



**PROVISION OF INFORMATION REGARDING APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT SCREENING  
PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT, FITZGERALD PARK,  
LOWER MOUNTTOWN ROAD,  
DÚN LAOGHAIRE, CO. DUBLIN.**

**PREPARED FOR DÚN LAOGHAIRE-RATHDOWN COUNTY COUNCIL**

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**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. .... 9

**LIST OF FIGURES AND APPENDICES**

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

## 1 Introduction

The information in this report forms part of, and should be read in conjunction with the documentation accompanying the Part VIII application for the proposed residential development at Fitzgerald Park, Lower Mounttown Road, Dún Laoghaire, 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. It provides information on and assesses the potential for the proposed development to significantly affect European 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 report 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;
- *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);
- *Managing Natura 2000 Sites: The Provisions of Article 6 of the Habitat's Directive 92/43/EEC* (EC Environment Directorate-General, 2000); hereafter referred to as MN2000;

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<sup>1</sup> Natura 2000 sites are defined under the Habitats Directive (Article 3) as a European ecological network of special area of conservation composed of sites which host the natural habitat types listed in Annex I and habitats of the protected 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 designated 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 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>; and,
- *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, and further considers whether these effects are likely to adversely affect the integrity of any European sites.

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 5<sup>th</sup> March 2015. 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);

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<sup>2</sup> Available online at <http://www.levett-therivel.co.uk/AAGuidelines.htm> Accessed April 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.

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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:

- *Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Development Plan 2010-2016*; and
- *Eastern River Basin District, River Basin Management Plan 2009 – 2015*.

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

Site Description	The subject lands are located in Fitzgerald Park, off Lower Mounttown Road (centred on Irish Grid Ref: O 23481 27649). The site appears to consist of recolonizing bare ground with some scattered trees, having previously been cleared of a residential flat complex in 2007. Land surrounding the site is mainly in residential use.
Features of the surrounding environment	<p>The desktop study found no records of any species or habitats for which European sites were designated within the subject lands or within a 1km grid square (02327)<sup>5</sup>.</p> <p>The subject lands are located within the Loughlinstown-Coastal catchment. There do not appear to be any watercourses within the site. However, the Monkstown Stream is culverted ca. 60m to the south west of the site flowing in a north westerly direction and discharging into the Irish Sea at Dún Laoghaire Harbour. A portion of the stream is located in the Coastal08 catchment<sup>6</sup>.</p> <p>According to EPA online Envision Maps, there are no water quality values for the Monkstown Stream. The coastal water quality of Dublin Bay, including the Dún Laoghaire to Dalkey coastline is of 'Unpolluted' water quality status.</p> <p>The proposed development will discharge foul water to the existing foul sewer network where it will be pumped to Ringsend WWTW prior to treatment and discharge to Dublin Bay. Surface water will be discharged to the existing surface water sewer network which ultimately discharges to 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 2010).</p>
Description of the Proposed Development	<p>Full details of the proposed development can be found in the Part VIII documentation. In brief, the proposed development will involve the construction of 50 residential units comprised of 24 No. 1 bed units, 6 No. 2 bed units, 18 No. 3 bed units and 2 No. 4 bed units.</p> <p>Foul effluent generated from the proposed development will be discharged into the existing foul sewer system on Fitzgerald Park Road. From there, it will be carried to Ringsend WWTW, where it will be treated and then discharged into the Irish Sea at Dublin Bay.</p> <p>Surface water on the site will be treated via a range of SuDs techniques comprising of; permeable paving, proprietary arch attenuation system, petrol interceptor and flow restriction prior to discharge to the existing surface water sewer on Fitzgerald Park Road. Following discharge to the surface water sewer, surface water will ultimately be discharged into Dublin Bay.</p>
Potential Cumulative Impacts	<p><i>Existing Habitat Loss Pressures</i></p> <p>The subject lands do not physically overlap with any European sites. They appear to be dominated by recolonizing bare ground and scattered 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</p>

<sup>5</sup> According to NBDC online data [www.biodiversity.ie](http://www.biodiversity.ie) accessed 05/03/15

<sup>6</sup> According to EPA online data [www.epa.ie](http://www.epa.ie) accessed 05/03/15

