

Screening Report for Appropriate Assessment

Proposed canopy and boardwalk extension at
Custom House Quay, Dublin City

MEC Ltd.

Screening Report in support of Appropriate Assessment

This report has been prepared by Minogue Environmental Consulting Ltd with all reasonable skill, care and diligence. Information reported herein is based on the interpretation of data collected and has been accepted in good faith as being accurate and valid.

This report is prepared for Dublin City Council and we accept no responsibility to third parties to whom this report, or any part thereof, is made known. Any such party relies on the report at their own risk.

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1 Introduction

Minogue Environmental Consulting Ltd was engaged by the Urban Agency on behalf of Dublin City Council (DCC) to undertake a Screening Statement in support of an Appropriate Assessment (AA), under Article 6 of the EU Habitats Directive, for a proposed Glulam Canopy at Custom House Quay, Docklands, Dublin 1, Dublin 1, D01 KF84.

This Screening Report for Appropriate Assessment forms Stage 1 of the Habitats Directive Assessment process and is being undertaken in order to comply with the requirements of the Habitats Directive Article 6(3). The function of this Screening Report is to identify the potential for the project to result in likely significant effects to Natura 2000 sites and to provide information so that the competent authority can determine whether a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment is required for the project.

1.1 LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

This Screening Report for Appropriate Assessment is being prepared in order to enable the competent authority to comply with Article 6(3) of Council Directive 92/43/EEC (The Habitats Directive). It is prepared to assess whether or not the project alone or in combination with other plans and projects is likely to have a significant effect on any European Site in view of best scientific knowledge and in view of the conservation objectives of the Natura 2000 sites and specifically on the habitats and species for which the sites have been designated.

1.1.1 Requirement for an Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive

According to Ss.177U and 177V in Part XAB of the Planning and Development Act 2000, the competent authority has a duty to:

- Determine whether the Project is directly connected to or necessary for the management of one of more Natura 2000 sites; and, if not;
- Determine if the Project, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, would be likely to have a significant effect on the European Site(s) in view of best scientific knowledge and the Conservation Objectives of the site(s).

This Report contains a Screening for Appropriate Assessment and is intended to assess and address all issues regarding the construction and operation of the Project and to inform and assist the competent authority to comply with the Habitats Directive (as already defined). The Habitats legislation requires competent authorities, to carry out a Screening for Appropriate Assessment of plans and projects that, alone or in combination with other plans or projects, would be likely to have significant effects on Natura 2000 sites in view of best scientific knowledge and the Site's conservation objectives. This requirement is transposed into Irish Law by Part 5 of the Habitats Regulations and Part XAB of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended).

1.1.2 Stage 1 Screening Method

This Screening Report has been prepared in order to comply with the legislative requirements outlined in Section 1.1 above and aims to establish whether or not the project, alone or in combination with other plans or projects, would be likely to have significant effects on Natura

2000 sites in view of best scientific knowledge and the Site’s conservation objectives. In this context “likely” means a risk or possibility of effects occurring that **cannot** be ruled out based on objective information and “significant” means an effect that would undermine the conservation objectives of the Natura 2000 sites, either alone or in-combination with other plans and projects (Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR), 2021).

The nature of the likely interactions between the project and the Conservation Objectives of Natura 2000 sites will depend upon:

- the ecological characteristics of the species or habitat, including their structure, function, conservation status and sensitivity to change; and/or
- the character, magnitude, duration, consequences and probability of the impacts arising from land use activities associated with the plan, in combination with other plans and projects.

This Screening Report for Appropriate Assessment has been undertaken with reference to respective National and European guidance documents: A guide for competent authorities. Environment and Heritage Service, Sept 2002. Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland – Guidance for Planning Authorities (2010). DEHLG.

- The EC (2021) Guidelines: Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly Affecting Natura 2000 Sites – Methodological Guidance of the Provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/42/EEC.
- Managing Natura 2000 Sites – The provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. European commission (2018).
- OPR Practice Note PN01 Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management (2021). Office of the Planning Regulator

The EC (2021) guidelines outline the stages involved in undertaking a Screening Report for Appropriate Assessment for projects. The methodology adopted during the preparation of this Screening Report is informed by these guidelines and was undertaken in the following stages:

1. Describe the project and determine whether it is necessary for the conservation management of Natura 2000 sites;
2. Identify Natura 2000 sites that could be influenced by the project;
3. Where Natura 2000 sites are identified as occurring within the zone of influence of the project identify potential effects arising from the project and screen the potential for such effects to negatively affect Natura 2000 sites identified under Point 2 above; and
4. Identify other plans or projects that, in combination with the project, have the potential to affect Natura 2000 sites.

1.1.3 Desktop surveys

Information relied upon included the following information sources, which included maps, ecological and water quality data as preliminary insights:

- Ordnance Survey of Ireland mapping and aerial photography available from www.osi.ie ;
- Online data available on Natura 2000 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 catchment management and water quality from <https://www.catchments.ie/>
- Information on soils, geology and hydrogeology in the area available from www.gsi.ie ;
- Information on the status of EU protected habitats in Ireland (National Parks & Wildlife Service, 2019 Volumes 1-3);
- Natura Impact Report for the Dublin City Development Plan 2022-2028
- Ringsend to City Centre Core Bus Corridor Scheme SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT FOR A BETTER CITY. Appropriate Assessment Report Appropriate Assessment Report SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT FOR A BETTER CITY. April 2022

1.1.4 Baseline Surveys

The Screening Report has been informed by a site survey at the project site, which was completed on the 15th August 2022. The site survey involved identifying the habitats occurring on site to level 3 of Fossitt's Guide to Habitats in Ireland and searching the site for field signs indicating the presence of protected flora or fauna on site. In addition, the site was appraised for its potential to support qualifying species of Natura 2000 sites in the wider surrounding area in particular wetland and waterbirds. There has been no change to conditions in the project area since 2022 and the survey of that date stands and is in line with the Advice Note on the lifespan of ecological reports & surveys (Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, 2019).

