

Environmental Impact Assessment Screening Report
Proposed All-Weather Pitch at Martin Savage Park



Note

Works, plans, methodologies, materials, and infrastructural requirements are based on the client's brief, draft plans, and drawings provided to Flynn Furney Environmental Consultants as of October 2023.

Statement of Authority

This Environmental Impact Assessment Screening has been carried out by a suitably qualified and experienced professional of Flynn Furney Environmental Consultants. This was Billy Flynn BSc, MSc, MCIEEM, CEnv.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Works are proposed at Martin Savage Park. It is planned by Dublin City Council for the development of a soccer size all-weather pitch along with an additional all-weather multi use games area. These will be bounded by a ball stop fence and flood lighting. A small play area is also proposed.

Flynn, Furney Environmental Consultants Ltd has been engaged by Dublin City Council for the provision of an environmental impact assessment screening report for the proposed works. The principal requirement for these services is to assist the relevant authorities in forming an opinion as to whether or not the proposed works should be subject to Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and if so whether an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) should be prepared in respect of it.

Dublin City Council is the lead agency in the development of this project.

The screening process includes an assessment of the details of the proposal with reference to the relevant EIA legislation including the Planning & Development Regulations 2001 (as amended by Planning and Development Regulations 2015), the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU (as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU) and relevant EU Guidance including *Interpretation of definitions of project categories of annex I and II of the EIA Directive*, EU, 2015 and *Environmental Impact Assessment of Projects Guidance on Screening*, EU, 2017. The report provides a conclusion of the process and finally a recommendation.

2. DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED PROJECT

Description of the Works

The proposal seeks to develop 1.1 ha of the ca. 8.6 ha of parkland contained within the most easterly section of Martin Savage Park. The proposed development site is bounded by railway lines to the north, the Glendhu Estate to the east & south and by playing fields to the west.

Development site works are to include:

- Soccer Size all weather pitch along with an additional all weather multi use games area.
- The pitch to be bounded by a high ball stop fence along with flood lighting.
- The works will require earth moving and drainage works
- As part of the works in the park, additional paths are proposed along with a small play area
- Due to the confined nature of the site it is unlikely that all the top soil will be retained on site
- There is an existing drainage basin at the green space in Glendhu Park to the east of Martin Savage Park. This will be enhanced as part of the works to improve its visual appearance while also providing any drainage requirements from the all-weather surfaces

2.1 Project Location



Fig. 1. Project Location, Martin Savage Park, Ashtown, Dublin.

The study site is located in the Martin Savage Park, Ashtown, Dublin 7. The centre of the site is ITM 711575 737408. Martin Savage Park is bounded to the north by railway lines which run adjacent and parallel with the Royal Canal pNHA; to the south, east and west by housing estates (Kempton, Glendhu and Martin Savage Park estates). Access to the clubhouse for St. Oliver Plunket's GAA club is located along the middle of the southern boundary of the park

3. RELEVANT LEGISLATION

Screening is the first stage in the EIA process, whereby a decision is made on whether or not EIA is required. EIA requirements derive from the EIA Directive (Directive 2011/92/EU as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU). The amended Directive came into force on 16th May 2017 and regulations transposing it into national legislation have been enacted. No changes to the prescribed project types or thresholds are required under the amended Directive so the types and thresholds set out in the 2001-2010 Regulations remain in effect.

EIA legislation as it relates to the planning process has been largely brought together in Part X of the Planning and Development Acts 2000-2018 and Part 10 and Schedules 5, 6 and 7 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001-2018. Part 1 of Schedule 5 to the Planning and Development Regulations lists project types included in Annex I of the Directive which automatically require EIA. Part 2 of the same Schedule, lists project types included in Annex II. Corresponding developments automatically require EIA if no threshold is given or if they exceed a given threshold. Developments which correspond to Part 2 project types by are below the given threshold must be screening to determine whether they require EIA or not. This is done by consideration of criteria set out in Schedule 7.

EIA legislation sets down the types of projects that may require an EIAR. Annex I defines mandatory projects that require an EIAR and Annex II defines projects that are assessed on the basis of set mandatory thresholds for each of the project classes.

