Appropriate Assessment Screening Report

for proposed

Beatty's Avenue to Herbert Park Rapid Deployment Scheme

by

CAAS Ltd

for

Dublin City Council

July 2024

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Document Control

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Revised taking account of client comments	Karen Dylan Shevlin	Various dates to 29 March 2023
Revised taking account of cumulative effects	Paul Fingleton and Karen Dylan Shevlin	02 August 2023
Reviewed taking account of client comments	Karen Dylan Shevlin Paul Fingleton	02 August 2023 11 August 2023
Updated to take account of design changes, etc.	Karen Dylan Shevlin	18 June 2024
checked by	Paul Fingleton	19 June 2024
Updated to take account of client comments	Karen Dylan Shevlin	03 July 2024
status of this version	Final	

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1. Introduction

1.1. Background

CAAS has been appointed by Dublin City Council's Active Travel Programme Office, to carry out an Appropriate Assessment (AA) screening of the the proposed Beaty's Avenue to Herbert Park Rapid Deployment Scheme (the proposed scheme). This Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening Report (also known as *Stage One* AA) has been prepared to assess whether or not a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) (also known as *Stage Two* AA) is required for the proposed scheme. AA is a procedure carried out in accordance with the requirements of Article 6(3) of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (as amended) (hereafter referred to as the "Habitats Directive").

1.2. Report Structure

This report sets out the legislative context for the assessment process with reference to relevant guidelines and highlight the experience and qualifications of the author (See Appendix IV for author qualifications). It then details the proposed scheme and the works associated with this which are then interrogated to identify any possible effects which may be ecologically relevant for European sites. Following this, the metrics for the assessment of 'significance' of these effects are explained and applied to each of the European sites with ecological connectivity to the proposed scheme area. This assessment is undertaken in view of the Conservation Objectives and known sensitivities of the Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests for each European site. Other plans and projects are then considered to identify whether there are likely in combination effects, which may result in any likelihood of significant effects on European sites.

1.3. Legislative Context

The Habitats Directive provides legal protection for habitats and species of European importance. The overall aim of the Habitats Directive is to maintain or restore the "favourable conservation status" of habitats and species of European Community Interest. These habitats and species are listed in the Habitats and Birds Directives (Habitats Directive as above and Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds) with Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) designated to afford their protection. Qualifying Interests (QIs) are the habitats and species for which SACs are designated and Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) are the species for which SPAs are designated. SACs and SPAs are known and referred to as European sites.

Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive set out the decision-making tests for plans and projects likely to affect such sites. Article 6(3) establishes the requirement for AA. These requirements are implemented in the Republic of Ireland by the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (as amended) and the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive States:

> *'Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in*

> *view of the site's conservation objectives. In the light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implications for the site and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, the competent national authorities shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public'.*

For the purposes of this assessment, the above definition relates to a project. The AA process relates to the protection of species listed in Annex I and Annex II of the Habitats Directive which form the Natura 2000 network (Article 3(1)). Species breeding and resting places of species listed in Annex IV of the Habitats Directive are nationally protected in Ireland as per Articles 15 and 16 of the Habitats Directive. The actual species listed in Annex IV do not form part of the Natura 2000 network as they are not mentioned in Article 3(1) of the Directive which defines the Natura 2000 network.

Article 3(1) of the Habitats Directive States:

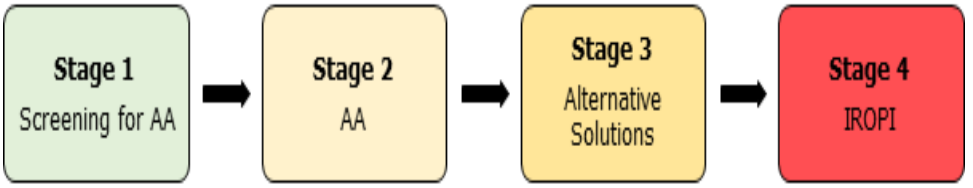
> *'A coherent European ecological network of special areas of conservation shall be set up under the title Natura 2000. This network, composed of sites hosting the natural habitat types listed in Annex I and habitats of the species listed in Annex II, shall enable the natural habitat types and the species' habitats concerned to be maintained or, where appropriate, restored at a favourable conservation status in their natural range'.*

AA is an assessment of the likelihood of significant effects arising from a plan or project, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, in order to assess whether the plan or project will result in adverse effects on any European site concerned, in view of the European site's Conservation Objectives. European sites are comprised of both SACs and SPAs and provide for the protection and long-term survival of Europe's most valuable and threatened species and habitats. Where a formal consent process applies, the AA process is concluded by the relevant competent authority making an AA determination, in accordance with article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive.

1.4. Overview of the Habitats Directive and Appropriate Assessment Process

The Habitats Directive itself promotes a hierarchy of avoidance, mitigation and compensatory measures. This approach aims to avoid any effects on European sites by identifying possible effects early in the plan or project making process and avoiding such effects. Second, the approach involves the application of mitigation measures, if necessary, during the AA process to the point where no adverse impacts on the site(s) remain. If potential significant effects on European sites remain, and no further practicable mitigation is possible, the approach requires the consideration of alternative solutions. If no alternative solutions are identified and the plan or project is required for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, then compensation measures are required for any remaining adverse effects.

There are four main stages in the AA process:



Stage one: Appropriate Assessment Screening
The process that identifies the likely impacts upon a European site of a project or plan, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans and considers whether these impacts are likely to be significant. An Appropriate Assessment Screening Report (AASR) can be compiled to inform the competent authority on conducting Screening for AA.

Stage two: Appropriate Assessment (AA)
The consideration of the impact on the integrity of the European site of the project or plan, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, with respect to the site's structure and function and its conservation objectives. Additionally, where there are adverse effects mitigation measures are required to avoid or minimise potential effects. The details of these mitigation measures are then assessed in the context of the ecological integrity of the plan/project characteristics to ensure no significant adverse effects on European sites. If this assessment process shows there are no residual significant effects, then the process may end at this stage, stage two, of the AA process which are formalised in Natura Impact Statements (NIS) reports which support the overall AA process. However, if the likelihood of significant impacts remains, then the process must proceed to Stage Three.

Stage three: Assessment of Alternative Solutions
The process that examines alternative ways of achieving the objectives of the project or plan that avoids adverse impacts on the integrity of the European site.

Stage four: Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest (IROPI)
An assessment of compensatory measures, where no alternative solutions exist and where adverse impacts remain, but in the light of an assessment of IROPI, it is deemed that the project or plan should proceed.

1.5. Approach

This AASR is prepared in line with the relevant legislation (ref s1.3), is based on best scientific knowledge, and has utilised ecological expertise, with consideration of the relevant guidance, including the following:

- *Guidance for EIA and AA screening of active travel projects funded by the NTA*, National Transport Authority, 2023;
- *Practice Note PN01: Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management, Office of the Planning Regulator, 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, European Commission Notice, Journal of the European Union, 2021;

- *Commission Notice: Managing Natura 2000 sites - The provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC", European Commission 2018*; and
- *Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland. Guidance for Planning Authorities, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2009.*

1.5.1. Source-pathway-receptor model

Ecological impact assessment of potential effects on European sites is conducted following a standard source-pathway-receptor model, where, in order for an effect to be established, all three elements of this mechanism must be in place. The absence or removal of one of the elements of the mechanism is sufficient to conclude that a potential effect is not of any relevance or significance.

- Source(s) – e.g., pollutant run-off from subject development;
- Pathway(s) – e.g., groundwater connecting to nearby qualifying wetland habitats; and,
- Receptor(s) – e.g., qualifying habitats and species of European sites.

In the context of this report, a receptor is a QI or SCI, or an ecological feature that is known to be utilised by the QIs or SCIs of a European site. A source is any identifiable element of the subject development that is known to interact with the QI, SCI, or any ecological processes underpinning a QI or SCI. A pathway is any connection or link between the source and the receptor[1], for example a river. This report provides information on whether direct, indirect and cumulative potential significant effects could arise from the subject development.

1.5.2. Zone of Influence

The Zone of Influence (ZoI) is defined in the relevant guidance[2,3] as the geographical area, relative to the subject development, over which it could have effects on the ecological receiving environment in any way that could result in potential significant effects on the Qualifying Interests or Special Conservation Interests of a given European site.

The ZoI is established and informed by the nature of the subject development, connectivity to European sites, and the receptors involved, i.e., the QIs and SCIs of European sites, their supporting habitats, and their sensitivities and pressures.

1.5.3. Ecological desktop study

This AASR is supported by desktop research from national databases including: the National Biodiversity Data Centre[4]; the National Parks and Wildlife Service[5]; and the Environmental Protection Agency[6], alongside data collected for the most recent Article 12 and 17 conservation status reporting

[1] Qualifying interest or special conservation interests of the European site in question and the known sensitivities of these key ecological receptors

[2] *Practice Note PN01: Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management, Office of the Planning Regulator, 2021.*

[3] CIEEM (2018) Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland: Terrestrial, Freshwater, Coastal and Marine version 1.2. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester.

[4] National Biodiversity Data Centre datasets available here.

[5] National Parks and Wildlife Service datasets available here and here.

[6] Environmental Protection Agency datasets available here.

cycle, 2019; and, *The Status of Protected EU Habitats and Species in Ireland* report (NPWS, 2019).

Based on the above resources, the ecological desktop study comprised the following elements:

- Identification of European sites within one or several zones of Influence (s 1.5.2) established using the source -pathway-receptor model (s 1.5.1);
- Review of the NPWS site synopses and Conservation Objectives for European sites within the zone(s) of influence for which potential pathways from the subject development area have been identified; and
- Examination of available data on protected species' and habitats' distribution, trends and abundances – where relevant.

2. Description of Proposed Scheme

2.1. Receiving Environment Overview

The proposed scheme site is located between Beaty's Avenue and Herbert Park along the Dodder River (Figure 2.1 and Figure 2.3). The proposed scheme area is within a highly urbanised area and thus is surrounded by a variety of commercial structures, residential structures and small patches of amenity grassland along length of the proposed scheme area. In a wider landscape context, the site is situated in a highly urban area within Dublin City (Figure 2.1). The Dodder River (Figure 2.2) flows east along the proposed scheme area into Dublin Bay via the River Liffey approximately 8 km from the proposed scheme area. The closest designated European site to the proposed scheme is South Dublin Bay SAC (000210) at 1.16 km in distance. As mentioned above, the proposed scheme lies within an intensive urban area and as a result, there are few areas of ecological value surrounding the site or along the proposed scheme area itself, other than the Dodder River itself.

2.2. The Proposed Scheme

The proposed scheme is to provide for a cycle route between Beaty's Avenue and Herbert Park (Figure 2.3). The proposed route is approximately 500 m in length and will mainly involve conversion of an existing vehicular traffic lane into a two-way cycle lane, creation of pedestrian priority zones and a toucan crossing of Merrion Road. The route is currently used and operated as a roadway. It will continue to be operated and maintained as a public transport route in an urban area.

Details of the proposed scheme are provided below and in Figure 2.3 to Figure 2.9:

- The scheme commences at the junction of Herbert Cottages tying into the existing facility that runs adjacent to the River Dodder to the north
- A mixed street treatment is proposed for the length of Beatty's Avenue
- At Ballsbridge, a pedestrian priority zone is proposed either side of the junction with a toucan crossing to facilitate pedestrian and cycle movements north / south
- The toucan crossing matches the design intent of the Belfield / Blackrock to City Centre Busconnects Core Bus Corridor Scheme.
- The existing kerb lines either side of Anglesea Road are to be retained, with a 2-way protected cycle track proposed on the west side. It is proposed to remove one left hand turn lane and existing parking along Anglesea Road to facilitate.
- A pedestrian priority zone is proposed to facilitate an existing bus stop.
- The 2-way protected cycle lane continues to Herbert Park Lane where a raised table is proposed
- All existing boundaries along the scheme are to be retained
- Existing trees / vegetation along the route will be retained.

The scheme extent is approximately 0.79 hectares (ha).

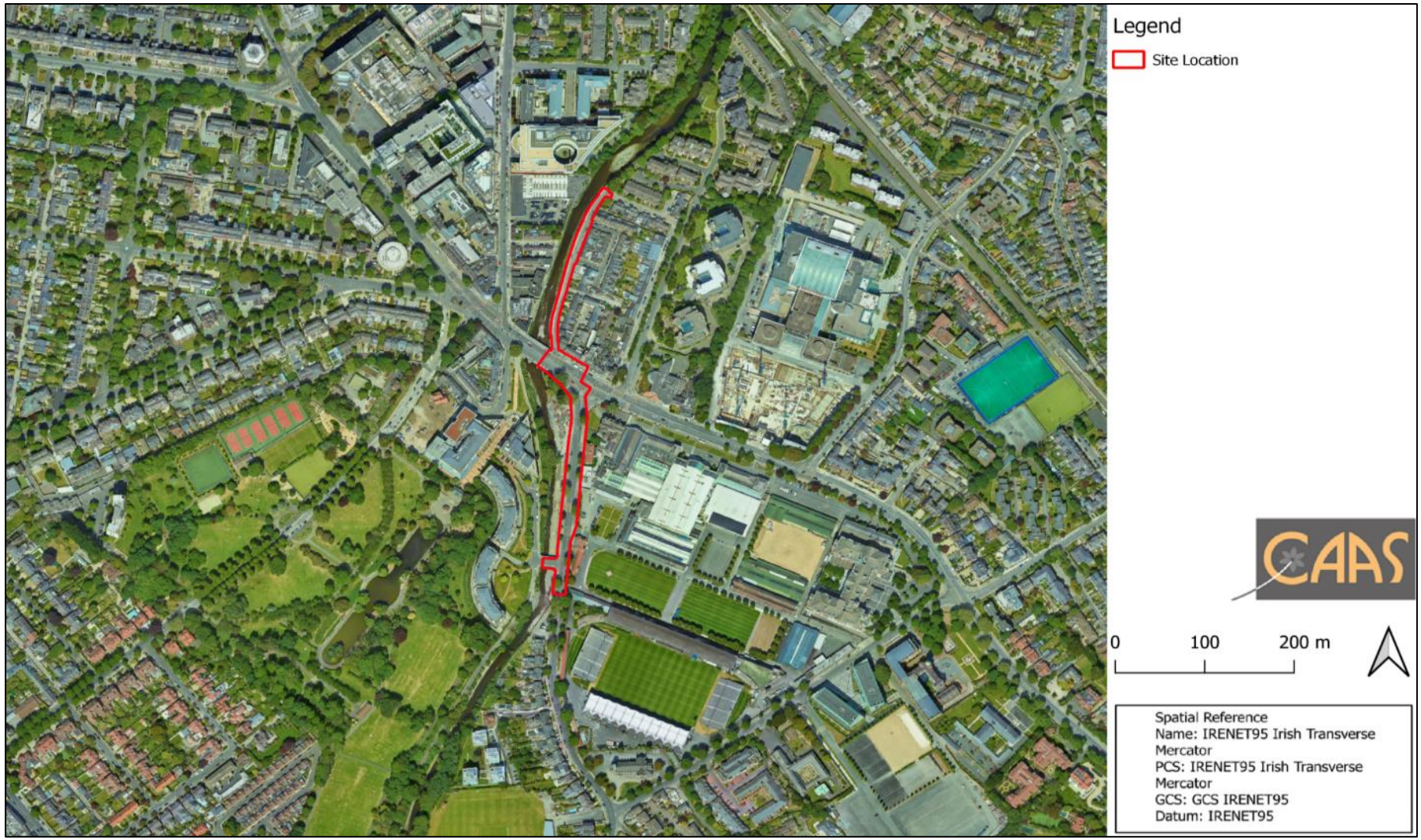


Figure 2.1. Location of the proposed scheme[7]

