



**Appropriate Assessment Screening Report
for Proposed Strategic Housing Development,
Castle Park, Dalkey, Co. Dublin**

prepared for Stephen Little and Associates

on behalf of Curve Devco Limited

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1 Introduction

This report, which contains information required for the competent authority (in this instance An Bord Pleanála) to undertake a screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA), has been prepared by Scott Cawley Ltd. on behalf of the applicant. It provides information on and assesses the potential for the proposed development to impact on the Natura 2000 network (hereafter referred to as European sites)¹.

An AA is required if likely significant effects on European sites arising from a proposed development cannot be ruled out at the screening stage, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. It is the responsibility of the competent authority to make a decision as to whether or not the proposed development is likely to have significant effects on European sites, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects.

For the reasons set out in detail in this AA Screening Report, an **Appropriate Assessment of the proposed development is not required in this instance** as it can be concluded, on the basis of objective information, that the proposed development, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will not have a significant effect on any European sites.

2 Methodology

2.1 Guidance

This Appropriate Assessment Screening Report has been prepared with regard to the following guidance documents, as relevant:

- *Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland - Guidance for Planning Authorities.* (Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2010 revision);
- *Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive: Guidance for Planning Authorities.* Circular NPW 1/10 & PSSP 2/10;
- *Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly Affecting Natura 2000 sites: Methodological Guidance on the Provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC* (European Commission, 2001);
- *Communication from the Commission on the precautionary principle* (European Commission, 2000); and,
- *Managing Natura 2000 Sites: The Provisions of Article 6 of the Habitat's Directive 92/43/EEC* (European Commission, 2018).

¹ The Natura 2000 network is a European network of important ecological sites, as defined under Article 3 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, which comprises both special areas of conservation and special protection areas. Special conservation areas are sites hosting the natural habitat types listed in Annex I, and habitats of the species listed in Annex II, of the Habitats Directive, and are established under the Habitats Directive itself. Special protection areas are established under Article 4 of the Birds Directive 2009/147/EC for the protection of endangered species of wild birds. The aim of the network is to aid the long-term survival of Europe's most valuable and threatened species and habitats.

In Ireland these sites are designed as *European sites* - defined under the Planning Acts and/or the Birds and Habitats Regulations as (a) a candidate site of Community importance, (b) a site of Community importance, (c) a candidate special area of conservation, (d) a special area of conservation, (e) a candidate special protection area, or (f) a special protection area. They are commonly referred to in Ireland as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs).

2.2 Assessment Methodology

The above referenced guidance sets out a staged process for carrying out Appropriate Assessment. To determine if an Appropriate Assessment is required, documented screening is required. Screening identifies the potential for effects on the conservation objectives of European sites, if any, which would arise from a proposed plan or project, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects (i.e. likely significant effects).

Significant effects on a European site are those that would undermine the conservation objectives supporting the favourable conservation condition of the Qualifying Interest (QI) habitats and/or the QI/Special Conservation Interest (SCI) species of a European site(s).

Screening for Appropriate Assessment involves the following steps:



If the conclusions at the end of screening are that there is no likelihood of significant effects occurring on any European sites as a result of the proposed plan or project, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects, then there is no requirement to undertake an Appropriate Assessment.

In establishing which European sites are potentially at risk (in the absence of mitigation) from the proposed development, a source-pathway-receptor approach was applied. In order for an impact to occur, there must be a risk enabled by having a source (e.g. water abstraction or construction works), a receptor (e.g. a European site or its QI(s) or SCI(s)²), and a pathway between the source and the receptor (e.g. pathway by air for airborne pollution, or a pathway by a watercourse for mobilisation of pollution). For an impact to occur, all three elements must exist; the absence or removal of one of the elements means there is no possibility for the impact to occur.

The identification of source-pathway-receptor connection(s) between the proposed development and European sites essentially is the process of identifying which European sites are within the Zone of Influence (Zoi) of the proposed development, and therefore potentially at risk of significant effects. The Zoi is the area over which the proposed development could affect the receiving environment such that it could potentially have significant effects on the QI habitats or QI/SCI species of a European site, or on the achievement of their conservation objectives³.

The identification of a source-pathway-receptor link does not automatically mean that significant effects will arise. The likelihood for significant effects will depend upon the characteristics of the source (e.g. extent and duration of construction works), the characteristics of the pathway (e.g. direction and strength of prevailing winds for airborne pollution) and the characteristics of the receptor (e.g. the sensitivities of the European site and its QIs/SCIs). Where uncertainty exists, the precautionary principle⁴ is applied.

