

Appropriate Assessment Screening for the Proposed Active Travel Scheme at Captain's Hill, Co. Kildare



05th November 2025

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On behalf of: Kildare County Council

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Introduction

The following Appropriate Assessment (AA) screening report (for screening stage) has been prepared by **Altemar Ltd.** at the request of Kildare County Council. The project relates to a proposed Active Travel Scheme at Captain's Hill, Co. Kildare. 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 European sites. European sites are those sites designated as Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) or Special Protection Areas (SPA).

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.

European sites¹ are those sites designated as Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) or Special Protection Areas (SPA).

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, the managing director of Altemar, is an Environmental Scientist and Marine Biologist with 31 years' experience working in Irish terrestrial and aquatic environments, providing services to the State, Semi-State and industry. Bryan is currently contracted to Inland Fisheries Ireland as the sole "External Expert" to environmentally assess internal and external projects. He is also chair of an internal IFI working group on environmental assessment. 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).

Background to the Appropriate Assessment

The Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (together with the Birds Directive (2009/147/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 Habitats 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 European 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 European 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*

¹ "European site" means—

- (a) a candidate site of Community importance,
- (b) a site of Community importance, F815[(ba) a candidate special area of conservation,]
- (c) a special area of conservation,
- (d) a candidate special protection area,
- (e) a special protection area;

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 European site is designated."

As outlined in the EC guidance document on Article 6(4) (January 2007)²:

"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 European 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 European 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 European assets which must also be useful to monitor the plan or project implementation."*

² 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;

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', OPR Practice Note PN01 Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management, 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 European sites, and compilation of information on their qualifying interests and conservation objectives
- Identification and description of individual in combination effects likely to result from the proposed project;
- Assessment of the likely significance of the effects identified above. Exclusion of sites where it can be objectively concluded that there will be no likely significant effects; and,

Conclusions

2) Appropriate Assessment (Natura Impact Statement):

- Description of the European 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.

If it can be demonstrated during the AA screening phase (Stage 1), that the proposed project will not have a significant effect, whether alone or in combination with other plans or projects, on the conservation objectives of a Natura 2000 site, then no further AA (Stage 2) will be required. It is important to note that there is a requirement to apply a precautionary approach to AA screening. Therefore, where effects are possible, certain or unknown at the screening stage, AA will be required.

In addition, it should be noted that Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive must be interpreted as meaning that, in order to determine whether it is necessary to carry out, subsequently, an AA of the implications, for a site concerned, of a plan or project, it is not appropriate, at the screening stage, to take account of the measures intended to avoid or reduce the harmful effects of the plan or project on that site.

Stage 1 Screening Assessment

Management of the Site

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

Description of the Proposed Project

The proposed development seeks to introduce high-quality active travel facilities along this corridor, with design solutions tailored to the local needs. Interventions will range from minor improvements, such as upgraded signage, road markings, raised crossing points, to more major interventions including carriageway realignment, junction reconfiguration to improve safety and efficiency.

Active travel facilities will include:

- Cycle lanes on the reconfigured River Forest & Newtown Glendale junctions
- Segregated cycle tracks separated from both the footpath and carriageway by kerbs or verges
- Shared active travel facilities at interfaces with the pedestrian crossing points, side roads, junctions and existing carriageway, and available to all active travel users.
- Existing forest paths to the East and West linking the designated active travel facilities with Main Street, Leixlip.

Raised pedestrian crossing points will be incorporated to strengthen connectivity with the existing footpath network and any new active travel links. The scheme design has been developed to minimise impact, with the realignment and works confined as far as possible to existing public land. Active travel facilities along designated routes will be generally segregated, with the cycling and pedestrian facilities clearly identified, or shared facilities, to provide wide routes for all active travel users.

This proposed development will provide a safe, accessible, and sustainable travel corridor along Captain's Hill, supporting the delivery of Active Travel facilities with the delivery of Confey Lands Masterplan and enhancing local connectivity.

The proposed development will be aligned with the redevelopment of Cope Bridge. The redevelopment of Cope bridge will remove the existing single carriageway 'stop/go' arrangement of the bridge: removing the existing traffic signals, provide widened carriageways, in both directions, and provide dedicated active travel facilities over the Royal Canal and the railway line to the Confey Lands, further improving active travel facilities to Confey Lands Masterplan and enhancing local connectivity.

The proposed site outline, location and general arrangement plans are demonstrated in Figures 1-9.



0 0.5 1 1.5 km

Project: Captain's Hill Active Travel Scheme
 Location: Co. Kildare
 Date: 2nd October 2025
 Drawn By: Gayle O'Farrell (Altamar)

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 Marine & Environmental Consultancy



Figure 1. Proposed site outline and location



0 0.2 0.4 km

Project: Captain's Hill Active Travel Scheme
 Location: Co. Kildare
 Date: 2nd October 2025
 Drawn By: Gayle O'Farrell (Altamar)

ALTEMAR
 Marine & Environmental Consultancy

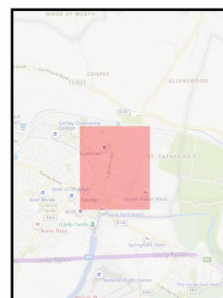


Figure 2. Proposed site outline

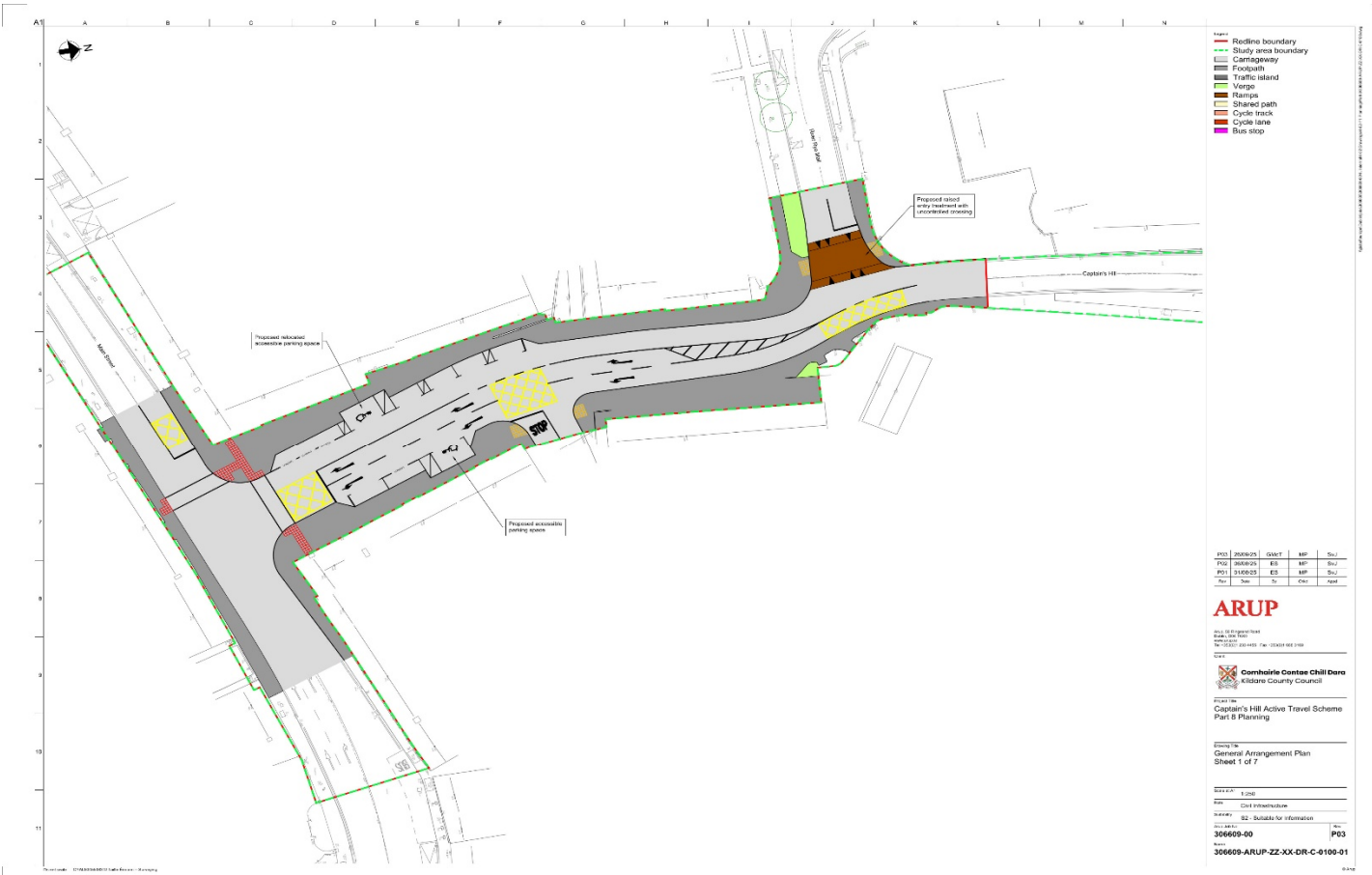


Figure 3 – Proposed site layout plan – sheet 1



Figure 4 – Proposed site layout plan – sheet 2

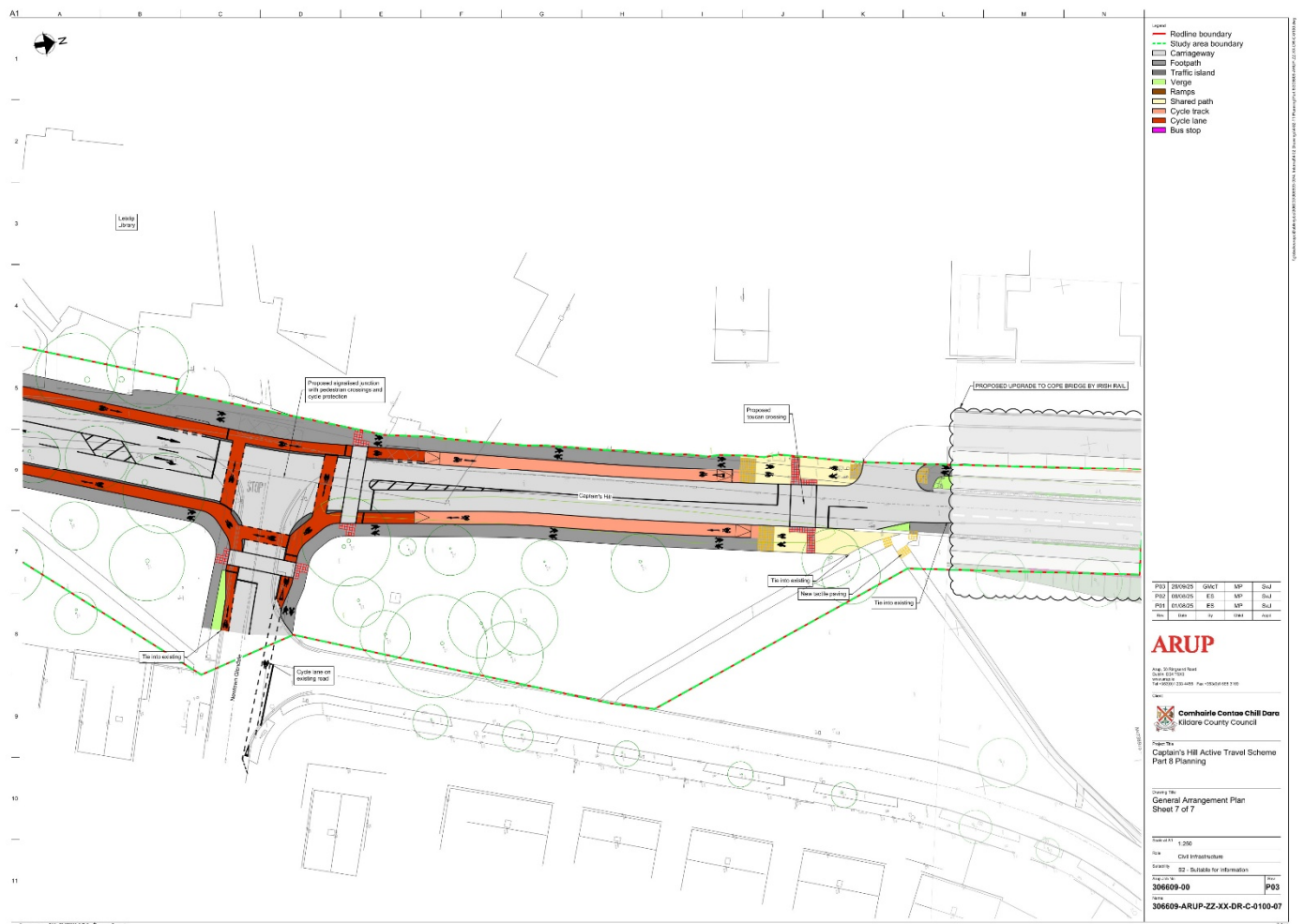


Figure 9 – Proposed site layout plan – sheet 7

Drainage

A Planning Report has been prepared by Arup to accompany this planning application. This report outlines the following drainage strategy for the proposed development:

Existing Surface Water Drainage

'Captain's Hill falls North South from the Cope Bridge to Main Street Leixlip, with a localised low point at the entrance to Riverdale. A survey of the existing drainage network was completed along the Northern section of Captain's Hill, Captains' Hill (North), from the junction with Distillery Lane to Cope Bridge.

