



**PROVISION OF INFORMATION REGARDING APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT SCREENING
PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT, ASSISTANT HARBOUR MASTERS HOUSE
2 QUEENS ROAD, DÚN LAOGHAIRE, CO. DUBLIN**

PREPARED FOR DUN LAOGHAIRE RATHDOWN COUNTY COUNCIL

Project Reference:		160033			
Rev.	Status	Author	Reviewed By	Approved By	Issue Date
REV01	Final	KMOC	PS	PS	22/2/16

Scott Cawley, College House, Rock Road, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland

Tel+353(1)676-9815 Fax +353(1) 676-9816

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1 Introduction 3
2 Methodology..... 3
3 Conclusions of the Screening Assessment..... 16
References 17

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1 Overview of the Proposed Development and its Receiving Environment..... 6
Table 2 Analysis of European sites within 15km. 9

LIST OF FIGURES AND APPENDICES

Figure 1. All European sites within 15km of the site 15

1 Introduction

This report which contains information required for the competent authority (in this instance Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council) to undertake a screening exercise for Appropriate Assessment (AA), was prepared by Scott Cawley Ltd. on behalf of the applicant. It provides information on and assesses the potential for the proposed development to significantly affect Natura 2000 sites (hereafter “European sites”¹).

It is necessary that the proposal has regard to Article 6 of the *Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora* (as amended) (hereafter “the Habitats Directive”). This is transposed in Ireland primarily by *the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 477/2011)* (hereafter the Birds and Habitats Regulations) and the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act, 2010 as amended.

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.

Following the preparation of this screening statement it was objectively concluded that there was no likelihood of any significant effects on any European sites arising from the proposed development, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. Therefore it was our view that an Appropriate Assessment was not required in this instance. The information in the tables below provide a summary of the information gathered for this screening exercise and the conclusions made.

2 Methodology

This Screening Statement for Appropriate Assessment was prepared with regard to the following guidance documents, where 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 Environment Directorate-General, 2001); hereafter referred to as the EC Article 6 Guidance Document. The guidance within this document provides a non-mandatory methodology for carrying out assessments required under Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive.
- *Managing Natura 2000 Sites: The Provisions of Article 6 of the Habitat’s Directive 92/43/EEC* (EC Environment Directorate-General, 2000a); hereafter referred to as MN2000.
- *Guidance Document on Article 6(4) of the 'Habitats Directive' 92/43/EEC. Clarification of the Concepts of Alternative Solutions, Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest, Compensatory Measures, Overall Coherence*. Opinion of the European Commission (European Commission, January 2007).

¹ Natura 2000 sites are defined under the Habitats Directive (Article 3) as a European ecological network of special areas of conservation composed of sites hosting the natural habitat types listed in Annex I and habitats of the species listed in Annex II. 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 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 candidate Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs).

- *Guidelines for Good Practice Appropriate Assessment of Plans under Article 6(3) Habitats Directive*. Findings of an international workshop on Appropriate Assessment in Oxford, December 2009².
- *Communication from the Commission on the precautionary principle*. European Commission (2000b).

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

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 would be no requirement to undertake Appropriate Assessment.

However, even if screening makes a finding of no significant effects, and therefore concludes that Appropriate Assessment is not required, these findings must be clearly documented in order to provide transparency of decision-making, and to ensure the application of the '*precautionary principle*'³.

Screening for Appropriate Assessment involves the following:

- Determining whether a project or plan is directly connected with or necessary to the conservation management of any European sites⁴;
- Describing the details of the project/plan proposals and other plans or projects that may cumulatively affect any European sites (see Table 1);
- Describing the characteristics of relevant European sites (Table 2); and
- Assessing the likelihood and significance of effects on relevant European sites (see Table 2).

