

# ALTEMAR

Marine & Environmental Consultancy

## Appropriate Assessment Screening for a proposed upgrade to the junction at Redford, Greystones. Co. Wicklow



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**On behalf of:** Wicklow County Council

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## CONTENTS

1. Introduction .....	4
Background to Altemar Ltd. ....	4
2. Background to the Appropriate Assessment.....	4
3. Stages of the Appropriate Assessment.....	6
4. Screening Stage Assessment.....	7
Management of the Site .....	7
Description of the Proposed Project.....	7
Surface Water .....	8
Identification of NATURA 2000 sites/species potentially affected. ....	12
In-Combination Effects.....	21
Conclusions .....	21
Data used for the AA Screening assessment .....	22
References.....	22
Finding of No Significant Effects Report.....	24

## 1. INTRODUCTION

An Appropriate Assessment is an assessment of the potential effects of a proposed project or plan, on its own, or in combination with other plans or projects, on one or more NATURA 2000 sites (Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) or Special Protection Areas (SPA)).

The following Appropriate Assessment (Screening Stage) has been prepared by **Altemar Ltd.** at the request Wicklow County Council for upgrade works to the junction at Redford, Greystones. Co. Wicklow.

The AA Screening stage examines the likely significant effects of the project, either on its own, or in combination with other plans and projects, upon a Natura 2000 site and considers whether, on the basis of objective scientific evidence, it can be concluded, in view of best scientific knowledge and the conservation objectives of the relevant European sites, that there are not likely to be significant effects on any European site.

### BACKGROUND TO ALTEMAR LTD.

Since its inception in 2001, Altemar has been delivering ecological and environmental services to a broad range of clients. Operational areas include residential, infrastructural, renewable, oil & gas, private industry, local authorities, EC projects and State/semi-State Departments. Bryan Deegan is the managing director of Altemar, is an environmental scientist and marine biologist with 26 years' experience working in Irish terrestrial and aquatic environments, providing services to the State, Semi-State and industry. He is currently contracted to Inland Fisheries Ireland as the sole "External Expert" to environmentally assess internal and external projects. Bryan Deegan (MCIEEM) holds a MSc in Environmental Science, BSc (Hons.) in Applied Marine Biology, NCEA National Diploma in Applied Aquatic Science and a NCEA National Certificate in Science (Aquaculture). Bryan Deegan carried out all elements of this Appropriate Assessment Screening.

## 2. BACKGROUND TO THE APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

The Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (together with the Birds Directive (2009/1477/EC)) forms the cornerstone of Europe's nature conservation policy. The Directive protects over 1000 animals and plant species and over 200 "habitat types" which are of European importance. In the Directive, Articles 3 to 9 provide the legislative means to protect habitats and species of European Community interest through the establishment and conservation of an EU-wide network of conservation sites (NATURA, 2000). These are Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) designated under the Habitats Directive and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) designated under the Birds Directive), Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive set out the decision-making tests for plans and projects likely to affect NATURA 2000 sites (Annex 1.1). Article 6(3) establishes the requirement for Appropriate Assessment:

*"Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the [NATURA 2000] site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans and projects, shall be subjected to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives. In light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implication for the site and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, the component national authorities shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public."*

As outlined in "Managing Natura 2000 sites The provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC" (European Commission, 21 November 2018) *"The purpose of the appropriate assessment is to assess the implications of the plan or project in respect of the site's conservation objectives, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects. The conclusions should enable the competent authorities to ascertain whether the*

*plan or project will adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned. The focus of the appropriate assessment is therefore specifically on the species and/or the habitats for which the Natura 2000 site is designated.”*

As outlined in the EC guidance document on Article 6(4) (January 2007)<sup>1</sup>:

*“Appropriate assessments of the implications of the plan or project for the site concerned must precede its approval and take into account the cumulative effects which result from the combination of that plan or project with other plans or projects in view of the site's conservation objectives. This implies that all aspects of the plan or project which can, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, affect those objectives must be identified in the light of the best scientific knowledge in the field.*

*Assessment procedures of plans or projects likely to affect NATURA 2000 sites should guarantee full consideration of all elements contributing to the site integrity and to the overall coherence of the network, both in the definition of the baseline conditions and in the stages leading to identification of potential impacts, mitigation measures and residual impacts. These determine what has to be compensated, both in quality and quantity. Regardless of whether the provisions of Article 6(3) are delivered following existing environmental impact assessment procedures or other specific methods, it must be ensured that:*

