



**PROVISION OF INFORMATION REGARDING APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT SCREENING  
PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT, GLENAMUCK ROAD, CARRICKMINES CO. DUBLIN**

**PREPARED FOR DUN LAOGHAIRE RATHDOWN COUNTY COUNCIL**

<b>Project Reference:</b>		<b>160033</b>			
<b>Rev.</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Reviewed By</b>	<b>Approved By</b>	<b>Issue Date</b>
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..... 17**  
**References ..... 18**

**LIST OF TABLES**

**Table 1 Overview of the Proposed Development and its Receiving Environment..... 6**  
**Table 2 Analysis of European sites within 15km. .... 10**

**LIST OF FIGURES AND APPENDICES**

**Figure 1. All European sites within 15km of the site ..... 16**

## 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”<sup>1</sup>).

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).

<sup>1</sup> 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 2009<sup>2</sup>.
- *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*'<sup>3</sup>.

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 sites<sup>4</sup>;
- 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.osi.ie);
- Online data available on European sites as held by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) from [www.npws.ie](http://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](http://www.epa.ie);
- Information on the Eastern River Basin District from [www.wfdireland.ie](http://www.wfdireland.ie);
- Information on soils, geology and hydrogeology in the area available from [www.gsi.ie](http://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); and,

---

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

<sup>3</sup> 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."*

<sup>4</sup> 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 in an existing halting site on the Glenamuck Road in Carrickmines, Co. Dublin (Grid Reference: O 20929 22816). The proposed development site is dominated by areas of hardstanding, while the immediate surrounding area consists of improved agricultural grassland fields, hedgerows, treelines and residential properties with associated gardens. The M50 Motorway is located c. 1.5km north-east 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 environs<sup>5</sup>. The only species (for which European sites listed in Table 2 were designated) within 2km of the proposed development site was Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>), which was recorded c. 1.3km south-east of the proposed development site at a lake near Ballycorus in 1982.</p> <p>The proposed development site is located within the Loughlinstown-Coastal river catchment. According to the EPA Envision Map Viewer, there are no rivers on or immediately adjacent to the proposed development site. The nearest watercourse to the proposed development site is the Glenamuck Stream, located c. 395m north. The Glenamuck Stream appears to flow for c. 1.6km until it converges with the Carrickmines Stream, which flows for c. 3.2km until it reaches Shanganagh River. The Shanganagh River ultimately flows into Killiney Bay.</p> <p>The water quality of the Glenamuck Stream is currently unknown. The water quality of the Shanganagh River is classified as 'Good' (i.e. Q4), as recorded at the Bridge of Carns (Heron Ford Lane) monitoring station located c. 2.4km downstream of the proposed development site. The water quality of the Killiney Bay coastal waterbody is 'Unpolluted'. As such, there have been no breaches of the EPA's threshold values for nutrient enrichment, accelerated plant growth, or disturbance of the level of dissolved oxygen normally present under the EPA's "Trophic Status Assessment Scheme" classification (EPA 2015).</p> <p>The groundwater body at the proposed development site is classified as 'Wicklow' and is described as 'Poorly productive bedrock'. 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 foul water sewer network located on the Glenamuck Road. From there it will be transferred to the Shanganagh Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) for treatment prior to discharge into the Irish Sea at Killiney Bay.</p>
Description of the Proposed Development	In brief, the proposed development will involve the construction of four single-storey residential units, which will house 16 people in total. There will be some minimal landscaping within the proposed development site, which will include the planting of native tree and grass species. The site will be accessed via an existing roadway off the Glenamuck Road. The estimated duration of the proposed development is approximately eight months. The Population Equivalent of the proposed development is 16 P.E.

<sup>5</sup> According to NBDC online data [www.biodiversity.ie](http://www.biodiversity.ie) accessed 18<sup>th</sup> February 2016. This excludes NBDC records with a resolution greater than 1km<sup>2</sup>.

