

Dún Laoghaire Bus and Access Arrangements on Harbour Road

Appropriate Assessment Screening Report

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council on behalf of the National Transport Authority

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1. Introduction

1.1 Background and project description

AECOM was commissioned by Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council (DLRCC) on behalf of the National Transport Authority (NTA) to carry out an Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening in relation to the Dún Laoghaire Bus and Access Arrangements on Harbour Road (herein referred to as the 'Proposed Scheme') in the town of Dún Laoghaire. The extent of the Proposed Scheme is herein referred to as the 'Site', as shown in **Figure 1**.

The Proposed Scheme will bring about both design and capacity improvements for the existing bus interchange at Dún Laoghaire Dart Station. These improvements are required in order to accommodate the significant increase in bus services planned under the NTA's BusConnects programme. The design of the Proposed Scheme will require works to the existing road layout on Harbour Road as well as works on the public realm within the harbour area. The Proposed Scheme design will also consider the requirements for safe and efficient traffic, pedestrian and cyclist movement through and within the harbour area. The Proposed Scheme comprises:

- Target number of bays: 6 bus spaces.
- System Function: Independent Arrival and Departure bays.
- Provision of a bus stop along Harbour Road.
- Minimise impact on existing infrastructure and provide for bus turning movements.
- Buses must be able to turn around from westbound to eastbound.
- Maintain access to Harbour area and maintenance yard.
- Maintain existing footway to the south and provide footway to water edge.
- Provide designated cycle track connecting to proposed Coastal Mobility Route

This AA Screening Report considers the potential for likely significant effects from the Proposed Scheme on European sites, which comprise Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs). It serves to 'screen' for likely significant effects on European sites from the Proposed Scheme, both alone and in combination with other plans or projects, and in view of best scientific knowledge.

1.2 Legislative context

Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora, which is more commonly known as the 'Habitats Directive', requires Member States of the European Union (EU) to take measures to maintain or restore, at favourable conservation status, natural habitats and wild species of fauna and flora of Community interest. The provisions of the Habitats Directive require that Member States designate SACs for habitats listed in Annex I and for species listed in Annex II. Similarly, Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds, which is more commonly known as the 'Birds Directive', provides a framework for the conservation and management of wild birds. It also requires Member States to identify and classify SPAs for rare or vulnerable species listed in Annex I of the Birds Directive, as well as for certain regularly occurring migratory species. Collectively, SACs and SPAs are known as 'European sites'.

In Ireland, the habitats and/or species which are the reason(s) for designation of an SAC are referred to as 'Qualifying Interests' (QIs). In relation to SPAs, the bird species for which a particular site is designated are referred to as the 'Special Conservation Interests' (SCIs).

Under Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive, any plan or project which is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of a European site but would result in likely significant effects on such a site, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, must be subject to an AA of its implications for the SAC / SPA in view of the site's Conservation Objectives.

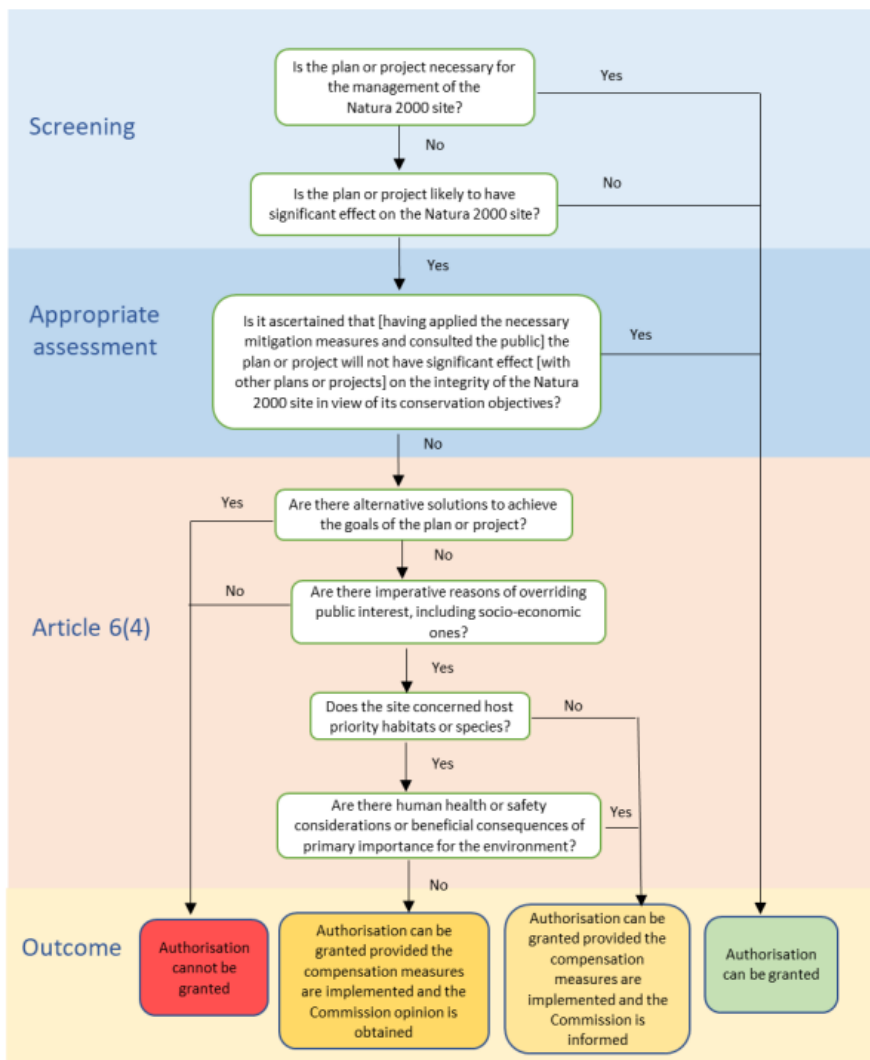
The requirements of Article 6(3) are transposed into national law through Part XAB of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) (hereafter abbreviated to the 'PDA') for planning matters, and by the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 in relation to other relevant approvals / consents. The legislative provisions for AA Screening for planning applications are set out in Section 177U of the PDA.

The Competent Authority which is responsible for carrying out the AA is the relevant consenting body for each project or plan, which in this case is DLRCC.

1.3 Overview of the Appropriate Assessment process

The process required by Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive is stepwise and must be followed in sequence. **Image 1** below outlines the stages of AA according to current European Commission (EC) guidance (European Commission, 2021). The stages are essentially iterative, being revisited as necessary in response to more detailed information becoming available, recommendations being made, and any relevant changes having been incorporated in the plan or project until no significant adverse effects remain.

Image 1. The stages of Appropriate Assessment (taken from European Commission (2021))



The first step in the sequence of tests is to establish whether an AA is required. This is often referred to as 'AA Screening'. The purpose of AA Screening is to determine, in view of best available scientific knowledge, whether a plan or project, either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects, could have likely significant effects on a European site, in view of that site's Conservation Objectives.

Section 177U of the PDA specifies:

“A screening for appropriate assessment of ... [an] application for consent for Proposed Scheme shall be carried out by the competent authority to assess, in view of best scientific knowledge, if that ... Proposed Scheme, individually or in combination with another plan or project is likely to have a significant effect on the European site.

*The competent authority shall determine that an appropriate assessment of ... a Proposed Scheme, ..., is required **if it cannot be excluded** [emphasis added], on the basis of objective information, that ... the Proposed Scheme, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will have a significant effect on a European site”.*

For this purpose and as a result of case law ‘likely’ in practice means ‘possible’¹. If the Competent Authority determines that there are no likely significant effects (including ‘in-combination’ effects with other plans or projects), then no further assessment is necessary and the plan or project can, subject to any other issues, be taken forward. If, however, the Competent Authority determines that there are likely significant effects, or reasonable scientific doubt remains, then the next step in the process must be initiated and a detailed Natura Impact Statement (NIS) must be prepared.

The purpose of a NIS is to further explore the potential impacts and effects and to determine whether a conclusion of no adverse effects on integrity can be drawn for any of the ‘screened in’ impacts / European sites.

