

Convent Road Active Travel Scheme

AA Screening Report

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Formerly JB Barry Partners who became part of Egis in 2023

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Table of Contents

1	INTRODUCTION	1
1.1	Background	1
1.2	Authors Qualifications	1
2	LEGISLATION & GUIDANCE	1
2.1	Legislative context	2
2.2	Process of Appropriate Assessment	2
3	DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT	3
3.1	Site Location	3
3.2	Characteristics of proposed development	4
3.3	Site survey	4
4	IDENTIFICATION OF NATURA 2000 SITES	4
4.1	Non-EU designated sites	7
4.2	Likely Cumulative Impact of the Proposed Works on European Sites, in- combination with other plans and projects	7
	4.2.1 Conclusion of Cumulative Assessment	8
5	ARTICLE 6(3) APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT SCREENING STATEMENT AND CONCLUSION	9
5.1	Resources used for determination to Carry Out Assessment	9
5.2	Concluding Statement	9
6	REFERENCES	9

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

EGIS Ireland has been appointed by Wicklow County Council to provide the information necessary for the competent authority to undertake an Appropriate Assessment (AA) screening for the proposed project.

This Appropriate Assessment Screening Report has been prepared in accordance with the European Commission's Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly affecting Natura 2000 Sites: Methodological Guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (EC, 2021) and Managing Natura 2000 Sites: the provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC (EC, 2018) as well as the Department of the Environment's Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland - Guidance for Planning Authorities (DoEHLG, 2010) and the Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management. Office of the Planning Regulator, Dublin 7, Ireland OPR (2021).

1.2 Authors Qualifications

Darragh Furey is an Ecologist with J. B. Barry & Partners Limited. He holds a bachelor's degree (BSc) in Applied Freshwater and Marine Biology and a Masters (MSc) First class in Wildlife conservation and Management. His undergraduate thesis covered plastic pollution in North Sea fish and his Master's thesis focused on the effects of Non-native invasive plant species on the abundance and biodiversity of earthworms. Darragh has over 7 years' experience in Ecology and Environmental assessment in the UK and Ireland and has worked on EIA, AA, PEA, NIS & EIA screening assessments. Darragh's experience covers linear infrastructure, offshore energy projects, housing schemes and road network alterations.

2 LEGISLATION & GUIDANCE

The following EU and national legislation is relevant to the proposed project:

National and International Legislation:

- EU Birds Directive 2009/147/EC.
- EU EIA Directive 2014/52/EU.
- EU Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, as amended.
- EU Freshwater Fish Directive (78/659/EEC).
- EU Surface Water Directive (75/440/EEC).
- Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended.
- Local Government (Water Pollution) Acts, 1977 and 1990 Local Authority.
- Local Government (Planning and Development) Act 2000 Local Authority.
- European Communities (EC) Birds and Natural Habitats Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 477/2011) as amended.
- Flora (Protection) Order, 2015 (S.I. No. 356 of 2015).
- The Wildlife Act, 1976, as amended by the Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2000.
- Fisheries (Consolidation) Act, 1959 (as amended).

Relevant Guidelines:

- A Guide to Habitats in Ireland, Fossitt, 2000.
- Bat Mitigation Guidelines for Ireland, National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), 2006.
- Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (3rd Edition), The Bat Conservation Trust, 2016.
- Best Practice Guidance for Habitat Survey and Mapping, Heritage Council, 2011.
- Best Practice Guidelines for the Conservation of Bats in the Planning of National Road Schemes, National Roads Authority (NRA), 2006.

- Design Manual for Roads and Bridges: Nature Conservation Advice in Relation to Bats, Highways Agency, 2001.
- Ecological Surveying Techniques for Protected Flora and Fauna during the Planning of National Road Schemes, NRA, 2004.
- Environmental Planning and Construction Guidelines Series, NRA, 2005-2011.
- Guidelines for Assessment of Ecological Impacts of National Road Schemes, NRA, 2009.
- Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland, Terrestrial, Freshwater, Coastal and Marine, Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM), 2018.
- Guidelines for Ecological Report Writing, CIEEM, 2017.
- Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, 2nd Edition CIEEM, 2017.
- The Management of Noxious Weeds and Non-Native Invasive Plant Species on National Roads, NRA, 2010.

