PROVISION OF INFORMATION REGARDING APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT SCREENING FOR PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT AT TEMPLE ROAD, BLACKROCK, CO. DUBLIN

Prepared for
Dun-Laoghaire – Rathdown County Council

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1 Introduction

The information in this report forms part of, and should be read in conjunction with the documentation accompanying the application for planning permission for a proposed residential development at Nos. 33, 35 and 37 Temple Road, Blackrock, Co. Dublin.

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 Section 177U of 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.

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. In accordance with the legislation and national guidance, the competent authority issues an AA Screening Determination which will set out their decision and the reasons for it.

Following the preparation of this screening statement it may be objectively concluded that there is 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 is our view that an Appropriate Assessment is 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

[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).

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, updated April 2015); 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).
- *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[2].
- *Communication from the Commission on the precautionary principle.* European Commission (2000).

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 Sites[4];
- 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 2nd June 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;

[2] Available online at http://www.levett-therivel.co.uk/AAguidelines.htm Accessed May 2016

[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 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 and species in Ireland (National Parks & Wildlife Service, 2013a & 2013b);
- 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)*;*
- *Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Biodiversity Plan 2009-2013* (Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, 2009)
- *Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Development Plan 2016-2022* (Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, 2016); and,
- *Eastern River Basin District, River Basin Management Plan 2009-2015* (Eastern River Basin District, 2009).

Table 1 Overview of the proposed development and its Receiving Environment	
Brief Site Description	The subject lands, which comprise of Nos. 33, 35 and 37 Temple Road, is located in the urban centre of Blackrock village, Co. Dublin (Irish Grid Reference: O 21644 29267). The site is part of St. Anne's Square, a 19th Century public housing scheme. A review of aerial photography shows that the site appears to consist of a partly demolished building and a small garden associated with the previous residential development that existed on site. The main Street of Blackrock village lies c. 80m south of the site while the Frascati Road (N31) lies c. 80m to the north. According to MyPlan.ie the subject lands are currently zoned as *'R2- Existing Residential'* while surrounding lands are zoned *as 'M3- District, neighbourhood centre'* under the *Dun-Laoghaire – Rathdown County Development plan (2016-2022).* The zoning objective for the subject site is 'to protect and-or improve residential amenity'. The site is also subject to the Blackrock Local Area Plan.
Features of the Surrounding Environment	The desktop study found no records of any species or habitats for which European Sites listed in Table 2 are designated within the subject lands or their immediate environs. The following species (for which European Sites listed in Table 2 have been designated) have been recorded within 2km of the proposed development[5]. • Otter *Lutra lutra*, c. 2km to the east (2015); • Harbour Porpoise *Phocoena phocoena*, c. 2.3km to the northeast (2013); • Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*, c.560m to the northwest (2015); • Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*, c370m to the northwest (2011); • Sanderling *Calidris alba*, c.340m to the north (2010); • Dunlin *Calidris alpina*, c.250m to the north (2010); • Bar-tailed Godwit *Lapponica lapponica*, c. 350m to the north (2010); • Redshank *Tringa totanus*, c.370m to the northwest (2011); • Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*, c. 350m to the north (2010); • Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii*, c.1.3km to the north (2012); • Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*, c.1.3km to the north (2012); • Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*, c.1.3km to the north (2012); • Teal *Anas crecca*, c. 1.6km to the northwest (2010); • Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*, c.350m to the north (2010); • Curlew *Numenius arquata*, c. 1.6km to the northwest (2011); • Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*, c. 1.8km to the northwest (2006);

[5] According to NBDC online data www.biodiversity.ie accessed 12th May 2016. This excludes NBDC records with a resolution greater than or equal to 1km^2

