# Vale Road Arklow

## AA Screening Report

**02/04/2025**

**Prepared for: Wicklow County Council**

**www.jbaconsulting.ie**

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# Contract

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This report describes work commissioned by Wicklow County Council by an instruction dated 24/02/2025. The Client's representative for the contract was Sean Keane. Jai Dolan and William Mulville of JBA Consulting carried out this work.

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# Abbreviations

| | |
|---|---|
| AA | Appropriate Assessment |

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|---|---|
| CIEEM | Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management |
| DEHLG | Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government |
| DHPLG | Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government |
| EC | European Communities |
| ECJ | European Court Judgement |
| EPA | Environmental Protection Agency |
| GIS | Geographic Information Systems |
| GSI | Geological Survey Ireland |
| IAQM | Institute of Air Quality Management |
| INNS | Invasive Non-Native Species |
| IROPI | Imperative Reasons of Over-riding Public Interest |
| LSE | Likely Significant Effect |
| NBDC | National Biodiversity Data Centre |
| NIS | Natura Impact Statement |
| NPWS | National Parks and Wildlife Services |
| OPW | Office of Public Works |
| QI | Qualifying Interest |
| RBMP | River Basin Management Plan |
| SAC | Special Area of Conservation |
| SPA | Special Protection Area |
| WFD | Water Framework Directive |
| ZoI | Zone of Influence |

# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Background

JBA Consulting Engineers and Scientists Ltd. (hereafter JBA) has been commissioned by Sean Keane of Wicklow County Council to prepare an Appropriate Assessment Screening Report for the proposed works to be carried out at Vale Road Arklow, Wicklow, involving the construction of two housing units. It provides information on and assesses the potential in view of best scientific knowledge for the development of the play space to have likely significant effects (LSE), either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, on any Natura 2000 site.

Article 6(3) of Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (as amended) (the "Habitats Directive") requires that, any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of European sites, but likely to have significant effects thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to AA of its implications for the European sites in view of their conservation objectives. The requirements of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive have been transposed into Irish law by Part XAB of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011 (as amended).

## 1.2 Legislative Context

Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Fauna and Flora, known as the 'Habitats Directive' - provides legal protection for habitats and species of European importance. Article 2 of the Directive requires the maintenance or restoration of habitats and species of European Community interest, at a favourable conservation status. Articles 3 - 9 provide the legislative means to protect habitats and species of Community interest through the establishment and conservation of an EU-wide network of sites known as Natura 2000 sites. Natura 2000 sites are Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) designated under the Habitats Directive and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) designated under the Conservation of Wild Birds Directive (79 / 409 / EEC).

Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive set out the decision-making tests for plans or projects affecting Natura 2000 sites.

Article 6(3) establishes the requirement for Appropriate Assessment:

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

Article 6(4) deals with the steps that should be taken when it is determined, as a result of Appropriate Assessment, that a plan/project will adversely affect a European site. Issues

dealing with alternative solutions, imperative reasons of overriding public interest and compensatory measures need to be addressed in such a case.

Article 6(4) states:

*"If, in spite of a negative assessment of the implications for the site and in the absence of alternative solutions, a plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature, the Member States shall take all compensatory measures necessary to ensure that the overall coherence of Natura 2000 is protected. It shall inform the Commission of the compensatory measures adopted.*

*Where the site concerned hosts a priority natural habitat type and / or a priority species, the only considerations which may be raised are those relating to human health or public safety, to beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment or, further to an opinion from the Commission, to other imperative reasons of overriding public interest."*

The requirements of Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive have been transposed into Irish legislation by means of inter alia the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011-2015 (S.I. No. 477 / 2011) as amended.

## 1.3 Appropriate Assessment Process

Guidance on the AA process was initially produced by the European Commission in 2002, which was subsequently developed into guidance specifically for Ireland by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DEHLG) (2009, rev 2010). Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR) produced a Practice Note in 2021, PN01 - Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management (OPR, 2021). These guidance documents identify a staged approach to conducting an AA, as shown in Figure 1-1.

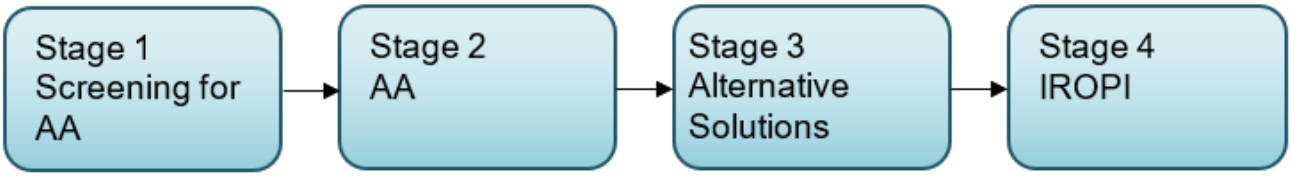


Figure 1-1: The Appropriate Assessment Process (from: Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland - Guidance for Planning Authorities, DEHLG, 2009)

### 1.3.1 Stage 1 - Screening for AA

The initial, screening stage of the Appropriate Assessment is to determine:

- whether the proposed plan or project is directly connected with or necessary for the management of the European designated site for nature conservation (Natura 2000 site)
- if it is likely to have a significant effect on the European designated site, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects

For those sites where, potential likely significant effects are identified, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, further assessment is necessary to determine if the proposals will have an adverse impact on the integrity of a European designated site, in view of the site's conservation objectives (i.e., the process proceeds to Stage 2).

### 1.3.2 Stage 2 - AA

This stage requires a more in-depth evaluation of the plan or project, and the potential direct and indirect impacts of them on the integrity and interest features of the European designated site(s), alone and in-combination with other plans and projects, taking into account the site's conservation objectives. Where required, mitigation or avoidance measures will be suggested.

The competent authority can only agree to the plan or project after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site(s) concerned. If this cannot be determined, and where mitigation cannot be achieved, then alternative solutions will need to be considered (i.e., the process proceeds to Stage 3).

### 1.3.3 Stage 3 - Alternative Solutions

Where adverse impacts on the integrity of Natura 2000 sites are identified, and mitigation cannot be satisfactorily implemented, alternative ways of achieving the objectives of the plan or project that avoid adverse impacts need to be considered. If none can be found, the process proceeds to Stage 4.

### 1.3.4 Stage 4 - Imperative Reasons of Over-riding Public Interest (IROPI)

Where adverse impacts of a plan or project on the integrity of Natura 2000 sites are identified and no alternative solutions exist, the plan will only be allowed to progress if imperative reasons of overriding public interest can be demonstrated. In this case compensatory measures will be required.

The process only proceeds through each of the four stages for certain plans or projects. For example, for a plan or project, not connected with management of a site, but where no likely significant effects are identified, the process stops at stage 1. Throughout the process, the precautionary principle must be applied, so that any uncertainties do not result in adverse impacts on a site.

This report is in support of a Stage 1 Screening for Appropriate Assessment.

### 1.3.5 Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) Rulings

The CJEU has been asked to issue rulings on development plans, which are used to inform this assessment.

The CJEU issued a ruling on the consideration of avoidance and reduction measures as a result of the case known as People over Wind, Peter Sweetman v Coillte Teoranta (Case C-323/17). This judgement stated that measures intended to reduce or avoid effects on a European site should only be considered within the framework of an AA, and it is not permissible to take into account such measures at the screening stage. In practice, this means that any activities that are not integral to the project (i.e. the project could conceivably take place without them) and have the effect of avoiding or reducing an impact on a European site, cannot be considered at the screening stage.

More recently, the decision of the CJEU in case C-721/21 (Eco Advocacy CLG v An Bord Pleanála), delivered in June 2023, found 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 an appropriate assessment of the implications of a plan or project for a site, account may be taken of the features of that plan or project which involve the removal of contaminants and which therefore may have the effect of reducing the harmful effects of the plan or project on that site, where those features have been incorporated into that plan or project as standard features, inherent in such a plan or project, irrespective of any effect on the site*." (Para. 53(3) of the Judgement).

This recent judgement therefore clarifies that features which have been incorporated into a project as standard features, inherent in that project, and irrespective of any effect on any European site may be taken into account for the purposes of a Stage 1 Screening for Appropriate Assessment under Article 6(3) of the directive.

The CJEU ruling in Grace & Sweetman (C-164/17) [2018] clarified the difference between avoidance and reduction (mitigation) measures and compensation. Measures intended to compensate for the negative effects of a project cannot be taken into account in the assessment of the implications of a project, and instead are considered under Article 6(4). This means that any project where an effect on the integrity of a Natura 2000 site remains and can only be offset by compensation, would need to proceed under Article 6(4), demonstrating "imperative reasons of overriding public interest".

The CJEU ruling in the case of Holohan v An Bord Pleanála (C-461/17) [2018] also clarified the importance in Appropriate Assessment of taking into account habitat types and species outside the boundary of the Natura 2000 site where implications of the impacts on those habitat and species may impact the conservation objectives of the Natura 2000 site. In this assessment functionally linked and supporting habitat for species outside of Natura 2000 sites are assessed where they could potentially impact the conservation objectives of any Natura 2000 sites within the Zone of Influence (ZoI).

### 1.4 Methodology

The Screening for Appropriate Assessment has been prepared having regard to the Birds and Habitats Directives, the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011-15 as amended and relevant jurisprudence of the EU and Irish courts. The following documents have also been used to provide guidance for the assessment:

- DEHLG (2009 rev 2010) Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland Guidance for Planning Authorities. Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DoEHLG, 2009);
- Office of the Planning Regulator (2021) OPR Practice Note PN01 - Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management (OPR, 2021);
- European Communities (EC) (2019) Managing Natura 2000 Sites: the provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC, OJ C, C/33, 25.01.2019, p. 1;
- EC (2021) Assessment of plans and projects in relation to Natura 2000 sites - Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, 2021/C 437/01 (OJ C, C/437, 28.10.2021, p. 1.;
- EC (2022) Guidance document on assessment of plans and projects in relation to Natura 2000 sites - A summary (European Commission. Directorate General for Environment);

- EEC (October 2021) Guidance document on the strict protection of species of Community interest under the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC; and
- CIEEM (2024). Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland - Terrestrial, Freshwater and Coastal, Second Ed. (Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental).

### 1.4.1 Screening Methods

This screening assessment uses the source-pathway-receptor (S-P-R) model as outlined in guidance (OPR, 2021). Using the source-pathway-receptor model allows for the potential significant effects to be eliminated if no viable source, pathway, or receptor is present.

The S-P-R method uses an examination of the construction methods or project description allows sources of impact to be determined. This also allows a zone of influence (ZoI) for the project to be generated based on the size, scale and nature of the works involved. The pathways for impact are also analysed to see if a functional pathway for impact is present. This report analyses three pathways: surface water, groundwater and land. Using information gathered from desk sources (e.g. mapped qualifying interests from the Conservation Objectives (CO) for the site) and from field surveys, receptors within the zone of influence are identified. In some cases, sensitive receptors may also play a role in determining the zone of influence. If any of the three parts to the model are not present (source-pathway-receptor) the potential for a likely significant effect from the project on the Natura 2000 network can be discounted.

### 1.4.2 Likely Significant Effect Test

The test for AA Screening is whether the project could have a 'likely significant effect' on any Natura 2000 site. A likely significant effect is defined as any effect that could undermine the conservation objectives of a Natura 2000 site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. There must be a causal connection between the project and the qualifying interest of the site which could result in possible significant effects on the site. The likely significant effect test is a lower threshold for the screening assessment than 'adverse effect on site integrity' considered at Appropriate Assessment stage (Stage 2) as screening is intended to be a preliminary examination for potential effects.

The Zone of Influence was used to identify Natura 2000 sites that could be impacted by the project. For each of these sites, the Qualifying Interest (QI) features and their associated conservation objectives were identified, and the possibility of likely significant effect was determined by a combination of location, ecological and hydrological connectivity, sensitivity of receptor and magnitude of the source of impact.