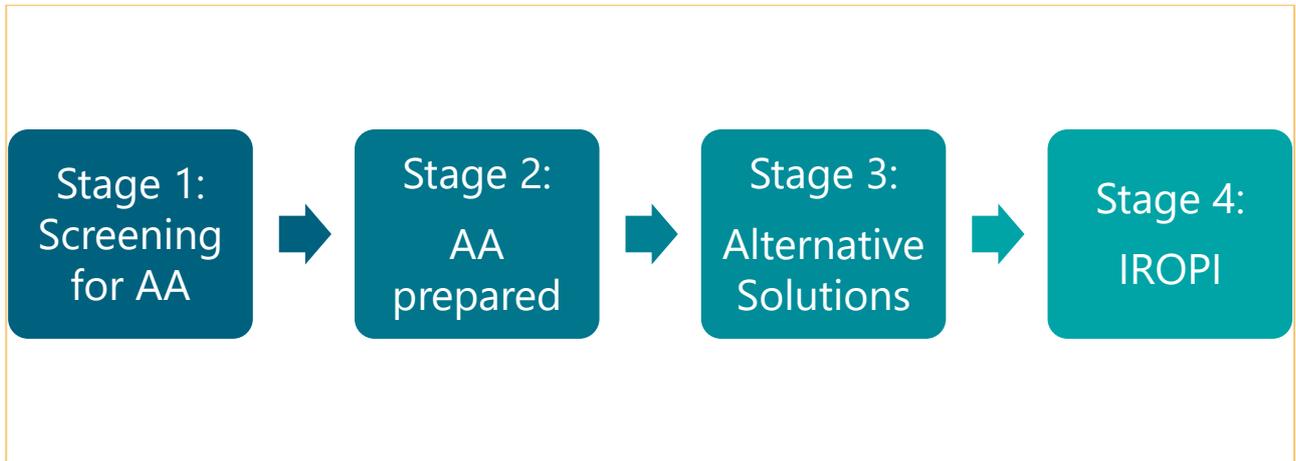
2.1 Legislative context

Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Fauna and Flora, known as the 'Habitats Directive' - provides legal protection for habitats and species of European importance. Article 2 of the Directive requires the maintenance or restoration of habitats and species of European Community interest, at a favourable conservation status. Articles 3 - 9 provide the legislative means to protect habitats and species of Community interest through the establishment and conservation of an EU-wide network of sites known as Natura 2000 sites. Natura 2000 sites are Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) designated under the Habitats Directive and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) designated under the Conservation of Wild Birds Directive (79 / 409 / EEC). Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive set out the decision-making tests for plans or projects affecting Natura 2000 sites. Article 6(3) establishes the requirement for Appropriate Assessment: "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." Article 6(4) deals with the steps that should be taken when it is determined, as a result of Appropriate Assessment, that a plan/project will adversely affect a European site. Issues dealing with alternative solutions, imperative reasons of overriding public interest and compensatory measures need to be addressed in this case.

Article 6(4) states: "If, in spite of a negative assessment of the implications for the site and in the absence of alternative solutions, a plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature, the Member States shall take all compensatory measures necessary to ensure that the overall coherence of Natura 2000 is protected. It shall inform the Commission of the compensatory measures adopted. Where the site concerned hosts a priority natural habitat type and / or a priority species, the only considerations which may be raised are those relating to human health or public safety, to beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment or, further to an opinion from the Commission to other imperative reasons of overriding public interest." The requirements of Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive have been transposed into Irish legislation by means of inter alia the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011-2015 (S.I. No. 477 / 2011) as amended.

2.2 Process of Appropriate Assessment

Guidance on the Appropriate Assessment (AA) process was produced by the European Commission in 2002, which was subsequently developed into guidance specifically for Ireland by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DEHLG) (2009). Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR) produced a Practice Note in 2021, PN01 - Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management (OPR, 2021).



