

Screening Statement

OF THE **PROPOSED CELBRIDGE CIVIC AMENITY**

**IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF
ARTICLE 6(3) OF THE EU HABITATS DIRECTIVE**

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JANUARY 2019

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Section 1. Introduction

1.1 Background

CAAS has been appointed by Kildare County Council to prepare this Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening Report of the Proposed Celbridge Civic Amenity 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").

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 (Council Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds) with Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) designated to afford protection to the most vulnerable of them. These two designations are collectively known as European Sites.

European and national legislation places a collective obligation on Ireland and its citizens to maintain habitats and species in the European Sites at favourable conservation condition. The Government and its agencies are responsible for the implementation and enforcement of regulations (in particular Part XAB of the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2010 and the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011 (as amended) to ensure the ecological integrity of these sites. AA is an assessment of whether a plan or project, alone and in combination with other plans or projects, could have significant effects on a European Site in view of the Site's conservation objectives.

1.2 Legislative Context

AA is an assessment of the potential for adverse or negative effects of a plan or project, in combination with other plans or projects, on the conservation objectives of a European Site. These sites consist of SACs and SPAs and provide for the protection and long-term survival of Europe's most valuable and threatened species and habitats.

The Habitats Directive provides legal protection for habitats and species of European importance. Articles 3 to 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. In Ireland, these are SACs and SPAs, designated under the Birds Directive, hereafter 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 European Sites. Article 6(3) establishes the requirement for AA:

"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 or 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 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.

If, in spite of a negative assessment of the implications for the [Natura 2000] 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, 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."

These requirements are implemented in the Republic of Ireland by the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (as amended). These regulations consolidate the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1997 to 2005 and the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) (Control of Recreational Activities) Regulations 2010, as well as addressing transposition failures identified in judgements of the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU).

If, in spite of a negative assessment of the implications for the site and in the absence of alternative solutions, a plan or project may nevertheless be carried out for "Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest" (IROPI), including those of a social or economic nature, the Member State 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.

1.3 Guidance

This Screening Statement has been prepared in accordance with the following guidance:

- *AA of Plans and Projects in Ireland. Guidance for Planning Authorities. Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2010;*
- *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, 2002;*
- *Managing Natura 2000 sites: The Provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC: European Commission, 2000;*
- *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, Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Luxembourg (EC 2001);*
- *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. Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Luxembourg (EC 2007); and*
- *Flora (Protection) Order, 1999 (As amended 2015).*

The AA is based on best scientific knowledge and has utilised ecological and hydrological expertise. In addition, a detailed online review of published scientific literature and 'grey' literature was conducted. This included a detailed review of the National Parks and Wildlife Website including mapping and available reports for relevant sites and in particular sensitive qualifying interests/special conservation interests described and their conservation objectives. The EPA Envision Map-viewer (www.epa.ie) and available reports were also reviewed.

Definitions of conservation status, integrity and significance used in this assessment are defined in accordance with 'Managing Natura 2000 sites: The provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC' (EC, 2000).

- The conservation status of a natural habitat is defined as the sum of the influences acting on a natural habitat and its typical species that may affect its long-term natural distribution, structure and functions as well as the long-term survival of its typical species;
- The conservation status of a species is defined as the sum of the influences acting on the species concerned that may affect the long-term distribution and abundance of its population;

- The integrity of a European Site is defined as the coherence of the site's ecological structure and function, across its whole area, or the habitats, complex of habitats and/or populations of species for which the site is or will be classified; and
- Significant effect should be determined in relation to the specific features and environmental conditions of the protected site concerned by the plan or project, taking particular account of the site's conservation objectives.

1.4 Approach

1.4.1 Stages of AA

There are four main stages in the AA process; the requirements for each depending on likely impacts to European Sites (SACs and SPAs).

Stage One: Screening

The process which 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.

Stage Two: Appropriate Assessment

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 impacts, an assessment of the potential mitigation of those impacts. If adequate mitigation is proposed to ensure no significant adverse impacts on European Sites, then the process may end at this stage. However, if the likelihood of significant impacts remains, then the process must proceed to Stage 3.