### 1.4.3 Desktop study

A desktop study was conducted of available published and unpublished information, along with a review of data available on the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland (BSBI) and National Biodiversity Data Centre (NBDC) web-based databases, in order to identify key habitats and species (including legally protected and species of conservation concern) that may be present within ecologically relevant distances from the project as explained below. A baseline habitat assessment was performed using satellite imagery of the site. The data sources below were consulted for the desktop study:

- Aerial photography available from www.osi.ie and ESRI World Imagery.
- NPWS website (www.npws.ie) where Natura 2000 site synopses, data forms and conservation objectives were obtained along with Annex I habitat distribution data and status reports.
- River Basin Management Plans (www.wfdireland.ie)
- NBDC Biodiversity Maps (maps.biodiversityireland.ie)
- Environmental Protection Agency Maps (https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps)
- Geological Survey Ireland (GSI) website (www.gsi.ie)
- GSI - Groundwater data viewer (https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com)
- BSBI Plant Records (bsbi.org/maps)

### 1.4.4 Ecological Site Surveys

To inform this AA Screening an initial ecological walkover survey was carried out on the 21/03/2025 by JBA Ecologists Matt Hosking and Jai Dolan. The results of the surveys are set out in Section 3.

The ecological walkover survey recorded habitats and protected species, following the methods outlined in the documents below:

- Heritage Council (2011). Best Practice Guidance for Habitat Survey and Mapping (Smith et al., 2011).
- Ecological Surveying Techniques for Protected Flora and Fauna during the Planning of National Road Developments (NRA, 2009).

Aerial photographs and site maps assisted the survey. Habitats have been named and described following Fossitt (2000). Nomenclature for higher plants follows that given in New Flora of the British Isles 4th Edition (Stace, 2019). Identification of Irish plants generally follows Webb's An Irish Flora (Parnell and Curtis, 2012).

### 1.4.5 In-Combination Effects

In relation to the assessment of potential of in-combination effects, where there is no effect at all via a pathway, there is no possibility of in-combination effects. Where potential likely significant effects are identified, the in-combination assessment is carried forwards to a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment.

## 1.5 Competent persons

The assessment was prepared by Jai Dolan BSc (Hons) Geography, MSc in Conservation. Jai is an Assistant Ecologist with JBA Consulting and has over one years' experience in ecological consultancy.

The assessment has been reviewed by William Mulville BSc (Hons) Zoology, MSc, ACIEEM. William is Senior Ecologist with JBA Consulting, with over 7 years' experience in environmental and ecological research, teaching and reporting; and with seven years in ecological consultancy.

## 1.6 Limitations and Constraints

This AA Screening is based on ecological site surveys and existing data from the above-mentioned sources. The screening assessment necessarily relies on some assumptions and is inevitably subject to some limitations as detailed below. These do not affect the conclusion, but the following points are recorded in order to ensure the basis of the assessment is clear:

- Information on the works and conditions on site are based on current knowledge at the time of writing. Changes to the site since surveys were undertaken cannot be accounted for. However, the site surveys have followed CIEEM (2019) Advice note on the lifespan of ecological reports and surveys. Any changes to the proposed works will require an assessment by a suitably qualified ecologist to determine if re-assessment is required.
- Adverse weather can cause delays to the schedule and alter the timing of works. This has been accounted for using a worst-case scenario where possible.
- Data from biological record centres or online databases is historical information, and datasets may be incomplete, inaccurate, or missing. The absence of records for an area may be due to the under recording in the area and not necessarily imply the absence of species. These records are therefore to be treated as minimum information available for the area
- The site visit was conducted outside of the optimal window for vegetation and invertebrates (21/03/2025), as such, some vegetation species may not have been present at the time of survey efforts, however, given the nature of the site on the edge of an urban area next to a residential area, it is not anticipated that there would be any rare species present.
- The precautionary principle is used at all times when determining potential ecological sensitivity of the site.

# 2 Project Description

## 2.1 Project Location

The proposed project is located adjacent to Vale Road, Arklow, County Wicklow. The site is located approximately 200m to southwest of the Avoca River, just north of the M11 and Sigma Aldrich Ireland Ltd (Figure 2-1).

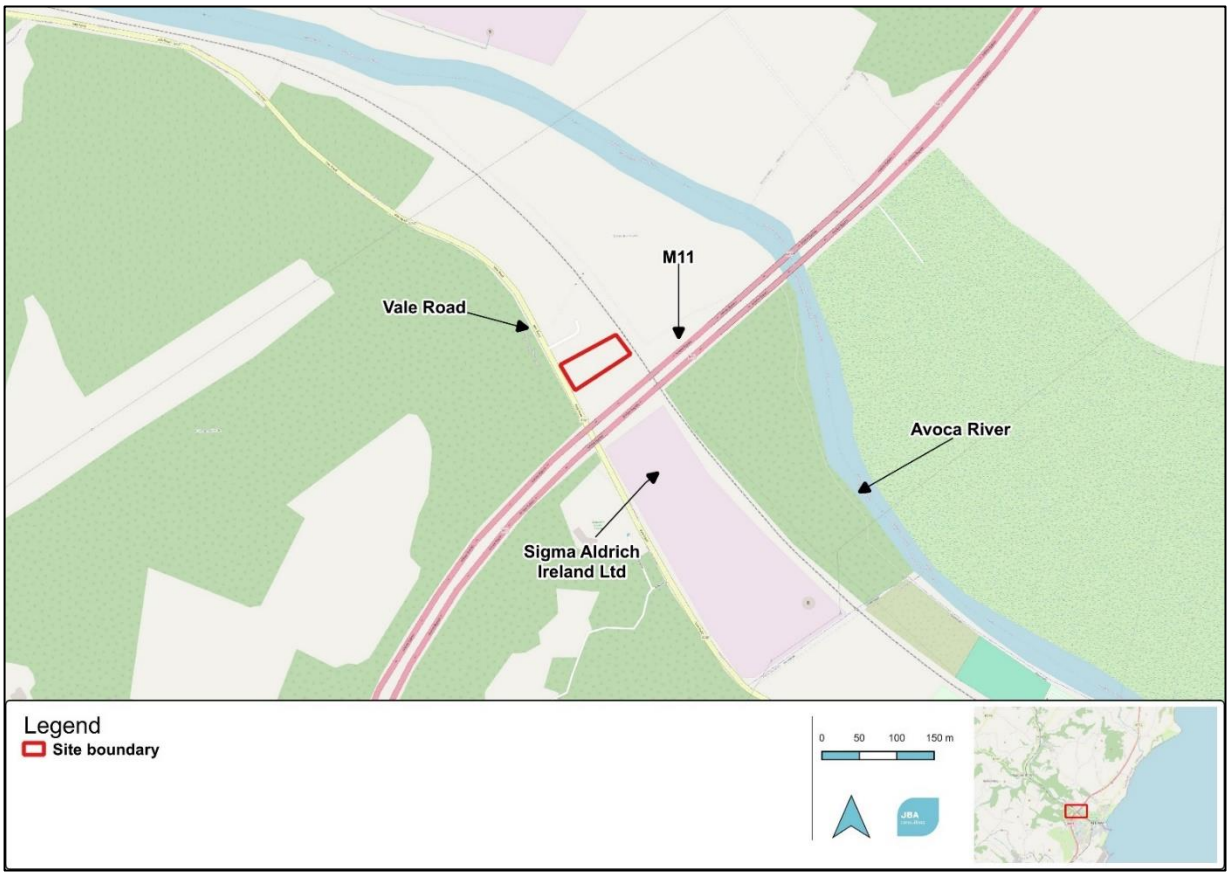


Figure 2-1: Site location (©OSM, 2025)

## 2.2 Project Description

The proposed project involves the construction of one three-bedroom and one two-bedroom housing units (front 50% portion of the site area). The existing access road will be extended through the site and the area long the southern border of the site will be cleared for caravan space. An additional area to the east has been included in the mapped site boundary as this includes an area where part of the existing and proposed drainage network will be.

Site layout can be seen in Appendix A.

## 2.3 Site Drainage Plans

### Surface Water Drainage

The surface water of the site will drain into a proposed 225mm drainpipe located within the proposed roadway, which will drain into a soakaway in the east of the site. For a full drainage plan see Appendix B.

### Foul Water Drainage

A new foul water sewer will be installed running along the northern boundary of the site, behind the proposed residential space. The sewer will then run along the eastern boundary of the easternmost residential property, before travelling under proposed roadway and draining into a septic tank located in the east of the site (Appendix B).

## 2.4 Lighting Plan

Three new 6m high public lighting poles will be installed on site along the proposed access road.

## 2.5 Excavation Depths

The maximum excavation depth is expected to be 1m.

## 2.6 Construction Duration

The expected duration of construction is 1 year.

## 2.7 Zone of Influence

The ZoI is considered using the Source-Pathway-Receptor model (OPR, 2021), therefore only designated sites that are connected to the project site are recorded and assessed. This ZoI uses the precautionary principle, as the work is primarily anticipated to only impact the footprint of the site. Connections are assessed for impacts relating to noise disturbance (400m - Cutts et al, 2013), air pollution (emissions and dust) (250m), and any SACs or SPAs beyond these distances that may have QI / SCI species that utilise habitats within these areas. The ZoI for air pollution was considered as per the Institute of Air Quality Management (IAQM) Guidance on the Assessment of Dust from Demolition and Construction (IAQM, 2024), including ex-situ habitats used by QI and/or SCI species associated with local Natura 2000 sites. The project will primarily affect the site only, but a wider ZoI is used for impacts relating to the following:

- Surface water – any downstream hydrological connections to Natura 2000 site(s);
- Groundwater - determined by the underlying aquifer (Locally Important Aquifer - Bedrock which is Moderately Productive only in Local Zones – 300m within aquifer);
- Air (disturbance) - noise disturbance to supporting ex-situ habitat(s) of QI and/or SCI species within or adjacent to the site (400m);
- Air (emissions and dust) - air pollution (250m) using IAQM guidance and the precautionary principle; and
- Land – physical disturbance to supporting ex-situ habitat(s) of QI and/or SCI species within or adjacent to the site.

# 3 Existing Environment

## 3.1 Baseline Conditions

The ecological walkover survey was conducted on 21/03/2025 by JBA ecologists Jai Dolan and Matt Hosking.

The area of the proposed development consists of amenity grassland, spoil and bare ground and scrub mosaic habitat, a hedgerow along the site's western boundary, scrub, and woodland habitats.

## 3.2 Habitats

The habitats recorded during the site survey are listed below in Table 3-1. These are mapped in Figure 3-1 and described in the following sub-sections below.

Table 3-1: Habitats recorded during the site visit.

| Fossitt Code | Fossitt Habitat |
|---|---|
| BL3 | Buildings and artificial surfaces |
| ED2, WS1 | Mosaic: Spoil and bare ground, Scrub |
| GA2 | Amenity grassland (improved) |
| WD1 | (Mixed) broadleaved woodland |
| WL1 | Hedgerows |
| WS1 | Scrub |


Figure 3-1: Habitat map of proposed site (©OSM, 2025)

### 3.2.1 Buildings and artificial surfaces (BL3)

The western section of the site largely consists of an area of buildings and artificial surfaces, including caravans, fencing, and the existing access route. This area of the site is separated from the habitats to the east by a small metal fence.

### 3.2.2 Mosaic: Spoil and bare ground, Scrub (ED2, WS1)

This mosaiced habitat is present within two areas on-site, to the east of the caravan area and to the south of the site. This habitat is comprised of a mix of heavily grazed spoil ground and patchy scrub cover. Species present include Broad-leaved Dock *Rumex obtusifolius*, Cabbage *Brassica oleracea*, Chickweed *Stellaria media*, Common Bent *Agrostis capillaris*, Creeping Buttercup *Ranunculus repens*, Dandelion *Taraxacum* spp., Daisy *Bellis perennis*, Meadow Buttercup *Ranunculus acris*, Nettle *Urtica dioica*, Pineappleweed *Matricaria discoidea*, Red Clover *Trifolium pratense*, Ribwort Plantain *Plantago lanceolata*, Weld *Reseda luteola*, and White Clover *Trifolium repens*.

Scrub species present include Bramble *Rubus fruticosus* agg., Gorse *Ulex europaeus*, Dogwood *Cornus sanguinea*, and Willow species *Salix* spp. Additionally, Hooded Crow *Corvus cornix* and Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos* was recorded within this habitat.