<b>Table 1 Overview of the Proposed Development and its Receiving Environment</b>	
	<p>Surface water generated from the proposed development will be collected and transferred to an onsite attenuation tank and then discharged to the existing combined sewer located on Glenamuck Road. Foul effluent generated from the proposed development will be discharged to the existing sewer located on Glenamuck Road. From there, it will be transferred to Shanganagh WWTW to be treated prior to discharge into Killiney Bay.</p>
<p>Other existing or proposed plans or projects nearby which may lead to cumulative effects on European sites.</p>	<p><b>Existing habitat loss pressures</b></p> <p>The subject lands do not physically overlap with any European sites. They appear to be dominated by areas of hardstanding, which is not one of the habitats listed under Annex I of the Habitats Directive. This habitat is 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><b>Existing pressures on water quality within European sites in proximity to the site</b></p> <p>Several intertidal habitats for which European Sites in Killiney Bay are designated are failing to meet favourable conservation status. For some of these, water pollution is considered a threat ranked as being of “<i>high importance</i>” (NPWS, 2013).</p> <p><i>Pressures on European sites in Killiney Bay from surface waters</i></p> <p>The section entitled “Features of the Surrounding Environment” of this table describes the baseline environment of receiving coastal waters for the proposed development.</p> <p>There is potential for “<i>in-combination</i>” effects of proposed plans and projects within the draft <i>Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Development Plan 2016-2022</i> which would influence conditions in Killiney Bay via rivers and other surface water features. However Killiney Bay is of ‘<i>Unpolluted</i>’ water quality status (EPA 2015) and the pollutant content of future surface water discharges to Killiney Bay are considered likely to be decreased in the long-term. This is because it is an objective of the Greater Dublin Strategic Drainage Study, and development plans within the catchments of Shanganagh WWTP to include Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems in new developments. Together these objectives are considered likely to reduce pressures on designated marine and intertidal species and habitats in Killiney Bay.</p> <p>There is potential for ‘<i>in-combination</i>’ effects of proposed plans and projects within the draft <i>Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Development Plan 2016-2022</i> and other county level land use plans which can influence conditions in Killiney Bay via rivers and other surface water features. In the draft <i>Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Development Plan 2016 – 2022</i>, the proposed development site is zoned as ‘<i>Objective A – To protect and-or improve residential amenity</i>’. The lands in the vicinity of the proposed development site are zoned as ‘<i>Objective A – To protect and-or improve residential amenity</i>’, ‘<i>Objective E - To provide for economic development and employment</i>’ and ‘<i>Objective F – To preserve and provide for open space with ancillary active recreational amenities</i>’. However, due to the distance of the proposed development site from Killiney Bay and the temporary and small scale nature of the proposed development, there will be no likelihood of significant impacts arising from this development. The provision of a petrol interceptor and attenuation within this site will ensure that any surface water runoff arising from this development will be properly treated and attenuated prior to discharge into the existing combined sewer.</p>

**Table 1 Overview of the Proposed Development and its Receiving Environment**

There is a risk that construction related contamination (e.g. through surface run off) could flow overland into the local drainage network. However, such overflows are deemed unlikely to result in significant effects upon water quality in Killiney Bay. This is due to the following circumstances: the small scale of the proposed development; any pollution events will only occur during a short period of time (i.e. eight months during construction), and are likely to be infrequent (i.e. limited to storm flows) where standard good practice for construction sites have been adhered to; and, due to the distance of the proposed development from Killiney Bay which would mean that any escaped contaminants would be subject to dilution, adsorption and mixing in the local drainage network prior to reaching European Sites in Killiney Bay. As such there will be no risk of significant adverse impacts upon European sites occurring.

*Pressures on European sites in Killiney Bay from effluent*

The Shanganagh WWTP was upgraded in 2012. The upgrade involved the provision of a full secondary treatment of waste and the construction of a transfer pipeline from Bray pumping station to the plant. The plant now has a wastewater treatment capacity of 186,000 population equivalent (P.E.) with the potential of increasing its capacity to 248,000 P.E., if required in the future. The treated effluent from the plant is now consistently exceeding the standards laid down in the Urban Wastewater Directive<sup>6</sup>.

*Conclusion for potential in-combination effects from surface and/or foul waters*

There will be no likelihood of significant effects on any European sites, and there will be no adverse effects on the integrity of any European sites during the construction or operation of the proposed development, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. This judgement was reached on the basis of the items discussed above which in summary are that:

- The proposed development site does not overlap with any European Sites, appears to contain only habitats which would not correspond to habitats listed under Annex 1 of the Habitats Directive, and there are no records for qualifying interest species of any European sites either on the site or immediately adjacent to it.
- The coastal waters in Killiney Bay are classed as 'Unpolluted' by the EPA;
- It is an objective of all development plans within the catchment of Shanganagh WWTP to include Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems for all new development and same will be included in the proposed development;
- The recent upgrade at Shanganagh WWTP has ensured that the 'Unpolluted' water quality status of coastal waters at Killiney Bay are maintained, despite potential pressures from future development;
- Due to the distance of the proposed development site from Killiney Bay, the small scale of the proposed development, the short-term nature of the construction works (i.e. approximately eight months), the likely low frequency of any escape of contaminants/silt

<sup>6</sup> According to information on Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council Website. Available at:

<http://www.dlrco.ie/aboutus/councildepartments/corporateservices/communicationsoffice/excellenceinlocalgovernmentawards2013/shanganaghwastewatertreatmentplant/>

Accessed 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2016.