Table 1 Overview of the proposed development and its Receiving Environment	
	• Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*, c. 1.7km to the northwest (2010); • Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*, c.2.2km to the east (2012); • Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*, c. 770m to the northeast (2011); • Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*, c. 340m to the northwest (2010); • Razorbill *Alca torda*, c.1.3km to the north (2010); and; • Guillemot *Uria aalge*, c. 1.6km to the northeast (1995). The proposed development site is located within the Liffey and Dublin Bay catchment area and within the River Dodder subcatchment. According to the EPA Envision Map Viewer, there are no watercourses on the site. The nearest known watercourse is the Brewery Stream, which is located *c*. 120m south-east of the subject lands. The Brewery Stream discharges into Dublin Bay coastal waterbody *c*. 230m north-east of the proposed development site. The water quality of Dublin Bay is regarded as *'Unpolluted'*. The groundwater body at the proposed development site is the '*Kilcullen*' groundwater body and is described as '*Poorly productive bedrock*' and is '*At risk of not achieving good status*'. According to the GSI Map Viewer, the level of vulnerability to groundwater contamination from human activities in the immediate area is deemed to be '*High*'. The bedrock formation on site is the '*Type 2p microcline porphyritic'* which is composed of '*Granite with microcline phenocrysts*'. It is also described as '*Poor aquifer – Bedrock which is generally unproductive except for local zones*'. Surface water from the proposed development will be discharged to the existing combined sewer located on St. Anne's Square. Foul waters arising from the development will be discharged to the same combined sewer and will then be pumped to Ringsend WWTP for treatment, prior to discharge into Dublin Bay. The most recent available water quality data for Dublin Bay's coastal waters indicates they 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 plant growth, or disturbance of the level of dissolved oxygen normally present (EPA, 2015).
Description of proposed development	The Housing Department of Dun-Laoghaire – Rathdown County Council intend to apply for full planning permission for a residential development at Nos. 33, 35 and 37 Temple Street, Blackrock, Co. Dublin. The proposal will involve: • The complete demolition of the existing damaged buildings on site; • The construction of 3 apartments consisting 1 no. 5 bedspace ground floor apartment; 2 no. 4 bedspace duplex apartments overhead; • Provision of 2no. street trees on the temple Road frontage; • Traffic calming will be provided along the junction between Temple Road and St. Anne's Square along with pavements adjoining the proposed development. These features will be constructed using high quality materials in line with the Blackrock Local Area Plan (LAP); • Proposed lighting will be street lighting – 'LED urban street lighting'; and;

Table 1 Overview of the proposed development and its Receiving Environment	
	• Parking for residents will be limited to on-street parking (with residents permit) and bike stands will be located close to the proposed development as part of public realm improvements. Additional bike storage will be possible in the garden of the ground floor and inside the ground floor hall doors to the other two units. The proposed development has an expected duration of construction of 6-12 months. The completed proposed development is expected to have a population of approximately 12 persons, resulting in an insignificant increase in foul water. Foul effluent generated from the proposed development will be discharged to an existing combined sewer located St. Anne's Square to the south-west of the site boundary. From there, it will be pumped to Ringsend WWTP for treatment prior to discharge to Dublin Bay. Surface water from the proposed development site will be discharged to the same combined sewer on St. Anne's Square. There are no proposals for any Sustainable Urban Drainage systems (SUDs).There are no additional impermeable areas resulting from the proposed development, and it is unlikely to result in increased surface-water run-off.
Other existing or proposed plans or projects nearby which may lead to cumulative effects on European Sites.	**Existing habitat loss pressures** The subject lands do not physically overlap with any European Sites. They appear to be dominated by buildings and small urban gardens, none of which are habitats listed under Annex 1 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. **Existing pressures on water quality within European Sites in proximity to the site** 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 "*high importance*"[6] (NPWS, 2013a). *Pressures on European Sites in Dublin Bay from surface waters* There is potential for '*in-combination*' effects of proposed plans and projects within the *South Dublin County Development Plan 2010 – 2016, Dublin City Development Plan 2011-2017*, *Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Development Plan 2016-2022*, *Fingal Development Plan 2011-2017* 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 '*Unpolluted*' 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.