### 3.2.3 Amenity grassland (improved) (GA2)

There is an area of amenity grassland to the south of the site. Species present include Broad-leaved Dock, Cleavers *Galium aparine*, Common Bent, Creeping Buttercup, Meadow Buttercup, Red Clover, and White Clover.

### 3.2.4 (Mixed) broadleaf woodland (WD1)

There are two patches of woodland present around the site. There is a patch of woodland within the site along the eastern boundary. A larger patch of woodland is located to the south of the site, alongside the border of the M11 road. Tree species present include Alder *Alnus glutinosa*, Birch species *Betula* spp., Hazel *Corylus avellana*, Oak *Quercus* spp., and Willow spp. Understorey floral species within these habitats included Bramble, Cleavers, Creeping Buttercup, Dandelion spp., Gorse, Herb Robert *Geranium robertianum*, Holly *Ilex aquifolium*, Honeysuckle *Lonicera periclymenum*, Ivy *Hedera helix*, and Meadow Buttercup. The invasive species Cherry Laurel *Prunus laurocerasus* and Winter Heliotrope *Petasites pyrenaicus* were also present within this habitat.

### 3.2.5 Hedgerow (WL1)

A hedgerow runs along the western border of the site. This habitat extends to the south alongside the eastern boundary of Lacken Road.

Species present include Bird Cherry *Prunus padus*, Bramble, Gorse, Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, Ivy, Leyland Cypress *Cupressocyparis leylandii*, New Zealand Broadleaf *Griselinia littoralis*, and Oak spp. The invasive species Butterfly-bush *Buddleja davidii* and Winter Heliotrope *Petasites pyrenaicus* were also present within this habitat.

### 3.2.6 Scrub (WS1)

There are two small areas present on site. There is a patch of scrub along the site's southern boundary, separating the site from an area of amenity grassland. An additional scrub patch is located to the south of the site. Species present include Bramble, Broad-leaved Dock, Creeping Buttercup, Curled Dock *Rumex crispus*, Dandelion spp., Gorse, Ivy, Lesser Celandine *Ficaria verna*, Meadow Buttercup, Nettle, Red Clover, and White Clover. The invasive species Bufferfly-Bush and Winter Heliotrope were also present within this habitat.

## 3.3 Protected Fauna on Site

During the site visit on 21/03/2025, no protected faunal species were recorded.

## 3.4 Protected Flora on Site

During the site visit on 21/03/2025, no protected floral species were recorded.

## 3.5 Protected Species from NBDC Database

A 2km radius custom polygon was created through NBDC Biodiversity Maps (NBDC, 2025) in order to assess which Natura 2000 QI/SCI species were recorded in close proximity to the site within the last ten years. No QI/SCI species were recorded within the custom polygon.

For a full record list of protected flora and fauna collated from the NBDC database, see Appendix C.

### 3.6 Invasive Non-native Species

Certain invasive non-native animals and plants are listed under the First Schedule of S.I. No. 374/2024 - European Union (Invasive Alien Species) Regulations 2024. This makes it an offence to release, plant them in the wild or cause them to disperse, spread or otherwise cause them to grow. If these species occur on a site proposed for development or other work which may disturb the ground, control of these species is likely to be required.

European Council's Regulation on the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species [1143/2014] sets out to prevent, minimise and mitigate the adverse impacts of the introduction and spread, both intentional and unintentional, of invasive alien species on biodiversity and the related ecosystem services as well as on human health and the economy.

During the site visit, three invasive species were recorded, Butterfly-bush, Cherry Laurel, and Winter Heliotrope. None of these species are listed on the First Schedule. Butterfly-bush and Winter Heliotrope are medium impact invasive species, while Cherry Laurel is a high impact invasive species.

Table 3-2 below provides a list of invasive non-native species (INNS) recorded within the 2km polygon (NBDC, 2025). It includes species, their level of impact, and whether they are listed on the First Schedule of S.I. No. 374/2024 - European Union (Invasive Alien Species) Regulations 2024. For a full table, see Appendix D.

Table 3-2: INNS recorded within 2km radius to the site of the proposed works

| INNS | Impact | Regulation S.I. 374/2024 |
|---|---|---|
| Eastern Grey Squirrel *Sciurus carolinensis* | High | Yes |
| European Rabbit *Oryctolagus cuniculus* | Medium | No |
| Fallow Deer *Dama dama* | High | Yes |
| Greylag Goose *Anser anser* | Low | Yes |
| Himalayan Knotweed *Persicaria wallichii* | Medium | Yes |
| Japanese Knotweed *Fallopia japonica* | High | Yes |
| Japanese Rose *Rosa rugosa* | Medium | Yes |
| Jenkins' Spire Snail *Potamopyrgus antipodarum* | High | No |
| *Rhododendron ponticum* | High | Yes |
| Wrinkled Snail *Candidula intersecta* | Medium | No |

## 3.7 Local Waterbodies in the Vicinity of the Site

### 3.7.1 Surface Waterbodies

The entirety of the proposed project is located within the WFD Avoca_SC_020 Sub Catchment, within the WFD Ovoca-Vartry Catchment. The Avoca_030 watercourse is located approximately 200m to the northeast of the proposed site. This watercourse flows directly into the Avoca Estuary WFD Transitional Waterbody which is located approximately 950m to the southeast of the site, which flows into the Southwestern Irish Sea – Brittas Bay (HA 10) WFD Coastal Waterbody, located 2.5km to the east of the site.

Table 3-3 and Figure 3-2 show the surface waterbodies within the vicinity of the site and their respective WFD status (2016-2021) and risk status.

Table 3-3: The WFD waterbodies within ZoI of the proposed works

| WFD Waterbody | WFD Status (2016-2021) | Risk Status |
|---|---|---|
| Avoca_020 | Moderate | Not at risk |
| Avoca_030 | Moderate | Not at risk |
| Templerainy Stream_010 | High | Not at risk |
| Avoca Estuary | Moderate | At risk |
| Southwestern Irish Sea – Brittas Bay (HA 10) | High | Not at risk |

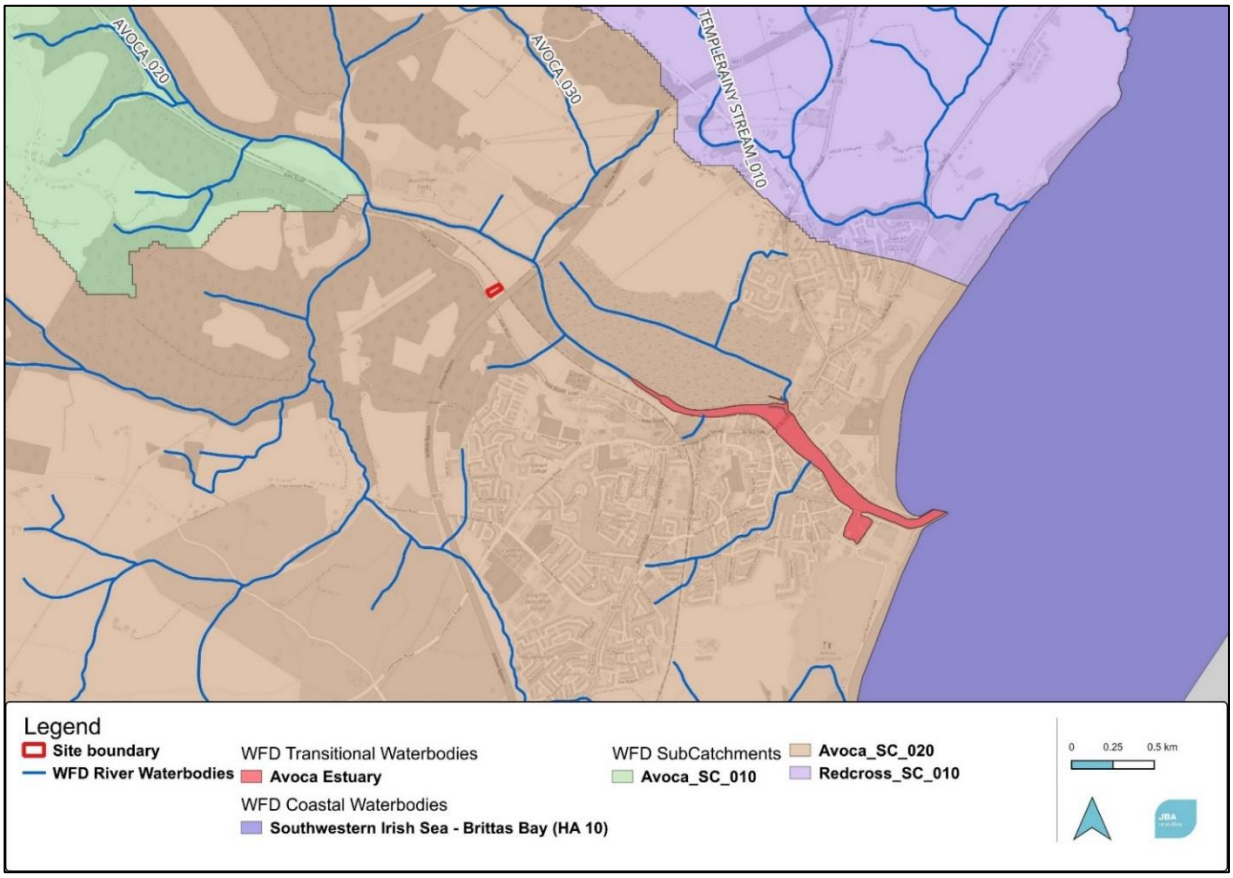


Figure 3-2: Surface water network of the site and the surrounding area (©OSM, 2025)

### 3.7.2 Groundwater Bodies

The site is located within the Wicklow (IE_EA_G_076) Groundwater body (Figure 3-3). The groundwater body currently has 'Good' status (2016-2021) and is currently 'At risk' (GSI, 2025).

The bedrock underlying the site is dominated by deep marine; slate, shale, minor sandstone & siltstone. The site has 'Low' subsoil permeability, with the underlying aquifer having 'Moderate' aquifer vulnerability (Figure 3-4). The aquifer within the underlying bedrock is considered to be Locally Important Aquifer - Bedrock which is Moderately Productive only in Local Zones (GSI, 2024).

The aquifer has a limited and relatively poorly connected network of fractures, fissures and joints, giving a low fissure permeability which tends to decrease further with depth. A shallow zone of higher permeability may exist within the top few metres of more fractured/weathered rock, and higher permeability may also occur along fault zones. These zones may be able to provide larger 'locally important' supplies of water. In general, the lack of connection between the limited fissures results in relatively poor aquifer storage and flow paths that may only extend a few hundred metres. Due to the low permeability and poor storage capacity, the aquifer has a low 'recharge acceptance'. Some recharge in the upper, more fractured/weathered zone is likely to flow along the relatively short flow paths and rapidly discharge to streams, small springs and seeps. Groundwater discharge to streams ('baseflow') can significantly decrease in the drier summer months (GSI, 2017).

In the context of the site, this means that surface water is slow to percolate into the groundwater body, which then has a limited flow path and is likely to discharge to local waters, in this case that being the Avoca_030 watercourse which is located within 200m of the site. This watercourse drains into the Avoca Estuary WFD Transitional Waterbody, which then flows into the Southwestern Irish Sea – Brittas Bay (HA 10) WFD Costal Waterbody. As such, a weak surface to groundwater connection exists between the site and the Southwestern Irish Sea – Brittas Bay (HA 10) WFD Costal Waterbody.