The EIA screening exercise initially assesses the development for Mandatory EIA using classifications defined in the appropriate legislation. Where no mandatory requirement is concluded, screening advances to sub-threshold development assessment, where the competent authority evaluates whether the project is likely to have a *significant* effect on the environment, with reference to its scale, nature, location and context.

4. SCREENING AND ASSESSMENT

4.1 Mandatory EIA

EIA legislation defines the types of projects that may require an EIAR. *Annex I* defines mandatory projects that require an EIAR and *Annex II* defines projects that are assessed on the basis of set mandatory thresholds for each of the project classes.

The requirement for EIA is mandatory on specified project types which have a high likelihood of impacting the receiving environment. These projects are listed in Annex I of the EIA Directive and transposed through Part 1 of Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended. The proposed scheme at Martin Savage Park does not fall within the list of activities requiring mandatory EIA as set out in the legislation. The proposed development at Martin Savage Park does not fall within the below list of activities requiring mandatory EIA.

Projects referred to in article 4(1)
Crude-oil refineries and installations for the gasification and liquefaction of materials
Thermal power and nuclear power stations
Installations for the processing of irradiated nuclear fuel
Integrated works for the initial smelting of cast iron and steel, and installations for the production of non-ferrous crude metals from ore, concentrates or secondary raw materials
Installations for the extraction of asbestos and for the processing and transformation of asbestos and products containing asbestos
Integrated chemical installations
Construction of railway lines, airports, motorways, express roads, construction of new road with four or more lanes
Inland waterways and ports, trading ports, and piers
Waste disposal installations for the incineration and chemical treatment
Groundwater abstraction or artificial groundwater recharge schemes
Works for the transfer of water resources between river basins
Waste water treatment plants
Extraction of petroleum and natural gas for commercial purposes
Dams or other installations designed for the holding back or permanent storage of water
Pipelines with a diameter of more than 800 mm of more than 40 km
Installations for the intensive rearing of poultry or pigs
Industrial plants
Quarries and open-cast mining
Construction of overhead electrical power lines
Installations for storage of petroleum, petrochemical, or chemical products
Storage sites
Installations for the capture of CO ² streams for the purposes of geological storage

Table 1. Projects referred to in article 4(1)

In addition, this project has been further considered under the relevant list of activities which warrant discretionary consideration for the requirement of an EIA. This applies to those projects listed in Annex II of the EIA Directive and Part 2 of Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 as amended. The proposed scheme at Martin Savage Park does not fall within the list of activities requiring discretionary EIA as set out in the legislation.

The proposed scheme does not come within the below classes of development.

Schedule 5, Part 2 - Class of Development
1) Agriculture, silviculture and aquaculture
2) Extractive industry
3) Energy industry
4) Production and processing of metals
5) Mineral industry
6) Chemical industry
7) Food industry
8) Textile, leather, wood and paper industries
9) Rubber industry
10) Infrastructure projects
11) Other projects
12) Tourism and leisure
13) Changes, extensions, development and testing
14) Works of demolition
15) Any other project

Table 2: Class of Development referred to in Schedule 5, Part 2

4.2 Project Class

The proposed development does not classify under any of the above-mentioned classes of development. Development class 15 in part 2 of Schedule 5 notes that sub-threshold development applies to any project that may have likely significant effects which does not equal or exceed or, as the case may be, a quantity, area or other limit specified in Part 2 of Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 as amended in respect of the relevant class of development.

Specifically, the following is set out under Class 15 in Part 2 of Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended: *Any project listed in this Part which does not exceed a quantity, area or other limit specified in this Part in respect of the relevant class of development*

but which would be likely to have significant effects on the environment, having regard to the criteria set out in Schedule 7.'

Having regard to this sub-threshold development criteria and the relative environmental sensitivity of the proposed scheme, this EIA Screening Report has been prepared to provide sufficient information to enable the competent authority to undertake screening against any potential likely significant effects that may occur. Given the scale of the facility to be provided through the proposed development, it is the opinion of Flynn Furney Environmental Consultants that any significant effects to the surrounding environment are unlikely to occur during construction or operation for the proposed development.

