



**PROVISION OF INFORMATION REGARDING APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT SCREENING
PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT, GEORGE'S PLACE, DUN LAOGHAIRE, CO. DUBLIN**

PREPARED FOR DUN LAOGHAIRE RATHDOWN COUNTY COUNCIL

Project Reference:		150225			
Rev.	Status	Author	Reviewed By	Approved By	Issue Date
R01	Final	KB	PS	PS	14/6/16

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1 Introduction

This report which contains information required for the competent authority (in this instance Dun 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 at George's Place, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin to significantly affect Natura 2000 sites (hereafter "European sites"¹).

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

An AA is required if likely significant effects on European sites arising from a proposed development cannot be ruled out at the screening stage, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.

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

2 Methodology

This Screening Statement for Appropriate Assessment was prepared with regard to the following guidance documents, where relevant:

- *Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland - Guidance for Planning Authorities*. (Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2010 revision).
- *Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive: Guidance for Planning Authorities*. Circular NPW 1/10 & PSSP 2/10.
- *Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly Affecting Natura 2000 sites: Methodological Guidance on the Provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC* (European Commission Environment Directorate-General, 2001); hereafter referred to as the EC Article 6 Guidance Document. The guidance within this document provides a non-mandatory methodology for carrying out assessments required under Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive.
- *Managing Natura 2000 Sites: The Provisions of Article 6 of the Habitat's Directive 92/43/EEC* (EC Environment Directorate-General, 2000a); hereafter referred to as MN2000.
- *Guidance Document on Article 6(4) of the 'Habitats Directive' 92/43/EEC. Clarification of the Concepts of Alternative Solutions, Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest, Compensatory Measures, Overall Coherence*. Opinion of the European Commission (European Commission, January 2007).

¹ Natura 2000 sites are defined under the Habitats Directive (Article 3) as a European ecological network of special areas of conservation composed of sites hosting the natural habitat types listed in Annex I and habitats of the species listed in Annex II. The aim of the network is to aid the long-term survival of Europe's most valuable and threatened species and habitats. In Ireland these sites are designed as *European sites* - defined under the Planning Acts and/or Birds and Habitats Regulations as (a) a candidate site of Community importance, (b) a site of Community importance, (c) a candidate special area of conservation, (d) a special area of conservation, (e) a candidate special protection area, or (f) a special protection area. They are commonly referred to in Ireland as candidate Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs).

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

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

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

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

Screening for Appropriate Assessment involves the following:

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

The information that was collected to allow the competent authority to screen the proposal was based on a desktop study carried out on the 13th 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>;
- Information on water quality in the area available from www.epa.ie;
- Information on the Eastern River Basin District from www.wfdireland.ie;
- Information on soils, geology and hydrogeology in the area available from www.gsi.ie;
- Information on the location, nature and design of the proposed development supplied by the applicant's design team;
- Information on the status of EU protected habitats in Ireland (National Parks & Wildlife Service, 2013a & 2013b);

