Ammophila arenaria*) is dominant on the outer dune ridges, with Lyme-grass (*Leymus arenarius*) and Sand Couch (*Elymus farctus*) on the foredunes. Behind the first dune ridge, plant diversity increases with the appearance of such species as Wild Pansy (*Viola tricolor*), Kidney Vetch (*Anthyllis vulneraria*), Common Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), Common Restharrow (*Ononis repens*), Yellow-rattle (*Rhinanthus minor*) and Pyramidal Orchid (*Anacamptis pyramidalis*). In these grassy areas and slacks, the scarce Bee Orchid (*Ophrys apifera*) occurs.

About 1km from the tip of the island, a large dune slack with a rich flora occurs, usually referred to as the 'Alder Marsh' because of the presence of Alder trees (*Alnus glutinosa*). The water table is very near the surface and is only slightly brackish. Saltmarsh Rush (*Juncus maritimus*) is the dominant species, with Meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*) and Devil's-bit Scabious (*Succisa pratensis*) being frequent. The orchid flora is notable and includes Marsh Helleborine (*Epipactis palustris*), Common Twayblade (*Listera ovata*), Autumn Lady's-tresses (*Spiranthes spiralis*) and Marsh Orchids (*Dactylorhiza* spp.).

Saltmarsh extends along the length of the landward side of the island. The edge of the marsh is marked by an eroding edge which varies from 20cm to 60cm high. The marsh can be zoned into different levels according to the vegetation types present. On the lower marsh, Glasswort (*Salicornia europaea*), Common Saltmarsh-grass (*Puccinellia maritima*), Annual Sea-blite (*Suaeda maritima*) and Greater Sea-spurrey (*Spergularia media*) are the main species. Higher up in the middle marsh Sea Plantain (*Plantago maritima*), Sea Aster (*Aster tripolium*), Sea Arrowgrass (*Triglochin maritima*) and Thrift (*Armeria maritima*) appear. Above the mark of the normal high tide, species such as Common Scurvygrass (*Cochlearia officinalis*) and Sea Milkwort (*Glaux maritima*) are found, while on the extreme upper marsh, the rushes *Juncus maritimus* and *J. gerardi* are dominant. Towards the tip of the island, the saltmarsh grades naturally into fixed dune vegetation.

The habitat 'annual vegetation of drift lines' is found in places, along the length of Dollymount Strand, with species such as Sea Rocket (*Cakile maritima*), Oraches (*Atriplex spp.*) and Prickly Saltwort (*Salsola kali*).

The island shelters two intertidal lagoons which are divided by a solid causeway. The sediments of the lagoons are mainly sands with a small and varying mixture of silt and clay. The north lagoon has an area known as the "Salicornia flat", which is dominated by *Salicornia dolichostachya*, a pioneer glasswort species, and covers about 25 ha. Beaked Tasselweed (*Ruppia maritima*) occurs in this area, along with some Narrow-leaved Eelgrass (*Zostera angustifolia*). Dwarf Eelgrass (*Z. noltii*) also occurs in Sutton Creek. Common Cordgrass (*Spartina anglica*) occurs in places but its growth is controlled by management. Green algal mats (*Enteromorpha spp.*, *Ulva lactuca*) cover large areas of the flats during summer. These sediments have a rich macrofauna, with high densities of Lugworms (*Arenicola marina*) in parts of the north lagoon. Mussels (*Mytilus edulis*) occur in places, along with bivalves such as *Cerastoderma edule*, *Macoma balthica* and *Scrobicularia plana*. The small gastropod *Hydrobia ulvae* occurs in high densities in places, while the crustaceans *Corophium volutator* and *Carcinus maenas* are common. The sediments on the seaward side of North Bull Island are mostly sands. The site extends below the low spring tide mark to include an area of the sublittoral zone.

Three rare plant species which are legally protected under the Flora (Protection) Order, 1999 have been recorded on the North Bull Island. These are Lesser Centaury (*Centaureum pulchellum*), Red Hemp-nettle (*Galeopsis angustifolia*) and Meadow Saxifrage (*Saxifraga granulata*). Two further species listed as threatened in the Red Data Book, Wild Clary/Sage (*Salvia verbenaca*) and Spring Vetch (*Vicia lathyroides*), have also been recorded. A rare liverwort, *Petalophyllum ralfsii*, was first recorded from the North Bull Island in 1874 and has recently been confirmed as still present. This species is of high conservation value as it is listed on Annex II of the E.U. Habitats Directive. The North Bull is the only known extant site for the species in Ireland away from the western seaboard.

North Dublin Bay is of international importance for waterfowl. During the 1994/95 to 1996/97 period the following species occurred in internationally important numbers (figures are average maxima): Brent Goose 2,333; Knot 4,423; Bar-tailed Godwit 1,586. A further 14 species occurred in nationally important concentrations - Shelduck 1505; Wigeon 1,166; Teal 1,512; Pintail 334; Shoveler 239; Oystercatcher 2,190; Ringed Plover 346; Grey Plover 816; Sanderling 357; Dunlin 6,238; Black-tailed Godwit 156; Curlew 1,193; Turnstone 197 and Redshank 1,175. Some of these species frequent South Dublin Bay and the River Tolka Estuary for feeding and/or roosting purposes (mostly Brent Goose, Oystercatcher, Ringed Plover, Sanderling and Dunlin).

The tip of the North Bull Island is a traditional nesting site for Little Tern. A high total of 88 pairs nested in 1987. However, nesting attempts have not been successful since the early 1990s. Ringed Plover, Shelduck, Mallard, Skylark, Meadow Pipit and Stonechat also nest. A well-known population of Irish Hare is resident on the island.

The invertebrates of the North Bull Island have been studied and the island has been shown to contain at least seven species of regional or national importance in Ireland (from the Orders Diptera, Hymenoptera and Hemiptera).

The main land uses of this site are amenity activities and nature conservation. The North Bull Island is the main recreational beach in Co. Dublin and is used throughout the year. Much of the land surface of the island is taken up by two golf courses. Two separate Statutory Nature Reserves cover much of the island east of the Bull Wall and the surrounding intertidal flats. The site is used regularly for educational purposes. North Bull Island has been designated a Special Protection Area under the E.U. Birds Directive and it is also a statutory Wildfowl Sanctuary, a Ramsar Convention site, a Biogenetic Reserve, a Biosphere Reserve and a Special Area Amenity Order site.

This site is an excellent example of a coastal site with all the main habitats represented. The site holds good examples of nine habitats that are listed on Annex I of the E.U. Habitats Directive; one of these is listed with priority status. Several of the wintering bird species have populations of international importance, while some of the invertebrates are of national importance. The site contains a numbers of rare and scarce plants including some which are legally protected. Its proximity to the capital city makes North Dublin Bay an excellent site for educational studies and research.

### 3.2.4 North-west Irish Sea cSPA

The description of the 3.2.4 North-west Irish Sea cSPA provided here is based on the Conservation Objectives (NPWS, 2023a) and Site Synopsis (NPWS, 2023b) for the site.

#### Qualifying Interests of the Site

- [A001] Red-throated Diver (*Gavia stellata*)
- [A003] Great Northern Diver (*Gavia immer*)
- [A009] Fulmar (*Fulmarus glacialis*)
- [A013] Manx Shearwater (*Puffinus puffinus*)
- [A017] Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*)
- [A018] Shag (*Phalacrocorax aristotelis*)
- [A065] Common Scoter (*Melanitta nigra*)
- [A177] Little Gull (*Larus minutus*)
- [A179] Black-headed Gull (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*)
- [A182] Common Gull (*Larus canus*)
- [A183] Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*)
- [A184] Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*)
- [A187] Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*)
- [A188] Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*)
- [A192] Roseate Tern (*Sterna dougallii*)
- [A193] Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*)
- [A194] Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*)
- [A195] Little Tern (*Sterna albifrons*)
- [A199] Guillemot (*Uria aalge*)
- [A200] Razorbill (*Alca torda*)
- [A204] Puffin (*Fratercula arctica*)

#### Site Overview

The North-west Irish Sea cSPA constitutes an important resource for marine birds. The estuaries and bays that open into it along with connecting coastal stretches of intertidal and shallow subtidal habitats, provide safe feeding and roosting habitats for waterbirds throughout the winter and migration periods. These areas, along with more pelagic marine waters further offshore, provide additional supporting habitats (for foraging and other maintenance behaviours) for those seabirds that breed at colonies on the north-west Irish Sea's islands and coastal headlands. These marine areas are also important for seabirds outside the breeding period.

This SPA extends offshore along the coasts of counties Louth, Meath and Dublin, and is approximately 2,333km<sup>2</sup> in area. This SPA is ecologically connected to several existing SPAs in this area.



The site is a Special Protection Area (SPA) under the E.U. Birds Directive, of special conservation interest for the following species: Common Scoter, Red-throated Diver, Great Northern Diver, Fulmar, Manx Shearwater, Shag, Cormorant, Little Gull, Kittiwake, Black-headed Gull, Common Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Herring Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Little Tern, Roseate Tern, Common Tern, Arctic Tern, Puffin, Razorbill and Guillemot.

The breeding seabird species listed for those SPAs, which abut the North-West Irish Sea SPA are: Fulmar (Lambay Island SPA); Cormorant (Skerries Island SPA; Ireland's Eye SPA; Lambay Island SPA); Shag (Skerries Island SPA; Lambay Island SPA); Lesser Black-backed Gull (Lambay Island SPA); Herring Gull (Skerries Island SPA; Ireland's Eye SPA; Lambay Island SPA); Kittiwake (Lambay Island SPA; Ireland's Eye SPA; Howth Head SPA); Roseate Tern (Rockabill SPA); Common Tern (Rockabill SPA); Arctic Tern (Rockabill SPA); Little Tern (Boyne Estuary SPA); Guillemot (Lambay Island SPA, Ireland's Eye SPA); Razorbill (Lambay Island SPA, Ireland's Eye SPA); and Puffin (Lambay Island SPA). The Common Tern population that is listed for the nearby South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA is also likely to use this SPA as a foraging resource.

Informed by two surveys of the western Irish Sea region in 2016 an estimated 120,232 and 34,626 individual marine birds occurred in this SPA during autumn and winter respectively. Those marine bird species whose estimated abundances equalled or exceeded 1% of the total estimated size of the winter assemblage are: Red-throated Diver (538), Fulmar (506), Little Gull (391), Kittiwake (944), Black-headed Gull (508), Common Gull (2,866), Herring Gull (6,893), Great Black-backed Gull (2,096), Razorbill (4,638) and Guillemot (13,914).

The estimated 2016 summer abundance of Manx Shearwater in the North West Irish Sea SPA is 13,010 and is of international importance. The estimated 2016 autumn and winter abundances of Great Northern Diver in the North West Irish Sea SPA is 248 and 230 respectively and are of international importance. The estimated abundances of Common Scoter over parts of this SPA can reach significant numbers (e.g. 14,567 in December 2018) which is also of international importance.

### 3.3 Evaluation Against Conservation Objectives

Table 3.2 – Table 3.4 below details the evaluation of the likely effects of the proposed development in view of the Conservation Objectives of the site identified in Section 3.1 and described in Section 3.2. As explained in Sections 1.2 and 1.3, AA Screening is carried out in view of the Conservation Objectives of the relevant European site(s), which are in turn defined by detailed Attributes and corresponding Targets. Therefore, the evaluation of whether or not a likely effect is significant (in view of the Conservation Objective in question) is made with regard to these Attributes and Targets.