- *Article 6(3) assessment results allow full traceability of the decisions eventually made, including the selection of alternatives and any imperative reasons of overriding public interest.*
- *The assessment should include all elements contributing to the site's integrity and to the overall coherence of the network as defined in the site's conservation objectives and Standard Data Form, and be based on best available scientific knowledge in the field. The information required should be updated and could include the following issues:*
  - *Structure and function, and the respective role of the site's ecological assets;*
  - *Area, representativity and conservation status of the priority and nonpriority habitats in the site;*
  - *Population size, degree of isolation, ecotype, genetic pool, age class structure, and conservation status of species under Annex II of the Habitats Directive or Annex I of the Birds Directive present in the site;*
  - *Role of the site within the biographical region and in the coherence of the NATURA 2000 network; and,*
  - *Any other ecological assets and functions identified in the site.*
- *It should include a comprehensive identification of all the potential impacts of the plan or project likely to be significant on the site, taking into account cumulative impacts and other impacts likely to arise as a result of the combined action of the plan or project under assessment and other plans or projects.*
- *The assessment under Article 6(3) applies the best available techniques and methods, to estimate the extent of the effects of the plan or project on the biological integrity of the site(s) likely to be damaged.*
- *The assessment provides for the incorporation of the most effective mitigation measures into the plan or project concerned, in order to avoid, reduce or even cancel the negative impacts on the site.*
- *The characterisation of the biological integrity and the impact assessment should be based on the best possible indicators specific to the NATURA 2000 assets which must also be useful to monitor the plan or project implementation.”*

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<sup>1</sup> European Commission. (2007). Guidance document on Article 6(4) of the 'Habitats Directive' 92/43/EEC – Clarification of the concepts of: alternative solutions, imperative reasons of overriding public interest, compensatory measures, overall coherence, opinion of the commission;

### 3. STAGES OF THE APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

This Appropriate Assessment screening was undertaken in accordance with the European Commission Methodological Guidance on the provision of Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC (EC, 2001), Part XAB of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, in addition to the December 2009 publication from the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government; 'Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland: Guidance for Planning Authorities' and the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011.

In order to comply with the above Guidelines and legislation, the Appropriate Assessment process must be structured as follows:

1) Screening stage:

- Description of plan or project, and local site or plan area characteristics;
- Identification of relevant Natura 2000 sites, and compilation of information on their qualifying interests and conservation objectives
- Assessment of likely effects – direct, indirect and cumulative- undertaken on the basis of available information as a desk study or field survey or primary research as necessary and,
- Screening Statement with Conclusions.

2) Appropriate Assessment (Natura Impact Statement):

- Description of the NATURA 2000 sites that will be considered further;
- Identification and description of potential adverse impacts on the conservation objectives of these sites likely to occur from the project or plan; and,
- Mitigation Measures that will be implemented to avoid, reduce or remedy any such potential adverse impacts
- Assessment as to whether, following the implementation of the proposed mitigation measures, it can be concluded, beyond all reasonable scientific doubt, that there will be no adverse impact on the integrity of the relevant European Site in light of its conservation objectives"
- Conclusions.

3) Alternative Solutions

If mitigation is possible that enables a risk to be avoided fully, then, subject to other necessary approvals, the project or plan may proceed. If mitigation measures are insufficient, or are not actually practicable and achievable to avoid the risk entirely, then, in the light of a negative assessment, the plan or project may not proceed. A wider search for alternative solutions may need to be considered – Stage 3. <sup>2</sup>

4) Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest (IROPI)/Derogation. (: Stage 4 is the main derogation process of Article 6(4) which examines whether there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI) for allowing a plan or project that will have adverse effects on the integrity of a NATURA 2000 site to proceed in cases where it has been established that no less damaging alternative solution exists. The extra protection measures for Annex I priority habitats come into effect when making the IROPI case.

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<sup>2</sup> (DoEHLG, 2009) Appropriate Assessment of Plans and projects in Ireland: Guidance for planning authorities.

## **4. SCREENING STAGE ASSESSMENT**

### **MANAGEMENT OF THE SITE**

The plan or project is not directly connected with, or necessary to, the management of NATURA 2000 sites.

### **DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT**

The overall scheme aims to deliver an upgrade to the existing signal-controlled Redford Park junction which is located within the Redford area of Greystones in County Wicklow (Figures 1 & 2). The upgrades will consist of improvements for pedestrians and cyclists with the upgrade of footpaths and inclusion of cycle track facilities, as well as an improvement to public transport through the upgrading of two existing bus stops in the immediate vicinity of the junction (Figure 3).

- All surface water drainage will tie into the existing drainage located within Redford Park and no instream works will take place.
- At construction stage a site specific construction management plan will be prepared and implemented by the contractor.
- All water pumped from excavations will be directed to on-site settlement ponds for treatment to reduce pollution to acceptable levels before being discharged to the local environment at a controlled rate.
- Surface water runoff from areas stripped of topsoil, from the construction compound, and from access tracks will be directed to on-site settlement ponds for treatment to reduce pollution to acceptable levels before being discharged to the local environment at a controlled rate.
- Weather conditions and seasonal weather variations will be taken into account when planning stripping of topsoil and excavations, with an objective of minimizing soil erosion and silt runoff. Short term weather forecasts will also be taken into account.
- In order to mitigate against spillages contaminating the surrounding surface water and hydrogeological environments, all oils, fuels, paints and other chemicals shall be stored in a secure bunded hardstand area in the construction compound. Refuelling and servicing of construction machinery will take place in a designated hardstand area which will be remote from any surface water inlets and outlets (where it is not possible to carry out such activities off site). Hydrocarbon spill kits will be available and to hand for refuelling crews in the event of any spills.
- Concrete batching will take place off site and wash out of concrete chutes will take place at designated locations in the site and the washout of truck drums will take place after back at the batching plant to minimise pollution release within the subject site.
- Discharge from any vehicle wheel wash areas will be directed to on-site settlement ponds for treatment prior to discharge to the local environment.
- Groundwater pumped from excavations is to be directed to on-site settlement ponds for treatment prior to discharge to the local environment.