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

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

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

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

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

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

- *National Biodiversity Plan 2011 – 2016 (Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, 2011);*
- *Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Development Plan 2016 – 2022;*
- *Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown Biodiversity Plan 2009 – 2013;*
- *Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown Heritage Plan 2013 – 2019; 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	<p>The subject lands at George's Place, Dun Laoghaire, Dublin 18 (Grid Ref: O 24073 28827) form part of the former Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council Depot Premises. The area proposed for housing covers c. 0.1803 hectares. The subject lands appear to be comprised of hardstanding and existing buildings. The site is bounded, to the west by the former fire station and to the east by walls of the existing residential dwellings along Stable Lane. To the south of George's Place and to the east of Kelly's Avenue, the site is bounded by two proposed protected structures – number 9 George's Place (RPS 1958) and the 'Industrial' Building (RPS 1959).</p> <p>The nearest watercourse is the Monkstown Stream which runs approximately 920m south-west of the proposed site and enters the sea at West Pier, Dun Laoghaire Harbour.</p> <p>The surrounding lands are predominantly urban in nature. The site is zoned in the Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Development Plan as 'M2 – City/Town/Village Centre, central area' with an objective to 'protect, provide for and-or improve upon major town facilities'.</p>
Features of the Surrounding Environment	<p>The desktop study found no records of any species or habitats for which European sites listed in Table 2 were designated within the subject lands or environs⁵. The following species (for which European sites listed in Table 2 were designated) were recorded within 2km of the proposed development site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>), (recorded in grid square O22P during the 2007 – 2011 Bird Atlas Project); • Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>), (recorded in grid square O22P during the 2007 – 2011 Bird Atlas Project); • Razorbill (<i>Alco torda</i>), (recorded 900m to the west of proposed development site, 2016); • Turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>), (recorded 760m to the west of the proposed development site, 2016); • Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernica</i>), (recorded 820m to the west of the proposed development site, 2012); • Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>), (recorded 1.3km to the north of the proposed development site, 2015); • Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>), (recorded 1.3km to the north of the proposed development site, 2012); • Peregrine Falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>), (recorded in grid square O22P during the 2007 – 2011 Bird Atlas Project); • Oystercatcher (<i>Haemotopus ostralegus</i>), (recorded 650m to the east of the proposed development site, 2016); • Black-headed Gull (<i>Larus ridibundus</i>), (recorded 420m to the east of the proposed development site, 2016); • Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>), (recorded 420m to the east of the proposed development site, 2016); • Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>), (recorded in grid square O22P during the 2007 – 2011 Bird Atlas Project); • Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>), (recorded in grid square O22P during the 2007 – 2011 Bird Atlas Project); • Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>), (recorded 400m to the east of the proposed development site, 2016);

⁵ According to NBDC online data www.biodiversity.ie accessed 13th June 2016. This excludes NBDC records with a resolution greater or equal to 1km².

Table 1 Overview of the Proposed Development and its Receiving Environment

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roseate Tern (<i>Sterna dougalli</i>), (recorded 1km to the east of the proposed development site, 2011); Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundu</i>), (recorded 500m to the north of the proposed development site, 2012); Arctic Tern (<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>), (recorded 1.1km south-east of the proposed development site, 2016); Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>), (recorded 1.2km south-east of the proposed development site, 2016); Guillemot (<i>Uria aalge</i>) (recorded 520m to the east of the proposed development site, 2016); and Common Porpoise (<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>) (recorded 900m to the east of the proposed development site, 2016). <p>The proposed development site is located within the Dodder River Subcatchment of the Liffey River Catchment. According to the EPA Envision Map Viewer, there are no rivers on or immediately near the site. The nearest watercourse is the Monkstown Stream, which flows c. 920m south-west of the proposed development site, where it is culverted, and discharges into Dublin Bay just west of Dun Laoghaire West Pier.</p> <p>The groundwater body at the proposed development site is classified as 'Kilcullen' and is described as 'Poorly productive bedrock' and 'at risk of not achieving good status' under the Water Framework Directive. According to the GSI Map Viewer, the level of vulnerability to groundwater contamination from human activities is 'Moderate'. It is also 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 and surface water will be discharged to the existing combined sewer and will be treated at Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Works (WWTW) prior to discharge into Dublin Bay. According to the EPA Envision Map Viewer Dublin Bay's coastal waters are "Unpolluted". Under the "Trophic Status Assessment Scheme" classification of the EPA, "Unpolluted" means there have been no breaches of the EPA's threshold values for nutrient enrichment, accelerated plant growth, or disturbance of the level of dissolved oxygen normally present (EPA, 2015). The most recent available water quality data for the Irish Sea indicates it is 'Unpolluted'.</p>
Description of the Proposed Development	<p>In brief, the proposed development will involve the construction of 12 dwellings with front and rear garden space. The layout will open up the closed depot at George's Place to provide pedestrian access to the seafront and will create new active frontage along Kelly's Avenue. Parking will be provided on street with new indented parking bays and in court parking. Tree planting has been integrated into car parking to minimise its visual impact while the use of 'home zones' will provide informal play and amenity space. Vehicles will not be able to travel between George's Place and Stable Lane. Accommodation is provided in narrow fronted 2 storey accommodation and wide fronted 2 storey units laid out in terrace format. The design is kept simple to maximise the potential for offsite construction through Modern Means of Construction (MMC) techniques.</p> <p>The proposed development will also involve the localised demolition of on-site shed and the removal of concrete slabs.</p> <p>The duration of construction is expected to be in the region of 8-12 months.</p>

