

**Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination under the
European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011 (as amended)
(For Proposed Local Authority Development)**

Project Title:	Cruise Passenger Realignment Project, Dún Laoghaire Harbour
-----------------------	---

Description of the Proposed Development:

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council is proposing to construct a new ramp and steps connecting Harbour Plaza with the lower St Michael's Pier. The latter is to become a new resurfaced public plaza with gift kiosk, planting, seating, new railings, and views of the sea. Construction of the new external access ramp and adjoining steps are to provide universal, wheelchair-accessible egress for all member of the public, while streamlining and simplifying the journey from boat to Dún Laoghaire Town for cruise ferry passengers. The project includes the removal of existing stairs and railings, the partial demolition and making good of a low wall at Harbour Plaza, infilling a carpark wall, partial demolition of a low wall and amendments to vehicular routes within the lower/ undercroft parking level and all ancillary site works.

Legislative Context:

- Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora)
- Habitats and Birds Directives (Council Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds)
- European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (as amended) (S.I. No. 477 of 2011)
- Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)
- Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 (as amended)
- Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Development Plan 2022-2028

AA Screening Report:

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council commissioned the Appropriate Assessment Screening Report (AASR) from consultants Malone O'Regan Environmental (MOR). The report was dated August 2026.

The AASR has been examined and evaluated by Stephen McDermott, Senior Executive Planner and Miguel Sarabia, Acting Senior Planner, Planning Department, who are satisfied that the AASR fully considers the relevant Directives and legislation, and agree with the contents and conclusion set out in the AASR and the reasons therein.

This AASR has considered potential effects within the Zone(s) of Influence, resulting from the source pathway receptor model, which may arise during the construction and operational phases of the proposed Development at Harbour Plaza and St Michael's Pier, Dún Laoghaire.

Through an assessment of the potential sources and potential pathways for significant effects, the project characteristics have been evaluated by this report, taking account of the processes involved and the distance of separation from European sites, concluding that there is no likelihood of significant effects occurring to the Qualifying Interests, Special Conservation Interests or the Conservation Objectives, of any designated European site, as a result of the implementation of the proposed development.

Given the nature of the proposed development in the context of the local environment, plans and projects, the proposed development will not lead to any significant effects in combination with effects arising from any other plans or projects.

The AASR concludes that the proposed development is not foreseen to have any likelihood of significant

effects on any European sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects – and therefore any potential for significant effects on any European site resulting from the proposed development can be ruled out. This conclusion is made in view of the conservation objectives of the habitats or species for which these sites have been designated. Consequently, the proposed development does not need to be subject to Stage Two Appropriate Assessment, nor is a Natura Impact Statement required.

The main reasons for this are as follows:

- Having regard to the relevant directives and legislation.
- The scale and localised nature of the proposed development and the lack of direct impact pathways between the Site and European sites, it can be concluded that the Proposed Development will not result in any significant impacts either directly or indirectly on the conservation objectives or status of the listed European sites and will not result in the direct loss or disturbance of any Annex I habitats and/ or Annex II species for which the European sites are designated.
- That the Developments either alone, or in-combination with other plans, projects or land uses, have not had and will not have any direct or indirect significant effects on any European sites in light of the site's conservation objectives and best scientific knowledge, and no reasonable scientific doubt exists in relation to this conclusion.

Determination:

Having regard to the foregoing, the proposed new external access ramp and adjoining steps connecting Harbour Plaza with the lower St Michael's Pier and the resurfacing of the latter as a new public plaza, with new railings, planters and a gift kiosk, Dún Laoghaire, on the basis of objective information and in view of best scientific knowledge and applying the precautionary principle, for the reasons set out above and in the AASR, it has been concluded that the proposed development individually or in combination with other plans or projects¹, without relying on any mitigation measures, will not have a significant effect on any European Sites, in view of the sites' conservation objectives, and that there is no reasonable scientific doubt in relation to this conclusion.

Consequently, a Stage Two of the AA and a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) is not required.

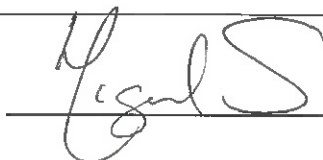
The proposed new external access ramp and adjoining steps connecting Harbour Plaza with the lower St Michael's Pier and the resurfacing of the latter as a new public plaza, with new railings, planters and a gift kiosk is being promoted by the Harbour Section of the of Planning, Economic Development, Harbour & Property Management of the DLR Planning and Economic Development Department in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council.

This Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination in respect of the proposed Development at Harbour Plaza and St Michael's Pier, Dún Laoghaire, has been made by Miguel Sarabia, Acting Senior Planner, Planning Department to apply appropriate functional separation in the carrying out of a Screening Determination for Appropriate Assessment.

¹ Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be:

- a) No alternative solution available,
- b) Imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the plan to proceed; and
- c) Adequate compensatory measures in place.

Signature:



Signatory (Approved Officer):

MIGUEL SERRA
Name

A/SENIOR PLANNER
Position / Department

Date:

27/05/2026

Recommended
Stephen McDonagh
SEP
27/8/26.

