

COMHAIRLE CATHRACH BHAILE ATHA CLIATH

DUBLIN CITY COUNCIL

Proposed public realm improvement works for the Northeast side of Sandymount Green, Sandymount, Dublin 4.

Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening Determination

Dublin City Council are proposing public realm improvement works for the Northeast side of Sandymount Green, Sandymount, Dublin 4. The design will place a particular focus on universal design and conservation, new greening interventions, public lighting and street furniture. The proposed development entails measures to provide a traffic calmed street with an improved pedestrian friendly environment while still maintaining access, deliveries and parking facilities. The proposed works are located proximate to numerous Natura 2000 sites, and as such require Appropriate Assessment (Habitats Directive) screening in accordance with Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive. In February of 2026, FERS Ltd was commissioned by Dublin City Council to undertake Appropriate Assessment screening of the proposed works

A network of protected areas for certain habitats and species of conservation importance has been established by European Union (EU) member states under the Habitats and Birds Directives (Council Directive 92/43/EEC and Directive 2009/147/EC); these areas are known as European sites.

Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) set out the decision-making tests for plans and projects likely to affect European sites. Appropriate Assessment of the implications must be made by the decision-making authority (or Competent Authority) if the project is likely to have a significant effect on a European site alone or in-combination with other plans or projects. Appropriate Assessment is a two-stage process of determining impacts to European sites, which are Stage 1 Screening and Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment.

The EU Habitats Directive has been transposed into Irish law principally by way of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and regulations issued thereunder, and by the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 477/2011) as amended.

The Appropriate Assessment Screening Report was undertaken in relation to the proposed public realm improvements works for the northeast side of Sandymount Green, Sandymount, Dublin 4. The proposed works aim to provide a traffic calmed street with an improved pedestrian friendly environment while still maintaining access, deliveries and parking facilities. The works will include widening the footpath, improving pedestrian crossings, introducing footpath build outs on each end of the street, providing new in-ground planting areas, additional public seating and street lighting. This will be combined with a new one-way traffic system and additional universally accessible parking bays

The conclusion of the Screening Report for Appropriate Assessment states that following an examination, analysis, and evaluation of the relevant information, and applying the precautionary principle it was considered that there is no potential for likely significant impacts of the proposed works on the Qualifying Interests, or the attainment of specific Conservation Objectives, either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects on the Natura 2000 sites described herein. The preparation of a Natura Impact Statement is not required in this

instance. On that basis, the report concludes that Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment is not required

Having regard to Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive, the guidance contained in the document entitled "*Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland Guidance for Planning Authorities*" (published by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government in 2009) and following an examination of the objective information provided in the Screening for Appropriate Assessment Report (the Screening Report), Dublin City Council as the Competent Authority has undertaken - in accordance with Regulation 42(1) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 477/2011) as amended – an Appropriate Assessment screening to assess, in view of best scientific knowledge and the conservation objectives of the site(s), if the project, individually or in combination with other plans or projects is likely to have a significant effect on European Site(s).

On foot of that screening, and in accordance with Regulation 42(7) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 as amended, DCC has made the determination that an Appropriate Assessment is not required as the project is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the sites as European site(s) and as it can be excluded, on the basis of objective information and in light of the conservation objectives of the relevant European Site(s), that the project, individually or in combination with other plans and projects, would have a significant effect on a European Site.

This determination is based on the nature, location, scale and duration of the proposed works and surveys, including any temporary works but excluding any consideration of mitigation measures.

On the basis that a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment public realm improvement works for the Northeast side of Sandymount Green, Sandymount, Dublin 4, is not required, Article 9 (1)(viiB) of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) does not apply, and the proposed works are therefore deemed to be exempted development for the purposes of the Planning & Development Act 2001 (as amended), falling under Class 45 of Part 1 of Schedule 2 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001 (as amended).



Garrett Hughes
Senior Planner
08/05/26

Agreed:



A/Deputy City Planner

08.05.2026