The information that was collected to allow the competent authority to screen the proposal was based on a desktop study carried out on the 18th February 2016. Information relied upon included the following information sources, which included maps, ecological and water quality data:

- Ordnance Survey of Ireland mapping and aerial photography available from www.osi.ie;
- Online data available on European sites as held by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) from www.npws.ie;
- Information on land-use zoning from the online mapping of the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government <http://www.myplan.ie/en/index.html>;
- Information on water quality in the area available from www.epa.ie;
- Information on the Eastern River Basin District from www.wfdireland.ie;
- Information on soils, geology and hydrogeology in the area available from www.gsi.ie;
- Information on the location, nature and design of the proposed development supplied by the applicant's design team;
- Information on the status of EU protected habitats in Ireland (National Parks & Wildlife Service, 2013a & 2013b);

² Available online at <http://www.levett-therivel.co.uk/AAguidelines.htm> Accessed December 2013

³ One of the primary foundations of the precautionary principle, and globally accepted definitions, results from the work of the Rio Declaration. Principle #15 declaration notes:

"In order to protect the environment, the precautionary approach shall be widely applied by States according to their capabilities. Where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation."

⁴ In this instance the proposed development is not directly connected with or necessary to the conservation management of any European sites.

- Information on the conservation status of birds in Ireland (Colhoun & Cummins, 2014).

The following planning and policy documents were relevant to the subject lands, in particular with regard to the assessment of other plans and projects with potential for cumulative effects

- *National Biodiversity Plan 2011 – 2016 (Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, 2011);*
- *Draft County Development Plan 2016-2022 (Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, 2016);*
and,
- *Eastern River Basin District, River Basin Management Plan 2009-2015.*

Table 1 Overview of the Proposed Development and its Receiving Environment

Brief Site Description	The subject lands are located at the existing vacant Assistant Harbour Master’s house located on 2 Queen Road in Dún Laoghaire Co. Dublin (Grid Reference: O 24648 28566). This area is a designated Architectural Conservation Area. According to the OSI Mapping Viewer, the proposed development site consists of the existing single-storey building, areas of hardstanding and some planted trees. The DART railway line is located c. 10m north of the proposed development site.
Features of the Surrounding Environment	<p>The desktop study found no records of any species or habitats for which European sites listed in Table 2 were designated within the subject lands or environs⁵. The following species (for which European sites listed in Table 2 were designated) were recorded within 2km of the proposed development site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>), recorded c. 1.3km north-west of the proposed development site at the West Pier in 2015; • Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>), Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) and Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>), all recorded c. 40m east of the proposed development site in 2010; • Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>), recorded c. 1.4km west of the proposed development site in 2012; • Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>), recorded c. 220m north-west of the proposed development site in 2010; • Roseate Tern (<i>Sterna dougallii</i>), recorded c. 600m east of the proposed development site in 2011; • Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>), recorded c. 145m east of the proposed development site in 2009; • Arctic Tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>), recorded c. 500m north of the proposed development site in 2001; • Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>), recorded c. 1.3km north-west of the proposed development site in 2012; and, • Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>), recorded c. 150m east of the proposed development site in 2010. <p>The proposed development site is located within the Coastal 08 river catchment. According to the EPA Envision Map Viewer, the nearest watercourse is the Monkstown Stream, located c. 1.4km south of the proposed development site. This stream is culverted for the majority of its course. Dublin Bay coastal waterbody is located c. 110m north of the proposed development site.</p> <p>The groundwater body at the proposed development site is classified as ‘Kilcullen’ and is described as ‘Poorly productive bedrock’ and ‘At risk of not achieving good status’. According to the GSI Map Viewer, the level of vulnerability to groundwater contamination from human activities is ‘High’. It is described as ‘Poor Aquifer – Bedrock which is generally unproductive except for Local Zones’. The bedrock of the area is classified as ‘Granites and other Igneous Intrusive rocks’.</p> <p>Foul effluent generated from the proposed development will be discharged to the existing sewer system, which is located on Queens Road. From there it will be transferred to Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Works (WWTW) for treatment prior to discharge into Dublin Bay. According to the EPA Envision Map Viewer Dublin Bay’s coastal waters are “Unpolluted”. Under the “Trophic Status Assessment Scheme” classification of the EPA, “Unpolluted” means there have been no breaches of the EPA’s threshold values for nutrient enrichment, accelerated</p>

⁵ According to NBDC online data www.biodiversity.ie accessed 18th February 2016. This excludes NBDC records with a resolution greater than 1km².

