

Report for the purposes of
Appropriate Assessment Screening

Kill Residential Development

Prepared by: Moore Group – Environmental Services

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On behalf of Kildare County Council

Project Proponent	Kildare County Council
Project	Residential Development
Title	Report for the purposes of Appropriate Assessment Screening Residential Development

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Moore Archaeological and Environmental Services Limited				

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Appendix A – Finding of No Significant Effects Report

Abbreviations

AA	Appropriate Assessment
EEC	European Economic Community
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
EU	European Union
GIS	Geographical Information System
LAP	Local Area Plan
NHA	Natural Heritage Area
NIS	Natura Impact Statement
NPWS	National Parks and Wildlife Service
OSI	Ordnance Survey Ireland
pNHA	proposed Natural Heritage Area
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SPA	Special Protection Area
SuDS	Sustainable Drainage System
WFD	Water Framework Directive

1. Introduction

1.1. General Introduction

This report for the purposes of Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening has been prepared to support a Part 8 Planning Application for the Proposed Development (described in Section 3 below). This report contains information required for the competent authority to undertake screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA) in respect of the construction and operation and decommissioning of a gas turbine power station at Kill, Co. Kildare (hereafter referred to as the Proposed Development) to determine whether it is likely individually or in combination with other plans and projects to have a significant effect on any European sites, in light of best scientific knowledge.

Having regard to the provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000 – 2021 (the “Planning Acts”) (section 177U), the purpose of a screening exercise under section 177U of the PDA 2000 is to assess, in view of best scientific knowledge, if the proposed development, individually or in combination with another plan or project is likely to have a significant effect on a European site.

If it cannot be *excluded* on the basis of objective information that the proposed development, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will have a significant effect on a European site then it is necessary to carry out a Stage 2 appropriate assessment under section 177V of the Planning Acts.

When screening the project, there are two possible outcomes:

- the project poses potential for a likely significant effect and as such requires no further assessment; and
- the project has potential to have likely significant effect (or this is uncertain) unless mitigation measures are applied, and therefore an AA of the project is necessary.

This report has been prepared by Moore Group - Environmental Services to support an application for planning permission for the Proposed Development to enable Kildare County Council to carry out AA screening in relation to the Proposed Development. The report was compiled by Ger O’Donohoe (B.Sc. Applied Aquatic Sciences (GMIT, 1993) & M.Sc. Environmental Sciences (TCD, 1999)) who has 27 years’ experience in environmental impact assessment and has completed numerous Appropriate Assessment Screening Reports and Natura Impact Statements on terrestrial and aquatic habitats for various development types.

1.2. Legislative Background - The Habitats and Birds Directives

Article 6 of the Habitats Directive is transposed into Irish Law inter alia by the Part XAB of the Planning Acts (section 177U and 177V) govern the requirement to carry out appropriate assessment screening and appropriate assessment, where required, per Section 1.1 above.

The Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora) is the main legislative instrument for the protection and conservation of biodiversity in the European Union (EU). Under the Habitats Directive, Member States are obliged to designate Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) which contain habitats or species considered important for protection and conservation in a EU context.

The Birds Directive (Council Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds), transposed into Irish law by the Habitats Regulations 2011, is concerned with the long-term protection and management of all wild bird species and their habitats in the EU. Among other things, the Birds Directive requires that Special Protection Areas (SPAs) be established to protect migratory species and species which are rare, vulnerable, in danger of extinction, or otherwise require special attention.

SACs designated under the Habitats Directive and SPAs, designated under the Birds Directive, form a pan-European network of protected sites known as Natura 2000. The Habitats Directive sets out a unified system for the protection and management of SACs and SPAs. These sites are also referred to as European sites.

Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive set out the requirement for an assessment of proposed plans and projects likely to have a significant effect on Natura 2000 sites.

Article 6(3) establishes the requirement to screen all plans and projects and to carry out an appropriate assessment if required (Appropriate Assessment (AA)). Article 6(4) establishes requirements in cases of imperative reasons of overriding public interest:

Article 6(3): *“Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subjected to an 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.”*

2. Methodology

The Commission's methodological guidance (EC, 2002, 2018, 2021 see Section 2.1 below) promotes a four-stage process to complete the AA and outlines the issues and tests at each stage. An important aspect of the process is that the outcome at each successive stage determines whether a further stage in the process is required.

Stages 1 and 2 deal with the main requirements for assessment under Article 6(3). Stage 3 may be part of Article 6(3) or may be a necessary precursor to Stage 4. Stage 4 is the main derogation step of Article 6(4).

Stage 1 Screening: This stage examines the likely effects of a project either alone or in combination with other projects upon a Natura 2000 site and considers whether it can be objectively concluded that these effects will not be significant. In order to screen out a project, it must be excluded, on the basis of objective information, that the Proposed Development, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will have a significant effect on a European site.

Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment: In this stage, there is a consideration of the impact of the project with a view to ascertain whether there will be any adverse effect on the integrity of the Natura 2000 site 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 predicted impacts, an assessment of the potential mitigation of those impacts is considered.

Stage 3 Assessment of Alternative Solutions: This stage examines alternative ways of implementing the project that, where possible, avoid any adverse impacts on the integrity of the Natura 2000 site.

Stage 4 Assessment where no alternative solutions exist and where adverse impacts remain: Where imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI) exist, an assessment to consider whether compensatory measures will or will not effectively offset the damage to the sites will be necessary.

To ensure that the Proposed Development complies fully with the requirements of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive and all relevant Irish transposing legislation, Moore Group compiled this report to support an application for planning permission for the Proposed Development to enable Kildare County Council to carry out AA screening in relation to the Proposed Development to determine whether the Proposed Development, individually or in combination with another plan or project will have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site.

2.1. Guidance

This report has been compiled in accordance with guidance contained in the following documents:

- Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland - Guidance for Planning Authorities. (Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2010 rev.).

- Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive: Guidance for Planning Authorities. Circular NPWS 1/10 & PSSP 2/10.
- 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 Directorate-General, 2001); hereafter referred to as the EC Article 6 Guidance Document.
- Managing Natura 2000 Sites: The Provisions of Article 6 of the Habitat's Directive 92/43/EEC (EC Environment Directorate-General, 2000); hereafter referred to as MN2000.
- Managing Natura 2000 Sites: The Provisions of Article 6 of the Habitat's Directive 92/43/EEC (EC, 2018).
- Guidance document on the strict protection of animal species of Community interest under the Habitats Directive (EC, 2021).
- Assessment of plans and projects in relation to Natura 2000 sites - Methodological guidance on Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (EC, 2021).
- Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR) Practice Note PN01 Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management (OPR, 2021).