[7] Source: Google maps (site boundary is approximate)

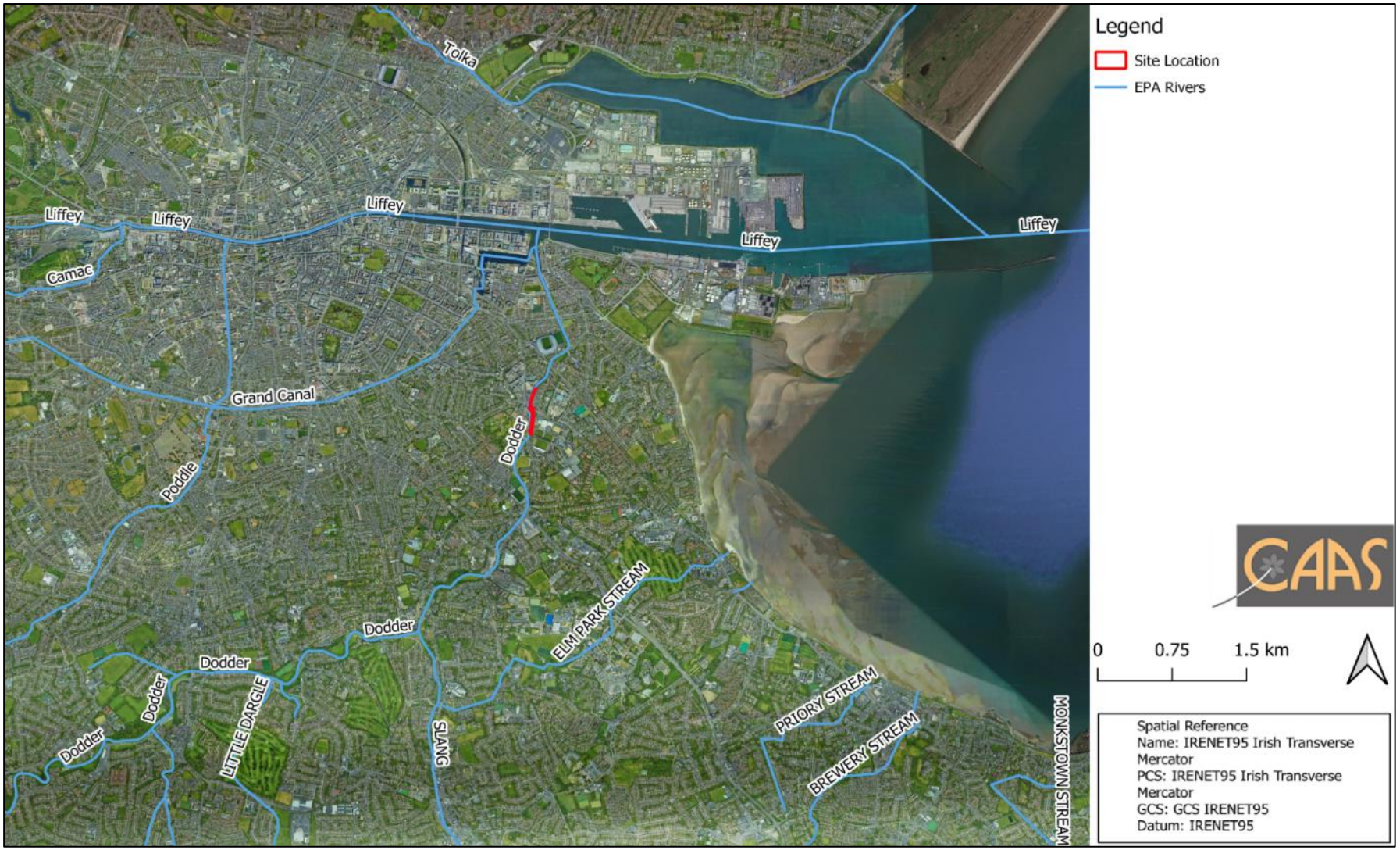


Figure 2.2. Location of EPA rivers relative to the proposed scheme[8]

[8] Source: EPA datasets – available here

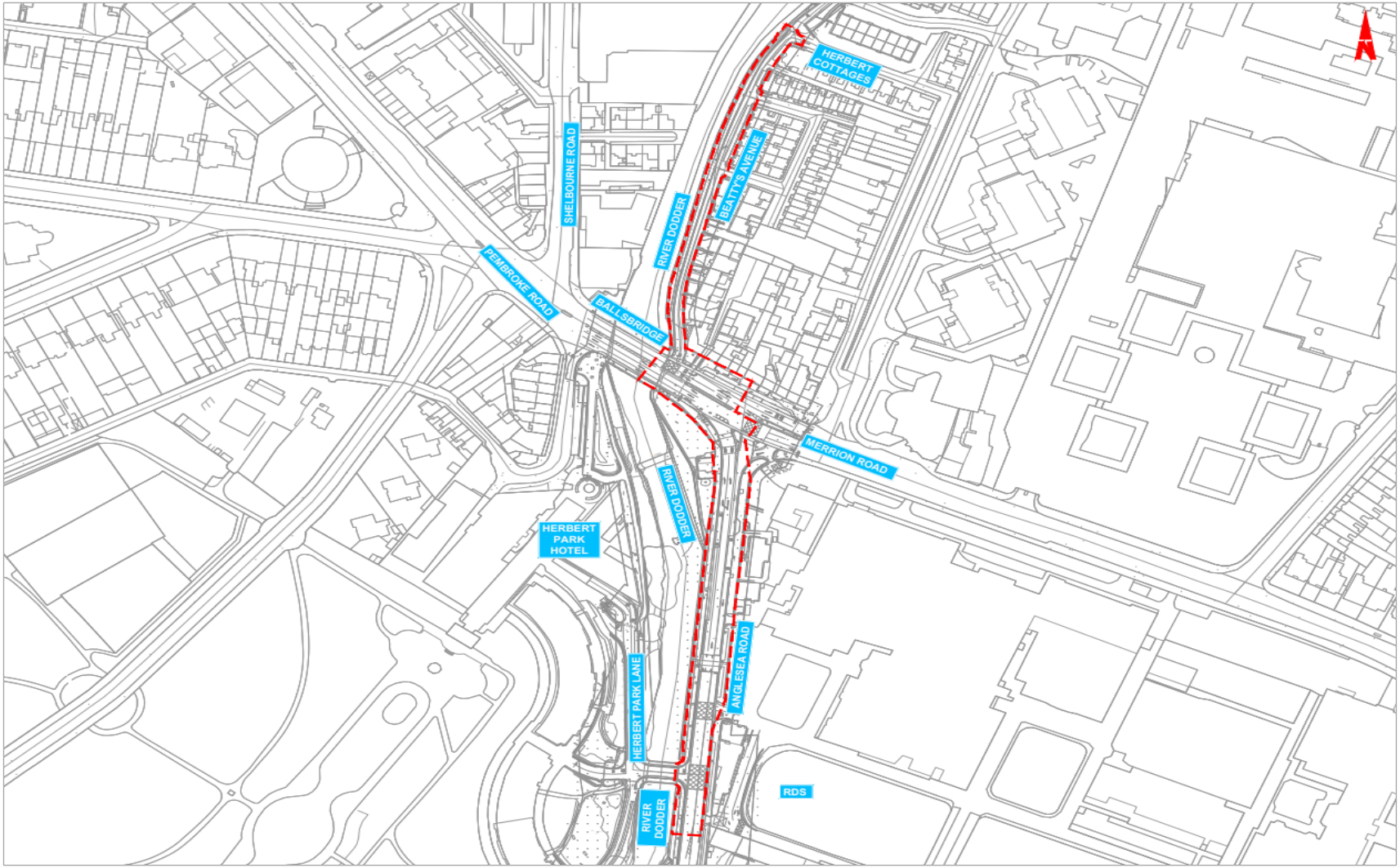


Figure 2.3 Beatty's Avenue to Herbert Park rapid deployment scheme overview[9]

[9] Source: Cycling Design Office. See accompanying drawing set for full scaled version

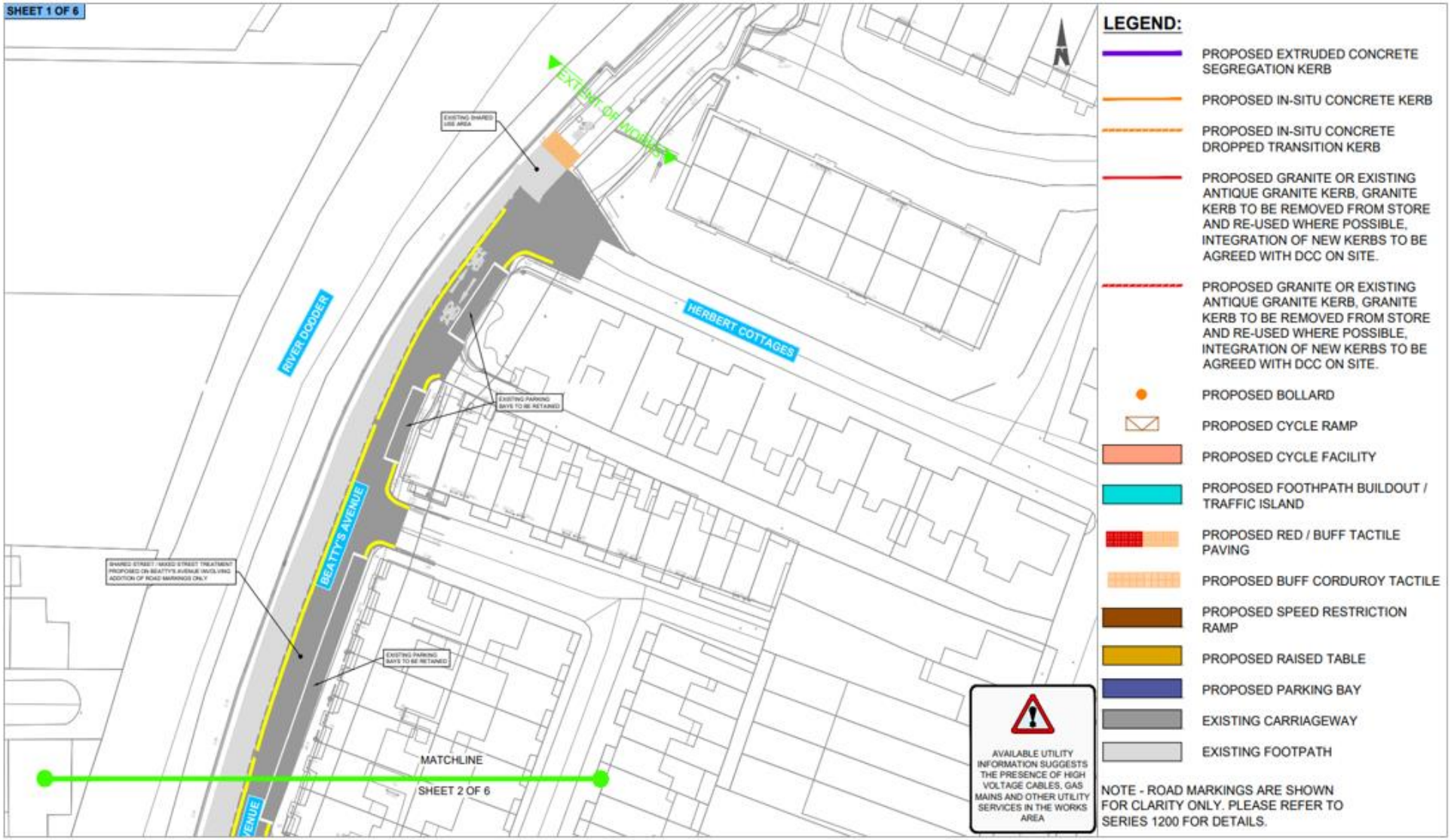


Figure 2.4. Beatty's Avenue to Herbert Park rapid deployment scheme map section 1/6[9]

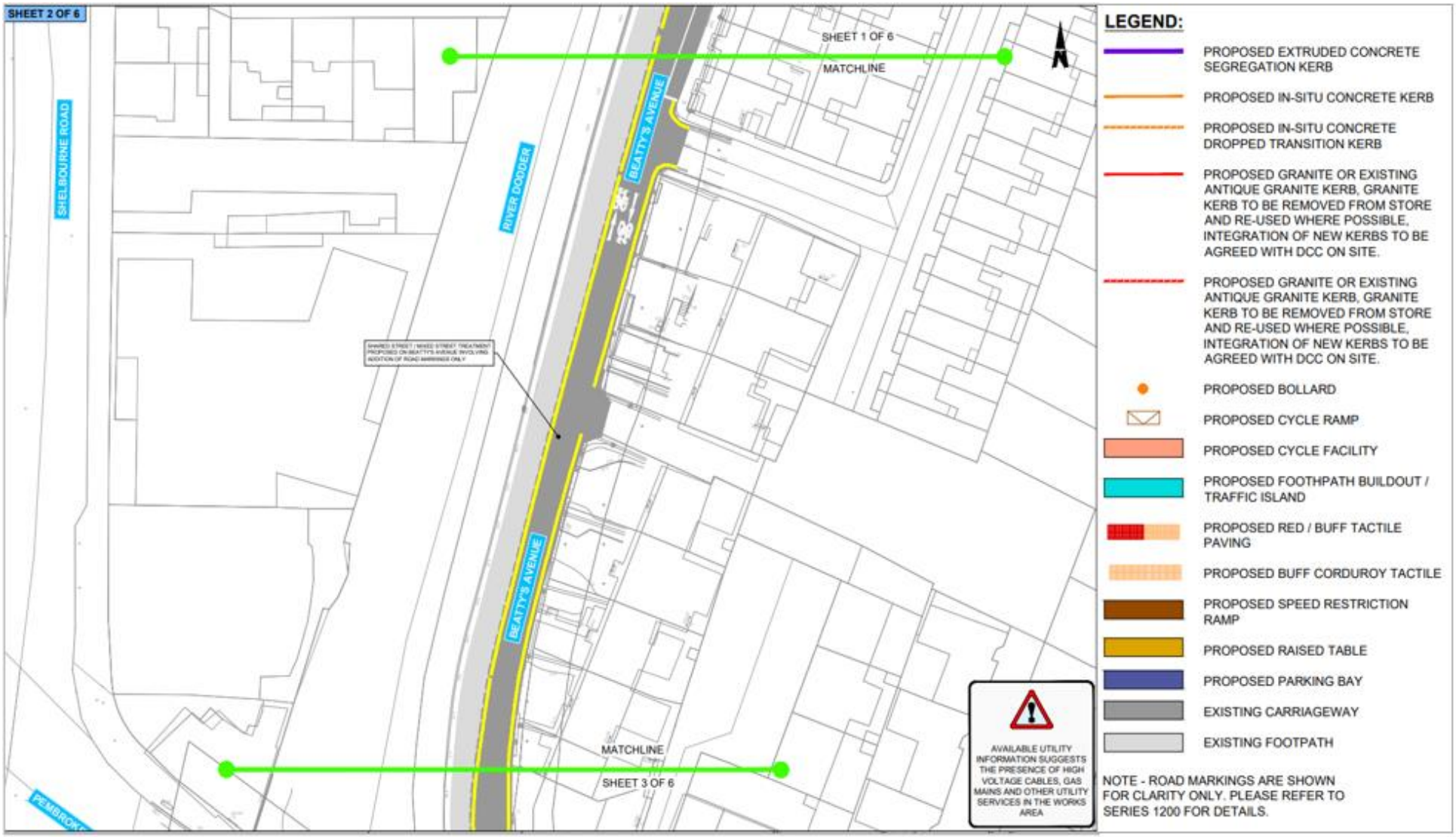


Figure 2.5. Beatty's Avenue to Herbert Park rapid deployment scheme map 2/6[9]