Conclusion: The proposed scheme does not fall within the mandatory requirement for an EIA as addressed in EU Directive 85/337/EEC (as amended by Directive 97/11/EC). These proposed works are thus assessed as a sub-threshold development.

4.3 Sub-Threshold Development - EIA Screening

A key determinant of the necessity for Environmental Impact Assessment of sub-threshold projects is whether or not such works are likely to have *significant* effects on the environment. The 1997 amending Directive (97/11/EC) introduced guidance for Member States in terms of deciding whether or not a development is likely to have a “significant effect on the environment”.

These criteria have been transposed fully into Irish legislation in the third schedule of the European Communities Environmental Impact Assessment (Amendment) Regulations 1999, (SI No.93 of 1999) and in Schedule 7 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001 (SI No 600 of 2001) as amended by Planning & Development Regulations 2008. This has recently been updated by transposition of the 2014 EIA Directive (2014/52/EU) which amends Directive 2011/92/EU¹). Guidance is provided by use of criteria set out in Annex III of the new Directive. These criteria as transposed in Irish legislation are grouped under three headings and are used to assist the screening process in determining whether a development is likely to have a significant effect on the environment. The three headings and criteria details as given in Annex III are given below:

¹ Directive 2011/92/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011 on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment (codification) (OJ L 26, 28.1.2012, p. 1).

Heading	Criteria
1. Characteristics of proposed development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the size and design of the entire proposed development • the cumulation with other existing and/or approved development • the use of natural resources • the production of waste • pollution and nuisances • the risk of major accidents (with regard to substances or technologies used) • the risks to human health
2. Location of proposed development	<p>The environmental sensitivity of geographical areas likely to be affected by proposed development, having regard in particular to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the existing and approved land use • the relative abundance, availability, quality and regenerative capacity of natural resources in the area and its underground • the absorption capacity of the natural environment in particular, wetlands, coastal zones, mountain and forest areas, nature reserves and natural parks, areas protected under the Habitats Directive / Birds Directives, other protected areas, densely populated areas, protected landscapes of historical, cultural or archaeological significance.
3. Type and characteristics of potential impacts	<p>The potential significant effects of proposed development in relation to criteria set out under paragraphs 1 and 2 above, and having regard in particular to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the magnitude and spatial extent of the impact (geographical area and size of the affected population) • the nature of the impact • the transboundary nature of the impact • the intensity and complexity of the impact • the probability of the impact • the expected onset, duration, frequency and reversibility of impact • the cumulation of the impact with the impact of other existing and/or approved projects • the possibility of effectively reducing the impact

The project at Martin Savage Park is considered under the above criteria (as set out in Schedule 7) in the tables below.

CRITERIA (Schedule 7)		RELEVANCE	RATIONALE
<p>1. Characteristics of Proposed Development:</p> <p>The characteristics of the proposed development, in particular:</p>	The size of the proposed development	No	The site to be developed is small (c. 1.1 ha). The project footprint will be on existing parkland.
	The cumulation with the proposed development	No	The proposed development will be constructed entirely within the grounds of Martin Savage Park. No developments are known that may give rise to cumulative or in combination effects.
	The use of natural resources	No	No significant natural resources will be required to complete the project.
	The production of waste	No	Waste produced during the construction process is anticipated to be insufficient to cause significant effects. Waste amounts will be very limited. Any materials will be brought to a construction and demolition recycling centre for reuse.
	Pollution and nuisance	No	Impacts such as noise and dust will be kept within acceptable standards and as such are anticipated to be negligible. The operational impacts of the facility may be considered negligible given the continuity in use of the area as a park for recreation.
	The risk of accidents having regard to substances or technologies used.	No	Any potential impacts are anticipated as being negligible given the nature of the proposed development. No novel techniques or materials are to be used.