1.1.5 Mitigation measures

There has been considerable controversy and debate over recent years as to what extent, if any, to which it is permissible for the competent authority to take mitigation measures into account in reaching its screening determination. It can be argued that it is sometimes difficult to draw a meaningful distinction between

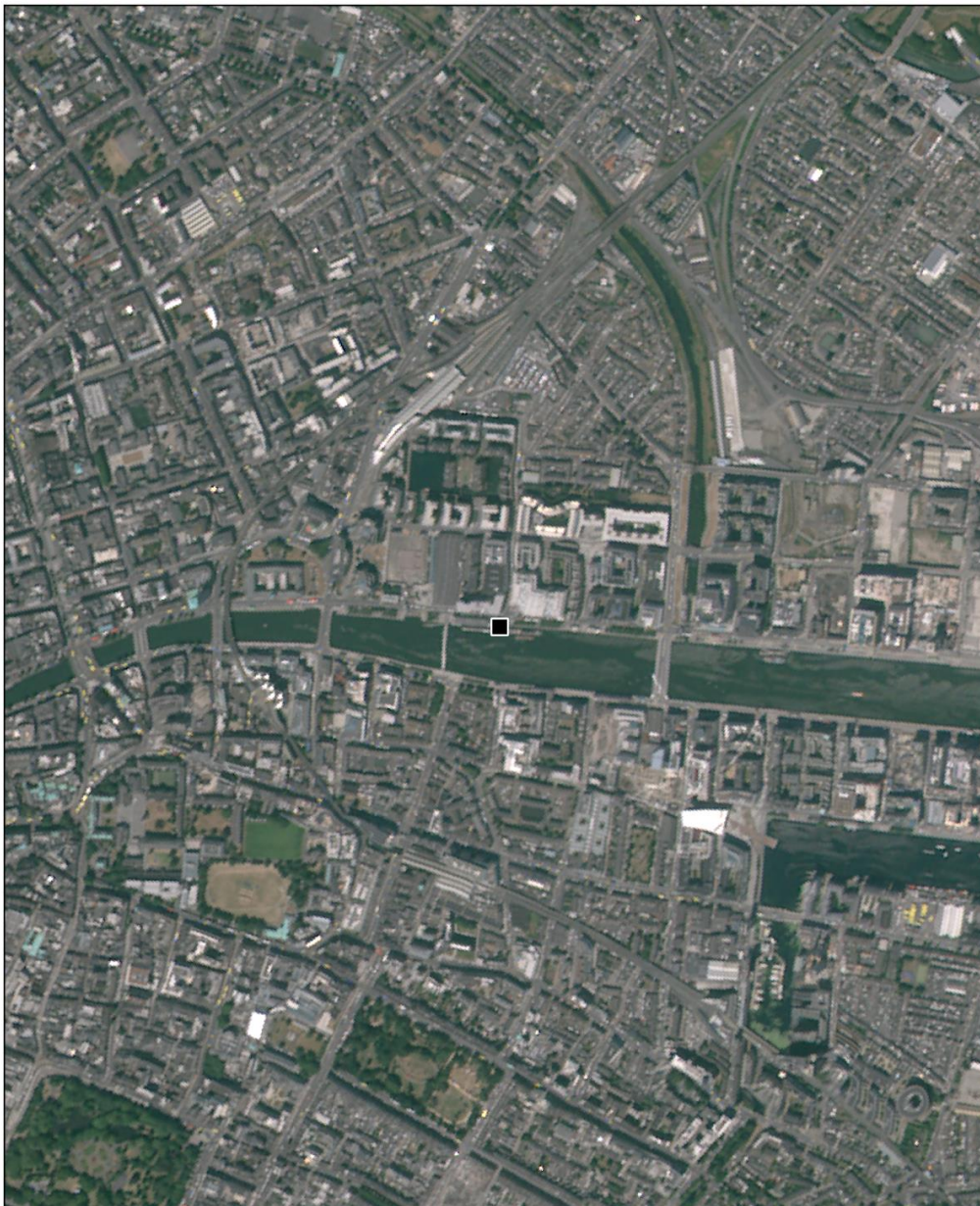
- (i) a mitigation measure, and
- (ii) a feature which is an integral part of the design of the project.

This controversy has recently been resolved by the CJEU in its judgement in Case C-323/17 People Over Wind. The case concerned a proposed grid connection works, i.e. the laying of a cable to

connect a wind farm to the national electricity grid. The High Court (Barrett J.) referred the question to the CJEU as to whether, or in what circumstances, mitigation measures can be considered when carrying out screening for appropriate assessment under Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive. The CJEU noted that the concept of “mitigation measures” is not referenced in the Habitats Directive, and that the measures at issue in the proceedings should instead be understood as denoting measures that are intended to avoid or reduce the harmful effects of the proposed project on the site concerned.

The court held that Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive must be interpreted as meaning that, in order to determine whether it is necessary to carry out, subsequently, an appropriate assessment of the implications, for a site concerned, of a plan or project, it is not proper, at the screening stage, to take account of the measures intended to avoid or reduce the harmful effects of the plan or project on that site.

Figure 1-1 Site Location



■ Site

Aerial Imagery - Copernicus VHR 2018

0 0.5 1 km

Data: South Dublin County Council, Fingal County Council, Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, Wicklow County Council
* Dublin City Council RPS not available



2 Project Description

2.1 Overview

The application site is located within the Docklands area of Dublin City Centre. It is on the River Liffey on an existing pontoon structure adjacent to the Custom House Quay and current Dublin Docklands office building. The proposed project consists of the below elements.

- Element A: Extended Boardwalk and glass balustrading 4.2 m in width joining to the granted 1.8m wide boardwalk. Proposed area of 495 m². This will be supported by four piles.
- Element B: Is the relocation of existing gangway (N.01) further in the East direction as per drawings. Existing Gangway = 22 metres in length, with a width of 2 m approximately.
- Element C: Is the relocation and removal of existing pontoons and proposed seven number pontoons to replace existing pontoons and canopy with glazed roof. Existing pontoon (C) relocation area of 80 m². Existing pontoon (A, B & D) removal area of 239 m².
- Proposed pontoon area of 486 m². Glazed canopy area of 121 m².
- Element D: Proposed Gangway (N.02) & platform connected to the extended boardwalk and replacement of existing pontoon with two new pontoons and canopy with glazed roof. Gangway= 24 metres in length, with a width of 1.8 m approximately
- Platform area= 6 m².
- Existing pontoon (E) area of 80 m².
- Proposed two number pontoons area= 159 m². Glazed canopy area= 37 m².

In total the footprint of the project is 495m²+486m²+159m². This amount to 0.114ha.

2.1.1 Approach to the works

There are four main elements to the works.

Element A: Extended Boardwalk and glass balustrading 4.2 m in width joining to the granted 1.8m wide boardwalk and four number river piles.

Element B: Is the relocation of existing gangway (N.01) further in the East direction.

Element C: Is the relocation and removal of existing pontoons and proposed seven number pontoons to replace existing pontoons and canopy with glazed roof.

Element D: Proposed Gangway (N.02) & platform connected to the extended boardwalk and replacement of existing pontoon with two new pontoons and canopy with glazed roof.

The proposed boardwalk will be a galvanised steel frame. This will be fabricated off site and then craned into position on the Quay wall side and bolted together element by element.

Sections of the boardwalk will rest on river piles, these will be installed by a specialist piling subcontractor and will be in line with standard construction methodologies. Vacuum dredging and silt screens will be employed locally to the pile locations. Once the boardwalk frame is completed an aluminum deck will be laid onto the steel frame followed by a glazed balustrade system fixing detail by a specialist supplier.

The relocation of the existing gangway will be craned into the new position once the new pontoons have been installed on the river and bolted into the steel frame of the boardwalk to specialist design.