Figure 2.6. Beatty's Avenue to Herbert Park rapid deployment scheme map 3/6[9]

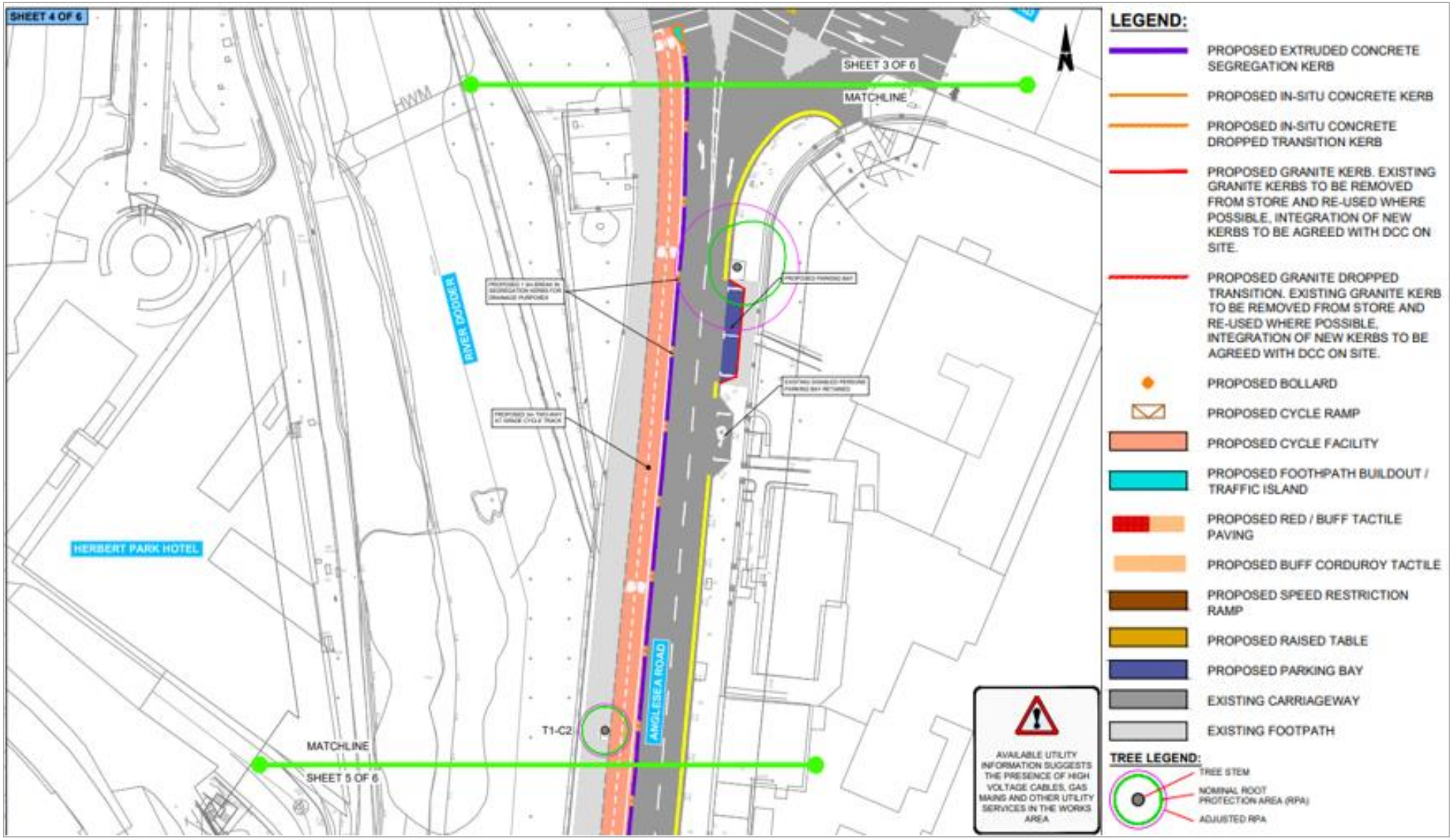


Figure 2.7. Beatty's Avenue to Herbert Park rapid deployment scheme map 4/6[9]

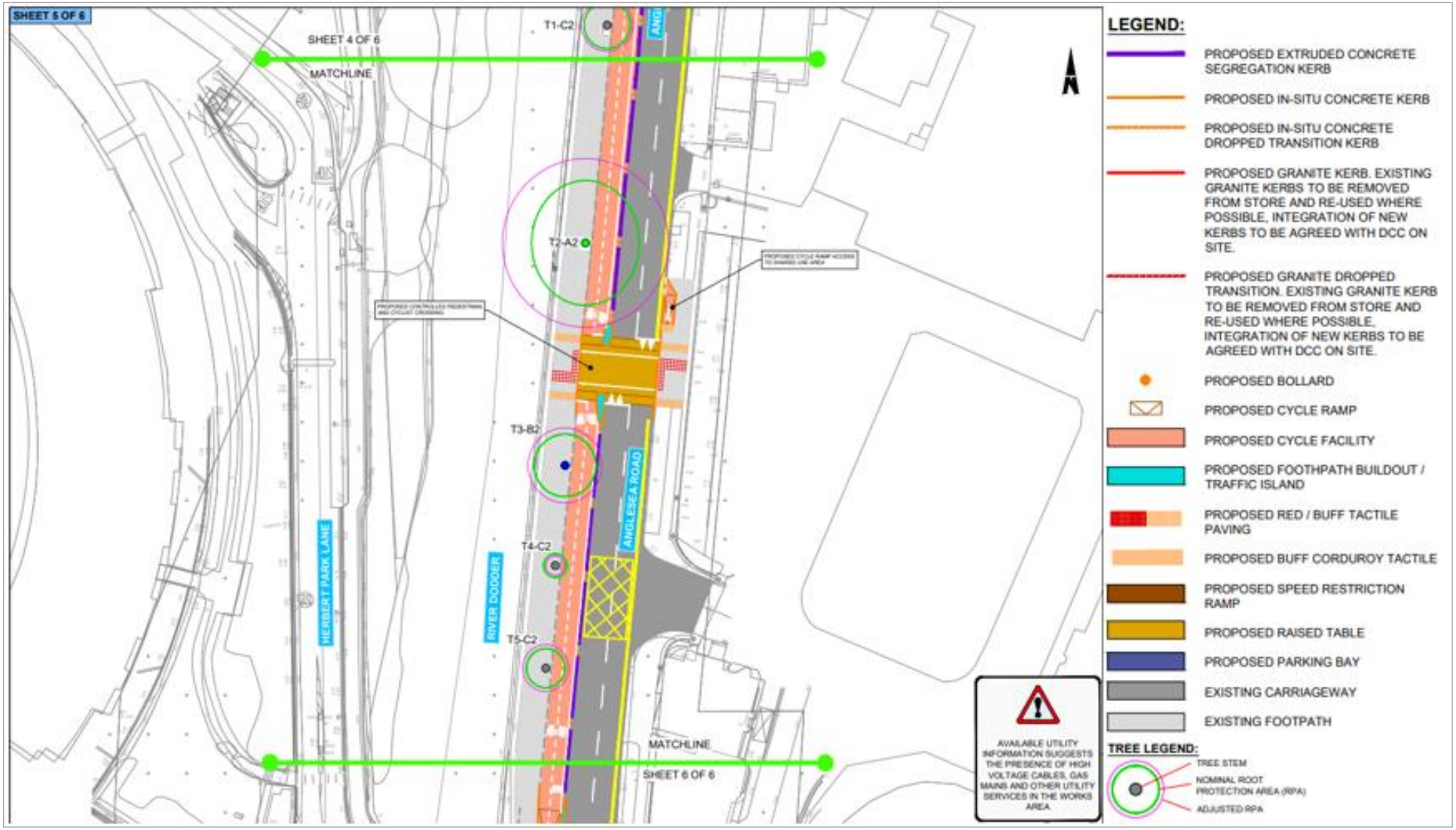


Figure 2.8. Beatty's Avenue to Herbert Park rapid deployment scheme map 5/6[9]

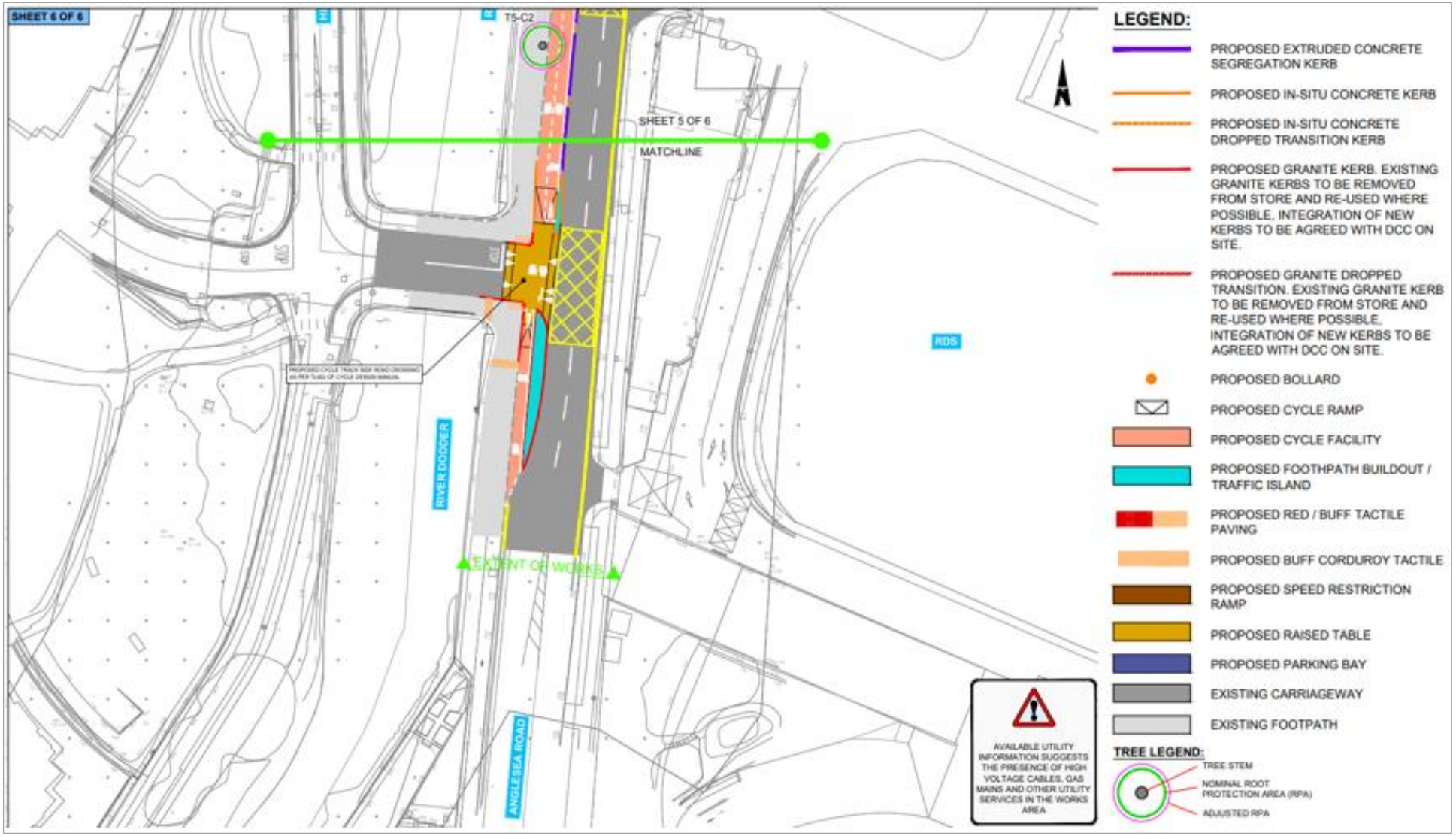


Figure 2.9. Beatty's Avenue to Herbert Park rapid deployment scheme map 6/6[9]

3. Screening for Appropriate Assessment

3.1. Introduction

This stage of the process identifies any likely significant effects on European sites arising from the project, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans. A series of questions are asked in order to determine:

- Whether the project can be excluded from AA requirements because it is directly connected with or necessary to the management of a European site.
- Whether the project will have a potentially significant effect on a European site, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, in view of the site's conservation objectives or if residual uncertainty exists regarding potential impacts.

An important element of the AA process is the identification of the "'Conservation Objectives", "Qualifying Interests" (QIs) and/ or "Special Conservation Interests" (SCIs) of European sites requiring assessment. QIs are the habitat features and species listed in Annexes I and II of the Habitats Directive for which each Special Area of Conservation (SAC) has been designated and afforded protection under the Habitats Directive. SCIs are bird species listed within Annexes I and II of the Birds Directive for which each Special Protection Area (SPA) has been designated and afforded protection under the Habitats Directive. Under the requirements of the Habitats Directive, the threats and pressures on the ecological / environmental conditions that are required to support QIs and SCIs, with specific regard to the COs of each site, are considered as part of the assessment.

Site-Specific Conservation Objectives (SSCOs) have been designed to define favourable conservation status for a particular habitat or species at that site. According to the European Commission interpretation document 'Managing Natura 2000 sites: The provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC', paragraph 4.6(3):

> *"The integrity of a site involves its ecological functions. The decision as to whether it is adversely affected should focus on and be limited to the site's conservation objectives."*

Favourable conservation status of a habitat is achieved when:

- Its natural range, and area it covers within that range, are stable or increasing;
- The specific structure and functions which are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future; and
- The conservation status of its typical species is favourable.

The favourable conservation status of a species is achieved when:

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

3.2. Identification of relevant European sites

The proposed scheme (ref Figure 2.1 and Figure 2.2) is adjacent to the River Dodder which has direct hydrological connectivity to Dublin Bay and the European sites therein (Figure 2.2).