2.3 Desktop Data Review

The desktop data sources used to inform the assessment presented in this report are as follows (accessed on the 8th August 2019):

- Online data available on European sites and protected habitats/species as held by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) from www.npws.ie, including conservation objectives documents
- Online data available on protected species as held by the National Biodiversity Data Centre (NBDC) from www.biodiversityireland.ie
- Information on the surface water network and surface water quality in the area available from www.epa.ie
- Information on groundwater resources and groundwater quality in the area available from www.epa.ie and www.gsi.ie
- Ordnance Survey of Ireland mapping and aerial photography available from www.osi.ie

² The term qualifying interest is used when referring to the habitats or species for which an SAC is designated; the term special conservation interest is used when referring to the bird species (or wetland habitats) for which an SPA is designated.

³ As defined in the *Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland* (CIEEM, 2018)

⁴ The precautionary principle is a guiding principle that derives from Article 191 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and has been developed in the case law of the European Court of Justice (e.g. ECJ case C-127/02 – Waddenzee, Netherlands).

The guidance document *Communication from the Commission on the Precautionary Principle* (European Commission, 2000) notes that the precautionary principle “covers those specific circumstances where scientific evidence is insufficient, inconclusive or uncertain and there are indications through preliminary objective scientific evaluation that there are reasonable grounds for concern that the potentially dangerous effects on the environment, human, animal or plant health may be inconsistent with the chosen level of protection”.

Applying the precautionary principle in the context of screening for appropriate assessment requires that where there is uncertainty or doubt about the risk of significant effects on a European site(s), it should be assumed that significant effects are possible and AA must be carried out.

- Information on the location, nature and design of the proposed development supplied by the applicant's design team

3 Provision of Information for Screening for Appropriate Assessment

The following sections provide information to facilitate the Appropriate Assessment screening of the proposed development to be undertaken by the competent authority.

A description of the proposed development and the receiving environment is provided to identify the potential ecological impacts. The environmental baseline conditions are discussed, as relevant to the assessment of ecological impacts where they may highlight potential pathways for impacts associated with the proposed development to affect the receiving ecological environment (e.g. geological, hydrogeological and hydrological data).

The potential impacts are examined in order to define the potential zone of influence of the proposed development on the receiving environment. This then informs the assessment of whether the proposed development will result in likely significant effects on any European sites; i.e. affect the conservation objectives supporting the favourable conservation condition of the European site's QIs or SCIs.

3.1 Description of the Proposed Development

The various elements of the proposed development are described in detail in the planning application. In brief, the proposed development consists of:

- The construction 101 no. residential units consisting of 11 no. studio apartments, 26 no. 1 bedroom apartments and 64 no. 2 bedroom apartments;
- The apartments are arranged in a number of blocks within 8 no. buildings which are linked by 7 no. glazed entrance atrium;
- The blocks range in height from 2 - 4 storeys over a single basement level;
- 80 no. car parking spaces provided at basement level and a total of 156 no. bicycle parking spaces at basement and surface level (including a covered bike parking store catering for 14 no. spaces at surface level);
- All associated site development works including: site excavation works, hard and soft landscaping, provision of open space, all boundary treatments, lighting, children's play area, a single storey garden pavilion (c. 140 sq.m), ESB substation (c. 21.9 sq.m); bin stores and plant at basement level and ancillary site attenuation (including green roofs and PV solar panels at roof level of the apartment buildings);
- Foul sewer and storm drainage pipe connection to Castle Park Road, via Castle Close,
- Vehicular access serving the scheme is off the existing avenue also serving Castle Park School via the existing school entrance off Castle Park Road;
- A new controlled pedestrian/cycle access gate is proposed connecting to Castle Close; and,
- The use of the existing gate to the school from Castlelands for emergency/fire tender access purposes, for pedestrian access and for temporary construction access;

Construction and commissioning is expected to take c. 28 months based on information provided by the design team.

Surface water runoff generated from the proposed development will pass through numerous Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) including underground attenuation storage, permeable paving, sedum blue roofing, sedum green roofing, a class 1 petrol interceptor and flow control devices prior to discharging to the combined sewer network on Castlepark Road via a separate surface water drainage network within the site. From there, it will be transferred to Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) and discharged to Dublin Bay.

The proposed development will result in an overall increase of 273 P.E. (population equivalent) foul effluent generated from the site, which will drain via a separate foul drainage network within the site prior to discharge into the combined sewer network on Castlepark Road. From there, foul effluent will be transferred via the

combined sewer network to Ringsend WWTP for treatment prior to discharge to Dublin Bay. The most recent information from Irish Water indicates that the plant is operating above its capacity of 1.64 million P.E. (Irish Water, 2017), with a current operational loading of c. 2.2 million P.E. Ringsend WWTP operates under a discharge licence from the EPA (D0034-01) and must comply with the licence conditions.