Table 1 Overview of the Proposed Development and its Receiving Environment

	<p>plant growth, or disturbance of the level of dissolved oxygen normally present (EPA, 2015). The most recent available water quality data for the Irish Sea indicates it is '<i>Unpolluted</i>'</p>
<p>Description of the Proposed Development</p>	<p>In brief, the proposed development will involve alterations and renovations to the existing assistant Harbour Masters house located on Queens Road in Dún Laoghaire Co. Dublin. This vacant single-storey building will be converted into two separate residential one bed and two bed units. The estimated duration of the proposed development is approximately eight months. The Population Equivalent of the proposed development is 5 P.E.</p> <p>Surface water generated from the proposed development will be discharged to the existing combined sewer located on Queens Road. Foul effluent generated from the proposed development will be discharged to the existing sewer located on Queens Road. From there, it will be transferred to Ringsend WWTW to be treated prior to discharge into Dublin Bay.</p>
<p>Other existing or proposed plans or projects nearby which may lead to cumulative effects on European sites.</p>	<p>Existing habitat loss pressures</p> <p>The subject lands do not physically overlap with any European sites. They appear to be dominated by the existing building, hardstanding ground and some planted trees, none of which are habitats listed under Annex I of the Habitats Directive. These habitats are not indirectly connected with any habitats within European sites (e.g. by groundwater). No mobile fauna species for which European sites are designated are known to use the habitats within the subject lands. There is therefore no potential for cumulative effects relating to habitat loss.</p> <p>Existing pressures on water quality within European sites in proximity to the site</p> <p>Several intertidal habitats for which European Sites in Dublin Bay are designated are failing to meet favourable conservation status. For some of these, water pollution is considered to be a threat ranked as being of "<i>high importance</i>"⁶ (NPWS, 2013a).</p> <p><i>Pressures on European sites in Dublin Bay from surface waters</i></p> <p>There is potential for '<i>in-combination</i>' effects of proposed plans and projects within the <i>Dublin City Development Plan 2011-2017</i>, draft <i>Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Development Plan 2016-2022</i>, <i>Fingal Development Plan 2011-2017</i> and other county level land use plans which can influence conditions in Dublin Bay via rivers and other surface water features. Dublin Bay is of '<i>Unpolluted</i>' water quality status and the pollutant content of future surface water discharges to the Bay is considered likely to be decreased in the long-term. This is because it is an objective of the Greater Dublin Strategic Drainage Study, and all development plans within the catchment of Ringsend WWTW to include Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems in new development. Together these objectives are considered likely to reduce pressures on designated marine and intertidal species and habitats in Dublin Bay.</p> <p>Other planning applications in the surrounding area</p>

⁶ For example, "tidal mudflats and sandflats" was of "Inadequate" conservation status. This habitat was threatened by water pollution and was a reason for designation of North Dublin Bay SAC, and South Dublin Bay SAC. Under 'wetlands', the habitat was also a Special Conservation Interest of the South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA, and North Dublin Bay SPA.

Table 1 Overview of the Proposed Development and its Receiving Environment

	<p>In the draft Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Development Plan 2016 – 2022, the proposed development site is zoned as ‘<i>Objective F – To preserve and provide for open space with ancillary active recreational amenities</i>’. The lands in the vicinity of the proposed development site are zoned as ‘<i>Objective MTC – To protect, provide for and-or improve major town centre facilities</i>’ and ‘<i>Objective W – To provide for waterfront development and harbor related uses</i>’.</p> <p>Given the urban nature and zoning objectives of the area, there is likely to be a number of planning applications within the zone of influence of the project which have the potential to produce ‘<i>in combination</i>’ effects on water quality in Dublin Bay if the construction of these projects was to coincide with the construction phase of the proposed development. However, the likelihood of impacts arising from the proposed development is deemed to be low due to the minimal scale of the proposed works, the urban land buffer between the site from Dublin Bay (i.e. c. 110m) as well as the nature, scale and temporary duration (i.e. eight months) of the proposed works. No impacts are predicted during the operational phase of the proposed development, as neither foul effluent nor surface water runoff will be generated.</p> <p><i>Conclusion for potential in-combination effects from surface waters during construction phase</i></p> <p>It is our professional opinion that there will be no likelihood of significant effects on any European sites during the construction or operation of the proposed development, in combination with other plans or projects. This judgement was reached on the basis that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The coastal waters in Dublin Bay are classed as ‘<i>Unpolluted</i>’ by the EPA; • It is an objective of all development plans within the catchment of Ringsend WWTW to include Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems for all new developments; • Irish Water has recently advertised for “<i>the provision of a biological secondary treatment process that will result in the expansion of the existing Ringsend WWTW by a Population Equivalent of 400,000</i>”. • In the unlikely event of a pollution event occurring during construction, this would not be of such a magnitude that it would have a significant adverse effect on water quality in Dublin Bay.
--	---