2.2. Data Sources

Sources of information that were used to collect data on the Natura 2000 network of sites, and the environment within which they are located, are listed below:

- The following mapping and Geographical Information Systems (GIS) data sources, as required:
 - National Parks & Wildlife (NPWS) protected site boundary data;
 - Ordnance Survey of Ireland (OSI) mapping and aerial photography;
 - OSI/Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) rivers and streams, and catchments;
 - Open Street Maps;
 - Digital Elevation Model over Europe (EU-DEM);
 - Google Earth and Bing aerial photography 1995-2022;
- Online data available on Natura 2000 sites as held by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) from www.npws.ie including:
 - Natura 2000 - Standard Data Form;
 - Conservation Objectives;
 - Site Synopses;
- National Biodiversity Data Centre records;
 - Online database of rare, threatened and protected species;
 - Publicly accessible biodiversity datasets.
- Status of EU Protected Habitats in Ireland. (National Parks & Wildlife Service, 2019); and
- Relevant Development Plans;
 - Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023

3. Description of the Proposed Development

The Proposed Development consists of the construction and operation of a Residential development at the former Ambassador Hotel site at Kill, Co. Kildare.

The proposed development will comprise of the construction of 33 no. consisting of:

1. 8no. three bedroom units,
2. 21no. two bedroom units (of which 8 are apartments),
3. 4no. one bedroom units (all apartments),
4. Vehicular and pedestrian entrance,
5. Boundary improvement works including:
 - a. Removal of existing 1m tall boundary wall located at the proposed entrance to the development off the L2014.
 - b. Removal of a number of existing trees and pruning of the remainder.
 - c. Proposed new site boundary treatment consisting of masonry walls and railings to western boundary of site adjacent to Embassy Manor.
6. Associated site works. including the construction of site landscaping, paving, car parking spaces, ducting for utilities, formation of new connections to existing public foul and surface water drainage, and existing utilities.

Waste water will be directed to municipal sewer for appropriate treatment.

Figure 1 shows the Proposed Development location and Figure 2 shows a detailed view of the Proposed Development boundary on recent aerial photography. A site layout is presented in Figure 3.

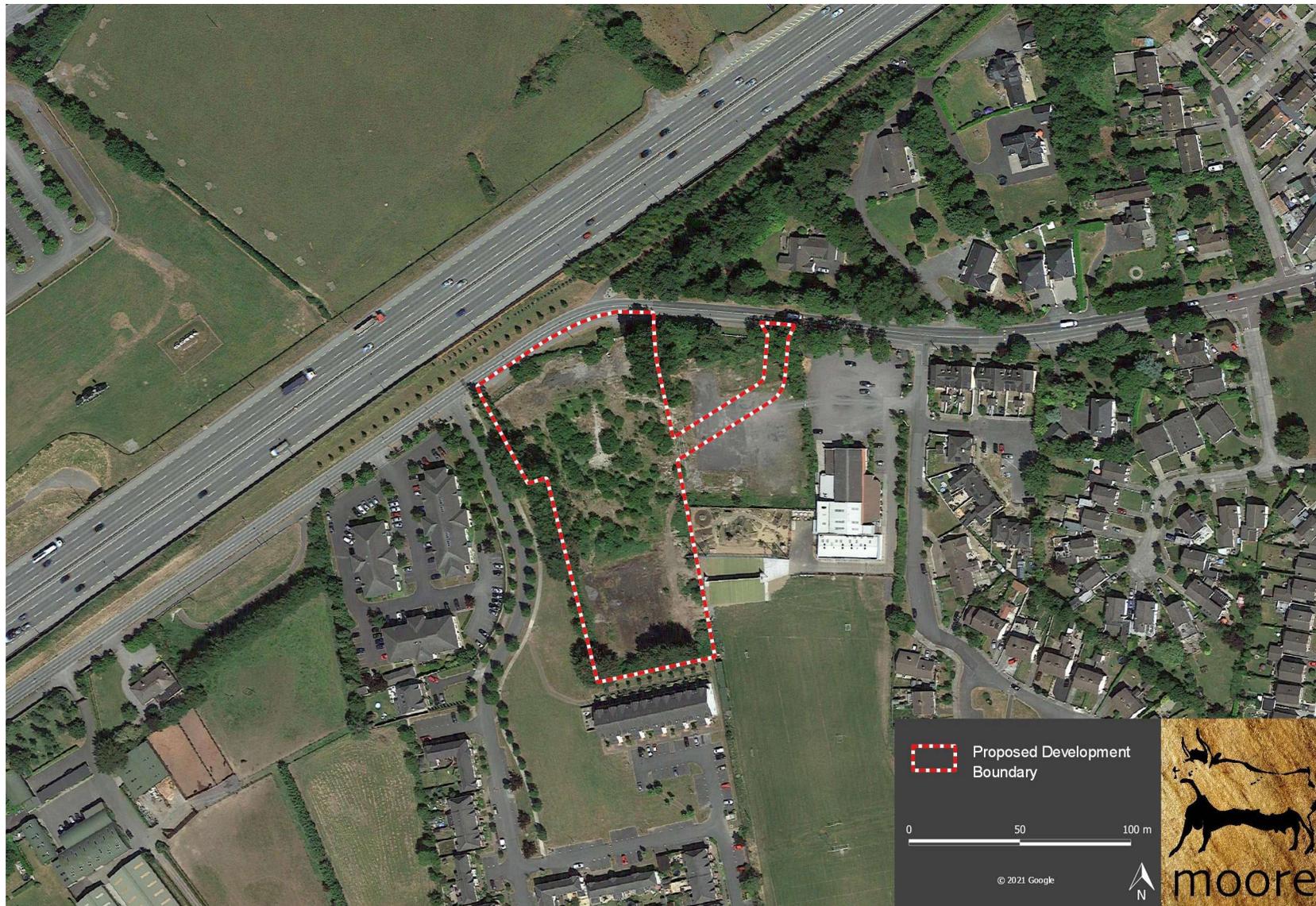


Figure 2. Showing the Proposed Development boundary on recent aerial photography.



Figure 3. Showing the Proposed Development site layout.

4. Identification of Natura 2000 Sites

4.1. Description of Natura Sites Potentially Affected

The Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government (previously DoEHLG)'s Guidance on Appropriate Assessment (2009) recommends an assessment of European sites within a Zone of Influence (ZoI) of 15km. However, this distance is a guidance only and a 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. In accordance with the OPR Practice Note, PN01, the ZoI should be established on a case-by-case basis using the Source- Pathway-Receptor framework and not by arbitrary distances (such as 15km).

The Zone of Influence may be determined by connectivity to the Proposed Development in terms of:

- Nature, scale, timing and duration of works and possible impacts, nature and size of excavations, storage of materials, flat/sloping sites;
- Distance and nature of pathways (dilution and dispersion; intervening 'buffer' lands, roads etc.); and
- Sensitivity and location of ecological features.

The potential for source pathway receptor connectivity is firstly identified through GIS interrogation and detailed information is then provided on sites with connectivity. European sites that are located within a potential Zone of Influence of the Proposed Development are listed in Table 1 and presented in Figures 4 and 5, below. Spatial boundary data on the Natura 2000 network was extracted from the NPWS website (www.npws.ie) on 2 February 2022. This data was interrogated using GIS analysis to provide mapping, distances, locations and pathways to all sites of conservation concern including pNHAs, NHA and European sites.