[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	
	There are a large number of Combined Sewer Outfalls (CSO's) from the public network in Dublin City which ultimately discharge to Dublin Bay. These could potentially carry pollution from existing and proposed developments into Dublin Bay. There is limited opportunity for cumulative effects with surface water from the proposed development as there will be no net gain in surface area for the development and it is therefore unlikely to generate additional runoff. Contaminants generated during construction works for the overall development may be drained or flow overland into the local network by virtue of the fact that all surface water run-off from the construction site will drain to the existing sewer. Given the presence of almost total building cover adjacent to the proposed site; the description of the proposed development; and the assimilative capacity of Dublin Bay as a whole; it is considered that the risk of a contamination event occurring during construction that would negatively affect water quality in Dublin Bay is extremely low. Any substantial run-off from the site will only occur over a short period of time (i.e. <2 years during construction), are likely to be infrequent i.e. limited to storm flows in the system, and are likely to result in imperceptible concentrations of contaminants reaching European Sites in Dublin Bay following adsorption and mixing in the local drainage network. The impact of the proposed development on European Sites during construction is considered to be imperceptible. *Pressures on European Sites in Dublin Bay from effluent* The Greater Dublin Area including the proposed development and satellite towns in counties bordering Dublin, fall within the catchment of the Ringsend Waste Water Treatment Works (WWTW). During operation, foul effluent generated from the proposed development will be carried by the public sewerage network to the Ringsend WWTW for treatment prior to discharge to Dublin Bay. Foul water comprising sewage and industrial effluent (and some surface water run-off) from the Dublin area has historically, and will continue to be treated at Ringsend WWTW prior to discharge to Dublin Bay. Ringsend WWTW has historically operated at or above capacity, with a contributing residential population in the order of 1.1 million P.E. and a total load (including non-domestic load) of 1.7 million P.E. on average, with significant fluctuations from day to day. There has been a sizeable decline in annual loading in recent years in line with the economic downturn which has offset most of the earlier overloading[7]. In 2013 the plant was non-compliant with several parameters as set under the EPA discharge licence. Any existing or proposed projects discharging to the plant have the potential to act cumulatively to reduce water quality in Dublin Bay, affecting European Sites therein. Despite Ringsend WWTW historically operating at or above capacity, no significant effects from discharge arising from the proposed development are predicted due to the following: • there was no proven link between WWTW discharges and nutrient enrichment of sediments in Dublin Bay based on analyses of dissolved and particulate Nitrogen signatures (Wilson and Jackson, 2011);

[7] According to Irish Water, North Lotts and Grand Canal Docks SDZ Oral Hearing Evidence, 24th February 2014 and other media coverage.

Table 1 Overview of the proposed development and its Receiving Environment	
	• enriched water entering Dublin Bay has been shown to rapidly mix and become diluted such that the plume is often indistinguishable from the rest of bay water (O'Higgins and Wilson, 2005); and • a commitment by Irish Water to upgrade the plant to meet EU standards and expand the facility to deal with the equivalent of 450,000 people's waste (*i.e.* the equivalent expansion as previously planned by Dublin City Council) [8]. *Conclusion for potential in-combination effects from surface and/or foul waters* 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: • The coastal waters in Dublin Bay are classed as '*Unpolluted'* 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 development; • In the unlikely event of a pollution event during construction, this would not be of such a magnitude that it would have a significant adverse effect on water quality in Dublin Bay; • There has been a sizeable decline in annual loading of Ringsend WWTW in recent years due to the economic downturn which has offset the problem of overloading; • There is a commitment by Irish Water to upgrade the plant to meet EU standards and expand the facility to deal with the equivalent of 450,000 people's waste (*i.e.* the equivalent expansion as previously planned by Dublin City Council). This is likely to maintain the "*Unpolluted*" water quality status of coastal waters despite potential pressures from future development; • There was no proven link between WWTW discharges and nutrient enrichment of sediments in Dublin Bay based on analyses of dissolved and particulate Nitrogen signatures (Wilson and Jackson, 2011); and • Enriched water entering Dublin bay has been shown to rapidly mix and become diluted such that the plume is often indistinguishable from the rest of the bay water (O'Higgins and Wilson, 2005).

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 designation[8] (*= Priority Habitat) (Sourced from NPWS online Conservation Objectives Generic Version 4.0 for SACs and 4.0 for SPAs, unless otherwise stated).	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[9] exists).
Special Areas of Conservation			
South Dublin Bay SAC (000210)	Located *c.* 230m North East of the proposed development site	**Annex I Habitats:** ▪ [1140] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide Source: NPWS (2013) *Conservation objectives for South Dublin Bay SAC 000210. Version 1.* Department of Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht.	The existing local surface water drainage network which drains to Dublin Bay via the Brewery Stream, and the discharge of treated effluent from the foul drainage network are potential pathways between the proposed development site and Dublin Bay. No significant adverse effects are predicted due to the following: – The temporary nature of any discharges related to construction of the site; – The adherence to best practice construction methodology in relation to potential contaminated land and / groundwater as outlined under "Potential for Cumulative effects upon European Sites" (See Table 1);

[8] "Qualifying Interests" for SACs and "Special Conservation Interests" for SPAs based on Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) relevant Statutory Instruments for each SPA, and NPWS Conservation Objectives for SACs downloaded from www.npws.ie in April 2016.