European sites within 1km, 5km and 15km of the proposed development site are shown in Figure 1 overleaf.

Table 2 Analysis of European sites within 15km.			
Site name and code	Distance from Proposed Development (approximate)	Reasons for designation⁷ (*= Priority Habitat)	Relevant source-pathway-receptor links between proposed development and European site? No sites are “Relevant” to the Proposed Development. (European sites are “Relevant” where a relevant source-pathway-receptor link ⁸ exists).
Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)			
South Dublin Bay SAC (000210)	Located c. 1.2km west of the proposed development site	Conservation Objectives Version 1.0 (22/08/13) Annex I Habitats: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] 	Whilst there is a potential linkage between the proposed development and the European site, no significant effects are predicted. 1. Surface waters generated during construction and operation could carry silt, oils, or other chemicals into the local surface water sewer network which discharges to Dublin Bay via the River Liffey. However, there will be no significant effects on the reasons for designation of the European site in view of the relevant conservation objectives. This judgement was informed by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The temporary and small scale nature of any discharges related to construction of the site; - The urban land buffer that exists between the site and Dublin Bay and potential for dilution in the drainage network; and

⁷ “Qualifying Interests” for SACs and “Special Conservation Interests” for SPAs based on relevant Statutory Instruments for each SPA, and NPWS Conservation Objectives for SACs downloaded from www.npws.ie in February 2016.

⁸ For significant effects to arise, there must be a risk enabled by having a 'source' (e.g. construction works at a proposed development site), a 'receptor' (e.g. a SAC), and a pathway between the source and the receptor (e.g. a watercourse connecting a proposed development site to a SAC). The identification of a pathway does not automatically mean significant effects will arise. The likelihood for significant effects will depend upon the characteristics of the source (e.g. duration of construction works), the characteristics of the pathway (e.g. water quality status of watercourse receiving run-off from construction) and the characteristics of the receptor (e.g. the ecology including conservation status of the SAC reason for designation). When expert judgment determines, that significant effects are likely to arise, both the pathway, and the European site are considered “Relevant”, and an Appropriate Assessment is triggered.

Table 2 Analysis of European sites within 15km.			
			<p>-The known potential for waters in Dublin Bay to rapidly mix and assimilate pollutants (Wilson & Jackson, 2011).</p> <p>2. Foul waters generated during operation will be treated at Ringsend WWTW and discharged into Dublin Bay within the European site. No significant effects were predicted for the reasons set out under "Potential for Cumulative effects upon European Sites" (See Table 1).</p>
Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC (003000)	Located c. 2.7km east of the proposed development site	<p>Generic Conservation Objectives Version 4.0 (07/05/13)</p> <p>Annex I Habitats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reefs [1170] <p>Annex II Species:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351] 	No. See above for South Dublin Bay SAC (000210).
North Dublin Bay SAC (000206)	Located c. 6.2km north of the proposed development site	<p>Conservation Objectives Version 1.0 (06/11/13)</p> <p>Annex I Habitats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] • Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210] • <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonizing mud and sand [1310] • Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) [1330] • Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410] • Embryonic shifting dunes [2110] • Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> ("white dunes") [2120] • *Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("grey dunes") [2130] • Humid dune slacks [2190] <p>Annex II Species:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> (Petalwort) [1395] 	No. See above for South Dublin Bay SAC (000210).