Table 1 European Sites located within the potential Zone of Influence¹ of the Proposed Development.

Site Code	Site name	Distance (km) ²
000391	Ballynafagh Bog SAC	12.16
000397	Red Bog, Kildare SAC	6.71
001209	Glenasmole Valley SAC	14.72
001387	Ballynafagh Lake SAC	12.52
001398	Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC	14.81
002122	Wicklow Mountains SAC	11.87
002331	Mouds Bog SAC	12.94
004040	Wicklow Mountains SPA	14.96
004063	Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA	9.52

¹ All European sites potentially connected irrespective of the nature or scale of the Proposed Development.

² Distances indicated are the closest geographical distance between the Proposed Development and the European site boundary, as made available by the NPWS. Connectivity along hydrological pathways may be significantly greater.

The nearest European sites to the Proposed Development are associated with the Red Bog and includes the Red Bog SAC (Site Code 000397), which is located just over 6.71km to the south.

A review of aerial photography, Ordnance Survey Ireland (OSI) mapping and OSI Geographical Information System (GIS) data for rivers and streams indicates that there are no notable surface water features onsite and no direct hydrological pathways to offsite surface water bodies. This was confirmed during fieldwork on 9 June 2021.

The Qualifying Interests (QIs) and Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) of the European sites in the vicinity of the Proposed Development are provided in Table 2 below.

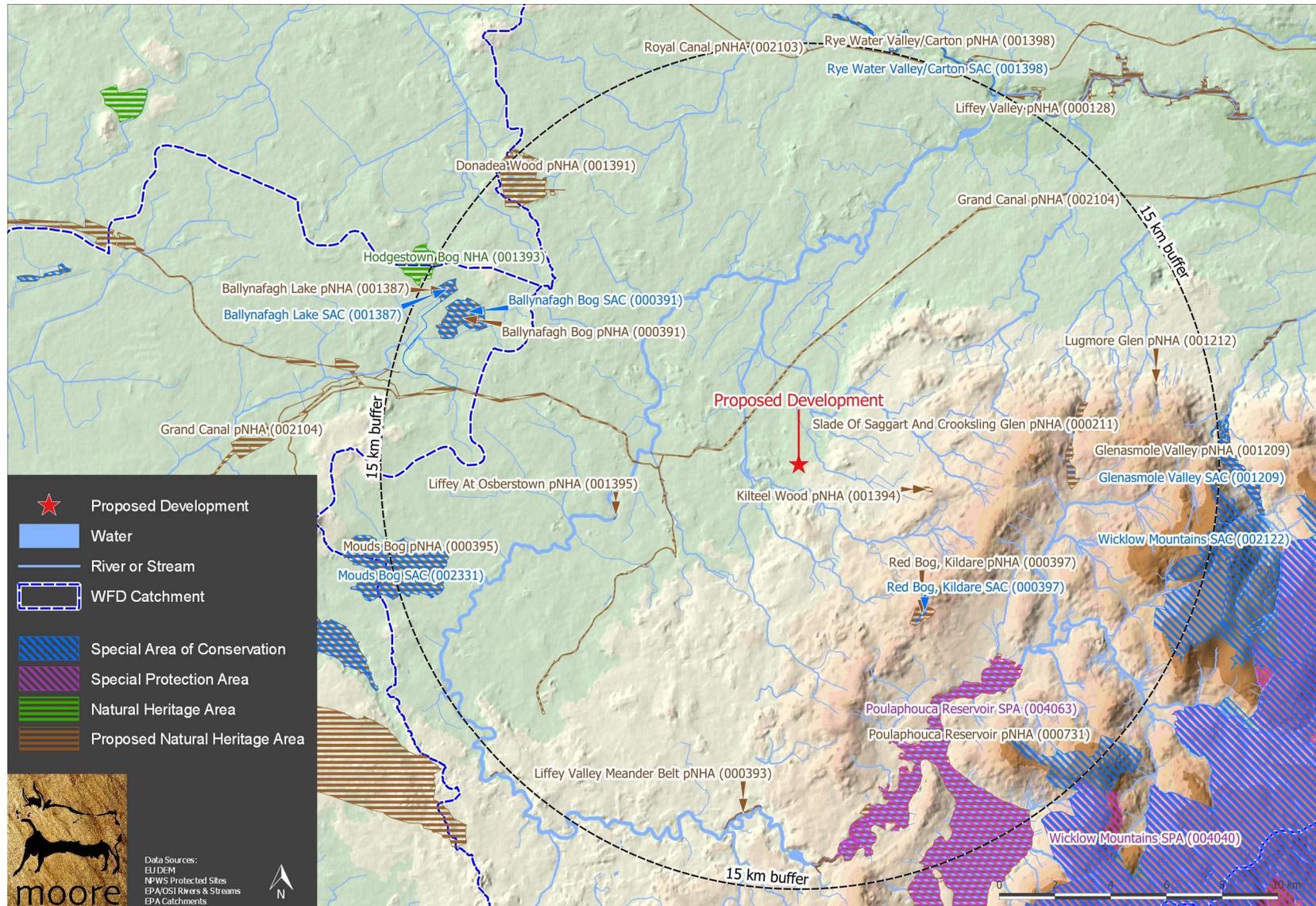


Figure 4. Showing European sites and NHAs/pNHAs within the wider potential Zone of Influence of the Proposed Development.

Table 2 Identification of relevant European sites using Source-Pathway-Receptor model and compilation of information QIs and conservation objectives.

European site name & Site code	Location Relative to the Proposed Development Site	Connectivity – Source-Pathway-Receptor	Considered further in Screening – Y/N
<p>Ballynafagh Bog SAC (000391)</p> <p>3 Qualifying Interests</p> <p>Including Priority Habitat: [7110] Active Raised Bog</p> <p>NPWS (2015) Conservation Objectives: Ballynafagh Bog SAC 000391. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.</p>	<p>12.16km to the northeast of the Proposed Development</p>	<p>No</p> <p>There are no pathways or connectivity to the habitats or species of this site.</p>	<p>N</p>
<p>Red Bog, Kildare SAC (000397)</p> <p>[7140] Transition mires and quaking bogs</p> <p>NPWS (2019) Conservation Objectives: Red Bog, Kildare SAC 000397. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.</p>	<p>6.71km to the east of the proposed development</p>	<p>No</p> <p>There are no pathways or connectivity to the habitats or species of this site.</p>	<p>N</p>
<p>Glenasmole Valley SAC (001209)</p> <p>3 Qualifying Interests</p> <p>Including Priority Habitat: [6210] Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco Brometalia</i>) (* important orchid sites)* [7220] Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>)*</p> <p>NPWS (2021) Conservation objectives for Glenasmole Valley SAC [001209]. Generic Version 8.0. Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage</p>	<p>14.72km to the north-east of the Proposed Development</p>	<p>No</p> <p>There are no pathways or connectivity to the habitats or species of this site.</p>	<p>N</p>
<p>Ballynafagh Lake SAC (001387)</p> <p>3 Qualifying Interests</p> <p>NPWS (2021) Conservation objectives for Ballynafagh Lake SAC [001387]. Generic Version 8.0. Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.</p>	<p>12.52km to the north of the Proposed Development</p>	<p>No</p> <p>There are no pathways or connectivity to the habitats or species of this site.</p>	<p>N</p>
<p>Rye Water/Carton Valley SAC (001398)</p> <p>3 Qualifying Interests</p> <p>Including Priority Habitat: [7220] Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>)*</p>	<p>14.81km to the northeast of the Proposed Development</p>	<p>No</p> <p>There are no pathways or connectivity to the habitats or species of this site.</p>	<p>N</p>