**Table 3.2 Evaluation of the likely effects of the proposed development in view of the Conservation Objectives of South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA [004024].**

Qualifying Interest	Conservation Objective as per NPWS (2015b)	Does the proposed development provide for any potential delay or interruption in the achievement of this Conservation Objective, as defined by its Attributes and Targets?	Likely Significant Effect
<b>Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046]</b>	<i>“To maintain the favourable conservation condition for Light-bellied Brent Goose in South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA”</i>	<p>The Attributes of the Conservation Objectives of these Qualifying Interests focus on “Population Trend” and “Distribution”.</p> <p>The South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA is located approximately 2.9km east of the proposed development and approximately 5km by hydrological distance. The proposed development will not result in the loss or disturbance of any areas of habitat used by any of the qualifying interest species. There will be no negative effects on water quality as a result of the proposed development.</p> <p>The proposed development is a small greenway project on an existing roadway. To reach this site, any pollutants arising from the proposed development would need to reach the River Dodder, then flow 4.8km downstream, through five weirs, as well as the slow flowing sections above the weirs, where pollutants and sediment would settle. Any remaining pollutants would then have to flow along the tidal section of the River Dodder to the confluence of the River Dodder and the River Liffey and into the transitional waterbody of Dublin Bay. There are no water quality impacts associated with the operational phase of the proposed development.</p> <p>Given the nature, scale and location of the proposed development, any water quality impacts, should they occur, would be very localised and will dissipate in a short time, long before reaching Dublin Bay and the European sites downstream. Therefore, it can be concluded beyond reasonable scientific doubt that the proposed development will not result in significant effects on these Qualifying Interests.</p>	No
<b>Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130]</b>	<i>“To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Oystercatcher in South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA”</i>		No
<b>Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137]</b>	<i>“To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Ringed Plover in South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA”</i>		No
<b>Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143]</b>	<i>“To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Knot in South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA”</i>		No
<b>Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149]</b>	<i>“To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Dunlin in South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA”</i>		No
<b>Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144]</b>	<i>“To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Sanderling in South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA”</i>		No

Qualifying Interest	Conservation Objective as per NPWS (2015b)	Does the proposed development provide for any potential delay or interruption in the achievement of this Conservation Objective, as defined by its Attributes and Targets?	Likely Significant Effect
<b>Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157]</b>	<i>"To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Bar-tailed Godwit in South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA"</i>		No
<b>Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162]</b>	<i>"To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Redshank in South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA"</i>		No
<b>Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179]</b>	<i>"To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Black-headed Gull in South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA"</i>		No
<b>Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141]</b>	<i>"Grey Plover is proposed for removal from the list of Special Conservation Interests for South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA. As a result, a site-specific conservation objective has not been set for this species".</i>		No
<b>Roseate Tern (<i>Sterna dougallii</i>) [A192]</b>	<i>"To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Roseate Tern in South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA"</i>	<p>The Attributes of the Conservation Objectives of this Qualifying Interest focuses on "Passage population: individuals", "Distribution: roosting areas", "Prey biomass available", "Barriers to connectivity" and "Disturbance at roosting site".</p> <p>The South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA is located approximately 2.9km east of the proposed development and approximately 5km by hydrological distance. The proposed development will not result in the loss of any areas of habitat for qualifying interest species. There will be no negative effects on water quality as a result of the proposed development. The proposed development is a small greenway project on an existing roadway.</p>	No

Qualifying Interest	Conservation Objective as per NPWS (2015b)	Does the proposed development provide for any potential delay or interruption in the achievement of this Conservation Objective, as defined by its Attributes and Targets?	Likely Significant Effect
		<p>To reach this site, any pollutants arising from the proposed development would need to reach the River Dodder, then flow 4.8km downstream, through five weirs, as well as the slow flowing sections above the weirs, where pollutants and sediment would settle. Any remaining pollutants would then have to flow along the tidal section of the River Dodder to the confluence of the River Dodder and the River Liffey and into the transitional waterbody of Dublin Bay. There are no water quality impacts associated with the operational phase of the proposed development.</p> <p>Given the nature, scale and location of the proposed development, any water quality impacts, should they occur, would be very localised and will dissipate in a short time, long before reaching Dublin Bay and the European sites downstream. Therefore, it can be concluded beyond reasonable scientific doubt that the proposed development will not result in significant effects on this Qualifying Interest.</p>	
<p><b>Arctic Tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) [A194]</b></p>	<p><i>“To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Arctic Tern in South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA”</i></p>	<p>The Attributes of the Conservation Objectives of this Qualifying Interest focuses on <i>“Passage population”, “Distribution: roosting areas”, “Prey biomass available”, “Barriers to connectivity”</i> and <i>“Disturbance at roosting site”</i>.</p> <p>The South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA is located approximately 2.9km east of the proposed development and approximately 5km by hydrological distance. The proposed development will not result in the loss of any areas of habitat for qualifying interest species. There will be no negative effects on water quality as a result of the proposed development. The proposed development is a small greenway project on an existing roadway.</p> <p>To reach this site, any pollutants arising from the proposed development would need to reach the River Dodder, then flow 4.8km downstream, through five weirs, as well as the slow flowing sections above the weirs, where pollutants and sediment would settle. Any remaining pollutants would then have to flow along the tidal section of the River Dodder to the confluence of the River Dodder and the River Liffey and into the transitional waterbody of Dublin Bay. There are no water quality impacts associated with the operational phase of the proposed development.</p>	<p>No</p>

Qualifying Interest	Conservation Objective as per NPWS (2015b)	Does the proposed development provide for any potential delay or interruption in the achievement of this Conservation Objective, as defined by its Attributes and Targets?	Likely Significant Effect
		<p>Given the nature, scale and location of the proposed development, any water quality impacts, should they occur, would be very localised and will dissipate in a short time, long before reaching Dublin Bay and the European sites downstream. Therefore, it can be concluded beyond reasonable scientific doubt that the proposed development will not result in significant effects on this Qualifying Interest.</p>	
<p><b>Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193]</b></p>	<p><i>"To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Common Tern in South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA"</i></p>	<p>The Attributes of the Conservation Objectives of this Qualifying Interest focuses on <i>"Breeding population abundance: apparently occupied nests (AONs)", "Productivity rate: fledged young per breeding pair", "Passage population: individuals", "Distribution: breeding colonies", "Distribution: roosting areas", "Prey biomass available", "Barriers to connectivity", "Disturbance at breeding site" and "Disturbance at roosting site"</i>.</p> <p>The South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA is located approximately 2.9km east of the proposed development and approximately 5km by hydrological distance. The proposed development will not result in the loss of any areas of habitat for qualifying interest species. There will be no negative effects on water quality as a result of the proposed development. The proposed development is a small greenway project on an existing roadway.</p> <p>To reach this site, any pollutants arising from the proposed development would need to reach the River Dodder, then flow 4.8km downstream, through five weirs, as well as the slow flowing sections above the weirs, where pollutants and sediment would settle. Any remaining pollutants would then have to flow along the tidal section of the River Dodder to the confluence of the River Dodder and the River Liffey and into the transitional waterbody of Dublin Bay. There are no water quality impacts associated with the operational phase of the proposed development.</p> <p>Given the nature, scale and location of the proposed development, any water quality impacts, should they occur, would be very localised and will dissipate in a short time, long before reaching Dublin Bay and the European sites downstream. Therefore, it can be concluded beyond reasonable scientific doubt that the proposed development will not result in significant effects on this Qualifying Interest.</p>	<p>No</p>

Qualifying Interest	Conservation Objective as per NPWS (2015b)	Does the proposed development provide for any potential delay or interruption in the achievement of this Conservation Objective, as defined by its Attributes and Targets?	Likely Significant Effect
<p><b>Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]</b></p>	<p><i>“To maintain the favourable conservation condition of the wetland habitat in South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA as a resource for the regularly occurring migratory waterbirds that utilise it.”</i></p>	<p>The Attributes of the Conservation Objectives of this Qualifying Interest focuses on “Habitat Area”.</p> <p>The South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA is located approximately 2.9km east of the proposed development and approximately 5km by hydrological distance. The proposed development will not result in the loss of any areas of this habitat within this SPA. There will be no negative effects on water quality as a result of the proposed development. The proposed development is a small greenway project on an existing roadway.</p> <p>To reach this site, any pollutants arising from the proposed development would need to reach the River Dodder, then flow 4.8km downstream, through five weirs, as well as the slow flowing sections above the weirs, where pollutants and sediment would settle. Any remaining pollutants would then have to flow along the tidal section of the River Dodder to the confluence of the River Dodder and the River Liffey and into the transitional waterbody of Dublin Bay. There are no water quality impacts associated with the operational phase of the proposed development.</p> <p>Given the nature, scale and location of the proposed development, any water quality impacts, should they occur, would be very localised and will dissipate in a short time, long before reaching Dublin Bay and the European sites downstream. Therefore, it can be concluded beyond reasonable scientific doubt that the proposed development will not result in significant effects on this Qualifying Interest.</p>	<p>No</p>

**Table 3.3 Evaluation of the likely effects of the proposed development in view of the Conservation Objectives of North Bull Island SPA [004006].**

Qualifying Interest	Conservation Objective as per NPWS (2015a)	Does the proposed development provide for any potential delay or interruption in the achievement of this Conservation Objective, as defined by its Attributes and Targets?	Likely Significant Effect
<b>Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046]</b>	<i>"To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Light-bellied Brent Goose in North Bull Island SPA"</i>	<p>The Attributes of the Conservation Objectives of these Qualifying Interests focus on "Population trend" and "Distribution".</p> <p>The North Bull Island SPA is located approximately 7.2km northeast of the proposed development and approximately 9.5km by hydrological distance. The proposed development will not result in the loss of any areas of habitat for qualifying interest species. There will be no negative effects on water quality as a result of the proposed development. The proposed development is a small greenway project on an existing roadway.</p> <p>To reach this site, any pollutants arising from the proposed development would need to reach the River Dodder, then flow 4.8km downstream, through five weirs, as well as the slow flowing sections above the weirs, where pollutants and sediment would settle. Any remaining pollutants would then have to flow along the tidal section of the River Dodder to the confluence of the River Dodder and the River Liffey and into the transitional waterbody of Dublin Bay. There are no water quality impacts associated with the operational phase of the proposed development.</p> <p>Given the nature, scale and location of the proposed development, any water quality impacts, should they occur, would be very localised and will dissipate in a short time, long before reaching Dublin Bay and the European sites downstream. Therefore, it can be concluded beyond reasonable scientific doubt that the proposed development will not result in significant effects on these Qualifying Interests.</p>	No
<b>Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048]</b>	<i>"To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Shelduck in North Bull Island SPA"</i>		No
<b>Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052]</b>	<i>"To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Teal in North Bull Island SPA"</i>		No
<b>Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) [A054]</b>	<i>"To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Pintail in North Bull Island SPA"</i>		No
<b>Shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>) [A056]</b>	<i>"To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Shoveler in North Bull Island SPA"</i>		No
<b>Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130]</b>	<i>"To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Oystercatcher in North Bull Island SPA"</i>		No
<b>Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140]</b>	<i>"To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Golden Plover in North Bull Island SPA"</i>		No

Qualifying Interest	Conservation Objective as per NPWS (2015a)	Does the proposed development provide for any potential delay or interruption in the achievement of this Conservation Objective, as defined by its Attributes and Targets?	Likely Significant Effect
<b>Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141]</b>	<i>"To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Grey Plover in North Bull Island SPA"</i>		No
<b>Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143]</b>	<i>"To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Knot in North Bull Island SPA"</i>		No
<b>Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144]</b>	<i>"To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Sanderling in North Bull Island SPA"</i>		No
<b>Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149]</b>	<i>"To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Dunlin in North Bull Island SPA"</i>		No
<b>Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156]</b>	<i>"To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Black-tailed Godwit in North Bull Island SPA"</i>		No
<b>Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157]</b>	<i>"To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Bar-tailed Godwit in North Bull Island SPA"</i>		No
<b>Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160]</b>	<i>"To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Curlew in North Bull Island SPA"</i>		No