3 DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

3.1 Site Location

The proposed project is located on the main street in the village of Delany Co. Wicklow mostly contained within the village boundaries (Fig. 1). The area is mostly classified as urban with housing bounding the site to the east and west with the Delgany golf course further west and some sparse woodland to the south.

The EPA mapping tool (Accessed 21/08/2024) shows the site is within the Three trouts stream_010 river sub-basin EU_CD: IE_EA_10T030580). The Three Trouts Stream_010, a 2nd order watercourse (10T03) is located c. 200m south of the southernmost part of the scheme, it flows eastwards.



FIGURE 1 PROJECT LOCATION

3.2 Characteristics of proposed development

The aim of this scheme is to improve accessibility on Convent Road with a particular focus on pedestrians, vulnerable road users and cyclists along Convent road in Delgany Co Wicklow. The provision of new and improved cycle and pedestrian facilities will reduce journey times and provide safer facilities. This will encourage a modal shift to more sustainable modes of transport.

The proposed layout will make Convent Road access only for general traffic by introducing a modal filter at the northern end of the scheme, just north of the junction with Convent Court. This will prevent through traffic from using Convent Road and reduce traffic volumes by approx. 90%. Cyclists and pedestrians will be able to pass through the modal filter and can continue to use Convent Rd as a through route. Widened footpaths will be provided along both edges of the road and kerb lines will be amended as required. There will be one parking space allocated for disabled parking, along with four regular car park spaces, located along the western edge of the road. A 12m loading bay will be provided at the southern end of the scheme. Raised table pedestrian crossings have been included at various points and across side roads. Landscaped areas have been detailed at points where space allows. Typical widths in this layout allow for 1.8m wide footpaths either side of a 5m wide 2-way carriageway, which is in line with standards. However note there are short sections where the footpaths are reduced to a minimum of 1.5m where there are particular space constraints, these are present for less than 20m total length throughout the scheme. The entire scheme will be constructed within the existing public area meaning that no additional land will be acquired for the construction and existing trees will be retained. There is no requirement to upgrade the existing drainage network or outfalls within the scheme extents. Existing road gullies will be decommissioned where they are no longer aligned with kerbs where required. New gullies and connections will be required in areas where the alignment has changed. The existing public lighting will remain in place.

These works will include:

- Excavate old kerbs
- Relocate gullies to new kerb line
- Raise service lids
- Plane road
- Re-surfacing of road and walkways
- New road markings and signs to be installed.

There is no requirement to upgrade the existing drainage network or outfalls within the scheme extents.

Existing road gullies will be decommissioned where they are no longer aligned with kerbs where required. New gullies and connections will be required in areas where the alignment has changed.

3.3 Site survey

A survey was undertaken by Darragh Furey on the 20/08/2024. Due to the predominant hardstanding within the red line boundary of the project area a habitat mapping exercise was not undertaken, however, several instances of cherry laurel and butterfly bush were observed in small patches. No new Annex 1 habitats were identified on site that have not been designated previously by NPWS.

4 IDENTIFICATION OF NATURA 2000 SITES

The network of sites designated or proposed for designation across Ireland and Europe under the Habitats and Birds Directives is known as the Natura 2000 Network. This network includes Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs), as well as sites that are proposed for designation as SACs or SPAs. The sites are also known as Natura 2000 sites or European Sites.

The overall aim of the Habitats Directive is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation status of habitats and species of community interest. These habitats and species are listed in the Habitats and Birds

4

Directives and Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas are designated to afford protection to the most vulnerable of them. These two designations are collectively known as the Natura 2000 network.

European legislation is designed to protect and enhance these important sites through monitoring and careful planning requirements to ensure the integrity of the biodiversity is maintained in accordance with the law. To comply with this, each project being undertaken must be assessed for impacts or the potential impact that could occur during the course of the given project. To assess this potential of impact an AA screening will be carried out to screen the project in or out of an Natura Impact Statement (NIS) and in this screening each and every Natura 2000 site within a Zone of Influence (Zol) will be assessed on an individual bases as to the likelihood or potential of impact on the sites QIs.