European site name & Site code	Location Relative to the Proposed Development Site	Connectivity – Source-Pathway-Receptor	Considered further in Screening – Y/N
NPWS (2021) Conservation objectives for Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC [001398]. Generic Version 8.0. Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.			
<p>Wicklow Mountains SAC (002122)</p> <p>14 Qualifying Interests</p> <p>Including Priority Habitat: [6230] Species-rich <i>Nardus</i> grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe) [7130] Blanket bogs (* if active bog)</p> <p>NPWS (2017) Conservation Objectives: Wicklow Mountains SAC 002122. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.</p>	11.87km to the east of the proposed development	No There are no pathways or connectivity to the habitats or species of this site.	
<p>Mouds Bog SAC (002331)</p> <p>3 Qualifying Interests</p> <p>Including Priority Habitat: [7110] Active Raised Bog</p> <p>NPWS (2015) Conservation Objectives: Mouds Bog SAC 002331. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.</p>	12.94km to the southeast of the Proposed Development	No There are no pathways or connectivity to the habitats or species of this site.	N
<p>Wicklow Mountains SPA (004040)</p> <p>Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>) [A098]</p> <p>Peregrine (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>) [A103]</p> <p>NPWS (2021) Conservation objectives for Wicklow Mountains SPA [004040]. Generic Version 8.0. Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.</p>	14.96km to the east of the proposed development	No Due to distance and the lack of any relevant ex-situ factors of significance to these species or habitat.	N
<p>Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA (004063)</p> <p>Greylag Goose (<i>Anser anser</i>) [A043]</p> <p>Lesser Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>) [A183]</p> <p>NPWS (2021) Conservation objectives for Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA [004063]. Generic Version 8.0. Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage</p>	9.52km to the east of the proposed development	No Due to distance and the lack of any relevant ex-situ factors of significance to these species or habitat.	N

4.2. Ecological Network Supporting Natura 2000 Sites

A concurrent GIS analysis of the proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHA) and designated Natural Heritage Areas (NHA) in terms of their role in supporting the species using Natura 2000 sites was undertaken. It was assumed that these supporting roles mainly related to mobile fauna such as mammals and birds which may use pNHAs and NHAs as “stepping stones” between Natura 2000 sites.

Article 10 of the Habitats Directive and the Habitats Regulations 2011 place a high degree of importance on such non-Natura 2000 areas as features that connect the Natura 2000 network. Features such as ponds, woodlands and important hedgerows were taken into account during the preparation of this AA Screening report .

There are no other areas of conservation concern that would be affected by the Proposed Development.

The NHAs and pNHAs identified in Figure 4 are located outside the Zone of Influence. There are no areas of supporting habitat that will be affected by the Proposed Development.

5. Identification of Potential Impacts & Assessment of Significance

The Proposed Development is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the sites considered in the assessment and therefore potential impacts must be identified and considered.

5.1. Assessment of Likely Significant Effects

There is no connectivity to any other European sites within or outside the guideline 15km potential Zone of Influence.

The consideration of all potential direct and indirect impacts that may result in significant effects on the conservation objectives of a European site, taking into account the size and scale of the Proposed Development are presented in Table 3.

Table 3 Assessment of Likely Significant Effects.

Identification of all potential direct and indirect impacts that may result in significant effects on the conservation objectives of a European site, taking into account the size and scale of the project.	
Impacts:	Significance of Impacts:
<p>Construction phase e.g.</p> <p>Vegetation clearance</p> <p>Demolition</p> <p>Surface water runoff from soil excavation/infill/landscaping (including borrow pits)</p> <p>Dust, noise, vibration</p> <p>Lighting disturbance</p> <p>Impact on groundwater/dewatering</p> <p>Storage of excavated/construction materials</p> <p>Access to site</p> <p>Pests</p>	<p>The Proposed Development site is located within the boundary of the previously developed site.</p>
<p>Operational phase e.g.</p> <p>Direct emission to air and water</p> <p>Surface water runoff containing contaminant or sediment</p> <p>Lighting disturbance</p> <p>Noise/vibration</p> <p>Changes to water/groundwater due to drainage or abstraction</p> <p>Presence of people, vehicles and activities</p> <p>Physical presence of structures (e.g. collision risks)</p> <p>Potential for accidents or incidents</p>	<p>All foul and surface water runoff, once the facility is operational, will be contained on site and discharged to urban drainage systems.</p> <p>There is no real likelihood of any significant effects on European Sites in the wider catchment area.</p> <p>The facility is located at a distance of removal such that there will be no disturbance to qualifying interest species in any European sites.</p>
In-combination/Other	No likely significant in-combination effects are identified.

Describe any likely changes to the European site:	
<p>Examples of the type of changes to give consideration to include:</p> <p>Reduction or fragmentation of habitat area</p> <p>Disturbance to QI species</p> <p>Habitat or species fragmentation</p> <p>Reduction or fragmentation in species density</p> <p>Changes in key indicators of conservation status value (water quality etc.)</p> <p>Changes to areas of sensitivity or threats to QI</p> <p>Interference with the key relationships that define the structure or ecological function of the site</p> <p>Climate change</p>	<p>None.</p> <p>The Proposed Development site is not located adjacent or within a European site, therefore there is no risk of habitat loss or fragmentation or any effects on QI habitats or species directly or ex-situ.</p>
Are 'mitigation' measures necessary to reach a conclusion that likely significant effects can be ruled out at screening?	
No	N/A

On the basis of the information supplied, which is considered adequate to undertake a screening determination and having regard to:

- the nature and scale of the proposed development,
- the intervening land uses and distance from European sites,
- the lack of direct connections with regard to the Source-Pathway-Receptor model,

It may be concluded that the proposed development, individually or in-combination with other plans or projects, would not be likely to have a significant effect on the above listed European sites or any other European site, in view of the said sites' conservation objectives.

5.2. Assessment of Potential In-Combination Effects

In-combination effects are changes in the environment that result from numerous human-induced, small-scale alterations. In-combination effects can be thought of as occurring through two main pathways: first, through persistent additions or losses of the same materials or resource, and second, through the compounding effects as a result of the coming together of two or more effects.

As part of the Screening for an Appropriate Assessment, in addition to the Proposed Development, other relevant plans and projects in the area must also be considered at this stage. This step aims to identify at this early stage any possible significant in-combination effects of the Proposed Development with other such plans and projects on European sites.