The road is positively drained with roadside gullies to the collector drainage system and discharges under gravity to the Silleachain Stream and Rye River (SAC), ultimately out falling to the River Liffey.

Captain's Hill (North) has two main catchments:

- *North of the junction with Newtown Glendale – discharging into the Silleachain Stream to the East along Newtown Glendale Road*
- *Distillery Lane to Newtown Glendale junctions. – discharging into the Rye River (SAC) to the West along Distillery Lane.*

Avondale estate, to the East of Captain's Hill, has networks of surface drainage that outfall to the East and discharges to the existing Silleachain Stream at various locations. The existing drainage networks in Avondale surcharges 1 in 30-year storm events, increasing the risks of floods during significant storm events.

The existing drainage at the junction of Captain's Hill and Main Street Leixlip, drains Captain's Hill (South) and sections of Main street and outfalls to the East towards Mill Lane for approximately 60m, just to the East of the bus stop (3998) on Main Street, before turning South towards the River Liffey through private property.'

Proposed Surface Water Drainage

Surface water

The existing road gullies on the Southern section of Captain's Hill, i.e. South of Distillery Lane, and side roads will be repositioned to align with the upgraded pedestrian crossings on side road and junction upgrades, and additional gullies added as required.

The scheme proposes to upgrade the existing drainage in Avondale to address the surcharging issue and future proof for climate change, reducing the risk of flooding in Avondale.

The scheme proposes to divert the existing drainage in Captain's Hill (North) into an upgraded outfall through Avondale. The combined Captain's Hill (North) and Avondale catchments would be attenuated to the existing Avondale flows into the Silleachain Stream to the East, refer to Appendix B for details of assessment of existing and proposed catchments and attenuation proposals. The new combined Avondale and Captain's Hill catchment will be attenuated to the existing discharge from Avondale catchment to the Silleachain Stream, refer to Appendix B for details.

The scheme proposed to retain the existing surface water drainage network along Captain's Hill (South). Existing gullies would be relocated to new kerbs, as required, and new gullies added when raised pedestrian crossing create ponding and would be connected to the existing drainage network.

The upgrade to the surface water network in Avondale will be completed in Phase 1 – Enabling works, refer to Section 6 for details. The existing Captain's Hill (North) catchment will be diverted into the upgraded outfall along Avondale to the Silleachain Stream at the end of Phase 1 – Enabling works.'

'The method of construction to divert the existing catchment will use multiple work shifts to enable 24-hour working times to complete the work as quickly as possible and will be coordinated with dry weather if possible.

The sequence of works include:

- *Outfall in Avondale to be completed and operational to connection point with existing network*
- *Existing network to be mechanically banded in Distillery Lane, downstream of the connection point*
- *Provisions for over pumping into the new outfall to be provided*
- *New outfall and existing drainage connected, and redundant pipes sealed*
- *Existing pipes upstream of mechanical bund to be jetted cleaned and vacuumed away for disposal.*

The scheme proposes to drain the existing and new impermeable area added to the Captain's Hill (North) and discharge this flow into the upgraded outfall on Avondale before discharging into the existing Silleachain Stream to the East. The combined Avondale and Captain's Hill catchments will be attenuated to the existing flows in Avondale, therefore not increasing the risk of flooding downstream on Mill lane.

The existing drainage along Captain's Hill (North) will be reconfigured to accommodate the new and existing carriageway.

Sustainable drainage measures

The scheme proposes to implement sustainable drainage measures where possible, the existing site constraints limit the practical implementation of sustainable drainage measures on the footprint of the existing carriageway.

Where the carriageway is widened, the scheme proposes that the additional impermeable footpath would be sloped to drain into the open spaces to the East and coordinated with the landscaping. Where the carriageway is widened, it is not practical to drain under gravity the new cycle facilities to the open spaces due to the stepped separation between cycle facilities and pedestrian footpaths, refer to section 4 on drawing 306609-XXXX and the use of permeable pavements has been ruled out due to maintenance concerns.

Surface water assessment

The existing flows in Avondale were assessed, using Autodesk Info Drainage software, calculating the impermeable area of the catchment and modelling the existing drainage network to calculate the existing flows for storm events in accordance with the requirements of the Greater Dublin Regional Code of Practice for Drainage Works, refer to Table 1 and Appendix B for details.'

The proposed surface water drainage key plans are demonstrated in Figures 10-19.

Construction Methodology

The Planning Report prepared by Arup to accompany this planning application details the following construction methodology for the proposed development:

'The proposed scheme will be delivered through a phased construction programme designed to minimise disruption and ensure safe execution of works. The scheme will be divided into five main phases:

- *Phase 1 - Enabling works*
- *Phase 2 - Offline works*
- *Phase 3 – Side Road upgrade*
- *Phase 4 – Online works*
- *Phase 5 – Main Street junction upgrade.*

Each phase would be divided into multiple sub-phases to minimise the impact on local residents and operation of Captain's Hill.

The initial phase will involve the upgrade of the existing surface water outfall through Avondale to enable the diversion of the existing surface water drainage on Captain's Hill into the upgraded Avondale drainage network.

The subsequent phases will involve site clearance, drainage, utilities, temporary traffic management, temporary works, pavement, active travel facilities, signposts, traffic signals, road marking, etc. These works will be undertaken using a combination of manual labour and mechanical equipment, including hand tools, excavators, and compact dumper trucks.

Phase 1A - Outfall

The existing drainage network on Avondale will be upgraded to address existing surcharging and future proof for climate change. The drainage would be constructed from East to West to connection point immediately adjacent to existing drainage network. This ensures the proposals have regard the Rye River SAC during phase 1B.'

'Phase 1B – Diversion of existing catchment

With the outfall complete and operational along Avondale the existing catchment can then be diverted into the new outfall. The method of construction to divert the existing catchment will be implemented and facilitate subsequent phases. This ensures the proposal have regard to the Rye River SAC'

'Phase 2 – Offline works

To reduce the impact on Captain's Hill the offline works will be completed before any works are completed on Captain's Hill, other than the surface water diversion in Phase 1, including site clearance, drainage, utility diversions, active travel facilities, temporary running surfaces, etc.

Phase 3 – Side Road upgrade

Phase 3 consists of the upgrades to the crossing points of the side road, requiring lane closures on the side roads. The bespoke traffic management arrangement will be implemented to create a works area.

Phase 4 – Online works

The online works would be subdivided into multiple sub phases and would be coordinated with the existing operation of Captain's Hill, to minimise the impact.

The scope and works areas of each sub phased would be defined and sequenced to minimise the impact on the operation of Captain's Hill, including site clearance, drainage, utility diversions, active travel facilities, pavements, signals, signage, road markings, etc.

Each sub phase will have a bespoke traffic management arrangement implemented to create works areas for each subphase.

The new pedestrian crossing just North of St Mary's would be completed in this phase.

Phase 5 – Main street junction upgrade

Phase 5 consists of the upgrades to the existing junction with Main Street, upgrades to the traffic signals, reconfiguration of the existing car parking and pedestrian facilities. The works will be sub-divided into multiple sub phases, with bespoke traffic management for each.

Sequence of phases

No works will be carried on Captain's Hill road until the surface water outfall is operational and the existing surface water drainage on the Northern section of Captain's Hill diverted into the upgraded outfall. Every opportunity to complete phases concurrently, depending on the seasonality and durations of the phases, to reduce the overall construction duration of the works, for example Phase 2 and Phase 3 could overlap or be carried out concurrently as only Phase 3 requires temporary traffic management on Captain's Hill. The overall phasing and sequence of works will be reviewed and agreed with Kildare Country Council in advance of starting construction.'