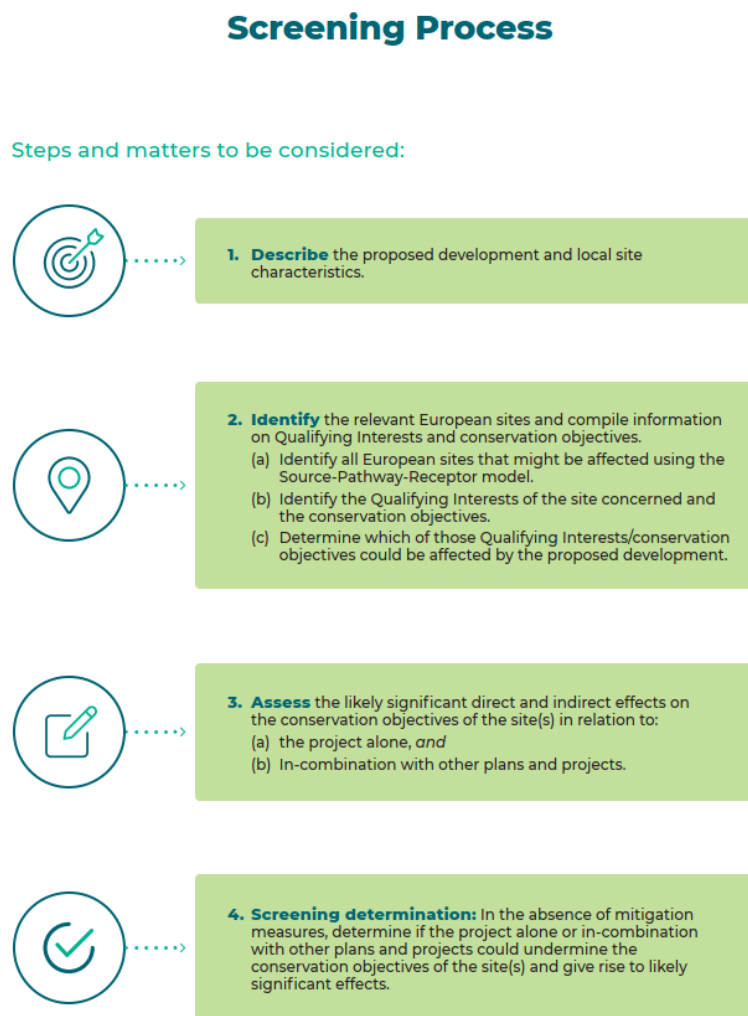
One of the key considerations during the NIS stage is whether there is available mitigation that would entirely address potential effects.

1.4 Sources of guidance

This AA Screening Report has been prepared in accordance with the European Commission guidance document *Assessment of Plans and Projects in relation to Natura 2000 Sites: Methodological Guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC* (European Commission, 2021). It also follows the recommended structure and approach provided in the Office of the Planning Regulation (OPR) document *Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management* (OPR, 2021), as shown on **Image 2**, below.

¹ Waddenzee (C-127/02).

Image 2. The AA Screening process (taken from OPR (2021))



In addition, the following sources of guidance have also been considered during the preparation of this AA Screening Report:

- *Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland* (DoEHLG, 2010);
- *Managing Natura 2000 Sites: the provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC* (European Commission, 2018); and,
- *Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive: Guidance for Planning Authorities. Circular Letter NPWS 1/10 & PSSP 2/10* (NPWS, 2010).

1.5 Purpose of this Report

Whilst the various steps involved in the AA process must be carried out by a Competent Authority, under Section 177U(3) of the PDA, project proponents or their consultants may undertake a form of Screening to establish if an NIS is required and provide advice or may submit the information necessary to allow the Competent Authority to reach their own conclusion regarding a Screening assessment. Specifically, Section 177U(3) states that:

“in carrying out a screening for appropriate assessment of a Proposed Scheme a competent authority may request such information from the applicant as it may consider necessary to enable it to carry out that screening, and may consult with such persons as it considers appropriate...”

Therefore, this AA Screening Report serves to provide AECOM’s opinion on the requirement for further AA, and to provide the information needed by DLRCC to make their own screening decision as Competent Authority for determining planning consent for the Proposed Scheme.

For clarity, in the context of the Habitats Directive, the Proposed Scheme represents a 'project' and no reference to 'plans' is made hereafter, except where required to consider the potential for in-combination effects to arise between the Proposed Scheme and any relevant plans.

1.6 Quality assurance

This AA Screening Report, and the assessment described within it, has been completed in accordance with the AECOM Integrated Management System (IMS). AECOM's IMS places emphasis on professionalism, technical excellence, quality, as well as covering health, safety, environment and sustainability management. All AECOM staff members are committed to maintaining our accreditation to those parts of BS EN ISO 9001:2015 and 14001:2015, as well as BS OHSAS 18001:2007 that are relevant to a consultancy service.

The AA Screening has been carried out by AECOM ecologists with adequate experience in conducting such assessments.

2. Methodology

2.1 Data sources

A desk-based study was carried out on 17 July 2023 to help establish the baseline conditions relevant to the Proposed Scheme. The following resources were analysed to inform the baseline description of the Site of the Proposed Scheme and for assessing sensitivities of European sites:

- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) maps website (<https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/>) (accessed 17 July 2023);
- National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) Protected Sites in Ireland website (<https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites>) (accessed 17 July 2023);
- Google maps website (<https://maps.google.com/>) (accessed 17 July 2023);
- National Planning Application Database: (<https://housinggovie.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=9cf2a09799d74d8e9316a3d3a4d3a8de>) (accessed 17 July 2023); and,
- *The Status of European Union (EU) Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland* (Article 17 Report) (<https://www.npws.ie/publications/article-17-reports/article-17-reports-2019>) (accessed 17 July 2023).

2.2 Field survey

An ecological walkover survey was carried out on 13 July 2023 by suitably qualified AECOM ecologists, with extensive survey experience. The walkover involved an inspection of habitats in accordance with *A Guide to Habitats in Ireland* (Fossitt, 2000) and *Best Practice Guidance for Habitat Survey and Mapping* (Smith *et al.*, 2011). The survey involved categorising habitat types and habitat features within the survey area (i.e., within the Site plus a 30 m buffer, where accessible). In addition, a search for evidence of protected and notable species or invasive non-native species (INNS) was also carried out as part of the ecological walkover.

These standard survey methods were 'extended' to assess the suitability of the habitats and features present to support QI / SCI of European sites within the Site plus a 30 m buffer, and to search for evidence of such species.

2.3 Limitations

Information obtained during a desk study is dependent upon people and organisations having made and submitted records for the area of interest. As such, a lack of records for particular species does not necessarily mean they do not occur in the study area. Likewise, the presence of records for a particular species does not automatically mean that these still occur within the area of interest or are relevant to the Proposed Scheme.

Where habitat boundaries coincide with discernible boundaries on recent aerial photography (where available) the resolution is as determined by the accuracy and clarity of the aerial photography. Otherwise, habitat mapping is as estimated in the field. Where areas of habitat are given, they are approximate and should be verified by measurement to the Proposed Scheme if required for design or construction.

Not all habitats were specifically walked during the ecological survey such as the Marina Pier to the north of the Site. Where possible, these areas of no access were viewed from the nearest publicly accessible location using binoculars. This is not considered to pose a constraint, as the habitats within the survey area are typical of urban area and were readily identifiable from distance. All habitats within the Site itself could be walked during the survey.

This AA Screening has been conducted as robustly as possible in the context of these restrictions and none of the limitations mentioned above are considered to pose a constraint to this assessment or its conclusion.

3. Establishing the Zone of Influence

3.1.1 Baseline information

The Proposed Scheme is located in the built-up urban town of Dún Laoghaire. As shown on **Figure 1**, the Proposed Scheme forms part of the existing road network on Harbour Road, hence the Site itself is largely dominated by hard-standing surfaces. There are small pockets of amenity grassland scattered throughout the Site with some dispersed treelines associated with these grasslands. Flower beds and ornamental shrubs were also observed in the survey area. Dún Laoghaire Harbour encloses the northern border of the survey area and the DART railway forms the southern boundary of the survey area.

A review of the EPA Maps website and Google Maps indicates that there are no fresh waterbodies within the Proposed Scheme. It is also not hydrologically connected to any fresh waterbodies. The closest fresh waterbody to the Proposed Scheme is the culverted Monkstown Stream approximately 0.98 km to the west of the Site. Dublin Bay is located to the north of the Site and borders sections of the survey area.