The seven number proposed pontoon panels will be prefabricated off site and then either craned into position or brought up the Liffey on a barge and lifted by crane into position. These will be bolted together with a special connection and then bolted back to the existing pontoon to specialist details. The pontoon will be connected to sea flex anchors as this is the current detail for the existing pontoons. Once these are in place the glulam V-shaped columns will be prefabricated off site and then erected onto a steel plate connection that has been cast into the pontoon. This will be bolted together and continues with the rest of the columns. Once this is complete the glulam roof frame will be bolted together on the base of the pontoon and then lifted by crane onto the columns and bolted into position.

The final phase is to install the glass roof. The glass will be pre cut off site and craned onto the roof structure and bolted into the glulam frame section by section until the roof is complete. The joints between the glazing will be sealed with a high grade silicon.

For element C & D these works will be based on the same approach as per above paragraphs. Piling works will be undertaken between the months of July to September in line with Inland Fisheries Ireland Guidance.

Estimated duration of works is 18 months which includes the building and 6 months for works in the Liffey.

3 Description of the Project Site Location

3.1.1 Overview

The project site is located at Custom House Quays, on the River Liffey in Dublin city.

The existing pontoon extends over the River Liffey and the river itself is enclosed by the quay walls of cut stone masonry. Access across the River Liffey is facilitated by the Sean O'Casey bridge approximately 130m west of the project.

Habitats identified within the site footprint are:

Buildings and artificial surfaces (BL3);

- Sea walls, piers and jetties (CC1);
- Tidal rivers (CW2)

A review of recent aerial photography between 1995 and 2019 indicates that the project site has remained built land and artificial surfaces. The change being the construction of the pontoon since 2005 as well as the construction of the pedestrian bridge. The site is subject to a high level of disturbance including human activities associated with the traffic, walking and cycling as well as the busy city center location.

The GSI bedrock under the project site is classified as limestone and shale (Lucan series). The aquifer is designated as Locally Important Aquifer due to a moderately productive bedrock, GSI Vulnerability recorded as Low Vulnerability. As recognized by the SIS National Soils system, the soils underlying the proposed route are largely urban throughout the entirety of the City Centre, including the proposed project site. The subsoils in the project site are designated made. The project site is situated within the WFD Catchment Liffey and Dublin Bay (09) and the Subcatchment Tolka SC 20. The river itself is classified as Liffey Estuary Lower transitional water body and is at risk of not meeting the Water Framework Directive objectives for 2027.

The project site is situated within poorly productive bedrock, with the groundwater body code: IE_EA_G_008. This is not identified as being at risk under the Water Framework Directive 2027 objectives.

3.1.2 Desktop Research

Given the project does not increase the overall footprint of the pontoon nor provide for any instream works, a 1km grid search was undertaken. The following qualifying species were identified within Grid 01634

Table 3-1 Protected species records Grid 01634

Species group	Species name	Record count	Date of last record	Title of dataset	Designation
bird	Black Guillemot (Cepphus grylle)	8	16/05/2019	Birds of Ireland	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List
bird	Black-headed Gull (Larus ridibundus)	3	17/10/2014	Birds of Ireland	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Red List
bird	Brent Goose (Branta bernicla)	1	07/04/2011	Birds of Ireland	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List
bird	Common Linnet (Carduelis cannabina)	1	07/04/2011	Birds of Ireland	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List
bird	Common Starling (Sturnus vulgaris)	1	10/04/2018	Birds of Ireland	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List
bird	Common Wood Pigeon (Columba palumbus)	1	13/02/2013	Birds of Ireland	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts Protected Species: EU Birds Directive Protected Species: EU Birds Directive >> Annex II, Section I Bird Species Protected Species: EU Birds Directive >> Annex III, Section I Bird Species

bird	Great Cormorant (Phalacrocorax carbo)	1	31/01/2010	Birds of Ireland	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List
bird	Herring Gull (Larus argentatus)	5	06/06/2017	Birds of Ireland	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Red List
bird	House Sparrow (Passer domesticus)	1	15/08/2010	Birds of Ireland	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List
bird	Mute Swan (Cygnus olor)	1	09/09/2012	Birds of Ireland	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List
bird	Rock Pigeon (Columba livia)	1	30/12/2016	Birds of Ireland	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts Protected Species: EU Birds Directive Protected Species: EU Birds Directive >> Annex II, Section I Bird Species
marine mammal	Common Dolphin (Delphinus delphis)	1	28/11/2018	IWDG Casual Cetacean Sightings	Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex IV Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
terrestrial mammal	European Otter (Lutra lutra)	1	04/05/1980	Otter Survey of Ireland 1982	Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex II Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex IV Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
terrestrial mammal	Lesser Noctule (Nyctalus leisleri)	2	15/09/2010	National Bat	Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex IV Protected Species: Wildlife Acts

				Database of Ireland	
terrestrial mammal	Nathusius's Pipistrelle (Pipistrellus nathusii)	1	15/09/2010	National Bat Database of Ireland	Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex IV Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
terrestrial mammal	Pipistrelle (Pipistrellus pipistrellus sensu lato)	1	15/09/2010	National Bat Database of Ireland	Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex IV Protected Species: Wildlife Acts

3.1.2.1 Site Survey 15th August 2022

During the site visit on the afternoon of 15th August 2022, the surveyor observed bird activity from the southern quays and from the vantage point of the Sean O'Casey Bridge. Bird species recorded included Herring gulls, both adults and juveniles and Common gull.

3.2 Is the project Necessary for the conservation Management of Natura 2000 sites

The project has been described in Section 3 of the Screening Report and it is clear from the description provided that the project is not directly connected with or necessary for the future conservation management of any Natura 2000 sites.

4 Identification of Natura 2000 sites within the zone of influence of the project

4.1 Introduction

Current guidance informing the approach to screening for Appropriate Assessment defines the zone of influence of a proposed development as the geographical area over which it could affect the receiving environment in a way that could have significant effects on the Qualifying Interests of a European site. It is recommended that this is established on a case-by-case basis using the Source-Pathway-Receptor (SPR) framework.

Given the project relates to provision of a new canopy on the existing pontoon and four pilings are proposed to support the canopy. It is considered that only those Natura 2000 sites that are located within the immediate vicinity of the project site or connected to the project by pathways such as hydrological pathways lie within the zone of influence of the project.

The result of this preliminary screening concluded that there is a total of nine SACs and eight SPAs located within the ZOI of the Proposed Development Site. The distances to each site listed are taken from the nearest possible point of the Proposed Development Site boundary to nearest possible point of each Natura 2000 site (Table 5.1).

The site synopses and conservation objectives of these sites, as per the NPWS website (www.npws.ie), were consulted and reviewed at the time of preparing this report in June 2023. Where potential pathways for significant effects are identified, the site is included within the ZOI of the Proposed Development and further assessment is required.