Figure 12 – Proposed surface water drainage key plan – sheet 3

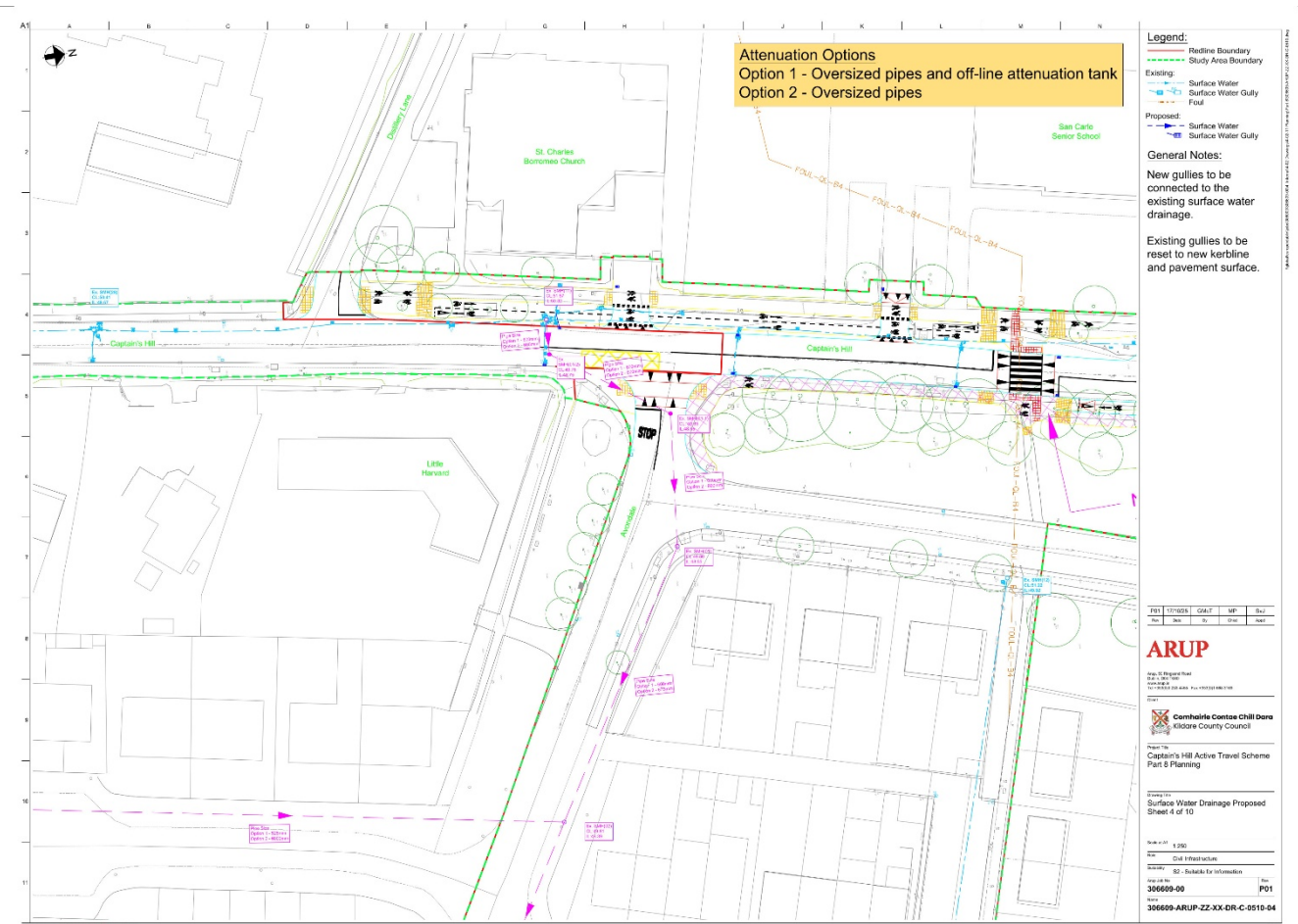


Figure 13 – Proposed surface water drainage key plan – sheet 4

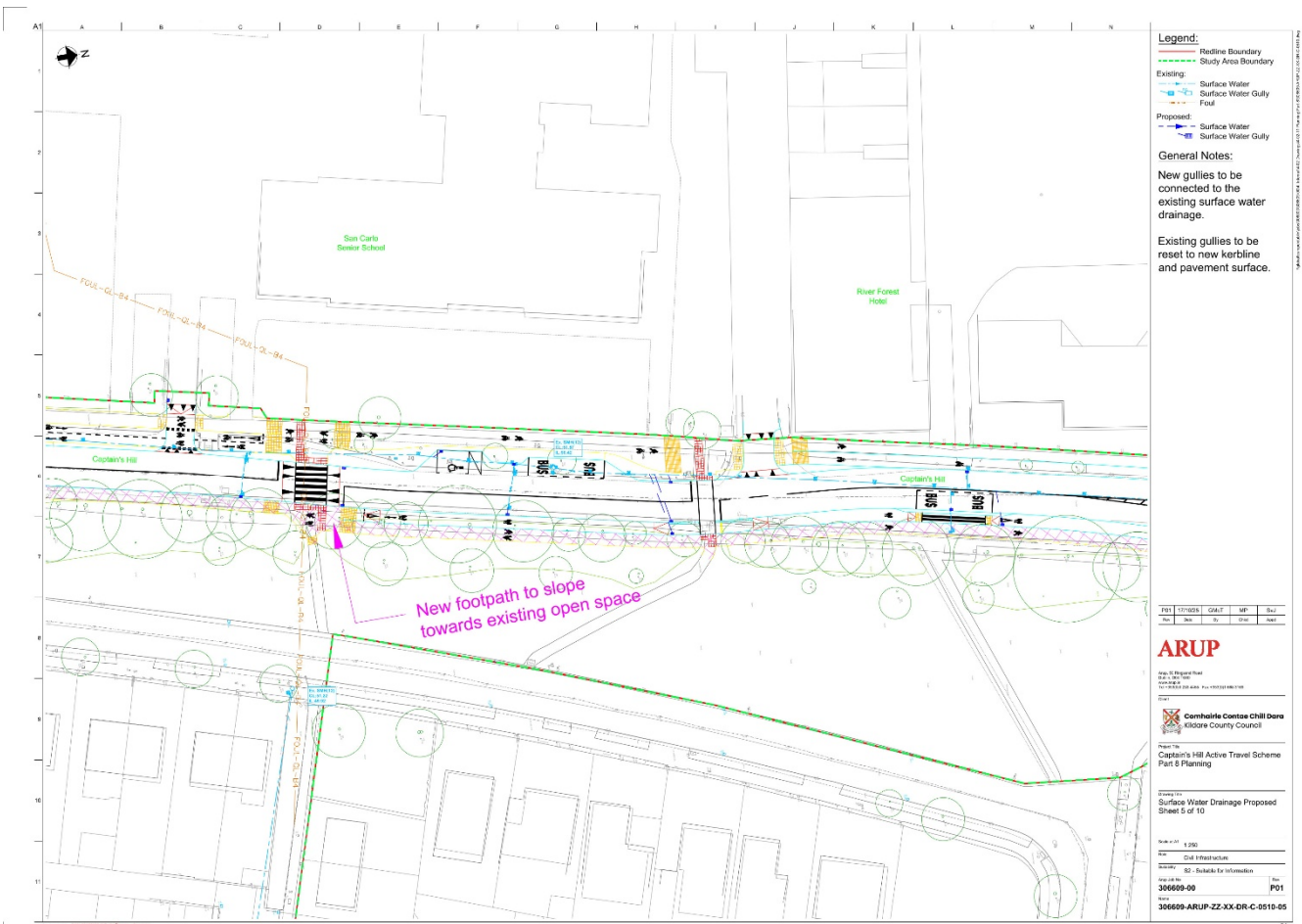


Figure 14 – Proposed surface water drainage key plan – sheet 5

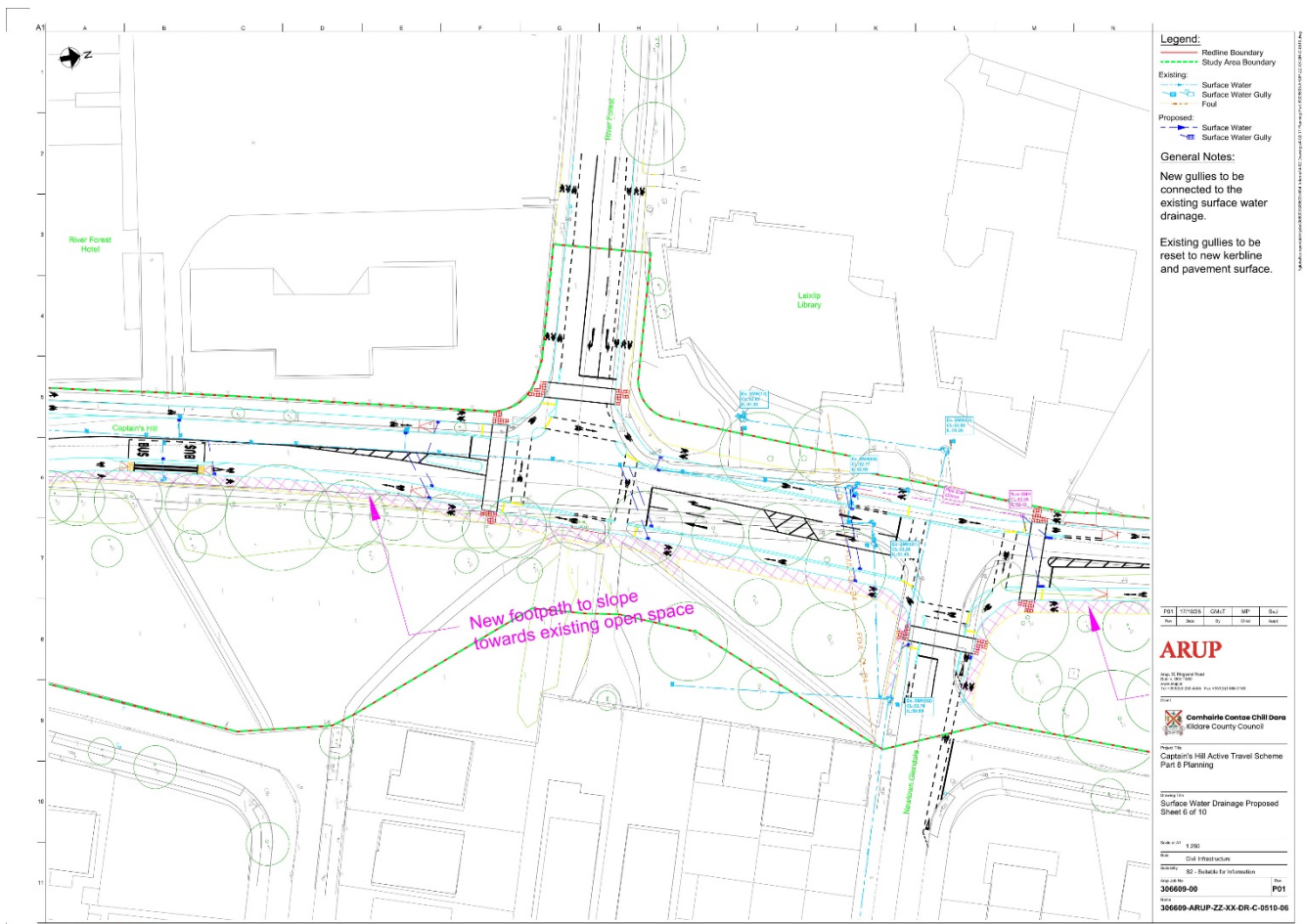


Figure 15 – Proposed surface water drainage key plan – sheet 6

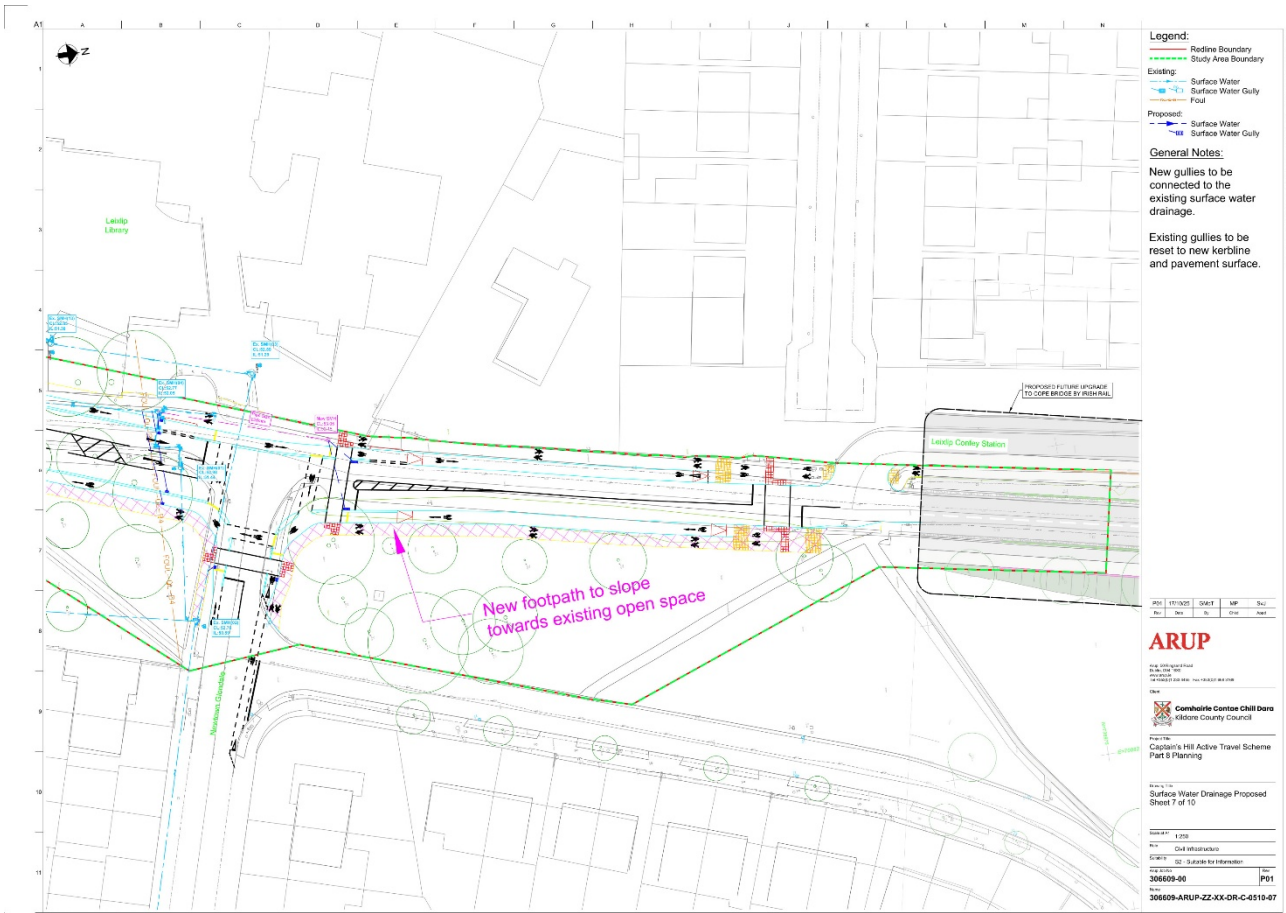


Figure 16 – Proposed surface water drainage key plan – sheet 7

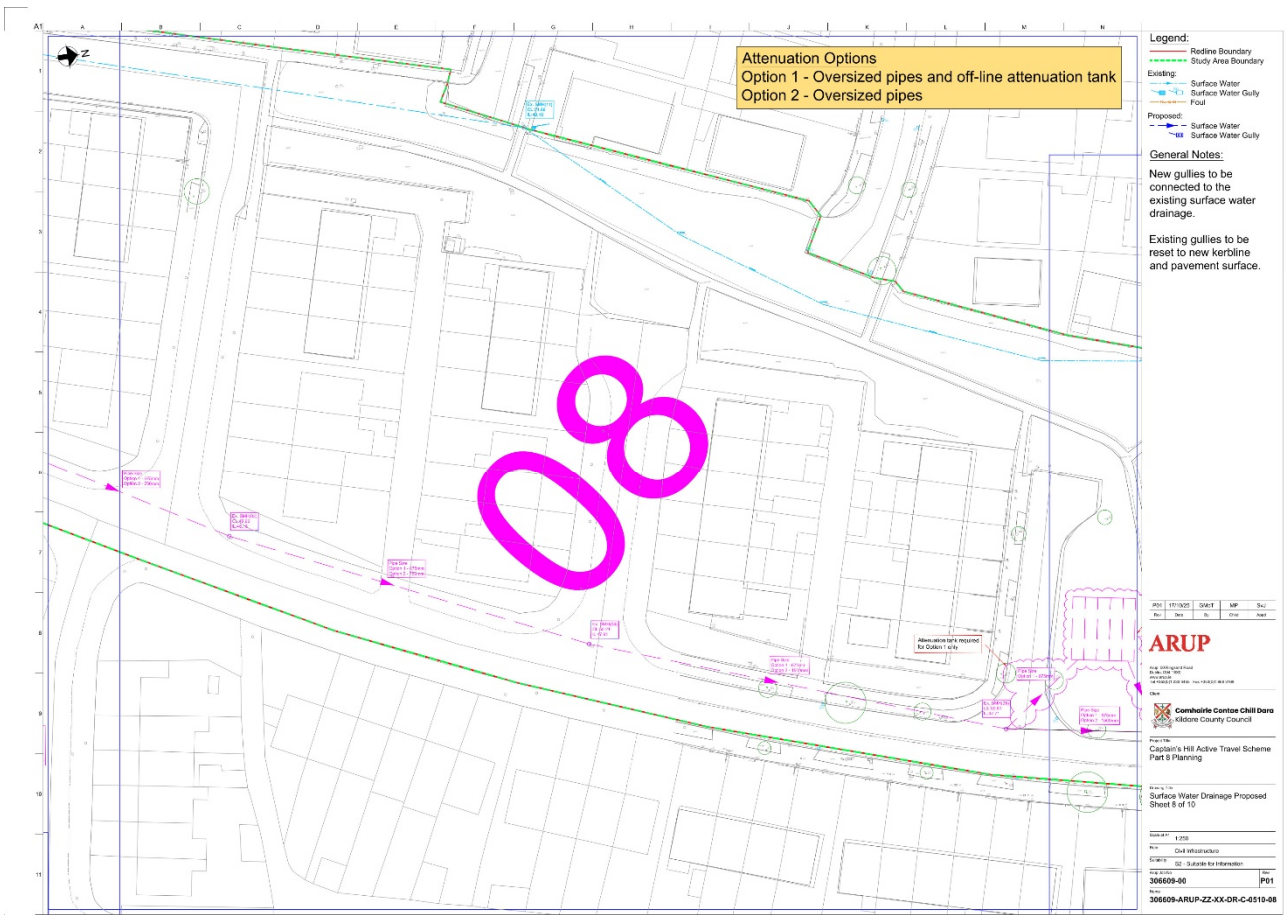


Figure 17 – Proposed surface water drainage key plan – sheet 8

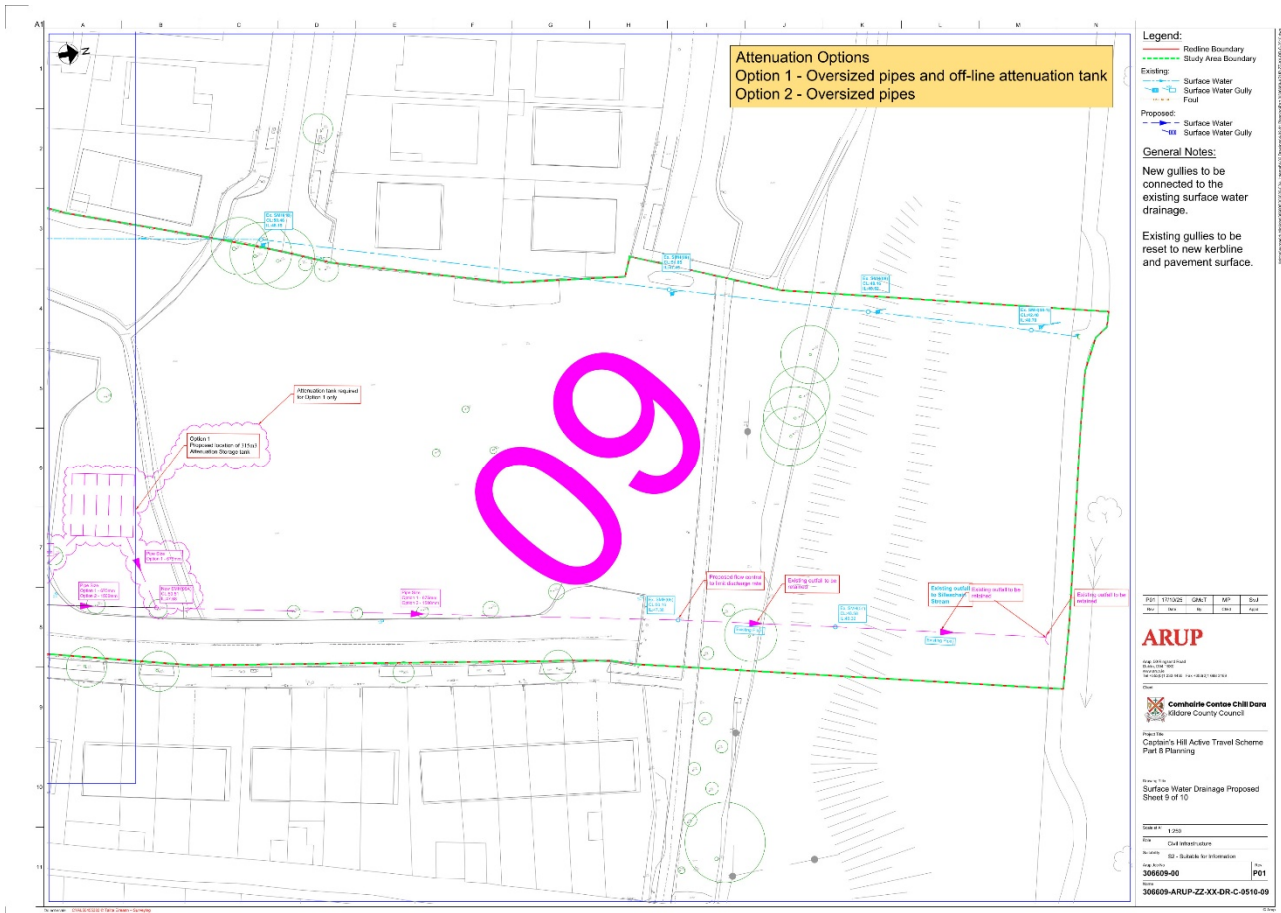


Figure 18 – Proposed surface water drainage key plan – sheet 9

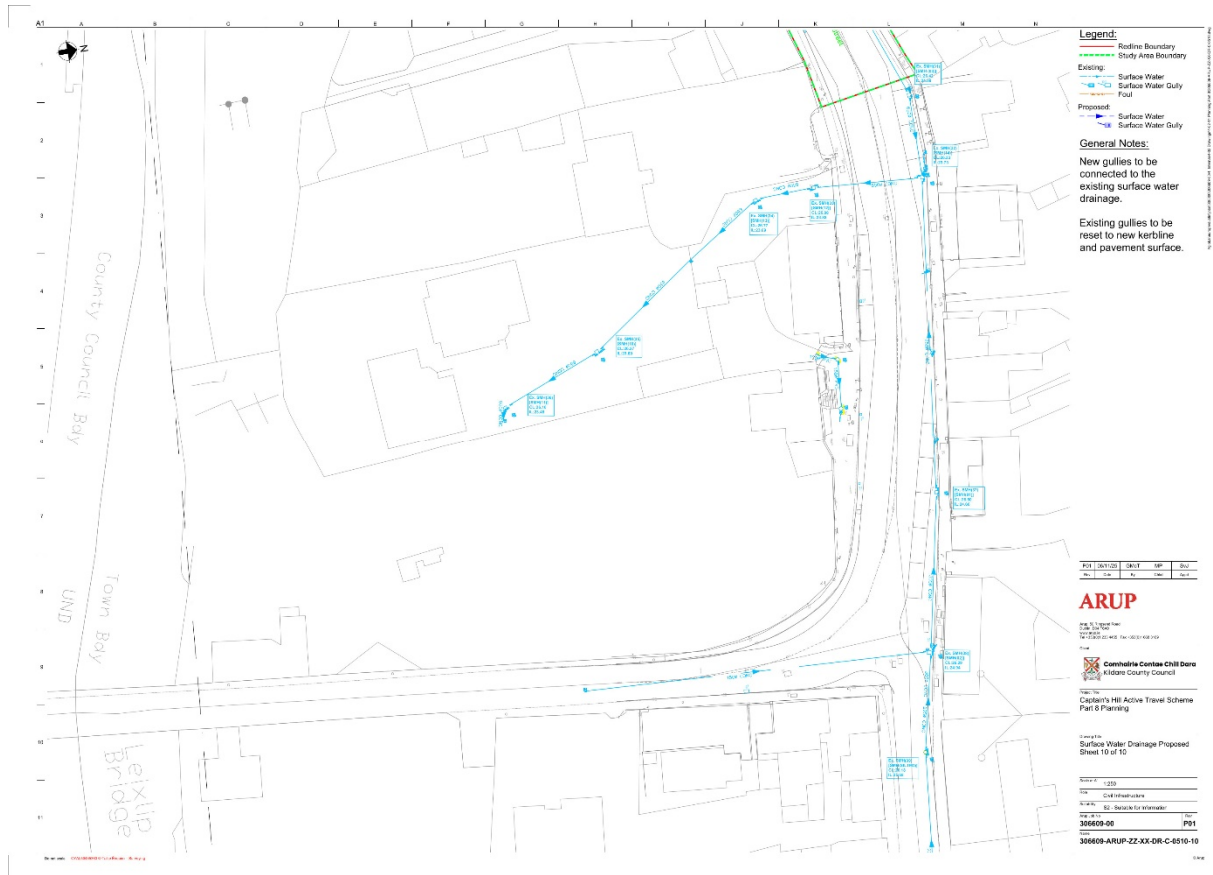


Figure 19 – Proposed surface water drainage key plan – sheet 10

Identification of Relevant Natura 2000 Sites

The proposed development site is not within a European site and is not necessary for the management of a Natura 2000 site. As outlined in Office of the Planning Regulator Guidance Note on AA Screening (2021) *“The zone of influence of a proposed development is the geographical area over which it could affect the receiving environment in a way that could have significant effects on the Qualifying Interests of a European site. This should be established on a case-by-case basis using the Source- Pathway-Receptor framework and not by arbitrary distances (such as 15km).”*

The nearest European site to the proposed development is the Rye Water Valley/Carton Valley SAC, located approximately 148 m to the southwest of the development boundary (Figure 23). The proposed development site is situated east of the SAC and its associated wooded areas.