3.1.2 Approach

Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government guidance (DoEHLG, 2010) states that European sites with the potential to be affected by a project should be identified taking into consideration the potential for direct, indirect and/or cumulative (in-combination) effects. It also states that the specific approach in each case will differ depending on the scale and likely effects of the project. However, it advises that the following sites should generally be included:

- all European sites within or immediately adjacent to the project area;
- all European sites within the likely Zone of Influence (Zol) of the project; and,
- all European sites for which there is doubt as to whether or not such sites might be significantly affected (adopting the Precautionary Principle after UNESCO, 2005).

The likely Zol of a project is the geographic extent over which it could affect the receiving environment in a way that will result in LSEs on the QIs or SCIs of a European site (OPR, 2021). In the case of projects, the DoEHLG guidance acknowledges that the Zol must be devised on a case-by-case basis with reference to the following criteria:

- the nature, size / scale and location of the project;
- sensitivity of ecological features under consideration; and
- cumulative effects.

When seeking to identify the relevant European sites, consideration was given to identified impact pathways and the source-pathway-receptor approach (OPR, 2021), rather than adopting solely a distance-based approach. The source-pathway-receptor approach is a standard tool in environmental assessment. For an effect to occur, all three elements of this mechanism must be in place. The absence or removal of one of the elements of the mechanism means there is no possibility of an effect occurring. If, for example, there is a sensitive European site in the vicinity of the Proposed Scheme but no mechanism by which the Proposed Scheme would impact that site then there is no potential for an ecological effect. Furthermore, even where an impact is predicted to occur, it may not result in likely significant effects.

The process of determining European sites that lie within the Zol of the Proposed Scheme is an iterative assessment of the potential for each impact source to affect the QIs / SCIs in such sites. This process is set out in **Table 1** and was conducted with cognisance of all impact sources described in **Section 3.1.3**. There is no decommissioning phase anticipated for the Proposed Scheme and hence this phase is not included in this Screening Report.

3.1.3 Sources of impact from the Proposed Scheme

Several impacts could arise from the construction and operation of the Proposed Scheme. A description of each, and their potential relevance to the QIs / SCIs of European sites, is provided under the following sub-headings.

3.1.3.1 Loss of habitat outside of European sites but which supports QI / SCI species

Habitat outside the designated boundary of European sites that supports the QIs / SCIs of that site, is defined as 'functionally-linked' habitat. The ruling in the *Holohan and Others v An Bord Pleanála (C-461/17)* case concluded that the loss of functionally-linked habitat could result in LSEs on the qualifying features of a European site, if this prevented the site from meeting its Conservation Objectives.

To determine whether habitat is functionally-linked to a European site requires some level of detailed study, often including targeted field survey. However, this impact can only occur on mobile animal species which could be present outside of the European site for which they are designated. For several bird species, NatureScot has published guidance on the distances up to which qualifying species may use functionally-linked habitat outside of European sites (SNH, 2016). The distances given in this guidance were used when searching for SPAs which may be within the Zol of the Proposed Scheme. Accordingly, SPAs (with the exception of those designated for seabirds which exclusively utilise the marine environment and do not use the terrestrial habitats within the Proposed Scheme) up to 20 km were searched for, as this is given as the largest core foraging range for any species (non-breeding pink-footed goose *Anser brachyrhynchus* and greylag goose *Anser anser*).

For other mobile terrestrial, aquatic or amphibious animals for which SACs are designated in Ireland, the following distances were used when searching for sites which could be impacted by loss of functionally-linked habitat:

- marsh fritillary *Euphydryas aurinia* – research by Wahlberg *et al* (2002) found that the average dispersal distance of male marsh fritillaries was 1.3 km, and up to 510 m for females. On a precautionary basis, therefore, a distance of 1.5 km was adopted;
- otter *Lutra lutra* – studies quoted in Reid *et al.* (2013) are that otter have large home ranges in Ireland (approximately 6.5 – 13.2 km). Thus, a buffer of 15 km, and only where there is direct hydrological connectivity to the Proposed Scheme was used when searching for SACs designated for otter;
- lesser horseshoe bat *Rhinolophus hipposideros* – the Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) estimate that the 'core sustenance zone' (CSZ) for lesser horseshoe bats extends to around 2 km from a roost site. The CSZ is the area surrounding a communal roost within which habitat availability and quality are expected to have a significant influence on the resilience and conservation status of the colony using the roost (BCT, 2020). Therefore, the Zol of the Proposed Scheme on lesser horseshoe bats was considered to extend to at least 2 km from the location of the Proposed Scheme; and,
- all fish species – no set distance was used when considering potential impacts on fish species. Where a direct hydrological link exists between the Proposed Scheme and an SAC designated for fish, it was considered that there could be impacts on these QIs.

Marine mammals were not considered as the Proposed Scheme has no potential for impact on these animals.

Although the whorl snails *Vertigo angustior*, *V. geyeri* and *V. moulinsiana*, and Kerry slug *Geomalacus maculosus* are all mobile species, their ability to move over substantial distances is extremely limited. Therefore, functionally-linked habitat for these species was considered to only exist up to a distance of 100 m from any SAC for which these species are a QI.

Freshwater pearl mussel *Margaritifera margaritifera* is not a mobile species. However, it relies upon salmonid fish for part of its lifecycle. Therefore, in cases where a direct hydrological connection exists between the Proposed Scheme and an SAC designated for freshwater pearl mussel, the potential impacts on this species were considered.

3.1.3.2 Waterborne pollution

Construction works have the potential to pollute watercourses and/or waterbodies. These could themselves represent QIs of a European site, lie within a European site and support the QIs of that site, or may be outside of a European site but functionally-linked if used by QIs / SCIs. Waterborne pollution may arise through spillages of fuels, oils, chemicals or other pollutants, or from the uncontrolled released of sediment. Discharges of effluent, which could increase the nutrient levels in water also fall under this category of impact.

Waterborne pollution can degrade habitats and lead to the direct mortality of QI species such as fish and freshwater pearl mussel. The distance over which such impacts may arise depend on the severity of the pollution. However, any European site with a direct hydrological connection to the Proposed Scheme has the potential to

be within the Zol, although for estuarine or marine designations a huge dilution effect on any pollution would occur from the massive volume of the sea, thus reducing any risk of impact.

3.1.3.3 Airborne pollution

Airborne pollution could occur during the construction phase of the Proposed Scheme as a result of dust generation or through emissions from construction vehicles. As for waterborne pollution, construction-phase airborne pollution could impact on qualifying, supporting or functionally-linked habitats, as well as QI and SCI species.

Dust generated during construction activities can directly impact vegetation or aquatic environments, and can indirectly impact animal species (for example, where foraging habitats are affected). During extended periods of dry weather, dust can cover plant foliage and adversely affect photosynthesis or other biological functions. Rainfall can then remove deposited dust and rapidly leach chemicals into the soil. Guidance published by the Institute of Air Quality Management (IAQM) advises that consideration should be given to construction-related air quality impacts on nature conservation sites within 50 m of works, including any access routes, extending to 500m from the entrance to the construction site (Holman *et al*, 2014).

Vehicles which operate on internal combustion engines emit airborne pollutants. The most important of these for European sites are nitrogen oxides (NO_x). At close distances to source and very high concentrations, NO_x can have a directly toxic effect on vegetation. However, of greater concern is the contribution that NO_x makes to the total deposition of nitrogen (N) to soils. Increases in N deposition from the atmosphere can, if sufficiently great, enhance soil fertility and lead to eutrophication. This can have adverse effects on the community composition and quality of semi-natural, nitrogen-limited terrestrial and aquatic habitats (e.g. Wolseley *et al*, 2006; Dijk, 2011; <http://www.apis.ac.uk/search-pollutant-impacts>). Both the IAQM and the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB) advise that such impacts are only likely to extend to a maximum of 200 m from a road (or works area), and that air pollution levels fall sharply within the first few tens of metres (Holman *et al*, 2019; Highways England *et al*, 2019).

3.1.3.4 Changes to surface water hydrology

Changes to surface water hydrology can occur as a result of engineering activities during the construction phase. Abstraction of water (e.g. for use in dust suppression or other construction works) can also reduce water levels and surface water flows to a watercourse.