[9] 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.			
			– The distance between the site and Dublin Bay and potential for pollution in the drainage network; – The known potential for waters in Dublin Bay to rapidly mix and assimilate pollutants (Wilson and Jackson, 2011); – Foul waters generated on site during operation will be treated at Ringsend WWTW before being discharged into Dublin Bay.
Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC [003000]	Located *c.* 5.6km East of the proposed development site	**Annex I Habitats:** ▪ [1170] Reefs **Annex II Species:** ▪ [1351] Harbour porpoise *Phocoena phocoena* Source: NPWS (2013) *Conservation Objectives: Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC 003000. Version 1.* National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.	No, as above for South Dublin Bay SAC. Also, there is a substantial marine buffer between the proposed development and the qualifying interests of the European Site.
North Dublin Bay SAC [000206]	Located *c*. 6km North of the proposed development site	**Annex I Habitats:** ▪ [1140] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide ▪ [1210] Annual vegetation of drift lines ▪ [1310] *Salicornia* and other annuals colonizing mud and sand ▪ [1330] Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia* maritimae) ▪ [1410] Mediterranean salt meadows (*Juncetalia maritimi*) ▪ [2110] Embryonic shifting dunes	No, as above for South Dublin Bay SAC. Also in the case of terrestrial habitats the fact there is no hydrological connection as this habitat is located above the shoreline.

Table 2 Analysis of European Sites within 15km.			
		▪ [2120] Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* ("white dunes") ▪ [2130] * Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("grey dunes") ▪ [2190] Humid dune slacks **Annex II Species:** ▪ [1395] *Petalophyllum ralfsii* Source: NPWS (2013) *Conservation objectives for North Dublin Bay SAC 000206. Version 1.* Department of Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht.	
Howth Head SAC [000202]	Located *c.* 9.4km North East of the proposed development site	**Annex I Habitats:** ▪ [4030] European dry heaths ▪ [1230] Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts	No, due to distance and the absence of any hydrological or other potential impact pathways between the proposed development and the European Site.
Knocksink Wood SAC [000725]	Located *c.* 10km South of the proposed development site	**Annex I Habitats:** ▪ [7220] Petrifying springs with tufa formation (*Cratoneurion*) [91E0] Alluvial forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior* (*Alno-Padion*, *Alnion incanae*, *Salicion albae*)	No, due to distance and the absence of any hydrological or other potential impact pathways between the proposed development and the European Site.

Table 2 Analysis of European Sites within 15km.			
Wicklow Mountains SAC [002122]	Located *c.* 10.4km South West of the proposed development site	**Annex I Habitats:** ▪ [3130] Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the *Littorelletea uniflorae* and/or of the *Isoëto-Nanojuncetea* ▪ [3160] Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds ▪ [4010] Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix* ▪ [4030] European dry heaths ▪ [4060] Alpine and Boreal heaths ▪ [6230] Species-rich *Nardus* grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and sub-mountain areas, in Continental Europe) ▪ [7130] Blanket bogs (* if active only) ▪ [8110] Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (*Androsacetalia alpinae* and *Galeopsietalia ladani*) ▪ [8210] Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation ▪ [8220] Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation ▪ [91A0] Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles **Annex II Species:** ▪ [1355] Otter – *Lutra lutra*	No, due to distance and the absence of any hydrological or other potential impact pathways between the proposed development and the European Site.
Ballyman Glen SAC [000713]	Located *c.* 10.9km South of the proposed development site	**Annex I Habitats:** ▪ [7220] Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7230] Alkaline fens	No, due to distance and the absence of any hydrological or other potential impact pathways between the proposed development and the European Site.