A review of the National Planning Application Database was undertaken. The first stage of this review confirmed that there were no data gaps in the area where the Proposed Development is located. The database was then queried for developments granted planning permission within 250m of the Proposed Development within the last three years, these are presented in Table 4 below.

Table 4. Planning applications granted permission in the vicinity of the Proposed Development.

Planning Ref.	Description of development	Comments
17861	(a) sub-division of existing site, (b) construction of a new three-bedroom dormer style dwelling, (c) new vehicle access onto public road and connection to main foul sewer and water services, along with all facilitating and associated site development works	Having regard to the distance of the proposed development to the nearest SAC and the nature and scale of the proposed development it is not considered that the development will have any impact on any Natura 2000 site and a Natura Impact Assessment is therefore not needed.
17882	erection of 4 bed detached two storey dwelling house with single storey rear annex in side garden. New vehicular access to proposed house and repositioned vehicular access to existing house, new internal sub-dividing party boundary wall and all ancillary site works	Having regard to the distance of the proposed development to the nearest SAC and the nature and scale of the proposed development it is not considered that the development will have any impact on any Natura 2000 site and a Natura Impact Assessment is therefore not needed.
171229	conversion of existing attic space to office / playroom / storage area with new revised roof profile (from hipped to gable end) to side / rear, with new dormer window extension to rear roof with internal modifications and associated site works	Given its domestic nature and extent, as well as the location and nature within an established residential development, it is not considered that the proposed development would result in any significant impacts on the Natura 2000 network.
18212	3 No. new stable blocks, consisting of 96 No. stables, tack rooms and feed stores, also new rain water harvesting system, new dung heap area with associated run-off storage tank, new boundary fencing, landscaping and all ancillary site works including re-directing existing land drain	Given the scale of proposal, distance from site to Natura 2000 sites, no source-pathway receptor - no impact on the integrity of Natura 2000 networks.
18727	the demolition of the existing single storey dwelling, the construction of 4 no. two storey dwellings, relocating the existing entrance and all associated site works	Having regard to the distance of the proposed development to the nearest SAC and the nature and scale of the proposed development it is not considered that the development will have any impact on any Natura 2000 site and a Natura Impact Assessment is therefore not needed.
18802	the conversion of the existing attic space to non-habitable use, to change the existing roof profile from hipped to gable-end, to construct a rear dormer window and rooflight, for the construction of a 19.5sqm rear ground floor domestic extension, together with auxiliary works	Having regard to the distance of the proposed development to the nearest SAC and the nature and scale of the proposed development it is not considered that the development will have any impact on any Natura 2000 site and a Natura Impact Assessment is therefore not needed.

Planning Ref.	Description of development	Comments
181071	the provision of 8 number, 16mt high lighting columns and fittings to the middle pitch, a new diesel generator and bunded fuel tank to be located adjacent to the senior pitch in a 3mt high fenced compound, along with the provision of a 2.5mt width emergency access track, and all associated site works	Having regard to the distance of the proposed development to the nearest SAC and the nature and scale of the proposed development it is not considered that the development will have any impact on the Natura 2000 site and a Natura Impact Assessment is therefore not needed.
181435	new garden shed/playroom/office to rear garden(circa 35sqm) and associated site works	Having regard to the distance of the proposed development to the nearest SAC and the nature and scale of the proposed development it is not considered that the development will have any impact on any Natura 2000 site and a Natura Impact Assessment is therefore not needed.
181467	a two storey extension to the rear part of which is over an existing extension	Having regard to the distance of the proposed development to the nearest SAC and the nature and scale of the proposed development it is not considered that the development will have any impact on any Natura 2000 site and a Natura Impact Assessment is therefore not needed.
19355	conversion of existing attic space to office/playroom/storage area with new revised roof profile (from hipped to gable end) to side/rear, with new dormer window extension to rear roof with internal modifications and associated site works	Having regard to the nature and location of the proposed development, no negative impacts on Natura 2000 sites are anticipated.
19387	A high power electric vehicle charging station consisting of 1. Installation of 6 no. electric vehicle charging bays ,each comprising a parking space and electric vehicle charging unit. 2. Associated revisions to existing car parking area. 3. Installation of electric vehicle power units, 4. Construction of a new substation. 5. Erection of illuminated signage. 6. All associated lighting, infrastructure, site and development works.	Having regard to the nature and location of the proposed development, no negative impacts on Natura 2000 sites are anticipated.
19438	(i) car wash, (ii) car wash plant room, and (iii) all associated structures, drainage and site development works	Having regard to the nature and location of the proposed development, no negative impacts on Natura 2000 sites are anticipated.
19623	the sub-division of existing site and construction of a new two storey three bedroom dwelling to rear of existing site including new shared vehicular driveway access and all associated site drainage, landscaping and ancillary site works	Having regard to the nature and location of the proposed development, no negative impacts on Natura 2000 sites are anticipated.
19967	(a) construction/erection of 11 residential units comprising 2 no. two storey 117.6 sqm three bedroom semi-detached dwelling houses (House Type A1+A4), 6 no. two storey 89.6 sqm two bedroom terraced town houses (House Type C1+C2+C3+C4+C5+C6) and 3 no. two storey 117.6 sqm three bedroom terraced town houses (House Type A1+A2+A3), (b) all associated site development works to include car parking, bin stores, bicycle stores, boundary walls and associated fencing, (c) modifications to existing site entrance to include new access road, boundary wall and footpath, (d) all site development works including new footpath along site frontage with connections to existing foul sewer, surface water, water main and all services. The granting of planning permission for the demolition of the existing single storey house on site was granted on planning permission register reference 18/727.	Having regard to the nature and location of the proposed development, no negative impacts on Natura 2000 sites are anticipated.

