



Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination Statement

Relating to Ground Investigation Works to Facilitate the Sutton to Malahide Pedestrian & Cycle Scheme (Project Reference: PSI-003)

Fingal County Council in partnership with the National Transport Authority is progressing a scheme to develop a high-quality pedestrian and cycle route that will connect Malahide, Portmarnock, Baldoyle and Sutton. The scheme is 8.2km long and will connect with the recently constructed Baldoyle to Portmarnock Greenway and will build upon the success of that scheme by linking more communities together. The aim of the scheme is to develop an urban greenway to facilitate leisure and commuter pedestrian and cycling trips between Malahide and Sutton and which provides an optimal balance of provision between the various competing transport modes along the route corridor.

Fingal County Council's appointed engineering and environmental consultants AtkinsRéalis prepared a report to inform Screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA) with respect to the ground investigation works.

PTRANS/0047/2023 dated 17th of November 2023 determined that an Appropriate Assessment was not required for the proposed Ground Investigation Works which are required to facilitate the Sutton to Malahide Pedestrian & Cycle Scheme and a screening determination was previously published on the Fingal County Council Consultation Portal.

AtkinsRéalis have since updated the Screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA) report to include the recently supplemented North-West Irish Sea SPA within the assessment. This report is entitled 'Sutton to Malahide Pedestrian and Cycle Scheme – Ground Investigation Works Appropriate Assessment Screening Report (5158418DG0238 rev 2)' and dated March 2024 and it should take precedence.

To develop a preliminary design for the pedestrian and cycle scheme, ground investigation works are required at six locations along the alignment of the scheme where scheme structures are required. The structures and locations include;

- A proposed boardwalk to the rear of Malahide Tennis Club and Malahide Yacht Club;
- Retaining walls and a proposed boardwalk at Robswall, Coast Road;
- Replacement of the existing retaining wall at Burrow Court, Portmarnock;
- A pedestrian & cycle bridge over the Sluice River, Portmarnock;
- Culvert replacement and extension at a field access adjacent to Station Road, Portmarnock; and,
- Baldoyle coastal defense structure for the pedestrian and cycleway extension, to the rear of Baldoyle Green.

In accordance with Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/EEC) and Regulation 42(1) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 as amended, Fingal County Council has undertaken Appropriate Assessment screening to assess, in view of best scientific knowledge and the conservation objectives of the site, if the project, individually or in combination with other plans or projects is likely to have a significant effect on European Site(s). In this context particular attention was paid to the European Site(s) listed below.

- Malahide Estuary SAC 000205
- Malahide Estuary SPA 004025
- Baldoyle Bay SAC 000199
- Baldoyle Bay SPA 004016
- North-West Irish Sea SPA 004236

In accordance with Regulation 42(7) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 as amended, it is considered that, following screening, an Appropriate Assessment is not required on the basis that the effects from the proposed works and the potential in-combination effects with other plans or projects are not likely to have significant effects on European sites. This opinion is based on the nature, location, scale and duration of the proposed works.