	<p>subject lands. There is therefore no potential for cumulative effects relating to habitat loss.</p> <p><i>Existing pressures on water quality within European sites in proximity to the site</i></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 “high importance”<sup>7</sup> (NPWS, 2013).</p> <p><i>Pressures on European sites in Dublin Bay from surface waters</i></p> <p>There is potential for “in-combination” effects of proposed plans and projects within the <i>Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Development Plan 2010-2016, Fingal Development Plan 2011-2017, Dublin City 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 “Unpolluted” water quality status (EPA 2010) 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>There are a number of existing and proposed development projects<sup>8</sup> within the vicinity of this site which have the potential to produce “in combination” effects to water quality in Dublin Bay. Given that the site was previously operational as a residential flat complex, and also given the sustainable drainage proposals for the development, this will ensure that operational surface water runoff arising from this development will be treated prior to discharge to the existing surface water sewer. Therefore, the likelihood of impacts arising from this development is deemed to be low.</p> <p>It is considered extremely unlikely that during construction, a pollution event would occur of a magnitude that would have any adverse effects on water quality in Dublin Bay, or affect the Qualifying Interest/Special Conservation Interests of the European sites therein, due to the distance between the site and Dublin Bay and potential for dilution in the drainage network before entering Dublin Bay. There is therefore no potential for cumulative impacts.</p> <p><i>Pressures on European sites in Dublin Bay from effluent</i></p> <p>The Greater Dublin Area including the subject lands 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 Waste Water Treatment Works (WWTW) for treatment prior to discharge to Dublin Bay.</p> <p>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 and a total load (including non-domestic load) of 1.7 million P.E. on average, with significant</p>
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<sup>7</sup> 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.

<sup>8</sup> Dún Laoghaire County Council Planning Application Search <http://planning.dlrcoco.ie/swiftlg/apas/run/wphappcriteria.display> Accessed 05/03/15

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<sup>9</sup>.

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);
- 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)<sup>8</sup>.

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

It is our professional opinion that there will be no likelihood for significant effects on any European sites, and there will be no adverse effects on European site integrity 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;
- It is extremely unlikely that during construction a pollution event would occur of a magnitude that would have an 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).

<sup>9</sup> According to Irish Water, North Lotts and Grand Canal Docks SDZ Oral Hearing Evidence, 24<sup>th</sup> February 2014 and other media coverage.



European sites within 15km of the proposed development site are shown in Figure 1 in Appendix A.

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

Site name and code	Distance from Proposed Development (approximate)	Reasons for designation <sup>10</sup> (*= 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 <sup>11</sup> exists).
<b>Special Areas of Conservation</b>			
South Dublin Bay SAC (000210)	ca. 1km	<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 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 directly to Dublin Bay. 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"> <li>- The temporary nature of any discharges related to the short duration of the construction phase of the project;</li> <li>- The distance between the site and Dublin Bay and potential for dilution in the drainage</li> </ul>

<sup>10</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 in January 2015.

<sup>11</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.**

			<p>network;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The use of SuDS on the site during operation; and</li> <li>-The known potential for waters in Dublin Bay to rapidly mix and assimilate pollutants (Wilson &amp; Jackson, 2011).</li> </ul> <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>
North Dublin Bay SAC (000206)	ca. 6.7km	<p><b>Conservation Objectives Version 1.0 (06/11/13)</b></p> <p><b>Annex I Habitats:</b></p> <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 maritima</i>) [1330]</li> <li>• <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> [1395]</li> <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> </ul> <p>Humid dune slacks [2190]</p>	As above for South Dublin Bay SAC.
Baldoyle Bay SAC (000199)	ca. 12km	<p><b>Conservation Objectives Version 1.0 (19/11/12)</b></p> <p><b>Annex I Habitats:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]</li> <li>• <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonizing mud and sand [1310]</li> </ul>	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 water buffer between the site and WWTW outfall pipe at Ringsend.

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

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) [1330]</li> <li>• Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410]</li> </ul>	
Howth Head SAC (000202)	ca. 9.5km	<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>• Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230]</li> <li>• European dry heaths [4030]</li> </ul>	No. See entry under South Dublin Bay SAC above, and in the case of European dry heaths the fact that this habitat is located above the shoreline and therefore there is no hydrological connection to it.
Ireland's Eye SAC (002193)	ca. 14km	<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>• Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220]</li> <li>• Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230]</li> </ul>	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 water buffer between the site and WWTW outfall pipe at Ringsend.
Glenasmole Valley SAC (001209)	ca. 14.6km	<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>• [6210] Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco Brometalia</i>)(* important orchid sites)</li> <li>• [6410] <i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>)</li> <li>• [7220] * Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>)</li> </ul>	No, due to distance and the absence of any hydrological or other potential impact pathways between the proposed development and the European site.
Wicklow Mountains SAC (002122)	ca. 10.4km	<p><b>Conservation Objectives Generic Version 4.0 (05/03/15)</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 <i>Littorelletea uniflorae</i> and/or of the <i>Isoëto-Nanojuncetea</i> [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</li> </ul>	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.**