European sites that are designated for SCI species that are known to utilise isolated / ex-situ resources across the landscape (i.e., for foraging and or roosting outside of the designated SPA boundary), however no habitat of any significance for ex-situ foraging was identified within he proposed scheme area. Noise disturbance can also be a factor for ex-situ foraging and roosting SCI species and this is considered within this assessment report.

These factors are considered in the context of the subject development and a Zone of Influence is established for each source, pathway and receptor as necessary in the context of the relevant European sites.

3.2.1. Zone of Influence

Considering the receiving environment of the proposed scheme (as described in s2.1), the small scale nature of the proposed scheme (as described in s2.2), the characteristics of the surrounding area (Figure 2.1) of a highly developed and disturbed urban landscape, and connectivity to the surrounding landscape and proximity to the Dodder River, a ZoI for potential effects is estimated to be contained within 500 m of the proposed scheme for construction related noise and dust.

Regarding hydrology; considering the nature of the proposed scheme and surrounding landscape, and the location of the proposed scheme along the River Dodder; the ZoI for hydrology is considered to extended to Dublin Bay, from Bull Island to Dún Laoghaire harbour, and the European sites therein (Figure 3.1).

Similarly, regarding in-combination effects, considering the nature of the proposed scheme and the connectivity with other cycle schemes and routes in the Dublin City area, that also have proximate connectivity with European sites within the Dublin Bay area; the ZoI for consideration of in-combination effects is considered to extend to Dublin Bay, from Bull Island to Dún Laoghaire harbour, and the European sites therein (Figure 3.1).

European sites that that have been identified to occur within these ZoIs are mapped in Figure 3.1 and listed and analysed in Table 3.1.

Figure 3.1 Connectivity[10] of the proposed scheme boundary to European sites[11]

[10] Utilising the established Zone(s) of Influence discussed in s1.5.2

[11] Source: NPWS Protected Sites and EPA River Routes (datasets downloaded 17th April 2024)

3.3. Assessment criteria

3.3.1. Is the development necessary to the management of European sites?

Under the Habitats Directive, projects that are directly connected with or necessary to the management of a European site do not require AA. For this exception to apply, management is required to be interpreted narrowly as nature conservation management in the sense of Article 6(1) of the Habitats Directive. This refers to specific measures to address the ecological requirements of annexed habitats and species (and their habitats) present on a site(s). The relationship should be shown to be direct and not a by-product of the project, even if this might result in positive or beneficial effects for a site(s).

The primary purpose of the proposed scheme is not the nature conservation management of the sites, but to implement a rapid deployment scheme, whose purpose is the upgrade of existing cycling, pedestrian and traffic calming infrastructure, between Beaty's Avenue to Herbert Park, Dublin City, and all associated site works. Therefore, in the context of the Habitat's Directive, the proposed scheme would not be considered to be directly connected with or necessary to the management of European designated sites.

3.4. Characterising likely significant effects

In order to determine the potential effects of the development, information on the qualifying features, known vulnerabilities and threats pertaining to any potentially affected European sites has been reviewed. Background information on threats to individual sites and vulnerability of habitats and species that was used during this assessment included the following:

- Ireland's Article 17 Report to the European Commission *"Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland"* (NPWS, 2019);
- Ireland's Article 12 Report to the European Commission *"Bird species' status and trends reporting format for the period 2008-2012-"* (NPWS, 2012)
- Site Synopses[12]; and
- NATURA 2000 Standard Data Forms[13].

The terminology used for characterisation of potential effects[13] in this AASR is as follows: -

- **Direct and Indirect Impacts** - An impact can be caused either as a direct or as an indirect consequence of a Plan/Project.
- **Magnitude** - Magnitude measures the size of an impact, which is described as high, medium, low, very low or negligible.
- **Extent** - The area over that the impact occurs – this should be predicted in a quantified manner.
- **Duration** - The time that the effect is expected to last prior to recovery or replacement of the resource or feature.

[12] NPWS (2019); NPWS Database of protected site data and associated documents for each European site; available at https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites: last accessed 17th April 2024

[13] Parameters used have been adapted from the following guidance documents on the conduction Appropriate Assessments and Ecological Impact Assessments:

- Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (2009) Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland. Guidance for Planning Authorities
- CIEEM (2018) Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland: Terrestrial, Freshwater, Coastal and Marine version 1.2. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester; and,

- Temporary: Up to 1 Year;
- Short Term: The effects would take 1-7 years to be mitigated;
- Medium Term: The effects would take 7-15 years to be mitigated;
- Long Term: The effects would take 15-60 years to be mitigated; and
- Permanent: The effects would take 60 or more years to be mitigated.

- **Likelihood** – The probability of the effect occurring taking into account all available information.
  - Certain/Near Certain: >95% chance of occurring as predicted;
  - Probable: 50-95% chance as occurring as predicted;
  - Unlikely: 5-50% chance as occurring as predicted; and
  - Extremely Unlikely: <5% chance as occurring as predicted.

The Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) guidelines for ecological impact assessment (2016) define: an ecologically significant impact as an impact (negative or positive) on the integrity of a defined site or ecosystem and/or the conservation status of habitats or species within a given geographic area; and the integrity of a site as the coherence of its ecological structure and function, across its whole area, which enables it to sustain the habitat, complex of habitats and/or the levels of populations of the species for which it was classified.

The Habitats Directive requires the focus of the assessment at this screening stage to be on the integrity of the site as indicated by its Conservation Objectives. It is an aim of NPWS to draw up conservation management plans for all areas designated for nature conservation. These plans will, among other things, set clear objectives for the conservation of the features of interest within a site.

Detailed SSCOs have been prepared for a number of European sites. These detailed SSCOs aim to define favourable conservation condition for the qualifying habitats and species at that site by setting targets for appropriate attributes which define the character habitat. The maintenance of the favourable condition for these habitats and species at the site level will contribute to the overall maintenance of favourable conservation status of those habitats and species at a national level.

> **Favourable conservation status** of a **species** can be described as being achieved when: '*population data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself, and the natural range of the species is neither being reduced or likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future, and there is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis.*'
>
> **Favourable conservation status** of a **habitat** can be described as being achieved when: '*its natural range, and area it covers within that range, is stable or increasing, and the ecological factors that are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future, and the conservation status of its typical species is favourable*'.

Where detailed SSCOs have not been prepared for any European site, the below **First Order Site-specific Conservation Objectives** apply:

European site type	First Order Site-specific Conservation Objective[14]
SAC	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected
SPA	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for the SPA

3.5. Identification of potential significant effects of the proposed scheme

This section identifies whether the changes brought about by the proposed scheme may have sources with pathways for introducing direct, indirect or secondary potential effects (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) on the European sites considered in this report, which may lead to a likelihood of significant effects, in the absence of any controls, conditions, or mitigation measures (as required for an AASR). The overall aim of the AASR is to examine the potential effects that can be reasonably foreseen to have a likelihood of causing potential significant effects on European sites as a result of the subject development, in the context of their SSCOs and the threaths and pressures on their QIs and SCIs.

The construction and operational phase elements of the proposed scheme with potential to introduce sources for effects on ecological processes are identified below. These will be discussed and considered for a likelihood of significant effects in view of the Special Conservation Interests, and Qualifying Interests of the European sites, and their sensitivities, and Qualifying Interests. Subsequently the potential effects with sources and pathways identified to have a likelihood for potential significant effects on European sites (if any) will be summarised.

The subsequent analysis in Table 3.1 considers potential for effects on the SSCOs of each of the sites within the identified zones of influence (as identified in s 3.2.1). As the SSCOs focus on maintaining the favourable conservation condition of the QIs/SCIs of each site, the screening process concentrates on assessing the potential effects of the proposed scheme against the QIs/SCIs of each site and their SSCOs.

3.5.1. Construction phase

There will be no direct interaction with the Dodder River as a result of the proposed scheme's construction phase. However, there is potential for disturbance effects within the construction phase through dust, noise and surface run off.

The construction phase will be localised, small-scale and temporary, within an existing highly disturbed urban environment. The scale of the proposed scheme, alongside the application of best practice measures for surface run-off, noise and dust, which will be applied regardless of the presence of European sites or connectivity to European sites (and thus not intended to address potential effects)[15], ensures that there is no likelihood for significant effect to European sites from construction related dust, noise or surface run off as a result of the construction phase of the

[14] NPWS Conservation Management Planning website, accessed May 2024

[15] Case law: Eco Advocacy v An Bord Pleanála (Case C-721/21)

proposed scheme.

3.5.2. Operational phase

The proposed scheme aims to improve the usage of the proposed scheme area for less congested and more sustainable modes of transport such as walking and cycling. As a result, there is expected to be increased pedestrian and cyclist traffic in the area throughout the operational phase. However, any effects from the operational phase of the proposed scheme are expected to be negligible as the usage will be generally unchanged. In addition, the proposed scheme is not likely to increase the number of road users overall, but rather encourage vehicular users to choose cycling or walking by improving infrastructure to enable safer journey by such means within the city. In the operational phase, minor drainage system alterations will have occurred in the form of the addition of new gullies on Anglesea Road (at the entrance to the Herbert Park Hotel), and there will be no change to hard surface area as a result of the proposed scheme, therefore surface water runoff and storm water drainage will present no potential effects during the operational phase.

3.5.3. Summary of likely significant effects

There are no likely significant effects arising from either the construction or operational phases of the proposed scheme to European sites.

The potential effects discussed above will be discussed with specific reference to each European site considered in this report, in view of their Conservation Objectives, in Table 3.1 below.

3.5.4. Other types of potential Effects

EC guidance[16] outlines the types of effects that may affect European sites. These include effects from the following activities:

- Land take
- Resource requirements (drinking water abstraction etc.)
- Emissions (disposal to land, water or air)
- Excavation requirements (removal of soil and vegetation)
- Transportation requirements
- Duration of construction, operation, decommissioning

The 2001 European Commission AA guidance outlines the following potential changes that may occur at a designated site, which may result in effects on the integrity and function of that site:

- Reduction of habitat area
- Disturbance to key species
- Habitat or species fragmentation
- Reduction in species density
- Changes in key indicators of conservation value (water quality etc.)
- Climate change

These activities and changes are considered in Table 3.1 below for relevant European sites.

[16] Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites: Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, European Commission Environment DG, 2001

Loss/reduction of habitat area

There are no European sites present within the proposed scheme boundary and the closest European site is 1.16 km from the proposed scheme area. There were no Annex I habitats or supporting habitat for Annex II species identified on site. Therefore, there will be no effects posed regarding loss of reduction of habitat area of any European sites as a result of the proposed scheme.

Habitat or species fragmentation

The proposed scheme area is comprised of a majority of artificial hard surfaces, with a small number of intensively managed areas of amenity grassland patches and treelines along the proposed scheme. It is anticipated that no vegetation or trees will be removed to facilitate the implementation of the scheme. Therefore, there will be no loss of habitat which supports or contributes the QIs or SCIs of European sits as a result of the proposed scheme.

The area has been considered at a landscape scale with respect to connectivity and ecological corridors between European sites, and there are no functional pathways to European sites that will be interrupted by the proposed scheme.

Minor drainage system alterations will take place in the form of the addition of new gullies on Anglesea Road (at the entrance to the Herbert Park Hotel); however, there will be no interaction with the Dodder River during the construction phase, and there will be no change to hard surface area as a result of the proposed scheme, therefore surface water runoff and storm water drainage will present no potential effects in the operational phase of the proposed scheme.

Regarding the construction phase, given the minor and localised nature of the proposed scheme works, and only minor changes to drainage along the proposed scheme area, the implementation of best practice construction measures along the proposed scheme area, and the dilution factor involved for a small scale project – it is not foreseen that there is any potential for significant effects introduced regarding hydrological interactions as a result of the construction phase of the proposed scheme. Therefore, there will be no effects posed to European sites regarding habitat or species fragmentation.

Disturbance to key species

None of the species and/or habitats identified in Table 3.1 were recorded on site. The nearest European site is 1.16 km from the proposed scheme area. However, due to the small scale of the proposed scheme and the highly urbanised, heavily trafficked and developed nature of the proposed scheme area, disturbance effects due to noise or lighting etc. during the construction phase are not present as the SCI species in the nearby SPAs would already exhibit a degree of habituation to such effects.

The habitats present within the scheme area are not identified to be sufficient or capable of supporting ex-situ foraging for the SCI species of the SPAs identified; therefore, no effects are identified in this regard. The operational phase will be in keeping with the current level of noise, urban activity and use, with a slight decrease in vehicular use predicted due to the nature of the proposed scheme.

Any potential for effects from the operational phase of the proposed scheme due to changes in numbers of visitors to European sites are negligible, because the proposed scheme is not likely or

intended to significantly increase the number of road users overall, but rather to encourage vehicular users to choose cycling or walking by improving infrastructure to enable safer journey by such means within the city.

Therefore, there are no potential sources for significant effects regarding disturbance to key species as a result of the proposed scheme.

Reduction in species density

There are no ecological corridors, apart from the Dodder River, between the proposed scheme area and any European site. There will be no interaction with the Dodder River as part of the proposed scheme works, and there is no potential for significant effects through construction run off or dust due to the small scale, localised nature of the proposed scheme and dilution factor involved.

There are no habitats identified on site of any ecological significance for European sites. In addition, there is no supporting habitat and/or substantial connectivity between the proposed scheme area and any European site. Therefore, there will be no reduction in species density of any of the QI or SCI species as a result of the proposed scheme.

Changes of indicators of conservation value

The proposed scheme area is 1.16 km from the closest European site. However, the proposed scheme is small and localised in scale, and the construction phase is temporary, and localised, and small in scale, with negligible potential for effects identified in this regard to European sites.

Indirect hydrological pathways to European designated sites have been identified for the construction phase via surface water drainage, and the Dodder River (which connects to Dublin Bay via the River Liffey). However, given the minor and localised nature of the proposed scheme works, minor changes to drainage in the form of new gullies on Anglesea road (at the entrance to the Herbert Park Hotel), the implementation of best practice construction measures along the proposed route, and the dilution factor for a small-scale project, there is no potential for significant effects identified with regard to water quality during the construction phase. The proposed scheme will involve construction related dust and noise effects; however, the construction phase is localised and small in scale, and is in keeping with the highly urbanised nature of the proposed scheme area.

Regarding the operational phase, there are no potential sources for significant hydrological effects identified as there will be no changes to surface or storm water drainage along the proposed scheme area as a result of the proposed scheme. Similarly, there will be no change to hard surface area as a result of the proposed scheme, therefore surface and storm water runoff over hard surface present no potential for effects as a result of the proposed scheme.

Therefore, there are no sources for effects with pathways that will affect any conservation indicators related to European sites.

Climate change

The proposed scheme is not likely to cause any increase in greenhouse gas emissions during the operational phase. It is possible there will be a decrease in local emissions. The construction phase works are likely to cause increased localised temporary emissions; however, given the small scale of

the proposed scheme and timescales involved, these are determined to be negligible. Such minor effects upon greenhouse gas emissions will not affect changes projected to arise from climate change to the degree that it would affect the QIs or SCIs of the European sites considered in this assessment.