These impacts can act on QIs and SCIs of a European site if they pass through or occur within the relevant part of the watercourse. Therefore, any European site with direct freshwater hydrological connectivity (i.e. not including marine sites) could be impacted by changes to surface water hydrology.

3.1.3.5 Changes to groundwater flow or volume

Changes to groundwater conditions can occur as a result of excavations or the installation of piled structures (for example by interrupting groundwater flows). Guidance published by the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) suggests that such activities could impact on groundwater-dependent terrestrial ecosystems (GWDTE) up to 100m from excavations less than 1 m in depth, extending up to 250 m for deeper excavations (SEPA, 2017). Considering the works required to construct the Proposed Scheme, and that large, deep excavations will not be required, it is very unlikely that groundwater impacts will extend more than 100 m.

3.1.3.6 Disturbance of qualifying species

Construction activities have the potential to cause disturbance of QI and SCI species. In addition, maintenance works during the operational phase also have the potential to cause disturbance where they take place sufficiently close to ecological receptors. Disturbance can be caused visually (for example by the presence of personnel and plant, or as a result of artificial illumination of habitats) and / or noise and vibration generated by works. Disturbance impacts may occur within the boundary of European sites, or outside of a European site in functionally-linked habitats.

The potential for disturbance impacts will depend on the location and nature of activities, the distribution of sensitive species, and individual sensitivities of species to noise and visual disturbance from human activities. Where disturbance is caused, it can have a range of effects on species including increased energy expenditure, reduced feeding time, behavioural changes, and temporary / long-term displacement.

Based on the published guidance referenced below, the following distances were used when considering how far construction and operational activities may disturb qualifying species:

- otter – 150 m, guidance published by the NRA (2008) suggests this distance for otter breeding sites, reducing to 20 m for resting sites not used for breeding purposes;
- lesser horseshoe bat – on a precautionary basis, a distance of 150 m is considered the maximum at which disturbance could be caused to roosting lesser horseshoe bats by construction and operational activities;
- non-breeding waterbirds – the Waterbird Disturbance Mitigation Toolkit (Cutts *et al*, 2003) provides species-specific information on the sensitivity of several bird species which are qualifying features of SPAs. Generally, it suggests that disturbance of non-breeding waterbirds can occur up to distances of around 300 m from construction works; and,
- breeding birds – 1 km, this being the maximum distance at which NatureScot consider disturbance could occur on the most sensitive species for which SPAs are designated (Goodship and Furness, 2022).

Disturbance of fish species is considered possible where works take place within 50 m of watercourses, although even within this distance disturbance is unlikely due to the vibration-dampening effect of intervening soil and rock.

Snail and slug species have no acoustic sense (Chase, 2001) and are not considered to be vulnerable to disturbance as a result of construction works.

3.1.3.7 Injury or mortality of qualifying species

The direct injury or mortality of QI or SCI species could occur in the construction phase where a species in question is using functionally-linked habitat outside of a European site boundary.

The potential for the direct mortality of fish species as a result of waterborne pollution is also considered above.

During the operational phase there is not considered to be a risk of injury or mortality of any QI or SCI species.

3.1.3.8 Prevention of migratory movements of qualifying species

The only feasible way in which construction works could impact on species in such a way that their migratory movements could be prevented is where they take place in or near to watercourses. The pollution of a watercourse, or noise / visual disturbance could all act to prevent the migratory movement of QI fish species.

Therefore, this impact was considered relevant where construction takes place adjacent to a river which is hydrologically linked to a SAC for which fish are a QI. Any new in-stream structures could act as a barrier to fish migration during the operational phase of the Proposed Scheme.

3.1.3.9 Spread of invasive non-native species (INNS)

Invasive non-native species (INNS) can have detrimental effects on native flora and fauna. While, the construction and operation of the Proposed Scheme is very unlikely to result in the spread of INNS, any construction works have the potential to spread INNS, including into European sites.

In undertaking this AA Screening, it is assumed that the spread of INNS could occur where construction works take place up to a distance of 50 m from a European site, or where there is otherwise a direct hydrological connection between the Proposed Scheme and a European site.

Operation of the Proposed Scheme will not be materially different to the existing situation with regards to the potential spread of INNS.

3.1.4 European sites within the Zol

Taking the approach described in **Section 3.1.2** and with cognisance of the impact sources set out in **Section 3.1.3** the Zol for the Proposed Scheme, and all European sites within it, was determined. This is set out in **Table 3:1**. The locations of all European sites within the Zol are shown on **Figure 2**.

Not all impacts will have pathways for effects to the QIs / SCIs of all European sites within the Zol. Consequently, some sites may be within the Zol for certain impacts, but not for others.

Table 3:1: Establishing the Zol of the Proposed Scheme

Impact source	Pathway to European site(s)	European sites within the potential Zol
Construction phase		
Direct loss of or damage to habitat within a European site.	The Proposed Scheme is not situated within any European sites. The closest European sites to the Proposed Scheme are South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA, and South Dublin Bay SAC, located approximately 0.67 km and 1.2 km north of the Proposed Scheme, respectively. Therefore, construction will not result in the direct loss or damage to habitats within any European sites.	None.
Loss of habitat outside of European sites but which supports qualifying species (i.e. loss of functionally-linked habitat).	The Proposed Scheme is confined largely to existing roads which do not constitute functionally-linked or supporting habitat for any SCI / QI species. There are small amenity grasslands in the wider area, however these grasslands are not within the Site and therefore will not be lost. Thus, construction will not result in the loss of functionally-linked or supporting habitat for any SCI / QI species.	None.
Waterborne pollution impacts on qualifying, supporting or functionally-linked habitat(s), or qualifying or supporting species.	There are no fresh waterbodies within the Site. Monkstown Stream is approximately 0.98 km west of the Proposed Scheme, however the section closest to the Site is culverted. Monkstown Stream does discharge into Dublin Bay, located approximately 0.08 km from the Proposed Scheme, however, there is a low likelihood that pollution from the Proposed Scheme would reach this stream, given the minor works required, and the intervening buildings/gardens and between the Proposed Scheme and the culverted stream. In addition, the proposed surface water runoff outfall will be into the existing drainage system and there will be no additional hard surfacing added in total.	None.
Airborne pollution impacts on qualifying, supporting or functionally-linked habitat(s), or qualifying or supporting species.	Construction works will involve construction vehicles. Emissions will occur and dust generation is possible. On a precautionary basis, any European sites (with the exception of estuarine and marine sites which are not vulnerable to airborne pollution (e.g. http://www.apis.ac.uk/node/968)) within 500 m (to account for IAQM guidance in relation to construction site entrances (see Section 3.2.3, above)) were considered at this stage to be within the potential Zol of this impact. The closest SPA to the Proposed Scheme is South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA which is SAC located approximately 0.67 km ('as the crow flies') and the closest SAC is South Dublin Bay which is approximately 1.2 km ('as the crow flies') away from the Proposed Scheme. Construction-generated dust and vehicular emissions would be minimal for the minor works required, and owing to dispersal, there is no potential for airborne pollution to affect SCI / QI species designated to any European given the degree of separation.	None.
Changes to surface water hydrology.	Construction of the Proposed Scheme will not entail significant earthworks and water abstraction, and thus there will be no effect on groundwater at European sites. The Proposed Scheme will involve the construction of a bus terminal along an existing road and utilises the remainder of the existing pavement and small areas of amenity grassland. Surface water runoff will flow into the existing drainage system and there is no intent to alter or add to the existing system.	None.
Changes to groundwater flows or volume.	Guidance published by the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) suggests that excavation works can act on groundwater-dependent terrestrial ecosystems (GWDTE) up to 100 m from excavations less than 1m in depth, extending up to 250 m for deeper excavations (SEPA, 2017). Considering that deep excavations will not be required for the Proposed Scheme, it is very unlikely that groundwater impacts will extend more than 100 m. The nearest European site is well beyond this distance (0.67 km away) and, therefore, no hydrological impacts on groundwater will occur.	None.
Disturbance of qualifying species (e.g. visual, noise, vibration or artificial light).	The closest SAC designated for a terrestrial mobile species is Wicklow Mountains SAC which is approximately 12.5 km away from the Proposed Scheme. As set out in Section 3.1.3.1 , the home range of otter in Ireland has been estimated to extend up to around 13 km. Therefore, given the distance between the Proposed Scheme and Wicklow Mountains SAC, it is unlikely that otter associated with the European site would occur in the vicinity of the project given the distance and lack of waterbodies within the Site.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA • Dalkey Islands SPA