Stage Three: Assessment of Alternative Solutions

The process which 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: Assessment where no alternative solutions exist and where adverse impacts remain

An assessment of compensatory measures where, in the light of an assessment of imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI), it is deemed that the project or plan should proceed.

The Habitats Directive promotes a hierarchy of avoidance, mitigation and compensatory measures. First, the plan should aim to avoid any impacts on European Sites by identifying possible impacts early in the plan-making process and writing the plan in order to avoid such impacts. Second, mitigation measures should be applied, if necessary, during the AA process to the point where no adverse impacts on the site(s) remain. If the plan is still likely to result in impacts on European Sites, and no further practicable mitigation is possible, then it must be rejected. If no alternative solutions are identified and the plan is required for imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI test) under Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, then compensation measures are required for any remaining adverse effect.

1.4.2 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 proposed works;
- Pathway(s) – e.g. groundwater connecting to nearby qualifying wetland habitats; and
- Receptor(s) – qualifying aquatic habitats and species of European Sites.

In the interest of this report, receptors are the ecological features which are known to be utilised by the qualifying interests or special conservation interests of a European Site. A source is any identifiable element of the Proposed Project provision which is known to have interactions with ecological processes. The pathways are any connections or links between the source and the receptor. This report determines if direct, indirect and cumulative adverse effects (however minor) will arise from the proposed development.

1.4.3 Zone of Influence

Following the source-pathway-receptor process a Zone of Influence (ZOI) is determined based on the characteristics of the development (detailed in Section 3.2) and the foreseen distribution of likely effects through any pathways identified. All European Sites within the ZOI are assessed with specific reference to the sensitive receptors of each site and pathways for effect that relate to the ecological integrity of the site.

1.5 Relationship between the Appropriate Assessment process and the Proposed Project

The AA needs to be fully integrated with the various stages of the development plan process in order to ensure that the ecological implications of the Project do not affect any areas designated as European Sites. As the AA process, has been managed by part of the Forward Planning team, interaction has occurred from the early stages of writing of the Project to impress the importance of protection of European Sites and that the plan should be formulated to avoid adverse effects on these sites.

Section 2. Description of and background to the Proposed Celbridge Civic Amenity

2.1 Existing Environment

The proposed site is located on a c. 1.20 Ha Greenfield site 1,100m North-East of Celbridge Town, in the Townland of Kilmacredock. The site is bounded to the North by the M4 Motorway, to the South by the R449, to the West by Kildare County Council owned lands and to the East by a Local Authority materials storage depot. The site topography is generally flat with elevation ranging from +66.500mOD to +67.000mOD.

The site is surrounded by high intensity road use and agricultural fields with a small coniferous woodland to the south. The Site has negligible ecological value comprising of spoil and bare ground (ED2), recolonized disturbed ground (ED3), buildings and artificial surfaces (BL3) and sparse treelines (WL2). There were no rare or protected species identified on site, and given the nature of the habitats available, following the CIEEM Guidelines¹, the area was determined to have negligible ecological value at local and landscape scales. There were no watercourses identified on site, and there are no records of known watercourses to occur within the vicinity of the site as detailed in the EPA river course database (Figure 2.1).