CRITERIA (Schedule 7)		RELEVANCE	RATIONALE
<p>2. Location of the Proposed Development:</p> <p>The environmental sensitivity of geographical areas likely to be affected</p>	The existing land-use	No	Not a sensitive area as this recreational development will be entirely within an existing Dublin City Council park.
	The relative abundance, availability, quality and regenerative	No	Negligible impacts are anticipated given existing development at site. No natural areas are to be impacted upon.

by proposed development, having regard in particular to:	capacity of natural resources in the area and its underground		
	The absorption capacity of the natural environment, paying particular attention to the following areas:		
	Wetlands, riparian areas, river mouths;	No	None of these habitat types occur within area of proposed development. The Royal Canal is within 50m of the site of the proposed development. This site is a proposed Natural Heritage Area (Site Code 002103). However, no construction or operational impacts may be anticipated as project area is entirely within Martin Savage Park.
	Coastal zones	No	None of these habitat types occur within area of proposed development.
	Mountain and forest areas	No	None of these habitat types occur within area of proposed development.
	Nature Reserves and National Parks	No	None of these occur within area of proposed development.
	Areas classified or protected under legislation, including special protection areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC	No	Area proposed for development is not under such classification or protection. The nearest Natura 2000 site is South Dublin Bay & River Tolka Estuary SPA (Site Code 004024), located 6.5 km to the east of the development site. There is no potential for the development to impact on the SAC due to the nature and scale of the development. There is also a lack of any direct connection between the site and the SAC. An Appropriate Assessment Screening Report was carried out to confirm this.
	Areas in which the environmental quality standards laid	No	N/A

	down in legislation of the EU have already been exceeded.		
	Densely populated areas	No	N/A
	Landscapes of historical, cultural archaeological significance	No	No such landscapes occur within this area. There are no known items of historical, cultural archaeological significance within Martin Savage Park. Development will be a modern facility within the previously developed park. There will be no visual or aesthetic impact on the streetscape as the development will be not be visible from the public road.

CRITERIA (Schedule 7)		RELEVANCE	RATIONALE
3. Type and characteristics of potential impacts:	the magnitude and spatial extent of the impact (geographical area and size of the affected population)	No	Any potential impacts are considered to be insignificant, given the scale of the proposed development.
	The nature of the impact	No	No potential impacts are predicted, given the scale of the proposed development.
	the transboundary nature of the impact	No	N/A
	the intensity and complexity of the impact	No	Any impacts are considered insignificant given size and scale of development.
	the probability of the impact	No	No significant negative impacts are predicted.
	the expected onset, duration, frequency and reversibility of impact	No	No significant negative impacts are predicted.
	the cumulation of the impact with the impact of other existing and/or approved projects	No	No significant negative impacts are predicted.

	the possibility of effectively reducing the impact	No	No significant negative impacts are predicted.
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5. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

It is concluded that the **characteristics of the proposed development** would not be considered likely to have significant effects on the environment. This is based primarily on the limited size and scale of the proposed works and low potential to have significant impacts. No other projects emerged from the screening process with which the proposed works may have significant cumulative impacts.

It is concluded that there will be no significant direct or indirect impacts by virtue of the **location of the proposed development** on the receiving environment. This is based primarily upon the absence of any impacts predicted upon any protected sites such as Nature Reserves, parks or Natura 2000 Sites.

It is concluded that the **type and characteristics of the potential impacts** would not be considered significant. This is based primarily upon the very limited size and scale of the proposed works. The lack of sensitive receptors is also a significant factor in this assessment. Impacts on landscape, soils and geology are not considered significant, given the nature and scale of works.

Given the size and scale of the proposed development and the absence of any other projects or plans known at time of writing, no significant **cumulative impacts** are considered likely.

The assessment has been carried out on the proposed works as a **sub threshold development**. The overall conclusion of this screening exercise is that there should be no specific requirement for a full Environmental Impact Assessment of the proposed development.

REFERENCES

DoEHLG. (2003) *'Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Guidance for Consent Authorities regarding Sub-threshold Development'*. Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Dublin.

DOECLG (2015) *Planning and Development Regulations 2001-2013 (Unofficial Consolidation)*. Unpublished Report by Department of Environment, Community and Local Government.

NRA (2008) *Environmental Impact Assessment of National Roads Schemes – a practical guide*. National Roads Authority (Now Transport Infrastructure Ireland), Dublin.