Impact source	Pathway to European site(s)	European sites within the potential Zol
	<p>Thus, SCIs are the only species that could be affected by the works given their mobile nature. As set out in Section 3.1.3.1, a search area of up to 20 km was used when considering the potential loss of functionally-linked habitat for relevant SCI species, which includes South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA, Dalkey Islands SPA, North Bull Island SPA, North-West Irish Sea cSPA, Howth Head Coast SPA, Baldoyle Bay SPA, Wicklow Mountains SPA, Ireland's Eye SPA, Malahide Estuary SPA, and The Murrough SPA. Given that lighting will remain similar to the current levels, SCIs that occur within the vicinity of the Site will already be habituated to the levels of light disturbance that are predicted to result from the Proposed Scheme. Noise from construction works has the potential to disturb any SCI birds that may occur in habitats in the surrounding area of the Site.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Bull Island SPA • North-West Irish Sea cSPA • Howth Head Coast SPA • Baldoyle Bay SPA • Malahide Estuary SPA • Ireland's Eye SPA • Wicklow Mountains SPA • The Murrough SPA
<p>Injury or mortality of qualifying species.</p>	<p>QI / SCI species from European sites that could occur (i.e., mobile adults and young), all are able to actively move away from sources of injury such as construction machinery.</p>	<p>None.</p>
<p>Barriers to movement or displacement of QI / SCI or supporting species.</p>	<p>The Proposed Scheme poses no risk of disrupting the movement of birds or aquatic species as it will involve no obstacles to flight or migration routes.</p>	<p>None.</p>
<p>Spread of invasive non-native species.</p>	<p>The ecological walkover recorded four INNS; butterfly bush <i>buddleja davidii</i> (medium impact species), sycamore <i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i> (medium impact species), traveller's joy <i>Clematis vitalba</i> (medium impact species) and montbretia <i>Crococsmia x crocosmiiflora</i> (low-impact species) within the Proposed Scheme. None of these INNS are listed on the Third Schedule of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 477/2011) (as amended), or on the EU concern under the EU Invasive Alien Species Regulation or listed by the National Biodiversity Data Centre (NBDC) as High Risk in Ireland.</p> <p>Generally, the spread of INNS could occur where construction works take place up to a distance of 50 m from or within 50 m of a watercourse which is connected to a European site. As previously discussed, there are no European sites hydrologically connected to the Site and there are no watercourses within the Proposed Scheme. Therefore, the spread of invasive to any European Sites is unlikely given the lack of a realistic pathway and distance between construction work and the closest European Site (South Dublin and River Tolka Estuary SPA).</p>	<p>None.</p>
<p>Operational phase</p>		
<p>Direct loss of or damage to habitat within a European site.</p>	<p>There is no mechanism by which operation of the Proposed Scheme could lead to the direct loss of or damage to habitats within the boundary of an European site.</p>	<p>None.</p>
<p>Loss of habitat outside of European sites but which supports qualifying species (i.e. loss of functionally-linked habitat).</p>	<p>There is no mechanism by which operation of the Proposed Scheme could realistically lead to the loss of functionally-linked habitat. Conditions during the operational phase will be similar to existing conditions.</p>	<p>None.</p>
<p>Waterborne pollution impacts on qualifying, supporting or functionally-linked habitat(s), or qualifying or supporting species.</p>	<p>Operational activities in the area will be similar to existing conditions. There is no potential for waterborne pollution during the operational phase.</p>	<p>None.</p>

Impact source	Pathway to European site(s)	European sites within the potential Zol
Airborne pollution impacts on qualifying, supporting or functionally-linked habitat(s), or qualifying or supporting species.	None. There will be no significant change in air pollution sufficient to be detectable at European sites given the current vehicular emissions from the wider busy urban area of Dún Laoghaire and other South Dublin areas.	None.
Changes to surface water hydrology.	There will be no requirement for water abstraction during the operational phase. There will also be no discharges to surface water. Consequently, there is no potential for changes to surface water hydrology.	None.
Changes to groundwater flows or volume.	As described in relation to surface water hydrology, there will be no water abstraction in the operational phase of the Proposed Scheme. There is consequently no potential for impact on groundwater flows or volume during the operational phase.	None.
Disturbance of qualifying species (e.g. visual, noise, vibration or artificial light).	It is unlikely that the operation of the Proposed Scheme could lead to a material increase in disturbance compared to pre-construction levels. The Proposed Scheme is situated in the built-up urban town of Dún Laoghaire, thus any SCIs within proximity to the Proposed Scheme will be habituated to existing levels of disturbance in the area.	None.
Injury or mortality of qualifying species.	The Proposed Scheme will not generate sufficient noise or vibration that could travel through air or ground to cause a barrier / displace QIs of nearby European sites.	None.
Barriers to movement or displacement of QI / SCI or supporting species.	There is no realistic pathway for this impact. Operation of the Proposed Scheme does not pose any significant injury / mortality risk to QI / SCI species. Qualifying mobile species such as dunlin are the most likely to occur in the vicinity of the Proposed Scheme, but these are able to actively avoid sources of injury such as vehicles.	None.
Spread of invasive non-native species.	There is no mechanism by which the operation of the Proposed Scheme could realistically lead to the spread of INNS into any European site.	None.

4. Test of likely significant effects

4.1 Overview

This section assesses the potential for the identified construction and operational phase impacts, for which pathways exist to European sites, to result in likely significant effects on the relevant European sites. 'Likely' in this context is taken to mean 'possible', while a 'significant' effect is one which could undermine the Conservation Objectives of a European site.

The purpose of AA Screening is to determine those elements of a project regarding which it can be stated, without detailed appraisal, that significant effects on a European site are unlikely. In line with case law², consideration cannot be given at this stage to specific mitigation measures designed to avoid likely significant effects on a European site. Therefore, the test of likely significant effects in this section is necessarily a high-level appraisal, carried out without consideration of mitigation measures, and with a precautionary approach adopted when reaching a conclusion.

For any impacts for which likely significant effects cannot be 'screened out' (i.e., excluded), further appraisal at the AA NIS stage will be required.

4.2 Impacts with pathways to European sites

4.2.1 Impacts screened out of further appraisal

On the basis of the initial assessment described in **Section 3.1.4** of this Report, there is no pathway for the following construction phase impacts to reach any European sites:

- direct loss of or damage to habitats within the boundary of a European site;
- changes to surface water hydrology;
- changes to groundwater flows or volume;
- waterborne pollution impacts on qualifying, supporting or functionally-linked habitat(s), or of QI / SCI or supporting species;
- injury or mortality of QI / SCI species;
- airborne pollution impacts on qualifying, supporting or functionally-linked habitat(s), or qualifying or supporting species;
- loss of functionally-linked habitat;
- barriers to movement or displacement of QI / SCI or supporting species; and
- spread of INNS.

Furthermore, all possible operational phase impacts have been screened out of further appraisal because there is no potential for them to occur on the qualifying features of any European site.

4.2.2 Impacts tested for likely significant effects

For all other construction phase impacts given in **Table 3:1**, the European sites within the potential Zol of the Proposed Scheme were established. The possible construction phase impact is as follows:

- disturbance of SCIs.

4.3 Screening assessment

For each European site, the construction impact for which that site was determined to be within the Zol of the Proposed Scheme are examined for their potential to result in likely significant effects on relevant qualifying features.

² People Over Wind and Sweetman v Coillte Teoranta (C-323/17).

The European sites being assessed in this Section are:

- South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA;
- Dalkey Islands SPA;
- North Bull Island SPA;
- North-West Irish Sea cSPA;
- Howth Head Coast SPA;
- Baldoyle Bay SPA;
- Wicklow Mountains SPA.
- Ireland's Eye SPA;
- Malahide Estuary SPA; and
- The Murrough SPA.

Any SCI species from SPAs within 20 km of the Site may occur in areas of habitat within disturbance distance of the Proposed Scheme. However, these areas of habitats are very small, and highly disturbed. In addition, the minor works of the Proposed Scheme will be temporary and of a similar nature to existing background levels of human activity in the area, which any SCI species that occur in proximity to the Site would already be habituated to. Disturbance to SCI species will likely not occur and therefore, there is **no potential for likely significant effects** as a result of the Proposed Scheme.