Table 2 Analysis of European sites within 15km.

Howth Head SAC (000202)	Located c. 8.3km north-east of the proposed development site.	<p>Generic Conservation Objectives Version 4.0 (13/02/13)</p> <p>Annex I Habitats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230] • European dry heaths [4030] 	No. See above for South Dublin Bay SAC (000210).
Ballyman Glen SAC (000713)	Located c. 10km south of the proposed development site.	<p>Conservation Objectives Generic Version 4.0 (13/02/15)</p> <p>Annex I Habitats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220] • Alkaline fens [7230] 	No, due to the distance between the proposed development site and the European site and the absence of a hydrological linkage between the two.
Knocksink SAC (000725)	Located c. 10.6km south of the proposed development site.	<p>Conservation Objectives Generic Version 4.0 (13/02/15)</p> <p>Annex I Habitats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220] • Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (Alno-Padion, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>) [91E0] 	No. See above for Ballyman Glen SAC (000713).
Baldoyle Bay SAC (000199)	Located c. 11.1km north of the proposed development site	<p>Conservation Objectives Version 1.0 (06/11/13)</p> <p>Annex I Habitats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] • <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] • Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>) [1330] • Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410] 	No. See above for Ballyman Glen SAC (000713).
Bray Head SAC (000713)	Located c. 11.2km south-east of the proposed development site	<p>Generic Conservation Objectives Version 4.0 (13/02/15)</p> <p>Annex I Habitats :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230] • European dry heaths [4030] 	No. See above for Ballyman Glen SAC (000713).

Table 2 Analysis of European sites within 15km.

Wicklow Mountains SAC (002122)	Located c. 12km south-west of the proposed development site	<p>Conservation Objectives Generic Version 4.0 (13/02/15)</p> <p>Annex I Habitats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the Littorelletea uniflorae and/or Isoeto-Nanojuncetea [3130] • Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160] • Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix [4010] • European dry heaths [4030] • Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060] • Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe) [6230] • Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130] • Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (Androsacetalia alpinae and Galeopsietalia ladani) [8110] • Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8210] • Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220] • Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0] <p>Annex II Species:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter) [1355] 	No. See above for Ballyman Glen SAC (000713).
Ireland's Eye SAC (002193)	Located c. 12.8km north of the proposed development site	<p>Generic Conservation Objectives Version 4.0 (13/02/13)</p> <p>Annex I Habitats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220] • Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230] 	No. See above for South Dublin Bay SAC (000210).
Special Protection Areas (SPAs)			