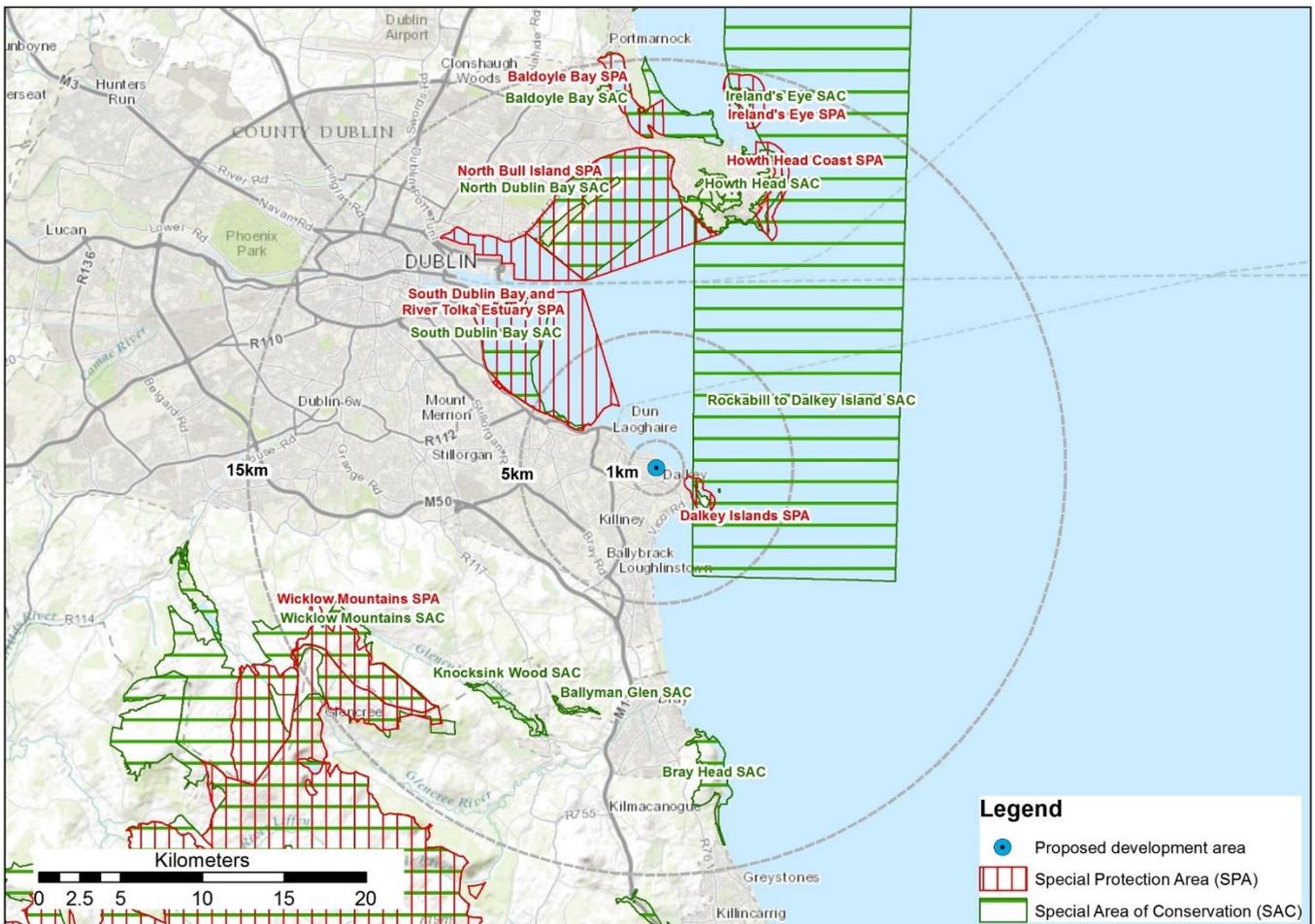
3.2 Overview of the Receiving Environment

3.2.1 European sites

The proposed development site is not located within or immediately adjacent to any European site. The nearest European sites to the proposed development site are Dalkey Island SPA and Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC, located c. 1.1km south east and c. 1.3km east respectively. The subject lands are located c. 240m south west of Dublin Bay coastal waterbody. The following European sites are located within in the downstream receiving environment of the proposed works area; Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC, South Dublin Bay SAC, North Dublin Bay SAC, Dalkey Island SPA, South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA, and North Bull Island SPA. The proposed development has no potential source-pathway-receptor connections with any other European sites

All of the European sites present in the vicinity of the proposed development are shown on Figure 1 below. The QIs/SCIs of the European sites in the vicinity of the proposed development are provided in Appendix I.