Information on each European site relevant to the test of LSEs, including the list of QIs / SCIs, Conservation Objectives, and known existing threats or pressures, was obtained from the NPWS website (<https://www.npws.ie/>). A summary of this information for each European site is presented in **Appendix B**.

4.4 In-combination assessment

Cumulative effects can result from individually insignificant but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time or concentrated in a location (CIEEM, 2022). Effects which arise in-combination with other projects or plans must be considered as part of AA Screening. In accordance with OPR (2021), the assessment of in-combination effects must examine:

- completed projects;
- projects which are approved but not completed;
- proposed projects (i.e. for which an application for approval or consent has been made, including refusals subject to appeal and not yet determined);
- proposals in adopted plans; and,
- proposals in finalised draft plans formally published or submitted for consultation or adoption.

A review of the National Planning Application Database (NPAD) was undertaken to identify any planning applications from the last five years within close proximity (i.e., 1 km) of the Proposed Scheme. Most recent planning applications are small scale domestic and commercial applications.

As discussed in **Section 4.3**, no effects are considered possible from the Proposed Scheme itself. Where there is no possibility of any effect (as opposed to a small but insignificant effect, or a significant effect), there cannot be any in-combination effect with other projects or plans as there will be no addition from the Proposed Scheme. While some of the identified applications have the potential to cause impacts on European sites (e.g., through waterborne pollution), such effects will not arise from the Proposed Scheme and there is no potential for in-combination effects. For completeness, planning applications within 1 km which were not simply small scale domestic or commercial applications are discussed below.

Living Streets: Coastal Mobility Route: DLRCC are planning to upgrade the Coastal Mobility Route (CMR) to a 4.5 km cycle route along the coastline from Blackrock to Sandycove, 3.6 km of which is a two-way fully segregated cycle lane.

Planning Application Reference D18A/1196: Proposed development at Saint Michael's Hospital, George's Street Lower, Dún Laoghaire, located approximately 0.1 km from the Proposed Scheme. Permission for a single storey extension of 21 sqm to provide three ambulant treatment bays to the rear of the Emergency Department. Approval given March 2019.

Planning Application Reference D19A/0378: Proposed development at Richmond Park, Monkstown, located approximately 1.1 km from the Proposed Scheme. Permission for revisions to a residential development previously permitted under Reg. Ref. D17A/0590 / ABP-301533-18. The proposed development will consist of the following revisions to the permitted scheme; minor revisions to the siting and footprint of the 2 no. permitted apartment blocks; reconfiguration of the internal permitted floor layouts of both blocks resulting in a total of 72 no. residential units in these 2 no. apartment blocks (1 no. four storey block consisting of 17 no. one beds and 23 no. two beds [Block A]; 1 no. four storey block consisting of 17 no. one beds and 15 no two beds [block B]) (this is in lieu of a total of 56 no. residential units permitted under Reg. Ref. D17A/0590 / ABP-301533-18), elevational changes to accommodate this reconfiguration; revisions to the permitted basement to now provide 79 car parking spaces, 7 motorcycle spaces and 64 bicycle spaces and all associated site works necessary to facilitate the development. Approval given July 2019.

Planning Application Reference ABP30424919: Proposed development at The Old School House, Eblana Avenue, located approximately 0.2 km from the Proposed Scheme. Permission for a strategic housing development consisting of the demolition all existing buildings on site (2,629 sqm) including a section of the northern boundary wall located to the western side of the site and the construction of a part-four to part-six storey over part basement/ part lower ground floor Build- to-Rent Shared Living Residential Development comprising 208 No. single occupancy bed spaces (including 4 No. accessible rooms) with circulation core (6,501 sqm); and a kiosk fronting Eblana Avenue for the sale of food and beverages to the public (16.7 sqm) with associated external seating area. The development also consists of the provision of communal kitchen/dining/living and library spaces at each floor level to serve the residents of each floor; communal resident amenity space for all residents at lower ground and ground floor levels including the provision of a lounge/games room, multi-purpose/dining space, gymnasium/fitness space and TV/cinema room; a roof garden at fifth floor level (348.8 sqm) facing north, east and west; landscaped amenity areas at lower ground/ ground floor level (206.7 sqm); resident facilities including launderette, linen room and concierge/administration management suite; bicycle parking spaces; car parking incorporating 4 No. visitor car parking spaces, 1 No. disabled car parking space, 1 No. car share parking space and a short-term set down area; bin storage; boundary treatments; green roofs; hard and soft landscaping; provision of a pedestrian link between Eblana Avenue and Croften Square; storage areas; plant; photovoltaic panels at roof level; switch room; substation; lighting; and all other associated site works and service connections above and below ground. Approval given July 2019.

4.4.1 Conclusion of in-combination effects

Considering the above information, there is no potential for the Proposed Scheme to have in-combination effects with other projects and plans, undermining the integrity of any European sites.

5. Appropriate Assessment Screening statement and conclusion

South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA, Dalkey Islands SPA, North Bull Island SPA, North-West Irish Sea cSPA, Howth Head Coast SPA, Baldoyle Bay SPA, Wicklow Mountains SPA, Ireland's Eye SPA, Malahide Estuary SPA, and The Murrough SPA were considered to be within the ZoI of the Proposed Scheme. Pathways for the following impact to affect the SCIs of the SPAs were identified and tested for LSEs:

- disturbance of SCIs.

No likely significant effects from this impact were identified from the Proposed Scheme alone or in-combination with nearby planning applications from the last five years.

Therefore, in view of best scientific knowledge and objective information, it is concluded that LSEs from the Proposed Scheme on European sites will not arise, both individually or in-combination with other plans or projects. There is no requirement to proceed to the next stage of AA.