## SURFACE WATER

- Surface water runoff may contain increased silt levels (e.g. runoff across areas stripped of topsoil) or become polluted by construction activities (Run off from vehicles, cement, oil spills etc).
- Discharge of rainwater pumped from excavations containing increase levels of silt, oil, cement, etc.
- Accidental spills and leaks associated with storage of oils and fuels, leaks from construction machinery and spillage during refuelling and maintenance contaminating the surrounding surface water and hydrogeological environments.
- Concrete runoff, particularly discharge of wash water from concrete trucks.
- Discharge of vehicle wheel wash water containing high silt levels, oil and fuels, cement (potential impact on existing hydrology e.g. discharge to existing surface water drainage infrastructure).
- Discharge of foul water drainage from contractor's compound (impact on existing hydrology e.g. cross-contamination of existing surface water drainage).
- Infiltration of groundwater into excavations.
- Cross-contamination of temporary potable water supply to construction compound.
- Increased impermeable surface area will reduce local groundwater recharge rate.
- Accidental hydrocarbon leaks and subsequent discharge into piped surface water drainage network (e.g. along roads).





Project: Redford  
 Location: Greystones, Co. Wicklow  
 Date: 27th November, 2021  
 Drawn By: Bryan Deegan (Altemar)

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Figure 1. Site outline and location.



 Site Outline

0 50 100 150 m

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Figure 2. Satellite Image of proposed site



Figure 3. Site Outline

## IDENTIFICATION OF NATURA 2000 SITES/SPECIES POTENTIALLY AFFECTED.

The proposed works are not within a NATURA 2000 site. The NATURA 2000 sites within 15km are seen in Figures 10 & 11 and Table 1. The features of interest and the potential impact of the works on the features of interest of Natura 2000 sites within 15km, are seen in Table 2. As can be seen from the EPA Waterframework Directive (WFD) data in Figure 12, there is a small stream (Greystones Stream) that runs west to east through the subject site and enters the marine environment. There is no direct pathway to 2000 sites, however and indirect pathway exists via surface water run-off that may enter the existing watercourses and, ultimately, the marine environment where significant dilution and mixing will take place. No Natura 2000 sites are deemed to be in the potential Zone of Influence (ZoI). However, following the precautionary principle screening of all Natura 2000 within 15km (Table 1) is carried out in Table 2. All Natura 2000 sites beyond 15km have no direct or indirect pathways or, are within the marine environment where significant dilution and mixing will take place.

Code	Natura 2000 Site	Distance
<i>Special Areas of Conservation</i>		
IE000714	Bray Head SAC	0.7 km
IE000719	Glen of the Downs SAC	1.9 km
IE002249	The Murrough Wetlands SAC	4.7 km
IE000716	Carriggower Bog SAC	6.3 km
IE000713	Ballyman Glen SAC	6.1 km
IE000725	Knocksink Wood SAC	6.8 km
IE002122	Wicklow Mountains SAC	7.8 km
IE003000	Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC	10.2 km
<i>Special Protection Areas</i>		
IE004186	The Murrough SPA	5.6 km
IE004040	Wicklow Mountains SPA	7.4 km
IE004172	Dalkey Islands SPA	12.6 km

**Table 2.** Initial screening of NATURA 2000 sites within 15km of the proposed development.

NATURA CODE	NAME	Screened In/Out	Reason
<b>Special Protection Areas</b>			
IE004186	The Murrough SPA	<b>Out</b>	<p><b>Conservation Objectives</b> The maintenance of habitats and species within Natura 2000 sites at favourable conservation condition will contribute to the overall maintenance of favourable conservation status of those habitats and species at a national level.</p> <p><b>Features of Interest</b> Red-throated Diver (<i>Gavia stellata</i>) [A001] Greylag Goose (<i>Anser anser</i>) [A043] Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046] Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050] Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052] Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179] Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) [A184] Little Tern (<i>Sterna albifrons</i>) [A195] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]</p>