Qualifying Interest	Conservation Objective as per NPWS (2015a)	Does the proposed development provide for any potential delay or interruption in the achievement of this Conservation Objective, as defined by its Attributes and Targets?	Likely Significant Effect
<b>Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162]</b>	<i>“To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Redshank in North Bull Island SPA”</i>		No
<b>Turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>) [A169]</b>	<i>“To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Turnstone in North Bull Island SPA”</i>		No
<b>Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179]</b>	<i>“To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Black-headed Gull in North Bull Island SPA”</i>		No
<b>Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]</b>	<i>“To maintain the favourable conservation condition of the wetland habitat in North Bull Island SPA as a resource for the regularly occurring migratory waterbirds that utilise it.”</i>	<p>The Attributes of the Conservation Objectives of these Qualifying Interests focus on <i>“Habitat area”</i>.</p> <p>The North Bull Island SPA is located approximately 7.2km northeast of the proposed development and approximately 9.5km by hydrological distance. The proposed development will not result in the loss of any areas of this habitat within this SPA. There will be no negative effects on water quality as a result of the proposed development. The proposed development is a small greenway project on an existing roadway.</p> <p>To reach this site, any pollutants arising from the proposed development would need to reach the River Dodder, then flow 4.8km downstream, through five weirs, as well as the slow flowing sections above the weirs, where pollutants and sediment would settle. Any remaining pollutants would then have to flow along the tidal section of the River Dodder to the confluence of the River Dodder and the River Liffey and into the transitional waterbody of Dublin Bay. There are no water quality impacts associated with the operational phase of the proposed development.</p>	No

Qualifying Interest	Conservation Objective as per NPWS (2015a)	Does the proposed development provide for any potential delay or interruption in the achievement of this Conservation Objective, as defined by its Attributes and Targets?	Likely Significant Effect
		<p>Given the nature, scale and location of the proposed development, any water quality impacts, should they occur, would be very localised and will dissipate in a short time, long before reaching Dublin Bay and the European sites downstream. Therefore, it can be concluded beyond reasonable scientific doubt that the proposed development will not result in significant effects on this Qualifying Interest.</p>	

**Table 3.4 Evaluation of the likely effects of the proposed development in view of the Conservation Objectives of North Dublin Bay SAC [000206].**

<b>Qualifying Interest</b> *indicates a priority habitat under the Habitats Directive	<b>Conservation Objective as per NPWS (2013a)</b>	<b>Does the proposed development provide for any potential delay or interruption in the achievement of this Conservation Objective, as defined by its Attributes and Targets?</b>	<b>Likely Significant Effect</b>
<b>Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]</b>	<i>"To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide in North Dublin Bay SAC"</i>	<p>The Attributes of the Conservation Objectives of this Qualifying Interests focuses on "Habitat area," Community extent", "Community structure: <i>Mytilus edulis</i> density" and "Community distribution".</p> <p>The shortest distance from the proposed development to this SAC via a hydrological connection is approximately 9.5 km. Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide are located within the Zone of Influence at the southernmost point of the North Dublin Bay SAC. There is therefore a pathway for contaminants such as concrete and sediments that may be spilled during construction to be transported to the site. This habitat is sensitive to such negative water quality impacts. The proposed development will not result in the loss of any areas of this habitat within this SAC. There will be no negative effects on water quality as a result of the proposed development. The proposed development is a small greenway project on an existing roadway.</p> <p>To reach this site, any pollutants arising from the proposed development would need to reach the River Dodder, then flow 4.8km downstream, through five weirs, as well as the slow flowing sections above the weirs, where pollutants and sediment would settle. Any remaining pollutants would then have to flow along the tidal section of the River Dodder to the confluence of the River Dodder and the River Liffey and into the transitional waterbody of Dublin Bay. There are no water quality impacts associated with the operational phase of the proposed development.</p> <p>Given the nature, scale and location of the proposed development, any water quality impacts, should they occur, would be very localised and will dissipate in a short time, long before reaching Dublin Bay and the European sites downstream. Therefore, it can be concluded beyond reasonable scientific doubt that the proposed development will not result in significant effects on this Qualifying Interest.</p>	No

Qualifying Interest *indicates a priority habitat under the Habitats Directive	Conservation Objective as per NPWS (2013a)	Does the proposed development provide for any potential delay or interruption in the achievement of this Conservation Objective, as defined by its Attributes and Targets?	Likely Significant Effect
<b>Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210]</b>	<i>"To restore the favourable conservation condition of Annual vegetation of drift lines in North Dublin Bay SAC"</i>	<p>The Attributes of the Conservation Objectives of this Qualifying Interest focuses on <i>"Habitat area," "Habitat distribution", "Physical structure: functionality and sediment supply", "Vegetation structure: zonation", "Vegetation composition: typical species and sub-communities" and "Vegetation composition: negative indicator species"</i>.</p> <p>The shortest distance from the proposed development to this SAC via a hydrological connection is approximately 9.5 km. This terrestrial coastal habitat does not occur within the Zone of Influence and is not at risk of negative water quality impacts as there is no hydrological connection or other pathways for impacts. Therefore, it can be concluded beyond reasonable scientific doubt that the proposed development will not result in significant effects on this Qualifying Interest.</p>	No
<b>Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310]</b>	<i>"To restore the favourable conservation condition of Salicornia and other annuals colonizing mud and sand in North Dublin Bay SAC"</i>	<p>The Attributes of the Conservation Objectives of these Qualifying Interests focus on <i>"Habitat area," "Habitat distribution", "Physical structure: sediment supply", "Physical structure: creeks and pans", "Physical structure: flooding regime", "Vegetation structure: zonation", "Vegetation structure: vegetation height", "Vegetation structure: vegetation cover", "Vegetation composition: typical species and sub-communities" and "Vegetation structure: negative indicator species - Spartina anglica"</i>.</p>	No
<b>Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>) [1330]</b>	<i>"To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>) in North Dublin Bay SAC"</i>	<p>The shortest distance from the proposed development to this SAC via a hydrological connection is approximately 9.5 km. These intertidal habitats are located on the northwestern shores of North Bull Island, according to mapping provided in the Conservation Objectives document as per NPWS (2013a). This is approximately 9.6km from the proposed development via the shortest hydrological distance, and therefore beyond the Zone of Influence. Therefore, there is no risk of negative water quality impacts as there is no hydrological connection or other pathways for impacts.</p>	No
<b>Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410]</b>	<i>"To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) in North Dublin Bay SAC"</i>	<p>Therefore, it can be concluded beyond reasonable scientific doubt that the proposed development will not result in significant effects on these Qualifying Interests.</p>	No

Qualifying Interest *indicates a priority habitat under the Habitats Directive	Conservation Objective as per NPWS (2013a)	Does the proposed development provide for any potential delay or interruption in the achievement of this Conservation Objective, as defined by its Attributes and Targets?	Likely Significant Effect
<p><b>Embryonic shifting dunes [2110]</b> <b>Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120]</b></p>	<p><i>“To restore the favourable conservation condition in North Dublin Bay SAC”</i></p>	<p>The Attributes of the Conservation Objectives of this Qualifying Interest focuses on <i>“Habitat area,” “Habitat distribution”, “Physical structure: functionality and sediment supply”, “Vegetation structure: zonation”, “Vegetation composition: plant health of foredune grasses”, “Vegetation composition: typical species and sub-communities” and “Vegetation composition: negative indicator species”.</i></p> <p>The shortest distance from the proposed development to this SAC via a hydrological connection is approximately 9.5 km. These terrestrial coastal habitats do not occur within the Zone of Influence and are not at risk of negative water quality impacts as there are no hydrological connection or other pathways for impacts.</p> <p>Therefore, it can be concluded beyond reasonable scientific doubt that the proposed development will not result in significant effects on this Qualifying Interest.</p>	<p>No</p>
<p><b>Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130] *</b></p>	<p><i>“To restore the favourable conservation condition of Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (‘grey dunes’) in North Dublin Bay SAC”</i></p>	<p>The Attributes of the Conservation Objectives of this Qualifying Interest focuses on <i>“Habitat area,” “Habitat distribution”, “Physical structure: functionality and sediment supply”, “Vegetation structure: zonation”, “Vegetation structure: bare ground”, “Vegetation structure: sward height”, “Vegetation composition: typical species and sub-communities”, “Vegetation composition: negative indicator species (including <i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i>)” and “Vegetation composition: scrub/trees”.</i></p> <p>The shortest distance from the proposed development to this SAC via a hydrological connection is approximately 9.5 km. This terrestrial coastal habitat does not occur within the Zone of Influence and is not at risk of negative water quality impacts as there is no hydrological connection or other pathways for impacts.</p> <p>Therefore, it can be concluded beyond reasonable scientific doubt that the proposed development will not result in significant effects on this Qualifying Interest.</p>	<p>No</p>

Qualifying Interest *indicates a priority habitat under the Habitats Directive	Conservation Objective as per NPWS (2013a)	Does the proposed development provide for any potential delay or interruption in the achievement of this Conservation Objective, as defined by its Attributes and Targets?	Likely Significant Effect
<b>Humid dune slacks [2190]</b>	<i>"To restore the favourable conservation condition of Humid dune slacks in North Dublin Bay SAC"</i>	<p>The Attributes of the Conservation Objectives of this Qualifying Interest focuses on <i>"Habitat area," "Habitat distribution," "Physical structure: functionality and sediment supply," "Vegetation structure: zonation," "Vegetation structure: bare ground," "Vegetation structure: vegetation height," "Vegetation composition: typical species and sub-communities," "Vegetation composition: cover of Salix repens," "Vegetation composition: negative indicator species" and "Vegetation composition: scrub/trees"</i>.</p> <p>The shortest distance from the proposed development to this SAC via a hydrological connection is approximately 9.5 km. This terrestrial coastal habitat does not occur within the Zone of Influence and is not at risk of negative water quality impacts as there is no hydrological connection or other pathways for impacts.</p> <p>Therefore, it can be concluded beyond reasonable scientific doubt that the proposed development will not result in significant effects on this Qualifying Interest.</p>	<p>No</p>
<b>Petalwort (<i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i>) [1395]</b>	<i>"To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Petalwort in North Dublin Bay SAC"</i>	<p>The Attributes of the Conservation Objectives of this Qualifying Interest focus on <i>"Distribution of populations," "Population size," "Area of suitable habitat," "Hydrological conditions: soil moisture", and "Vegetation structure: height and cover"</i>.</p> <p>The shortest distance from the proposed development to this SAC via a hydrological connection is approximately 9.5 km. Petalwort occurs in terrestrial habitats, primarily in sandy ground. This terrestrial coastal habitat does not occur within the Zone of Influence and is not at risk of negative water quality impacts as there is no hydrological connection or other pathways for impacts.</p> <p>Therefore, it can be concluded beyond reasonable scientific doubt that the proposed development will not result in significant effects on this Qualifying Interest.</p>	<p>No</p>

**Table 3.5 Evaluation of the likely effects of the proposed development in view of the Conservation Objectives of North-west Irish Sea cSPA [004236].**

Qualifying Interest	Conservation Objective as per NPWS (2023a)	Does the proposed development provide for any potential delay or interruption in the achievement of this Conservation Objective, as defined by its Attributes and Targets?	Likely Significant Effect
<b>Wintering Populations</b>			
<b>Red-throated Diver (<i>Gavia stellata</i>) [A001]</b>	<i>"To maintain the favourable conservation condition of red-throated diver at North-west Irish Sea SPA"</i>	The Attributes of the Conservation Objectives of these Qualifying Interests focus on "Non-breeding population size", "Spatial distribution", "Forage spatial distribution, extent and abundance," "Disturbance across the site" and "Barriers to connectivity and site use".	No
<b>Great Northern Diver (<i>Gavia immer</i>) [A003]</b>	<i>"To maintain the favourable conservation condition of red-throated diver at North-west Irish Sea SPA"</i>	The North-west Irish Sea cSPA is located approximately 10km by hydrological distance from the proposed development. The proposed development will not result in the loss of any areas of habitat for qualifying interest species. The proposed development is a small greenway project on an existing roadway. As such, disturbance will not increase significantly from the baseline. There will be no negative effects on water quality as a result of the proposed development. The proposed development is a small greenway project on an existing roadway.  To reach this site, any pollutants arising from the proposed development would need to reach the River Dodder, then flow 4.8km downstream, through five weirs, as well as the slow flowing sections above the weirs, where pollutants and sediment would settle. Any remaining pollutants would then have to flow along the tidal section of the River Dodder to the confluence of the River Dodder and the River Liffey and into the transitional waterbody of Dublin Bay. There are no water quality impacts associated with the operational phase of the proposed development.  Given the nature, scale and location of the proposed development, any water quality impacts, should they occur, would be very localised and will dissipate in a short time, long before reaching Dublin Bay and the European sites downstream. Therefore, it can be concluded beyond reasonable scientific doubt that the proposed development will not result in significant effects on these Qualifying Interests.	No
<b>Common Scoter (<i>Melanitta nigra</i>) [A065]</b>	<i>"To maintain the favourable conservation condition of common scoter at North-west Irish Sea SPA"</i>		No
<b>Little Gull (<i>Larus minutus</i>) [A177]</b>	<i>"To maintain the favourable conservation condition of little gull at North-west Irish Sea SPA"</i>		No
<b>Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179]</b>	<i>"To maintain the favourable conservation condition of black-headed gull at North-west Irish Sea SPA"</i>		No
<b>Common Gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) [A182]</b>	<i>"To maintain the favourable conservation condition of common gull at North-west Irish Sea SPA"</i>		No