Figure 1 European sites in the vicinity of the proposed development



3.2.2 Habitats

Based on examination of orthophotography⁵ and a site survey carried out within the subject lands on 15th July 2019, the proposed development site is comprised predominantly of mixed broadleaf woodland on sloping uneven ground with occasional granitic outcrops and smaller areas of buildings and artificial surfaces. A small drainage ditch (noted to have standing water present) runs along the western and southern boundaries of the site. Although it is not known if, or where, this drainage ditch discharges to other surface water features (none are visible on any available mapping for the locality), it is assumed to ultimately discharge to Dublin Bay near Dalkey. The proposed development site is bound to the west and south by existing residential buildings, to the north by small areas of woodland and amenity grassland associated with Castle Park School and to the east by the existing Castle Park School building and associated roadways.

The wider surrounding environment is predominantly residential in nature. The closest surface water feature to the proposed development area is Dublin Bay coastal waterbody, located c. 240m north

3.2.3 Flora and Fauna Species

The desktop study found no records of any species or habitats for which European sites are designated within the proposed development site⁶. The desktop study returned records of the following species for which European sites illustrated in Figure 1 and listed in Appendix 1 are designated within c. 2km of the proposed development site:

- Harbour Porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*)
- Otter (*Lutra lutra*)
- Roseate Tern (*Sterna dougallii*)
- Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*)
- Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*)
- Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*)
- Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*)
- Redshank (*Tringa totanus*)
- Black-headed Gull (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*)
- Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*)
- Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*)
- Curlew (*Numenius arquata*)
- Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*)
- Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*)
- Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*)
- Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*)
- Guillemot (*Uria aalge*)
- Razorbill (*Alca torda*)

None of the aforementioned species or any other species for which nearby European sites (Appendix 1) are designated were noted during the multidisciplinary survey on 15th July 2019.

⁵ According to examination of orthophotographs on Google maps www.google.com/maps (Accessed 08/08/2019)

⁶ There are no National Biodiversity Data Centre (NBDC) desktop records that are of a grid resolution of <1km located within the proposed development site.

There were records of 3 non-native invasive plant species returned from the desktop study present within close proximity of the proposed works area, including Hottentot-fig *Carpobrotus edulis*, Russian-vine *Fallopia baldschuanica* and Three-cornered Garlic *Allium triquetrum*.

The following non-native invasive plant were noted within the proposed development boundary during the site survey on 15th July 2019: Winter heliotrope *Petasites fragrans*, Butterfly-bush *Buddleja davidii*, Spanish bluebell *Hyacinthoides hispanica*, Cherry laurel *Prunus laurocerasus* and snowberry *Symphoricarpos albus*. Of the aforementioned, only Spanish bluebell is listed on the Schedule 3 of the *Birds and Habitats Regulations (2011)*.

3.2.4 Hydrology

According to the EPA map viewer⁷ here are no surface water features within the proposed development area. The closest surface water feature to the proposed development site is Dublin Bay coastal waterbody located c. 240m north of the subject lands. The most recent surface water quality information for Dublin Bay coastal waterbody indicates that it is “Unpolluted”. The water quality of Dublin Bay is considered to be “Good” and “Not at risk” of not achieving good status under the Water Framework Directive

3.2.5 Hydrogeology

Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI) data indicates that the site is underlain by a “Poor Aquifer”, which is described as “generally unproductive except for local zones”. The Groundwater Body (GWB) underlying the site is the “Kilcullen” GWB, which is currently classified by the EPA as having “Good” groundwater status and “Not at risk” of not achieving good status under the Water Framework Directive.

3.3 Assessment of Likely Significant Effects on European Sites

This section identifies the potential impacts associated with the proposed development, examines whether there are any European sites within the ZoI of effects from the proposed development, and assesses whether there is any risk of the proposed development resulting in a likely significant effect on any European site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.

In assessing the potential for the proposed development to result in a likely significant effects on any European sites, any measures intended to avoid or reduce the harmful effects of the project on European sites are not taken into account.

3.3.1 Habitat loss and fragmentation

The proposed development area does not overlap with the boundary of any European site. Therefore, there are no European sites at risk of direct habitat loss impacts. As the proposed development does not traverse any European sites there is no potential for habitat fragmentation to occur. The proposed development site is dominated by mixed broadleaved woodland which is not a habitat listed under Annex I of the Habitats Directive. No mobile fauna species for which European sites are designated are known to use the habitats within the subject lands.

As the proposed development will not result in habitat loss or habitat fragmentation within any European site, there is no potential for any in combination effects to occur in that regard.