Figure 3-3: Groundwater body underlying the site and the surrounding area (©OSM, 2025)

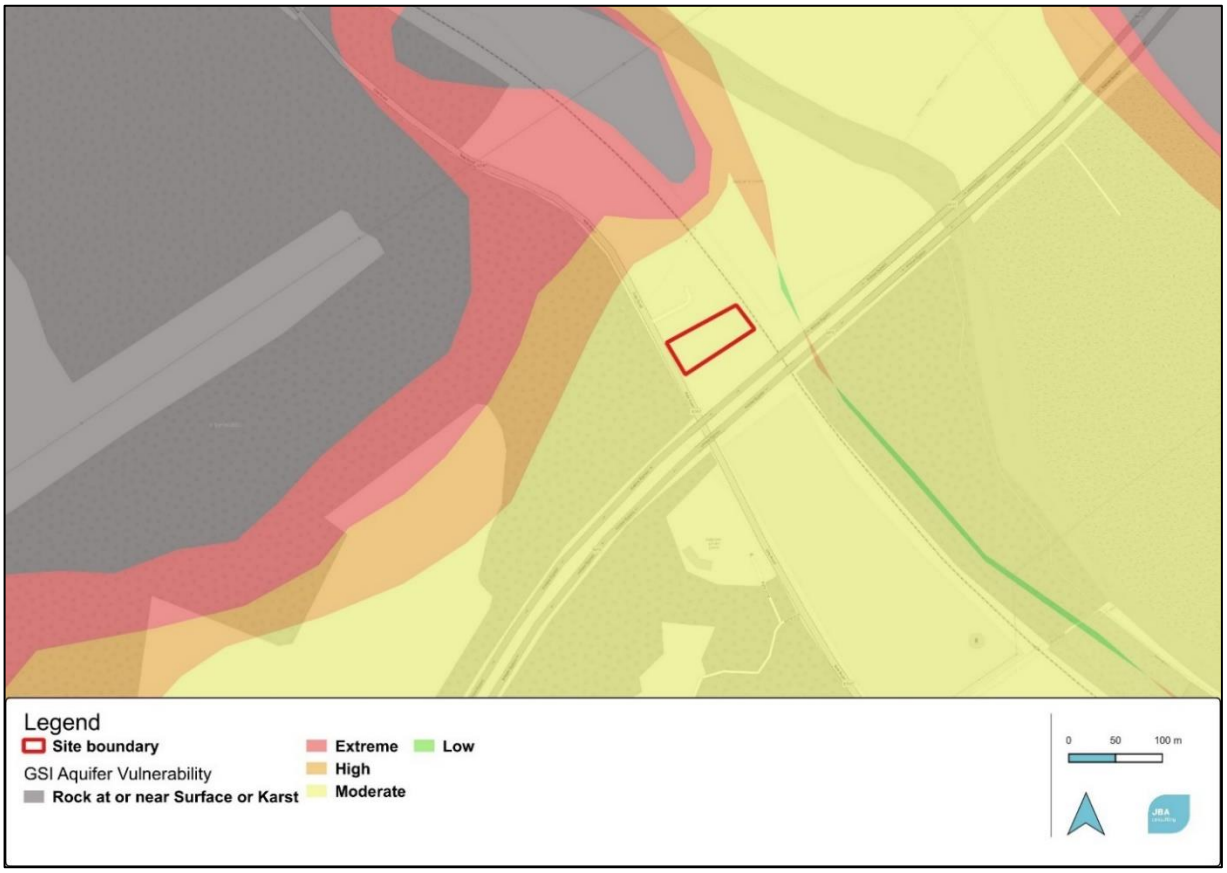


Figure 3-4: Groundwater vulnerability of the site (©OSM, 2025)

# 4 Natura 2000 Sites

The OPR guidance is to use a Source-Pathway-Receptors model, therefore only directly connected sites will be retained (OPR, 2021). Taking this model into consideration, there are a total of two Natura 2000 Sites that have been identified as being potentially connected to the site. These sites are shown in Table 4-1. Site descriptions, QIs, and threats/pressures for the below Natura 2000 sites are provided in Table 4-2.

Table 4-1: Natura 2000 sites connected through the Source-Pathway-Receptor model

| Natura 2000 site | Site Code | Approx. distance from site | Hydrological distance from site |
|---|---|---|---|
| Buckroney-Brittas Dunes and Fen SAC | 000729 | 5.5km | 8.5km indirect connection via surface and groundwater pathways |
| Kilpatrick Sandhills SAC | 001742 | 8km | 9.7km indirect connection via surface and groundwater pathways |

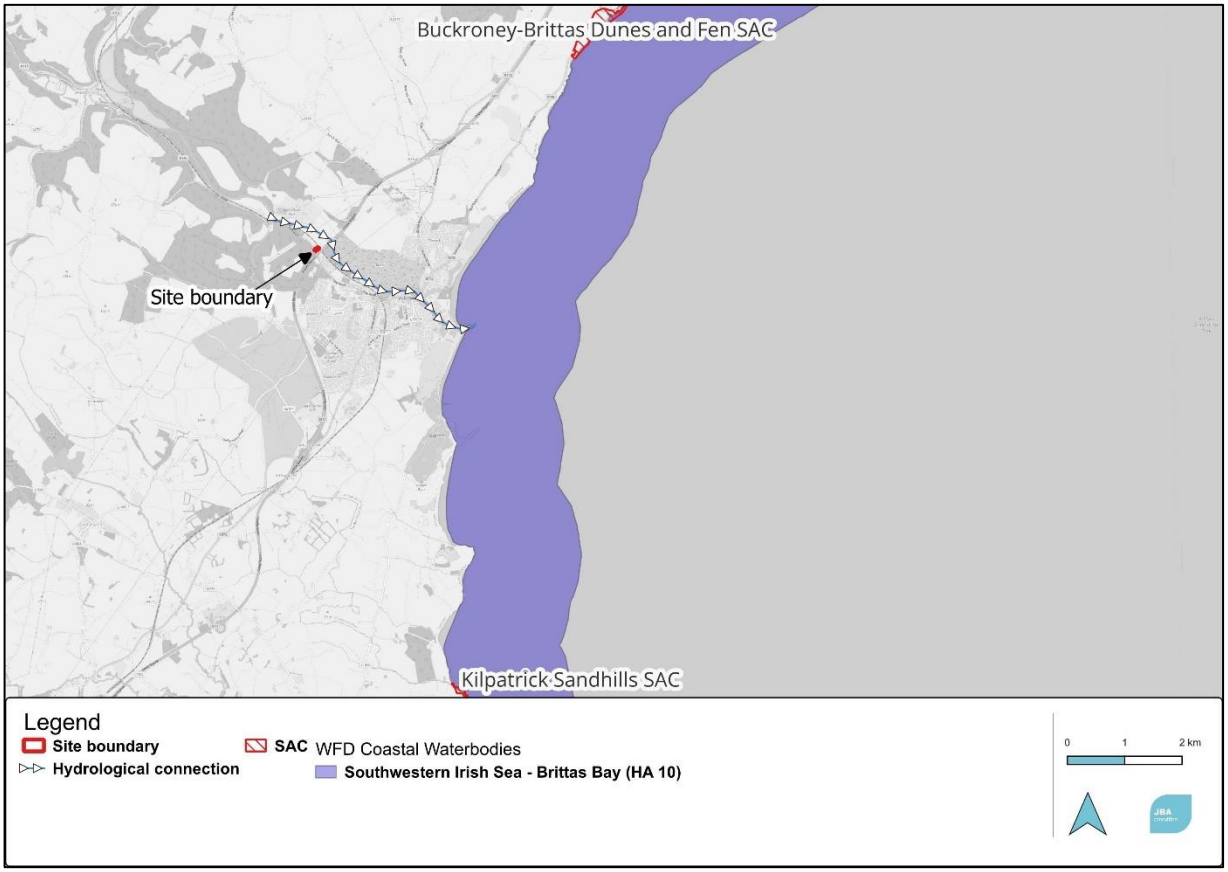


Figure 4-1: Natura 2000 sites (©OSM, 2025)

Table 4-2: Site briefs; QIs; and project-relevant threats /pressures and their impacts and sources to the Natura 2000 sites within the ZoI

| Site Name | Brief | Qualifying Interests | Project-relevant Threats / Pressures: Impact (Source) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Buckroney Brittas Dunes and Fen SAC | Buckroney-Brittas Dunes and Fen is a complex of coastal habitats located about 10 km south of Wicklow town. It comprises two main sand dune systems, Brittas Bay and Buckroney Dunes, connected on the coast by the rocky headland of Mizen Head. The dunes have cut off the outflow of a small river at Mizen Head and a fen, Buckroney Fen, has developed. An area of saline vegetation which conforms to 'Mediterranean salt meadows' occurs in the Buckroney dune system south of the inlet stream to the fen, and possibly in small areas elsewhere within the site.<br>The site is also notable for the presence, at the back of the dunes, of areas of decalcified dune heath, a rare habitat type, and one which is listed with priority status in the E.U. Habitats Directive.<br>This site contains two rare plant species protected under the Flora (Protection) Order, 1999: Wild Asparagus *Asparagus officinalis* subsp. *prostratus*, in its most northerly Irish station, and Meadow Saxifrage *Saxifraga granulata*. Other rare species which occur within the site include Green-flowered Helleborine *Epipactis phyllanthes*, Bird's-foot *Ornithopus perpusillus* and Spring Vetch *Vicia lathyroides*. All of these are Red Data Book species. The rare sedge hybrid *Carex riparia x C. vesicaria Carex x csomadensis* is only known from Mizen Head. | Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210]<br>Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220]<br>Mediterranean salt meadows *Juncetalia maritimi* [1410]<br>Embryonic shifting dunes [2110]<br>Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* (white dunes) [2120]<br>Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130]<br>Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes *Calluno-Ulicetea* [2150]<br>Dunes with *Salix repens* ssp. *argentea* (*Salicion arenariae)* [2170]<br>Humid dune slacks [2190]<br>Alkaline fens [7230]<br><br>(NPWS, 2017a) | Disposal of household / recreational facility waste:<br>Low (inside and outside)<br><br>Walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles:<br>Medium (inside and outside)<br><br>Vandalism:<br>Medium (inside and outside)<br><br>Discontinuous urbanisation:<br>Low (inside and outside)<br><br>Trampling, overuse:<br>High (inside and outside)<br><br>Camping and caravans:<br>Medium (outside)<br>(EEA, 2023) |

| Site Name | Brief | Qualifying Interests | Project-relevant Threats / Pressures: Impact (Source) |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Little Tern, a species listed on Annex I of the E.U. Birds Directive, has bred or attempted to breed at Buckroney strand in recent years. In 1992 between 7 and 10 pairs were present and in 1993 up to 8 pairs. Teal are regular in winter (119), as are Curlew (46), Lapwing (515) and Snipe (87). All figures are average peaks for 1994/95 - 1995/96.<br>(NPWS, 2013a) | | |
| Kilpatrick Sandhills SAC | Kilpatrick Sandhills are located about 8 km south of Arklow town, and just south of the Wicklow/Wexford County boundary. The site is comprised of a mosaic of coastal habitats but primarily a mature sand dune system which extends along 2 km of coastline.<br>The site is ecologically important as a good example of a mature and fairly intact sand dune system which shows the developmental stages of dunes from fore dunes to mature grey dunes. A good diversity of habitats and species are present. Fixed dunes and dune heath are priority habitats under Annex I of the E.U. Habitats Directive.<br>The Red Data Book species, Sea Stock *Matthiola sinuata*, has been observed among rocky crevices here in the past, but has not been recorded recently. The species is now thought to be extinct in Ireland.<br>(NPWS, 2013b) | Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210]<br>Embryonic shifting dunes [2110]<br>Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria (white dunes) [2120]<br>Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130]<br>Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes *Calluno-Ulicetea* [2150]<br><br>(NPWS, 2017b) | No project relevant threats / pressures<br><br>(EEA, 2020) |

# 5 Other Relevant Plans and Projects

## 5.1 Cumulative Effects

As part of the Screening for an Appropriate Assessment, in addition to the proposed works, other relevant plans and projects in the region that may induce cumulative impacts must be considered at this stage. These are listed in sub-sections below and are assessed with the proposed project in the Screening Assessment.

## 5.2 Plans

The following projects or plans were identified as potential sources of in-combination effects:

- County Wicklow Development Plan 2022-2028; and
- River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2022-2027.

### 5.2.1 County Wicklow Development Plan 2022-2028: Natura Impact Report (CAAS, 2022)

The Wicklow County Development Plan sets out an overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of County Wicklow. It consists of a written statement and plans and sets out policy and objectives to guide future development. The Plan outlines the Core Strategy, showing the development objectives within the development plan area. It provides for, and controls, the physical, economic and social development of the County, in the interests of the overall common good and in compliance with environmental controls. While the County Development Plan is in place for this six-year period, it is framed having regard to the long-term development objectives of the County beyond 2028 (Wicklow County Council, 2022).