Qualifying Interest	Conservation Objective as per NPWS (2023a)	Does the proposed development provide for any potential delay or interruption in the achievement of this Conservation Objective, as defined by its Attributes and Targets?	Likely Significant Effect
<b>Great Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus marinus</i>) [A187]</b>	<i>"To maintain the favourable conservation condition of great black-backed gull at North-west Irish Sea SPA"</i>		No
<b>Breeding Populations</b>			
<b>Manx Shearwater (<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>) [A013]</b>	<i>"To maintain the favourable conservation condition of manx shearwater in North-west Irish Sea SPA"</i>	The Attributes of the Conservation Objectives of these Qualifying Interests focus on "Breeding population size", "Spatial distribution", "Forage spatial distribution, extent and abundance," "Disturbance across the site" and "Barriers to connectivity and site use".	No
<b>Lesser Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>) [A183]</b>	<i>"To maintain the favourable conservation condition of lesser black-backed gull in North-west Irish Sea SPA"</i>	The North-west Irish Sea cSPA is located approximately 10km by hydrological distance from the proposed development. The proposed development will not result in the loss of any areas of habitat for qualifying interest species. There will be no negative effects on water quality as a result of the proposed development. The proposed development is a small greenway project on an existing roadway.  To reach this site, any pollutants arising from the proposed development would need to reach the River Dodder, then flow 4.8km downstream, through five weirs, as well as the slow flowing sections above the weirs, where pollutants and sediment would settle. Any remaining pollutants would then have to flow along the tidal section of the River Dodder to the confluence of the River Dodder and the River Liffey and into the transitional waterbody of Dublin Bay. There are no water quality impacts associated with the operational phase of the proposed development.  Given the nature, scale and location of the proposed development, any water quality impacts, should they occur, would be very localised and will dissipate in a short time, long before reaching Dublin Bay and the European sites downstream. Therefore, it can be concluded beyond reasonable scientific doubt that the proposed development will not result in significant effects on these Qualifying Interests.	No
<b>Roseate Tern (<i>Sterna dougallii</i>) [A192]</b>	<i>"To maintain the favourable conservation condition of roseate tern in North-west Irish Sea SPA"</i>		No
<b>Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193]</b>	<i>"To maintain the favourable conservation condition of common tern in North-west Irish Sea SPA"</i>		No
<b>Arctic Tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) [A194]</b>	<i>"To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Arctic tern in North-west Irish Sea SPA"</i>		No
<b>Little Tern (<i>Sterna albifrons</i>) [A195]</b>	<i>"To maintain the favourable conservation condition of little tern in North-west Irish Sea SPA"</i>		No



Qualifying Interest	Conservation Objective as per NPWS (2023a)	Does the proposed development provide for any potential delay or interruption in the achievement of this Conservation Objective, as defined by its Attributes and Targets?	Likely Significant Effect
<b>Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017]</b>	<i>"To restore the favourable conservation condition of cormorant in North-west Irish Sea SPA"</i>		No
<b>Shag (<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>) [A018]</b>	<i>"To restore the favourable conservation condition of shag in North-west Irish Sea SPA"</i>		No
<b>Puffin (<i>Fratercula arctica</i>) [A204]</b>	<i>"To restore the favourable conservation condition of puffin in North-west Irish Sea SPA"</i>		No
<b>Breeding and Wintering Populations</b>			
<b>Fulmar (<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>) [A009]</b>	<i>"To restore the favourable conservation condition of fulmar in North-west Irish Sea SPA"</i>	The Attributes of the Conservation Objectives of these Qualifying Interests focus on "Population size", "Spatial distribution", "Forage spatial distribution, extent and abundance," "Disturbance across the site" and "Barriers to connectivity and site use".	No
<b>Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) [A184]</b>	<i>"To restore the favourable conservation condition of herring gull in North-west Irish Sea SPA"</i>	The North-west Irish Sea cSPA is located approximately 10km by hydrological distance from the proposed development. The proposed development will not result in the loss of any areas of habitat for qualifying interest species. There will be no negative effects on water quality as a result of the proposed development. The proposed development is a small greenway project on an existing roadway.	No
<b>Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) [A188]</b>	<i>"To restore the favourable conservation condition of kittiwake in North-west Irish Sea SPA"</i>	To reach this site, any pollutants arising from the proposed development would need to reach the River Dodder, then flow 4.8km downstream, through five weirs, as well as the slow flowing sections above the weirs, where pollutants and sediment would settle. Any remaining pollutants would then have to flow along the tidal section of the River Dodder to the confluence of the River Dodder and the River Liffey and into the transitional waterbody of Dublin Bay. There are no water quality impacts associated with the operational phase of the proposed development.	No
<b>Guillemot (<i>Uria aalge</i>) [A199]</b>	<i>To maintain the favourable conservation condition of guillemot in North-west Irish Sea SPA"</i>		No

Qualifying Interest	Conservation Objective as per NPWS (2023a)	Does the proposed development provide for any potential delay or interruption in the achievement of this Conservation Objective, as defined by its Attributes and Targets?	Likely Significant Effect
<b>Razorbill (<i>Alca torda</i>) [A200]</b>	<i>“To maintain the favourable conservation condition of razorbill in North-west Irish Sea SPA”</i>	<p>Given the nature, scale and location of the proposed development, any water quality impacts, should they occur, would be very localised and will dissipate in a short time, long before reaching Dublin Bay and the European sites downstream. Therefore, it can be concluded beyond reasonable scientific doubt that the proposed development will not result in significant effects on these Qualifying Interests.</p>	<p>No</p>

### **3.4 Summary of Likely Significant Effects**

In Section 3.1, it was established that five European sites occur within the Zone of Influence of the proposed development, namely the South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA, the South Dublin Bay SAC, the North Bull Island SPA, the North Dublin Bay SAC and the North-west Irish Sea cSPA. It was determined that potential pathways for effects exist between the proposed development and four of these sites. There are no pathways for effects between the proposed development and any other European sites. The SAC and SPAs were described in detail in Section 3.2.

In Section 3.3, it was established, in light of best scientific knowledge, that the proposed development will not give rise to ecological impacts which would constitute significant effects on the SAC or SPAs, in view of the sites' Conservation Objectives. This finding had regard to the nature, size and location of the proposed development, the assimilative capacity of the River Dodder and the River Liffey, the existing levels of noise and visual disturbance in the area and the sensitivities of the Qualifying Interest of the sites concerned.

## **4.0 IN-COMBINATION EFFECTS**

### **4.1 Introduction**

Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive requires that AA be carried out in respect of plans and projects that are likely to have significant effects on European sites, “*either individually or in combination with other plans or projects*”. Therefore, regardless of whether or not the likely effects of a plan or project are significant when considered on their own, the significance of the combination of the effects of the plan or project under assessment with the effects of other past, present or foreseeable future plans or projects must also be evaluated.

### **4.2 Methodology**

Plans and projects from the past ten years with potential for interactions with the proposed development were selected for assessment. For the purposes of the assessment, small scale and domestic developments were not considered given the nature of the Project and the fact that these projects would be subject to stringent planning controls.

Each project has been considered based on the nature, scale and location of the project, relative to the proposed development and European sites. Where there was no risk of in-combination effects based on the nature, scale and location of each project and the proposed development, the AA Screening Reports/ NISs were not reviewed. Where there were any concerns regarding in-combination effects, the AA Screening Report and/or NISs were reviewed.

The ePlanning websites for Dublin City Council, South Dublin County Council and Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, and the EIA Portal was used to search for planning applications.

### **4.3 Outcome**

Table 4.1 below details the assessment of the likelihood of significant effects arising from the proposed development in combination with other plans or projects. This assessment was undertaken in view of the Conservation Objectives of the relevant European sites and found that the proposed development does not have the potential to significantly affect any European site in combination with other plans or projects.

**Table 4.1 Assessment of the potential of likely significant effects in combination with other plans and projects**

Plan or Project	Description of Plan or Project	In-Combination Effect(s)
<p><b>Dublin City Council</b> <b>Planning Ref.:</b> ABP315883 <b>Applicant:</b> Westridge Milltown Limited <b>Address:</b> 'Dunelm', Rydalmount, Milltown Road, Dublin 6</p>	<p><b>Planning Application Lodged:</b> 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2023 <b>Decision Date:</b> 27<sup>th</sup> June 2023 Demolition of structures, construction of Build to Rent apartments comprising of 63 apartments in 2 blocks with all associated site works</p>	<p>This project is approximately less than 10m north of the proposed development. Given that this project is located in an existing residential area directly adjacent to the Luas tram line, disturbance and potential impacts on water quality and the surrounding environment are expected to be minimal. Therefore, this project and the proposed development will not lead to significant in-combination effects.</p>
<p><b>Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council</b> <b>Planning Ref.:</b> ABP310138 <b>Applicant:</b> Winterbrook Homes Ltd. <b>Address:</b> Mount Saint Mary's and Saint Joseph's, Dundrum Road, Dundrum, Dublin 14</p>	<p><b>Planning Application Lodged:</b> 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021 <b>Decision Date:</b> 25<sup>th</sup> August 2021 Demolition of existing buildings on site and part of the granite wall along Dundrum Road, excluding Small Hall, construction of 231 no. apartments, childcare facility and associated site works.</p>	<p>This project is approximately 185m southeast of the proposed development, and approximately 890m upstream. Given that this project is located in an existing residential area, potential impacts on water quality and the surrounding environment are expected to be minimal. Therefore, this project and the proposed development will not lead to significant in-combination effects.</p>
<p><b>Dublin City Council</b> <b>Planning Ref.:</b> ABP304461 <b>Applicant:</b> The Board of Govenors <b>Address:</b> The High School, Zion Road, Rathgar, Dublin 6</p>	<p><b>Planning Application Lodged:</b> 13<sup>th</sup> May 2019 <b>Decision Date:</b> 8<sup>th</sup> January 2020 Erection of 3 lighting poles along the eastern boundary wall and 6 lighting poles on the roof of the main school building to achieve a height from pitch level of 13m.</p>	<p>This project is approximately 535m southwest of the proposed development, and approximately 694m upstream. An NIS was not required for this project. Given this, and that this project is located in an existing residential area on existing school grounds, disturbance and potential impacts on the surrounding environment are expected to be minimal. Therefore, this project and the proposed development will not lead to significant in-combination effects.</p>
<p><b>South Dublin County Council</b> <b>Planning Ref.:</b> SD178/0003</p>	<p><b>Planning Application Lodged:</b> 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2017 <b>Decision Date:</b> 25<sup>th</sup> September 2017</p>	<p>This project is approximately 650m southwest of the proposed development and approximately 1km upstream.</p>