A source-pathway-receptor model has been used to establish which Natura 2000 sites could occur within the zone of influence of potential indirect impacts. Under such a model the project, as described above, represents the source.

Potential impact pathways are restricted to aerial and hydrological pathways. No other pathways such as noise disturbance, or emissions to atmosphere will arise due to the small scale nature of the project works, which will not generate any significant noise, visual or atmospheric emissions that will be perceptible in the vicinity of any Natura 2000 sites in the wider surrounding area.

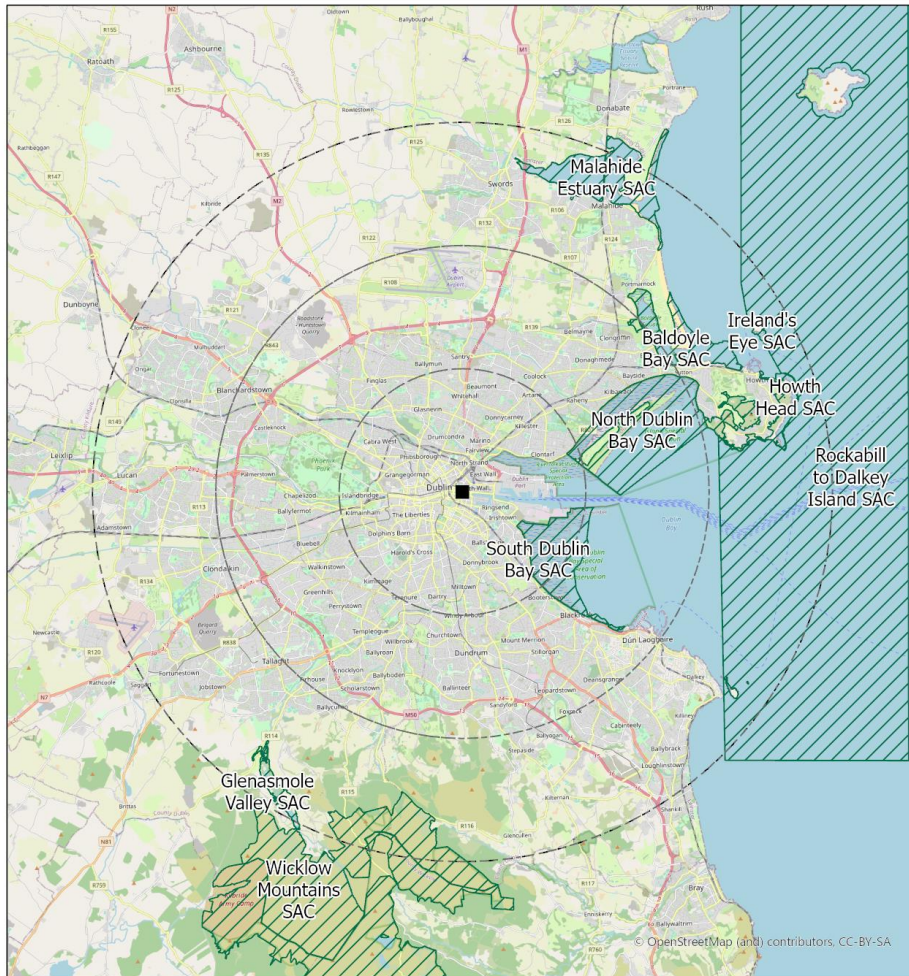
Potential impact pathways are restricted to aerial and hydrological pathways and mobile species pathways (i.e. where mobile species of SACs or SPA might rely on the project site for breeding, resting or foraging). No such pathways are identified given the nature of the project and the absence of suitable supporting habitat (such as playing fields, grassland) within the project site.

The receptors represent Natura 2000 sites and their associated qualifying features of interest.

Table 5.1 provides a determination as to whether each European Site within a 15km buffer distance of the project site occur within the zone of influence of the project. This determination has been undertaken in line with the following assessment questions:

- Is there a hydrological pathway link between the Project site and Natura 2000 sites?
- Is there a mobile species link between the project site and Natura 2000 sites?
- Does the European Site occur within the zone of influence of the project?

Figure 4-1 Special Areas of Conservation within 15m buffer



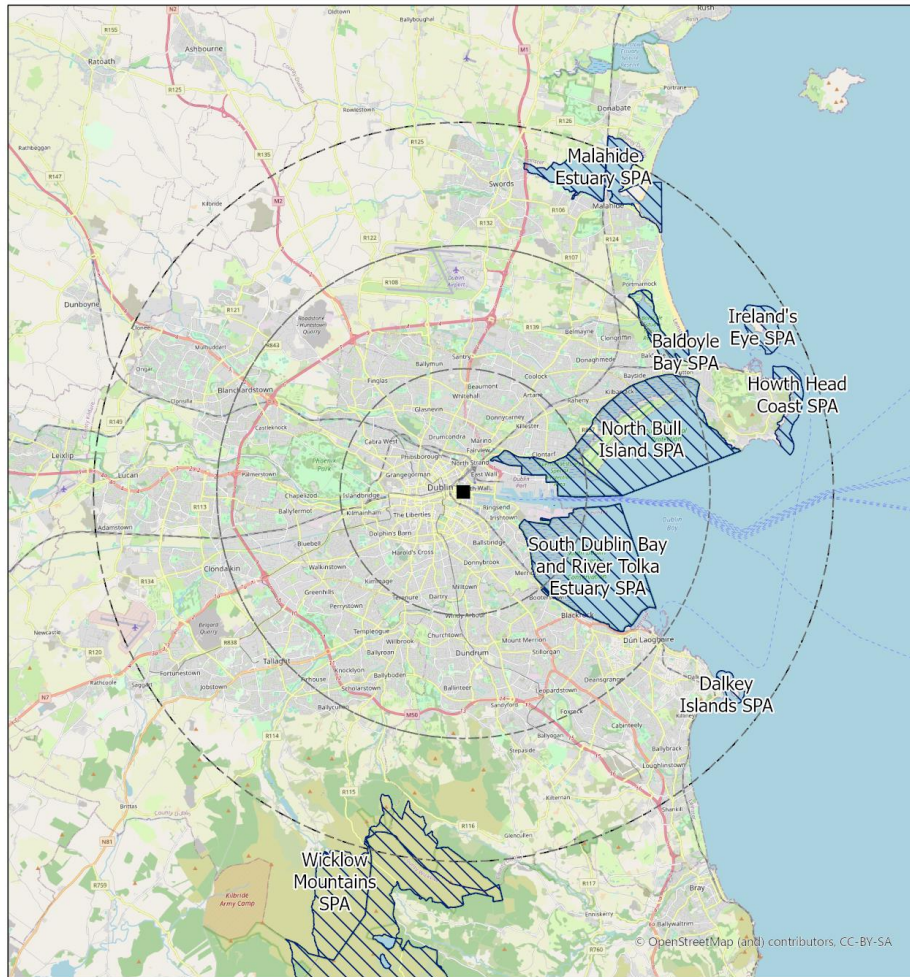
- Site
 - ▨ SAC within 15km
 - ⋯ Site: 5km, 10km, 15km Distance
- 10
Kilometers

Special Area of Conservation - within 15km



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Figure 4-2 Special Protection Areas within 15km buffer.