Planning Ref.	Description of development	Comments
191116	(i) Single storey extension to rear of service station amenity building to accommodate new customer toilets, storage and staff area, (ii) Associated internal alterations, (iii) Revised storage compounds, (iv) Associated revisions to site layout and drainage, and (v) All associated site and development works. Revised by significant further information consisting of; (i) Single storey extension to rear of service station amenity building to accommodate new customer toilets, storage and staff area, (ii) Associated internal alterations including revised retail area (100 sq.m. max), increased seating area, relocated ATM and minor revisions to deli, back of house area, accessible WC, (iii) Revised storage compounds, (iv) Associated revisions to site layout and drainage, and (v) All associated site development works	Having regard to the nature and location of the proposed development, no negative impacts on Natura 2000 sites are anticipated.
191184	conversion of existing attic space to office/playroom/storage area with new revised roof profile (from hipped to gable end) to side/rear, with new dormer window extension to rear roof with internal modifications and associated site works	Having regard to the nature and location of the proposed development, no negative impacts on Natura 2000 sites are anticipated.
191382	construction of a single storey rear extension to existing detached dormer house, permission to render the existing house in Nappe plaster and all associated site works	Having regard to the nature and location of the proposed development, no negative impacts on Natura 2000 sites are anticipated.
20226	the construction of a new 3 storey 50 bedroom hotel, with hotel restaurant and bar, associated plant and service areas and separate single storey events space. The hotel will include the provision of bedroom balconies to the southwest elevation. The development will include the provision of landscaped areas, access road, 60 carparking spaces, bicycle parking, bus parking and set down area and associated site development works. Access to the proposed development is provided via the existing access serving the site off the adjoining public road	Having regard to the nature and location of the proposed development, no negative impacts on Natura 2000 sites are anticipated.
20335	(i) To construct extensions at ground and first floor levels to the side and rear of the existing 2 storey house, (ii) To construct a single storey entrance porch to the front elevation, (iii) Alterations to existing window and door openings and (iv) Retention of an existing 18sqm single storey extension to the side and rear of the existing 2 storey house as constructed and all associated ancillary site development works	Having regard to the nature and location of the proposed development, no negative impacts on Natura 2000 sites are anticipated.
20448	conversion of existing attic space to office / playroom / storage area with new revised roof profile (from hipped to gable end) to side / rear, with new dormer window extension to rear roof, ground floor extension to side and rear of dwelling with internal modifications and associated site works	Having regard to the nature and location of the proposed development, no negative impacts on Natura 2000 sites are anticipated.
20554	(a) extension to the rear of the existing semi-detached dwelling on the site consisting of a ground floor dining room and first floor bedroom total floor area 51.5m ² and (b) a domestic garage the rear of the site measuring 15.9m ²	Having regard to the nature and location of the proposed development, no negative impacts on Natura 2000 sites are anticipated.
201058	to erect 279sqm of photovoltaic panels on the roof of our existing building with all associated site works	Having regard to the nature and location of the proposed development, no negative impacts on Natura 2000 sites are anticipated.
201150	dormer roof window in rear slope of roof at attic level & 3.2m sq of attic floor area,	Having regard to the nature and location of the proposed development, no negative

Planning Ref.	Description of development	Comments
		impacts on Natura 2000 sites are anticipated.
201351	the construction of a single storey extension to the side of my existing 2 storey semi-detached dwelling and all associated ancillary site development works	Having regard to the nature and location of the proposed development, no negative impacts on Natura 2000 sites are anticipated.
201546	continuation of the use of an existing single storey modular 'Portacabin' type structure for playschool use to the rear of the existing semi-detached dwelling previously granted permission under Planning Register Ref No's, 09/1239, 04/1224 & 14/1113 and all associated ancillary site development works,	Having regard to the nature and location of the proposed development, no negative impacts on Natura 2000 sites are anticipated.
21119	extension to front of the existing garage and conversion of the entire garage to habitable accommodation to form a music room	Having regard to the nature and location of the proposed development, no negative impacts on Natura 2000 sites are anticipated.

The Kildare County Development Plan in complying with the requirements of the Habitats Directive requires that all Projects and Plans that could affect the Natura 2000 sites in the same zone of impact of the Proposed Development site would be initially screened for Appropriate Assessment and if requiring Stage 2 AA, that appropriate employable mitigation measures would be put in place to avoid, reduce or ameliorate negative impacts. In this way any, in-combination impacts with Plans or Projects for the proposed development area and surrounding townlands in which the proposed development site is located, would be avoided.

The listed developments have been granted permission in most cases with conditions relating to sustainable development by the consenting authority in compliance with the relevant Local Authority Development Plan and in compliance with the Local Authority requirement for regard to the Habitats Directive. The development cannot have received planning permission without having met the consenting authority requirement in this regard. There are no predicted in-combination effects given that it is predicted that the Proposed Development will have no effect on any European site.

There are no predicted in-combination effects given that it is predicted that the Proposed Development will have no significant effect on any European site.

Any new applications for the Proposed Development area will be assessed on a case by case basis *initially* by Kildare County Council which will determine the requirement for AA Screening as per the requirements of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive.

6. Conclusion

There is no connectivity to any European sites within or outside the potential Zone of Influence.

There are no predicted effects on any European sites given:

- The distance between the Proposed Development and any European Sites;
- The lack of connectivity between the Proposed Development and any hydrological pathways; there are no watercourses within the Proposed Development boundary and there is no connectivity between the Proposed Development site and any watercourses that lead to the Red Bog;
- The Proposed Development is to be connected to the existing public sewer network for the treatment of wastewater.
- There are no predicted emissions to air, water or the environment during the construction or operational phases that would result in significant effects.

It has been objectively concluded by Moore Group Environmental Services that:

1. The Proposed Development is not directly connected with, or necessary to the conservation management of the European sites considered in this assessment.
2. The Proposed Development is unlikely to either directly or indirectly significantly affect the Qualifying interests or Conservation Objectives of the European sites considered in this assessment.
3. The Proposed Development, alone or in combination with other projects, is not likely to have significant effects on the European sites considered in this assessment in view of their conservation objectives.
4. It is possible to conclude that significant effects can be excluded at the screening stage.

It can be *excluded*, on the basis of objective information, that the Proposed Development, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will have a significant effect on a European site.

An appropriate assessment is not, therefore, required.

A finding of no significant effects report is presented in Appendix A in accordance with the EU Commission's methodological guidance (European Commission, 2002).

7. References

Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (2010) Guidance on Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland (as amended February 2010).

European Commission (2000) Managing Natura 2000 sites: the provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC.

European Commission Environment DG (2002) 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, Brussels.

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 interests, compensatory measures, overall coherence and opinion of the Commission. European Commission, Brussels.

European Commission (2018) Managing Natura 2000 sites: the provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC.

European Commission (2021) Assessment of plans and projects in relation to Natura 2000 sites - Methodological guidance on Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, Brussels 28.9.21.

European Commission (2021) Guidance document on the strict protection of animal species of Community interest under the Habitats Directive, Brussels 12.10.21.

NPWS (2019) The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Dublin.

NPWS (2022) National Parks and Wildlife Service Metadata available online at <https://www.npws.ie/maps-and-data>

Office-of-the-Planning-Regulator (2021) Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management OPR Practice Note PN01. March 2021

Appendix A

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS REPORT

Finding no significant effects report matrix

Name of project or plan

Kill Residential Development

Name and location of the Natura 2000 site(s)

The nearest European sites to the Proposed Development are associated with the Red Bog and includes the Red Bog SAC (Site Code 000397), which is located just over 6.71km to the south.

There is no connectivity to any other European sites within or outside the guideline 15km zone of potential impact.

Description of the project or plan

The Proposed Development consists of the construction and operation of a Residential development at the former Ambassador Hotel site at Kill, Co. Kildare. The proposed development will comprise of the construction of 33 no. consisting of:

1. 8no. three bedroom units,
2. 21no. two bedroom units (of which 8 are apartments),
3. 4no. one bedroom units (all apartments),
4. Vehicular and pedestrian entrance,
5. Boundary improvement works including:
 - a. Removal of existing 1m tall boundary wall located at the proposed entrance to the development off the L2014.
 - b. Removal of a number of existing trees and pruning of the remainder.
 - c. Proposed new site boundary treatment consisting of masonry walls and railings to western boundary of site adjacent to Embassy Manor.
6. Associated site works. including the construction of site landscaping, paving, car parking spaces, ducting for utilities, formation of new connections to existing public foul and surface water drainage, and existing utilities.