Plan or Project	Description of Plan or Project	In-Combination Effect(s)
<p><b>Applicant:</b> South Dublin County Council</p> <p><b>Address:</b> Dodder Valley from Orwell / Terenure to the Bohernabreena reservoirs at Glenasmole</p>	<p>The proposed Dodder Greenway is being developed to be a Greenway of international renown and to be on a par with the best greenways in the world. Although developed as a combination of off road and on road it utilises existing facilities within the Dodder Valley as much as possible to connect the linear parkland along the route.</p>	<p>This project is similar in nature to the proposed development and did not require an NIS. Given that this project is located in an existing residential area, and the assimilative capacity of the River Dodder and the River Liffey, potential impacts on water quality and the surrounding environment are expected to be minimal. Therefore, this project and the proposed development will not lead to significant in-combination effects.</p>
<p><b>South Dublin County Council</b></p> <p><b>Planning Ref.:</b> ABP 249406</p> <p><b>Applicant:</b> Siol Schools Trust</p> <p><b>Address:</b> Our Ladys School, Templeogue Road, Terenure, Dublin 6W</p>	<p><b>Planning Application Lodged:</b> 17<sup>th</sup> October 2017</p> <p><b>Decision Date:</b> 25<sup>th</sup> May 2018</p> <p>Air supported sports dome with associated fan units, internal lighting, drainage scheme, paths, electrical infrastructure and associated site works.</p>	<p>This project approximately 3.3km upstream of the proposed development and less than 20m north of the River Dodder.</p> <p>Given that this project is located in an existing residential area on existing school grounds, disturbance and potential impacts on the surrounding environment are expected to be minimal. Therefore, this project and the proposed development will not lead to significant in-combination effects.</p>
<p><b>Dublin County Council</b></p> <p><b>Planning Ref.:</b> ABP 317921</p> <p><b>Applicant:</b> Sandford Living Limited</p> <p><b>Address:</b> Milltown Park, Sandford Road, Dublin 6, D06 V9K7.</p>	<p><b>Planning Application Lodged:</b> 30<sup>th</sup> August 2023</p> <p><b>Decision Date:</b> 19<sup>th</sup> December 2023</p> <p>LRD - Construction of 636 apartments and associated site works. Demolition of structures on site including Milltown Park House. The application together with the Environmental Impact Assessment Report may be inspected online at the following website set up by the applicant: <a href="http://www.sandfordplanninglrd.ie">www.sandfordplanninglrd.ie</a>.</p>	<p>This project approximately 580m north of the proposed development.</p> <p>Given that this project is located in an existing residential area, disturbance and potential impacts on the surrounding environment are expected to be minimal. Provided that the mitigation measures provided in the EIAR are adhered to, this project and the proposed development will not lead to significant in-combination effects.</p>
<p><b>Dublin City Council</b></p> <p><b>Planning Ref.:</b> ABP300024</p> <p><b>Applicant:</b> Gannon Properties</p> <p><b>Address:</b> Lands at the former Paper Mills site, bounded by the River Dodder to the East, Clonskeagh Road to the West, Clonskeagh Bridge to the South West, Dublin 6</p>	<p><b>Planning Application Lodged:</b> 29<sup>th</sup> October 2017</p> <p><b>Decision Date:</b> 4<sup>th</sup> July 2018</p> <p>Increase in apartment units from 96 to 116 with increase in block heights from 3 to 4 storeys with 30 additional parking spaces &amp; additional bicycle spaces &amp; associated site works.</p>	<p>This project is approximately 750m northeast of the proposed development 749m downstream, and directly borders the River Dodder to the northwest bank.</p> <p>Given that this project is located in an existing residential area, potential impacts on water quality and the surrounding environment are expected to be minimal. Therefore, this project and the proposed development will not lead to significant in-combination effects.</p>

Plan or Project	Description of Plan or Project	In-Combination Effect(s)
<p><b>Dublin City Council</b> <b>Planning Ref.:</b> ABP314166 <b>Applicant:</b> Gramon Limited <b>Address:</b> Errigal House, Errigal Court, Eglinton Road, Dublin 4</p>	<p><b>Planning Application Lodged:</b> 25<sup>th</sup> July 2022 <b>Decision Due Date:</b> 28<sup>th</sup> November 2022 Alterations to apartment block to include change to fire escape, extensions, provision for additional storey, increase to 28 apartments and all associated site works.</p>	<p>This project is approximately 976m northeast of the proposed development, and approximately 750m downstream. Given that this project is located in an existing residential area, potential impacts on water quality and the surrounding environment are expected to be minimal. Therefore, this project and the proposed development will not lead to significant in-combination effects.</p>
<p><b>Dublin City Council</b> <b>Planning Ref.:</b> ABP307267 <b>Applicant:</b> The Donnybrook Partnership <b>Address:</b> Nos. 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11 Eglinton Road, Donnybrook, Dublin 4.</p>	<p><b>Planning Application Lodged:</b> 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2020 <b>Decision Date:</b> 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020 Demolition of buildings, construction of 148 no. apartments and associated site works.</p>	<p>This project is approximately 1.3km northeast of the proposed development, and approximately 1.5km downstream. Given that this project is located in an existing residential area, potential impacts on water quality and the surrounding environment are expected to be minimal. Therefore, this project and the proposed development will not lead to significant in-combination effects.</p>
<p><b>Dublin City Council</b> <b>Planning Ref.:</b> ABPTA0001 <b>Applicant:</b> University College Dublin <b>Address:</b> University College Dublin, Belfield, Dublin 4</p>	<p><b>Planning Application Lodged:</b> 21<sup>st</sup> September 2017 <b>Decision Date:</b> 9<sup>th</sup> January 2018 10-year permission for 512 student accommodation units (3006 no. bed spaces) including student facility centre, car parking and all associated site works.</p>	<p>This project is approximately 1.9km southeast of the proposed development. Provided that the mitigation measures in the EIAR in relation to water quality are adhered to, this project and the proposed development will not lead to significant in-combination effects.</p>
<p><b>Dublin City Council</b> <b>Planning Ref.:</b> ABP313509 <b>Applicant:</b> National Transport Authority</p>	<p><b>Planning Application Lodged:</b> 6<sup>th</sup> May 2022 BusConnects Belfield/Blackrock to City Centre Core Bus Corridor Scheme. The Proposed Scheme has an overall length of approximately 8.3km and is comprised of two main alignments in terms of the route it follows, from Blackrock to the City Centre and along Nutley Lane. The Blackrock to City Centre section will commence on the R113 at Temple Hill, approximately 80m to the north of the R827 Stradbrook Road, travel along the N31 Frascati Road, the</p>	<p>This project is approximately 2.3km northeast of the proposed development, and approximately 2.7km downstream. Given that this project is located in an existing college campus, potential disturbance and impacts on water quality and the surrounding environment are expected to be minimal. Provided the mitigation measures in the NIS in relation to Otter and water quality are adhered to, this project and the proposed development will not lead to significant in-combination effects.</p>

Plan or Project	Description of Plan or Project	In-Combination Effect(s)
	<p>R118 Rock Road / Merrion Road / Pembroke Road, the R816 Pembroke Road / Baggot Street Upper / Baggot Street Lower, Street turn onto Fitzwilliam Lower and terminate at the junction of Mount Street Upper / Merrion Square South / Merrion Square East. The Nutley Lane section of the Proposed Scheme will commence at the tie-in with the signalised junction on the R138 Stillorgan Road on the southern end of Nutley Lane, travel along Nutley Lane and terminate at the junction with the R118 Merrion Road.</p>	
<p><b>Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council</b> <b>Planning Ref.:</b> ABP313176 <b>Applicant:</b> The Land Development Agency <b>Address:</b> Lands at the Central Mental Hospital, Dundrum Road, Dundrum, Dublin 14.</p>	<p><b>Planning Application Lodged:</b> 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 <b>Decision Date:</b> 25<sup>th</sup> May 2023 Demolition of existing structures, 10 year permission for the construction of 977 no. residential units (20 no. houses, 957 no. apartments), creche and associated site works.</p>	<p>This project is approximately 2882m southeast of the proposed development. Given that this project is located in an existing residential area, potential impacts on the surrounding environment are expected to be minimal. Therefore, this project and the proposed development will not lead to significant in-combination effects.</p>
<p><b>South Dublin County Council</b> <b>Planning Ref.:</b> SD208/0003 <b>Applicant:</b> South Dublin County Council (Environment) <b>Address:</b> Kiltipper Park, Tallaght, Dublin 24</p>	<p><b>Planning Application Lodged:</b> 26<sup>th</sup> May 2020 <b>Decision Date:</b> 13<sup>th</sup> July 2020 Development of a public park including: Construction of 30 additional parking spaces with adjacent access footway &amp; lengthened access roadway; New shared surface entrance and access pathway; Provision of 1 GAA pitch with vertical ball-stop netting and associated features; Provision of 2 soccer pitches and associated features; Provision of children's playground area and linear natural play areas; Integrated landscape features including woodland areas; All associated swales, drainage, wetland areas and ancillary works; All incidental park furniture such as benches, signage, bins; All ancillary works.</p>	<p>This project is approximately 8.4km southwest of the proposed development and approximately 10.4km downstream. This project did not require an NIS. Given this, the hydrological distance between this project and the proposed development, and the assimilative capacity of the River Dodder and the River Liffey, potential impacts on water quality and the surrounding environment are expected to be minimal. Therefore, this project and the proposed development will not lead to significant in-combination effects.</p>



Plan or Project	Description of Plan or Project	In-Combination Effect(s)
<p><b>South Dublin County Council</b> <b>Planning Ref.:</b> ABP249367 <b>Applicant:</b> HWBC Allsop and Capami Limited <b>Address:</b> Lands at Oldcourt and Bohernabreena, Tallaght, Dublin 24</p>	<p><b>Planning Application Lodged:</b> 5<sup>th</sup> October 2017 <b>Decision Date:</b> 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2018 Construction of Main Link Street with access onto the Oldcourt Road at Gunny Hill to the east and Bohernabreena Road to the west.</p>	<p>This project is approximately 8.8km southwest of the proposed development and approximately 9.9km downstream, and approximately 98m east of the River Dodder. Given that this project is located in an existing residential area, the hydrological distance between this project and the proposed development and the assimilative capacity of the River Dodder, potential impacts on water quality and the surrounding environment are expected to be minimal. Therefore, this project and the proposed development will not lead to significant in-combination effects.</p>
<p><b>Dublin City Council</b> <b>Planning Ref.:</b> ABP313043 <b>Applicant:</b> Terenure Land Limited <b>Address:</b> 'Carlisle', Kimmage Road West, Terenure, Dublin 12</p>	<p><b>Planning Application Lodged:</b> 16<sup>th</sup> March 2022 <b>Decision Date:</b> 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2022 208 no. apartments and associated site works.</p>	<p>This project is approximately 2.9km northwest of the proposed development. Given that this project is located in an existing residential area and the distance between this project and the proposed development, potential impacts on the surrounding environment are expected to be minimal. Therefore, this project and the proposed development will not lead to significant in-combination effects.</p>
<p><b>An Bord Pleanála</b> <b>Planning Ref.:</b> ABP307746 <b>Applicant:</b> South Dublin County Council <b>Address:</b> Whitechurch Road, Rathfarnham, Dublin 16</p>	<p><b>Planning Application Lodged:</b> 29<sup>th</sup> July 2020 <b>Decision Date:</b> 17<sup>th</sup> December 2020 Flood alleviation works along Whitechurch Stream between St. Enda's Park and its confluence to the Owendoher River at Ballyboden Road.</p>	<p>This project is approximately 2.5km southwest of the proposed development and approximately 3.7km upstream via the Owendoher River. Provided the mitigation measures in the NIS in relation to Otter and water quality are adhered to, this project and the proposed development will not lead to significant in-combination effects.</p>
<p><b>Dublin City Council</b> <b>Plan:</b> Dodder Greenway-Donnybrook Road to Clonskeagh Road</p>	<p>Donnybrook Road to Clonskeagh Road has been identified as a suitable location for 0.8km of rapid build walking and cycling facilities along the Dodder Greenway corridor. When complete, the overall project will deliver high quality walking and cycling facilities along the Dodder River from the sea to the mountains through</p>	<p>This project is approximately 675m upstream of the proposed development. This project is similar in nature and scale to the proposed development. This project did not require an NIS. Given this, that this project and the proposed development are in urban areas, and the assimilative capacity of the River Dodder, the</p>