Table 3.1 Screening assessment of the potential effects arising from the proposed scheme

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature[17]	Analysis for potential effects	Likelihood of significant effects	Likelihood of in-combination effects
000210	South Dublin Bay SAC	1.16	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210], Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], Embryonic shifting dunes [2110]	This SAC is sensitive to hydrological interactions, habitat disturbance, and direct land use management. This site is 1.16 km from the proposed scheme. There are no sources for effect for direct land use management of the SAC as this scheme area is outside of the European site. There is an indirect hydrological pathway between the proposed scheme and the SAC through urban drainage, and the Dodder River and River Liffey. Regarding the construction phase, and considering the QIs of this SAC; given the distances involved, the localised and small scale of the proposed scheme, in combination with dilution effects through the indirect hydrological pathways, there is no potential for significant effect to this SAC as a result of the construction phase. Regarding the operational phase, and considering the QIs of this SAC; as there are minor changes in drainage, and no changes in hard surface area, and that the purpose of not to increase overall road use, but to convert vehicular road users to cycling or walking, there are no sources with pathways regarding habitat disturbance for significant effects foreseen in the operational phase of the proposed scheme to European sites. Therefore, no further assessment is required.	No	No
004024	South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA	1.20	Roseate Tern *(Sterna dougallii)* [A192], Ringed Plover *(Charadrius hiaticula)* [A137], Oystercatcher *(Haematopus ostralegus)* [A130], Grey Plover *(Pluvialis squatarola)* [A141], Common tern *(Sterna hirundo)* [A193], Light-bellied Brent Goose	This SPA is sensitive to hydrological interactions, direct land use management and disturbance effects. This site is 1.20 km from the proposed scheme. There are no sources for effect for direct land use management of the SPA as this site is outside of the project boundary. There is an indirect hydrological pathway between the proposed scheme and the SPA through urban drainage, and the Dodder River and the River Liffey. SCI species are sensitive to disturbance effects; in general distances beyond 2 km are seen to be sufficient to preclude such effects[18,19]. These distances can vary due to factors such as species and/or time of year[20,21]. Given the distance between the	No	No

[17] Qualifying feature is used here to encompass both Special Conservation Interests of SPAs and Qualifying Interests of SACs

[18] Ruddock, M. and Whitfield, D.P., 2007. A review of disturbance distances in selected bird species. A report from Natural Research (Projects) Ltd to Scottish Natural Heritage, 181.

[19] Bright, J.A., Langston, R. and Anthony, S., 2009. Mapped and written guidance in relation to birds and onshore wind energy development in England. Sandy: RSPB.

[20] Bötsch, Y., Tablado, Z. and Jenni, L., 2017. Experimental evidence of human recreational disturbance effects on bird-territory establishment. Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences, 284(1858), p.20170846.

[21] Goss-Custard, J.D., Hoppe, C.H., Hood, M.J. and Stillman, R.A., 2020. Disturbance does not have a significant impact on waders in an estuary close to conurbations: importance of overlap between birds and people in time and space. Ibis, 162(3), pp.845-862.

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature[17]	Analysis for potential effects	Likelihood of significant effects	Likelihood of in-combination effects
			(Branta bernicla hrota) [A674], Sanderling *(Calidris alba)* [A144], Redshank *(Tringa totanus)* [A162], Dunlin *(Calidris alpina)* [A149], Arctic tern *(Sterna paradisaea)* [A194], Black-headed Gull *(Chroicocephalus ridibundus)* [A179], Knot *(Calidris canutus)* [A143], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Bar-tailed Godwit *(Limosa lapponica)* [A157]	proposed scheme area and the SPA there are is a pathway for disturbance effects identified in this regard. However, given that the SCI species in the identified SPA already exhibit a high degree of habituation to urban noise disturbance due to the SPAs close proximity to a highly industrialised area, and the small-scale nature of the construction phase of the proposed scheme, no potential effects have been identified in regard to noise disturbance effects. These SCI species are highly vagile and therefore may utilise ex-situ ecological resources which may have interactions with the proposed scheme; however, the local landscape characteristics and the availability of resources ensure that the local scale interactions with ex-situ resources are not likely to have significant effects on the SPA in this regard. Regarding the construction phase, and considering the SCIs of this SPA; given the distances involved, the localised and small scale of the proposed scheme, in combination with dilution effects through the indirect hydrological pathways, there is no potential for significant effect to this SPA as a result of any hydrological interactions with the construction phase. Regarding the operational phase, and considering the SCIs of this SPA; there are no changes in drainage or hard surface area as a result of the proposed scheme. Considering a potential increase in visitors, the purpose of the proposed scheme is not to increase overall road use, but to convert vehicular road users to cycling or walking, and improve the safety and current infrastructure for road users. Therefore, there are no sources with pathways for significant effects foreseen to this European site with regard to hydrological quality and visitor impacts in the operational phase of the proposed scheme. Therefore, no further assessment is required.		
004006	North Bull Island SPA	4.59	Dunlin *(Calidris alpina)* [A149], Turnstone *(Arenaria interpres)* [A169], Curlew *(Numenius arquata)* [A160], Redshank *(Tringa totanus)* [A162], Pintail *(Anas acuta)* [A054], Shoveler *(Anas clypeata)* [A056], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Bar-	This SPA is sensitive to hydrological interactions, direct land use management and disturbance effects. This site is 4.59 km from the proposed scheme. There are no sources for effect for direct land use management of the SPA as this site is outside of the project boundary. There is an indirect hydrological pathway between the proposed scheme and the SPA via the Dodder River and River Liffey. SCI species are sensitive to disturbance effects; in general distances beyond 2 km are	No	No

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature[17]	Analysis for potential effects	Likelihood of significant effects	Likelihood of in-combination effects
			tailed Godwit *(Limosa lapponica)* [A157], Shelduck *(Tadorna tadorna)* [A048], Light-bellied Brent Goose *(Branta bernicla hrota)* [A674], Black-headed Gull *(Chroicocephalus ridibundus)* [A179], Black-tailed Godwit *(Limosa limosa)* [A156], Golden Plover *(Pluvialis apricaria)* [A140], Oystercatcher *(Haematopus ostralegus)* [A130], Teal *(Anas crecca)* [A052], Sanderling *(Calidris alba)* [A144], Grey Plover *(Pluvialis squatarola)* [A141], Knot *(Calidris canutus)* [A143]	seen to be sufficient to preclude such effects[22,23]. These distances can vary due to factors such as species and/or time of year[24,25]. Given the distance between the proposed scheme area and the SPA no pathways for potential effects have been identified in regard to noise disturbance effects. These SCI species are highly vagile and therefore may utilise ex-situ ecological resources which may have interactions with the proposed scheme; however, the local landscape characteristics and the availability of resources ensure that the local scale interactions with ex-situ resources are not likely to have significant effects on the SPA in this regard. Regarding the construction phase, and considering the SCIs of this SPA; given the distances involved, the localised and small scale of the proposed scheme, in combination with dilution effects through the indirect hydrological pathways, there is no potential for significant effect to this SPA as a result of any hydrological interactions with the construction phase. Regarding the operational phase, and considering the SCIs of this SPA; there are no changes in drainage or hard surface area as a result of the proposed scheme. Considering a potential increase in visitors, the purpose of the proposed scheme is not to increase overall road use, but to convert vehicular road users to cycling or walking, and improve the safety and current infrastructure for road users. Therefore, there are no sources with pathways for significant effects foreseen to this European site with regard to hydrological quality and visitor impacts in the operational phase of the proposed scheme. Therefore, no further assessment is required.		
000206	North Dublin Bay SAC	4.60	Embryonic shifting dunes [2110], Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria - white dunes [2120], Petalwort	This SAC is sensitive to direct land use management, habitat disturbance and hydrological interactions. This site is 4.60 km from the proposed scheme. There are no sources for effect for direct land use management of the SAC as this site is outside of the project boundary. There is an indirect hydrological pathway between the proposed	No	No

[22] Ruddock, M. and Whitfield, D.P., 2007. A review of disturbance distances in selected bird species. A report from Natural Research (Projects) Ltd to Scottish Natural Heritage, 181.

[23] Bright, J.A., Langston, R. and Anthony, S., 2009. Mapped and written guidance in relation to birds and onshore wind energy development in England. Sandy: RSPB.

[24] Bötsch, Y., Tablado, Z. and Jenni, L., 2017. Experimental evidence of human recreational disturbance effects on bird-territory establishment. Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences, 284(1858), p.20170846.

[25] Goss-Custard, J.D., Hoppe, C.H., Hood, M.J. and Stillman, R.A., 2020. Disturbance does not have a significant impact on waders in an estuary close to conurbations: importance of overlap between birds and people in time and space. Ibis, 162(3), pp.845-862.

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature[17]	Analysis for potential effects	Likelihood of significant effects	Likelihood of in-combination effects
			(Petalophyllum ralfsii) [1395], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], Mediterranean salt meadows *(Juncetalia maritimi)* [1410], Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation - grey dunes [2130], Atlantic salt meadows *(Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae)* [1330], Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210], Humid dune slacks [2190]	scheme and the SAC through urban drainage, and the Dodder River and River Liffey. Regarding the construction phase, and considering the QIs of this SAC; given the distances involved, the localised and small scale of the proposed scheme, in combination with dilution effects through the indirect hydrological pathways, there is no potential for significant effect to this SAC as a result of the construction phase. Regarding the operational phase, and considering the QIs of this SAC; as there are minor changes in drainage, and no changes in hard surface area, and that the purpose of not to increase overall road use, but to convert vehicular road users to cycling or walking, there are no sources with pathways regarding habitat disturbance for significant effects foreseen in the operational phase of the proposed scheme to European sites. Therefore, no further assessment is required.		
004236	North-West Irish Sea cSPA[26]	5.57	Common Tern *(Sterna hirundo)* [A193], Common Scoter *(Melanitta nigra)* [A065], Razorbill *(Alca torda)* [A200], Arctic Tern *(Sterna paradisaea)* [A194], Great Northern Diver *(Gavia immer)* [A003], Puffin *(Fratercula arctica)* [A204], Black-headed Gull *(Chroicocephalus ridibundus)* [A179], Red-	This SPA is sensitive to hydrological interactions, direct land use management and disturbance effects. This site is 5.57 km from the proposed scheme. There are no sources for effect for direct land use management of the SPA as this site is outside of the project boundary. There is an indirect hydrological pathway between the proposed scheme and the SPA via the Dodder River and River Liffey. SCI species are sensitive to disturbance effects; in general distances beyond 2 km are seen to be sufficient to preclude such effects[27,28]. These distances can vary due to factors such as species and/or time of year[29,30]. Given the distance between the proposed scheme area and the SPA no pathways for potential effects have been identified in regard to noise disturbance effects.	No	No

[26] The Regulation 15 notification, issued on 13TH of July 2023, by the NPWS, began the first stage in the designation process for this candidate SPA. Supporting information regarding this cSPA, including the site's Conservation Objectives and threats and pressures, have yet to be published by the NPWS at the time of compiling this report. Therefore, the assessment was conducted using the best, most recent information available for this cSPA provided by the NPWS.

[27] Ruddock, M. and Whitfield, D.P., 2007. A review of disturbance distances in selected bird species. A report from Natural Research (Projects) Ltd to Scottish Natural Heritage, 181.

[28] Bright, J.A., Langston, R. and Anthony, S., 2009. Mapped and written guidance in relation to birds and onshore wind energy development in England. Sandy: RSPB.

[29] Bötsch, Y., Tablado, Z. and Jenni, L., 2017. Experimental evidence of human recreational disturbance effects on bird-territory establishment. Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences, 284(1858), p.20170846.

[30] Goss-Custard, J.D., Hoppe, C.H., Hood, M.J. and Stillman, R.A., 2020. Disturbance does not have a significant impact on waders in an estuary close to conurbations: importance of overlap between birds and people in time and space. Ibis, 162(3), pp.845-862.

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature[17]	Analysis for potential effects	Likelihood of significant effects	Likelihood of in-combination effects
			throated Diver *(Gavia stellata)* [A001], Little Tern *(Sterna albifrons)* [A195], Lesser Black-backed Gull *(Larus fuscus)* [A183], Herring Gull *(Larus argentatus)* [A184], Great Black-backed Gull *(Larus marinus)* [A187], Guillemot *(Uria aalge)* [A199], Roseate Tern *(Sterna dougallii)* [A192], Kittiwake *(Rissa tridactyla)* [A188], Fulmar *(Fulmarus glacialis)* [A009], Shag *(Phalacrocorax aristotelis)* [A018], Common Gull *(Larus canus)* [A182], Little Gull *(Larus minutus)* [A177], Manx Shearwater *(Puffinus puffinus)* [A013], Cormorant *(Phalacrocorax carbo)* [A017]	These SCI species are highly vagile and therefore may utilise ex-situ ecological resources which may have interactions with the proposed scheme; however, the local landscape characteristics and the availability of resources ensure that the local scale interactions with ex-situ resources are not likely to have significant effects on the SPA in this regard. Regarding the construction phase, and considering the SCIs of this SPA; given the distances involved, the localised and small scale of the proposed scheme, in combination with dilution effects through the indirect hydrological pathways, there is no potential for significant effect to this SPA as a result of any hydrological interactions with the construction phase. Regarding the operational phase, and considering the SCIs of this SPA; there are no changes in hard surface area and minor changes to drainage as a result of the proposed scheme. Considering a potential increase in visitors, the purpose of the proposed scheme is not to increase overall road use, but to convert vehicular road users to cycling or walking, and improve the safety and current infrastructure for road users. Therefore, there are no sources with pathways for significant effects foreseen to this European site with regard to hydrological quality and visitor impacts in the operational phase of the proposed scheme. Therefore, no further assessment is required.		

3.6. Other plans and projects

Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive requires an assessment of a plan or project to consider other plans or projects that might, in combination with the plan or project, have the potential to have significant effects on European sites.

The plans or projects considered for in-combination effects were chosen based on the following criteria, in the context of the characteristics and the associated sources for potential effects of the proposed scheme (as discussed in s2 and s3.5 respectively):

- Having direct or indirect connectivity to a European site;
- Being in close proximity to a European site;
- Being of a substantial scale relative to the conditions and/or current works taking place in the surrounding landscape;
- Having disperse emissions or far-reaching sources for effects;
- Having sources for effects on ecological connectivity.

Considering the above factors for Local Authority and An Bord Pleanála planning applications; the Dept of Housing, Local Government and Heritage planning[31] and An Bord Pleanála[32] databases were searched using a radius of 200m from the proposed scheme boundary, over the past 5 years[33]. All developments in these parameters were considered.

Any potential sources for effects from the proposed scheme have been examined in combination with the potential sources for effects from the plans and projects resulting from the above detailed search parameters for potential additive or interactive effects on the European sites. The resulting plans from the above search criteria are discussed in 3.6.1 below, while the resulting projects from this search that are most relevant for this scheme are discussed in s3.6.2 below, and a comprehensive list displayed in Appendices V and VI.