3.3.2 Habitat degradation as a result of hydrological impacts

Surface water runoff and discharges from the proposed development will drain to the combined public sewer network on Castlepark Road via a separate surface water drainage network within the site. From here, surface waters will be transferred to Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) and discharged to Dublin Bay. Foul

⁷ gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps (Accessed 08/08/2019)

waters from the proposed development will be discharged to Ringsend WWTP for treatment, via a separate foul drainage network within the site and the combined public sewer on Castlepark Road, prior to discharge into the Liffey Estuary/Dublin Bay. Therefore, the Zone of Influence (Zoi) of potential effects on water quality from the proposed development could extend to Dublin Bay.

Surface Water

Surface water run-off and discharges from the proposed development will enter the downstream receiving environment via a new surface water drainage network within the site and the existing combined sewer network along Castlepark Road. From here surfaces will ultimately discharge to Dublin Bay coastal Waterbody via Ringsend WWTP.

Considering the following, the proposed development will not have any measurable effects on water quality in Dublin Bay due to:

- The short duration of the construction phase (c. 8 months) and, therefore, the temporary nature of any potential run-off/discharges related to construction of the site;
- The relatively low volume of any potential surface water run-off or discharge events during construction relative to the receiving surface water and marine environments;
- The distance between the subject lands and European sites within Dublin Bay and potential for pollution to be dissipated in the drainage network;
- Run-off and discharges from the proposed development site will be treated at Ringsend WWTP;
- The level of mixing, dilution and dispersion of any discharges from Ringsend WWTP to Dublin Bay; and,
- The “Unpolluted” status of coastal waters in Dublin Bay at present, as recorded as by the EPA.

Therefore, there is no possibility of the proposed development undermining the conservation objectives of any of the qualifying interests or special conservation interests of the European sites in, or associated with, Dublin Bay as a result of surface water run-off or discharges.

Foul Water

Foul water, comprising sewage and industrial effluent (and some surface water run-off), from the Dublin area has historically been, and will continue to be, treated at Ringsend WWTP prior to discharge to Dublin Bay. The most recent information from Irish Water indicates that the plant is operating above its capacity of 1.64 million P.E. (Irish Water, 2017), with a current operational loading of c.2.2 million P.E. Ringsend WWTP operates under a discharge licence from the EPA (D0034-01) and must comply with the licence conditions.

Despite the capacity issues associated with the Ringsend WWTP, the Liffey Estuary Lower and Dublin Bay are currently classified by the EPA as being of “Unpolluted” water quality status⁸. The Tolka Estuary is currently classified by the EPA as being “Potentially Eutrophic”. The pollutant content of future surface water discharges to Dublin Bay is considered likely to decrease in the long-term for the following reasons:

- An Bord Pleanála granted planning permission for an upgrade to the Ringsend WWTP in April 2019⁹, which will increase capacity at the plant; and,

⁸ Transitional and Coastal Surface Water Quality data (2010-2012) accessed from the EPA Envision Mapviewer www.gis.epa.ie/Envision (accessed August 2019)

⁹ An Bord Pleanála Case Reference PL29S.301798 – *10-year permission for development of the Ringsend wastewater treatment plant upgrade project including a regional bio solids storage facility*, Available online at www.pleanala.ie/casenum/301798.htm. Accessed 8th August 2019.

- Irish Water has submitted a planning application¹⁰ for the Greater Dublin Drainage (GDD) Project to An Bord Pleanála. The GDD will involve the construction of a new regional wastewater treatment facility in Clonshaugh in North County Dublin, the development of which will help alleviate capacity issues at Ringsend WWTP.

It is also an objective of the Greater Dublin Strategic Drainage Study, and all development plans within the catchment of Ringsend WWTP, to include Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) within new developments. The relevant development plans also have protective policies/objectives in place to protect water quality in the receiving freshwater and marine environments, and to implement the Water Framework Directive in achieving good water quality status for Dublin Bay.

Considering the above, particularly the current unpolluted status of Dublin Bay, the proposed development will not impact on the overall water quality status of Dublin Bay.

Therefore, there is no possibility of the proposed development undermining the conservation objectives of any of the qualifying interests or special conservation interests of the European sites in, or associated with, Dublin Bay as a result of foul water discharges.

In Combination

There is potential for “*in-combination*” effects on water quality in Dublin Bay from any other projects carried out within the functional areas of the *Dublin City Development Plan 2016-2022* (Dublin City Council, 2016), the *Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Development Plan 2016-2022* (Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, 2016), the *Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023* (Fingal County Council, 2017), *South Dublin County Council Development Plan 2016-2022* (South Dublin County Council, 2016), or any other county level land use plans which can influence conditions in Dublin Bay via rivers and other surface water features.