Taking into account the mitigation measures incorporated into the Plan, it is concluded that the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 is not foreseen to give rise to any adverse effects on the integrity of any European Site, alone or in combination with other plans or projects. This evaluation is made in view of the conservation objectives of the habitats or species, for which these sites have been designated.

### 5.2.2 River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2022-2027

Ireland's third River Basin Management Plan for Ireland - 'Water Action Plan 2024: A River Basin Management Plan' (DHLGH, 2024) sets out the measures that are necessary to protect and restore water quality in Ireland. The overall aim of the plan is to ensure that our natural waters are sustainably managed and that freshwater resources are protected so as to maintain and improve Ireland's water environment. The 3rd cycle Catchment Reports were published in 2024. The Catchment Reports provide a summary of the water quality assessment outcomes for respective catchments, including status and risk categories, significant threats and pressures, details on protected areas and a comparison between cycle 2 and cycle 3.

The third cycle Catchment Report for the Ovoca-Vartry Catchment indicates that 69% of surface waterbodies were at 'Good' or 'High' ecological status, and 67% of groundwater bodies were at 'Good' status. The overall change in quality between Cycles 2 and 3 is positive. The number of water bodies valued at Bad ecological status is now at 1%, a decrease from 3%. There was an

increase in surface waterbodies valued at high ecological status increased from 11% to 14% between Cycles 2 and 3. There was no change in the number of surface waterbodies valued at good or poor ecological status remained unchanged between the two cycles. There was a 2% decline in the number of surface waterbodies valued at moderate ecological status, from 25% to 23% (Figure 5-1). The main significant pressures to surface waterbodies are urban run-off, historically polluted sites, forestry, and agriculture, followed by urban wastewater, domestic wastewater, and unknown pressures.

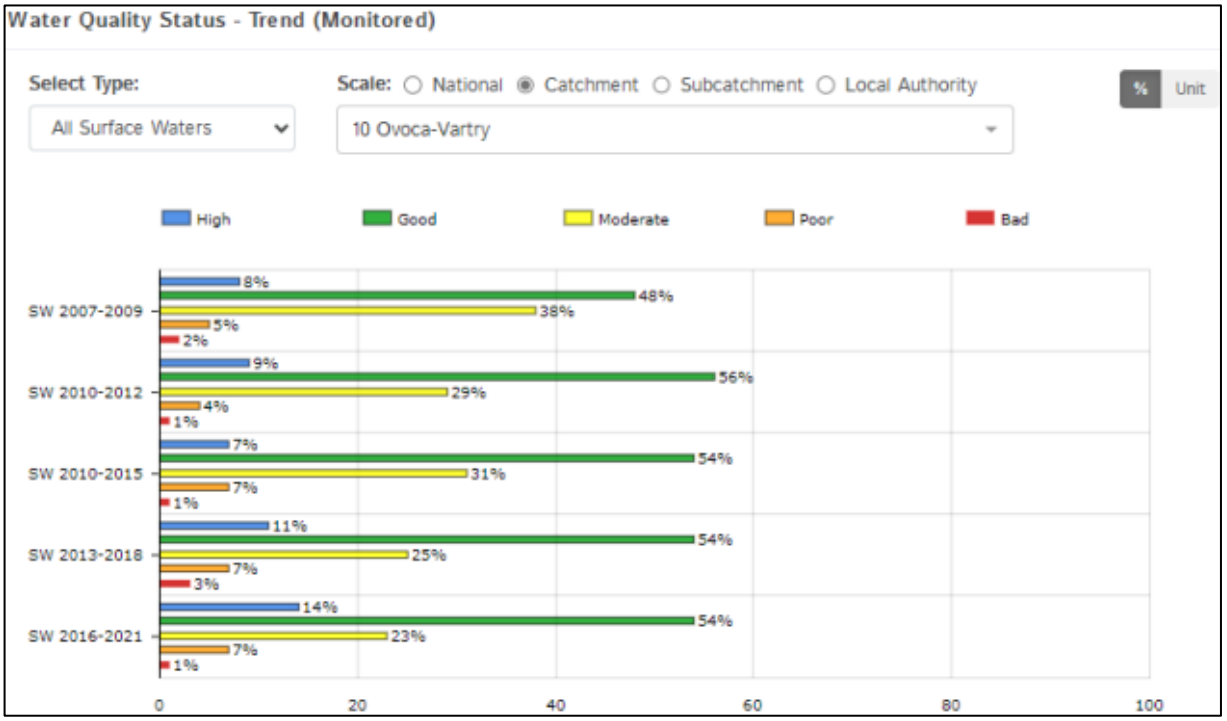


Figure 5-1: Changes in quality of river waterbodies in the Ovoca-Vartry catchment since 2007 (EPA, 2024)

## 5.3 Other Planning Applications

A search of planning applications that have been made in the last three years and within 2km of the proposed project was carried out. Applications for home extensions, internal alterations and retentions are not considered. The projects that could have in-combination effects with the proposed development are listed in Table 5-1 overleaf.

The Wicklow County Development Plan, River Basin Management Plan and other local projects are considered in combination with the currently proposed project in the Screening Assessment Section 6.6.3 below.

Table 5-1: Projects granted planning permission vicinity of proposed site

| Planning Reference | Address | Application Status | Decision Date | Summary of Development |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2372 | Avoca River Park, Arklow, Co. Wicklow | Granted (Conditional) | 25/7/2023 | The proposed development occupies part of the site of (and will supersede) a previously permitted data centre development under Reg. Ref. 20/1285. The proposed development, for which a ten-year permission is sought, consists of the following: Demolition of the existing structures on site (industrial structures and outbuildings) and site clearance works; construction of 3 no. three storey information and communication technology (ICT) facility buildings, each with a gross floor area (GFA) of c. 16,206 sq.m (c. 48,618sq.m GFA in total), and with a parapet height of c. 19.5 metres; each of the 3 no. ICT buildings will accommodate ICT equipment rooms, mechanical equipment rooms, staff welfare facilities, ancillary office space, security rooms, storage, and loading bays; a customer compound, a power trunk building, a transformer compound and a water tank compound area are provided to the north of the ICT facility buildings; the development includes the extension of the existing road and serving the existing industrial park to access the subject site, with gated access points to the proposed ICT facility development to be provided off this roadway; construction of internal road network and circulation areas, footpaths, provision of 124 no. car parking spaces and motorcycle and cycle parking spaces; landscaping and planting, boundary treatments, lighting, security fencing, and all associated site works including underground foul and storm water drainage network, attenuation and percolation areas, and utility cable (including connections to the substation permitted under ABP Ref. 310090-21, resulting in the partial culverting of an existing drainage ditch), on an application site area measuring c. 9.69 hectares. An Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) has been prepared and will be submitted to the Planning Authority with the planning application |

| Planning Reference | Address | Application Status | Decision Date | Summary of Development |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 23843 | Avoca River Park, Arklow, Co. Wicklow | Granted (Conditional) | 28/3/2024 | Proposed development. The proposed development includes an amendment to the development permitted under Reg. Ref. 21/1080, The proposed development will consist of the following to facilitate the above. Demolition of the existing structures on the western part of the site that comprises 4 no. industrial commercial buildings, an associated hut / outbuilding, a gas enclosure, and a tank with bund wall. The removal of the remains of a previously demolished building, areas of hard standing, and existing surface treatments. The relocation of the Energy Centre 1 to the western part of the site, which will supersede the previously permitted 110kV GIS substation compound at that location under ABP Ref: VA27.309252. The proposed development will provide for a revised energy centre design, to include the provision of 8 no. gas turbines (with associated flues of 25.15m in height), 4 no. black start emergency generators and associated transformers, 2 no. single storey fuel oil pump rooms with a gross floor area (GFA) of 90.17sq.m, a single storey air compressor building with a GFA of 88.9sq.m, 4 no. fuel tanks, 2 no. MCC control rooms with a GFA of 44.17sq.m, 3 no. fire water tanks, a single storey welfare, storage, and pump room building with a combined GFA of 160.97 sq.m, a two storey MV /LV building with a GFA of 655.54sq.m, 8 no. 11kV/ 33kV step-up transformers in the north of the site, water treatment equipment, and a security hut, all within a fenced compound. The proposed development includes landscaping and planting, boundary treatments, lighting, security fencing, car parking, and all site works including underground foul and storm water drainage network (including on-site wastewater treatment system), and utility cables, along with all associated and ancillary works. An EPA- Industrial Emissions Directive (IED) licence will be applied for to facilitate the operation of the proposed development |
| 211080 | Avoca River Park, Arklow, Co. Wicklow | Granted (Conditional) | 15/6/2022 | Full ten-year planning permission for development on this site located at Avoca River Park, Arklow, Co. Wicklow. The proposed development is to be located within the townlands of Shelton Abbey and Marsh. The site is bound to the west by the site of a permitted data storage facility development (permitted under Reg. Ref.: 201285), to the north by the access road to Avoca River Park, to the south by undeveloped lands and to the east by undeveloped lands beyond which is the M11 motorway. The proposed development consists of the following: •All site clearance and enabling works required to facilitate the development. •Construction of 2 no. energy centre buildings (Energy Centre 1 and Energy Centre 2) each with a height to parapet level of c. 13.85 metres. •Energy Centre 1 will comprise a gross floor area (GFA) of 5,965 sq.m. within a single storey building and will accommodate 12 no. generators. 4 no. |

| Planning Reference | Address | Application Status | Decision Date | Summary of Development |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | flues 33 metres in height will be accommodated along with south-western elevation of the building. •Energy Centre 2 will comprise a GFA of 9,180 sq.m. within a single storey building and will accommodate 18 no. generators. 6 no. flues 33 metres in height will be accommodated along the south-western elevation of the building. •Construction of a battery compound to provide electricity storage and backup power, located to the northeast of Energy Centre 2, to comprise 27 no. battery arrays within a compound area of c. 0.7 hectares. A single storey MV switch-room building (c. 181 sq.m. GFA) will be provided to the west of the battery compound. •Provision of a transformer compound (to the northwest of Energy Centre 1), along with a welfare building (c.38 sq.m. GFA).•Provision of fuel storage tanks (2 no.) within a bunded compound to the north of Energy Centre 2.•Construction of a new access from the existing estate access road to the north of the site, internal road network and circulation areas, footpaths, provision of 6 no. car parking spaces and 4 no. cycle parking spaces. •Landscaping and planting, boundary treatments, lighting, security fencing and all associated ancillary and site works including underground foul and storm water drainage network (including on-site wastewater treatment system) and utility cables |
| 23756 | Kilbride, Arklow, Co.Wicklow | Granted (Conditional) | 5/4/2024 | 86 no. residential units with a mix of detached, semi-detached, terraced houses and duplex apartments ranging in height from 2 to 3 storeys; comprising of 8 no. 1-bed and 8 no. 2-bed duplex apartments, 10 no. 2-bed houses and 60 no. 3-bed houses; all residential units will have associated private open spaces facing north/south/east/west; alterations to Kilbride Road (L6179) to provide a section of the new road into the wider Kilbride Masterplan lands with vehicular, pedestrian and cycle access provided; a new dedicated pedestrian and cyclist access will also be provided to the south-east of the development connecting via the Marshland's sports club lands, and through Avondale Crescent to the Dublin Road; landscaping, public open spaces and all associated site development works to enable the development including boundary treatments, attenuation storage area and other service provision |
| 22213 | Kilbride Educational Campus, Kilbride, Arklow | Granted (Conditional) | 12/8/2022 | Construction of a new educational campus and a new link road that will servce the school campus which will include the provision of two school buildings. Gaelscoil an Imbhir Mhóir a two-storey, 16 classrooms primary school with two special needs rooms and ancillary spaces with total floor of circa 3093sqm serving 480 pupils. Gaelshólaiste na Mara a three-storey, post primary school with two special needs rooms, PE hall and ancillary spaces with a total floor area of circa 6585sqm serving 400 pupils. Proposed site works to include the construction of all new hard play areas, |