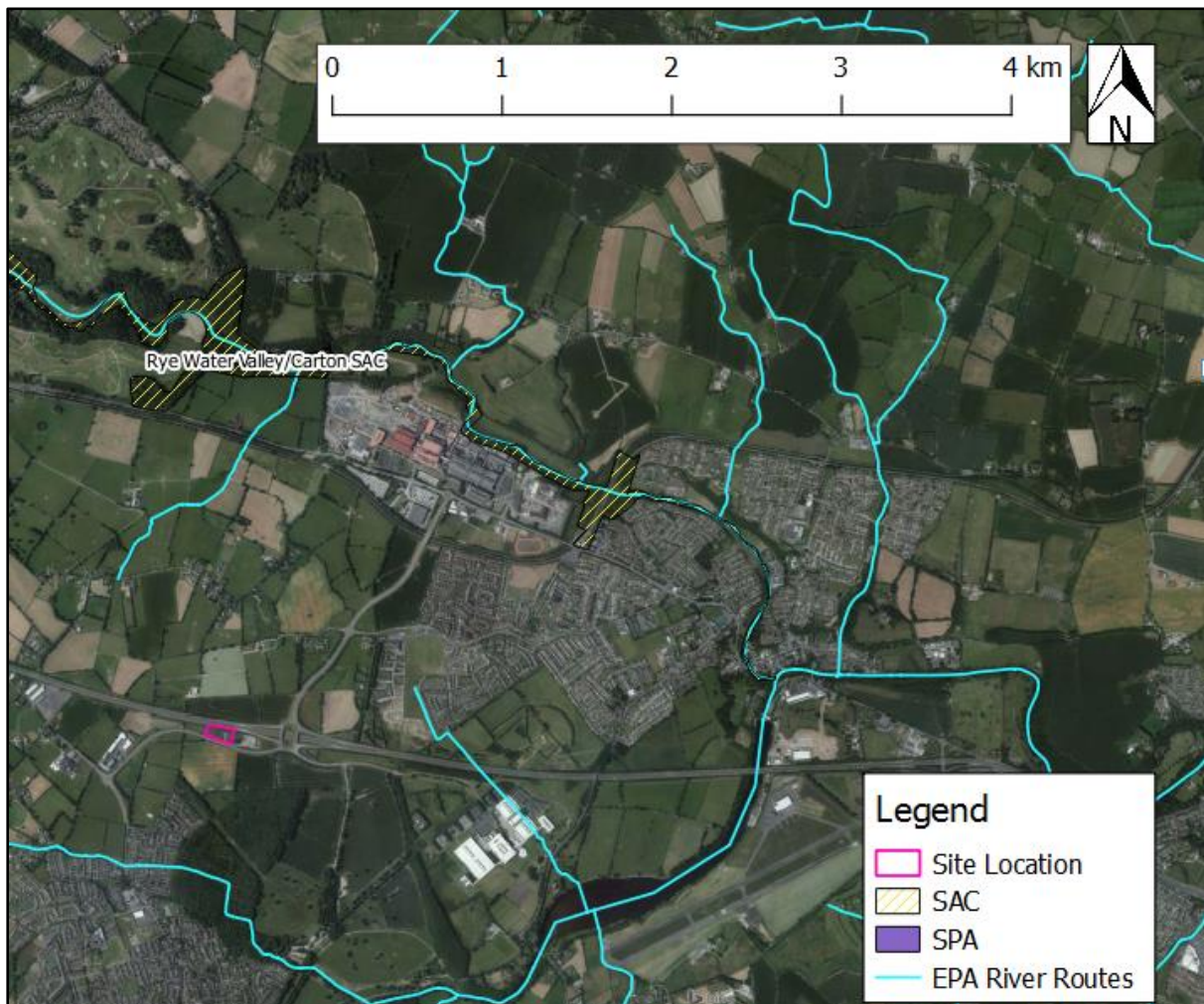


Figure 2.1 Site location in relation to the existing known river route system from the EPA database

¹ CIEEM (2016) Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland: Terrestrial, Freshwater and Coastal, 2nd edition. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester

2.2 Proposed Project

The overall development consists of the construction of 1.2Ha Civic Amenity Centre with dedicated chargeable and non-chargeable waste areas, 4 single storey buildings which include a Staff Building, a Pay Station Building, Weighbridge Building and Hazardous Waste Storage Building together with all ancillary site development, landscape works and a new access onto the R449.

2.2.1 Proposed Surface Water Drainage Strategy

The proposed surface water drainage strategy is as follows:

- The site has been designed to store a 1:100-year rainfall event below ground in the form of Stormtech Parabolic Arched Attenuation Tank with 525m³ capacity. A minimum of 500mm free-board is to be provided to the lowest building FFL from the top of the attenuation tank system;
- The design of the attenuation system and pipe network for a 1:100-year event includes an allowance for 20% Climate Change;
- Surface Water discharge from the site shall be limited to 2.9 litres/ second using a flow control device fitted to the discharge manhole before entering into the public network via a new manhole constructed on the existing surface water line on the R449;
- Discharge from the site shall be treated through the provision of a suitably sized petrol interceptor installed after the last discharge manhole and before the connection to the public network;
- The design and management of surface water for the proposed development will comply with the policies and guidelines outlined in the Greater Dublin Strategic Drainage Study (GSDSDS), SuDS principles and be in compliance with the Kildare County Development Plan surface water and drainage policies. Pipe sizes and gradients will be designed so as to achieve self-cleansing velocities as per the requirements of the Building Regulations Part 'H'; and
- The calculations for the surface water drainage network are attached in Appendix C of the Design report.