The Planning Report prepared by Arup indicates that existing public surface water networks in the area of the proposed works outfall to the Silleachain Stream (north of junction with Newtown Glendale - Cope Bridge; Avondale Estate), the River Liffey (junction of Captain’s Hill & Main Street Leixlip), and the Rye Water River (Distillery Lane – Newtown Glendale junctions). As a result, there is currently an indirect hydrological connection from the subject site to the Silleachain Stream, River Liffey, and Rye Water River.

The proposed scheme involves upgrades to the existing surface water drainage network. As outlined in the Planning Report prepared by Arup, *“the existing network will be mechanically banded in Distillery Lane, downstream of the connection point”* and that *“provisions for over-pumping into the new outfall will be provided”*. These standard containment measures will ensure continuous containment and control of surface water within the defined works area during construction with no pathway for pollutants to migrate towards the Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC.

Construction vehicle movements will be managed through phased works and traffic management arrangements, as outlined in the Planning Report. During construction, measures will be implemented to ensure that surface water drainage within the vicinity of the works flows eastward towards the Silleachain Stream and River Liffey, away from the Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC to the west, thereby preventing any hydrological pathway for pollutants from construction vehicle movements to impact this SAC.

During operation, the Planning Report indicates that surface water drainage along Captain’s Hill (North) will be directed to an upgraded outfall through Avondale. This upgraded network will discharge surface water drainage to the Silleachain Stream (East of site). This stream flows southwards before discharging into the River Liffey approximately 400m downstream of the Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC (see Figure 23). Surface water drainage along the junction at Captain’s Hill & Main Street Leixlip will continue to outfall to the River Liffey at a point approx. 400m downstream of the Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC. Additionally, the network along Distillery Lane (disconnected from the proposed development site during construction) will remain disconnected from the site during operation. This will thereby ensure that surface water drainage from the site will not outfall to the Rye Water River during operation. As a result, given the topographical flow direction of surface water drainage following upgrade works, there is no direct or indirect hydrological pathway from the proposed development to the Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC during operation.

The upgraded surface water drainage system will attenuate flows to pre-development levels, ensuring no increase in runoff volumes. In addition, given the containment of surface water drainage from all construction activities and the absence of hydrological connections to the Rye Water River during operation, there is no potential for significant effects on the qualifying interests of the Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC. Therefore, no specific mitigation measures beyond standard best practice are required.

There is a remote indirect hydrological pathway to European sites located within Dublin Bay (namely, South Dublin Bay SAC, North Dublin Bay SAC, South Dublin Bay & River Tolka Estuary SPA, North Bull Island SPA, and North-West Irish Sea SPA) via surface water drainage to the River Liffey during construction and operation. However, given the significant minimum distance from the proposed development site to any European site located within Dublin Bay (17 km; however it is noted that the distance the River Liffey actually flows from the proposed development site to Dublin Bay, in kilometres, is significantly longer), settlement and mixing within the surface water network, dilution and mixing effects within the River Liffey, and flocculation within the estuarine environment of the River Liffey and marine environment, and it is considered that no significant effects are likely. No foul drainage connections are proposed as part of the development.

All Natura 2000 sites within 15km, and beyond 15km with the potential for a hydrological pathway, are listed in Table 1. The qualifying interests, and the potential impact of the development on each European site and qualifying interest, are screened in/out in Table 2. SPA's and SAC's within 15km are seen in Figures 20 & 21. Waterbodies, SACs and SPAs proximate to / downstream of the subject site are demonstrated in Figures 22-25.

Table 1. Proximity to designated sites of conservation importance

Natura 2000 Site	Code	Distance
Special Areas of Conservation		
Rye Water Valley/Cartron SAC	IE001398	148m
South Dublin Bay SAC	IE000210	18km
North Dublin Bay SAC	IE000206	20km
Special Protection Areas		
South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA	IE004024	17km
North Bull Island SPA	IE004006	20km
North-West Irish Sea SPA	IE004236	22km

Table 2. Initial screening of Natura 2000 sites within 15km, and Natura 2000 sites beyond 15km with potential of hydrological connection to the proposed development

European Site Code	Name	Screened IN/OUT	Details/Reason
Special Areas of Conservation			
IE001398	Rye Water Valley/Cartron SAC	OUT	<p>Conservation Objectives The maintenance of habitats and species within European 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>Qualifying Interests Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220] <i>Vertigo angustior</i> (Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail) [1014] <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i> (Desmoulin's Whorl Snail) [1016]</p> <p>Potential Impact The proposed development is located approximately 148m from this SAC. There is no direct hydrological pathway from the proposed development to the SAC.</p> <p>The Planning Report prepared by Arup indicates that existing public surface water networks in the area of the proposed works outfall to the Silleachain Stream (north of junction with Newtown Glendale - Cope Bridge; Avondale Estate), the River Liffey (junction of Captain's Hill & Main Street Leixlip), and the Rye Water River (Distillery Lane – Newtown Glendale junctions). As a result, there is currently an indirect hydrological connection from the subject site to this SAC via surface water drainage to the Rye Water River along an existing public network at Distillery Lane.</p> <p>The proposed scheme involves upgrades to the existing surface water drainage network. As outlined in the Planning Report prepared by Arup, due to the modification of the drainage network “the existing network will be mechanically banded in Distillery Lane, downstream of the connection point” and that “provisions for over-pumping into the new outfall will be provided”. These standard measures will ensure continuous</p>

European Site Code	Name	Screened IN/OUT	Details/Reason
			<p>containment and control of surface water within the defined works area during construction with no pathway for pollutants to migrate towards the Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC.</p> <p>Construction vehicle movements will be managed through phased works and traffic management arrangements, as outlined in the Planning Report. During construction, measures will be implemented to ensure that surface water drainage within the vicinity of the works flows eastward towards the Silleachain Stream and River Liffey, away from the Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC to the west, thereby preventing any hydrological pathway for pollutants from construction vehicle movements to impact this SAC.</p> <p>During operation, the Planning Report indicates that surface water drainage along Captain's Hill (North) will be directed to an upgraded outfall through Avondale. This upgraded network will discharge surface water drainage to the Silleachain Stream (East of site). This stream flows southwards before discharging into the River Liffey approximately 400m downstream of the Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC (see Figure 23). Surface water drainage along the junction at Captain's Hill & Main Street Leixlip will continue to outfall to the River Liffey at a point approx. 400m downstream of the Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC. Additionally, the network along Distillery Lane (disconnected from the proposed development site during construction) will remain disconnected from the site during operation. This will thereby ensure that surface water drainage from the site will not outfall to the Rye Water River during operation. As a result, given the flow direction of surface water drainage following upgrade works, there is no direct or indirect hydrological pathway from the proposed development to the Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC during operation.</p> <p>The upgraded surface water drainage system will attenuate flows to pre-development levels, ensuring no increase in runoff volumes. In addition, given the containment of surface water drainage from all construction activities and the absence of hydrological connections to the Rye Water River during operation, there is no potential for significant effects on the qualifying interests of the Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC. Therefore, no specific mitigation measures beyond standard best practice are required.</p> <p>Considering that standard measures will be in place to prevent particulates entering and due to the fact that the drainage network will be permanently bunded as part of the works, the short duration of the works, and considering that the Qualifying Interests of this SAC are not downstream of the works, it can be concluded that the proposed development is not likely to give rise to any significant effects on the conservation objectives of any qualifying interest of the Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC as a result of the proposed development.</p>

European Site Code	Name	Screened IN/OUT	Details/Reason
			No potential impact is foreseen. In the absence of mitigation, no significant effects on the qualifying interests of this SAC are likely. The construction and operation of the proposed development will not impact on the conservation interests of the site. No significant effects are likely.
IE000210	South Dublin Bay SAC	OUT	<p>Conservation Objectives</p> <p>The maintenance of habitats and species within European 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>Qualifying Interests</p> <p>Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210] Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] Embryonic shifting dunes [2110]</p> <p>Potential Impact</p> <p>The proposed development is located approximately 18 km from this SAC. There is no direct hydrological pathway from the subject site to this SAC.</p> <p>There is a remote indirect hydrological pathway from the proposed development site to this SAC via surface water drainage to the Silleachain Stream (which feeds into the River Liffey) during construction and operation. However, given the significant minimum distance from the proposed development site to this site (18 km; however, it is noted that the distance the River Liffey actually flows from the proposed development site to Dublin Bay, in kilometres, is significantly longer), settlement and mixing within the surface water network, dilution and mixing effects within the River Liffey, and flocculation within the estuarine environment of the River Liffey and marine environment, and it is considered that no significant effects are likely on this SAC via surface water drainage.</p> <p>No potential impact is foreseen. There is no direct pathway from this site to the SAC. In the absence of mitigation, no significant effects on the qualifying interests of this SAC are likely.</p> <p>The construction and operation of the proposed development will not impact on the conservation interests of the site.</p> <p>No significant effects are likely.</p>
IE000206	North Dublin Bay SAC	OUT	<p>Conservation Objectives</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>Qualifying Interests</p> <p>Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210]</p>

European Site Code	Name	Screened IN/OUT	Details/Reason
			<p>Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) [1330] Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410] Embryonic shifting dunes [2110] Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120] Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130] Humid dune slacks [2190] Petalwort (<i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i>) [1395]</p> <p>Potential Impact</p> <p>The proposed development is located approximately 20 km from this SAC. There is no direct hydrological pathway from the subject site to this SAC.</p> <p>There is a remote indirect hydrological pathway from the proposed development site to this SAC via surface water drainage to the Silleachain Stream (which feeds into the River Liffey) during construction and operation. However, given the significant minimum distance from the proposed development site to this site (20 km; however, it is noted that the distance the River Liffey actually flows from the proposed development site to Dublin Bay, in kilometres, is significantly longer), settlement and mixing within the surface water network, dilution and mixing effects within the River Liffey, and flocculation within the estuarine environment of the River Liffey and marine environment, and it is considered that no significant effects are likely on this SAC via surface water drainage.</p> <p>No potential impact is foreseen. There is no direct pathway from this site to the SAC. In the absence of mitigation, no significant effects on the qualifying interests of this SAC are likely.</p> <p>The construction and operation of the proposed development will not impact on the conservation interests of the site.</p> <p>No significant effects are likely.</p>
Special Protection Areas			
IE004024	South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA	OUT	<p>Conservation Objectives</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>Qualifying Interests</p> <p>Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046] Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130] Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137] Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143] Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144] Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149] Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157] Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162]</p>