- Site
 - ▨ SPA within 15km
 - ⋯ Site: 5km, 10km, 15km Distance
- 10
Kilometers

Special Protection Area - within 15km



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Table .4-1: Natura 2000 sites within the Project Area

	Natura 2000 sites	Distance from Plan Area Km	Qualifying Features of Interest/Special Conservation Interests	Broad QI/SCI Category	Likely zone of impact determination
1	Baldoyle Bay SAC	9.57	<p>Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]</p> <p>Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310]</p> <p>Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) [1330]</p> <p>Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410]</p> <p>Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230]</p> <p>European dry heaths [4030]</p>	Coastal Habitats	<p>The development is located outside the boundary of this SAC and there is no potential for direct effect. There is no surface water pathway between the proposed site and the SAC.</p> <p>Given the absence of connectivity and the distance from the SAC, no pathways for indirect effects on the SAC were identified.</p> <p>No pathway for effect was identified and the site is not within the Likely Zone of Impact.</p>
2	Howth Head SAC	10.2	<p>Vegetated Sea Cliffs [1230]</p> <p>Dry Heath [4030]</p>	Terrestrial exposed rock and peatland habitats	<p>The development is located outside the boundary of this SAC and there is no potential for direct effect. There is no surface water pathway between the proposed site and the SAC.</p> <p>Given the absence of connectivity and the distance from the SAC, no pathways for indirect effects on the SAC were identified.</p> <p>No pathway for effect was identified and the site is not within the Likely Zone of Impact.</p>
3	North Dublin Bay SAC	4.5	<p>Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]</p> <p>Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210]</p>	Coastal habitats	<p>The development is located outside the boundary of this SAC and there is no potential for direct effect. The project is</p>

	Natura 2000 sites	Distance from Plan Area Km	Qualifying Features of Interest/Special Conservation Interests	Broad QI/SCI Category	Likely zone of impact determination
			<p>Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310]</p> <p>Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>) [1330]</p> <p>Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410]</p> <p>Embryonic shifting dunes [2110]</p> <p>Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120]</p> <p>Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130]</p> <p>Humid dune slacks [2190]</p> <p><i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> (Petalwort) [1395]</p>	Plant species (Petalwort liverwort)	<p>located 4.88km via the hydrological pathway of the River Liffey.</p> <p>Given the absence of connectivity and the distance from the SAC, no pathways for indirect effects on the SAC were identified.</p> <p>No pathway for effect was identified and the site is not within the Likely Zone of Impact.</p>
4	South Dublin Bay SAC	2.5	<p>Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]</p> <p>Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210]</p> <p>Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310]</p>	Coastal habitats	<p>The project is located approximately over 4km via the River Liffey hydrological pathway and 2.km as the crow flies. There is potential for indirect effects.</p> <p>The site is also located close to an area that is identified in Map nos. 3 & 4 as containing two Qualifying Interests for the SAC.¹ These comprise fine sands with <i>angelus tenuis</i></p>

¹ NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives: South Dublin Bay SAC 000210. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

	Natura 2000 sites	Distance from Plan Area Km	Qualifying Features of Interest/Special Conservation Interests	Broad QI/SCI Category	Likely zone of impact determination
			Embryonic shifting dunes [2110]		community complex and mudflats and seafats not covered by seawater at low tide. The potential for significant effects on these habitats is therefore considered further in this document
5	Glenasmole Valley SAC	12.7	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (* important orchid sites) [6210] Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae) [6410] Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220]	Terrestrial grassland and peatland habitat Groundwater dependent habitat	The development is located outside the boundary of this SAC and there is no potential for direct effect. There is no surface water pathway between the proposed site and the SAC. Given the absence of connectivity and the distance from the SAC, no pathways for indirect effects on the SAC were identified. No pathway for effect was identified and the site is not within the Likely Zone of Impact.
6	Malahide Estuary SAC	12.5	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae) [1330] Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) [1410] Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria (white dunes) [2120]	Coastal Habitats	The development is located outside the boundary of this SAC and there is no potential for direct effect. There is no surface water pathway between the proposed site and the SAC. Given the absence of connectivity and the distance from the SAC, no pathways for indirect effects on the SAC were identified. No pathway for effect was identified and the site is not within the Likely Zone of Impact.

	Natura 2000 sites	Distance from Plan Area Km	Qualifying Features of Interest/Special Conservation Interests	Broad QI/SCI Category	Likely zone of impact determination
			Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130]		
7	Wicklow Mountain SAC	12.3	<p>Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>) [3110]</p> <p>Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160]</p> <p>Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010]</p> <p>European dry heaths [4030]</p> <p>Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060]</p> <p>Calaminarian grasslands of the <i>Violetalia calaminariae</i> [6130]</p> <p>Species-rich <i>Nardus</i> grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe) [6230]</p> <p>Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130]</p> <p>Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (<i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsietalia ladani</i>) [8110]</p> <p>Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8210]</p> <p>Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220]</p> <p>Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0]</p>	<p>Surface water dependent habitats</p> <p>Terrestrial grassland, peatland, woodland and exposed rock habitat</p> <p>Mammals (otters)</p>	<p>The development is located outside the boundary of this SAC and there is no potential for direct effect. There is no surface water pathway between the proposed site and the SAC.</p> <p>Given the absence of connectivity and the distance from the SAC, no pathways for indirect effects on the SAC were identified.</p> <p>No pathway for effect was identified and the site is not within the Likely Zone of Impact.</p>

	Natura 2000 sites	Distance from Plan Area Km	Qualifying Features of Interest/Special Conservation Interests	Broad QI/SCI Category	Likely zone of impact determination
			Lutra lutra (Otter) [1355]		
8	Ireland's Eye SAC	12.4	Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220] Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230]	Terrestrial peatland habitats	The development is located outside the boundary of this SAC and there is no potential for direct effect. There is no surface water pathway between the proposed site and the SAC. Given the absence of connectivity and the distance from the SAC, no pathways for indirect effects on the SAC were identified. No pathway for effect was identified and the site is not within the Likely Zone of Impact.
9	Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC	10.4	Reefs [1170] Phocoena phocoena (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]	Marine Habitat Marine mammal	The development is located outside the boundary of this SAC and there is no potential for direct effect. There is no surface water pathway between the proposed site and the SAC. Given the absence of connectivity and the distance from the SAC, no pathways for indirect effects on the SAC were identified. No pathway for effect was identified and the site is not within the Likely Zone of Impact.
10	North Bull Island SPA	4.4	Light-bellied Brent Goose (Branta bernicla hrota) [A046] Shelduck (Tadorna tadorna) [A048] Teal (Anas crecca) [A052] Pintail (Anas acuta) [A054] Shoveler (Anas clypeata) [A056]	Wintering coastal waterbirds Coastal habitats	There will be no direct effects as the development is located entirely outside the designated site. Due to the distance, nature and scale of the proposed works, disturbance related effects on additional SCI species are not anticipated. This site is not considered to be within the Likely Zone of Impact