2.2.2 Proposed Foul Drainage Strategy

The proposed foul drainage network design has been carried out in accordance with the Greater Dublin Regional Code of Practice for Drainage Works. Pipe sizes and gradients have been designed so as to achieve self-cleansing velocities as per the requirements of the Building Regulations Part 'H'.

The proposed foul network will collect effluent from the new buildings via a local piped network and discharge into a foul piped network located within the internal access roads of the proposed development. The proposed foul drainage network for the development will then discharge by gravity to a proprietary packaged wastewater treatment system (WWTS) and sand polishing filter. The WWTS and polishing filter have been designed in accordance with the EPA guidelines and based on the Site Characterisation report carried out in September 2018. The new proprietary WWTS will consist of a primary and secondary proprietary packaged underground treatment tank and a sand polishing filter percolation area. The new WWTS and associated sand polishing filter has been designed to cater for a Population Equivalent (P.E.) of 10 in order to provide for adequate treatment and disposal of the final effluent for the proposed development.

The hydraulic loading of 20litres/person/day loading rate gives a total WWTS requirement of 1.20m³ /day. The associated required sand polishing filter area is therefore calculated as follows: 1,200 litres/day / 40 litres/m² /day = 30m². Based on this minimum required area, the proposed sand polishing filter is designed to be 37.50m² to provide adequate treatment. The proposed WWTP system will allow for a discharge rate of 40l/m² of highly treated effluent to the sand polishing filter.

Section 3. Screening for Appropriate Assessment

3.1 Introduction to Screening

3.1.1 Background to Screening

This stage of the process identifies any likely significant effects to European Sites from a project or plan, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans. The screening phase was progressed in the following stages. A series of questions are asked during the Screening Stage of the AA process in order to determine:

- Whether a plan or 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 European Site has been designated and afforded protection. SCIs are wetland habitats and bird species listed within Annexes I and II of the Birds Directive. It is also vital that the threats to the ecological / environmental conditions that are required to support QIs and SCIs 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) states:

"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.

The screening stage of the AA takes account of the elements detailed above with regard to the details and characteristics of the project or plan to determine if potential for effects to the integrity of the European Site are likely.

3.1.2 Desktop Studies

The ecological desktop study completed for this AA of the Project comprised the following elements:

- Identification of European Sites within 15km with identification of potential pathways links for specific sites (if relevant) greater than 15km from the proposed development study area;
- Review of the NPWS site synopsis and conservation objectives for European Sites with identification of potential pathways from the proposed development; and

- A series of ecological desktop studies were undertaken in June and November 2018. This included but is not limited to the collation of information on protected species including Bats, Otters, Bird species (including Annex I species), Annex II habitat types, protected and Red Data Book Flora species, invertebrates and amphibians. The results of these studies are included as part of the AA where they were deemed relevant to the European Sites and their QIs/SCIs.

3.2 Identification of Relevant European Sites

This section of the screening process describes the European Sites which exist within the ZOI of the site. The DoEHLG (2009) Guidance on AA recommends a 15km buffer zone be. A review of all sites within the ZOI has allowed a determination to be made that in the absence of significant hydrological links the characteristics of the Project (detailed in section Section 2) will not impose effects beyond this Zone of Influence.

European Sites that occur within 15km of the Project are listed in Table 3.1 and illustrated in Figure 3.1 below. Details on the specific qualifying features and special conservation interests of each European Site are also identified in Table 3.1.