Table 1 Overview of the Proposed Development and its Receiving Environment

	<p>Foul effluent generated from the proposed development will discharge to the existing combined sewer. From there, it will be pumped to Ringsend WWTW to be treated prior to discharge into Dublin Bay. The Population Equivalent of the proposed development is estimated to be 48 PE.</p> <p>Surface water will discharge to the existing combined sewer which leads to Ringsend WWTW before discharge into Dublin Bay. Some surface water will be attenuated on site in infiltration trenches located in the gardens. This is a type of Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS), which is designed to increase the environmental quality of surface water leaving the site.</p>
Other existing or proposed plans or projects nearby which may lead to cumulative effects on European sites.	<p>Existing habitat loss pressures</p> <p>The subject lands do not physically overlap with any European sites. They appear to be dominated by hardstanding ground and existing buildings, none of which are habitats listed under Annex I of the Habitats Directive. These habitats are not indirectly connected with any habitats within European sites (e.g. by groundwater). No mobile fauna species for which European sites are designated are known to use the habitats within the subject lands. There is therefore no potential for cumulative effects relating to habitat loss.</p> <p>Existing pressures on water quality within European sites in proximity to the site</p> <p>Several intertidal habitats for which European Sites in Dublin Bay are designated are failing to meet favourable conservation status. For some of these, water pollution is considered to be a threat ranked as being of “<i>high importance</i>”⁶ (NPWS, 2013a).</p> <p><i>Pressures on European sites in Dublin Bay from surface waters</i></p> <p>There is potential for ‘<i>in-combination</i>’ effects of proposed plans and projects within the <i>Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Development Plan 2016 – 2022</i>, <i>Dublin City Development Plan 2011-2017</i>, <i>Fingal Development Plan 2011-2017</i> and other county level land use plans which can influence conditions in Dublin Bay via rivers and other surface water features. Dublin Bay is of ‘<i>Unpolluted</i>’ water quality status and the pollutant content of future surface water discharges to the Bay is considered likely to be decreased in the long-term. This is because it is an objective of the Greater Dublin Strategic Drainage Study, and all development plans within the catchment of Ringsend WWTW to include Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems in new development. Together these objectives are considered likely to reduce pressures on designated marine and intertidal species and habitats in Dublin Bay.</p> <p>In the <i>Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Development Plan 2016 – 2022</i>, the proposed site is zoned as ‘<i>M2 – City/Town/Village Centre, central area</i>’. The lands in the vicinity of the proposed site are zoned as ‘<i>M2 – City/Town/Village Centre, central area</i>’, ‘<i>R2 – existing Residential</i>’, ‘<i>C6 –</i></p>

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

Table 1 Overview of the Proposed Development and its Receiving Environment

	<p><i>Mixed/general commercial/industrial/enterprise uses</i>, <i>'S2 – Health and related'</i>, and <i>'G1 – open space, park'</i>. Given the urban nature and zoning objectives of the area, there will therefore be a number of planning applications within the zone of influence of the project which have the potential to produce <i>'in-combination'</i> effects to water quality in Dublin Bay. However, due to the nature, scale and temporary duration (i.e. <12 months) of the proposed works, the likelihood of impacts arising from this development is deemed to be low.</p> <p>There is limited opportunity for cumulative effects with operational surface water from the proposed development as the surface water runoff will be minimised by the use of infiltration trenches, a SuDS feature. Also surface water will discharge to the combined sewer and will therefore be treated at Ringsend WWTW prior to discharge into Dublin Bay.</p> <p>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 combined sewer. Given 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. <12 months 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.</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 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 been, 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 fluctuations from day to day.</p> <p>Improvements to the Ringsend WWTW, in the nature of capacity upgrade, are anticipated to begin shortly, resulting in an expansion by a Population Equivalent of 400,000⁷. In 2013 the plant was non-compliant with several parameters as set out 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</p>
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⁷ According to Irish Water contract advertisement, available at https://irl.eu-supply.com/app/rfq/publicpurchase_frameset.asp?PID=95003&B=&PS=1&PP= (Accessed 04/03/2016)