		<p>(and sub-mountain areas, in Continental Europe) [6230]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blanket bogs (* if active only) [7130]</li> <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>• Otter - <i>Lutra lutra</i> [1355]</li> </ul>	
Knocksink Wood SAC (000725)	ca. 8.8km	<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>)</li> </ul>	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)	ca. 8.8km	<p><b>Conservation Objectives Generic Version 4.0 (12/02/15)</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 distance and the absence of any hydrological or other potential impact pathways between the proposed development and the European site.
Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC (003000)	ca. 4km	<p><b>Detailed Conservation Objectives Version 1.0</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>• Harbour porpoise (<i>Phocoena phocaena</i>) [1351]</li> </ul>	No, due to distance between the Ringsend WWTW outfall pipe and the substantial marine open water buffer between the sites.
Bray Head SAC (000714)	ca. 10.5km	<p><b>Conservation Objectives Generic Version 4.0 (15/02/15)</b></p> <p><b>Annex I Habitats:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230]</li> </ul>	No, due to distance between the sites and the combination of there being a substantial marine open water buffer between the sites and in the case of European dry heaths the fact that this

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

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>European dry heaths [4030]</li> </ul>	habitat is located above the shoreline and therefore there is no hydrological connection to it.
<b>Special Protection Areas</b>			
North Bull Island SPA (004006)	ca. 6.7km	<p><b>Conservation Objectives Generic Version 4.0 (13/02/15)</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 entry under South Dublin Bay SAC above. There is no risk of disturbance to Special Conservation Interest bird species given the distance between the proposed development and the European site.
South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA (004024)	ca. 1.4km	<p><b>Conservation Objectives Generic Version 4.0 (13/02/15)</b></p> <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> </ul>	No. See entry under South Dublin Bay SAC above. There is no risk of disturbance to Special Conservation Interest bird species given the distance between the proposed development and the European site.