			<p><b>Potential Impact</b></p> <p>The development site is located 5.6 km from The Murrrough SPA. There is no direct hydrological pathway from the proposed development site to the SPA. There is an indirect pathway from the site to the SPA via the marine environment from the Greystones Stream and surface water networks. In the absence of any measures on site, due to the distance (5.6km) via the indirect pathway (e.g. surface water networks) any pollutants or silt will be dispersed and diluted within the marine environment. The indirect pathway of surface water will not result in a significant effect on the Natura 2000 site. The construction and operation of the proposed development will not impact on the conservation interests of the site.</p> <p><b>No significant effects are likely.</b></p>
IE004040	Wicklow Mountains SPA	Out	<p><b>Conservation Objectives</b></p> <p>The maintenance of habitats and species within Natura 2000 sites at favourable conservation condition will contribute to the overall maintenance of favourable conservation status of those habitats and species at a national level.</p> <p><b>Features of Interest</b></p> <p><i>Falco colombarius</i> (Merlin) [A098]  <i>Falco peregrinus</i> (Peregrine) [A103]</p> <p><b>Potential Impact</b></p> <p>The site is 7.4 km from the Wicklow Mountains SPA. The development site is not an important foraging or roosting area for these species. There is no direct or indirect pathway to the proposed development site. The construction and operation of the proposed development will not impact on the conservation interests of the site.</p> <p><b>No significant effects are likely.</b></p>
IE0004172	Dalkey Islands SPA	Out	<p><b>Conservation Objectives:</b></p> <p>The maintenance of habitats and species within Natura 2000 sites at favourable conservation condition will contribute to the overall maintenance of favourable conservation status of those habitats and species at a national level.</p> <p><b>Features of Interest</b></p> <p>Roseate Tern (<i>Sterna dougallii</i>) [A192]  Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193]  Arctic Tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) [A194]</p> <p>The favourable conservation status of a species is achieved when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• population dynamics data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself on a long - term basis as a viable component of its natural habitats, and</li> <li>• the natural range of the species is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future, and</li> <li>• there is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long - term basis.</li> </ul>

			<p><b>Potential Impact</b></p> <p>The development site is located within an urban area 12.6 km from this SPA (Figure 10). There is no direct hydrological pathway from the proposed development site to the SPA. There is an indirect pathway from the site to the SPA via the marine environment from public surface networks. Due to the distance (12.6km) via the indirect pathway (e.g. surface water networks) any pollutants or silt will be dispersed and diluted. The indirect pathway of surface will not result in a significant effect on the Natura 2000 site. The construction and operation of the proposed development will not impact on the conservation interests of the site.</p> <p><b>No significant effects are likely</b></p>
<b>Special Areas of Conservation</b>			
<b>NATURA CODE</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b>Screened In/Out</b>	<b>Reason</b>
IE000714	Bray Head SAC	<b>Out</b>	<p><b>Conservation Objectives</b></p> <p>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</p> <p><b>Features of Interest</b></p> <p>Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230] European dry heaths [4030]</p> <p><b>Potential Impact</b></p> <p>The development site is located within a rural area 0.7 km from the Bray Head SAC. This SAC is marine/coastal in nature and its features of interest are coastal habitats. There is no direct hydrological pathway from the proposed development site to the SAC. There is an indirect pathway from the site to the SAC via the marine environment. In the absence of any mitigation measures on site silt or pollution would enter the marine environment where it would be dispersed, mix and settle. The features of interest of this SAC are terrestrial habitats and would not be impacted by silt or pollution entering the marine environment, which would naturally disperse, mix and settle. However, as the works are in the vicinity of a watercourse the proposed project must comply with Water Pollution Acts. However, these measures are not required to prevent significant effects on the features of interest of the SAC. Due to the distance (0.7 km) via the indirect pathway (e.g. surface water networks) any pollutants or silt will be dispersed and diluted in the marine environment. The indirect pathway of surface water will not result in a significant effect on the Natura 2000 site. The construction and operation of the proposed development will not impact on the conservation interests of the site.</p> <p><b>No significant effects are likely.</b></p>
IE000719	Glen of the Downs SAC	<b>Out</b>	<p><b>Conservation objectives</b></p> <p>The maintenance of habitats and species within Natura 2000 sites at favourable conservation condition will contribute to the overall maintenance of favourable conservation status of those habitats and species at a national level.</p> <p><b>Features of Interest</b></p> <p>Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum [91A0]</p>

			<p><b>Potential Impact</b> The development site is located 1.9 km from the Glen of the Downs SAC. The development does not have a direct or indirect connection or pathway to the SAC. There is no intact biodiversity corridor from the proposed development to this SAC. The proposed development would not impact on the features of interest or the conservation objectives of this SAC.</p> <p><b>No significant effects are likely.</b></p>
IE002249	Murrrough Wetlands SAC	<b>Out</b>	<p><b>Conservation Objectives</b> 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:</p> <p><b>Features of Interest</b> Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210] Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220] Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) [1330] Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410] Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i>* [7210] Alkaline fens [7230] * denotes a priority habitat</p> <p><b>Potential Impact</b> The development site is located within a rural area 4.7 km from the Murrrough Wetlands SAC. There is no direct hydrological pathway from the proposed development site to the SAC. There is an indirect pathway from the site to the SPA via the marine environment. In the absence of any mitigation measures on site silt or pollution would enter the marine environment where it would be dispersed, mix and settle. However, as the works are in the vicinity of a watercourse the proposed project must comply with Water Pollution Acts. However, these measures are not required to prevent significant effects on the features of interest of the SAC. Due to the distance (4.7 km) via the indirect pathway (e.g. surface water networks) any pollutants or silt will be dispersed and diluted in the marine environment. The indirect pathway of surface water will not result in a significant effect on the Natura 2000 site. The construction and operation of the proposed development will not impact on the conservation interests of the site.</p> <p><b>No significant effects are likely.</b></p>
IE000716	Carriggower Bog SAC	<b>Out</b>	<p><b>Conservation Objectives</b> 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:</p> <p><b>Features of Interest</b> Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140]</p> <p><b>Potential Impact</b> The development is 6.3 km from the Carriggower Bog SAC. The development does not have a direct or indirect connection or pathway to the SAC. The proposed development would not impact on the features of interest or the conservation objectives of this SAC.</p>