Waste water will be directed to municipal sewer for appropriate treatment. .

.Is the project or plan directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site(s)

No

Are there other projects or plans that together with the projects or plan being assessed could affect the site

A review of the National Planning Application Database was undertaken. The first stage of this review confirmed that there were no data outages in the area where the Proposed Development is located. The database was then queried for developments granted planning permission within 250m of the Proposed Development within the last three years, these are presented in the Table below.

Planning applications granted permission in the vicinity of the Proposed Development.

Planning Ref.	Description of development	Comments
17861	(a) sub-division of existing site, (b) construction of a new three-bedroom dormer style dwelling, (c) new vehicle access onto public road and connection to main foul sewer and water services, along with all facilitating and associated site development works	Having regard to the distance of the proposed development to the nearest SAC and the nature and scale of the proposed development it is not considered that the development will have any impact on the

Planning Ref.	Description of development	Comments
		Natura 2000 site and a Natura Impact Assessment is therefore not needed.
17882	erection of 4 bed detached two storey dwelling house with single storey rear annex in side garden. New vehicular access to proposed house and repositioned vehicular access to existing house, new internal sub-dividing party boundary wall and all ancillary site works	Having regard to the distance of the proposed development to the nearest SAC and the nature and scale of the proposed development it is not considered that the development will have any impact on the Natura 2000 site and a Natura Impact Assessment is therefore not needed.
171229	conversion of existing attic space to office / playroom / storage area with new revised roof profile (from hipped to gable end) to side / rear, with new dormer window extension to rear roof with internal modifications and associated site works	Given its domestic nature and extent, as well as the location and nature within an established residential development, it is not considered that the proposed development would result in any significant impacts on the Natura 2000 network.
18212	3 No. new stable blocks, consisting of 96 No. stables, tack rooms and feed stores, also new rain water harvesting system, new dung heap area with associated run-off storage tank, new boundary fencing, landscaping and all ancillary site works including re-directing existing land drain	Scale of proposal, distance from site to Natura 2000 sites, no source-pathway receptor - no impact on the integrity of Natura 2000 networks.
18727	the demolition of the existing single storey dwelling, the construction of 4 no. two storey dwellings, relocating the existing entrance and all associated site works	Having regard to the distance of the proposed development to the nearest SAC and the nature and scale of the proposed development it is not considered that the development will have any impact on the Natura 2000 site and a Natura Impact Assessment is therefore not needed.
18802	the conversion of the existing attic space to non-habitable use, to change the existing roof profile from hipped to gable-end, to construct a rear dormer window and rooflight, for the construction of a 19.5sqm rear ground floor domestic extension, together with auxiliary works	Having regard to the distance of the proposed development to the nearest SAC and the nature and scale of the proposed development it is not considered that the development will have any impact on the Natura 2000 site and a Natura Impact Assessment is therefore not needed.
181071	the provision of 8 number, 16mt high lighting columns and fittings to the middle pitch, a new diesel generator and bunded fuel tank to be located adjacent to the senior pitch in a 3mt high fenced compound, along with the provision of a 2.5mt width emergency access track, and all associated site works	Having regard to the distance of the proposed development to the nearest SAC and the nature and scale of the proposed development it is not considered that the development will have any impact on the Natura 2000 site and a Natura Impact Assessment is therefore not needed.
181435	new garden shed/playroom/office to rear garden(circa 35sqm) and associated site works	Having regard to the distance of the proposed development to the nearest SAC and the nature and scale of the proposed development it is not considered that the development will have any impact on the Natura 2000 site and a Natura Impact Assessment is therefore not needed.
181467	a two storey extension to the rear part of which is over an existing extension	Having regard to the distance of the proposed development to the nearest SAC and the nature and scale of the proposed development it is not considered that the development will have any impact on the Natura 2000 site and a Natura Impact Assessment is therefore not needed.

Planning Ref.	Description of development	Comments
19355	conversion of existing attic space to office/playroom/storage area with new revised roof profile (from hipped to gable end) to side/rear, with new dormer window extension to rear roof with internal modifications and associated site works	Having regard to the nature and location of the proposed development, no negative impacts on Natura 2000 sites are anticipated.
19387	A high power electric vehicle charging station consisting of 1. Installation of 6 no. electric vehicle charging bays ,each comprising a parking space and electric vehicle charging unit. 2. Associated revisions to existing car parking area. 3. Installation of electric vehicle power units, 4. Construction of a new substation. 5. Erection of illuminated signage. 6. All associated lighting, infrastructure, site and development works.	Having regard to the nature and location of the proposed development, no negative impacts on Natura 2000 sites are anticipated.
19438	(i) car wash, (ii) car wash plant room, and (iii) all associated structures, drainage and site development works	Having regard to the nature and location of the proposed development, no negative impacts on Natura 2000 sites are anticipated.
19623	the sub-division of existing site and construction of a new two storey three bedroom dwelling to rear of existing site including new shared vehicular driveway access and all associated site drainage, landscaping and ancillary site works	Having regard to the nature and location of the proposed development, no negative impacts on Natura 2000 sites are anticipated.
19967	(a) construction/erection of 11 residential units comprising 2 no. two storey 117.6 sqm three bedroom semi-detached dwelling houses (House Type A1+A4), 6 no. two storey 89.6 sqm two bedroom terraced town houses (House Type C1+C2+C3+C4+C5+C6) and 3 no. two storey 117.6 sqm three bedroom terraced town houses (House Type A1+A2+A3), (b) all associated site development works to include car parking, bin stores, bicycle stores, boundary walls and associated fencing, (c) modifications to existing site entrance to include new access road, boundary wall and footpath, (d) all site development works including new footpath along site frontage with connections to existing foul sewer, surface water, water main and all services. The granting of planning permission for the demolition of the existing single storey house on site was granted on planning permission register reference 18/727.	Having regard to the nature and location of the proposed development, no negative impacts on Natura 2000 sites are anticipated.
191116	(i) Single storey extension to rear of service station amenity building to accommodate new customer toilets, storage and staff area, (ii) Associated internal alterations, (iii) Revised storage compounds, (iv) Associated revisions to site layout and drainage, and (v) All associated site and development works. Revised by significant further information consisting of; (i) Single storey extension to rear of service station amenity building to accommodate new customer toilets, storage and staff area, (ii) Associated internal alterations including revised retail area (100 sq.m. max), increased seating area, relocated ATM and minor revisions to deli, back of house area, accessible WC, (iii) Revised storage compounds, (iv) Associated revisions to site layout and drainage, and (v) All associated site development works	Having regard to the nature and location of the proposed development, no negative impacts on Natura 2000 sites are anticipated.
191184	conversion of existing attic space to office/playroom/storage area with new revised roof profile (from hipped to gable end) to side/rear, with new dormer window extension to rear roof with internal modifications and associated site works	Having regard to the nature and location of the proposed development, no negative impacts on Natura 2000 sites are anticipated.