| Planning Reference | Address | Application Status | Decision Date | Summary of Development |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | six play-courts, grass pitch, 182 no. car-parking spaces together with boundary treatment, 79 bicycle stands, ancillary infrastructure works, pedestrian links and landscaping. |
| 22433 | Killiniskyduff, Tiknock, Kilbride | Granted (Conditional) | 16/6/2022 | The installation of underground electrical infrastructure between the existing Arklow Gas-insulated Switchgear (GIS) 220kV Substation and the permitted Pollahoney GIS Substation. This will include the installation of approximately two underground electricity cable circuits, each at 3.12km in length and associated underground ducting, horizontal directional drilling, joint bays, communication cabling infrastructure between the existing Arklow GIS 220kV Substation and the permitted Pollahoney GIS substation, (WCC reg ref 20/1285). All associate and ancillary site development, remedial and construction works will be concentrated along the public road network, i.e. R772, L2180, L6179-0 and L-61791-0 to facilitate the underground cabling infrastructure within the townlands of Killinskyduff, Tiknock, Kilbride and Shelton Abbey. The application will include an Environmental Impact Assessment Screening Report (EIA) |
| 2484 | Upper Main Street, Arklow, Co. Wicklow | Granted (Conditional) | 23/02/2024 | Demolition of existing derelict buildings (1292 sqm); construction of 99 residential units comprising 59 no. apartments with four blocks, ranging in height from 4 to 7 storeys (7 no. 1 bed units, 42 no. 2 bed units and 10 no. 3 bed units) and 40 no. 3 storey houses (20 no. 4 bed units); construction of a 350 sqm mixed use building of four storeys containing 350 sqm of retail space at ground floor and residential units above; refurbishment, extension and change of use from a derelict two storey house to a 146.3 sqm creche; refurbishment of the former Ormonde Cinema (Record of Protected Structure Ref. A39) for commercial use comprising 322.5 sqm office at first floor and 32 sqm office, 181 sqm lounge/café and 59 sqm café uses at ground floor; relocation of a Victorian letterbox (Record of Protected Structure Ref. A40) within the scheme; provision of public open space including a new amphitheatre, a new plaza, communal and private open space; provision of internal access roads with vehicular, pedestrian and cyclist access and new vehicular access onto Upper Main Street; 169 no. car parking spaces and 196 no. bicycle parking spaces provided at basement and surface level; realignment of Coomie Lane to create a new pedestrian links between Vale Road, Upper Main Street and the River Avoca walkway; all associated and ancillary site development works above and below ground, including signage, 2 no. ESB substations, alteration to existing landscape features, play area, sculpture, retaining walls, clearance works, landscaping, excavation, bin stores, boundary treatments and services provision |

| Planning Reference | Address | Application Status | Decision Date | Summary of Development |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2360032 | Arklow CBS , Coolgreaney Road , Arklow | Granted (Conditional) | 04/05/2023 | Demolition of the existing two-storey school building and single-storey extensions (c. 2570 sq.m) and removal of temporary classrooms on site (c. 120 sq.m); construction of a three-storey school building (c. 7535 sq.m) including general and specialist classrooms, a special education needs (SEN) unit, offices, general purpose hall, PE hall, fitness suite, staff room, library, social spaces, sanitary facilities and ancillary spaces with solar photovoltaic panels at roof level; upgrading of the existing vehicular entrance to the sports pitch and the creation of a new vehicular entrance on Coolgreaney Road to provide dedicated vehicular entrance and exit points as part of a new one-way traffic system through the site; removal of the existing main vehicular entrance and provision of a new pedestrian/cyclist entrance on Coolgreaney Road; provision of a car set-down area within the school grounds and construction of a 56m bus set-down area along Coolgreaney Road; provision of a new pedestrian/cyclist access from John Paul Avenue; removal of 32 no. existing car parking spaces and provision of 70 no. car parking spaces including 1 no electric vehicle parking space and 4 no. accessible parking spaces; provision of 100 no. sheltered bicycle parking spaces; provision of external play and amenity areas including a SEN play area and 3 no. multi-use game areas; provision of landscaping, boundary treatment, site lighting, provision of a covered work area, bin stores and storage shelters; provision of associated drainage, attenuation and other site services including an ESB substation and switch room (c. 25 sq.m); and all related site development works. |
| 211218 | Heatherside, Vale Road, Yardland Td | Granted | 13/01/2022 | Extend the appropriate period of 08/610066 - residential development comprising a creche; 185 houses with 4 house types; 8 duplex units over 8 apartments; new access/relief road and infrastructure linking Vale Road to Lamberton Avenue; all services and ancillary site development works; relocation of part of existing overhead ESB lines; with temporary effluent treatment plant and sewerage pumping station at Yardland Td |

# 6 Screening Assessment

## 6.1 Introduction

This screening exercise will focus on assessing the likely adverse effects of the project on the Natura 2000 site identified in Section 4 above.

This section identifies the potential likely significant effects which may arise as result of the proposed project. It then goes on to identify how these impacts could potentially impact on the Natura 2000 sites. The significance of likely effects is also assessed, with any potential in-combination effects also identified.

The Natura 2000 sites to be assessed are:

- Buckroney-Brittas Dunes and Fen SAC; and
- Kilpatrick Sandhills SAC.

## 6.2 Assessment Criteria

### 6.2.1 Description of the individual elements of the project (either alone or in combination with other plans or project) likely to give rise to impacts on the Natura 2000 sites

Potential adverse impacts that could cause a significant effect on the QIs of the Natura 2000 sites, during the construction and operational phases of the project, will impact on the sites via surface water pathways, groundwater pathways and land and air pathways. Surface water pathways can impact on surface water quality and surface water dependent habitats and species. Groundwater pathways can impact on groundwater quality and quality of groundwater dependent habitats and species. Land and air pathways can impact by direct physical disturbance and dust or other air-based emissions.

The proposed project is not anticipated to have likely significant effects on the QIs of the Buckroney-Brittas Dunes and Fen SAC; and Kilpatrick Sandhills SAC. The rationale for excluding specific impacts via the main pathways is given in more detail in the following sub-sections.

### 6.2.2 Surface Water pathways

#### 6.2.2.1 Construction Phase

The proposed site is located within the Avoca_SC_010 Sub Catchment, within the Avoca-Vartry Catchment. The site shares its catchment with both of the identified Natura 2000 sites, Buckroney-Brittas Dunes and Fen SAC and Kilpatrick Sandhills SAC. The Avoca_030 watercourse is located 200m to the northeast of the proposed site. This watercourse flows directly into the Avoca Estuary WFD Transitional Waterbody which is located 950m to the southeast of the site, which flows into the Southwestern Irish Sea – Brittas Bay (HA 10) WFD Coastal Waterbody, located 2.5km to the east of the site.

There is no direct hydrological connection between the Avoca_030 watercourse and the proposed site. Furthermore, any surface runoff pollutants from the site would have to traverse a considerable buffer of 200m of scrub and woodland cover to reach this watercourse. Moreover, surface water pollutants would then have to travel a further 1.3km downstream, where they would likely undergo a significant degree of dilution, to reach the Avoca estuary WFD Transitional Waterbody. This waterbody flows into the Southwestern Irish Sea – Brittas Bay (HA 10) WFD Coastal Waterbody. Any pollutants entering this waterbody would likely have been diluted to non-deleterious levels.

#### 6.2.2.2 Operational Phase

The operational phase of the proposed project is not anticipated to impact surface water run-off as there will be only minor changes to the existing surface water and foul water drainage network. The additionally surface water drainage will drain into a Soakway, and the new foul water sewers will connect with an existing septic tank located in the east of the site.

**Therefore, likely significant effects via surface water pathways during the construction and operational phases are not anticipated for the Natura 2000 sites within the ZoI.**

### 6.2.3 Groundwater

#### 6.2.3.1 Construction Phase

The project site is located within the Wicklow groundwater body and shares this groundwater body both of the identified Natura 2000 sites, Buckroney-Brittas Dunes and Fen SAC and Kilpatrick Sandhills SAC. The site has 'Low' subsoil permeability, with the underlying aquifer having 'Moderate' aquifer vulnerability. The aquifer within the underlying bedrock is considered to be Locally Important Aquifer - Bedrock which is Moderately Productive only in Local Zones (GSI, 2024). The aquifer has a limited and relatively poorly connected network of fractures, fissures and joints, giving a low fissure permeability which tends to decrease further with depth. Due to the significant distance between the site and the Natura 2000 sites, impacts via the groundwater pathway are not anticipated.

A surface-groundwater connection exists with the Avoca_030 watercourse and any pollutants entering the groundwater body on site are likely to discharge directly into this watercourse. The Avoca_030 drains into the Avoca Estuary transitional waterbody which flows into the Southwestern Irish Sea – Brittas Bay (HA 10) WFD Coastal Waterbody. This waterbody is connected with the Buckroney-Brittas Dunes and Fen SAC and Kilpatrick Sandhills SAC Natura 2000 sites. However, any pollutants entering Avoca_030 via the groundwater pathway would likely have undergone a degree of dilution having travelled a minimum distance of 200m. These would further dilute upon entering this watercourse, and subsequently in the Avoca Estuary, being reduced to non-deleterious levels upon entry to the Southwestern Irish Sea – Brittas Bay (HA 10) WFD Coastal Waterbody. Furthermore, given the scope and scale of the proposed development, significant volumes of potential pollutants are not anticipated to be present on site.

**Therefore, given the small scale of the project, and the low subsoil permeability, significant impacts to the Natura 2000 sites via the groundwater pathway are not anticipated during the construction phase.**

#### 6.2.3.2 Operational Phase

During the operational phase, the surface water will drain into a Soakway and the foul water will drain into a septic tank, both of which are located to the east of the site. The Soakway and septic tank are buried and are groundwater associated. In the event of a leakage from the Soakway or the septic tank, pollutants may reach the Avoca_030 watercourse, which drains into the Avoca Estuary transitional waterbody which flows into the Southwestern Irish Sea – Brittas Bay (HA 10) WFD Coastal Waterbody. This waterbody is connected with the Buckroney-Brittas Dunes and Fen SAC and Kilpatrick Sandhills SAC Natura 2000 sites. However, any pollutants entering Avoca_030 via the groundwater pathway would likely have undergone a degree of dilution having travelled a minimum distance of 200m. These would further dilute upon entering this watercourse, and subsequently in the Avoca Estuary, being reduced to non-deleterious levels upon entry to the Southwestern Irish Sea – Brittas Bay (HA 10) WFD Coastal Waterbody. Furthermore, given the scale of the proposed project, significant levels of pollution are not anticipated to be generated during the site's operational phase. **Therefore, given the small scale of the project, and distance between the site and the Natura 2000 sites, significant impacts via the groundwater pathway to the Natura 2000 sites are not anticipated during either the construction or operational phase.**

### 6.2.4 Land Impact Pathways

The loss or degradation of supporting habitats within and outside the identified Natura 2000 sites via direct land-based impacts (e.g., physical habitat disturbance and/or loss) could have potential adverse impacts on a number of the QIs associated with these Natura 2000 sites. The habitats present on site are not associated with any of the QIs of the Buckroney-Brittas Dunes and Fen SAC and Kilpatrick Sandhills SAC Natura 2000 sites, which consist largely of coastal habitats.

**Therefore, likely significant effects via land impact are not anticipated during the construction and operational phases of the proposed project.**

### 6.2.5 Air Impact Pathways

The disturbance or environmental degradation of supporting habitats outside the identified Natura 2000 sites via air pollution impacts could have potential significant effects on a number of the QIs associated with these Natura 2000 sites.

#### 6.2.5.1 Visual and Audible Disturbance (QI Species)

The disturbance or environmental degradation of supporting habitats outside the identified Natura 2000 sites via air pollution impacts could have potential significant effects on a number of the QIs associated with these Natura 2000 sites. However, no QI habitats were identified within the vicinity of the site during the site visit. Furthermore, given the QIs of the Buckroney-Brittas Dunes and Fen SAC and Kilpatrick Sandhills SAC Natura 2000 sites consist largely of coastal habitats, disturbance to any supporting habitats is not anticipated as no coastal habitat is located within the 400m disturbance buffer.

**Therefore, during the construction and operational phases of the proposed project, likely significant effects via the air (disturbance) impact pathway are not anticipated.**

6.2.5.2 Air Pollution (Emissions and Dust)

The ZoI for the air quality impact assessment will include all sensitive ecological receptors (QIs and supporting habitats) within a distance of 250m of the proposed project during the construction phase.