Table 1 Overview of the Proposed Development and its Receiving Environment

	<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 increased loading. Tenders for this work were advertised and sought by Irish Water on 10th December 2015. The contract includes for the provision of a biological secondary treatment process to expand the P.E. of the WWTW by 400,000. <p><i>Conclusion for potential in-combination effects from surface and/or foul waters</i></p> <p>It is our professional opinion that there will be no likelihood of significant effects on any European sites during the construction or operation of the proposed development, in combination with other plans or projects. This judgement was reached on the basis that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The coastal waters in Dublin Bay are classed as '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; • Even the unlikely event of a pollution event during construction would not affect water quality in Dublin Bay to a degree that QI habitats or species would be affected; • 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 400,000 people's waste (<i>i.e.</i> 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).
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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)	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 (SACs)			
South Dublin Bay SAC (000210)	Located c. 660m west of the proposed development site	Conservation Objectives Version 1.0 (22/08/13) Annex I Habitats: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] 	<p>Whilst there is a linkage between the proposed development and the European site, no significant effects are predicted.</p> <p>1. Surface waters generated during construction could carry silt, oils, or other chemicals into the combined sewer network. 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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The short term (i.e. maximum 12 months), infrequent and temporary nature of any discharges related to construction of the site; - The incorporation of SuDS (i.e. infiltration trenches) into the design of the proposed development; and

⁸ "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 June 2014.

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.

			<p>- The distance of the proposed development site from Dublin Bay (i.e. c. 9.8km via the combined sewer network) and dilution, adsorption and mixing within the local drainage network prior to reaching Dublin Bay as well as the known potential for waters in Dublin Bay to rapidly mix and assimilate pollutants (Wilson & Jackson, 2011).</p> <p>2. Foul water 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" (See Table 1).</p>
North Dublin Bay SAC (000206)	Located c. 5.6km north of the proposed development site	<p>Source : Conservation Objectives Version 1.0 (06/11/13)</p> <p>Annex I Habitats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] • Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210] • <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonizing mud and sand [1310] • Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glaucopuccinellietalia maritimae</i>) [1330] • Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410] • Embryonic shifting dunes [2110] • Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> ("white dunes") [2120] • *Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("grey dunes") [2130] • Humid dune slacks [2190] <p>Annex II Species:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> (Petalwort) [1395] 	No. See above for South Dublin Bay SAC (000210).

Table 2 Analysis of European sites within 15km.

Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC (003000)	Located c. 3.2km east of the proposed development site	Generic Conservation Objectives Version 4.0 (07/05/13) Annex I Habitats: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reefs [1170] Annex II Species : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351] 	No. See above for South Dublin Bay SAC (000210).
Howth Head SAC (000202)	Located c. 9.9km north of the proposed development site	Generic Conservation Objectives Version 4.0 (13/02/15) Annex I Habitats: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230] • European dry heaths [4030] 	No, due to the substantial marine water buffer and the distance between the proposed development and the European site.
Ireland's Eye SAC (002193)	Located c. 12.8km north of the proposed development site	Generic Conservation Objectives Version 4.0 (13/02/15) Annex I Habitats: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220] • Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230] 	No, due to the substantial marine water buffer and the distance between the proposed development and the European site.
Baldoyle Bay SAC (0001999)	Located c. 11.2km north of the proposed development site	Conservation Objectives Version 1.0 (19/11/12) Annex I Habitats: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] • <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonizing mud and sand [1310] • Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>) [1330] • Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410] 	No. See above for South Dublin Bay SAC (000210).
Bray Head SAC (000713)	Located c. 4.2km southeast of the proposed development site	Generic Conservation Objectives Version 4.0 (13/02/15) Annex I Habitats : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230] • European dry heaths [4030] 	No, due to the substantial marine water buffer and the distance between the proposed development and the European site.

Table 2 Analysis of European sites within 15km.