Plan or Project	Description of Plan or Project	In-Combination Effect(s)
	Dublin City Council, Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council and South Dublin County Council.	River Liffey and Dublin Bay, this project and the proposed development will not lead to significant in-combination effects.
<b>Dublin City Council</b> <b>Plan:</b> Dodder Greenway and Flood Defence Project - Herbert Park to Donnybrook Road	The Dodder Greenway and Flood Defence Project - Herbert Park to Donnybrook Road, is part of the Dublin City Council (DCC) core active travel network. It is funded by the National Transport Authority (NTA) and the Office of Public Works (OPW).	This project is approximately 1.5km upstream of the proposed development. This project is similar in nature and scale to the proposed development. The construction phase of this project has begun. Given that this project and the proposed development are in urban areas, and the assimilative capacity of the River Dodder, the River Liffey and Dublin Bay, this project and the proposed development will not lead to significant in-combination effects.
<b>Dublin City Council</b> <b>Plan:</b> Dodder Greenway - Beatty's Avenue to Herbert Park scheme	Beatty's Avenue to Herbert Park has been identified as a suitable location for interim measures along the Dodder Greenway corridor. It will provide 0.5km of walking and cycling facilities from Beatty's Avenue to Herbert Park in advance of the Dodder Greenway project.	This project is approximately 2.4km upstream of the proposed development. This project is similar in nature and scale to the proposed development. This project did not require an NIS. Given this, that this project and the proposed development are in urban areas, and the assimilative capacity of the River Dodder, the River Liffey and Dublin Bay, this project and the proposed development will not lead to significant in-combination effects.
<b>Dublin City Council</b> <b>Plan:</b> Dodder Greenway - Fitzwilliam Quay to Londonbridge Road scheme	Fitzwilliam Quay to Londonbridge Road has been identified as a suitable location for interim measures along the Dodder Greenway corridor. It will provide 0.5km of walking and cycling facilities from Fitzwilliam Quay to Londonbridge Road in advance of the Dodder Greenway project. When complete, the project will deliver high quality walking and cycling facilities along the Dodder River from the sea to the mountains through Dublin City Council, Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council and South Dublin County Council.	This project is approximately 3.9km upstream of the proposed development. This project is similar in nature and scale to the proposed development. This project did not require an NIS. Given this, that this project and the proposed development are in urban areas, and the assimilative capacity of the River Dodder, the River Liffey and Dublin Bay, this project and the proposed development will not lead to significant in-combination effects.

## 5.0 CONCLUSION

In accordance with Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive and Part XAB of the Planning and Development Acts, the relevant case law, established best practice and the Precautionary Principle; this AA Screening Report has examined the details of the proposed development and the relevant European sites and has concluded, on the basis of objective information, that the proposed development, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, is not likely to give rise to impacts that would constitute likely significant effects in view of the Conservation Objectives of those sites.

In light of this conclusion, it is the considered opinion of ROD, as the author of this AA Screening Report, that the Competent Authority, Dublin City Council, may find in completing its AA Screening in respect of the Dodder Greenway Rapid Build Scheme Milltown, that the proposed development, either individually or in combination with other plans and projects, is not likely to have a significant effect on any European site, in view of best scientific knowledge and the Conservation Objectives of the sites concerned. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the author of this AA Screening Report that the Competent Authority may determine that AA is not required in respect of the proposed development.

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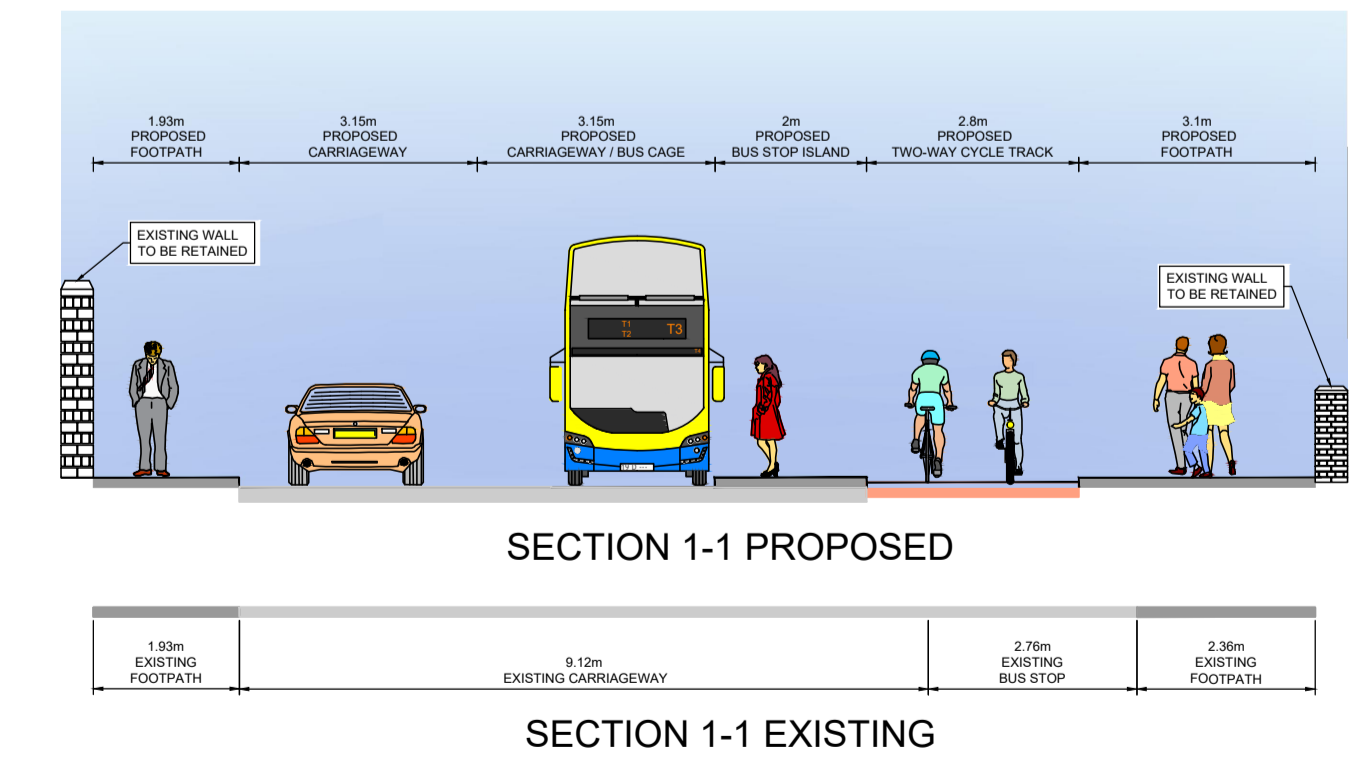
## **APPENDIX A PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT DRAWINGS**



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**LEGEND:**

	PROPOSED CONCRETE KERB		MIXED TRAFFIC STREET
	PROPOSED CYCLE TRACK		PROPOSED RAISED TABLE
	PROPOSED CYCLE LANE		PROPOSED PEDESTRIAN PRIORITY AREA
	PROPOSED FOOTPATH		PROPOSED GRASS VERGE/ EMBANKMENT
	PROPOSED CARRIAGEWAY		PROPOSED BOLLARD
	PROPOSED BUS STOP		EXISTING KERB LINE
	PROPOSED TRAFFIC ISLAND		EXISTING WALL/ FENCE TO BE RETAINED
	PROPOSED PARKING AREA		EXISTING TREE TO BE REMOVED
	PROPOSED LOADING BAY		



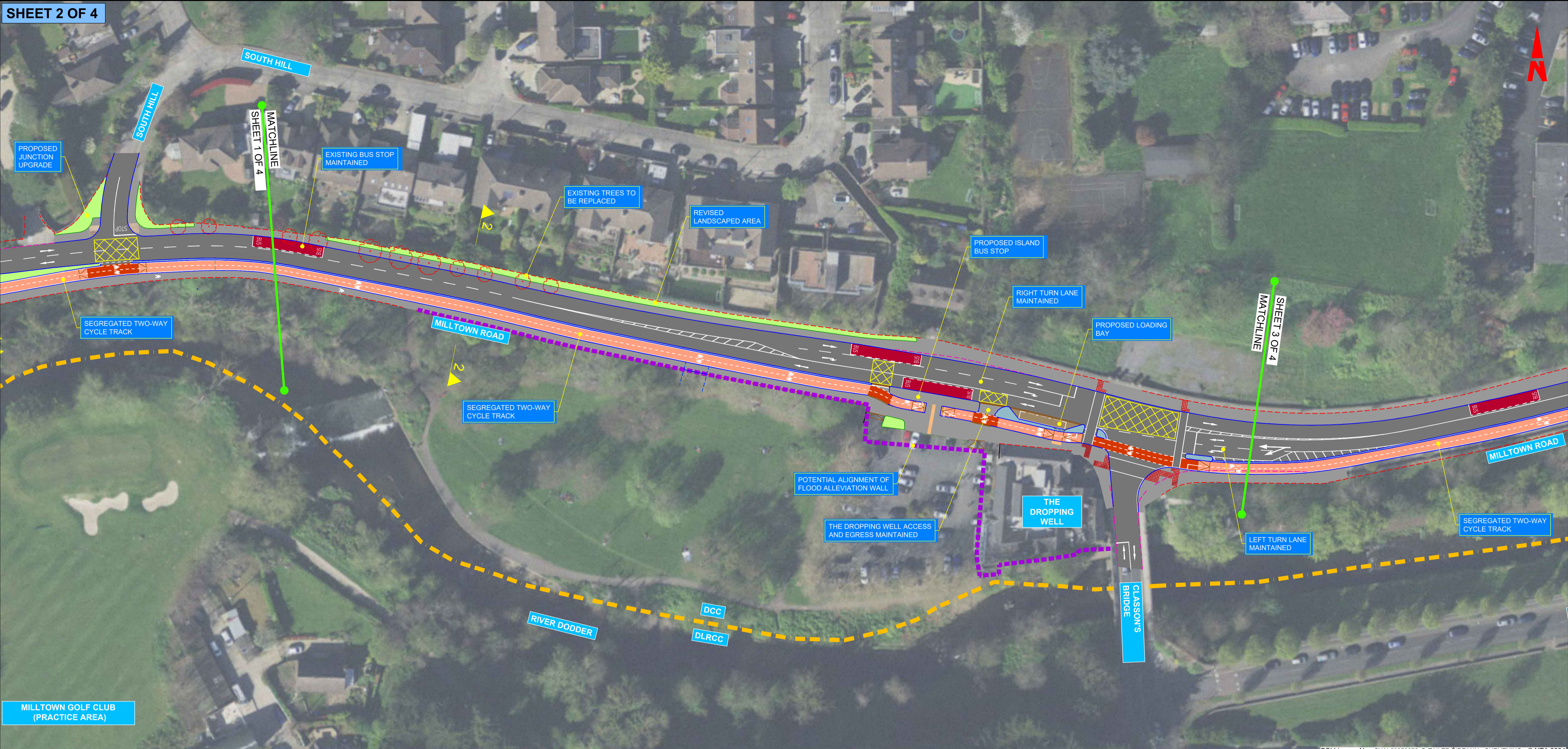
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**(MILLTOWN ROAD DODDER WALK TO DUNDRUM ROAD)  
PEDESTRIAN AND CYCLIST IMPROVEMENT SCHEME - SHEET 1 OF 4**