**Air (Chemical emissions)**

Vehicle emissions can potentially impact the QIs of the Natura 2000 sites within the ZoI. There will be a small increase in local traffic attending the site of the proposed development during construction, resulting in an increase in local NOx emissions, however, vehicular emissions are not anticipated to significantly impact the Natura 2000 sites due to the distance between proposed development and Natura 2000 sites during sites construction and operational phases.

**Therefore, likely significant effects from vehicular emissions via the air pathway are not anticipated during the construction and operational phases for the Natura 2000 sites and their respective QIs.**

**Air (Dust settlement)**

Dust particles can be classified into those that are easily deposited and those that remain suspended in the air for extended periods. This division is useful as deposited dust is usually the coarse fraction of particulates that causes dust annoyance, whereas suspended particulate matter is implicated more in exposure impacts. Airborne particles have a broad range of diameters, from nano-particles and ultrafine particles (diameters less than 0.1 microns (μm) to the very large particles with diameters up towards 100μm. There is no clear dividing line between the sizes of suspended particulates and deposited particulates, although particles with diameters >50μm tend to be deposited quickly and particles of diameter <10 μm (PM10) have an extremely low deposition rate in comparison. Therefore, the size of suspended and deposited dust particles affects their distribution and as such requires different approaches to sampling these fractions. PM10 is the fraction of airborne (suspended) particulates which contains particles of diameter less than 10μm. PM2.5 is the fraction of airborne (suspended) particulates which contains particles of diameter less than 2.5μm. PM10 is most commonly associated with road dust and construction activities. Wear and tear of brakes and tyres on vehicles and crushing activities at construction sites can all contribute to a rise in PM10. Larger particles (100μm diameter) are likely to settle within 5-10m of their source under a typical mean wind speed of 4-5 metres per second (m/s), and particles between 30-100 μm diameter are likely to settle within 100m of the source. Smaller particles, particularly those<10 μm in diameter, i.e., PM10, have a greater potential to have their settling rate impeded by atmospheric turbulence and to be transported further from their source. Dust emissions are exacerbated by dry weather and high wind speeds. The impact of dust, therefore, also depends on the wind direction and the relative location of the dust source and receptor. The prevailing wind in the development's locality is south-westerly (Windfinder.com, 2025). While dust will be blown towards the Avoca_030 stream and the Southwestern Irish Sea – Brittas Bay (HA 10) WFD Coastal Waterbody, given the scale of the works involved in this development, notable volumes of dust are not anticipated to enter these watercourses. Furthermore, any dust that did enter these waterbodies would likely dilute to non-deleterious levels before reaching either of the Natura 2000 sites.

**Therefore, due to the scale of the proposed development, likely significant effects via the air (dust) pathway are not anticipated during the construction and operational phases for the Natura 2000 sites and their respective QIs.**

### 6.2.6 Cumulative Impact

As the proposed project is not anticipated to have a likely significant effect on QIs of the Natura 2000 sites within the ZoI; the likelihood for other plans or projects to act in combination with the proposed project to result in likely significant effects on Natura 2000 sites is greatly reduced. Further to this, as no notable impacts are anticipated along the main impact pathways, the capacity of the proposed project to act in combination or cumulatively with a series of other LSE sub-threshold developments is also not anticipated.

## 6.3 Summary

Due to the location of the proposed site and the small scale of the works, the proposed project is not anticipated to have a likely significant effect via surface water, groundwater, groundwater-to-surface water, and land and air pathways to any Natura 2000 sites within the ZoI.

### 6.3.1 Description of likely direct, indirect, or secondary impacts of the project (either alone or in combination with other plans and projects) on the Natura 2000 sites

| Project Elements | Comment | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Size and scale | The proposed project includes the construction of one three-bedroom and one two-bedroom houses, and the extension of an existing access road to site. | | |
| Land-take | There will be no direct land take from any Natura 2000 sites. | | |
| Distance from Natura 2000 sites or key features of the site | **Natura 2000 site** | **Approximate direct distance** | **Approximate hydrological distance** |
| | Buckroney-Brittas Dunes and Fen SAC | 5.5km | 8.5km indirect connection via surface and groundwater pathways |
| | Kilpatrick Sandhills SAC | 8km | 9.7km indirect connection via surface and groundwater pathways |
| Resource requirements (water abstraction etc.) | There will be no surface water nor groundwater abstraction on-site during operations. | | |
| Emissions (disposal to land, water or air) | **Construction Phase:**<br>**Water**<br><br>The proposed development does not have a direct hydrological link to the Natura 2000 sites, Buckroney-Brittas Dunes and Fen SAC and Kilpatrick Sandhills SAC. The Avoca_030 watercourse is located within 200m of the site and flows into the Southwestern Irish Sea – Brittas Bay (HA 10) WFD | | |

| Project Elements | Comment |
|---|---|
| | Coastal Waterbody via the Avoca Estuary WFD Transitional Waterbody. There is no direct connection between the site and the Avoca_030 watercourse. Any surface runoff pollutants from the site would have to traverse 200m of railway and woodland cover to reach this watercourse. Surface water pollutants would then have to travel a further 1.3km downstream, where they would likely undergo a significant degree of dilution and reduced to non-deleterious levels, to reach the Avoca estuary WFD Transitional Waterbody. This waterbody flows into the Southwestern Irish Sea – Brittas Bay (HA 10) WFD Coastal Waterbody. Any pollutants entering this waterbody would likely have been diluted to non-deleterious levels.<br><br>**Air**<br>Due to the scale of the proposed development and the distance from the proposed site to the Natura 2000 sites, likely significant effects via the air pathway (dust, emissions and disturbance) are not anticipated during the construction phase for the Natura 2000 sites and their respective QIs / SCIs.<br><br>**Operation Phase:**<br>**Water**<br><br>During the operational phase, the surface water will drain into a soakway and the foul water will drain into a septic tank, both of which are located to the east of the site. In the event of a leakage, pollutants may reach the Avoca_030 watercourse, which drains into the Avoca Estuary transitional waterbody which flows into the Southwestern Irish Sea – Brittas Bay (HA 10) WFD Coastal Waterbody. This waterbody is connected with the Buckroney-Brittas Dunes and Fen SAC and Kilpatrick Sandhills SAC Natura 2000 sites. However, any pollutants entering Avoca_030 via the groundwater pathway would likely have undergone a degree of dilution having travelled a minimum distance of 200m. These would further dilute upon entering this watercourse, and subsequently in the Avoca Estuary, being reduced to non-deleterious levels upon entry to the Southwestern Irish Sea – Brittas Bay (HA 10) WFD Coastal Waterbody. Furthermore, given the scale of the proposed project, significant levels of pollution are not anticipated to be generated during the site's operational phase.<br><br>**Air**<br><br>Air-based operational emissions from the proposed development are not anticipated to impact the QIs of the Natura 2000 sites within the ZoI. |
| Excavation requirements | The maximum expected excavation depth is 1m. |

| Project Elements | Comment |
|---|---|
| Transportation requirements | **Transportation requirements**<br><br>**Temporary Impacts:**<br><br>Levels of traffic to the site during the construction and operational phase will increase traffic to the site due to construction-based vehicles. Given the size and scale of the proposed project, and the distance between the site and the Natura 2000 sites, transportation requirements are not anticipated to affect the Natura 2000 sites and their respective QIs.<br><br>**Permanent Impacts:**<br><br>Given the scale of the proposed project, transportation requirements will not negatively impact the Natura 2000 sites identified within the ZoI. |
| Duration of construction, operation, decommissioning etc. | Construction is anticipated to take 1 year. The operation is anticipated to be permanent. |

### 6.3.2 Description of likely changes to the Natura 2000 sites

| Potential Impact | Comments |
|---|---|
| Reduction of habitat area | There will be no temporary or permanent reduction in habitat area (including supporting ex-situ habitats) for any of the Natura 2000 sites. |
| Disturbance to key species | **Temporary Impacts**<br>The construction works will temporarily increase the noise level and disturbance locally.<br>**Permanent Impacts**<br>No disturbance to key species is anticipated during operation of the project. |
| Habitat or species fragmentation | There will be no temporary or permanent habitat or species fragmentation within any Natura 2000 sites. |
| Reduction in species density | There will be no temporary or permanent reduction in species density within any Natura 2000 sites, or any QIs of these sites. |
| Changes in key indicators of conservation value (water quality etc.) | There will be no temporary changes in key indicators of conservation value, specifically surface water quality. |

| Potential Impact | Comments |
|---|---|
| Climate change | N/A |

### 6.3.3 Description of likely impacts to the Natura 2000 sites as a whole

| Potential Impact | Comments |
|---|---|
| Interference with the key relationships that define the structure of the site | Interference with the key relationships that define the structure of the sites are not anticipated. |
| Interference with key relationships that define the function of the site | Interference with the key relationships that define the structure of the sites are not anticipated. |

Provide indicators of significance as a result of identification of effects set out above in terms of:

| Potential Impact | Indicators |
|---|---|
| Loss (Estimated percentage of lost area of habitat) | No Natura 2000 sites will experience a direct loss in habitat area. |
| Fragmentation | Fragmentation of habitat and/or species is not anticipated. |
| Disruption & disturbance | Disruption and/ or disturbance is not anticipated for QI species in Natura 2000 sites or supporting ex-situ foraging habitats. |
| Change to key elements of the site (e.g., water quality etc.) | Potential temporary changes to key elements, e.g., water quality, are not anticipated. |

### 6.3.4 Describe from the above elements of the project or plan, or combination of elements, where the above impacts are likely to be significant or where the scale or magnitude of impacts is known.

Based upon best scientific judgement, no likely significant effects are expected from the elements mentioned above; and there are no elements where the scale or magnitude of impacts is unknown.

## 6.4 Conclusion

In carrying out this AA screening, mitigation measures have not been taken into account.

**On the basis of the screening exercise carried out above, it can be concluded that the possibility of any significant impacts on any Natura 2000 sites, whether arising from the project itself or in combination with other plans and projects, can be excluded beyond a reasonable scientific doubt on the basis of the best scientific knowledge available. Therefore, a Stage 2 Natura Impact Statement and appropriate mitigation is not required should this project proceed.**

**If any changes occur in the design of these works, a new Screening for Appropriate Assessment is required.**

# A Site Layout

1


Vale Rd

AJ

AJ

AJ

AJ

To Septic Tank and Soakway

MH EXISTING
Cl6.91

NEW MH
Cl7.45

NEW MH
Cl8.26

Space for Caravan

Drainage Legend

Proposed $\frac{100}{225}$
Foul Sewer

Propsoed 225mm
Surface Water

Exsiting Foul 100mm

| REV: | DATE: | DRN BY: | DESCRIPTION |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | |

REVISIONS:

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

HOUSING CONSTRUCTION
COUNTY BUILDINGS
WICKLOW
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www.wicklow.ie