As noted under the surface water and foul water sections above, Dublin Bay is currently unpolluted and the proposed development will not result in any measurable effect on water quality in Dublin Bay. There are also protective policies and objectives in place at a strategic planning level to protect water quality in Dublin Bay.

The pollutant content of future surface water discharges to Dublin Bay is considered likely to decrease in the long-term for the following reasons:

- An Bord Pleanála granted planning permission for an upgrade to the Ringsend WWTP in April 2019, which will increase capacity at the plant; and,
- Irish Water has submitted a planning application for the Greater Dublin Drainage (GDD) Project to An Bord Pleanála. The GDD will involve the construction of a new regional wastewater treatment facility in Clonshaugh in North County Dublin, the development of which will help alleviate capacity issues at Ringsend WWTP.

It is also an objective of the Greater Dublin Strategic Drainage Study, and all development plans within the catchment of Ringsend WWTP, to include Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) within new developments. The relevant development plans also have protective policies/objectives in place to protect water quality in the receiving freshwater and marine environments, and to implement the Water Framework Directive in achieving good water quality status for Dublin Bay

Therefore, there is no possibility of any other plans or projects acting in combination with the proposed development to undermine the conservation objectives of any of the qualifying interests or special conservation interests of the European sites in, or associated with, Dublin Bay as a result of water quality effects.

¹⁰ An Bord Pleanála Case Reference PL06F.301908 - *Greater Dublin Drainage Project consisting of a new wastewater treatment plant, sludge hub centre, orbital sewer, outfall pipeline and regional bio solids storage facility*. Available online at www.pleanala.ie/casenum/301908.htm, Accessed 8th August 2019.

3.3.3 *Habitat degradation as a result of hydrogeological impacts*

The proposed development does not include any works that may affect the existing groundwater regime and therefore, there is no potential for the groundwater impacts.

3.3.4 *Impacts due to the spread/ dispersal of invasive species*

Given the substantial terrestrial buffer and the absence of any surface water features on the proposed development site, there are no potential impact pathways by which any of the non-native invasive plant species recorded on the proposed development site could be spread to any European sites

3.3.5 *Disturbance and displacement impacts*

Construction-related disturbance and displacement of fauna species could potentially occur within the vicinity of the proposed development. For mammal species, disturbance effects would not be expected to extend beyond 150m¹¹. For birds, disturbance effects would not be expected to extend beyond a distance of c.300m, as noise levels associated with general construction activities would attenuate to close to background levels at that distance. There are no European sites within the disturbance Zol; the next nearest European site to the proposed development is c.1.1 km away. Additionally, there is a c. 1.1km terrestrial buffer between the proposed development and the closest European site.

As the proposed development will not result in the disturbance/displacement of the qualifying/special conservation interest species of any European site, there is no potential for any in combination effects to occur in that regard.

3.3.6 *Summary*

The potential impacts associated with the proposed development do not have the potential to affect the receiving environment and, consequently, do not have the potential to affect the conservation objectives supporting the qualifying interest/special conservation interests of any European sites. Therefore, the proposed development is not likely to have significant effects on any European sites.

As the proposed development itself will not have any effects on the QIs/SCIs or conservation objectives of any European sites, there is no potential for any other plan or project to act in combination with it to result in likely significant effects on any European sites.

The potential impacts of the proposed development on the receiving environment, their Zol, and the European sites at risk of likely significant effects are summarised in Table 1 below.

Table 1 *Summary of Analysis of Likely Significant Effects on European sites*

Potential Direct, Indirect In Combination Effects and the Zol of the Potential Effects	Are there any European sites within the Zol of the proposed development?
Habitat loss Habitat loss will be confined to the lands within the proposed development boundary.	No There are no European sites within the proposed development boundary
Habitat degradation as a result of hydrological impacts	No

¹¹ This is consistent with Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) guidance (*Guidelines for the Treatment of Otters prior to the Construction of National Road Schemes* and *Guidelines for the Treatment of Badgers prior to the Construction of National Road Schemes*) documents. This is a precautionary distance, and likely to be moderated by the screening effect provided by surrounding vegetation and buildings, with the actual Zol of construction related disturbance likely to be much less in reality.