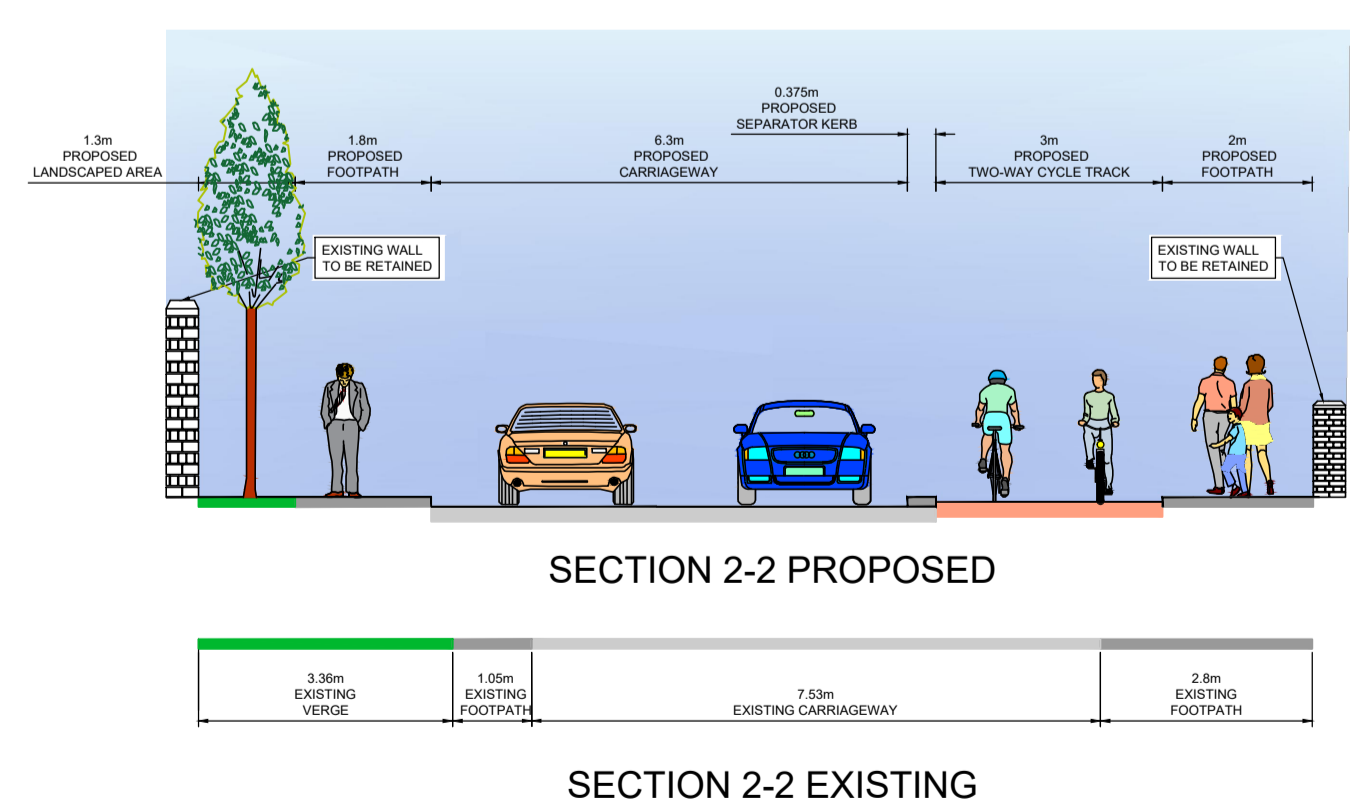




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**LEGEND:**

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	PROPOSED CYCLE TRACK		PROPOSED RAISED TABLE
	PROPOSED CYCLE LANE		PROPOSED PEDESTRIAN PRIORITY AREA
	PROPOSED FOOTPATH		PROPOSED GRASS VERGE/ EMBANKMENT
	PROPOSED CARRIAGEWAY		PROPOSED BOLLARD
	PROPOSED BUS STOP		EXISTING KERB LINE
	PROPOSED TRAFFIC ISLAND		EXISTING WALL/ FENCE TO BE RETAINED
	PROPOSED PARKING AREA		EXISTING TREE TO BE REMOVED
	PROPOSED LOADING BAY		



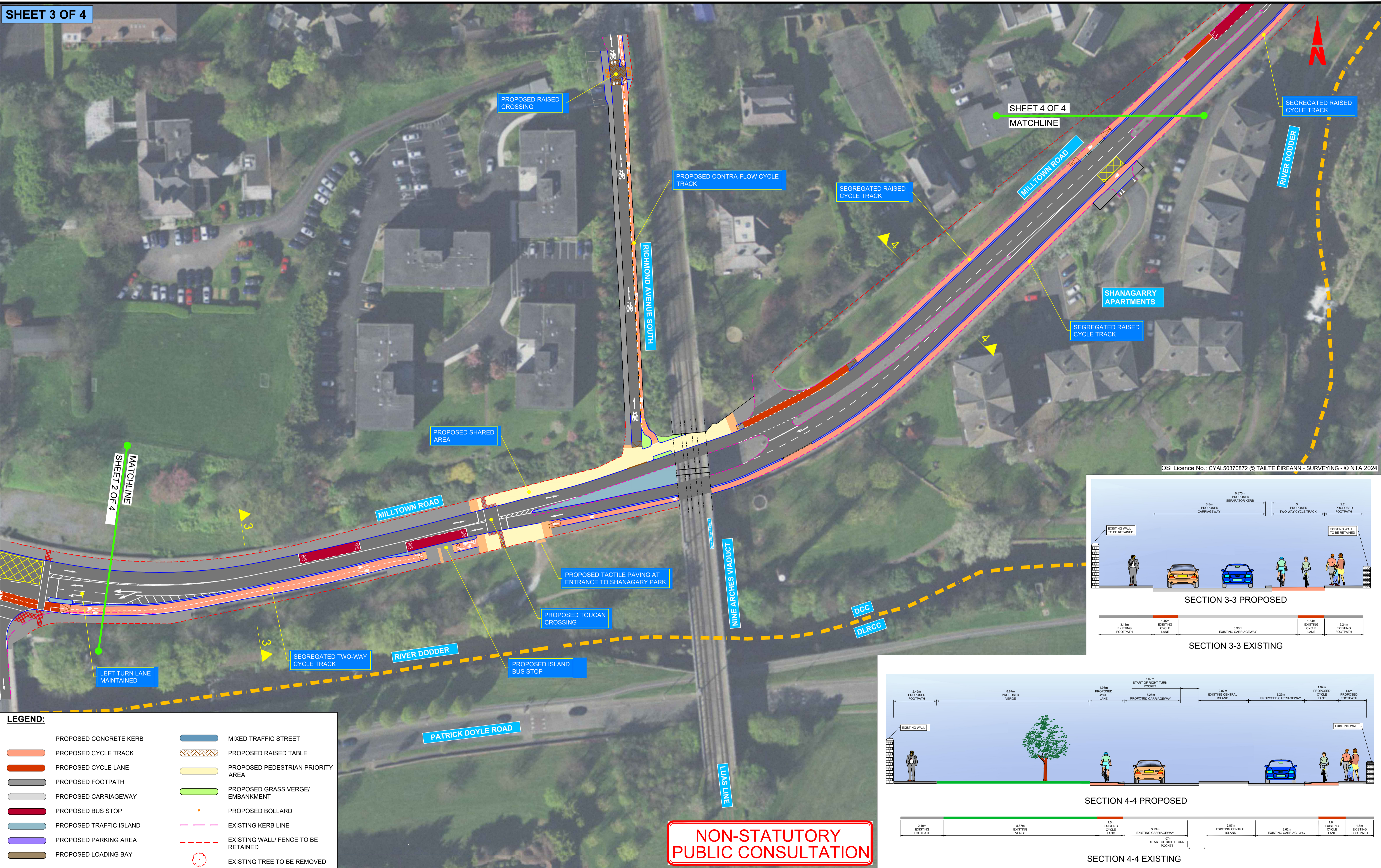
**NON-STATUTORY PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

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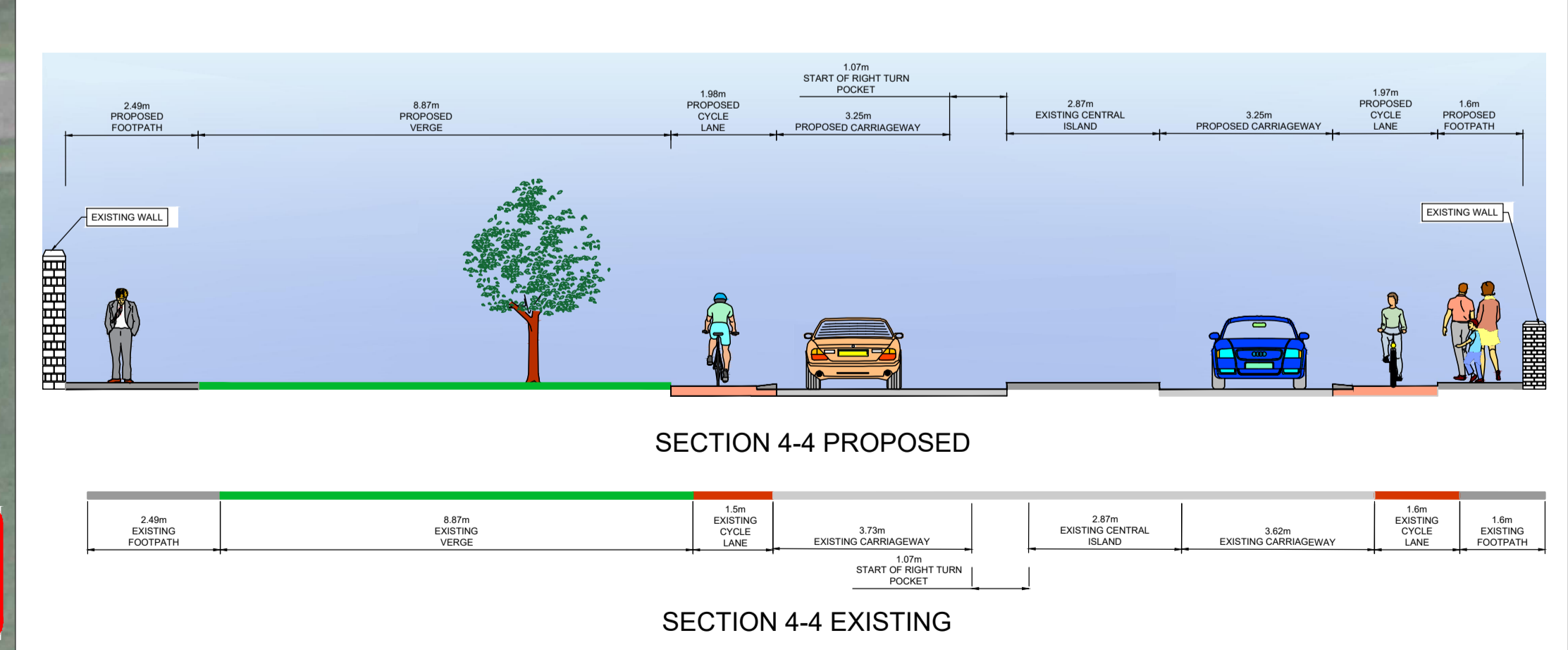
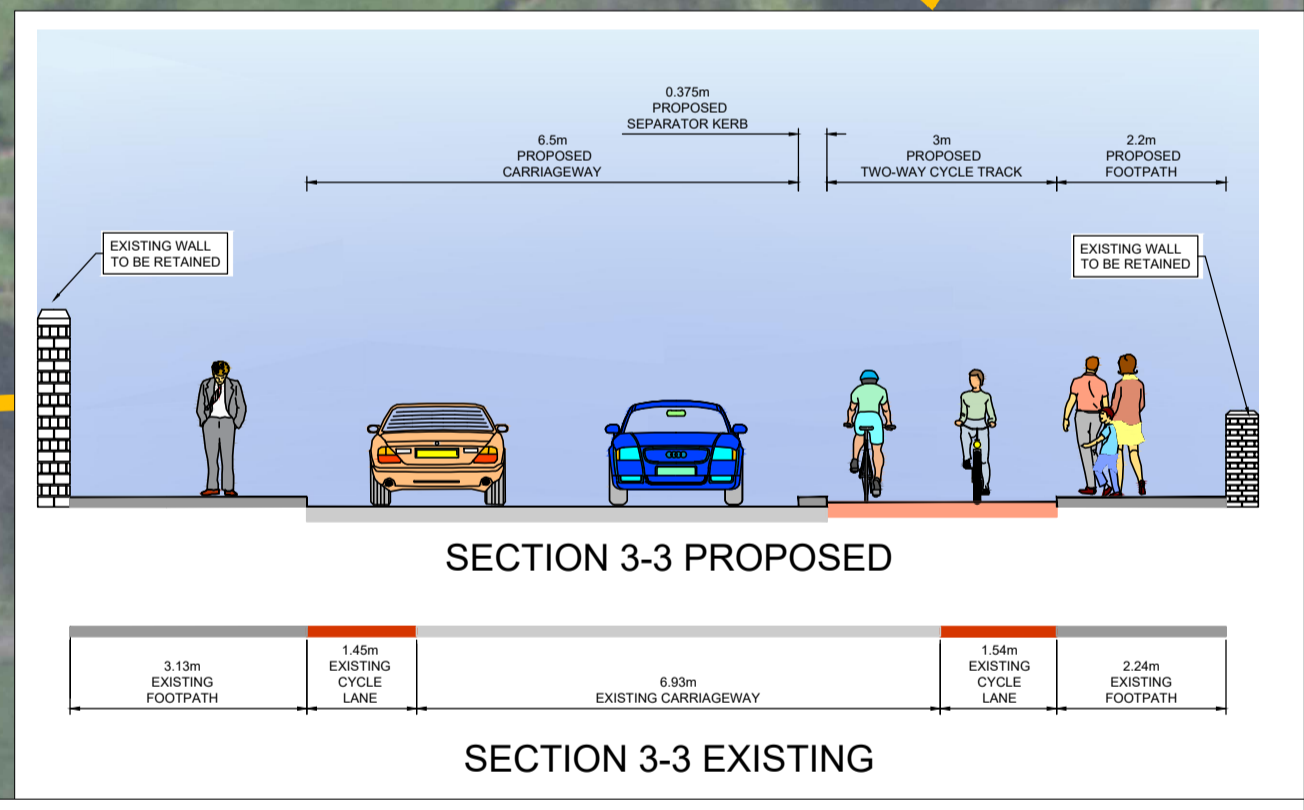