In order to determine the potential for effects from the Project, information on the qualifying features, known vulnerabilities and threats to site integrity pertaining to any potentially affected European Sites was 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, 2013);*
- *Site Synopses; and*
- *NATURA 2000 Standard Data Forms.*

The conservation objectives of each of the sites were considered, however in general the SSCO's produced by the NPWS do not provide much scope beyond the qualifying features. Since the conservation objectives for the European Sites focus on maintaining the favourable conservation condition of the QIs/SCIs of each site, the screening process concentrated on assessing the potential effects of the Project against the QIs/SCIs of each site. This assessment also considers ecosystem functionality and the maintenance of the ecological resources requirements for these species.

The Habitats Directive establishes the requirement to assess potential effects of plans/projects on the qualifying interests, and conservation objectives (including structure and function) of designated European Sites (and, where relevant, non-qualifying interests that are important to the overall functioning of the site and its conservation objectives under Articles 10, and 12-16 of the Habitats Directive). Similarly, Article 4(4) of the Birds Directive identifies a requirement to consider special conservation interest species, pollution and the deterioration of bird habitats, which requires considerations beyond the footprints of designated areas.

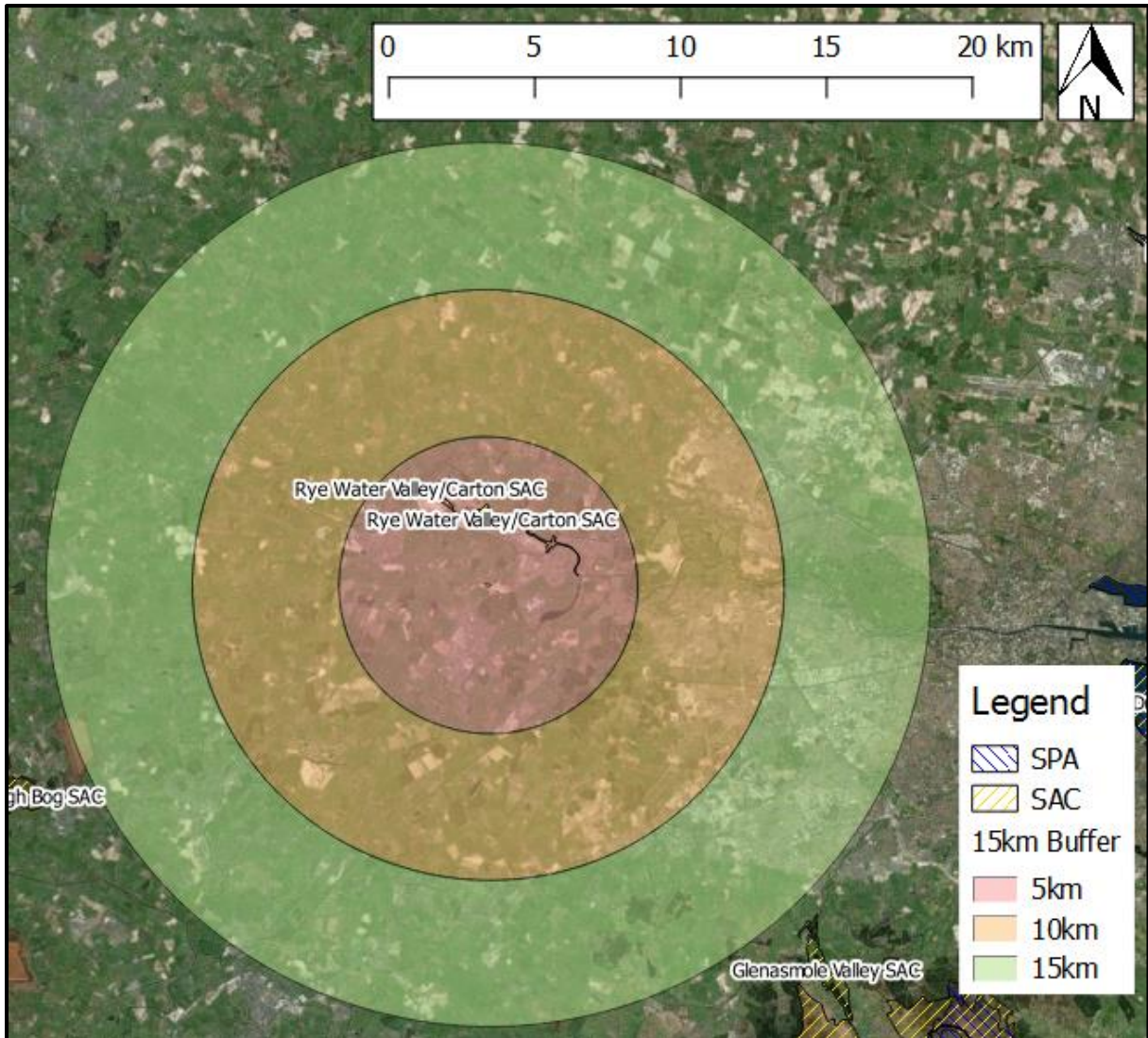


Figure 3.1 European Sites within 15 km of the Project boundary

Table 3.1 European Sites within 15 km of the Project boundary².

Site Code	European Site	Distance (km)	Qualifying Features (Qualifying Interests or Special Conservation Interests)	Site Description and Vulnerabilities/Threats
001398	Rye Water Valley/Cartron SAC	1.88	Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220] Vertigo angustior (Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail) [1014] Vertigo moulinsiana (Desmoulin's Whorl Snail) [1016]	<p>Rye Water Valley/Cartron SAC is located between Leixlip and Maynooth, in Counties Meath and Kildare, and extends along the Rye Water, a tributary of the River Liffey. The marsh, mineral spring and seepage area found at Louisa Bridge supports a good diversity of plant species, including stoneworts. The rare Narrow mouthed Whorl Snail and Desmoulin's Whorl Snail occur in marsh vegetation near Louisa Bridge.</p> <p>The Standard Data form for the site identifies continuous urbanisation, dispersed habitation, fertilization and roads/motorways as the threats/pressure to the site outside of the site boundary. There are no further site-specific threats identified by the NPWS identified in the site synopsis and the SSCO's for the site are Generic Version 6.0³.</p> <p>Petrifying springs with tufa formation are sensitive to pressures such as drainage, grazing, water abstraction and pollution⁴. The Vertigo species are sensitive to loss of habitat quality primarily through land use management⁴.</p>