European Site Code	Name	Screened IN/OUT	Details/Reason
			<p>Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179] Roseate Tern (<i>Sterna dougallii</i>) [A192] Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193] Arctic Tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) [A194] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]</p> <p>Potential Impact</p> <p>The proposed development is located approximately 17 km from this SPA. There is no direct hydrological pathway from the subject site to this SPA.</p> <p>There is a remote indirect hydrological pathway from the proposed development site to this SPA via surface water drainage to the Silleachain Stream (which feeds into the River Liffey) during construction and operation. However, given the significant minimum distance from the proposed development site to this site (17 km; however, it is noted that the distance the River Liffey actually flows from the proposed development site to Dublin Bay, in kilometres, is significantly longer), settlement and mixing within the surface water network, dilution and mixing effects within the River Liffey, and flocculation within the estuarine environment of the River Liffey and marine environment, and it is considered that no significant effects are likely on this SPA via surface water drainage.</p> <p>Given the significant distance to this SPA (17km), no significant noise or vibration impacts on the qualifying interests of this SPA are foreseen during construction or operation.</p> <p>No potential impact is foreseen. There is no direct pathway from this site to the SPA. In the absence of mitigation, no significant effects on the qualifying interests of this SPA are likely.</p> <p>The construction and operation of the proposed development will not impact on the conservation interests of the site.</p> <p>No significant effects are likely.</p>
IE004006	North Bull Island SPA	OUT	<p>Conservation Objectives</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>Qualifying Interests</p> <p>Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046] Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048] Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052] Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) [A054] Shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>) [A056] Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130] Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140] Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143] Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144] Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149] Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156]</p>

European Site Code	Name	Screened IN/OUT	Details/Reason
			<p>Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157] Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160] Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162] Turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>) [A169] Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]</p> <p>Potential Impact</p> <p>The proposed development is located approximately 20 km from this SPA. There is no direct hydrological pathway from the subject site to this SPA.</p> <p>There is a remote indirect hydrological pathway from the proposed development site to this SPA via surface water drainage to the Silleachain Stream (which feeds into the River Liffey) during construction and operation. However, given the significant minimum distance from the proposed development site to this site (20 km; however, it is noted that the distance the River Liffey actually flows from the proposed development site to Dublin Bay, in kilometres, is significantly longer), settlement and mixing within the surface water network, dilution and mixing effects within the River Liffey, and flocculation within the estuarine environment of the River Liffey and marine environment, and it is considered that no significant effects are likely on this SPA via surface water drainage.</p> <p>Given the significant distance to this SPA (20km), no significant noise or vibration impacts on the qualifying interests of this SPA are foreseen during construction or operation.</p> <p>No potential impact is foreseen. There is no direct pathway from this site to the SPA. In the absence of mitigation, no significant effects on the qualifying interests of this SPA are likely.</p> <p>The construction and operation of the proposed development will not impact on the conservation interests of the site.</p> <p>No significant effects are likely.</p>
IE004236	North-West Irish Sea SPA	OUT	<p>Conservation Objectives</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>Qualifying Interests</p> <p>Red-throated Diver (<i>Gavia stellata</i>) [A001] Great Northern Diver (<i>Gavia immer</i>) [A003] Fulmar (<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>) [A009] Manx Shearwater (<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>) [A013] Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017] Shag (<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>) [A018] Common Scoter (<i>Melanitta nigra</i>) [A065] Little Gull (<i>Larus minutus</i>) [A177] Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179]</p>

European Site Code	Name	Screened IN/OUT	Details/Reason
			<p>Common Gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) [A182] Lesser Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>) [A183] Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) [A184] Great Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus marinus</i>) [A187] Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) [A188] Roseate Tern (<i>Sterna dougallii</i>) [A192] Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193] Arctic Tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) [A194] Little Tern (<i>Sterna albifrons</i>) [A195] Guillemot (<i>Uria aalge</i>) [A199] Razorbill (<i>Alca torda</i>) [A200] Puffin (<i>Fratercula arctica</i>) [A204]</p> <p>Potential Impact</p> <p>The proposed development is located approximately 22 km from this SPA. There is no direct hydrological pathway from the subject site to this SPA.</p> <p>There is a remote indirect hydrological pathway from the proposed development site to this SPA via surface water drainage to the Silleachain Stream (which feeds into the River Liffey) during construction and operation. However, given the significant minimum distance from the proposed development site to this site (22 km; however, it is noted that the distance the River Liffey actually flows from the proposed development site to Dublin Bay, in kilometres, is significantly longer), settlement and mixing within the surface water network, dilution and mixing effects within the River Liffey, and flocculation within the estuarine environment of the River Liffey and marine environment, and it is considered that no significant effects are likely on this SPA via surface water drainage.</p> <p>Given the significant distance to this SPA (22km), no significant noise or vibration impacts on the qualifying interests of this SPA are foreseen during construction or operation.</p> <p>No potential impact is foreseen. There is no direct pathway from this site to the SPA. In the absence of mitigation, no significant effects on the qualifying interests of this SPA are likely.</p> <p>The construction and operation of the proposed development will not impact on the conservation interests of the site.</p> <p>No significant effects are likely.</p>

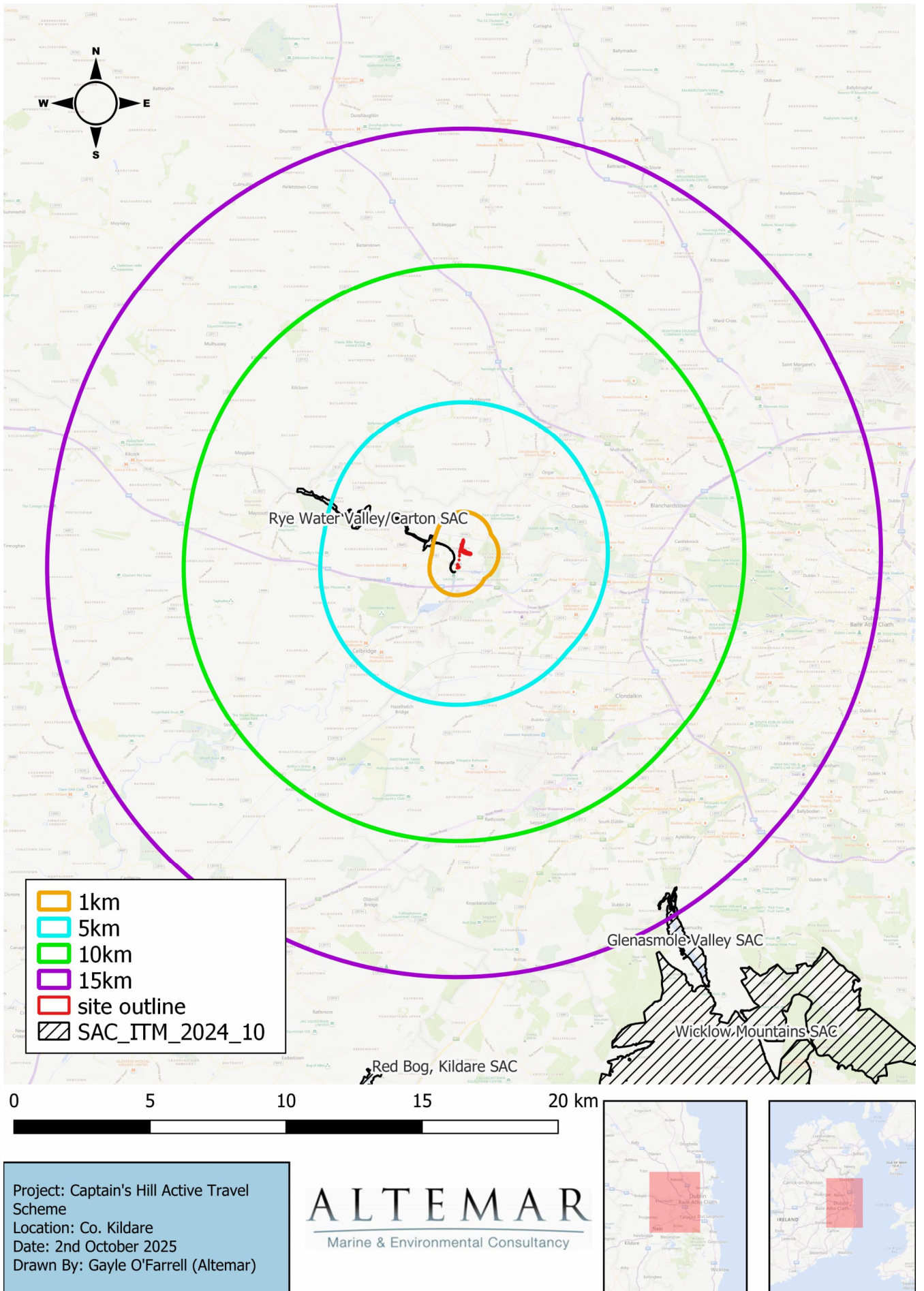
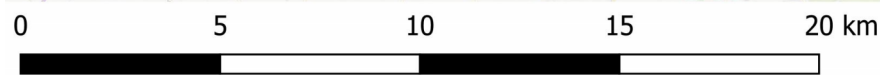
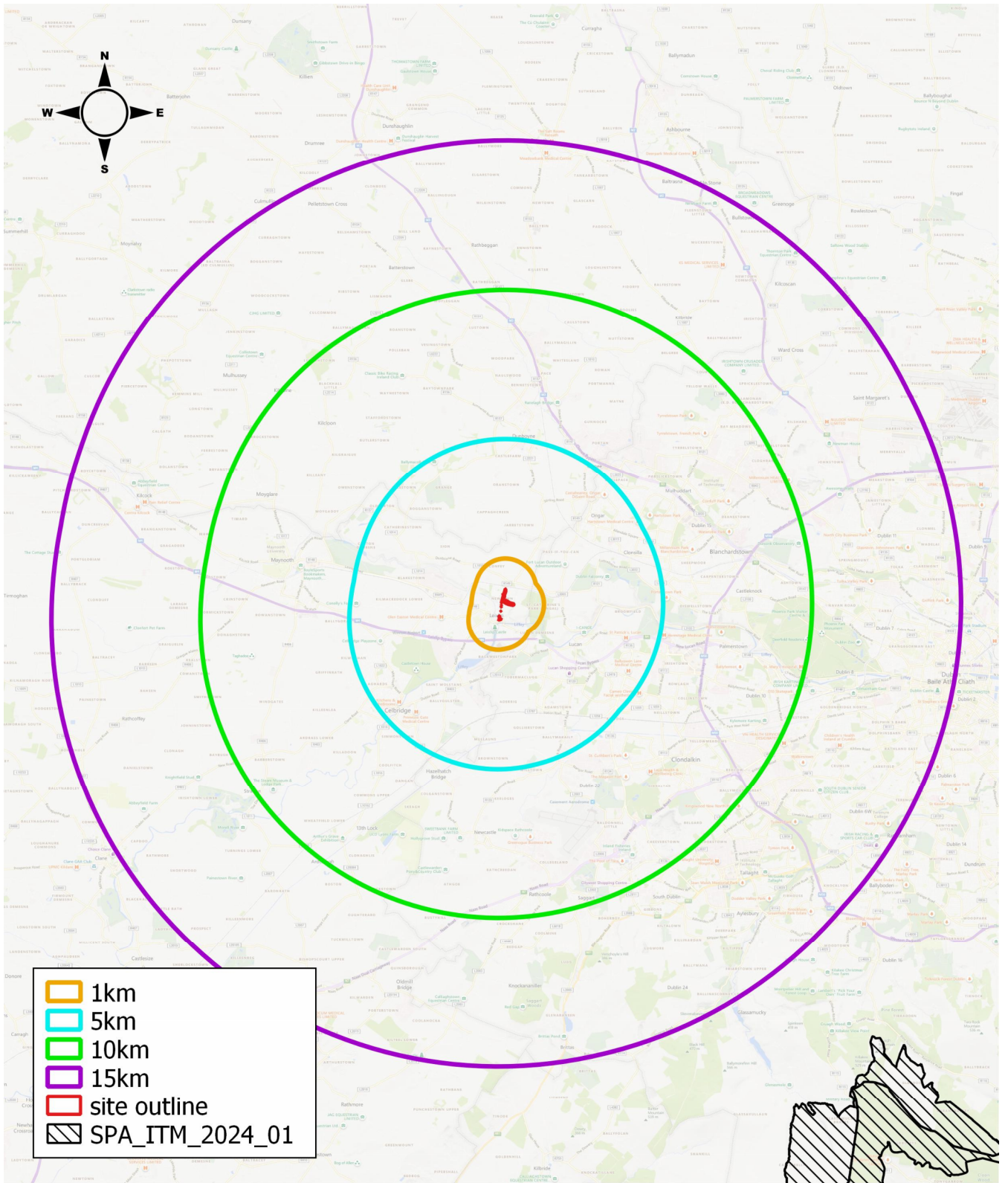