3.6.1. Plans considered for in-combination effects arising from the proposed scheme

- Dublin City Development Plan 2022-2028
- Dublin Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area 2022-2024

The above plans have all undergone Appropriate Assessment to ensure no significant adverse effects on European sites, before being adopted and implemented[34]. In-combination effects assessments have been undertaken for the wider Draft Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area (2022-2042) and the Greater Dublin Area Cycle Network Plan (2013) within the NIS's accompanying the plans. Both have assessed for potential in-combination effects of the schemes with other plans, and provided relevant mitigation where required.

The proposed scheme will connect with some of the other cycle routes proposed in the near future

[31] Local Authority planning applications - available here, accessed; 11th June 2024

[32] An Bord Pleanála planning application - aavailable here, accessed; 11th June 2024

[33] Planning applications have a standard lifespan of 5 years as per Section 40 (3)(b) of the Planning & Development Act 2000, as amended; therefore, these are viewed to be the 'live' applications, all other projects are considered as part of the site other than refused and withdrawn applications, as these would not have any in-combination effects

[34] Note that some are still at the Draft stage, but have undergone the AA process and are awaiting final adoption at the time of this assessment.

under the above plans, which may connect to or run adjacent to European sites. However, any potential in-combination effects from an increase in footfall/visitors to European sites in the operational phase of this proposed scheme are predicted to be negligible due to the nature of the intended usage combined current usage and status of the proposed scheme area – i.e., the proposed scheme is not likely to increase the number of road users overall, but rather encourage current vehicular road users to convert cycling or walking by improving infrastructure to enable safer journey by such means within the city. Therefore, it is not foreseen that the proposed scheme will have any significant in-combination effects with the above plans.

Considering the above, and that the proposed scheme is small in scale with a temporary construction phase, and the operational phase is consistent with the above plans, with no potential for significant effects, it is not foreseen that the proposed upgrade scheme will have any significant in-combination effects with the above plans.

3.6.2. Projects considered for in-combination effects arising from the proposed scheme

There are a large number other proposed schemes in the vicinity including works which are at planning stage or underway on various sites. The database search found that the vast majority of projects within the area are relating to the altering of existing structures, small private home extensions, change of use, along more medium scale developments. All construction and infrastructure work resulting from these projects in the local area are small to large in scale, with Appropriate Assessments carried out for each where required.

The National Transport Authority's (NTA) national BusConnects programme has 12 "Core Bus Corridor" schemes are in various stages of either pre-application or consent stage (with An Bord Pleanála) in Dublin City. A map showing these travel schemes is available on the Dublin City Council website[35]. All Core Bus Corridor schemes have undergone Screening for AA.

The proposed scheme will be complementary to the Core Bus Corridor schemes, and tie in to the wider travel network of Dublin City. This supports a fully connected Active Travel Network, thereby contributing to the objectives of the Greater Dublin Area Transport Strategy, as well as to the policies and objectives set out in the Dublin City Development Plan 2022-2028.

Some Core Bus Corridor schemes for Dublin City have potential to interact with the proposed scheme. In particular the Belfield/ Blackrock to City Centre Core Bus Corridor Scheme which directly interacts with the proposed scheme boundary (which has received approval from An Bord Pleanála). A Screening for AA for the Belfield/ Blackrock to City Centre Core Bus Corridor Scheme[36] found that a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) was required for the application due to a likelihood of significant effects to several European sites within the Dublin Bay area. Upon the application of mitigation measures, the NIS concluded that no adverse effects on European sites would result from the implementation of the Belfield/ Blackrock to City Centre Core Bus Corridor Scheme[37]. Therefore, there is no likelihood of significant in-combination effects between the proposed scheme and the Belfield/ Blackrock to City Centre Core Bus Corridor Scheme.

[35] Map of BusConnects 12 Core Bus Corridor schemes available here.

[36] AA Screening report and determination available here.

[37] NIS for the Belfield/ Blackrock to City Centre Core Bus Corridor Scheme available here.

Information regarding the AA processes for the other 12 Core Bus Corridor BusConnects schemes is available on the NTA website[38]. As each Core Bus Corridor project is/will be subject to applicable AA processes to ensure that the schemes will not cause significant effects on any Natura 2000 sites, there will be no potential for likely in-combination effects as a result of interactions with any effects arising from the proposed scheme.

Other cycle routes, as identified in the 2022 Greater Dublin Area Cycle Network[39], are also being progressed and at pre-consent or consent stage. This Network includes four other proposed Rapid Deployment Schemes, along the Dodder Greenway route, namely:

- Fitzwilliam Quay to Londonbridge Road;
- Donnybrook Road to Clonskeagh Road;
- Clonskeagh Road to Patricks Doyle Road;
- Orwell Road to Dodder Road Lower; and
- Milltown Road-Dodder walk to Dundrum Road.

The Active Travel Network includes the Dodder Greenway route along which the subject proposal lies. The Network has been incorporated into the NTA Greater Dublin Area Transport Strategy 2022-2042 (approved in January 2023). All projects and routes in the Network and Strategy are subject to applicable requirements of the Habitats Directive legislation and screening process therein; ensuring that likelihood of significant in-combination effects of all proposed cycle routes have been duly assessed in full compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive at project level.

The proposed scheme is localised, with a small scale, temporary construction phase, and no operational phase effects. None of the projects identified herein introduce any likelihood for potential significant effects on European sites. Therefore, given the nature and scale of the proposed scheme, and the lack of any potential for significant effects as assessed here, there are no in combination effects with the below projects or above plans that have been identified to have likely potential significant effects on any European site.

[38] Additional information on the BusConnects 12 Core Bus Corridor schemes available here.

[39] 2022 Greater Dublin Area Cycle Network available here.

4. Conclusion

This Appropriate Assessment Screening Report has considered potential effects within the Zone(s) of Influence which may arise during the construction and operational phases as a result of the implementation of the proposed Beaty's Avenue to Herbert Park Rapid Deployment Scheme. Through an assessment of the potential sources and potential pathways for significant effects; an evaluation of the project characteristics; taking account of the processes involved and the distance of separation from European sites, it has been evaluated by this report, that there is no likelihood of potential significant effects occurring to the Qualifying Interests, Special Conservation Interests or the Conservation Objectives of any designated European site as a result of the implementation of the proposed scheme.

Given the small, localised scale of the proposed scheme, and the nature of the proposed scheme in the context of the local environment, plans and projects; the proposed scheme will not lead to any significant effects in-combination with effects arising from any other plans or projects.

It is concluded by this AA Screening Report that the proposed scheme is not foreseen to have any likelihood of significant effects on any European sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects – and therefore any potential for significant effects on any European site as a result of the proposed scheme can be ruled out. This conclusion is made in view of the conservation objectives of the habitats or species for which these sites have been designated. Consequently, the proposed scheme does not need to be subject to Stage Two Appropriate Assessment and a Natura Impact Statement is not required.

Appendix I Background information on European sites[40]

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature	Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
000206	North Dublin Bay SAC	Mediterranean salt meadows *(Juncetalia maritimi)* [1410], Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria - white dunes [2120], Petalwort *(Petalophyllum ralfsii)* [1395], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210], Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], Embryonic shifting dunes [2110], Humid dune slacks [2190], Atlantic salt meadows *(Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae)* [1330], Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation - grey dunes [2130]	A04, J01.01, E02, E01, G02.01, G01.01, F02.03.01, H01.03, H01.09, G05.05, F02.03, E03, I01, K03.06, G01.02	Grazing, burning down, industrial or commercial areas, urbanised areas, human habitation, golf course, nautical sports, bait digging or collection, other point source pollution to surface water, diffuse pollution to surface waters due to other sources not listed, intensive maintenance of public parcs or cleaning of beaches, leisure fishing, discharges, invasive non-native species, antagonism with domestic animals, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles
000210	South Dublin Bay SAC	Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], Embryonic shifting dunes [2110], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210]	D01.01, G01.01.02, M01, H03, E02, E03, F02.03.01, G01.01, K02, E01, J02.01.02, D01.02, G01.02, K02.02	Paths, tracks, cycling tracks, non-motorized nautical sports, changes in abiotic conditions, marine water pollution, industrial or commercial areas, discharges, bait digging or collection, nautical sports, biocenotic evolution, succession, urbanised areas, human habitation, reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh, roads, motorways, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, accumulation of organic material
004006	North Bull Island SPA	Curlew *(Numenius arquata)* [A160], Knot *(Calidris canutus)* [A143], Dunlin *(Calidris alpina)* [A149], Bar-tailed Godwit *(Limosa lapponica)* [A157], Black-tailed Godwit *(Limosa limosa)* [A156], Golden Plover *(Pluvialis apricaria)* [A140], Grey Plover *(Pluvialis squatarola)* [A141], Turnstone *(Arenaria interpres)* [A169], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Shoveler *(Anas clypeata)* [A056], Teal *(Anas crecca)* [A052], Black-headed Gull *(Chroicocephalus ridibundus)* [A179], Sanderling *(Calidris alba)* [A144], Light-bellied Brent Goose *(Branta bernicla hrota)* [A674], Oystercatcher *(Haematopus ostralegus)* [A130], Pintail *(Anas acuta)* [A054], Redshank *(Tringa totanus)* [A162], Shelduck *(Tadorna tadorna)* [A048]	G02.01, E01.01, G01.02, D01.02, D01.05, E02, D03.02, E03, E01.04, F02.03.01, G03, G01.01	Golf course, continuous urbanisation, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, roads, motorways, bridge, viaduct, industrial or commercial areas, shipping lanes, discharges, other patterns of habitation, bait digging or collection, interpretative centres, nautical sports
004024	South Dublin Bay and Tolka Estuary	Light-bellied Brent Goose *(Branta bernicla hrota)* [A674], Oystercatcher *(Haematopus ostralegus)* [A130], Redshank *(Tringa totanus)* [A162], Ringed Plover *(Charadrius hiaticula)* [A137], Roseate Tern *(Sterna dougallii)* [A192], Sanderling	E03, E01, D01.02, G01.02, G01.01, K02.03, J02.01.02,	Discharges, urbanised areas, human habitation, roads, motorways, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, nautical sports, eutrophication (natural),

[40] That have functional connectivity (ecological pathways) to the proposed scheme area including their Qualifying Interests, known threats and pressures

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature	Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
	SPA	*(Calidris alba)* [A144], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Grey Plover *(Pluvialis squatarola)* [A141], Dunlin *(Calidris alpina)* [A149], Knot *(Calidris canutus)* [A143], Bar-tailed Godwit *(Limosa lapponica)* [A157], Black-headed Gull *(Chroicocephalus ridibundus)* [A179], Common tern *(Sterna hirundo)* [A193], Arctic tern *(Sterna paradisaea)* [A194]	F02.03, E02, F02.03.01	reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh, leisure fishing, industrial or commercial areas, bait digging or collection
004236	North-West Irish Sea cSPA	Red-throated Diver *(Gavia stellata)* [A001], Little Tern *(Sterna albifrons)* [A195], Great Black-backed Gull *(Larus marinus)* [A187], Fulmar *(Fulmarus glacialis)* [A009], Little Gull *(Larus minutus)* [A177], Kittiwake *(Rissa tridactyla)* [A188], Common Scoter *(Melanitta nigra)* [A065], Manx Shearwater *(Puffinus puffinus)* [A013], Guillemot *(Uria aalge)* [A199], Common Gull *(Larus canus)* [A182], Black-headed Gull *(Chroicocephalus ridibundus)* [A179], Herring Gull *(Larus argentatus)* [A184], Arctic Tern *(Sterna paradisaea)* [A194], Lesser Black-backed Gull *(Larus fuscus)* [A183], Razorbill *(Alca torda)* [A200], Puffin *(Fratercula arctica)* [A204], Common Tern *(Sterna hirundo)* [A193], Cormorant *(Phalacrocorax carbo)* [A017], Great Northern Diver *(Gavia immer)* [A003], Roseate Tern *(Sterna dougallii)* [A192], Shag *(Phalacrocorax aristotelis)* [A018]	N/A	N/A

Appendix II Further information on the Qualifying Interests of SACs that have undergone assessment[41]

EU Code	Qualifying Interests	Article 17 Report Summary - Threats and Pressures	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
[1140]	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide	Pressures on mudflats and sandflats are partly caused by pollution from agricultural, forestry and wastewater sources, as well as impacts associated with marine aquaculture, particularly the Pacific oyster (*Magallana gigas*).	A28, F20, G16	Agricultural activities generating marine pollution, residential or recreational activities and structures generating marine pollution (excl. marine macro- and micro- particular pollution, marine aquaculture generating marine pollution	Surface and marine water dependent. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Moderate sensitivity to pollution. Changes to salinity and tidal regime. Coastal development.
[1170]	Reefs	The main pressures on reefs come from fishing methods that damage the seafloor.	G01, G03	Marine fishing and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) causing reduction of species/prey populations and disturbance of species, marine fish and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) activities causing physical loss and disturbance of seafloor habitats	Sensitive to disturbance and pollution.
[1210]	Annual vegetation of drift lines	Most of the pressures on drift lines are associated with activities such as recreation and coastal defences, which can interfere with sediment dynamics.	C01, F01, F06, F07, F08	Extraction of minerals (e.g., rock, metal ores, gravel, sand, shell), conversion from other land uses to housing, settlement or recreational areas (excluding drainage and modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions), development and maintenance of beach areas for tourism and recreation incl. beach nourishment and beach cleaning, sports, tourism and leisure activities, modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defence or coast protection works and infrastructures)	Overgrazing and erosion. Changes in management.
[1220]	Perennial vegetation of stony banks	The main pressures on this habitat are associated with coastal defences (which can interfere with sediment dynamics), recreation and shingle removal.	C01, E01, F07, F08, F09, I02	Extraction of minerals (e.g., rock, metal ores, gravel, sand, shell), roads, paths, railroads and related infrastructure (e.g., bridges, viaducts, tunnels), sports, tourism and leisure activities, modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defence or coast protection works and infrastructures), deposition and treatment of waste/garbage from	Marine water dependent. Low sensitivity to hydrological changes. Coastal development, trampling from recreational activity and

[41] Including known treats and pressures and sensitivities of qualifying interests

EU Code	Qualifying Interests	Article 17 Report Summary - Threats and Pressures	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
				household/recreational facilities, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern)	gravel removal.
[1230]	Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts	A number of significant pressures were identified, including trampling by walkers, invasive non-native species, gravel extraction, and sea-level and wave exposure changes due to climate change.	C01, E01, F07, F08, I02, N03, N04	Extraction of minerals (e.g., rock, metal ores, gravel, sand, shell), roads, paths, railroads and related infrastructure (e.g., bridges, viaducts, tunnels), sports, tourism and leisure activities, modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defence or coast protection works and infrastructures), other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), increases or changes in precipitation due to climate change, sea-level and wave exposure changes due to climate change	Land use activities such as tourism and/or agricultural practices. Direct alteration to the habitat or effects such as burning or drainage.
[1310]	Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand	Pressures on Salicornia mud are caused by alien species and overgrazing by livestock	A09, I02	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern)	Marine water dependent. Medium sensitivity to hydrological change. Changes in salinity and tidal regime. Infilling, reclamation, invasive species.
[1330]	Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*)	The main pressures on Atlantic salt meadows are from agriculture, including ecologically unstable grazing regimes and land reclamation, and the invasive non-native species common cord-grass (*Spartina anglica*).	A09, A33, A36, F07, F08, I02	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, modification of hydrological flow or physical alternation of water bodies for agriculture (excluding development and operation of dams), agriculture activities not referred to above, sports, tourism and leisure activities, modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defence or coast protection works and infrastructures), other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern)	Marine and groundwater dependent. Medium sensitivity to hydrological change. Changes in salinity and tidal regime. Overgrazing, erosion and accretion.
[1351]	Harbour Porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*)	Pressures acting on this species in Irish waters mainly involve commercial vessel-based activities such as impacts arising from geophysical seismic exploration or	C09, G01	Geotechnical surveying, marine fishing and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) causing reduction of species/prey populations and disturbance of species	Sensitive to disturbance, prey availability and pollution.