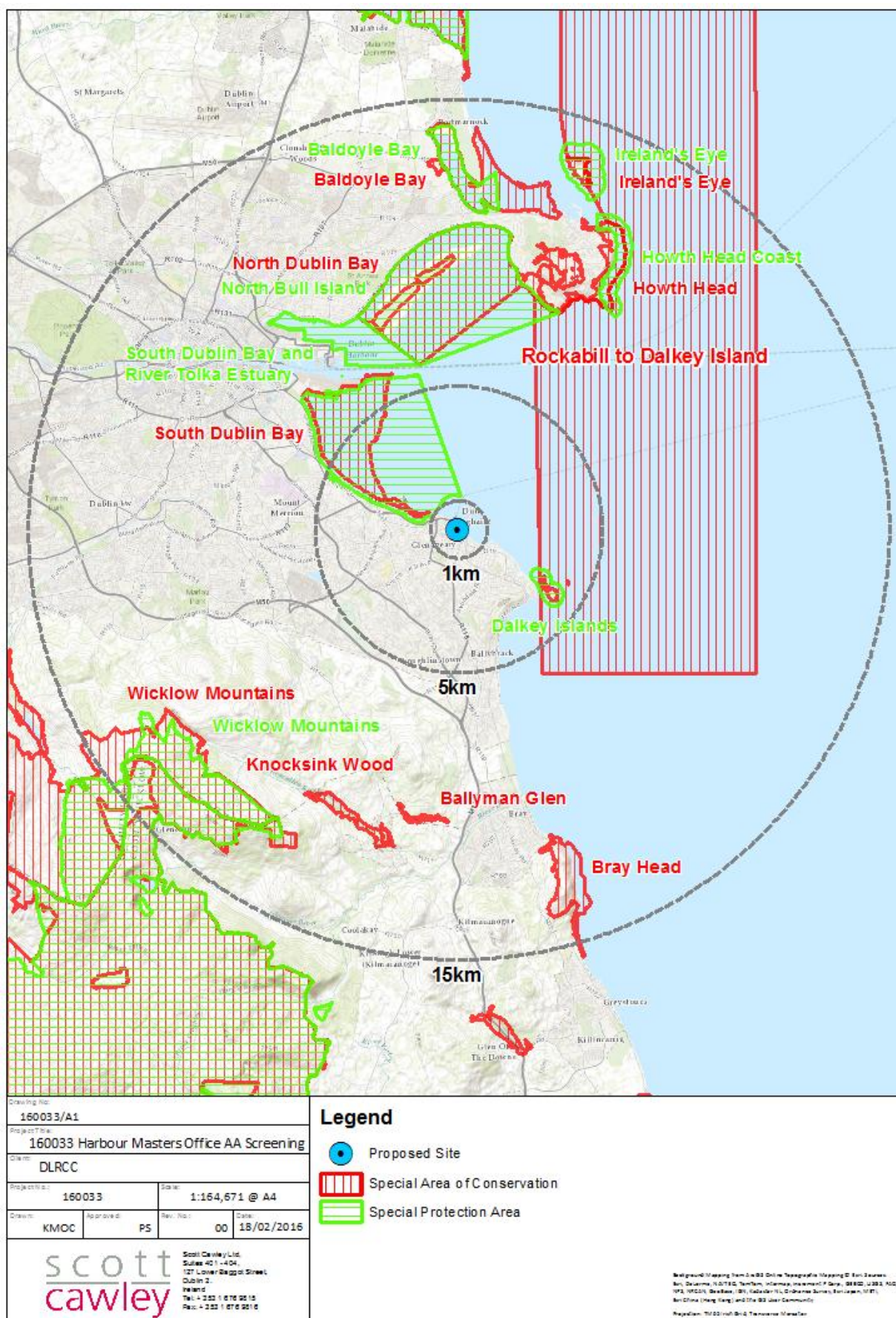
Table 2 Analysis of European sites within 15km.

<p>South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary (004024)</p>	<p>Located c. 1.3km north-west of the proposed development site</p>	<p>Conservation Objectives Version 1.0 (09/03/15)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046] [wintering] • Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130] [wintering] • Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137] [wintering] • Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A140] [wintering] • Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143] [wintering] • Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144] [wintering] • Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149] [wintering] • Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157] [wintering] • Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162] [wintering] • Black-headed Gull (<i>Croicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179] [wintering] • Roseate Tern (<i>Sterna dougallii</i>) [A192] [passage] • Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193] [breeding] • Arctic Tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) [A194] [passage] • Wetlands & Waterbirds [A999] 	<p>No. See above for South Dublin Bay SAC (000210). There is no risk of disturbance to Special Conservation Interest bird species given the relatively small scale and temporary nature of construction works associated with the proposed development and the distance between the proposed development and the European site.</p>
<p>Dalkey Islands SPA (004172)</p>	<p>Located c. 2.9km south-east of the proposed development site</p>	<p>Generic Conservation Objectives Version 4.0. (13/02/15)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roseate Tern (<i>Sterna dougallii</i>) [A192] • Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193] • Arctic Tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) [A194] 	<p>No. See above for South Dublin Bay SAC (000210). There is no risk of disturbance to Special Conservation Interest bird species given the relatively small scale and temporary nature of construction works associated with the proposed development and the distance between the proposed development and the European site.</p>
<p>North Bull Island SPA (004006)</p>	<p>Located c. 6.1km north of the proposed development site</p>	<p>Conservation Objectives Version 1.0 (09/03/15)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046] [wintering] • Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048] [wintering] • Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052] [wintering] • Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) [A054] [wintering] 	<p>No. See above for South Dublin Bay SAC (000210). There is no risk of disturbance to Special Conservation Interest bird species given the relatively small scale and temporary nature of construction works associated with the proposed</p>