**Table 1 Overview of the Proposed Development and its Receiving Environment**

	<p>during construction and the adherence to standard good practice for construction sites there will be no risk of significant adverse impacts upon European sites occurring.</p>
--	---

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

<b>Table 2 Analysis of European sites within 15km.</b>			
<b>Site name and code</b>	<b>Distance from Proposed Development (approximate)</b>	<b>Reasons for designation<sup>7</sup> (*= Priority Habitat)</b>	<b>Relevant source-pathway-receptor links between proposed development and European site?</b>  No sites are “Relevant” to the Proposed Development. (European sites are “Relevant” where a relevant source-pathway-receptor link <sup>8</sup> exists).
<b>Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)</b>			
South Dublin Bay SAC (000210)	Located c. 6.9km north of the proposed development site	<b>Conservation Objectives Version 1.0 (22/08/13)</b> <b>Annex I Habitats:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]</li> </ul>	Whilst there is a potential linkage between the proposed development and the European site, no significant effects are predicted. This is due to the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Large distance that lies between the site and the SAC; and,</li> <li>• The substantial marine open water buffer that exists between the Shanganagh WWTP outfall pipe and the SAC.</li> </ul>
North Dublin Bay SAC (000206)	Located c. 12.4km north of the proposed development site	<b>Source : Conservation Objectives Version 1.0 (06/11/13)</b> <b>Annex I Habitats:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]</li> <li>• Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210]</li> <li>• <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonizing mud and sand [1310]</li> <li>• Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) [1330]</li> </ul>	No. See above for South Dublin Bay SAC (000210).

<sup>7</sup> “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](http://www.npws.ie) in June 2014.

<sup>8</sup> 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.**

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410]</li> <li>• Embryonic shifting dunes [2110]</li> <li>• Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> ("white dunes") [2120]</li> <li>• *Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("grey dunes") [2130]</li> <li>• Humid dune slacks [2190]</li> </ul> <p><b>Annex II Species:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> (Petalwort) [1395]</li> </ul>	
Glenasmole Valley SAC (001209)	Located c. 10.6km west of the proposed development site	<p><b>Conservation Objectives Generic Version 4.0 (13/02/15)</b></p> <p><b>Annex I Habitats:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (* important orchid sites) [6210]</li> <li>• Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae) [6410]</li> <li>• Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220]</li> </ul>	No, due to the distance between the proposed development site and the European site and the absence of a hydrological linkage between the two.
Wicklow Mountains SAC (002122)	Located c. 4.7km south-west of the proposed development site	<p><b>Conservation Objectives Generic Version 4.0 (13/02/15)</b></p> <p><b>Annex I Habitats:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the Littorelletea uniflorae and/or Isoeto-Nanojuncetea [3130]</li> <li>• Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160]</li> <li>• Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010]</li> <li>• European dry heaths [4030]</li> <li>• Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060]</li> <li>• Species-rich <i>Nardus</i> grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe) [6230]</li> <li>• Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130]</li> </ul>	No, due to the distance between the proposed development site and the European site and the absence of a hydrological linkage between the two.