² Listed according to distance; including the qualifying features and site vulnerabilities/threats

³ NPWS (2018) Conservation objectives for Rye Water Valley/Cartron SAC [001398]. Generic Version 6.0. Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

⁴ NPWS (2013). The Status of Protected EU Habitats and Species in Ireland. Overview Volume 1. Unpublished Report, National Parks & Wildlife Services. Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Dublin, Ireland. Editor: Deirdre Lynn

Section 4. Assessment Criteria

4.1 Is the Plan Necessary to the Management of European Sites?

Under the Habitats Directive, Plans 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 plan, even if this might result in positive or beneficial effects for a site(s).

The primary purpose of the Project is not the nature conservation management of the sites, but to develop a recycling facility and associated carpark in the wider Celbridge area. Therefore, the Project is not considered by the Habitats Directive to be directly connected with or necessary to the management of European designated sites.

4.2 Elements of the Project with Potential to Give Rise to Effects

The proposed project will have low level environmental effects during the operational phase. The on-site traffic conditions will increase thus traffic related effects will increase. The construction phase elements of the project will impose temporary environmental effects through noise pollution and dust etc. The existing site is predominantly built land or disturbed ground, which limits the potential effects. In addition, there are no hydrological linkages or other pathways for effects to any European site given the scale and characteristics of the project and the distances between sites (over 1.8 km).

4.3 Identification of Potential Effects and Screening of Sites

This section documents the final stage of the screening process. It has used the information collected on the sensitivity of each European site and describes any potential effects to the integrity of European Sites resulting from the proposed project. This assumes the absence of any controls, conditions, or mitigation measures. In determining the potential for significant effects, a number of factors have been taken into account. Firstly, the sensitivity and reported threats to European Sites were evaluated. Secondly, the individual elements of the proposed project and the potential effects they may cause to the sites were considered. The elements of the proposed project with potential to cause effects to the integrity of European Sites are presented in Table 4.1 below.