Potential Direct, Indirect In Combination Effects and the Zol of the Potential Effects	Are there any European sites within the Zol of the proposed development?
Habitats and species downstream of the proposed development site and the associated surface water drainage discharge points, and downstream of offsite wastewater treatment plants.	The proposed development does not have the potential to impact upon European sites through surface and foul water discharges for reasons outlined in section 3.3.2
Habitat degradation as a result of hydrogeological impacts Groundwater-dependant habitats, and the species those habitats support, in the local area that lie downgradient of the proposed development site.	No There are no European sites at risk of hydrogeological effects associated with the proposed development
Impacts due to the spread/ dispersal of invasive species	No Due to the substantial terrestrial buffer and the absence of any surface water features on the proposed development site, there are no potential impact pathways by which any of the non-native invasive plant species recorded on the proposed development site could be spread to any European sites
Disturbance and displacement impacts Potentially up to several hundred metres from the proposed development boundary, dependent upon the predicted levels of noise, vibration and visual disturbance associated with the proposed development, in conjunction with the sensitivity of the qualifying interest species to disturbance effects	No There are no European sites within the potential zone of influence of disturbance effects associated with the construction or operation of the proposed development

4 Conclusions of Screening Assessment Process

Following an examination, analysis and evaluation of the relevant information, including in particular, the nature of the project and its potential relationship with European sites and their conservation objectives, as well as considering other plans and projects, and applying the precautionary principle, it is the professional opinion of the authors of this report that there is no potential for likely significant effects on any European sites, for the reasons set out in Section 3.3 above.

Therefore, it is the professional opinion of the authors of this report that the application for consent for the proposed development does not require an Appropriate Assessment or the preparation of a Natura Impact Statement (NIS)

Appendix I

The Qualifying Interests (QIs) and Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) of the European sites in the vicinity of the proposed development site (see Figure 1)

European Site Name [Code] and its Qualifying interest(s) / Special Conservation Interest(s) (*Priority Annex I Habitats)	Location Relative to the Proposed Development Site
Special Area of Conservation (SAC)	
<p>Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC [003000] [1170] Reefs [1351] Harbour porpoise <i>Phocoena phocaena</i></p> <p>NPWS (2013) <i>Conservation Objectives: Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC 003000</i>. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.</p>	c. 1.3km east of the proposed development
<p>South Dublin Bay SAC [000210] [1140] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1210] Annual vegetation of drift lines [1310] <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand [2110] Embryonic shifting dunes</p> <p>NPWS (2013b) <i>Conservation Objectives: South Dublin Bay SAC 000210</i>. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.</p>	c. 3km north west of the proposed development
<p>North Dublin Bay SAC [000206] [1140] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1210] Annual vegetation of drift lines [1310] <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1330] Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>) [1395] Petalwort <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> [1410] Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [2110] Embryonic shifting dunes [2120] Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2130] Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2190] Humid dune slacks</p> <p>NPWS (2013a) <i>Conservation Objectives: North Dublin Bay SAC 000206</i>. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.</p>	c. 7.4km north west of the proposed development
<p>Howth Head SAC [000202] [1230] Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [4030] European dry heaths</p> <p>NPWS (2016) <i>Conservation Objectives: Howth Head SAC 000202</i>. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.</p>	c. 8.9km north east of the proposed development

European Site Name [Code] and its Qualifying interest(s) / Special Conservation Interest(s) (*Priority Annex I Habitats)	Location Relative to the Proposed Development Site
<p>Ballyman Glen SAC [000713] Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220] Alkaline fens [7230]</p> <p>NPWS (2019) <i>Conservation Objectives: Ballyman Glen SAC 000713</i>. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.</p>	<p>c. 9.1km south west of the proposed development</p>
<p>Bray Head SAC [000714] Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230] European dry heaths [4030]</p> <p>NPWS (2017) <i>Conservation Objectives: Bray Head SAC 000714</i>. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs</p>	<p>c. 9.7km south east of the proposed development</p>
<p>Knocksink Wood SAC [000725] Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220] Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i>, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>) [91E0]</p> <p>NPWS (2018) <i>Conservation objectives for Knocksink Wood SAC [000725]</i>. Generic Version 6.0. Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.</p>	<p>c. 10.1km south west of the proposed development</p>
<p>Wicklow Mountains SAC [002122] [3110] Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>) [3160] Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [4010] Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4030] European dry heaths [4060] Alpine and Boreal heaths [6130] <i>Calaminarian</i> grasslands of the <i>Violetalia calaminariae</i> [6230] Species-rich <i>Nardus</i> grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe) [7130] Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [8110] Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (<i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsietalia ladani</i>) [8210] Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220] Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [91A0] Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [1355] <i>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter)</p> <p>NPWS (2017) <i>Conservation Objectives: Wicklow Mountains SAC 002122</i>. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.</p>	<p>c. 11.9km south east of the proposed development</p>