**Table 2 Analysis of European sites within 15km.**

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (<i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsietalia ladani</i>) [8110]</li> <li>• Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8210]</li> <li>• Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220]</li> <li>• Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0]</li> </ul> <p><b>Annex II Species:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter) [1355]</li> </ul>	
Ballyman Glen SAC (000713)	Located c. 4km south of the proposed development site.	<p><b>Conservation Objectives Generic Version 4.0 (13/02/15)</b></p> <p><b>Annex I Habitats:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>) [7220]</li> <li>• Alkaline fens [7230]</li> </ul>	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. 3.1km south of the proposed development site.	<p><b>Conservation Objectives Generic Version 4.0 (13/02/15)</b></p> <p><b>Annex I Habitats:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>) [7220]</li> <li>• 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]</li> </ul>	No, due to the distance between the proposed development site and the European site and the absence of a hydrological linkage between the two.
Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC (003000)	Located c. 6.9km east of the proposed development site	<p><b>Generic Conservation Objectives Version 4.0 (07/05/13)</b></p> <p><b>Annex I Habitats:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reefs [1170]</li> </ul> <p><b>Annex II Species:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]</li> </ul>	No. See above for South Dublin Bay SAC (000210).
Glen of the Downs SAC (000719)	Located c. 11.8km south of the proposed	<p><b>Generic Conservation Objectives Version 4.0 (13/02/15)</b></p> <p><b>Annex I Habitats:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0]</li> </ul>	No, due to the distance between the proposed development site and the European site and the absence of a hydrological linkage between the two.

<b>Table 2 Analysis of European sites within 15km.</b>			
	development site		
Carriggower Bog SAC (000716)	Located c. 14.7km south of the proposed development site	<b>Generic Conservation Objectives Version 4.0 (13/02/15)</b> <b>Annex I Habitats:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140]</li> </ul>	No, due to the distance between the proposed development site and the European site and the absence of a hydrological linkage between the two.
Bray Head SAC (000713)	Located c. 8.4km south-east of the proposed development site	<b>Generic Conservation Objectives Version 4.0 (13/02/15)</b> <b>Annex I Habitats :</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230]</li> <li>• European dry heaths [4030]</li> </ul>	No, due to the distance between the proposed development site and the European site and the absence of a hydrological linkage between the two.
<b>Special Protection Areas (SPAs)</b>			
South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary (004024)	Located c. 7.3km north of the proposed development site	<b>Conservation Objectives Version 1.0 (09/03/15)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046] [wintering]</li> <li>• Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130] [wintering]</li> <li>• Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137] [wintering]</li> <li>• Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A140] [wintering]</li> <li>• Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143] [wintering]</li> <li>• Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144] [wintering]</li> <li>• Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149] [wintering]</li> <li>• Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157] [wintering]</li> <li>• Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162] [wintering]</li> <li>• Black-headed Gull (<i>Croicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179] [wintering]</li> <li>• Roseate Tern (<i>Sterna dougallii</i>) [A192] [passage]</li> <li>• Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193] [breeding]</li> <li>• Arctic Tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) [A194] [passage]</li> </ul>	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.

Table 2 Analysis of European sites within 15km.			
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wetlands &amp; Waterbirds [A999]</li> </ul>	
North Bull Island SPA (004006)	Located c. 12.4km north of the proposed development site	<p><b>Conservation Objectives Version 1.0 (09/03/15)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046] [wintering]</li> <li>Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048] [wintering]</li> <li>Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052] [wintering]</li> <li>Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) [A054] [wintering]</li> <li>Shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>) [A056] [wintering]</li> <li>Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130] [wintering]</li> <li>Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140] [wintering]</li> <li>Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141][wintering]</li> <li>Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143] [wintering]</li> <li>Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144] [wintering]</li> <li>Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149] [wintering]</li> <li>Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156] [wintering]</li> <li>Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157] [wintering]</li> <li>Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160] [wintering]</li> <li>Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162] [wintering]</li> <li>Turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>) [A169] [wintering]</li> <li>Black-headed Gull (<i>Croicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179] [wintering]</li> <li>Wetlands &amp; Waterbirds [A999]</li> </ul>	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.
Wicklow Mountains SPA (004040)	Located c. 4.7km south-west of the proposed	<p><b>Conservation Objectives Generic Version 4.0 (13/02/15)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Merlin <i>Falco columbarius</i> [A098]</li> <li>Peregrine <i>Falco peregrinus</i> [A103]</li> </ul>	No, due to the distance between the proposed development site and the European site and the absence of a hydrological linkage between the two.

Table 2 Analysis of European sites within 15km.			
	development site		
Dalkey Islands SPA (004172)	Located c. 7.8km north-east of the proposed development site	<b>Generic Conservation Objectives Version 4.0. (13/02/15)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Roseate Tern (<i>Sterna dougallii</i>) [A192]</li> <li>• Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>)[A193]</li> <li>• Arctic Tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) [A194]</li> </ul>	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.







### **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](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 30<sup>th</sup> November 2009 on the Conservation of Wild Birds (2009/147/EC)*. O.J. L20/7, 26<sup>th</sup> 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.