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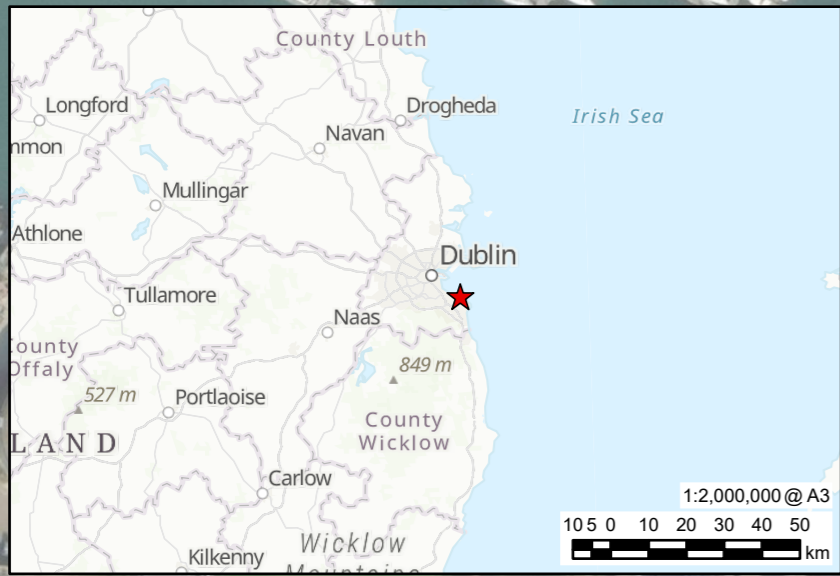
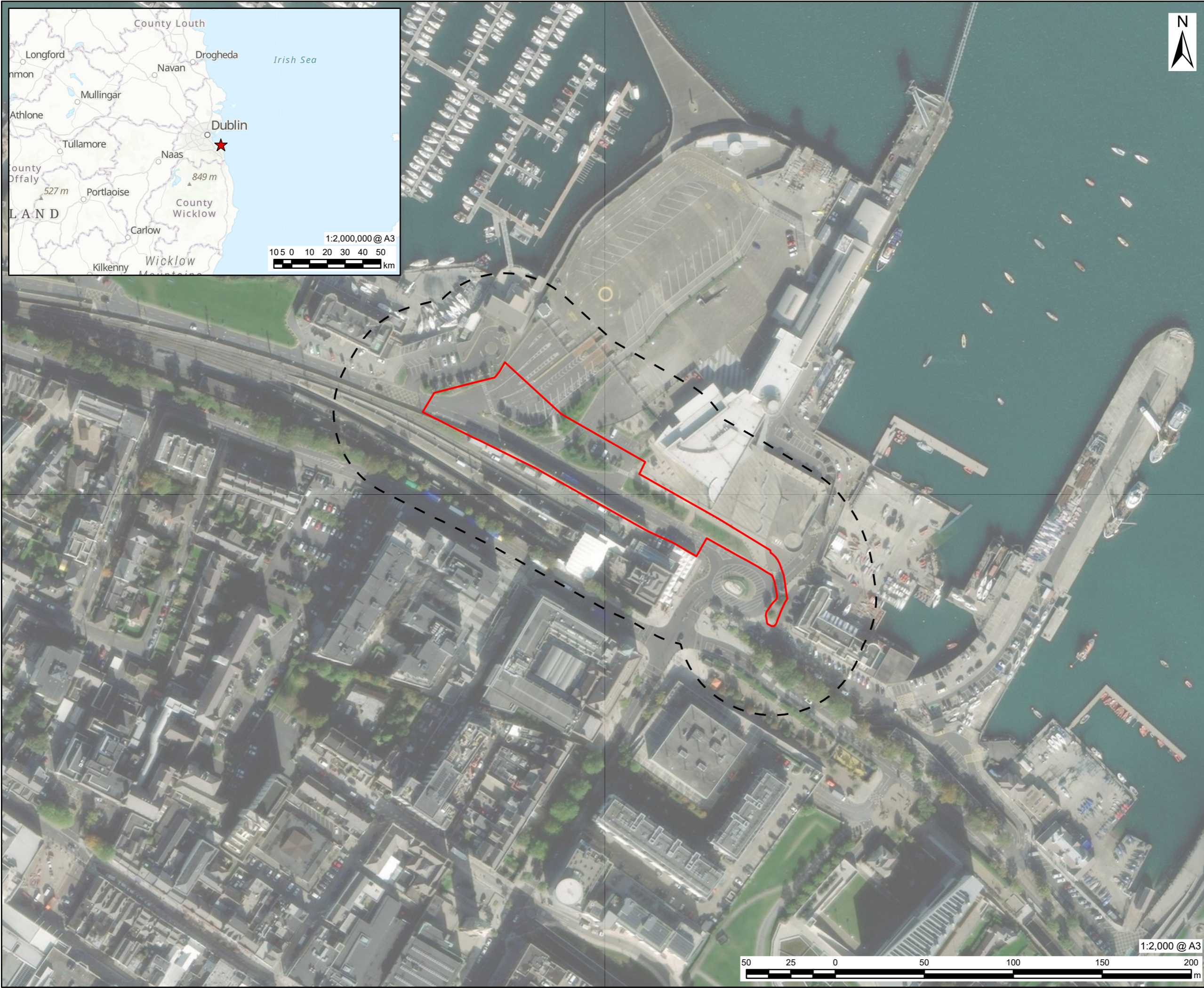
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Appendix A Figures

Figure 1: Site Location

Figure 2: European sites within the Zone of Influence



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 Dún Laoghaire Bus And
 Access Arrangements on
 Harbour Road

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 Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown
 County Council on behalf of
 National Transport
 Authority

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- LEGEND**
- Proposed Scheme
 - Survey Area
 - ★ Site Location

NOTES
 Maxar, Microsoft, Esri UK, Esri, HERE,
 Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS

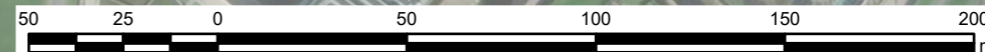
ISSUE PURPOSE
 FOR ISSUE

PROJECT NUMBER
 60697433

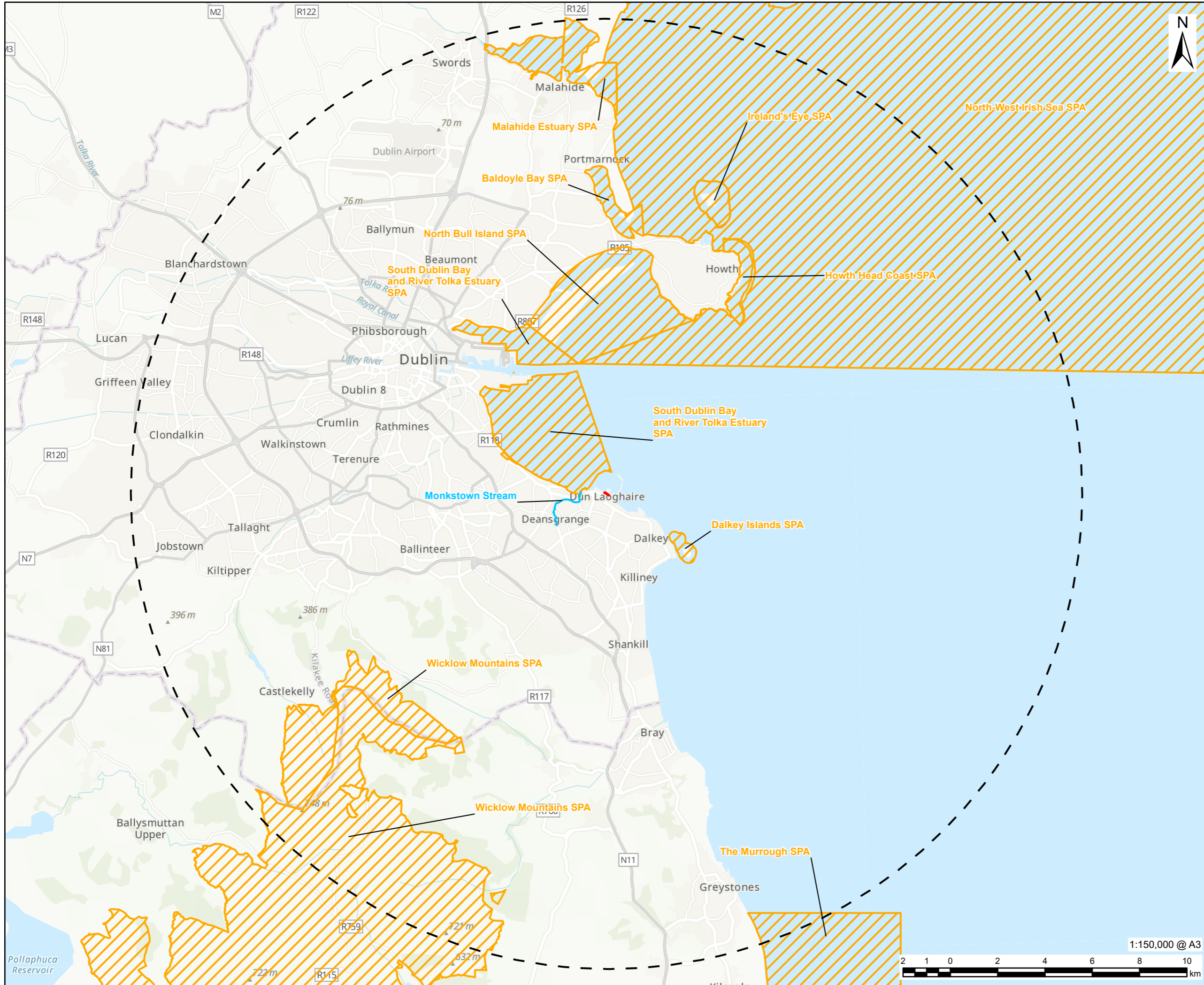
FIGURE TITLE
 Site Location

FIGURE NUMBER
 Figure 1

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PROJECT
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- LEGEND**
- Proposed Scheme
 - 20km Study Area
 - Watercourse
 - Special Protection Area (SPA)

NOTES
 Esri UK, Esri, HERE, Garmin, Foursquare,
 METI/NASA, USGS

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FIGURE TITLE
 European Sites within the Zone of
 Influence

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 Figure 2

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Appendix B Information on European sites within the Zol of the Proposed Scheme

Below are details on the European sites which were established through AA Screening to fall within the Zol of the construction and operation of the Proposed Scheme.