The following designated European sites (Natura 2000) listed below are located within an approximate 15km zone of influence of the study

European sites and distance from proposed works	Qualifying Interests/Special Conservation Interests for which the European site has been designated (Sourced from NPWS online Conservation Objectives, www.npws.ie 20/08/2024)	Conservation objectives	Identification of source-pathway chain and likely Zone of Impact determination
Special Protected Areas (SPA)			
The Murrough SPA (004186) 4.5km	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 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] 	A full synopsis of the conservation objectives for this site are available online at www.npws.ie & were accessed on 27/08/2024.	<p>There is no potential for direct affects on the Qualifying interests of this SPA as the works area and construction is outside the boundary of the SPA with a buffer of 4.5km.</p> <p>There is no suitable foraging or roosting habitat for the listed SCI species within the boundary of the proposed works. Further, due to the existing urban environment of the proposed works area, within the buffering distance of 4.5km, there is no potential for ex situ disturbance or displacement related impacts on these SCI species during the construction and operation of the proposed works.</p> <p>No pathway for significant effect on the Qualifying interests of this European Site have been identified, when considered in the absence of any mitigation, individually or cumulatively with other plans or projects and the site is not within the likely Zone of Impact and is not considered further in this Screening assessment.</p>
Wicklow Mountains SPA 7.7km	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>) [A098] ● Peregrine (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>) [A103] 	A full synopsis of the conservation objectives for this site are available online at www.npws.ie & were accessed on 27/08/2024.	There is no potential for direct affects on the Qualifying interests of this SPA as the works area and construction is outside the boundary of the SPA with a buffer of 7.7km.

European sites and distance from proposed works	Qualifying Interests/Special Conservation Interests for which the European site has been designated (Sourced from NPWS online Conservation Objectives, www.npws.ie 20/08/2024)	Conservation objectives	Identification of source-pathway chain and likely Zone of Impact determination
			<p>There is no suitable foraging or roosting habitat for the listed SCI species within the boundary of the proposed works. Further, due to the existing urban environment of the proposed works area, within the buffering distance of 7.7km, there is no potential for ex situ disturbance or displacement related impacts on these SCI species during the construction and operation of the proposed works.</p> <p>No pathway for significant effect on the Qualifying interests of this European Site have been identified, when considered in the absence of any mitigation, individually or cumulatively with other plans or projects and the site is not within the likely Zone of Impact and is not considered further in this Screening assessment.</p>
Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)			
Glen of the downs SAC (000719) 700m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0] 	A full synopsis of the conservation objectives for this site are available online at www.npws.ie & were accessed on 27/08/2024.	<p>The proposed development is not overlapping with the boundary of the SAC, therefore with the consideration of the sedentary nature of the QIs there is no potential for direct effect on the QIs.</p> <p>No source-pathway-receptor chain for likely significant effect was identified between the site of proposed works and the habitats and species for which this site has been designated.</p>

European sites and distance from proposed works	Qualifying Interests/Special Conservation Interests for which the European site has been designated (Sourced from NPWS online Conservation Objectives, www.npws.ie 20/08/2024)	Conservation objectives	Identification of source-pathway chain and likely Zone of Impact determination
			<p>No pathway for effect on this European Site exists and the site is not within the Likely Zone of Impact. It can be excluded, on the basis of objective information, that the proposed development, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will have a significant effect on this European site. Accordingly, a Stage Two Appropriate Assessment is not required.</p>
<p>Bray head SAC (000714) 3km</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230] ● European dry heaths [4030] 	<p>A full synopsis of the conservation objectives for this site are available online at www.npws.ie & were accessed on 27/08/2024.</p>	<p>The proposed development is not overlapping with the boundary of the SAC, therefore with the consideration of the sedentary nature of the QIs there is no potential for direct effect on the QIs.</p> <p>No source-pathway-receptor chain for likely significant effect was identified between the site of proposed works and the habitats and species for which this site has been designated.</p> <p>No pathway for effect on this European Site exists and the site is not within the Likely Zone of Impact. It can be excluded, on the basis of objective information, that the proposed development, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will have a significant effect on this European site. Accordingly, a Stage Two Appropriate Assessment is not required.</p>