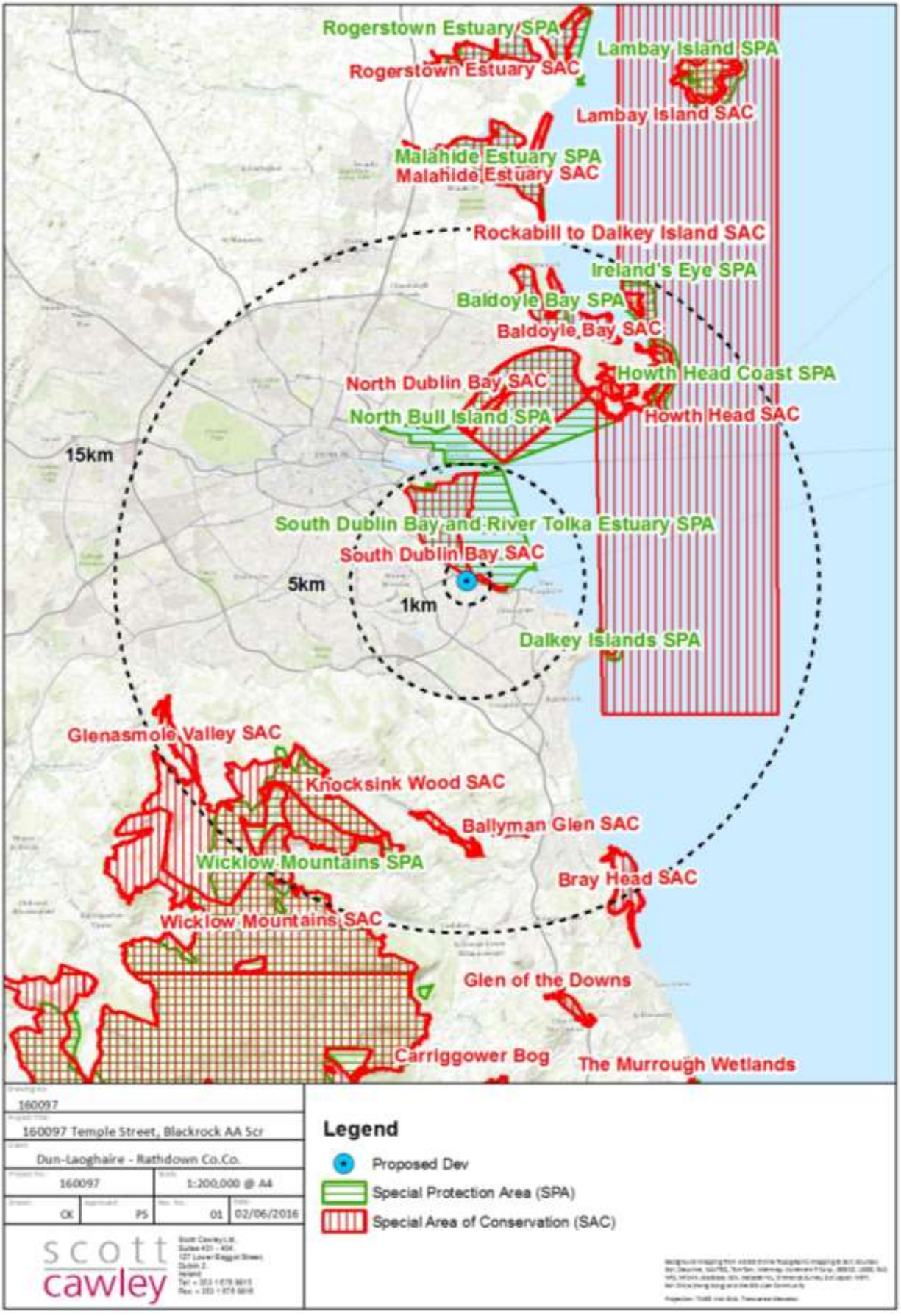
Table 2 Analysis of European Sites within 15km.			
Baldoyle Bay SAC [000199]	Located *c.* 11.3km North East of the proposed development site	**Annex I Habitats:** ▪ [1140] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide ▪ [1310] *Salicornia* and other annuals colonizing mud and sand ▪ [1330] Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia* maritimae) ▪ [1410] Mediterranean salt meadows (*Juncetalia maritimi*) Source: NPWS (2012) *Conservation Objectives: Baldoyle Bay SAC 000199. Version 1.0.* *N*ational Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht	No, there were no linkages between the proposed development and the European Site due to the distance between the two sites and the substantial marine buffer between the site and WWTW outfall pipe at Ringsend.
Bray Head SAC [000714]	Located c. 13.3km South East of the proposed development site	**Annex I Habitats:** ▪ [1230] Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts ▪ [4030] European dry heaths	No, due to distance and the absence of any hydrological or other potential impact pathways between the proposed development and the European Site.
Ireland's Eye SAC [002193]	Located *c.* 13.5km North East of the proposed development site	**Annex I Habitats:** ▪ [1220] Perennial vegetation of stony banks ▪ [1230] Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts	No, due to distance and the absence of any hydrological or other potential impact pathways between the proposed development and the European Site.