South Dublin and River Tolka Estuary SPA

Site code: 004024

Local planning authority: South Dublin County Council

Special Conservation Interests:

Light-bellied brent goose (*Branta bernicla hrota*) [A046]

Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*) [A130]

Ringed plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*) [A137]

Grey plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*) [A141]

Knot (*Calidris canutus*) [A143]

Sanderling (*Calidris alba*) [A144]

Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*) [A149]

Bar-tailed godwit (*Limosa lapponica*) [A157]

Redshank (*Tringa totanus*) [A162]

Black-headed gull (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*) [A179]

Roseate tern (*Sterna dougallii*) [A192]

Common tern (*Sterna hirundo*) [A193]

Arctic tern (*Sterna paradisaea*) [A194]

Wetland and waterbirds [A999]

Conservation objectives:

- To maintain the favourable conservation condition of SCI species in South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA (excluding grey plover, see below), which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets.
- Grey plover is proposed for removal from the list of Special Conservation Interests for South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA. As a result, a site-specific conservation objective has not been set for this species.
- To maintain the favourable conservation condition of the wetland habitat in South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA as a resource for the regularly occurring migratory waterbirds that utilise it. This is defined by the following attribute and target:

Existing threats, pressures, and activities with impacts on the site

None specified.

Malahide Estuary SPA

Site code: 004025

Local planning authority: Fingal County Council

Special Conservation Interests:

• Great crested grebe (*Pocideps cristatus*)

• Light-bellied brent goose (*Branta bernicla hrota*) [A046]

• Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*) [A048]

• Pintail (*Anas acuta*) [A054]

• Goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*) [A067]

• Red-breasted merganser (*Mergus serrator*) [A069]

• Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*) [A130]

• Golden plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*) [A140]

• Grey plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*) [A141]

• Knot (*Calidris canutus*) [A143]

• Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*) [A149]

• Black-tailed godwit (*Limosa limosa*) [A156]

• Bar-tailed godwit (*Limosa lapponica*) [A157]

• Redshank (*Tringa totanus*) [A162]

• Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]

Conservation objectives:

Malahide Estuary SPA

- To maintain the favourable conservation condition of great crested grebe, light-bellied brent goose, shelduck, pintail, goldeneye, red-breasted merganser, oystercatcher, golden plover, grey plover, knot, dunlin, black-tailed godwit, bar-tailed godwit and redshank which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:
 - Population trend: Long term population trend stable or increasing. Measurable by percentage change.
 - Distribution: There should be no significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by the SCI bird species other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation. Measurable by range, timing and intensity of use.
 - To maintain the favourable conservation condition of the wetland habitat in the SPA as a resource for the regularly-occurring migratory waterbirds that utilise it, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:
 - Wetland habitat area: The permanent area occupied by the wetland habitat should be stable and not significantly less than the area of 765 ha, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation. Measurable by hectares.
-

North Bull Island SPA

Site code: 004006

Local planning authority: Fingal County Council

Special Conservation Interests:

- Light-bellied brent goose (*Branta bernicla hrota*) [A046]
 - Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*) [A048]
 - Teal (*Anas crecca*) [A052]
 - Pintail (*Anas acuta*) [A054]
 - Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*) [A056]
 - Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*) [A130]
 - Golden plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*) [A140]
 - Grey plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*) [A141]
 - Knot (*Calidris canutus*) [A143]
 - Sanderling (*Calidris alba*) [A144]
 - Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*) [A149]
 - Black-tailed godwit (*Limosa limosa*) [A156]
 - Bar-tailed godwit (*Limosa lapponica*) [A157]
 - Curlew (*Numenius arquata*) [A160]
 - Redshank (*Tringa totanus*) [A162]
 - Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*) [A169]
 - Black-headed gull (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*) [A179]
 - Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]
-

Conservation objectives:

- To maintain the favourable conservation condition of light-bellied brent goose, shelduck, teal, pintail, shoveler, oystercatcher, golden plover, grey plover, knot, sanderling, dunlin, black-tailed godwit, bar-tailed godwit, curlew, redshank, turnstone and black-headed gull which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:
 - Population trend: Long term population trend stable or increasing. Measurable by percentage change.
 - Distribution: There should be no significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by the SCI bird species other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation. Measurable by range, timing and intensity of use.
 - To maintain the favourable conservation condition of the wetland habitat in the SPA as a resource for the regularly-occurring migratory waterbirds that utilise it, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:
 - Wetland habitat area: The permanent area occupied by the wetland habitat should be stable and not significantly less than the area of 1,713 ha, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation. Measurable by hectares.
-

Baldoyle Bay SPA

Site code: 004016

Local planning authority: Fingal County Council

Special Conservation Interests:

- Light-bellied brent goose (*Branta bernicla hrota*) [A046]
 - Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*) [A048]
 - Ringed plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*) [A137]
 - Golden plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*) [A140]
 - Grey plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*) [A141]
 - Bar-tailed godwit (*Limosa lapponica*) [A157]
 - Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]
-

Conservation objectives:

- To maintain the favourable conservation condition of light-bellied brent goose, shelduck, ringed plover, golden plover, grey plover and bar-tailed godwit which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:
 - Population trend: Long term population trend stable or increasing. Measurable by percentage change.
 - Distribution: There should be no significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by the SCI bird species other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation. Measurable by range, timing and intensity of use.
 - To maintain the favourable conservation condition of the wetland habitat in the SPA which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:
 - Wetland habitat area: The permanent area occupied by the wetland habitat should be stable and not significantly less than the area of 263 ha, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation. Measurable by hectares.
-

Ireland's Eye SPA

Site code: 004024

Local planning authority: Fingal County Council

Special Conservation Interests:

- Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) [A017]
 - Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*) [A184]
 - Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*) [A188]
 - Guillemot (*Uria aalge*) [A199]
 - Razorbill (*Alca torda*) [A200]
-

Conservation objectives:

- To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA.
-

Howth Head Coast SPA

Site code: 004113

Local planning authority: Fingal County Council

Special Conservation Interests:

- Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*) [A188]
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Conservation objectives:

- To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA.
-

North-West Irish Sea cSPA

Site code: 004006

Local planning authority: Fingal County Council

Special Conservation Interests:

- Red-throated diver (*Gavia stellata*) [A001]
- Great northern diver (*Gavia immer*) [A003]
- Fulmar (*Fulmarus glacialis*) [A009]
- Manx shearwater (*Puffinus puffinus*) [A013]
- Shag (*Phalacrocorax aristotelis*) [A018]
- Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) [A017]
- Little gull (*Larus minutus*) [A177]
- Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*) [A188]
- Black-headed gull (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*) [A179]
- Common gull (*Larus canus*) [A182]
- Lesser black-backed gull (*Larus fuscus*) [A183]
- Herring gull (*Larus argentatus*) [A184]
- Great black-backed gull (*Larus marinus*) [A187]
- Little tern (*Sterna albifrons*) [A195]
- Roseate tern (*Sterna dougallii*) [A192]
- Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*) [A193]
- Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*) [A194]
- Puffin (*Fratercula arctica*) [A204]
- Razorbill (*Alca torda*) [A200]
- Guillemot (*Uria aalge*) [A199]

Conservation objectives:

The conservation objectives for this cSPA had not been specified at the time of writing this Report.

Wicklow Mountains SPA

Site code: 004040

Local planning authority: Wicklow County Council

Special Conservation Interests:

- Merlin (*Falco columbarius*) [A098]
- Peregrine (*Falco peregrinus*) [A103]

Conservation objectives:

- To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA.
-

Dalkey Islands SPA

Site code: 004172

Local planning authority: Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council

Special Conservation Interests:

- Roseate tern (*Sterna dougallii*) [A192]
- Common tern (*Sterna hirundo*) [A193]
- Arctic tern (*Sterna paradisaea*) [A194]

Conservation objectives:

- To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA.
-

The Murrough SPA

Site code: 004186

Local planning authority: Wicklow County Council

Special Conservation Interests:

- Red-throated diver (*Gavia stellata*) [A001]

The Murrough SPA

- Greylag goose (*Anser anser*) [A043]
 - Light-bellied brent goose (*Branta bernicla hrota*) [A046]
 - Wigeon (*Anas penelope*) [A050]
 - Teal (*Anas crecca*) [A052]
 - Black-headed gull (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*) [A179]
 - Herring gull (*Larus argentatus*) [A184]
 - Little tern (*Sterna albifrons*) [A195]
 - Wetland and waterbirds [A999]
-

Conservation objectives:

To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA.