Figure 20. Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) within 15km of the proposed works site



Project: Captain's Hill Active Travel Scheme
 Location: Co. Kildare
 Date: 2nd October 2025
 Drawn By: Gayle O'Farrell (Altemar)

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 Marine & Environmental Consultancy

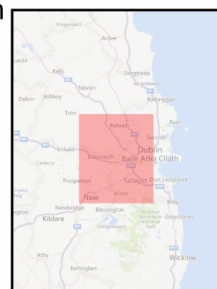


Figure 21. Special Protection Areas (SPA) within 15km of the proposed works site



0 0.5 1 1.5 km

Project: Captain's Hill Active Travel Scheme
 Location: Co. Kildare
 Date: 2nd October 2025
 Drawn By: Gayle O'Farrell (Altamar)

ALTEMAR
 Marine & Environmental Consultancy

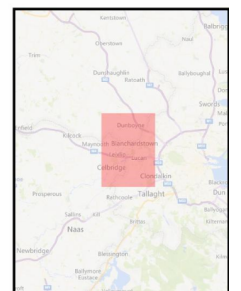
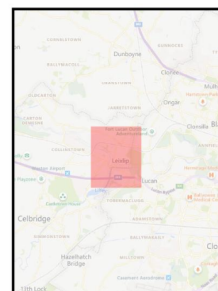
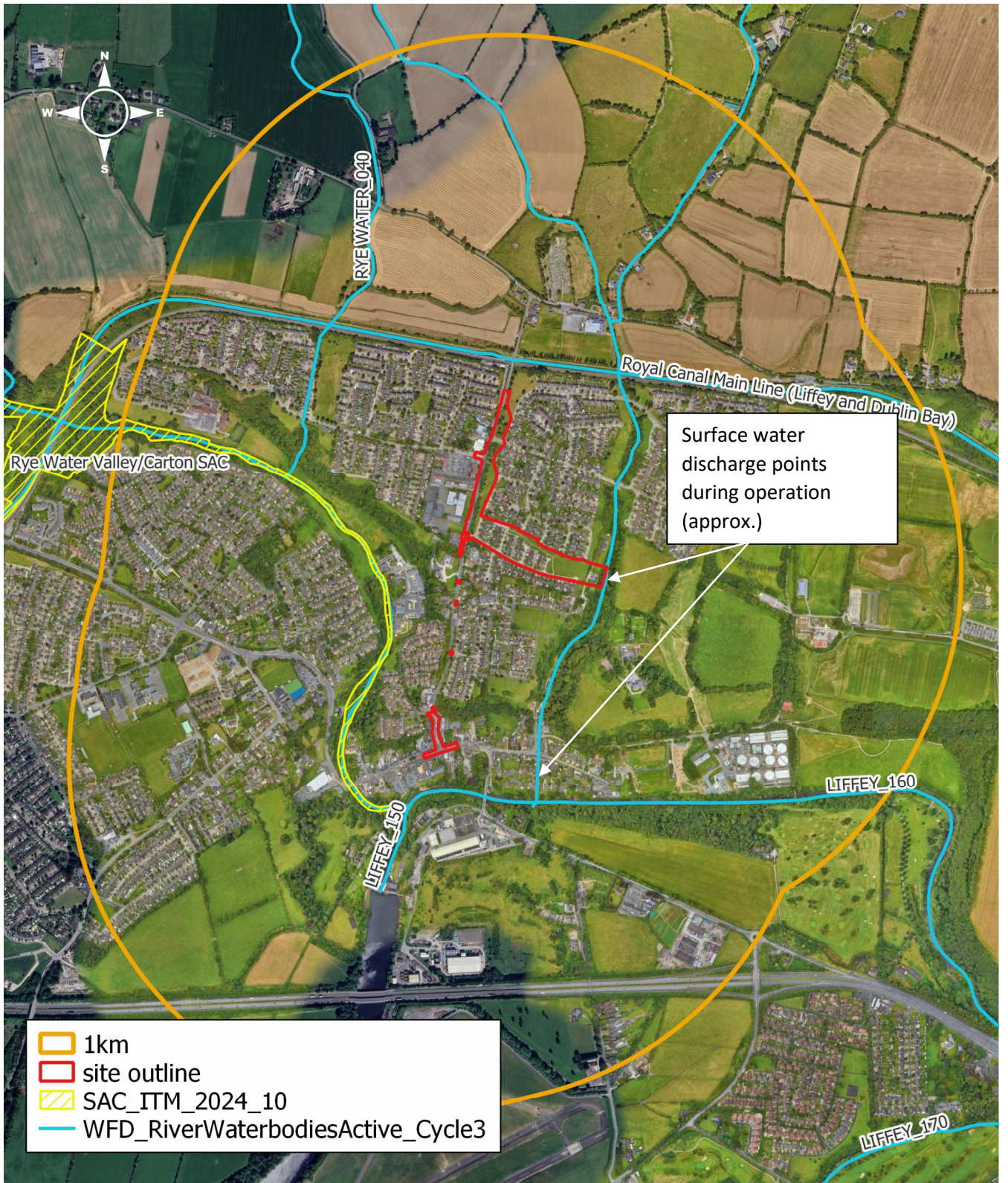


Figure 22. Waterbodies within 1km of the subject site



Project: Captain's Hill Active Travel Scheme
 Location: Co. Kildare
 Date: 2nd October 2025
 Drawn By: Gayle O'Farrell (Altamar)

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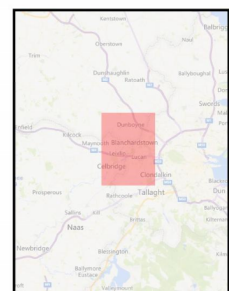
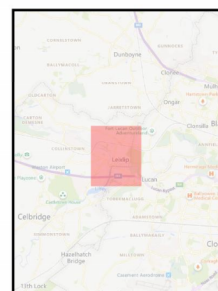
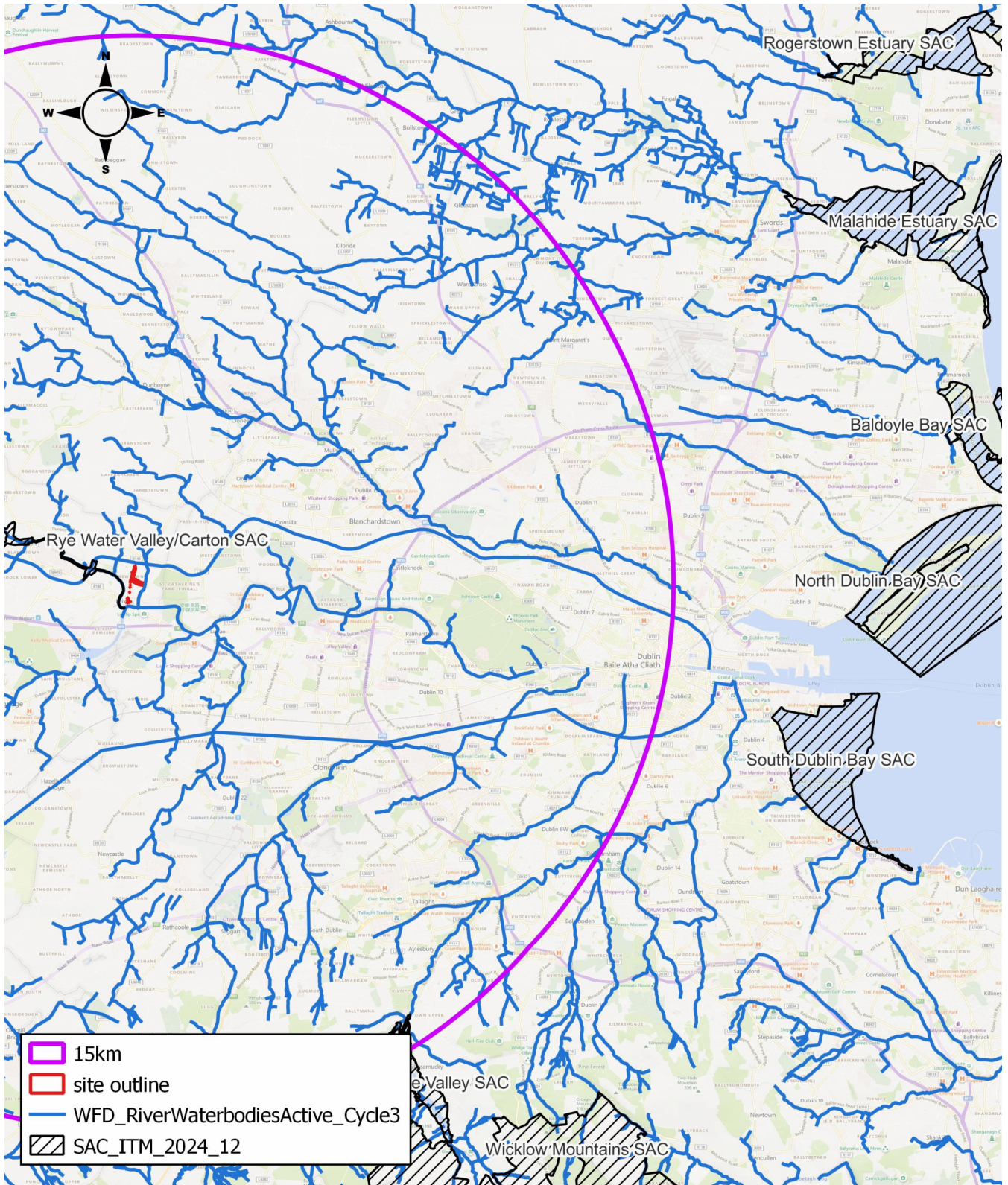