			<b>No significant effects are likely.</b>
IE000713	Ballyman Glen SAC	<b>Out</b>	<p><b>Conservation Objectives</b> To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected.</p> <p><b>Features of Interest</b> Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220] Alkaline fens [7230]</p> <p><b>Potential Impact</b> The development is in a rural area 6.1 km from the Ballyman Glen SAC. The development does not have a direct or indirect connection or pathway to the SAC. The proposed development would not impact on the features of interest or the conservation objectives of this SAC.</p> <p><b>No significant effects are likely.</b></p>
IE001209	Knocksink Wood SAC	<b>Out</b>	<p><b>Conservation Objectives</b> 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</p> <p><b>Features of Interest</b> Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220] Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0] Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0]</p> <p><b>Potential Impact</b> The development site is located 6.8 km from the Knocksink Wood SAC. The development does not have a direct or indirect connection or pathway to the SAC. The proposed development would not impact on the features of interest or the conservation objectives of this SAC.</p> <p><b>No significant effects are likely.</b></p>
IE002122	Wicklow Mountains SAC	<b>Out</b>	<p><b>Conservation Objectives</b> 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.</p> <p><b>Features of Interest</b> Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the <i>Littorelletea uniflorae</i> and/or Isoeto-Nanojuncetea [3130] Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160] Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010] European dry heaths [4030] Apine and Boreal heaths [4060] Species-rich <i>Nardus</i> grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe) [6230] Blanket bogs (if active bog) [7130] Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (<i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsietalia ladani</i>) [8110] Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8210] Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220]</p>



			<p>Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0]  <i>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter) [1355]</p> <p><b>Potential Impact</b>  The development site is located within a rural area 7.8 km from the Wicklow Mountains SAC. The development does not have a direct or indirect connection or pathway to the SAC. The proposed development would not impact on the features of interest or the conservation objectives of this SAC.</p> <p><b>No significant effects are likely.</b></p>
IE0003000	Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC	<b>Out</b>	<p><b>Conservation Objectives:</b>  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.</p> <p><b>Features of Interest</b>  1170 Reefs  1351 Harbour porpoise <i>Phocoena phocoena</i></p> <p><b>Potential Impact</b>  The development site is 10.2 km from the Rockabill to Dalkey SAC (Figure 11). There is no direct hydrological pathway from the proposed development site to the SAC. There is an indirect pathway from the site to the SAC via the marine environment. In the absence of any mitigation measures on site silt or pollution would enter the marine environment where it would be dispersed, mix and settle. Silt or pollution entering the marine environment, would naturally disperse, mix and settle. Should harbour porpoise be in the vicinity of the stream at the time of a pollution event it is a highly mobile species and can avoid the area.</p> <p>However, as the works are in the vicinity of a watercourse the proposed project must comply with Water Pollution Acts. However, these measures are not required to prevent significant effects on the features of interest of the SAC. Due to the distance (10.2 km) via the indirect pathway (e.g. surface water networks) any pollutants or silt will be dispersed and diluted in the marine environment. The indirect pathway of surface will not result in a significant effect on the Natura 2000 site. The construction and operation of the proposed development will not impact on the conservation interests of the site.</p> <p><b>No significant effects are likely</b></p>