**(MILLTOWN ROAD DODDER WALK TO DUNDRUM ROAD)  
PEDESTRIAN AND CYCLIST IMPROVEMENT SCHEME - SHEET 2 OF 4**





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**NON-STATUTORY PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

**LEGEND:**

	PROPOSED CONCRETE KERB		MIXED TRAFFIC STREET
	PROPOSED CYCLE TRACK		PROPOSED RAISED TABLE
	PROPOSED CYCLE LANE		PROPOSED PEDESTRIAN PRIORITY AREA
	PROPOSED FOOTPATH		PROPOSED GRASS VERGE/ EMBANKMENT
	PROPOSED CARRIAGEWAY		PROPOSED BOLLARD
	PROPOSED BUS STOP		EXISTING KERB LINE
	PROPOSED TRAFFIC ISLAND		EXISTING WALL/ FENCE TO BE RETAINED
	PROPOSED PARKING AREA		EXISTING TREE TO BE REMOVED
	PROPOSED LOADING BAY		

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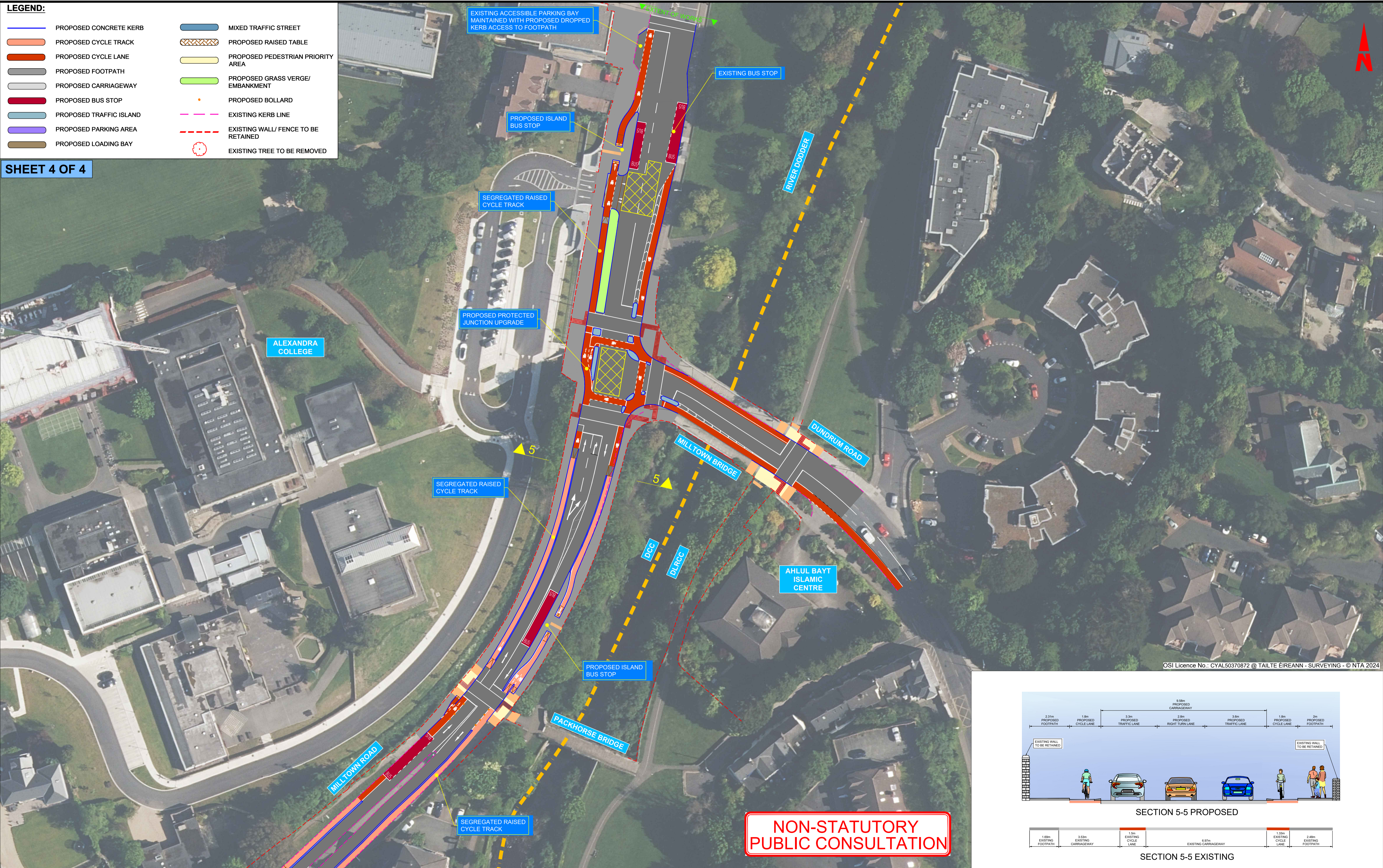
**(MILLTOWN ROAD DODDER WALK TO DUNDRUM ROAD)  
PEDESTRIAN AND CYCLIST IMPROVEMENT SCHEME - SHEET 3 OF 4**



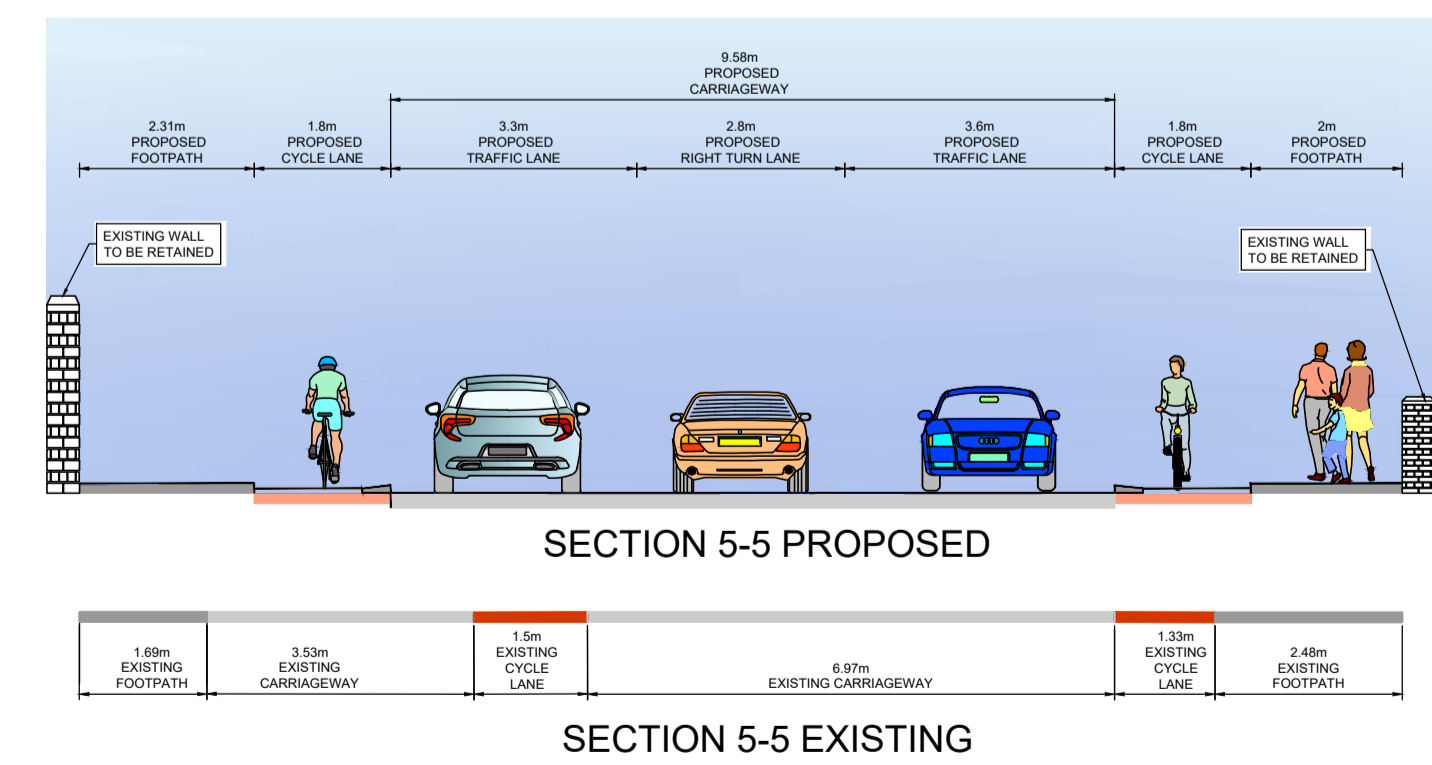
**LEGEND:**

	PROPOSED CONCRETE KERB		MIXED TRAFFIC STREET
	PROPOSED CYCLE TRACK		PROPOSED RAISED TABLE
	PROPOSED CYCLE LANE		PROPOSED PEDESTRIAN PRIORITY AREA
	PROPOSED FOOTPATH		PROPOSED GRASS VERGE/ EMBANKMENT
	PROPOSED CARRIAGEWAY		PROPOSED BOLLARD
	PROPOSED BUS STOP		EXISTING KERB LINE
	PROPOSED TRAFFIC ISLAND		EXISTING WALL/ FENCE TO BE RETAINED
	PROPOSED PARKING AREA		EXISTING TREE TO BE REMOVED
	PROPOSED LOADING BAY		

SHEET 4 OF 4



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**(MILLTOWN ROAD DODDER WALK TO DUNDRUM ROAD)  
PEDESTRIAN AND CYCLIST IMPROVEMENT SCHEME - SHEET 4 OF 4**