European sites and distance from proposed works	Qualifying Interests/Special Conservation Interests for which the European site has been designated (Sourced from NPWS online Conservation Objectives, www.npws.ie 20/08/2024)	Conservation objectives	Identification of source-pathway chain and likely Zone of Impact determination
The Murrrough Wetlands SAC (002249) 3.6km	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210] ● Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220] ● Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</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] 	A full synopsis of the conservation objectives for this site are available online at www.npws.ie & were accessed on 27/08/2024.	<p>The proposed development is not overlapping with the boundary of the SAC, therefore with the consideration of the sedentary nature of the QIs there is no potential for direct effect on the QIs.</p> <p>No source-pathway-receptor chain for likely significant effect was identified between the site of proposed works and the habitats and species for which this site has been designated.</p> <p>No pathway for effect on this European Site exists and the site is not within the Likely Zone of Impact. It can be excluded, on the basis of objective information, that the proposed development, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will have a significant effect on this European site. Accordingly, a Stage Two Appropriate Assessment is not required.</p>
Carriggower Bog SAC (000716) 5.2km	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140] 	A full synopsis of the conservation objectives for this site are available online at www.npws.ie & were accessed on 27/08/2024.	<p>The proposed development is not overlapping with the boundary of the SAC, therefore with the consideration of the sedentary nature of the QIs there is no potential for direct effect on the QIs.</p> <p>No source-pathway-receptor chain for likely significant effect was identified between the site of proposed works and the habitats and species for which this site has been designated.</p>

European sites and distance from proposed works	Qualifying Interests/Special Conservation Interests for which the European site has been designated (Sourced from NPWS online Conservation Objectives, www.npws.ie 20/08/2024)	Conservation objectives	Identification of source-pathway chain and likely Zone of Impact determination
			<p>No pathway for effect on this European Site exists and the site is not within the Likely Zone of Impact. It can be excluded, on the basis of objective information, that the proposed development, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will have a significant effect on this European site. Accordingly, a Stage Two Appropriate Assessment is not required.</p>
<p>Wicklow mountains SAC (002122) 7.7km</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>) [3110] ● Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160] ● Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010] ● European dry heaths [4030] ● Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060] ● Calaminarian grasslands of the <i>Violetalia calaminariae</i> [6130] ● 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] 	<p>A full synopsis of the conservation objectives for this site are available online at www.npws.ie & were accessed on 27/08/2024.</p>	<p>The proposed development is not overlapping with the boundary of the SAC, therefore with the consideration of the sedentary nature of the QIs there is no potential for direct effect on the QIs.</p> <p>No source-pathway-receptor chain for likely significant effect was identified between the site of proposed works and the habitats and species for which this site has been designated.</p> <p>No pathway for effect on this European Site exists and the site is not within the Likely Zone of Impact. It can be excluded, on the basis of objective information, that the proposed development, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will have a significant effect on this European site. Accordingly, a Stage Two Appropriate Assessment is not required.</p>

European sites and distance from proposed works	Qualifying Interests/Special Conservation Interests for which the European site has been designated (Sourced from NPWS online Conservation Objectives, www.npws.ie 20/08/2024)	Conservation objectives	Identification of source-pathway chain and likely Zone of Impact determination
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220] ● Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0] ● <i>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter) [1355] 		

4.1 Non-EU designated sites

In addition to European designated sites, nationally designated sites (NHAs) and potential sites (pNHA) are considered in this assessment to ensure that where applicable due diligence is implemented to protect and preserve any native habitats.

The basic designation for wildlife is the Natural Heritage Area (NHA). This is an area considered important for the habitats present or which holds species of plants and animals whose habitat needs protection.

To date, 75 raised bogs have been given legal protection, covering some 23,000 hectares. These raised bogs are located mainly in the midlands. A further 73 blanket bogs, covering 37,000ha, mostly in western areas are also designated as NHAs.

The Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI) is compiling a list of geological/geomorphological sites in need of protection through NHA designation. A committee of expert geologists provides an initial list of sites which then undergo a process of survey, reporting and review, to provide recommendations regarding NHA status or otherwise. The GSI has completed its list of karst (i.e. exposed limestone) and early fossil sites.

In addition, there are 630 proposed NHAs (pNHAs), which were published on a non-statutory basis in 1995, but have not since been statutorily proposed or designated. These sites are of significance for wildlife and habitats. Some of the pNHAs are tiny, such as a roosting place for rare bats. Others are large - a woodland or a lake, for example. The pNHAs cover approximately 65,000ha and designation will proceed on a phased basis over the coming years.

Prior to statutory designation, pNHAs are subject to limited protection, in the form of:

- Agri-environmental farm planning schemes such as Rural Environment Protection Scheme (REPS 3 and 4) and Agri Environmental Options Scheme (AEOS) continue to support the objective of maintaining and enhancing the conservation status of pNHAs. The farm plans operate for a period of 5 years. REPS 4 plans will continue to operate until 2014.
- Forest Service requirement for NPWS approval before they will pay afforestation grants on pNHA lands
- Recognition of the ecological value of pNHAs by Planning and Licencing Authorities.

Under the Wildlife Amendment Act (2000), NHAs are legally protected from damage from the date they are formally proposed for designation.

There are three pNHAs within 5km of the site all of which are outside of the zone of influence of the project and are not likely to be affected by works, these are:

- Bray Head
- Carriggower Bog
- Glen of the Downs
- Kilmacanoge marsh
- The Murrough

4.2 Likely Cumulative Impact of the Proposed Works on European Sites, in-combination with other plans and projects

A search and review in relation to plans and projects that may have the potential to result in cumulative and/or in-combination impacts on the ecology of the site was conducted. This assessment focuses on the potential for cumulative in-combination effects on the existing habitats where potential for significant effects was identified. This included a review of online WCC Planning website, An Board Pleanála website, National Planning Application Database and EIA Portal, development plans and other available information and served to identify past and future plans and projects, their activities and their predicted environmental effects.

4.2.1 Conclusion of Cumulative Assessment

No pathway or mechanism for the proposed development to result in any significant effect on any European Site was identified when considered on its own during the assessment process and therefore there is no potential for it to contribute to any such effects when considered in-combination with any other development.

The review of plans and projects did not reveal any additional potential pathways for effect on European Sites that may have arisen as a result of those plans or projects.

- ABP Reference: TC27.307045: It is proposed to build 232 homes on the site. The 19th century chapel and house would be retained and extended for use as a creche of 330m² and a community centre of 294m². A modern extension to the convent buildings would be demolished. 84 of the apartments would be provided in two blocks in the centre of the site, one 3 storeys high and the other 4 storeys high both over basement car parks, with another 52 provided in five duplex blocks. There would be new vehicular accesses from Bellevue Hill and Convent Road. The existing access to the convent would be retained. The roads from these entrances would be cul-de-sacs and would not meet each other. Pedestrian links through the site and to the authorised housing to the north are proposed. 420 car parking spaces are proposed, of which 210 would serve the apartments, 192 the houses and 18 the creche/community centre. This application was lodged in April 2020 and as of August 2020 it requires further consideration/amendment.
- ABP Reference: PL27.248401: Construct 93 Houses, crèche, roads, public open space (amended permission under PL27.248401 PA reg.ref 15/1307) at Richview House, Bellevue Hill, Delgany, County Wicklow. This planning application received conditional decision in May, 2022.
- WCC Reference: 24341 – Proposal to build 14 no. residential units comprising of alterations & extensions to Beechwood House in order to provide 3 no. residential units, alterations & extensions to the existing Coach House to provide 1 no. residential unit, alterations & extensions to the Beechwood Lodge to provide 1 no. residential unit and associated garage/store, the construction of 9 no. additional new residential units in the Architectural Conservation Area of Delgany, the demolition of existing shed, all together with associated site works. This application was lodged in August, 2024 and decision due date is October 2024.
- WCC Reference: 211488: (1) Provision of a new rear 2-storey extension, comprising 17 bedrooms to rear of existing building. (2) Conversion of existing 1st floor kitchen/dining room to 2 en-suite bedrooms 5A and 6A. (3) Retention permission for existing first floor en-suite bedrooms 2A to 4A. (4) Provision also sought for new traffic management system and pedestrian access off the current car park entrance. (5) All necessary foul, mains and surface water connections and all public services. (6) All ancillary works to facilitate the above-mentioned proposals. The development site is in the Horse & Hound Public House, Convent Road, Delgany, Co. Wicklow. This planning application received conditional decision in July 2022.
- WCC Reference: 21960: The development will consist of: A total of 56 No. residential units in the following composition. The application also proposes the following: - New vehicular access from Bellevue Hill - Provision of pedestrian and cycle connections. - The development includes site clearance, private, communal and public open space, landscaping including enhancement of stream, removal of walls, new boundary treatments, 107 parking spaces, ESB kiosk, lighting, play areas, cycle spaces, site drainage works, and all ancillary site development works above and below ground. This planning application received conditional decision in December 2021.
- WCC Reference: 21959: The proposed development consists of a mixed-use development including: 99 No. residential units in the following composition: - 59 no. Houses with heights of two storey (53 No.) and bungalows (6. No.) in a mixture of 2 No. Detached, 20 No. Semi-detached and 37 No. terraced. - 36 No. duplex apartments are proposed in 4 No. three storey blocks. The development includes site clearance, private, communal, and public open space, landscaping including enhancement of stream, removal of walls, new boundary treatments, 212 parking spaces, ESB kiosk, lighting, play areas, cycle spaces, site drainage works, and all ancillary site development works above and below ground. This planning application received a conditional decision on December,2021.