Wicklow Mountains SAC (002122)	Located c. 11km south of the proposed development site	<p>Conservation Objectives Generic Version 4.0 (13/02/15)</p> <p>Annex I Habitats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the Littorelletea uniflorae and/or Isoeto-Nanojuncetea [3130] • Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160] • Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix [4010] • European dry heaths [4030] • Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060] • Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe) [6230] • Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130] • Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (Androsacetalia alpinae and Galeopsietalia ladani) [8110] • Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8210] • Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220] • Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0] <p>Annex II Species:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter) [1355] 	No, due to the distance between the proposed development site and the European site and the absence of a hydrological linkage between the two.
Knocksink SAC (000725)	Located c. 10.4km south of the proposed development site	<p>Conservation Objectives Generic Version 4.0 (13/02/15)</p> <p>Annex I Habitats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220] • Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0] 	No, due to the distance between the proposed development site and the European site and the absence of a hydrological linkage between the two.
Ballyman Glen SAC (000713)	Located c. 10.5km south of the proposed development site	<p>Conservation Objectives Generic Version 4.0 (13/02/15)</p> <p>Annex I Habitats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220] • Alkaline fens [7230] 	No, due to the distance between the proposed development site and the European site and the absence of a hydrological linkage between the two.

Table 2 Analysis of European sites within 15km.

Special Protection Areas (SPAs)			
South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA (004024)	Located c. 460m west of the proposed development site	Conservation Objectives Version 1.0 (09/03/15) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046] [wintering] • Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130] [wintering] • Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137] [wintering] • Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A140] [wintering] • Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143] [wintering] • Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144] [wintering] • Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149] [wintering] • Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157] [wintering] • Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162] [wintering] • Black-headed Gull (<i>Croicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179] [wintering] • Roseate Tern (<i>Sterna dougallii</i>) [A192] [passage] • Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193] [breeding] • Arctic Tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) [A194] [passage] • Wetlands & Waterbirds [A999] 	<p>No. See above for South Dublin Bay SAC (000210).</p> <p>There is no risk of disturbance to Special Conservation Interest bird species given the relatively small scale and temporary nature of construction works associated with the proposed development and the distance between the proposed development and the European site.</p>
North Bull Island SPA (004006)	Located c. 5.5km north of the proposed development site	Conservation Objectives Version 1.0 (09/03/15) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046] [wintering] • Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048] [wintering] • Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052] [wintering] • Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) [A054] [wintering] • Shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>) [A056] [wintering] • Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130] [wintering] • Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140] [wintering] • Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] [wintering] • Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143] [wintering] 	<p>No. See above for South Dublin Bay SAC (000210).</p> <p>There is no risk of disturbance to Special Conservation Interest bird species given the relatively small scale and temporary nature of construction works associated with the proposed development and the distance between the proposed development and the European site.</p>