	Natura 2000 sites	Distance from Plan Area Km	Qualifying Features of Interest/Special Conservation Interests	Broad QI/SCI Category	Likely zone of impact determination
			<p>Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130]</p> <p>Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140]</p> <p>Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141]</p> <p>Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143]</p> <p>Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144]</p> <p>Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149]</p> <p>Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156]</p> <p>Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157]</p> <p>Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160]</p> <p>Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162]</p> <p>Turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>) [A169]</p> <p>Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179]</p> <p>Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]</p>		
11	Baldoyle Bay SPA	9.7	<p>Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046]</p> <p>Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048]</p> <p>Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137]</p> <p>Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140]</p> <p>Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141]</p>	<p>Wintering coastal waterbirds</p> <p>Coastal habitats</p>	<p>There will be no direct effects as the development is located entirely outside the designated site.</p> <p>Due to the distance, nature and scale of the proposed works, disturbance related effects on additional SCI species are not anticipated.</p>

	Natura 2000 sites	Distance from Plan Area Km	Qualifying Features of Interest/Special Conservation Interests	Broad QI/SCI Category	Likely zone of impact determination
			Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]		This site is not considered to be within the Likely Zone of Impact
12	Howth Head Coast SPA	12.3	Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) [A188]		There will be no direct effects as the development is located entirely outside the designated site. Due to the distance, nature and scale of the proposed works, disturbance related effects on additional SCI species are not anticipated. This site is not considered to be within the Likely Zone of Impact
13	South Dublin Bay & Tolka Estuary SPA	1.6	Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046] Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130] Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137] Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143] Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144] Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149] Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157] Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162] Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179]	Wintering coastal waterbirds Breeding Terns Coastal habitats	There will be no direct effects as the development is located entirely outside the designated site. Via hydrological pathways the distance to this SPA is 3.55km at its nearest point. There is potential for indirect effects. This site is considered to be within the Likely Zone of Impact

	Natura 2000 sites	Distance from Plan Area Km	Qualifying Features of Interest/Special Conservation Interests	Broad QI/SCI Category	Likely zone of impact determination
			<p>Roseate Tern (<i>Sterna dougallii</i>) [A192]</p> <p>Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193]</p> <p>Arctic Tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) [A194]</p> <p>Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]</p>		
14	Dalkey Island SPA	12.6	<p>Roseate Tern (<i>Sterna dougallii</i>) [A192]</p> <p>Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193]</p> <p>Arctic Tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) [A194]</p>	Breeding waterbirds	<p>There will be no direct effects as the development is located entirely outside the designated site.</p> <p>Due to the distance, nature and scale of the proposed works, disturbance related effects on additional SCI species are not anticipated.</p> <p>This site is not considered to be within the Likely Zone of Impact</p>
15	Wicklow Mountain SPA	12.6	<p>Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>)</p> <p>Peregrine (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>)</p>	Breeding raptor bird species	<p>There will be no direct effects as the development is located entirely outside the designated site.</p> <p>Due to the distance, nature and scale of the proposed works, disturbance related effects on additional SCI species are not anticipated.</p> <p>This site is not considered to be within the Likely Zone of Impact</p>
16	Malahide Estuary SPA	12.6	<p>Great Crested Grebe (<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>) [A005]</p> <p>Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046]</p> <p>Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048]</p>	Wintering coastal waterbirds	<p>There will be no direct effects as the development is located entirely outside the designated site.</p>

	Natura 2000 sites	Distance from Plan Area Km	Qualifying Features of Interest/Special Conservation Interests	Broad QI/SCI Category	Likely zone of impact determination
			<p>Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) [A054]</p> <p>Goldeneye (<i>Bucephala clangula</i>) [A067]</p> <p>Red-breasted Merganser (<i>Mergus serrator</i>) [A069]</p> <p>Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130]</p> <p>Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140]</p> <p>Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141]</p> <p>Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143]</p> <p>Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149]</p> <p>Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156]</p> <p>Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157]</p> <p>Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162]</p> <p>Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]</p>		<p>Due to the distance, nature and scale of the proposed works, disturbance related effects on additional SCI species are not anticipated.</p> <p>This site is not considered to be within the Likely Zone of Impact</p>
17	Ireland's Eye SPA	13.2	<p>Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017]</p> <p>Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) [A184]</p> <p>Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) [A188]</p> <p>Guillemot (<i>Uria aalge</i>) [A199]</p> <p>Razorbill (<i>Alca torda</i>) [A200]</p>	Wintering coastal waterbirds	<p>There will be no direct effects as the development is located entirely outside the designated site.</p> <p>Due to the distance, nature and scale of the proposed works, disturbance related effects on additional SCI species are not anticipated.</p>

	Natura 2000 sites	Distance from Plan Area Km	Qualifying Features of Interest/Special Conservation Interests	Broad QI/SCI Category	Likely zone of impact determination
					This site is not considered to be within the Likely Zone of Impact

5 Identification and assessment of Potential Effects to Natura 2000 Sites

5.1 Introduction

The conservation objectives of the Natura 2000 sites within the zone of influence were reviewed and assessed to establish whether the construction and operation of the project has the potential to have a negative impact on any of the qualifying interests and/or conservation objectives of the Natura 2000 sites within the zone of influence of the project. The assessment considers any potential indirect impacts of the proposal, both alone and in combination with other plans and projects, on Natura 2000 sites by virtue of the following criteria:

- size and scale,
- land-take,
- distance from the Natura 2000 site or key features of the site,
- Resource requirements,
- emissions,
- duration of installation,
- operation and decommissioning

As noted in Table 5.1 the project site is buffered from the nearest Natura 2000 site, South Dublin Bay and Tolka SPA and North Dublin Bay SAC by over 3km and 4km respectively via hydrological pathway of the River Liffey, and as such there will be no potential for direct impacts to these Natura 2000 sites as a result of land-take and direct habitat loss.

The assessment framework is taken from the best practice guidelines issued by the European Commission, i.e., *“Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites – Methodological guidance”*.

5.2 Assessment of potential impacts

The potential for negative impacts resulting from the Project during the Construction and Operational Phase was determined based on a range of indicators, including:

- Habitat alteration.
- Habitat/species fragmentation;
- Disturbance and/or displacement of species;
- Changes in population density; and
- Changes in water quality and resource;

The potential for effects during construction and operation were assessed for likely significant effects.