Table 2 Analysis of European sites within 15km.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>) [A056] [wintering] • Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130] [wintering] • Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140] [wintering] • Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141][wintering] • Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143] [wintering] • Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144] [wintering] • Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149] [wintering] • Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156] [wintering] • Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157] [wintering] • Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160] [wintering] • Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162] [wintering] • Turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>) [A169] [wintering] • Black-headed Gull (<i>Croicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179] [wintering] • Wetlands & Waterbirds [A999] 	development and the distance between the proposed development and the European site.
Wicklow Mountains SPA (004040)	Located c. 11.9km south-west of the proposed development site	<p>Conservation Objectives Generic Version 4.0 (13/02/15)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Merlin <i>Falco columbarius</i> [A098] • Peregrine <i>Falco peregrinus</i> [A103] 	No, due to the distance between the proposed development site and the European site and the absence of a hydrological linkage between the two.

Figure 1. All European sites within 15km of the site



3 Conclusions of the Screening Assessment

Following an examination, analysis and evaluation of the relevant information including, in particular, the nature of the proposed development and the potential relationship between the proposed development and relevant European sites and, applying the precautionary principle, it is the professional opinion of the authors of this report that there will be no likelihood of significant effects on any European sites, arising either from the proposed development alone or in combination with other plans or projects.

Therefore it is our view that an Appropriate Assessment is not required for the works proposed.

References

- BirdLife International (2013).** IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> in November 2013.
- Colhoun K. & Cummins S. (2014).** *Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland 2014–2019*. BirdWatch Ireland.
- Council of the European Communities (1992)** *Council Directive of 21 May 1992 on The Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (92/43/EEC)*. O. J. L 206/35, 22 July 1992.
- DoEHLG (2010).** *Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland - Guidance for Planning Authorities* (Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Rev Feb 2010).
- DoAHG (2011).** *Actions for Biodiversity, National Biodiversity Plan*.
- Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council (2016).** *Draft County Development Plan 2016-2022*.
- Eastern River Basin District (2009).** Eastern River Basin District, River Basin Management Plan 2009 – 2015.
- Environmental Protection Agency (2015).** *Water Quality in Ireland. 2010-2012*. Available online at http://www.epa.ie/pubs/reports/water/waterqua/wqr20102012/#.VeQvR_IViko
- European Commission (EC) (updated April 2015).** *Managing Natura 2000 sites: The Provisions of Article 6 of the Habitat's Directive 92/43/EEC* (EC Environment Directorate-General, 2000); hereinafter referred to as "MN2000".
- European Commission (EC) (2000a).** *Managing Natura 2000 sites: The Provisions of Article 6 of the Habitat's Directive 92/43/EEC* (EC Environment Directorate-General, 2000); hereinafter referred to as "MN2000".
- European Commission (EC) (2000b).** *Communication from the Commission on the precautionary principle*.
- European Commission (EC) (2001).** *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 Environment Directorate-General).
- European Commission (EC) (2007).** *Guidance Document on Article 6(4) of the 'Habitats Directive' 92/43/EEC. Clarification of the Concepts of Alternative Solutions, Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest, Compensatory Measures, Overall Coherence*. Opinion of the European Commission.
- European Parliament and European Council (2009).** *Directive 2009/147/EC of 30th November 2009 on the Conservation of Wild Birds (2009/147/EC)*. O.J. L20/7, 26th January 2010.
- NPWS (2010).** Circular NPW 1/10 & PSSP 2/10 *Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive: Guidance for Planning Authorities*. (Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, March 2010).
- NPWS (2013a).** *The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland*. Species Assessments Volume 2, Version 1.0. Unpublished Report, National Parks & Wildlife Services. Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Dublin, Ireland.
- NPWS (2013b).** *The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland*. Species Assessments Volume 3, Version 1.0. Unpublished Report, National Parks & Wildlife Services. Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Dublin, Ireland.