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

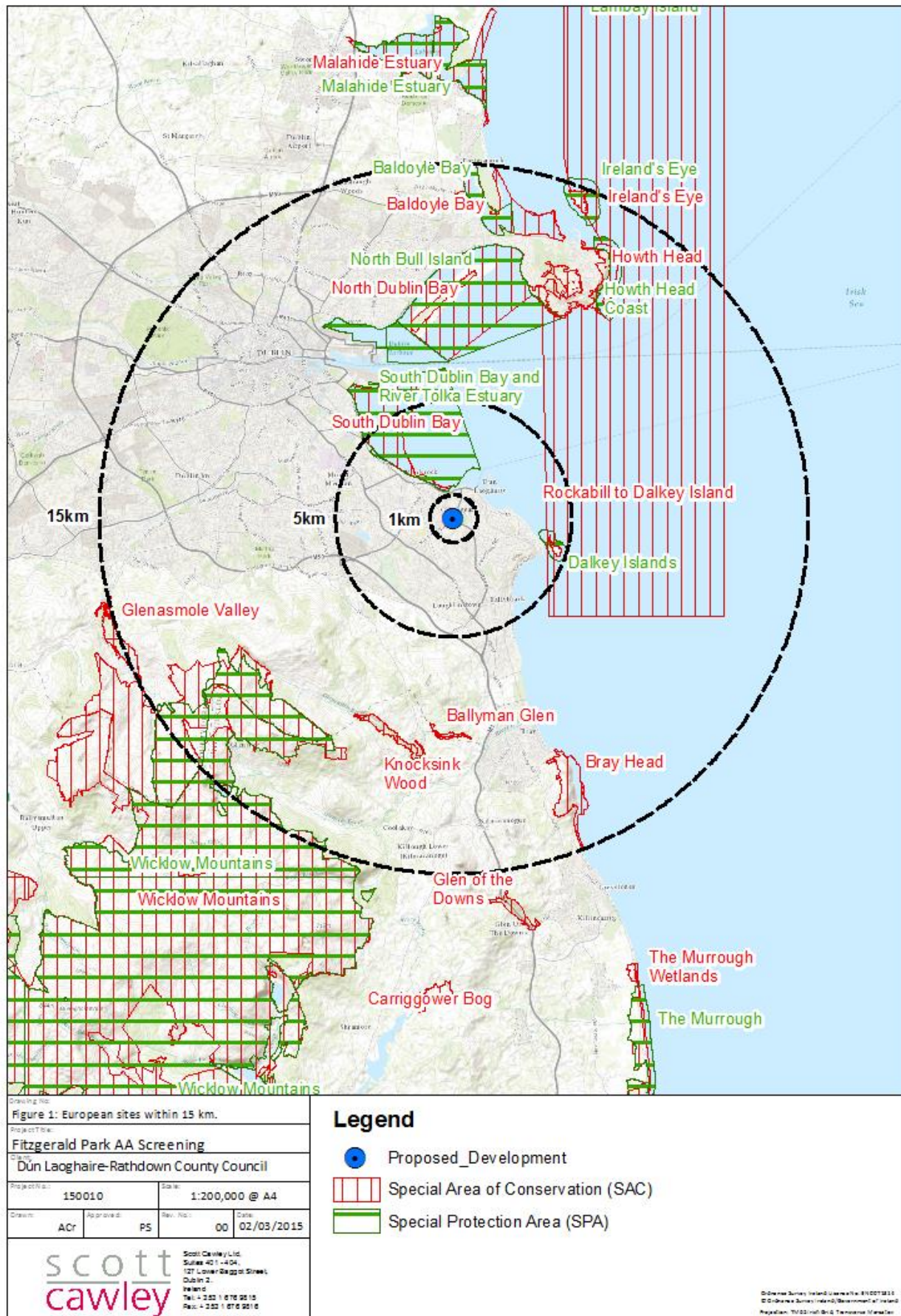
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A140] [wintering]</li> <li>• Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143] [wintering]</li> <li>• Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144] [wintering]</li> <li>• Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149] [wintering]</li> <li>• Bar-tailed 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> <li>• Wetlands &amp; Waterbirds [A999]</li> </ul>	
Baldoye Bay SPA (04016)	ca. 12km	<p><b>Conservation Objectives Version 1 (21/02/13)</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>• Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137] [wintering]</li> <li>• Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140] [wintering]</li> <li>• Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] [wintering]</li> <li>• Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157] [wintering]</li> <li>• Wetlands &amp; Waterbirds [A999]</li> </ul>	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 water buffer between the site and WWTW outfall pipe at Ringsend.
Howth Head Coast SPA (004113)	ca. 10.5km	<p><b>Conservation Objectives Generic Version 4.0 (13/02/15)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) [A188] [breeding]</li> </ul>	No, due to the distance between the two sites and the substantial marine water buffer between the site and WWTW outfall pipe at Ringsend.
Ireland's Eye SPA (004117)	ca. 13.6km	<p><b>Conservation Objectives Generic Version 4.0 (13/02/15)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017] [breeding]</li> <li>• Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) [A184] [breeding]</li> <li>• Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) [A188] [breeding]</li> <li>• Guillemot (<i>Uria aalge</i>) [A199] [breeding]</li> </ul>	No, due to the distance between the two sites and the substantial marine water buffer between the site and WWTW outfall pipe at Ringsend.

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

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Razorbill (<i>Alca torda</i>) [A200] [breeding]</li> </ul>	
Wicklow Mountains SPA (004040)	ca. 10.5km	<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] [breeding]</li> <li>Peregrine (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>) [A103] [breeding]</li> </ul>	No, due to the distance between the two sites.
Dalkey Islands SPA (04127)	ca. 4km	<p><b>Conservation Objectives Generic Version 4.0 (13/02/15)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Roseate Tern <i>Sterna dougallii</i> [A192] [passage]</li> <li>Common Tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i> [A193] [passage]</li> <li>Arctic Tern <i>Sterna paradisaea</i> [A194] [passage]</li> </ul>	No. See entry under South Dublin Bay SAC above. There is no risk of disturbance to Special Conservation Interest bird species given the distance between the proposed development and the European site.



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





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### **3 Conclusions of the Screening Assessment**

Following an analysis of the proposed development and potential relationships with European sites, it was our professional opinion that there will be no likelihood of significant effects on any European sites and no impacts to European site integrity, either 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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