EU Code	Qualifying Interests	Article 17 Report Summary - Threats and Pressures	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
		from local/regional prey removal by fisheries.			
[1355]	Otter (*Lutra lutra*)	There are no pressures facing this species	Xxp, Xxt	No pressures, no threats	Surface and marine water dependent. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Sensitivity to pollution.
[1395]	Petalwort (*Petalophyllum ralfsii*)	There are no pressures facing this species.	Xxp, Xxt	No pressures, no threats	None identified.
[1410]	Mediterranean salt meadows (*Juncetalia maritimi*)	Most of the pressures on Mediterranean salt meadows are associated with agriculture, including overgrazing, under-grazing and land reclamation.	A09, A10, A33, A36	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, extensive grazing or under grazing by livestock, modification of hydrological flow or physical alternation of water bodies for agriculture (excluding development and operation of dams), agriculture activities not referred to above	Marine and groundwater dependent. Medium sensitivity to hydrological change. Changes in salinity and tidal regime. Coastal development and reclamation.
[2110]	Embryonic shifting dunes	The majority of pressures on this habitat are associated with recreation and coastal defences, which can interfere with sediment dynamics.	C01, E03, F01, F06, F07, F08, L01, L02	Extraction of minerals (e.g., rock, metal ores, gravel, sand, shell), shipping lanes, ferry lanes and anchorage infrastructure (e.g., canalisation, dredging), conversion from other land uses to housing, settlement or recreational areas (excluding drainage and modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions), development and maintenance of beach areas for tourism and recreation incl. beach nourishment and beach cleaning, sports, tourism and leisure activities, modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defence or coast protection works and infrastructures), abiotic natural processes (e.g., erosion, silting up, drying out, submersion, salinization), natural succession resulting in species composition change (other than by direct changes of agricultural or forestry practices)	Overgrazing, and erosion. Changes in management.

EU Code	Qualifying Interests	Article 17 Report Summary - Threats and Pressures	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
[2120]	Shifting dunes along the shoreline with white dunes (Ammophila arenaria)	Most of the pressures on marram dunes are caused by the interference on sediment dynamics due to recreation and coastal defences.	E01, E03, F01, F06, F07, F08, I02, L01	Roads, paths, railroads and related infrastructure (e.g., bridges, viaducts, tunnels), shipping lanes, ferry lanes and anchorage infrastructure (e.g., canalisation, dredging), conversion from other land uses to housing, settlement or recreational areas (excluding drainage and modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions), development and maintenance of beach areas for tourism and recreation incl. beach nourishment and beach cleaning, sports, tourism and leisure activities, modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defence or coast protection works and infrastructures), other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), abiotic natural processes (e.g., erosion, silting up, drying out, submersion, salinization)	Overgrazing, and erosion. Changes in management.
[2130]	Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes)	Pressures on fixed dunes are associated with recreation and ecologically unsuitable grazing practices.	A02, A09, A10, F07, F08, I02, L02	Conversion from one type of agricultural land use to another (excluding drainage and burning), intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, extensive grazing or under grazing by livestock, sports, tourism and leisure activities, modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defence or coast protection works and infrastructures), other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), natural succession resulting in species composition change (other than by direct changes of agricultural or forestry practices)	Overgrazing, and erosion. Changes in management.
[2190]	Humid dune slacks	Pressures on the habitat come from a number of sources. Including agricultural fertilisers, sports and leisure activities (e.g., walking, off-road driving and golf courses) and drainage. Succession to scrub is also a problem, particularly where it is linked to desiccation of the slack.	A19, A31, F07, I02, L02	Application of natural fertilisers on agricultural land, drainage for use as agricultural land, sports, tourism and leisure activities, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), natural succession resulting in species composition change (other than by direct changes of agricultural or forestry practices)	Overgrazing, and erosion. Changes in management. Sensitive to hydrological change.
[3110]	Oligotrophic waters	This habitat is under significant pressure from eutrophication, and from drainage	A26, A31, B23, B27,	Agricultural activities generating diffuse pollution to surface or ground waters, drainage for use as agricultural land, forestry activities generating	Surface dependant. Highly sensitive to

EU Code	Qualifying Interests	Article 17 Report Summary - Threats and Pressures	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
	containing very few minerals of sandy plains (*Littorelletalia uniflorae*)	and other damage to peatland. Damage to peatland can result in hydrological changes in lakes, increased organic matter, water colour and turbidity, changes in sediment characteristics, acidification and enrichment.	C05, F12	pollution to surface or ground waters, modification of hydrological conditions, or physical alteration of water bodies and drainage for forestry (including dams), peat extraction, discharge of urban waste water (excluding storm overflows and/or urban run-offs) generating pollution to surface or ground water	hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution.
[3160]	Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds	The pressures on this habitat are associated with pollution from agricultural and forestry activities and also from drainage.	A26, A31, B23, B27, C05, D08	Agricultural activities generating diffuse pollution to surface or ground waters, drainage for use as agricultural land, forestry activities generating pollution to surface or ground waters, modification of hydrological conditions, or physical alteration of water bodies and drainage for forestry (including dams), peat extraction, energy production and transmission activities generating pollution to surface or ground waters	Surface and groundwater dependant. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution
[4010]	Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix	Overgrazing, burning, wind farm development and erosion are the main pressures associated with this habitat, along with nitrogen deposition from agricultural activities that generate air pollution.	A09, A11, A27, B01, D01, L01, N01, N02	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, burning for agriculture, agricultural activities generating air pollution, conversion to forest from other land uses, or afforestation (excluding drainage), wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, abiotic natural processes (e.g., erosion, silting up, drying out, submersion, salinization), temperature changes (e.g., rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change	Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Inappropriate management.
[4030]	European dry heaths	A number of significant pressures were recorded for this habitat in the current reporting period, particularly overgrazing by sheep and burning for agriculture with afforestation and wind farms also being recognised as pressures.	A09, A11, B01, D01, N01, N02	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, burning for agriculture, conversion to forest from other land uses, or afforestation (excluding drainage), wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, temperature changes (e.g., rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change	Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Changes in management. Changes in nutrient status.
[4060]	Alpine and Boreal heaths	Overgrazing by livestock, tourism (hill walking) and agricultural activities that cause air pollution are considered significant pressures for this habitat.	A09, A27, F07, N01, N02	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, agricultural activities generating air pollution, sports, tourism and leisure activities, temperature changes (e.g., rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change	Changes in management. Changes in nutrient or base status. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change.
[6130]	Calaminarian grasslands of	Pressures on this habitat are associated with abiotic natural processes (leaching	F07, L01, L02	Sports, tourism and leisure activities, abiotic natural processes (e.g., erosion, silting up, drying out, submersion, salinization), natural	Changes in management such as grazing regime.

EU Code	Qualifying Interests	Article 17 Report Summary - Threats and Pressures	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
	the Murawy galmanowa (*Violetalia calaminariae*)	of metals) and succession, as well as impacts from recreational activities (walking/hiking).		succession resulting in species composition change (other than by direct changes of agricultural or forestry practices)	Changes in nutrient or base status. Changes to vegetation composition. Introduction of alien species.
[6210]	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (*Festuco-Brometalia) * important orchid sites*)	The significant pressures related to this habitat are mainly associated with agricultural intensification causing loss of species-rich communities, or abandonment of farmland resulting in succession to scrub.	A02, A09, A10, C01, I02, I04	Conversion from one type of agricultural land use to another (excluding drainage and burning), intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, extensive grazing or under grazing by livestock, extraction of minerals (e.g., rock, metal ores, gravel, sand, shell), other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), problematic native species	Changes in management such as grazing regime. Changes in nutrient or base status. Changes to vegetation composition. Introduction of alien species.
[6230]	Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe)	The main pressures on this habitat are due to bracken encroachment and succession.	I04, L02	Problematic native species, natural succession resulting in species composition change (other than by direct changes of agricultural or forestry practices)	Changes in management such as grazing regime. Changes in nutrient or base status. Changes to vegetation composition. Introduction of alien species.
[6410]	Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (*Molinion*	The main pressures on the habitat are associated with agricultural intensification (e.g., land drainage, fertiliser application), under-grazing and forestry.	A02, A06, A10, A14, A31, B01	Conversion from one type of agricultural land use to another (excluding drainage and burning), abandonment of grassland management (e.g., cessation of grazing or of mowing), extensive grazing or under grazing by livestock, livestock farming (without grazing), drainage for use as agricultural land, conversion to forest from other land uses, or afforestation (excluding drainage)	Changes in management such as grazing regime. Changes in nutrient or base status. Changes to vegetation composition. Introduction of alien species.

EU Code	Qualifying Interests	Article 17 Report Summary - Threats and Pressures	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
	caeruleae)				
[7130]	Blanket bogs (* if active bog)	The main pressures on blanket bogs are overgrazing, burning, afforestation, peat extraction, and agricultural activities causing nitrogen deposition. Erosion, drainage and wind farm construction are also pressures relating to this habitat.	A09, A11, A27, B01, C05, D01, K02, L01, N01, N02	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, burning for agriculture, agricultural activities generating air pollution, conversion to forest from other land uses, or afforestation (excluding drainage), peat extraction, wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, drainage, abiotic natural processes (e.g., erosion, silting up, drying out, submersion, salinization), temperature changes (e.g., rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change	Surface water interactions. Drainage and land use management are the key things.
[7220]	Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion)	Pressures related to this habitat are associated with drainage, pollution to ground and surface waters, recreational activities, infrastructure, overgrazing and abandonment of grassland management.	A06, A10, E01, F07, H08, J01, K02, K04, L02	Abandonment of grassland management (e.g., cessation of grazing or of mowing), extensive grazing or under grazing by livestock, roads, paths, railroads and related infrastructure (e.g., bridges, viaducts, tunnels), sports, tourism and leisure activities, other human intrusions and disturbance not mentioned above (dumping, accidental and deliberate disturbance of bat roosts (e.g., caving)), mixed source pollution to surface and ground waters (limnic and terrestrial), drainage, modification of hydrological flow, natural succession resulting in species composition change (other than by direct changes of agricultural or forestry practices)	Surface and groundwater dependant. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution.
[7230]	Alkaline fens	The main pressures facing this habitat are land abandonment (and associated succession), overgrazing, drainage and pollution.	A06, A09, A26, J01, K01, K02, K04, L02, N02, N03	Abandonment of grassland management (e.g., cessation of grazing or of mowing), intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, agricultural activities generating diffuse pollution to surface or ground waters, mixed source pollution to surface and ground waters (limnic and terrestrial), abstraction from groundwater, surface water or mixed water, drainage, modification of hydrological flow, natural succession resulting in species composition change (other than by direct changes of agricultural or forestry practices), temperature changes (e.g., rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change, increases or changes in precipitation due to climate change	Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Inappropriate management.
[8110]	Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (*Androsacetalia alpinae and*	The main pressures on siliceous scree come from overgrazing, under-grazing and succession.	A09, A10, L02	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, extensive grazing or under grazing by livestock, natural succession resulting in species composition change (other than by direct changes of agricultural or forestry practices)	Erosion, overgrazing and recreation.

EU Code	Qualifying Interests	Article 17 Report Summary - Threats and Pressures	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
	Galeopsietalia ladani)				
[8210]	Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation	The majority of pressures related to this habitat are associated with overgrazing and the non-native invasive species New Zealand willowherb (*Epilobium brunnescens*).	A09, A27, I02	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, agricultural activities generating air pollution, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern)	Erosion, overgrazing and recreation.
[8220]	Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation	Pressure on this habitat is associated with the non-native invasive species New Zealand willowherb (*Epilobium brunnescens*).	I02	Other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern)	Erosion, overgrazing and recreation.
[91A0]	Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles	The significant pressure facing this habitat are associated with invasive non-native species such as *Rhododendron ponticum*, cherry laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus*) and beech (Fagus sylvatica) and overgrazing by deer.	A09, B09, I02, I04, M07	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, clear-cutting, removal of all trees, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), problematic native species, storm, cyclone	Changes in management. Changes in nutrient or base status. Introduction of alien species.