Planning Ref.	Description of development	Comments
191382	construction of a single storey rear extension to existing detached dormer house, permission to render the existing house in Nappe plaster and all associated site works	Having regard to the nature and location of the proposed development, no negative impacts on Natura 2000 sites are anticipated.
20226	the construction of a new 3 storey 50 bedroom hotel, with hotel restaurant and bar, associated plant and service areas and separate single storey events space. The hotel will include the provision of bedroom balconies to the southwest elevation. The development will include the provision of landscaped areas, access road, 60 carparking spaces, bicycle parking, bus parking and set down area and associated site development works. Access to the proposed development is provided via the existing access serving the site off the adjoining public road	Having regard to the nature and location of the proposed development, no negative impacts on Natura 2000 sites are anticipated.
20335	(i) To construct extensions at ground and first floor levels to the side and rear of the existing 2 storey house, (ii) To construct a single storey entrance porch to the front elevation, (iii) Alterations to existing window and door openings and (iv) Retention of an existing 18sqm single storey extension to the side and rear of the existing 2 storey house as constructed and all associated ancillary site development works	Having regard to the nature and location of the proposed development, no negative impacts on Natura 2000 sites are anticipated.
20448	conversion of existing attic space to office / playroom / storage area with new revised roof profile (from hipped to gable end) to side / rear, with new dormer window extension to rear roof, ground floor extension to side and rear of dwelling with internal modifications and associated site works	Having regard to the nature and location of the proposed development, no negative impacts on Natura 2000 sites are anticipated.
20554	(a) extension to the rear of the existing semi-detached dwelling on the site consisting of a ground floor dining room and first floor bedroom total floor area 51.5m ² and (b) a domestic garage the rear of the site measuring 15.9m ²	Having regard to the nature and location of the proposed development, no negative impacts on Natura 2000 sites are anticipated.
201058	to erect 279sqm of photovoltaic panels on the roof of our existing building with all associated site works	Having regard to the nature and location of the proposed development, no negative impacts on Natura 2000 sites are anticipated.
201150	dormer roof window in rear slope of roof at attic level & 3.2m sq of attic floor area,	Having regard to the nature and location of the proposed development, no negative impacts on Natura 2000 sites are anticipated.
201351	the construction of a single storey extension to the side of my existing 2 storey semi-detached dwelling and all associated ancillary site development works	Having regard to the nature and location of the proposed development, no negative impacts on Natura 2000 sites are anticipated.
201546	continuation of the use of an existing single storey modular 'Portacabin' type structure for playschool use to the rear of the existing semi-detached dwelling previously granted permission under Planning Register Ref No's, 09/1239, 04/1224 & 14/1113 and all associated ancillary site development works,	Having regard to the nature and location of the proposed development, no negative impacts on Natura 2000 sites are anticipated.
21119	extension to front of the existing garage and conversion of the entire garage to habitable accommodation to form a music room	Having regard to the nature and location of the proposed development, no negative impacts on Natura 2000 sites are anticipated.

The Kildare County Development Plan in complying with the requirements of the Habitats Directive requires that all Projects and Plans that could affect the Natura 2000 sites in the same zone of impact of the Proposed Development site would be initially screened for Appropriate Assessment and if requiring Stage 2 AA, that appropriate employable mitigation measures would be put in place to avoid, reduce or ameliorate negative impacts. In this way any, in-combination impacts with Plans or Projects for the proposed development area and surrounding townlands in which the proposed development site is located, would be avoided.

The listed developments have been granted permission in most cases with conditions relating to sustainable development by the consenting authority in compliance with the relevant Local Authority Development Plan and in compliance with the Local Authority requirement for regard to the Habitats Directive. The development cannot have received planning permission without having met the consenting authority requirement in this regard. There are no predicted in-combination effects given that it is predicted that the Proposed Development will have no effect on any European site.

There are no predicted in-combination effects given that it is predicted that the Proposed Development will have no significant effect on any European site.

Any new applications for the Proposed Development area will be *initially* assessed on a case by case basis by Kildare County Council which will determine the requirement for AA Screening as per the requirements of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive.

THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS

Describe how the project or plan (alone or in combination) is likely to affect the Natura 2000 site.

A review of aerial photography, Ordnance Survey Ireland (OSI) mapping and OSI Geographical Information System (GIS) data for rivers and streams indicates that there are no watercourses in the vicinity of the Proposed Development site. This was confirmed during fieldwork on 9 June 2021.

There is no connectivity to any European sites within or outside the guideline 15km zone of potential impact.

Explain why these effects are not considered significant.

There are no predicted effects on any European sites given:

- The distance between the Proposed Development and any European Sites;
- The lack of connectivity between the Proposed Development and any hydrological pathways; there are no watercourses within the Proposed Development boundary and there is no connectivity between the Proposed Development site and any watercourses that lead to the Red Bog;
- The Proposed Development is to be connected to the existing public sewer network for the treatment of wastewater.
- There are no predicted emissions to air, water or the environment during the construction or operational phases that would result in significant effects

List of agencies consulted: provide contact name and telephone or e-mail address

The requirement for Appropriate Assessment Screening was determined during pre-planning discussion with Kildare County Council.

Response to consultation

N/A.

DATA COLLECTED TO CARRY OUT THE ASSESSMENT

Who carried out the assessment

Moore Group Environmental Services.

Sources of data

NPWS database of designated sites at www.npws.ie

National Biodiversity Data Centre database <http://maps.biodiversityireland.ie>

Level of assessment completed

Desktop Assessment. Fieldwork was carried out as part of the EclA process.

Where can the full results of the assessment be accessed and viewed

Kildare County Council Planning web portal.

OVERALL CONCLUSIONS

There is no connectivity to any European sites within or outside the potential Zone of Influence.

There are no predicted effects on any European sites given:

- The distance between the Proposed Development and any European Sites;
- The lack of connectivity between the Proposed Development and any hydrological pathways; there are no watercourses within the Proposed Development boundary and there is no connectivity between the Proposed Development site and any watercourses that lead to the Red Bog;
- The Proposed Development is to be connected to the existing public sewer network for the treatment of wastewater.
- There are no predicted emissions to air, water or the environment during the construction or operational phases that would result in significant effects.

It has been objectively concluded by Moore Group Environmental Services that:

1. The Proposed Development is not directly connected with, or necessary to the conservation management of the European sites considered in this assessment.
2. The Proposed Development is unlikely to either directly or indirectly significantly affect the Qualifying interests or Conservation Objectives of the European sites considered in this assessment.
3. The Proposed Development, alone or in combination with other projects, is not likely to have significant effects on the European sites considered in this assessment in view of their conservation objectives.
4. It is possible to conclude that significant effects can be excluded at the screening stage.

It can be *excluded*, on the basis of objective information, that the Proposed Development, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will have a significant effect on a European site.

An appropriate assessment is not, therefore, required.