Table 2 Analysis of European Sites within 15km.			
Glenasmole Valley SAC [001209]	Located *c.* 14km South West of the proposed development site	**Annex I Habitats:** ▪ [6210] Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (*Festuco Brometalia*)(* important orchid sites) ▪ [6410] *Molinia* meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (*Molinion caeruleae*) ▪ [7220] * Petrifying springs with tufa formation (*Cratoneurion*)	No, due to distance and the absence of any hydrological or other potential impact pathways between the proposed development and the European Site.
Special Protection Areas (SPA)			
South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary [004024]	Located *c.* 230m North East of the proposed development site	• Light-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla hrota* [A046] [wintering] • Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus* [A130] [wintering] • Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticul*) [A137] [wintering] • Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola* [A140] [wintering] • Knot *Calidris canutus* [A143] [wintering] • Sanderling *Calidris alba* [A144] [wintering] • Dunlin *Calidris alpina* [A149] [wintering] • Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica* [A157] [wintering] • Redshank *Tringa totanus* [A162] [wintering] • Black-headed Gull *Croicocephalus ridibundus* [A179] [wintering] • Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii* [A192] [passage] • Common Tern *Sterna hirundo* [A193] [breeding] • Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea* [A194] [passage] • Wetlands & Waterbirds [A999]	No for the same reasons set out under South Dublin Bay SAC above. There is no risk of noise or other disturbance impacts 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.
Dalkey Islands SPA (004172)	Located *c*. 6km South East of the proposed	• Roseate tern *Sterna dougallii* [A192] [breeding + passage] • Common tern *Sterna hirundo* [A193] [breeding + passage] • Arctic tern *Sterna paradisaea* [A194] [passage]	No. See above for South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA.

Table 2 Analysis of European Sites within 15km.			
	development site	•	
North Bull Island SPA [004006]	Located *c.* 6.3km North of the proposed development site	• Light-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla hrota* [A046] [wintering • Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna* [A048] [wintering] • Teal *Anas crecca* [A052] [wintering] • Pintail *Anas acuta* [A054] [wintering] • Shoveler *Anas clypeata* [A056] [wintering] • Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus* [A130] [wintering] • Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria* [A140] [wintering] • Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola* [A141][wintering] • Knot *Calidris canutus* [A143] [wintering] • Sanderling *Calidris alba* [A144] [wintering] • Dunlin *Calidris alpina* [A149] [wintering] • Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa* [A156] [wintering] • Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica* [A157] [wintering] • Curlew *Numenius arquata* [A160] [wintering] • Redshank *Tringa totanus* [A162] [wintering] • Turnstone *Arenaria interpres* [A169] [wintering] • Black-headed Gull *Croicocephalus ridibundus* [A179] [wintering] • Wetlands & Waterbirds [A999]	No. See above for South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA.
Wicklow Mountains SPA (004040)	Located *c.* 10.4km South West of the proposed development site	• Merlin *Falco columbarius* [A098] [breeding + resident] • Peregrine falcon *Falco peregrinus* [A103] [breeding + resident]	No, due to the distance between the proposed development site and the European site.

Table 2 Analysis of European Sites within 15km.			
Howth Head Coast SPA [004113]	Located *c.* 10.7km North East of the proposed development site	• Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla* [A188] [breeding]	No, due to the distance between the proposed development site and the European site.
Baldoyle Bay SPA [004016]	Located *c.* 11.3km North East of the proposed development site	• Light-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla hrota* [A046] [wintering] • Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna* [A048] [wintering] • Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula* [A137] [wintering] • Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria* [A140] [wintering] • Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola* [A141] [wintering] • Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica* [A157] [wintering] • Wetlands & Waterbirds [A999] Source: NPWS (2013) *Conservation Objectives: Baldoyle Bay SPA 004016. Version 1.* National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.	No, due to the distance between the proposed development site and the European site.
Ireland's Eye SPA [004117]	Located *c.* 13.3km North East of the proposed development site	• Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo* [A017] [breeding] • Herring gull *Larus argentatus* [A184] [breeding] • Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla* [A188] [breeding] • Guillemot *Uria aalge* [A199] [breeding] • Razorbill *Alca torda* [A200] [breeding]	No, due to the distance between the proposed development site and the European site.

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.

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