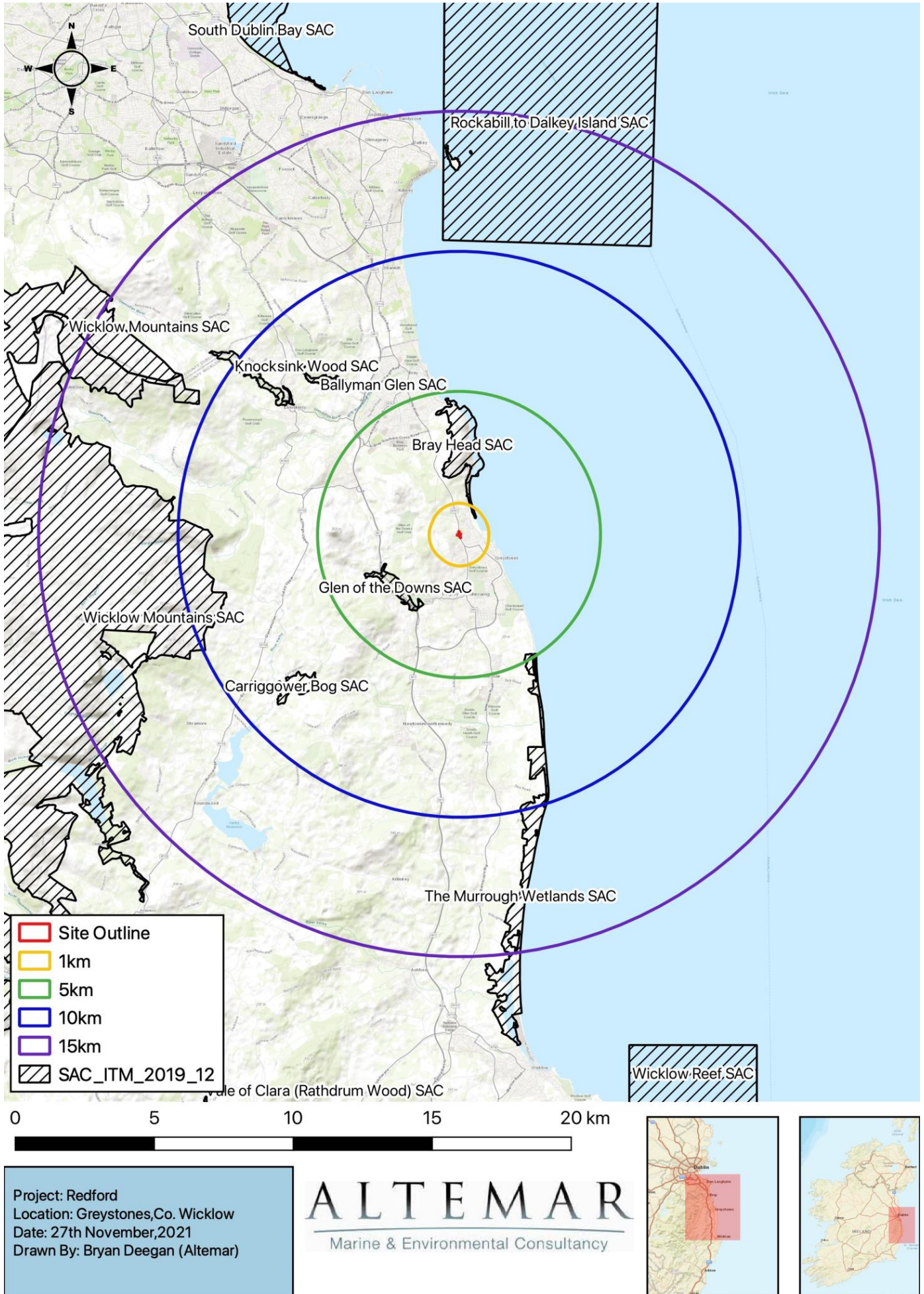


Figure 4. Special Areas of Conservation located within 15km of the proposed development.