5.2.1.1 Construction Phase

- Uncontrolled releases of silt, sediments and/or other pollutants such as historical contaminated land to water due to earthworks
- Surface water run-off containing silt, sediments and/or other pollutants into nearby waterbodies;

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- Surface water run-off containing silt, sediments and/or other pollutants into the local groundwater;
 - Waste generation during the Construction Phase comprising soils, construction and removal wastes

5.2.1.2 Operational Phase (estimated duration: indefinite)

- Surface water drainage from the Site of the Proposed Development.

Please see Table 6.1 for an evaluation of the potential effects:

5.2.1.3 Construction Phase

The consideration of potential effects of the construction phase relate to the following:

- i. Surface water run off containing silts, sediments and/or other pollutants due to piling activities (4 piles) into nearby waterbodies
- ii. Release of fuels/hydrocarbons from construction machinery to nearby waterbodies.

The approach to piling will be to minimise disturbance by providing standard construction methods to reduce potential effects namely release of sediment to the River Liffey. These measures represent standard construction methodologies and eliminate the potential for sediment related effects to water quality within the River Liffey and associated Natura 2000 sites.

In addition to the above it is noted that the volumes of surface water draining the project site represents a miniscule fraction of the volumes discharging to the River Liffey upstream of the North Dublin Bay SAC, South Dublin Bay SAC and Dublin Bay and River Tolka SPA. This is supported by an examination of the area occupied by footprint of the project site (i.e. approximately 0.114 ha within the Liffey and Dublin Bay catchment (approximately 161,100 hectares) in which the project site is located. The project site represents 0.000001% of the land surface occurring within this catchment and the runoff generated at the project site will therefore represent a miniscule extent of the runoff draining from lands within this sub-catchment. This demonstrates that the volume of runoff from the project site will be negligible with respect to runoff from the surrounding catchment area and will be diluted and dispersed within the River Liffey. As such even in the very unlikely (as per the preceding paragraphs above) worst case scenario event that contaminated waters enter the River Liffey it is considered that, based on the above, any associated pollutants will be adequately diluted and dispersed within the receiving waters.

The minimal approach to construction including off site fabrication further minimises risk of pollutants entering receiving waters. For the piling, all materials will be stored in a site compound and in bunded containers. Given the small scale of the project, the quantities of these materials required on site at any one time will be small and the risk of significant contamination to surface water generated within the footprint of the project site will be negligible and these potential sources of surface water runoff contamination will not pose a risk to the water quality of the River Liffey and the status of the associated Natura 2000 sites.

5.2.1.4 Operation

The potential effects of construction phase relate to the following:

- Surface water drainage from the Site of the Proposed Development.

5.3 Cumulative effects

The proposed development was considered in combination with other projects in the area that could result in cumulative effects on the environment. The Myplan online planning system was consulted on 2nd June 2023 for the subject lands and immediate surrounds in particular development applications adjacent to the site within the past three years. Table 6.1 lists the projects that have been identified during this search and provides an assessment of the potential for the proposed project to combine with these other projects to result in cumulative significant effects to the environment. The assessment outlined in Table 6.1 has found that the project will not have the potential to combine with any other existing and/or approved projects to result in likely significant impacts on the environment.

A small number of other projects within the area going through the planning process or are under construction currently. The details of these projects are as follows:

3251-23 The chq Building (formerly 'Stack A', a Protected Structure, RPS No. 2094), Custom House Quay, Dublin 1	PROTECTED STRUCTURE: PERMISSION: The proposals comprise alterations of The chq Building including change of use of existing floor space to facilitate a licenced food market at ground floor level (part), exhibition and event space (including dining, licenced restaurant) at mezzanine level (part) and the partial demolition of existing service buildings and provision of an extended services building. The development will consist of the partial demolition of 2 no. service buildings (external walls retained) and the provision of c. 2,952 sqm new floor area. A Natura Impact Statement has been prepared in respect of the planning application.	Permission
3290/23 10/11 Exchange Place, I.F.S.C., Dublin 1	Permission is sought for the a change of use from existing medical centre (class 8a) on the ground floor and existing commercial offices (class 3) on the first to third floors to a mixed-use of commercial offices (class 3) / medical use (class 8a; Health Centre or Clinic) on ground to third floors. The proposed development includes all ancillary works necessary to facilitate the development	Permission
Planning 4579/22. no. 1 Commons Street, Dublin 1,	Permission for development on a site of c.28 ha The site is bounded to the north by The Exchange, Georges Dock, an office block, to the east by Commons Street, to the south by the Hilton Garden Inn Hotel, Custom House Quay and to the west by Exchange Place. The development will consist of	Permission

	<p>alterations to the front (east), rear (west) elevations at fourth floor level, fifth floor level and roof level (with no change to the floor area of the existing office floor plate or balconies on the east and west elevations at fourth and fifth floor levels), and all ancillary and associated site development works. Replacement of cladding is proposed at third floor level on east and west elevations. In the interest of clarity, there is no proposed increase in existing floor areas and relates to elevation changes only. The development will include demolition of elements of the existing eastern and western fascia including the removal and replacement of windows and cladding, rearrangement of fenestration, new curtain walls, projecting metals fins, balustrades and all associated site development works</p>	
4674/22	<p>Ten year planning permission for proposed development comprising : Demolition of the existing buildings and structures;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction of a building up to 24 storeys in height (108.4 metres above ground) over a double basement including arts centre, offices, gym and ancillary uses; • The arts centre is contained at basement -1, ground and first floor level • The gym is proposed at ground level onto Moss Street; The offices are proposed from ground to 23rd floor (24th storey) with terraces to all elevations; • The double basement provides for 11 car parking spaces and 424 bicycle spaces • The overall gross floor area of the development comprises 35,910 sq.m. including 1,404 sq.m. arts centre, 22,587 sq.m. offices and 244 sq.m. gym. All ancillary and associated works plant, and development including temporary construction works, public realm, landscaping, telecommunications infrastructure, utilities connections and infrastructure. An Environmental Impact Assessment Report and Natura Impact Statement have been prepared in respect of the proposed development and have been submitted with the planning application. 	

The project will not have the potential to result in direct, indirect, or secondary impacts to Natura 2000 sites. In relation to other emissions such as noise/dust, the scale and size of the project, the distance from the nearest Natura 2000 site does not have the potential to impact on Natura 2000 sites.

As the project will not result in significant negative impacts it will not have the potential to combine with other projects in the surrounding area to result in cumulative significant effects to the local environment or Natura 2000 sites occurring in the wider surrounding area.

It is noted that the current land use plan pertaining the project site, namely the Dublin City Development Plan 2022 2-2028 zoned the land use within the project site Objective Z9: To preserve, provide and improve recreational amenity, open space and ecosystem services. The Dublin City Development Plan was subject to Appropriate Assessment and the Appropriate Assessment concluded that the plan did not have the potential to combine with other plans or projects to result in likely significant effects to European Site. The current project is in keeping with the zoning objectives of the Dublin City Development Plan 2022 -2028.

6 Examination of Effects

The following elements of the proposed project were assessed for their potential for likely significant effects on Natura 2000 sites.