Although the Glen Of The Downs SAC is hydrologically connected to the Three Trouts Stream_010, it is located c. 850m upstream of the nearest possible impact location from the Site, therefore, there is no pathway for significant effects on the SAC.

Bray Head SAC the Three Trouts Stream_010 flows east for c. 3.3km until reaching the Irish Sea. Due to the nature, scale and short duration of the proposed project and the mixing capacity of the Irish sea, it is very unlikely that any potential emissions from the Site will reach the Bray Head SAC, the Murrough Wetlands SAC and the Murrough SPA (c. 3km north, 2.4km and 3.4km south of the river mouth to the sea respectively). Any emissions released by the site will be localised to the site and at worst, the Three Trouts Stream_010, therefore, no potential for significant effects on the Natura 2000 sites via hydrological link.

The Site is of sufficient distance from the Glen Of The Downs SAC, Bray Head SAC, The Murrough Wetlands SAC and The Murrough SPA that there is no risk of visual or noise disturbance of the QI habitats/ species. There is, therefore, no pathway for significant effects on the QI species of the listed Natura 2000 sites.

5 ARTICLE 6(3) APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT SCREENING STATEMENT AND CONCLUSION

5.1 Resources used for determination to Carry Out Assessment

In preparation of the report, the following sources were used to gather information:

- NPWS Ste Synopses, Conservation objectives for each European designed sites. Accessed 20/08/2024
- Online mapping applications such as;
- EPA: <https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/>
- NPWS: <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/edf34d92e28040fd87d3d14f55d8d95f/page/Page/>
- I-WeBS: <https://bwi.maps.arcgis.com/apps/View/index.html?appid=1043ba01fcb74c78bc75e306eda48d3a>
- Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI)
- NBDC National Biodiversity Data Centre, Ireland.
- Review of other plans and projects within the study area.

5.2 Concluding Statement

It has been concluded, in view of the best scientific knowledge, on the basis of objective information and in light of the conservation objectives of the relevant European sites pertaining to the likely zone of impact described in this report, that the proposed works, individually or in combination with other plans and projects, are not likely to have a significant effect on any of the European sites designated under the Habitats Directive and the Birds Directive.

In line with this conclusion, an Appropriate Assessment **is not required**, and therefore a Stage 2 Natura Impact Statement shall not be prepared in respect of the proposed development.

6 REFERENCES

- 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;

- Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland. Guidance for Planning Authorities, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2009.

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