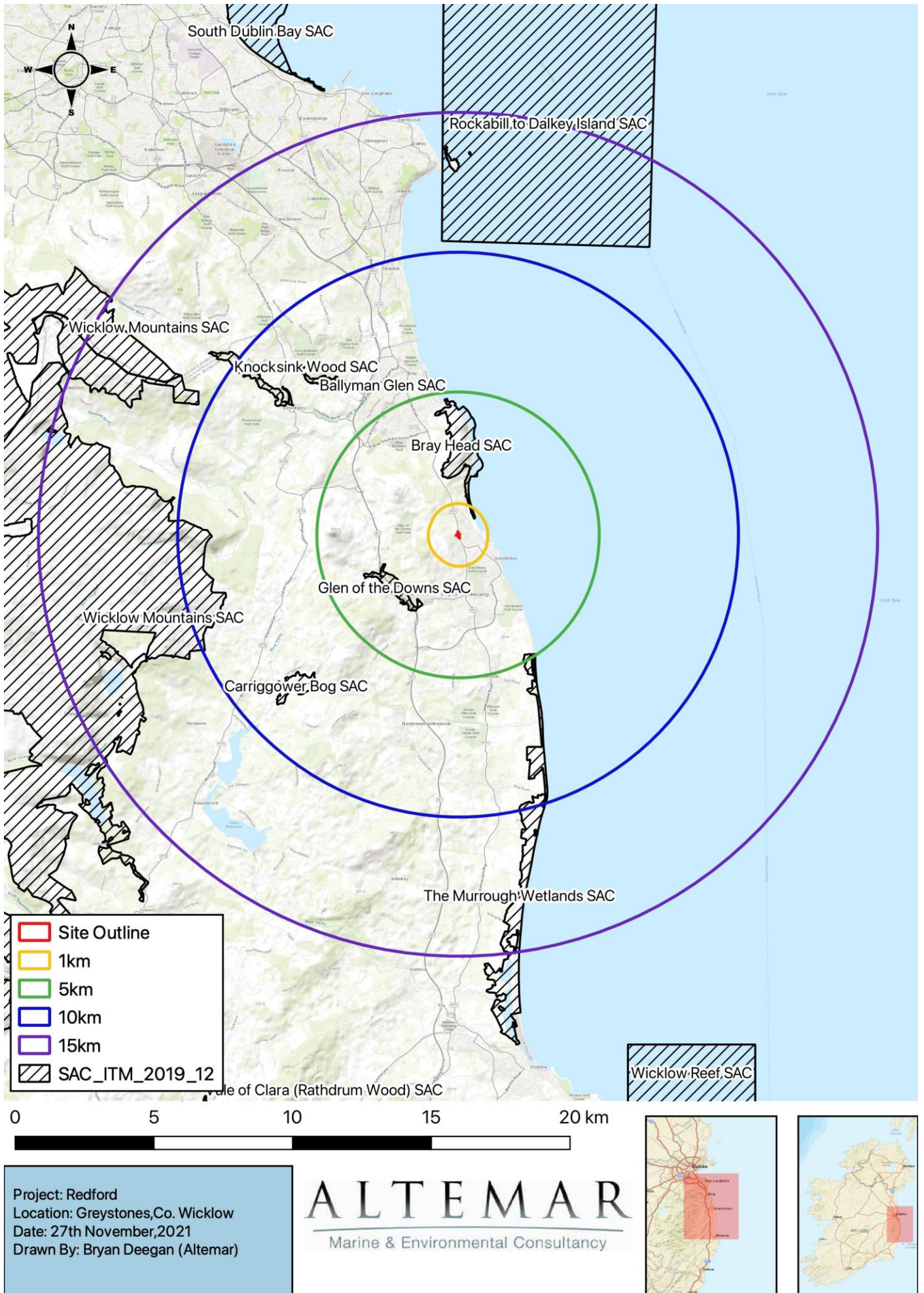


Figure 5. Special Protection Areas located within 15km of the proposed development.



**Figure 6.** Watercourses within 1km of the proposed development (EPA-WFD data)

## **IN-COMBINATION EFFECTS**

The proposed development site is primarily an existing road junction to the north of Greystones. This area has seen recent development including the Waverly development consisting of 159 residential units comprising 94 houses (2-3 storeys in height), comprising 32 no 4 bed detached units ranging in size from c 140 sqm to c 178 sqm GFA, 14 no 5 bed detached units at c210 sqm GFA, 48 no 3 bed semi-detached units ranging in size from 92 sqm to c115 sqm GFA, and 4 no apartment blocks which range in height from 3-4 storey (4 storeys overall), comprising a total of 65 no apartments as follows: 10 no 1 bed single storey apartments, 26 no 2 bed single storey apartments, 13 no 3 bed single storey apartments, 4 no 2 bed two storey apartments, 12 no 3 bed two storey apartments. The provision of 340 no car parking spaces, (42 within garages, 112 on driveways, 186 on street/within designated car parking area) with a new vehicular access from the Blacklion Link Road and all site development, landscaping, road and boundary treatment works.

However, other developments in the area consist of small developments and consist of single residential units or, modifications to existing dwellings. There is no direct pathway from the site to Natura 2000 sites.

**No in-combination effects are foreseen.**

## **CONCLUSIONS**

The proposed site is located 0.7 km from the nearest Natura 2000 site (Bray Head SAC). In the absence of any standard controls on site, watercourses and surface runoff are seen as the main potential pathway for impacts on Natura 2000 sites. There is no direct pathway to Natura 2000 sites. Indirect pathways via the Greystones Stream, public surface network lead to the marine environment, where significant mixing and dilution takes place in the open marine environment prior to reaching Natura 2000 sites including the Bray Head SAC. None of the features of interest of these Natura 2000 sites would be impacted by the proposed development.

No Natura 2000 sites are within the zone of influence of this development. Having taking into consideration the effluent discharge from the proposed development works, the distance between the proposed development site to designated conservation sites, lack of direct hydrological pathway or biodiversity corridor link to conservation sites and mixing within the marine environment, it is concluded that this development that would not give rise to any significant effects to designated sites. The construction and operation of the proposed project will not impact on the conservation objectives of features of interest of Natura 2000 sites.

This report presents a Stage 1 Appropriate Assessment Screening for the Proposed Development, outlining the information required for the competent authority to screen for appropriate assessment and to determine whether or not the Proposed Development, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects, in view of best scientific knowledge, is likely to have a significant effect on any European or Natura 2000 site.

On the basis of the content of this report, the competent authority is enabled to conduct a Stage 1 Screening for Appropriate Assessment and consider whether, in view of best scientific knowledge and in view of the conservation objectives of the relevant European sites, the Proposed Development, individually or in combination with other plans or projects is likely to have a significant effect on any European site.

There is no possibility of significant impacts on Natura 2000 sites, features of interest or site specific conservation objectives. A Natura Impact Statement is not required. In carrying out this AA screening, mitigation measures have not been taken into account. Standard best practice construction measures which could have the effect of mitigating any effects on any European Sites have similarly not been taken into account.

Accordingly, having carried out the Stage 1 Appropriate Assessment Screening, the competent authority may determine that a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment of the Proposed Development is not required following screening under this Regulation 42 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011, as amended, as it can be concluded that the possibility of any significant impacts on any European Sites, whether arising from the project itself or in combination with other plans and projects, can be excluded on the basis of the best scientific knowledge available.

## **DATA USED FOR THE AA SCREENING ASSESSMENT**

NPWS site synopses and Conservation objectives of sites within 15km. The most recent SAC and SPA boundary shapefiles were downloaded and overlaid on Bing road map and satellite imagery. Several site visits were carried out including survey to determine if the site contained possible threats to a NATURA 2000 site.