Appendix III Further information on the Special Conservation Interests of SPAs that have undergone assessment[42]

Species Code	Common Name	Scientific Name	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
A003	Common Loon	*Gavia immer*	C03, F02, G01, H03	Renewable abiotic energy use, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, marine water pollution
A009	Northern Fulmar	*Fulmarus glacialis*	C03, F02	Renewable abiotic energy use, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources
A013	Manx Shearwater	*Puffinus puffinus*	C03, H03, I01	Renewable abiotic energy use, marine water pollution, invasive non-native species
A017	Cormorant	*Phalacrocorax carbo carbo*	C03, F02, F03, G01, H03	Renewable abiotic energy use, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, marine water pollution
A018	Shag	*Phalacrocorax aristotelis*	C03, H03	Renewable abiotic energy use, marine water pollution
A048	Common Shelduck	*Tadorna tadorna*	F01, F02, G01, H03, M01	Marine and freshwater aquaculture, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, marine water pollution, changes in abiotic conditions
A054	Northern Pintail	*Anas acuta*	C03, F01, F03, G01, H01, H03, H07, J02	Renewable abiotic energy use, marine and freshwater aquaculture, hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), marine water pollution, other forms of pollution, human induced changes in hydraulic conditions
A056	Northern Shoveler	*Anas clypeata*	C03, F03, G01, H01, H03, H07	Renewable abiotic energy use, hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), marine water pollution, other forms of pollution
A067	Common Goldeneye	*Bucephala clangula*	C03, F01, F03, G01, H01, H03, H07, M02	Renewable abiotic energy use, marine and freshwater aquaculture, hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), marine water pollution, other forms of pollution, changes in biotic conditions
A069	Red-Breasted Merganser	*Mergus serrator*	C03, F01, F02, G01, H03	Renewable abiotic energy use, marine and freshwater aquaculture, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, marine water pollution

[42] Including known treats and pressures of SCIs

Species Code	Common Name	Scientific Name	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
A098	Merlin	*Falco columbarius*	A02, B01, B02, C03, M02	Modification of cultivation practices, forest planting on open ground, forest and plantation management & use, renewable abiotic energy use, changes in biotic conditions
A130	Eurasian Oystercatcher	*Haematopus ostralegus*	C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02	Renewable abiotic energy use, marine and freshwater aquaculture, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, marine water pollution, human induced changes in hydraulic conditions
A137	Common Ringed Plover	*Charadrius hiaticula*	C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02, J03, M01	Renewable abiotic energy use, marine and freshwater aquaculture, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, marine water pollution, human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, other ecosystem modifications, changes in abiotic conditions
A140	European Golden Plover	*Pluvialis apricaria*	A02, A04, B01, C01, C03, F01, G01, H03, J01, K03, M02	Modification of cultivation practices, grazing, forest planting on open ground, mining and quarrying, renewable abiotic energy use, marine and freshwater aquaculture, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, marine water pollution, fire and fire suppression, interspecific faunal relations, changes in biotic conditions
A141	Grey Plover	*Pluvialis squatarola*	C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02, J03, M01	Renewable abiotic energy use, marine and freshwater aquaculture, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, marine water pollution, human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, other ecosystem modifications, changes in abiotic conditions
A143	Red Knot	*Calidris canutus*	C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02, J03, M01	Renewable abiotic energy use, marine and freshwater aquaculture, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, marine water pollution, human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, other ecosystem modifications, changes in abiotic conditions
A144	Sanderling	*Calidris alba*	C03, F01, G01, H03, M01	Renewable abiotic energy use, marine and freshwater aquaculture, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, marine water pollution, changes in abiotic conditions
A149	Dunlin	*Calidris alpina*	C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02, J03, M01	Renewable abiotic energy use, marine and freshwater aquaculture, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, marine water pollution, human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, other ecosystem modifications, changes in abiotic conditions
A157	Bar-Tailed Godwit	*Limosa lapponica*	C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02, J03, M01	Renewable abiotic energy use, marine and freshwater aquaculture, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, marine water pollution, human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, other ecosystem modifications, changes in abiotic conditions
A162	Common Redhank	*Tringa totanus*	C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02, J03, M01	Renewable abiotic energy use, marine and freshwater aquaculture, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, marine water pollution, human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, other ecosystem modifications, changes in abiotic conditions

Species Code	Common Name	Scientific Name	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
A169	Ruddy Turnstone	*Arenaria interpres*	C03, F01, G01, H03, J03, M01	Renewable abiotic energy use, marine and freshwater aquaculture, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, marine water pollution, other ecosystem modifications, changes in abiotic conditions
A177	Little Gull	*Larus minutus*	Xxp/Xxt	No threats and pressures identified by the npws
A179	Black-Headed Gull	*Larus ridibundus*	A04, C03, F02, H03, J03, M01	Grazing, renewable abiotic energy use, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, marine water pollution, other ecosystem modifications, changes in abiotic conditions
A182	Common Gull	*Larus canus*	A04, C03, F02, H03, J03, M01	Grazing, renewable abiotic energy use, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, marine water pollution, other ecosystem modifications, changes in abiotic conditions
A183	Lesser Black-Backed Gull	*Larus fuscus*	C03, F02, H03, J03	Renewable abiotic energy use, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, marine water pollution, other ecosystem modifications
A184	European Herring Gull	*Larus argentatus*	C03, F02, H03, J03	Renewable abiotic energy use, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, marine water pollution, other ecosystem modifications
A187	Great Black-Backed Gull	*Larus marinus*	Xxp/Xxt	No threats and pressures identified by the npws
A188	Black-Legged Kittiwake	*Rissa tridactyla*	C03, F02, H03	Renewable abiotic energy use, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, marine water pollution
A192	Roseate Tern	*Sterna dougallii dougallii*	C03, D01, G01, I01	Renewable abiotic energy use, roads, paths and railroads, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, invasive non-native species
A193	Common Tern	*Sterna hirundo*	C03, D01, D03, G01, I01	Renewable abiotic energy use, roads, paths and railroads, shipping lanes, ports, marine constructions, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, invasive non-native species
A194	Arctic Tern	*Sterna paradisaea*	C03, D01, G01, I01, M01	Renewable abiotic energy use, roads, paths and railroads, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, invasive non-native species, changes in abiotic conditions
A200	Razorbill	*Alca torda*	C03, H03	Renewable abiotic energy use, marine water pollution
A204	Atlantic	*Fratercula*	C03, H03, I01	Renewable abiotic energy use, marine water pollution, invasive non-native species

Species Code	Common Name	Scientific Name	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
	Puffin	*arctica*		
A674	Light-Bellied Brent Goose	*Branta bernicla hrota*	A02, A11, C03, D02, F01, G01, G05, H03, H07, I01, J03	Modification of cultivation practices, agriculture activities not referred to above, renewable abiotic energy use, utility and service lines, marine and freshwater aquaculture, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, other human intrusions and disturbances, marine water pollution, other forms of pollution, invasive non-native species, other ecosystem modifications

Appendix IV Conservation Objectives[43]

NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives for North Dublin Bay SAC [IE0000206] Version 1.
NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives for South Dublin Bay SAC [IE0000210] Version 1.
NPWS (2015) Conservation Objectives for North Bull Island SPA [IE0004006] Version 1.
NPWS (2015) Conservation Objectives for South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA [IE0004024] Version 1.
NPWS (2023) Conservation Objectives for North-west Irish Sea SPA [IE0004236] Version 1.

[43] NPWS/Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

Appendix V Local Authority planning applications in the vicinity[44] of the proposed scheme

Project Code	Description	Grant Date	Project Area (sq m)	Distance from Proposed Development (m)	Status
3937/23	PROTECTED STRUCTURE: The development will consist of the redevelopment of the Anglesea Stand to provide a new 3 level grandstand (6,775 person capacity), a 2 level (storey) hospitality and services building (Pocket Building), a club shop and substation (overall 8,892 sq.m. [enclosed areas 3,713 sq.m., concourse areas 2,037 sq.m. with views facing onto the judging rings, External Upper and Lower Tier stand of 3,142 sq.m.]) with concrete, painted steel, metal panels, render and glass finishes to structures. The proposal will comprise: A) Demolition of the existing Anglesea Stand and Anglesea Terrace structure (approx. 7,716 sq.m.), 'lean-to' open fronted shed bounding Simmonscourt Road (approx. 145 sq.m.) and removal of modern terrace (approx. 44 sq.m.) area surrounding the clock tower (a protected structure Ref. No. 5085); B) Provision of a new grandstand (7,599 sq.m.) over 3 levels, 21.3m [26.8m OD] in height (with associated floodlighting and acoustic public address within roof of new stand) with a connection (via a glazed bridge link at Level 01) to the new pocket building of (1,175 sq.m. GFA) comprising a 2 level (storey) 10.17m [16.41m OD] in height building including plant (89 sq.m.) at roof level (within a louvered cover) to the east. The roof to the new grandstand will include a zone to enable the installation of photovoltaic array. The new grandstand and pocket building will accommodate seating; security/control rooms; corridor/ circulation areas; bar/servery areas; WC facilities [including disabled & staff facilities]; stores/cold rooms; season ticket/ VIP hospitality areas; and ancillary plant/electric areas. The internal arrangement of the enclosed Level 01 area of the new grandstand and new pocket building (and ancillary areas) will be flexible to accommodate rugby, horse show and other event requirements; C) A single storey substation (c. 50 sq.m.) 3.6m in height [9.92m OD] located to the east of existing South Stand; and a single storey double height club shop (C. 49 (sq.m.) 6.7m in height [12.2m OD] located adjacent to existing RDS office building; D) Terrace areas at Level 00 and Level 01 within the new pocket building on southern façade as well as views from all levels towards parade rings from the new grandstand and new pocket building; E) Provision of signage zones (overall 135.5 sq.m) to north (16 sq.m) and south (115 sq.m) elevations of the new grandstand and north (2 sq.m) and east (2.5 sq.m) elevations of proposed club shop; F) Revised landscaping to north of the new grandstand and external areas to include the removal of trees; G) Revisions to surface water, drainage, attenuation, storage, telecommunication, servicing arrangements and connections including all associated site development and landscaping works; H) Provision of additional bicycle parking; and; I) All existing access arrangements and parking provision will remain as per the established layout and operation of the	2023-09-14	43873.30	0.00	Permission

[44] Parameters used: Local Authority planning applications within the last 5 years, within a radius of 200m around the proposed scheme boundary

Project Code	Description	Grant Date	Project Area (sq m)	Distance from Proposed Development (m)	Status
	RDS complex.				
3307/24	PROTECTED STRUCTURE: the proposed development will consist of the relocation of players' changing rooms and facilities from the existing Anglesea stand to the south stand, also known as the Grandstand. The proposal will comprise partial removal and replacement of the stand scaffold to allow for the insertion and construction of a single-storey structure (gross floor area 439sq.m) to accommodate home and away players' facilities, media, medical and official's facilities, ancillary plant and storage accommodation, a vomitory to access the pitch; and all associated site development works including drainage and other site services. Royal Dublin Society complex is listed as a protected structure (record of protected structure (RPS) Ref. No. 5085) however the south stand (Grandstand) is not specified in the reference. The RPS states that the remaining structures (not listed) in the complex are excluded from the RPS and are deemed not to have protected status.	2024-05-30	43873.30	0.00	Permission
4712/18	The development will consist in the installation of a new fire escape door and roller shutter to the rear facade.	2019-03-28	40454.10	150.39	Permission
4713/18	The development will consist of the removal of the existing sculpture and base, with the reinstatement of paving at the Serpentine Avenue entrance side of AIB Bankcentre, and the removal of the existing sculpture at the Merrion Road entrance of AIB Bankcentre.	2019-03-28	40454.10	150.39	Permission
4002/22	Permission for development at this site comprising Lansdowne Place, Lansdowne Road and Shelbourne Road, Dublin 4 and the Ballsbridge Hotel, Pembroke Road, Dublin 4. The proposed development comprises the construction of a new boundary treatment between the existing Lansdowne Place development and the existing adjacent hotel comprising a low wall with railing c.2.4m in height overall, so as to define the boundary of the separate Lansdowne Place development on a site of 1.25Ha. The development also comprises the closure of all basement level links constructed in the Lansdowne Place development between the existing Lansdowne Place development and the adjoining hotel site. The effect of this development is to make Lansdowne Place a standalone development on 1.25Ha, and to sever Lansdowne Place from the remaining part of the overall site permitted under Reg. Ref. 4015/09 (An Bord Pleanála Ref. PL29S.237454), unless/until permission has been granted for the redevelopment of the existing hotel site. The development being proposed is thereby an amendment to Dublin City Council Reg. Ref. 4015/09 (An Bord Pleanála Ref. PL29S.237454) - the parent permission', as extended by Reg. Ref. 4015/09/X1, as revised by subsequent	2023-01-10	27790.20	196.02	Permission

Project Code	Description	Grant Date	Project Area (sq m)	Distance from Proposed Development (m)	Status
	permissions, Dublin City Council Reg. Refs. 4344/15, 2244/16, 2578/16, 2849/16, 3386/16, 3468/16, 3532/16, 4369/16, 2853/17, 4601/17, 3620/18, 3700/21 and 3705/21. For clarity, the proposed amendments stemming from this application will not alter any of the residential units at Lansdowne Place permitted under Dublin City Council Reg. Ref. 4015/09 (An Bord Pleanála Ref. PL29S.237454), as amended; all on an overall site of 2.98Ha.				

Appendix VI An Bord Pleanála applications in the vicinity[45] of the proposed scheme[46]

ABP case ID	Date	Decision	Description	Distance from proposed dev. (m)
300976	2018-09-27	Grant permission with revised conditions	Extension of aparthotel and associated works	86
301608	2018-12-21	Grant permission with conditions	Addition of one storey to previously permitted development at 5th floor level resulting in the construction of 1 no. commercial building 6-8 storeys over basement level consisting of office space at ground to seventh floor and 1 no. unit to be either retail or cafe at ground floor level; (b) minor realignment to the glazing line on south west elevation a ground floor level; (c) addition of 5 no. structural columns to the Shelbourne Rd elevation; (d) addition of raised platform outside permitted ESB substation at ground floor level; (e) addition of CHP room and realignment of retaining wall; (f) inclusion of 2 no. signage zones in shopfront of permitted retail/cafe unit at ground floor level on Shelbourne Rd; and (g) inclusion of one additional lift. Permission is also sought for improvements to adjacent public realm at Shelbourne Lane and Shelbourne Road; the provision, at basement level 24 no. car parking spaces, 108 no. bicycle spaces, bin store and plant, with vehicular ramp access from Shelbourne Lane.	82
303806	2019-06-06	Grant permission with revised conditions	Construction of an office development and associated site works	150
307197	2020-09-08	Grant permission with conditions	105 no. apartments, aparthotel extension and associated site works.	38
312043	2023-04-13	Grant permission with conditions	Demolition to rear of site to allow construction of 9 apartments and associated site works.	22

[45] Parameters used: An Bord Pleanála applications within a radius of 200m around the proposed scheme boundary

[46] See also An Bord Pleanála application BusConnects 12 Bus Corridor Schemes for Dublin City – which are considered in detail for in-combination effects in s3.6.2

Appendix VII Contributor Details

Technical assistant - Callum O'Regan is an ecologist who holds a B.Sc. degree in Zoology from University College Cork and obtained a Master's degree in Conservation Behaviour from Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology in 2021. Callum has skills in data management and analysis, report writing and mapping. Callum has also worked on the preparation of a number of reports including Ecological Impact Assessments (EcIAs) and Appropriate Assessment Screenings for private and public projects of various sizes and complexities.

Author - Karen Dylan Shevlin is a lead ecologist with over 9 years' experience working in multiple capacities in ecology in Irish and international research institutions and organisations, and holds a MSc (Dist.) in Biodiversity and Conservation from Trinity College Dublin (2013). Karen has significant skills in leading ecological surveys of bats, birds, insects, habitats and mammals, alongside data analysis, mapping and compiling reports. Karen has worked on producing AA screenings, NISs, and EIARs for a range of public and private projects ranging from smaller facilities upgrades projects to major wind turbine sites. Karen is also a specialist in ecological theory and the impacts/effects that altering natural dynamics may have on the surrounding environment. This combination of skills and knowledge provides the backbone of the assessment process, and ensure that all of the baseline and detailed data gathered in the field is interpreted in a manner that is grounded in best scientific knowledge.

Reviewer - Paul Fingleton has an MSc in Rural and Regional Resources Planning (with specialisation in EIA) from the University of Aberdeen. Paul is a member of the International Association for Impact Assessment as well as the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment. He has over twenty-five years' experience working in the area of Environmental Assessment. Over this period, he has been involved in a diverse range of projects including contributions to, and co-ordination of, numerous complex EIARs and EIA screening reports. He has also contributed to and supervised the preparation of numerous AAs and AA screenings.

Paul is the lead author of the current EPA Guidelines and accompanying Advice Notes on EIARs. He has been involved in all previous editions of these statutory guidelines. He also provides a range of other EIA related consultancy services to the EPA. Paul is regularly engaged by various planning authorities and other consent authorities to provide specialised EIA advice.