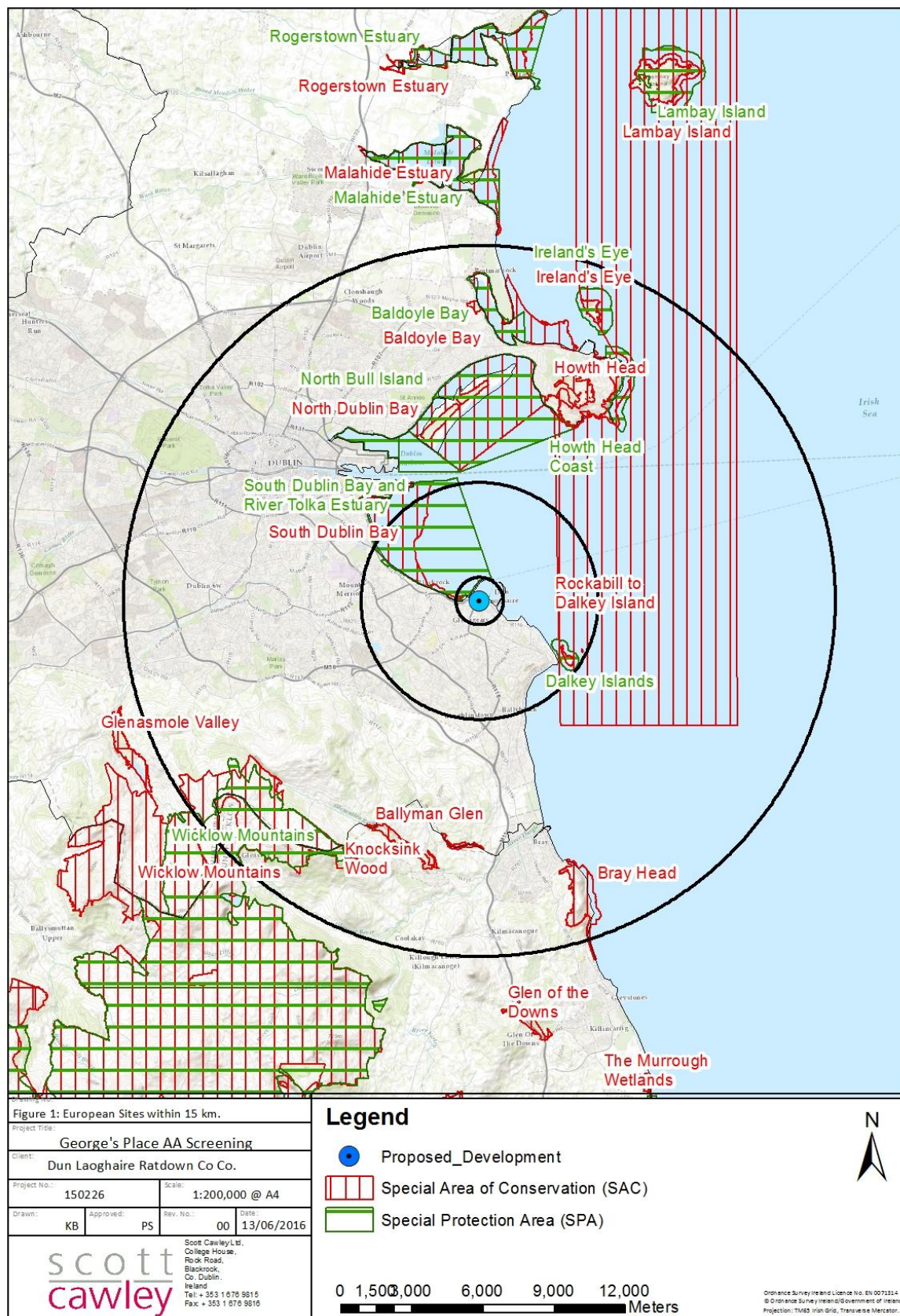
Table 2 Analysis of European sites within 15km.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144] [wintering] • Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149] [wintering] • Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156] [wintering] • Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157] [wintering] • Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160] [wintering] • Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162] [wintering] • Turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>) [A169] [wintering] • Black-headed Gull (<i>Croicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179] [wintering] • Wetlands & Waterbirds [A999] 	
Baldoyle Bay SPA (004016)	Located c. 11.2km north of the proposed development site	Conservation Objectives Version 1 (27/02/13) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046] [wintering] • Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048] [wintering] • Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137] [wintering] • Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140] [wintering] • Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] [wintering] • Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157] [wintering] • Wetlands & Waterbirds [A999] 	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.
Ireland's Eye SPA (004117)	Located c. 12.8km north of the proposed development site	Generic Conservation Objectives Version 4.0. (13/02/2015) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017] • Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) [A184] • Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) [A188] • Guillemot (<i>Uria aalge</i>) [A199] • Razorbill (<i>Alca torda</i>) [A200] 	No, due to the substantial marine water buffer and the distance between the proposed development and the European site.
Howth Head Coast SPA (004113)	Located 9.4km north of the proposed	Generic Conservation Objectives Version 4.0. (13/02/15) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) [A188] 	No, due to the substantial marine water buffer and the distance between the proposed development and the European site.

Table 2 Analysis of European sites within 15km.

	development site		
Dalkey Islands SPA (004172)	Located c. 3.6km southeast of the proposed development site	Generic Conservation Objectives Version 4.0. (13/02/15) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roseate Tern (<i>Sterna dougallii</i>) [A192] Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193] Arctic Tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) [A194] 	No, due to the substantial marine water buffer and the distance between the proposed development and the European site.
Wicklow Mountains SPA (004040)	Located c. 11km south of the proposed development site	Conservation Objectives Generic Version 4.0 (13/02/15) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Merlin <i>Falco columbarius</i> [A098] Peregrine <i>Falco peregrinus</i> [A103] 	No, due to the distance between the proposed development site and the European site and the absence of a hydrological linkage between the two.

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



3 Conclusions of the Screening Assessment

Following an 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, 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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