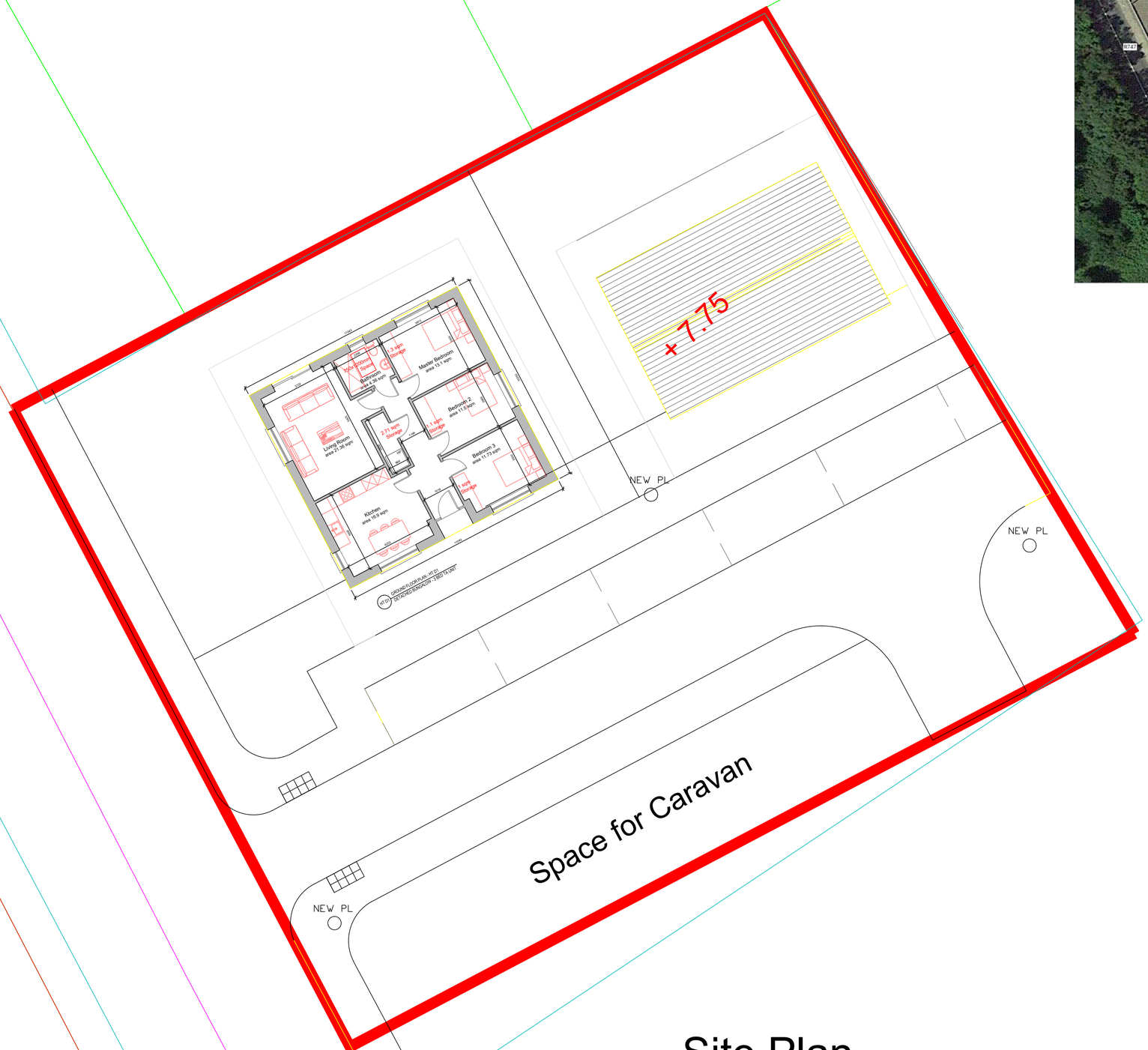
JOB:
VALE RD
ARKLOW
CO.WICKLOW

TITLE:
PROPOSED
SITE LAYOUT
SOCIAL HOUSING

| | |
|---|---|
| SCALE: 1:250 | Date: 03.03.25 |
| DWG NO: WCC- | Drawn SK |
| SHEET SIZE A1 | Checked - |
| STATUS: PART8 | REV - |

DO NOT SCALE - USE FIGURED DIMENSION ONLY - ALL DIMENSIONS TO BE CHECKED ON SITE - ORIGINAL SIZE - A1

# B Drainage Plans


# Site Plan Scale 1:250

## Public Lighting Legend

6m High Lamp Pole

PL

| REV: | DATE: | DRN BY: | DESCRIPTION |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | |

REVISIONS :

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

HOUSING CONSTRUCTION
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TEL:0404 - 20100
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JOB: VALERD
ARKLOW
CO.WICKLOW

TITLE: PROPOSED
SITE LAYOUT
SOCIAL HOUSING

| | |
|---|---|
| SCALE: 1:250 | Date: 03.03.25 |
| DWG NO: WCC- | Drawn SK |
| SHEET SIZE: A1 | Checked - |
| STATUS: PART8 | REV - |

DO NOT SCALE – USE FIGURED DIMENSION ONLY – ALL DIMENSIONS TO BE CHECKED ON SITE – ORIGINAL SIZE – A1

# C NBDC Records (2025)

| Species name | Date of last record | Designation |
|---|---|---|
| **Amphibian** | | |
| Common Frog<br>*Rana temporaria* | 15/05/2018 | EU Habitats Directive >> Annex V<br>Protected Species: Wildlife Acts |
| **Birds** | | |
| Barn Owl<br>*Tyto alba* | 02/02/2023 | Protected Species: Wildlife Acts<br>Birds of Conservation Concern - Red List |
| Barn Swallow<br>*Hirundo rustica* | 14/04/2021 | Protected Species: Wildlife Acts<br>Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List |
| Black-headed Gull<br>*Larus ridibundus* | 01/02/2021 | Protected Species: Wildlife Acts<br>Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List |
| Common Kingfisher<br>*Alcedo atthis* | 28/07/2020 | Protected Species: Wildlife Acts<br>EU Birds Directive >> Annex I<br>Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List |
| Common Pheasant<br>*Phasianus colchicus* | 26/08/2017 | Protected Species: Wildlife Acts<br>EU Birds Directive >> Annex II, III |
| Common Starling<br>*Sturnus vulgaris* | 01/02/2021 | Protected Species: Wildlife Acts<br>Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List |
| Common Swift<br>*Apus apus* | 09/05/2019 | Protected Species: Wildlife Acts<br>Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List |
| Common Wood Pigeon<br>*Columba palumbus* | 01/09/2021 | Protected Species: Wildlife Acts<br>EU Birds Directive >> Annex II, III |
| Great Black-backed Gull<br>*Larus marinus* | 17/06/2020 | Protected Species: Wildlife Acts |

| Species name | Date of last record | Designation |
|---|---|---|
| Great Cormorant<br>*Phalacrocorax carbo* | 01/02/2021 | Protected Species: Wildlife Acts<br>Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List |
| Herring Gull<br>*Larus argentatus* | 01/02/2021 | Protected Species: Wildlife Acts<br>Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List |
| House Sparrow<br>*Passer domesticus* | 13/01/2021 | Protected Species: Wildlife Acts<br>Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List |
| Lesser Black-backed Gull<br>*Larus fuscus* | 17/06/2020 | Protected Species: Wildlife Acts<br>Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List |
| Little Egret<br>*Egretta garzetta* | 17/06/2020 | Protected Species: Wildlife Acts<br>EU Birds Directive >> Annex I Bird Species |
| Mallard<br>*Anas platyrhynchos* | 01/02/2021 | Protected Species: Wildlife Acts<br>EU Birds Directive >> Annex II, III |
| Mediterranean Gull<br>*Larus melanocephalus* | 08/02/2020 | Protected Species: Wildlife<br>EU Birds Directive >> Annex I<br>Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List |
| Mew Gull<br>*Larus canus* | 17/06/2020 | Protected Species: Wildlife Acts<br>Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List |
| Mute Swan<br>*Cygnus olor* | 17/06/2020 | Protected Species: Wildlife Acts<br>Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List |
| Red Kite<br>*Milvus milvus* | 24/06/2022 | Protected Species: Wildlife Acts<br>Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List |
| Sand Martin<br>*Riparia riparia* | 01/04/2018 | Protected Species: Wildlife Acts<br>Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List |
| **Insects** | | |
| Large Red Tailed Bumble Bee<br>*Bombus (Melanobombus) lapidarius* | 08/08/2021 | Threatened Species: Near threatened |

| Species name | Date of last record | Designation |
|---|---|---|
| **Liverwort** | | |
| Endive Pellia<br>*Pellia endiviifolia* | 19/10/2019 | Threatened Species: Least concern |
| **Mollusc** | | |
| Common Whorl Snail<br>*Vertigo (Vertigo) pygmaea* | 31/12/1892 | Threatened Species: Near threatened |
| Moss Chrysalis Snail<br>*Pupilla (Pupilla) muscorum* | 31/12/1892 | Threatened Species: Endangered |
| Smooth Grass Snail<br>*Vallonia pulchella* | 31/12/1892 | Threatened Species: Vulnerable |
| **Mollusc** | | |
| Bird's-claw Beard-moss<br>*Barbula unguiculata* | 19/10/2019 | Threatened Species: Least concern |
| *Bryum dichotomum* | 19/10/2019 | Threatened Species: Least concern |
| Capillary Thread-moss<br>*Bryum capillare* | 19/10/2019 | Threatened Species: Least concern |
| Common Cord-moss<br>*Funaria hygrometrica* | 19/10/2019 | Threatened Species: Least concern |
| Common Feather-moss<br>*Eurhynchium praelongum* | 19/10/2019 | Threatened Species: Least concern |
| Common Pottia<br>*Tortula truncata* | 19/10/2019 | Threatened Species: Least concern |
| Crimson-tuber Thread-moss<br>*Bryum rubens* | 19/10/2019 | Threatened Species: Least concern |
| Curve-leaved Bow-moss<br>*Dicranodontium uncinatum* | 31/12/1867 | Threatened Species: Vulnerable |
| Cylindric Beard-moss<br>*Didymodon insulanus* | 19/10/2019 | Threatened Species: Least concern |
| Fertile Feather-moss<br>*Drepanocladus polygamus* | 31/12/1872 | Threatened Species: Least concern |
| Field Forklet-moss<br>*Dicranella staphylina* | 19/10/2019 | Threatened Species: Least concern |
| Rough-stalked Feather-moss<br>*Brachythecium rutabulum* | 19/10/2019 | Threatened Species: Least concern |
| Schreber's Forklet-moss<br>*Dicranella schreberiana* | 19/10/2019 | Threatened Species: Least concern |
| Side-fruited Crisp-moss<br>*Pleurochaete squarrosa* | 31/12/1879 | Threatened Species: Near threatened |
| Silver-moss<br>*Bryum argenteum* | 19/10/2019 | Threatened Species: Least concern |
| Swartz's Feather-moss<br>*Oxyrrhynchium hians* | 19/10/2019 | Threatened Species: Least concern |
| Tender Feather-moss<br>*Rhynchostegiella tenella* | 19/10/2019 | Threatened Species: Least concern |
| Variable Forklet-moss<br>*Dicranella varia* | 19/10/2019 | Threatened Species: Least concern |

| Species name | Date of last record | Designation |
|---|---|---|
| **Terrestrial Mammals** | | |
| Eurasian Red Squirrel *Sciurus vulgaris* | 03/06/2016 | Protected Species: Wildlife Acts |
| European Otter *Lutra lutra* | 09/02/2015 | EU Habitats Directive >> Annex II, IV<br>Protected Species: Wildlife Acts |
| Irish Stoat *Mustela erminea* subsp. *hibernica* | 26/05/2015 | Protected Species: Wildlife Acts |
| West European Hedgehog *Erinaceus europaeus* | 05/09/2022 | Protected Species: Wildlife Acts |

# D Invasive species (NBDC, 2025)

| Species name | Date of last record | Designation |
|---|---|---|
| **Birds** | | |
| Greylag Goose<br>*Anser anser* | 01/02/2021 | Regulation S.I. 477 (Ireland)<br>Protected Species: Wildlife Acts<br>EU Birds Directive >> Annex II, III<br>Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List |
| **Flora** | | |
| Himalayan Knotweed<br>*Persicaria wallichii* | 15/09/2024 | Medium Impact Invasive Species Regulation S.I. 477 (Ireland) |
| Japanese Knotweed<br>*Fallopia japonica* | 17/06/2020 | High Impact Invasive Species Regulation S.I. 477 (Ireland) |
| Japanese Rose<br>*Rosa rugosa* | 01/09/2021 | Medium Impact Invasive Species |
| *Rhododendron ponticum* | 17/06/2020 | High Impact Invasive Species Regulation S.I. 477 (Ireland) |
| **Mollusc** | | |
| Jenkins' Spire Snail<br>*Potamopyrgus antipodarum* | 12/07/2018 | Medium Impact Invasive Species |
| **Terrestrial mammals** | | |
| Eastern Grey Squirrel<br>*Sciurus carolinensis* | 30/09/2018 | High Impact Invasive Species<br>EU Regulation No. 1143/2014<br>Regulation S.I. 477 (Ireland) |
| European Rabbit<br>*Oryctolagus cuniculus* | 10/05/2018 | Medium Impact Invasive Species |
| Fallow Deer<br>*Dama dama* | 22/07/2017 | High Impact Invasive Species Regulation S.I. 477 (Ireland)<br>Protected Species: Wildlife Acts |

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