6.1 SCREENING MATRIX, IN LINE WITH EUROPEAN COMMISSION (2001) GUIDELINES.

TABLE 6-1: SCREENING MATRIX FOR THE PROJECT .

Assessment Criteria	
<i>Describe any likely direct, indirect or secondary impacts of the project (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) on the qualifying features of the European Sites (North Dublin Bay SAC, South Dublin Bay SAC, South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA) occurring within the sphere of influence of the project by virtue of</i>	
Size and Scale	The project and associated activities are described in Section 3.1 above. It is small in size and scale. The provision of the canopy is 0.114ha. It is located within an established urban area subject to high levels of human disturbance from traffic, pedestrian activity as well as accompanying noise and light disturbance.
Land-take	No land take is associated with the project, the size and scale is outlined above and is minor.
Distance from European Sites or key features of the site	The closest Natura 2000 site is 1.6km South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA as the crow flies. Via hydrological connections along the River Liffey it is located at 3.55km east of the project site.
Resource requirements	No resources associated with Natura 2000 sites(e.g., water or mud/sand for abstraction etc.) will be required for or utilized by the project.
Emissions	There are no significant emissions related to the project in terms of noise, vibration, dust and construction traffic as the work will be primarily done off site with only on site work relating to the installation of canopy by crane from existing built habitat and installation of 4 x pilings that will be installed via standard methodologies as outlined in Section 2.1.1. The approach to works, minor potential emissions, the dilution effects of the receiving waters and the distance from the project site to the nearest European Sites at over 3km via hydrological pathways does not give rise in or in combination to likely significant effects on qualifying interests of European Sites.
Excavation requirements	The project will not involve any excavations from European Sites.
Transportation requirements	The project will not result in changes to baseline traffic conditions that could result in likely significant effects to qualifying habitats and species.

Duration of the project	18 months
Other	See Below
Describe any likely changes to the European site arising as a result of:	
Reduction of habitat area	There will be no direct habitat loss within any Natura 2000 sites. As there will be no direct habitat loss within any Natura 2000 sites, it is not considered that habitat fragmentation will arise as a result of the project.
Disturbance of key species	As noted above the project will not have the potential to result in disturbance to species of conservation concern (ie: otters) due to the proposed nature of the project, distance from sites and the proposed development activity taking place in a long established city centre, urban area.
Habitat or species fragmentation	The project will not result in the fragmentation of habitats as it relates to works on existing built land and artificial surfaces.
Reduction in species density	As the project will not have the potential to result in the deterioration in water resources or the disturbance of species of conservation concern it will not have the potential to result in a reduction in densities of these species. In relation to the potential for disturbance to species associated with human presence, the canopy is proposed on an existing pontoon already subject to high levels of human activity, as well as noise and air emissions associated with the main road. As such the project will not have the potential to result in disturbance to the special conservation interest bird species of SPAs. The impact on the foraging/roosting behavior on birds listed as qualifying interests for Natura 2000 sites will be imperceptible.
Changes in key indicators of conservation status	For reasons outlined in the sections above the project will not have the potential to result in changes to key indicators of the conservation status of Annex 1 habitats and Annex 2 species.
Climate change	No significant change is identified as the project relates to existing built land and artificial surfaces, off site fabrication, piling of 4 piles applying standard construction methodologies and installation from the quayside.
Describe any likely impacts on the European Site as a whole in terms of:	
Interference with key relationships that define the structure and function of the site	For reasons outlined in the sections above the project will not have the potential to interfere with the key relationships that define the structure and function of the Natura 2000 sites within the zone of influence of the project.

In-Combination Effects	<p>A small number of other projects within the area going through the planning process or are under construction currently. These have been described in Section 5.3 above.</p> <p>The project however will not have the potential to combine with other land use activities to result in likely significant effects to qualifying habitats or species of the European sites.</p>
<p>Describe from the above the elements of the project or plan or combination of elements, where the above impacts are likely to be significant or where the scale of magnitude of impacts is not known.</p>	
<p>It is predicted that the scale of the works as proposed, subject to agreement with planning conditions of Dublin City Council will ensure that the project will have no adverse effect on the integrity of the Natura 2000 sites within the zone of influence.</p> <p>As the project will not result in significant negative impacts it will not have the potential to combine with other projects in the surrounding area to result in cumulative significant effects to the local environment or Natura 2000 sites occurring in the wider surrounding area.</p> <p>It is noted that the current land use plan pertaining the project site, namely the Dublin City Development Plan 2022 -2028 zoned the land use within the project site Objective Z9: To preserve, provide and improve recreational amenity, open space and ecosystem services. The Dublin City Development Plan was subject to Appropriate Assessment and the Appropriate Assessment concluded that the plan did not have the potential to combine with other plans or projects to result in likely significant effects to European Site. The current project is in keeping with the zoning objectives of the Dublin City Development Plan 2022 -2028.</p>	

7 Screening Conclusion

During the preparation of this Screening Report for Appropriate Assessment of the project for as described in Section 2.1 on the existing pontoon at Custom House Quay, Dublin City, it was found that 17 Natura 2000 sites occur within the wider area surrounding the project site.

The project has been assessed by considering the following:

- the nature, size and location of the proposed installation and possible impacts arising from the project.
- the qualifying interests and conservation objectives of the Natura 2000 sites.
- the potential for in-combination effects arising from other plans and projects.

In light of the findings of this report it is the considered view of the authors of this Screening Report for Appropriate Assessment that it can be concluded by Dublin City Council that the project is not likely, alone or in-combination with other plans or projects, to have a significant effect on the following Natura 2000 sites in view of their Conservation Objectives and on the basis of best scientific evidence and there is no reasonable scientific doubt as to that conclusion.

- Baldoyle Bay SAC
- Howth Head SAC
- North Dublin Bay SAC
- South Dublin Bay SAC
- Glenasmole Valley SAC
- Wicklow Mountains SAC
- Ireland's Eye SAC
- Malahide Estuary SAC
- Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC
- North Bull Island SPA
- Baldoyle Bay SPA
- South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA
- Malahide Estuary SPA
- Wicklow Mountains SPA
- Howth Head Coast SPA
- Ireland's Eye SPA
- Dalkey Islands SPA

These complete, precise and definitive findings, based on the best available scientific evidence, remove all reasonable scientific doubt that the project will have any significant effect on the above Natura 2000 sites.

It is further noted, that no avoidance or preventative/mitigation measures have been taken into account in this Appropriate Assessment Screening Report and its conclusions. Accordingly, a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment is not required to be carried out in relation to the Proposed Installation / Development.

References

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Photos site visit 15th August 2022

Plate 1: View northeast towards Custom House Docks with Jeanie Johnson ship



Plate 2: View from Sean O'Casey footbridge



Plate 3: Existing pontoon



Plate 4 view from Custom House Quay of existing pontoon.