European Site Name [Code] and its Qualifying interest(s) / Special Conservation Interest(s) (*Priority Annex I Habitats)	Location Relative to the Proposed Development Site
<p>Baldoye Bay SAC [000199] [1140] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1310] Salicornia and other annuals colonizing mud and sand [1330] Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) [1410] Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>)</p> <p>NPWS (2012) <i>Conservation Objectives: Baldoye Bay SAC 000199</i>. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht</p>	<p>c. 12.1km north of the proposed development</p>
<p>Ireland's Eye SAC [002193] Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220] Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230]</p> <p>NPWS (2017) <i>Conservation Objectives: Ireland's Eye SAC 002193</i>. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.</p>	<p>c. 13.3km north east of the proposed development</p>
Special Protection Area (SPA)	
<p>Dalkey Islands SPA [004172] [A192] Roseate Tern <i>Sterna dougallii</i> [A193] Common Tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i> [A194] Arctic Tern <i>Sterna paradisaea</i></p> <p>NPWS (2018) <i>Conservation objectives for Dalkey Islands SPA [004172]</i>. Generic Version 6.0. Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.</p>	<p>c. 1.1km south east of the proposed development</p>
<p>South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA [004024] [A046] Light-bellied Brent Goose <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> [A130] Oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> [A137] Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> [A141] Grey Plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> [A143] Knot <i>Calidris canutus</i> [A144] Sanderling <i>Calidris alba</i> [A149] Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina</i> [A157] Bar-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa lapponica</i> [A162] Redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i> [A179] Black-headed Gull <i>Croicocephalus ridibundus</i> [A192] Roseate Tern <i>Sterna dougallii</i> [A193] Common Tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i> [A194] Arctic Tern <i>Sterna paradisaea</i> [A999] Wetland and Waterbirds</p> <p>NPWS (2015b) <i>Conservation Objectives: South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA 004024</i>. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.</p>	<p>c. 2.6km north west of the proposed development</p>

European Site Name [Code] and its Qualifying interest(s) / Special Conservation Interest(s) (*Priority Annex I Habitats)	Location Relative to the Proposed Development Site
<p>North Bull Island SPA [004006]</p> <p>[A046] Light-bellied Brent Goose <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> [A048] Shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> [A052] Teal <i>Anas crecca</i> [A054] Pintail <i>Anas acuta</i> [A056] Shoveler <i>Anas clypeata</i> [A130] Oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> [A140] Golden Plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> [A141] Grey Plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> [A143] Knot <i>Calidris canutus</i> [A144] Sanderling <i>Calidris alba</i> [A149] Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina</i> [A156] Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa</i> [A157] Bar-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa lapponica</i> [A160] Curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i> [A162] Redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i> [A169] Turnstone <i>Arenaria interpres</i> [A179] Black-headed Gull <i>Croicocephalus ridibundus</i> [A999] Wetlands & Waterbirds</p> <p>NPWS (2015a) <i>Conservation Objectives: North Bull Island SPA 004006</i>. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.</p>	<p>c. 7.4km north west of the proposed development</p>
<p>Howth Head Coast SPA [004113]</p> <p>Kittiwake <i>Rissa tridactyla</i> [A188]</p> <p>NPWS (2018) <i>Conservation objectives for Howth Head Coast SPA [004113]</i>. Generic Version 6.0. Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.</p>	<p>c. 9.4km north east of the proposed development</p>
<p>Wicklow Mountains SPA [004040]</p> <p>[A098] Merlin <i>Falco columbarius</i> [A103] Peregrine <i>Falco peregrinus</i></p> <p>NPWS (2018) <i>Conservation objectives for Wicklow Mountains SPA [004040]</i>. Generic Version 6.0. Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.</p>	<p>c. 11.9km south west of the proposed development</p>
<p>Baldoyle Bay SPA [004016]</p> <p>[A046] Light-bellied Brent Goose <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> [A048] Shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> [A137] Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> [A140] Golden Plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> [A141] Grey Plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> [A157] Bar-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa lapponica</i> [A999] Wetland and Waterbirds</p> <p>NPWS (2013) <i>Conservation Objectives: Baldoyle Bay SPA 004016</i>. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.</p>	<p>c. 12.1km north east of the proposed development</p>

European Site Name [Code] and its Qualifying interest(s) / Special Conservation Interest(s) (*Priority Annex I Habitats)	Location Relative to the Proposed Development Site
<p>Ireland's Eye SPA [004117]</p> <p>Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> [A017] Herring Gull <i>Larus argentatus</i> [A184] Kittiwake <i>Rissa tridactyla</i> [A188] Guillemot <i>Uria aalge</i> [A199] Razorbill <i>Alca torda</i> [A200]</p> <p>NPWS (2018) <i>Conservation objectives for Ireland's Eye SPA [004117]</i>. Generic Version 6.0. Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.</p>	<p>c. 12.9km north-east of the proposed development</p>