Figure 23. Waterbodies and SAC's proximate to the proposed development

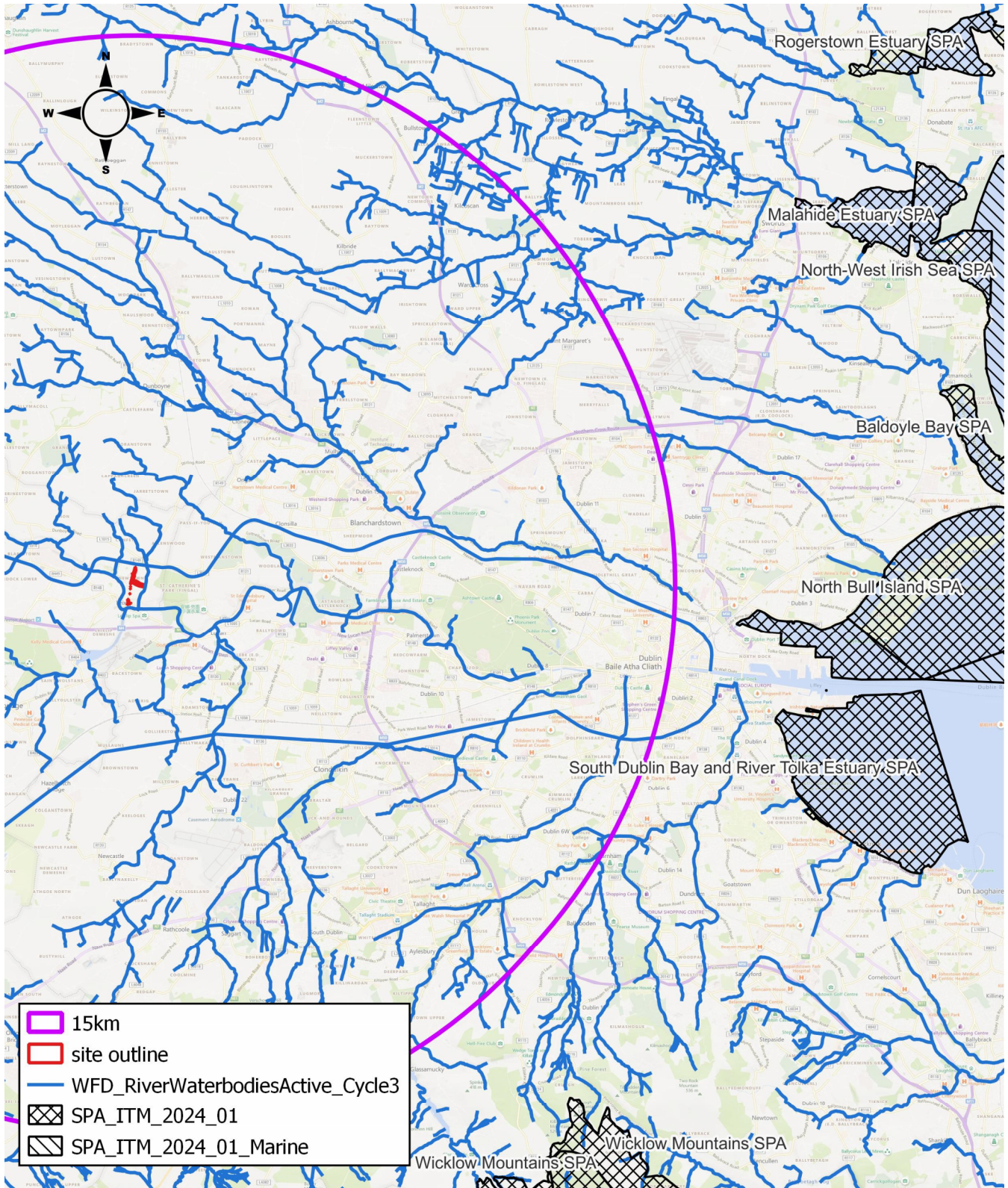


0 5 10 15 km

Project: Captain's Hill Active Travel Scheme
 Location: Co. Kildare
 Date: 2nd October 2025
 Drawn By: Gayle O'Farrell (Altamar)

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Figure 24. Waterbodies and SAC's downstream of the proposed development



0 5 10 15 km

Project: Captain's Hill Active Travel Scheme
 Location: Co. Kildare
 Date: 2nd October 2025
 Drawn By: Gayle O'Farrell (Altamar)

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Figure 25. Waterbodies and SPA's downstream of the proposed development

In-Combination Effects

A review of other off-site developments and proposed developments was completed as part of this assessment. The following projects and plans were reviewed and considered for possible in-combination effects with the Proposed Development. Table 3 details the existing, proposed and granted planning permissions on record in the area:

Table 3: Potential In-Combination Impacts

Ref. No.	Address	Proposal
2560058	Confey GAA Club Creighton Park, Leixlip, Co. Kildare	for the construction of a 1913 Sqm enclosed astro turf playing pitch. Lighting to be provided by 4 No 15m high spotlights poles with up to 7 clustered light fittings on each (1 No pole located at each corner of the playing pitch) Along with 2 No ball stop nets erected on each end of the pitch. Pitch to be enclosed with a 3m high mesh fence with ball stop netting over to 6m high. Revised by Significant Further Information which consists of: Willing to erect the lights on columns that are up to 18m high.
2360222	River Forest Shopping Centre, Captains Hill, Leixlip, W23 EP82	construction of 5 No. single storey storage units to service existing shopping centre retail units, also all associated site development and facilitating works
2460032	Newtown Hill House, Captain's Hill, Leixlip, , Co. Kildare	for 1/ Demolition of a dangerous section that forms part of the existing boundary wall at Distillery Lane and its replacement with a new stone wall with concrete backing to match the existing wall. 2/ Structural repairs and reinstatements of the remaining boundary wall at Distillery Lane to Architectural Conservation Standards. 3/ Felling of trees to impact on the said boundary wall and associated site works (A PROTECTED STRUCTURE RPS B11-43)
2591	29 Captain's Hill, Leixlip, Co Kildare	For to split the house and site into two separate private residential dwellings. To revert all guest house accommodation back to use as private residential dwelling. To split and set back the existing site entrance to provide two separate site entrances. To provide single storey extension to the side of the existing residential portion of the building. To private alterations to the facade with new window and for internal alteration to the guest house portion of the building. For associated site alterations and including dividing site walls
22621	Ryemount , 48 Captains Hill , Leixlip	sought for single storey extension to front (west) and single storey extension to rear (east) to single storey bungalow residence
2560341 (decision pending)	373 River Forest , Leixlip , Co. Kildare	1) Construct a single storey extension to rear of existing two storey semi-detached dwelling. 2) Subdivide existing two storey semi-detached dwelling and proposed extension into a 3 bedroom dwelling and a 2 bedroom dwelling. 3) Subdivide existing site to accommodate proposed new dwellings with separate access and new dividing boundary wall. 5) Connection to the public services and all associated site works. Revised by Significant Further Information which consists of alterations to the redline boundary. Further revised by Significant Further Information which consists of alterations to the redline boundary
2560082	6 Glendale Estate , Newtown , Leixlip	for extension to side of house for residential use and the retention of garden shed in rear garden
259	32 Newtown Park, Leixlip, Co Kildare	for replacing the existing low-pitched roof with a new gable roof structure, with finishes to match the existing, complete with a new south facing dormer roof extension plus 3No. new rooflights to the north roof elevation, to provide additional first floor accommodation with access stairs, plus all associated site works
2547	334 Mill Lane , Leixlip , Co. Kildare	for amendments to previously approved planning permission ref:20/810 consisting of the demolition of existing shed space to the rear, the construction of a dormer extension to the rear of the existing property, the construction of a porch entrance to the front, general upgrade works to the existing property, widening of the existing vehicle entrance and associated site works
2360495	26 Main Street , Leixlip, Co. Kildare	refurbishment of existing house, erect a 2 storey rear extension, comprising of four bedrooms, bathroom, boot room, utility room, downstairs WC and all associated site works

There is no direct pathway to designated sites. It is considered that in combination effects on biodiversity, with other existing and proposed developments in proximity to the application area, would be unlikely, neutral, not significant and localised. It is concluded that no significant effects on designated conservation sites will be seen as a result of the proposed development alone or in combination with other projects.

No projects in the vicinity of the proposed development would be seen to have a significant in combination effect on Natura 2000 sites.

Conclusions

The nearest European site to the proposed development is the Rye Water Valley/Carton Valley SAC, located approximately 148 m to the southwest of the development boundary (Figure 23). The proposed development site is situated east of the SAC and its associated wooded areas.

The proposed scheme involves upgrades to the existing surface water drainage network. As outlined in the Planning Report prepared by Arup due to the permanent alteration of the drainage network, “*the existing network will be mechanically banded in Distillery Lane, downstream of the connection point*” and that “*provisions for over-pumping into the new outfall will be provided*”. These proposed modifications to the drainage result in no pathway for pollutants to migrate towards the Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC. However, in the absence of these design changes no significant effects on the Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC are foreseen. Construction vehicle movements will be managed through phased works and traffic management arrangements, as outlined in the Planning Report. During construction, measures will be implemented to ensure that surface water drainage within the vicinity of the works flows eastward towards the Silleachain Stream and River Liffey, away from the Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC to the west, thereby preventing any hydrological pathway for pollutants from construction vehicle movements to impact this SAC.

During operation, the Planning Report indicates that surface water drainage along Captain’s Hill (North) will be directed to an upgraded outfall through Avondale. This upgraded network will discharge surface water drainage to the Silleachain Stream (East of site). This stream flows southwards before discharging into the River Liffey approximately 400m downstream of the Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC (see Figure 23). Surface water drainage along the junction at Captain’s Hill & Main Street Leixlip will continue to outfall to the River Liffey at a point approx. 400m downstream of the Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC. Additionally, the network along Distillery Lane (disconnected from the proposed development site during construction) will remain disconnected from the site during operation. This will thereby ensure that surface water drainage from the site will not outfall to the Rye Water River during operation. As a result, given the topographical flow direction of surface water drainage following upgrade works, there is no direct or indirect hydrological pathway from the proposed development to the Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC during operation.

There is a remote indirect hydrological pathway to European sites located within Dublin Bay (namely, South Dublin Bay SAC, North Dublin Bay SAC, South Dublin Bay & River Tolka Estuary SPA, North Bull Island SPA, and North-West Irish Sea SPA) via surface water drainage to the River Liffey during construction and operation. However, given the significant minimum distance from the proposed development site to any European site located within Dublin Bay (17 km; however it is noted that the distance the River Liffey actually flows from the proposed development site to Dublin Bay, in kilometres, is significantly longer), settlement and mixing within the surface water network, dilution and mixing effects within the River Liffey, and flocculation within the estuarine environment of the River Liffey and marine environment, and it is considered that no significant effects are likely. Considering that standard measures will be in place to prevent particulates entering and blocking the surface water network, the fact that most debris will be too large to be washed by rainwater into the drainage network, the short duration of the works, the distance between the proposed development to designated conservation sites, lack of direct hydrological pathway or biodiversity corridor link to conservation sites, and the dilution and flocculation effect with other effluent and surface runoff, it is concluded that the proposed development would not give rise to any significant effects to designated sites. The construction and operation of the proposed development will not impact on the conservation objectives of qualifying interests of European sites.

This report presents a Stage 1 Appropriate Assessment Screening for the proposed alterations to 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.

Findings of No Significant Effects Report

Details of Project	Appropriate Assessment Screening for the Proposed Active Travel Scheme at Captain's Hill, Co. Kildare
Name and Location of European Sites Within 15km	Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC South Dublin Bay SAC North Dublin Bay SAC South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA North Bull Island SPA North-West Irish Sea SPA
Project Description	Active Travel Scheme
Is the Project directly connected with the management of the European site?	No
Details of any other projects or plans that together with this project could affect the European site	None
The assessment of significant effects	
Describe how the project is likely to affect the European site	No Impact Predicted
Response to consultation	N/A
Data collected to carry out the assessment	Supporting NPWS data.
Who carried out the assessment	Altemar Ltd.
Sources of data	NPWS website, standard data form, conservation objectives data of the site and references outlined in the AA Screening Report.
Explain why the effects are not considered significant	Considering that standard measures will be in place to prevent particulates entering and blocking the surface water network, the fact that most debris will be too large to be washed by rainwater into the drainage network, the short duration of the works, the distance between the proposed development to designated conservation sites, lack of direct hydrological pathway or biodiversity corridor link to conservation sites, and the dilution and flocculation effect with other effluent and surface runoff, it is concluded that the proposed development would not give rise to any significant effects to designated sites. The construction and operation of the proposed development will not impact on the conservation objectives of qualifying interests of European sites.
Level of assessment completed	Stage 1 Screening
Overall conclusions	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.

Data Used for AA Screening

NPWS site synopses and Conservation objectives of sites within 15km were assessed. The most recent SAC and SPA boundary shapefiles were downloaded and overlaid on ESRI road maps and satellite imagery.

References

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13. NPWS (2023) Conservation Objectives: North-west Irish Sea SPA 004236. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
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