Sites are screened out based on one or a combination of the following criteria:

- Where it can be shown that there are no pathways for effects such as hydrological links between activities of the proposed project and the European site being screened;
- Where the site is located at a distance from proposed project such that effects are not foreseen; and
- Where known threats or vulnerabilities at a site cannot be linked to potential effects that may arise from the proposed project.

The following parameters are described when characterising impacts (following CIEEM (2016), EPA (2002) and NRA (2009)):

Direct and Indirect Impacts - An impact can be caused either as a direct or as an indirect consequence of a proposed development.

Magnitude - Magnitude measures the size of an impact, which is described as high, medium, low, very low or negligible.

Extent - The area over which the impact occurs – this should be predicted in a quantified manner.

Duration - The time for which the effect is expected to last prior to recovery or replacement of the resource or feature.

- 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+ 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 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.

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.'*

Generic Conservation Objectives for cSACs have been provided as follows:

- *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.*

One generic Conservation Objective has been provided for SPAs as follows:

- *To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA.*

EC guidance⁵ outlines the types of effects that may affect European sites. These include effects from the following activities:

- Land take;

⁵ *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

- Resource Requirements (Drinking Water Abstraction Etc.);
- Emissions (Disposal to Land, Water or Air);
- Excavation Requirements;
- Transportation Requirements; and
- Duration of Construction, Operation, Decommissioning.

In addition, the guidance outlines the following likely 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.); and
- Climate Change.

The elements detailed above were considered with specific reference to each of the European sites identified in Section 3.2.

4.3.1 Land Take

No European sites or qualifying habitat features exist within 1.88 km of the site, therefore there will be no effects posed to European sites in this respect.

4.3.2 Resource Requirements (Drinking Water Abstraction Etc.)

There are no resource requirements of the proposed development which will be additional to existing requirements. Therefore, there will be no interactions with resources necessary for the maintenance of the ecological integrity of any European sites.

4.3.3 Emissions (Disposal to Land, Water or Air)

Drainage for the site will be managed by the existing site surface water drainage system. Construction phase elements of the plan may give rise to increased temporary site effects such as noise or contamination due to dust. Given the distance between the closest European site and the development, combined with the relatively small scale of the development, these effects are determined to be negligible. There are no hydrological pathways between the site and any European Site. Given the scope of works proposed there are no mitigation measures required to ensure the protection of the ecological integrity of any European site in this regard as there are no pathways for effects.

4.3.4 Excavation Requirements

There are no major excavation works. There will be small scale temporary excavations in relation to construction compounds and the carpark surfaces. There are no hydrological pathways between the site and any European Site.

4.3.5 Transportation Requirements

There will be a minor temporary increase in traffic during the construction phase and increased operational traffic due to the delivery of raw materials. However, these effects are considered to be negligible with regard to European sites due to the pathways identified. Given the scope of works proposed there are no mitigation measures required to ensure the protection of the ecological integrity of any European site in this regard as there are no pathways for effects.

4.3.6 Duration of Construction, Operation, Decommissioning

The proposed project will have a temporary construction phase and the development will be a permanent feature with no decommissioning phase. The duration of the construction and operational

phases will have no effects on European sites as there are no pathways for effects. No mitigation measures are required in this regard given the nature of the proposed works and the absence of pathways for effects.

4.3.7 Reduction of Habitat Area

No European sites or qualifying habitat features exist within 1.88 km of the site, therefore there will be no reduction of habitat area posed to European sites in this respect.

4.3.8 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 1.88 km away from the proposed site and therefore disturbance effects due to noise or lighting etc. are not present.

4.3.9 Habitat or Species Fragmentation or Reduction in Species Density

The existing site has negligible ecological value comprised of predominantly built structures and disused lands. The nearest European site is 1.88 km from the existing facility. There are no habitat features present on site that are consistent with those of the European sites identified within the ZOI. No mitigation measures are required in this regard given the nature of the proposed works and the absence of pathways for effects.

4.3.10 Changes in Key Indicators of Conservation Value (Water Quality Etc.)

There are no pathways for effects to a European Site identified within the Screening Assessment process. Therefore, following the source-pathway-receptor model there will be no effects in this regard.