## **REFERENCES**

The following references were used in the preparation of this AA screening report.

1. Department of Environment Heritage and Local Government Circular NPW 1/10 and PSSP 2/10 on Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive – Guidance for Planning Authorities March 2010.
2. Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland: Guidance for Planning Authorities, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government 2009; [http://www.npws.ie/publications/archive/NPWS\\_2009\\_AA\\_Guidance.pdf](http://www.npws.ie/publications/archive/NPWS_2009_AA_Guidance.pdf)
3. Managing NATURA 2000 Sites: the provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, European Commission 2000; [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/Natura2000/management/docs/art6/provision\\_of\\_art6\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/Natura2000/management/docs/art6/provision_of_art6_en.pdf)
4. 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; [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/Natura2000management/docs/art6/Natura\\_2000\\_assess\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/Natura2000management/docs/art6/Natura_2000_assess_en.pdf)
5. Guidance document on Article 6(4) of the 'Habitats Directive' 92/43/EEC – Clarification of the concepts of: alternative solutions, imperative reasons of overriding public interest, compensatory measures, overall coherence, opinion of the commission; [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/Natura2000/management/docs/art6/guidance\\_art6\\_4\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/Natura2000/management/docs/art6/guidance_art6_4_en.pdf)
6. Guidance document on the implementation of the birds and habitats directive in estuaries and coastal zones with particular attention to port development and dredging; [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/Natura2000/management/docs/guidance\\_doc.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/Natura2000/management/docs/guidance_doc.pdf)
7. The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland. [http://www.npws.ie/publications/euconservationstatus/NPWS\\_2007\\_Conservation\\_Status\\_Report.pdf](http://www.npws.ie/publications/euconservationstatus/NPWS_2007_Conservation_Status_Report.pdf)
8. NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives: Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC 003000. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
9. NPWS (2021) Conservation objectives for Dalkey Islands SPA 004172. Generic Version 4.0. Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
10. NPWS (2021) Conservation objectives for Wicklow Mountains SPA [004040]. Generic Version 6.0. Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
11. NPWS (2021) Conservation objectives for The Murrough SPA [004186]. Generic Version 6.0. Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
12. NPWS (2019) Conservation Objectives: Ballyman Glen SAC 000713. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
13. NPWS (2017) Conservation objectives for Bray Head SAC [000714]. Generic Version 6.0. Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
14. NPWS (2021) Conservation objectives for Knocksink Wood SAC [000725]. Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

15. NPWS (2020) Conservation objectives for Glen of the Downs SAC [000719]. Generic Version 6.0. Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
16. NPWS (2020) Conservation objectives for The Murrrough Wetlands SAC [002249]. Generic Version 6.0. Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
17. NPWS (2018) Conservation objectives for Carriggower Bog SAC [000716]. Generic Version 6.0. Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
18. NPWS (2017) Conservation Objectives: Wicklow Mountains SAC 002122. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.

## FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS REPORT

Details of project	Appropriate Assessment Screening for a proposed upgrade to the junction at Redford, Greystones. Co. Wicklow
Name and Location of the NATURA 2000 sites within 15km.	The Murrough SPA Wicklow Mountains SPA Dalkey Islands SPA Glen of the Downs SAC Bray Head SAC Murrough Wetlands SAC Carriggower Bog SAC Ballyman Glen SAC Wicklow Mountains SAC Knocksink Wood SAC Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC
Description of the Project	The overall scheme aims to deliver an upgrade to the existing signal-controlled Redford Park junction which is located within the Redford area of Greystones in County Wicklow. The upgrades will consist of improvements for pedestrians and cyclists with the upgrade of footpaths and inclusion of cycle track facilities, as well as an improvement to public transport through the upgrading of two existing bus stops in the immediate vicinity of the junction.
Is the Project directly connected with the management of the NATURA 2000 site?	No
Details of any other projects or plans that together with this project could affect the NATURA 2000 site	None
<b>The assessment of significant effects</b>	
Describe how the project is likely to affect the NATURA 2000 site	Negligible Impact Predicted
Response to consultation	N/A
<b>Data collected to carry out the assessment</b>	Site Visit and Supporting NPWS data.
Who carried out the assessment	Altemar Ltd.
Sources of data	NPWS website, standard data form, conservation objectives data, field surveys of the site and references outlined in the AA Screening Report.
Explain why the effects are not considered significant	No Natura 2000 sites are within the zone of influence of this development. Having taking into consideration the effluent discharge from the proposed development works, the distance between the proposed development site to designated conservation sites, lack of direct hydrological pathway or biodiversity corridor link to conservation sites and mixing within the marine environment it is concluded that this development that would not give rise to any significant effects to designated sites.
Level of assessment completed	Stage 1 Screening
<b>Overall conclusions</b>	
On the basis of the content of this report, the competent authority is enabled to conduct a Stage 1 Screening for Appropriate Assessment and consider whether, in view of best scientific knowledge and in view of the conservation objectives of the relevant European sites, the Proposed Development, individually or in combination with other plans or projects is likely to have a significant effect on any European site.	