4.3.11 Climate Change

Due to the nature and scale of the proposed development, the effects of the proposed development on climate and Ireland's obligations under the Kyoto Protocol are not anticipated to be significant.

Table 4.1 Screening of European Sites within 15 km of the Project boundary

Site Code	European Site	Distance (km)	Qualifying Features (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
001398	Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC	1.88	Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220] Vertigo angustior (Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail) [1014] Vertigo moulinsiana (Desmoulin's Whorl Snail) [1016]	<p>The project is small in scale with a temporary construction phase. Effects from the operational and construction phase elements of the project are identified to be low (see above).</p> <p>There are no sources for direct effects to the ecological integrity of the Rye Water Valley/ Carton SAC. There are no open water sources or hydrological pathways for effects. Also, given the location of the site and the existing condition, there are there are no pathways for effects identified.</p>	No	No

Section 5. Other Plans and Programs

Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive requires an assessment of a plan or project to consider other plans or programmes that might, in combinations with the plan or project, have the potential to adversely impact upon European Sites. The characteristics of the Project are foreseen to have very low effects to any European Sites. Therefore, the in-combination effects do not need to be considered, as per the CIEEM 2016 guidelines. However, following a precautionary approach relevant plans and projects have been assessed. Table 5.1 outlines projects which were lodged in the last 5 years within the surrounding area of the Proposed Celbridge Civic Amenity site that were considered which may interact with the proposed Project to cause in-combination effects to European Sites.

Table 5.1 Plans or projects within the Zone of Influence of the Project that may have in-combination effects European Sites

Plan or project	Status	Overview	Possible significant effects from plan or project	Possible significant in-combination effects	Risk of significant in-combination effects with the proposed Celbridge Civic Amenity site
Garard O'Leary 18557	Pending	Construct 1 No. detached single storey temporary accommodation unit, containing 4 No. classrooms, 2 No. resource rooms, 2 No. changing rooms, 1 No. general purpose room and 1 No. accessible toilet with connection to the existing storm and foul drainage, building signage and all associated development works located to the east of the main school building in the townland of Moortown	This project is small a small-scale temporary development within an urban setting. The operational phase elements will be consistent with the existing condition. The effects from this site are negligible.	No	There are no sources with pathways for effects from the Proposed Civic Amenity facility. Therefore, there will be no in combination effects.
Deirdre Brennan 12387	Granted	The use of unit B2, Building B, as a Dance Studio. Unit B2 is 374m ² in area, occupying part of the upper floor of Building B. Permission has been granted for the development works associated with unit B2. (ref :05/2210) Permission also exists for the current use as a Dance Studio (REF; 09/63). This application is for permission to continue using and no changes to the character of the use are being proposed.	This application relates to retention of existing internal use as a dance studio. There are no sources for effects to ecological processes.	No	There are no sources with pathways for effects from the Proposed Civic Amenity facility. Therefore, there will be no in combination effects.

Section 6. Conclusion

This stage 1 screening for AA of the Proposed Celbridge Civic Amenity shows that implementation of the project is not foreseen to have any likely significant effects on any European site.

Following the source-pathway-receptor model the relevant attributes of each of the European Sites identified within the ZOI were assessed. The project is not located within 1.88km of any European site and there are no pathways for effects to a European Site identified within the Screening Assessment process. The AA screening process has considered potential effects which may arise during the construction and operational phases as a result of the implementation of the project. Through an assessment of the pathways for effects and an evaluation of the project characteristics, taking account of the processes involved and the distance of separation from European sites, it has been evaluated that there are no likely significant adverse effects on the qualifying interests, special conservation interest or the Conservation Objectives of any designated European site; alone or in combination with any other project.

It is concluded that the project in the absence of mitigation measures will not give rise to any significant adverse effects to the ecological integrity of any designated European sites⁶, alone or in combination with other plans or projects. This evaluation is made in view of the Conservation Objectives of the habitats or species for which these sites have been designated. Consequently, a Stage Two – NIS is not required for the project.

⁶ Except as provided for in Section 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be:

- a) no alternative solution available,
- b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the plan to proceed; and
- c) Adequate compensatory measures in place.