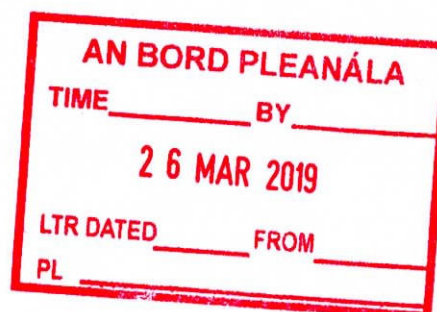


**An Bord Pleanála Oral Hearing  
Greater Dublin Drainage Project**

**Statement from Aebhín Cawley**

**Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup> March 2019**



My name is Aebhín Cawley and I am managing director of Scott Cawley Ltd. I hold a degree in Zoology and a postgraduate diploma in Physical Planning both from the University of Dublin (Trinity College). I am a Chartered Environmentalist (CEnv) with the Society for the Environment (Soc Env) and a full member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM). I have nineteen years' professional experience, sixteen of which have been in ecological surveying and impact assessment for public and private sector projects including port, road, rail and other major infrastructural projects. I have been undertaking Appropriate Assessment work in Ireland since 2002 and regularly provide training on Appropriate Assessment to a range of public and private sector organisations.

I was requested by Fingal County Council to undertake a review of the Natura Impact Statement and related documentation for the Greater Dublin Drainage Project to assist in the preparation of the chief executive's report prepared in September 2018. I have been asked to attend this oral hearing in an advisory capacity to assist Fingal County Council respond to issues concerning Appropriate Assessment.

During my review of the Natura Impact Statement in September 2018, I advised Fingal County Council that overall the Natura Impact Statement appeared to be well drafted, with the authors and specialist contributors having a high standard of expertise and authority.

As part of my review I indicated that there were a number of areas where further detail or clarification would be beneficial and on foot of this the chief executive's report prepared in September 2018 considered it appropriate for An Bord Pleanála to seek clarification on a number of matters relating to the Natura Impact Statement.

Some of these items have been fully addressed, either as part of the applicant's response to submissions made to An Bord Pleanála (Greater Dublin Drainage Project: Response to Submissions, Jacobs Tobin, January 2019), or by way of information and evidence presented during the course of this oral hearing. Other items have either been partially addressed or remain to be addressed, such as:

1. Further clarification is requested on the ruling out of any potential for significant effects on Ireland's Eye SAC.
2. Further clarification is requested on the presentation of mitigation measures required for specific European sites and their specific qualifying interests and special conservation interests at risk. This might be best done by way of tables and/or matrices or along the lines of the approach that Chapter 24 of the EIAR has taken.
3. Further clarification is requested on the assessment of cumulative impacts of the proposal in combination with other projects. It is acknowledged that an assessment of cumulative impacts has been presented in the following documents; Section 6.5 of the Natura Impact Statement, section 24 of the applicant's response to submissions made to An Bord Pleanála (Greater Dublin Drainage Project: Response to Submissions, Jacobs Tobin, January 2019). The information presented during the oral hearing by Sarah Kiernan on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2019. The information presented on cumulative impacts states:

Greater Dublin Drainage Project: Response to Submissions, Jacobs Tobin, January 2019, Section 24.4, page 201.

The Dublin Array Project will be located on the Kish and Bray Banks in the Irish Sea. At its most northern point, the offshore wind farm will be located offshore from Dún Laoghaire, approximately 13km from the proposed



*outfall pipeline route (marine section) discharge location. The associated offshore cable route will make landfall near the Shankill area in South County Dublin. The possibility of any cumulative impacts from the Dublin Array Project was ruled out on the basis of its distance from the zone of influence. In addition, there is no set date for construction for the Dublin Array Project.*

Brief of Evidence, Cumulative Impacts and Environmental Interactions, Sarah Kiernan, 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2019, paragraph 41, page 7:

*The Dublin Array Project is a proposed offshore windfarm that will be located on the Kish and Bray Banks in the Irish, off the coast of Dublin and Wicklow. At its most northern point, the project will be approximately 13km from the proposed outfall pipeline route (marine section). On assessment of the available information and at this distance from the Proposed project, there is no potential for significant cumulative impacts.*

However, further clarification is sought regarding potential cumulative impacts on harbour porpoise, a qualifying interest of the Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC, from the proposal in combination with other projects. In the context of the size and location of the Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC, as well as the characteristics of harbour porpoise, it is considered that reliance on distance alone (e.g. distance of 13km between the proposed project and the Dublin Array Project) is not sufficient to rule out significant cumulative impacts on harbour porpoise.



### Temporary Loss of the Bird Quiet Zone

The temporary loss of a portion of the *Bird Quiet Zone* as a resource for brent geese and other waders, will not result in an adverse effect on the integrity of any SPAs designated for these species, as the temporary loss will not result in either a population level effect on these species, nor in a significant decrease in the range, timing and intensity of use of their habitat.

This view is based on the following:

- There is no known significant current or historic usage of the *Bird Quiet Zone* by brent geese or other waders.
- The proposed works are expected to commence, at the earliest, in 2021. By that time, a c. 0.8ha area of newly created grassland habitat at the Murrough spit grasslands will be in suitable condition for use by brent geese and other waders. Therefore any birds which might be temporarily displaced from the *Bird Quiet Zone*, will have alternative available habitat at the Murrough spit.
- In addition, proposed playing pitches within the Baldoyle Racecourse Park may also be in place, providing additional habitat suitable for use by brent geese and other waders (depending on securing planning consent).

**Figure 5.2 Green Infrastructure and Landscape Strategy – extracted from Portmarnock South Local Area Plan. (*Bird Quiet Zone* indicated in red circle)**

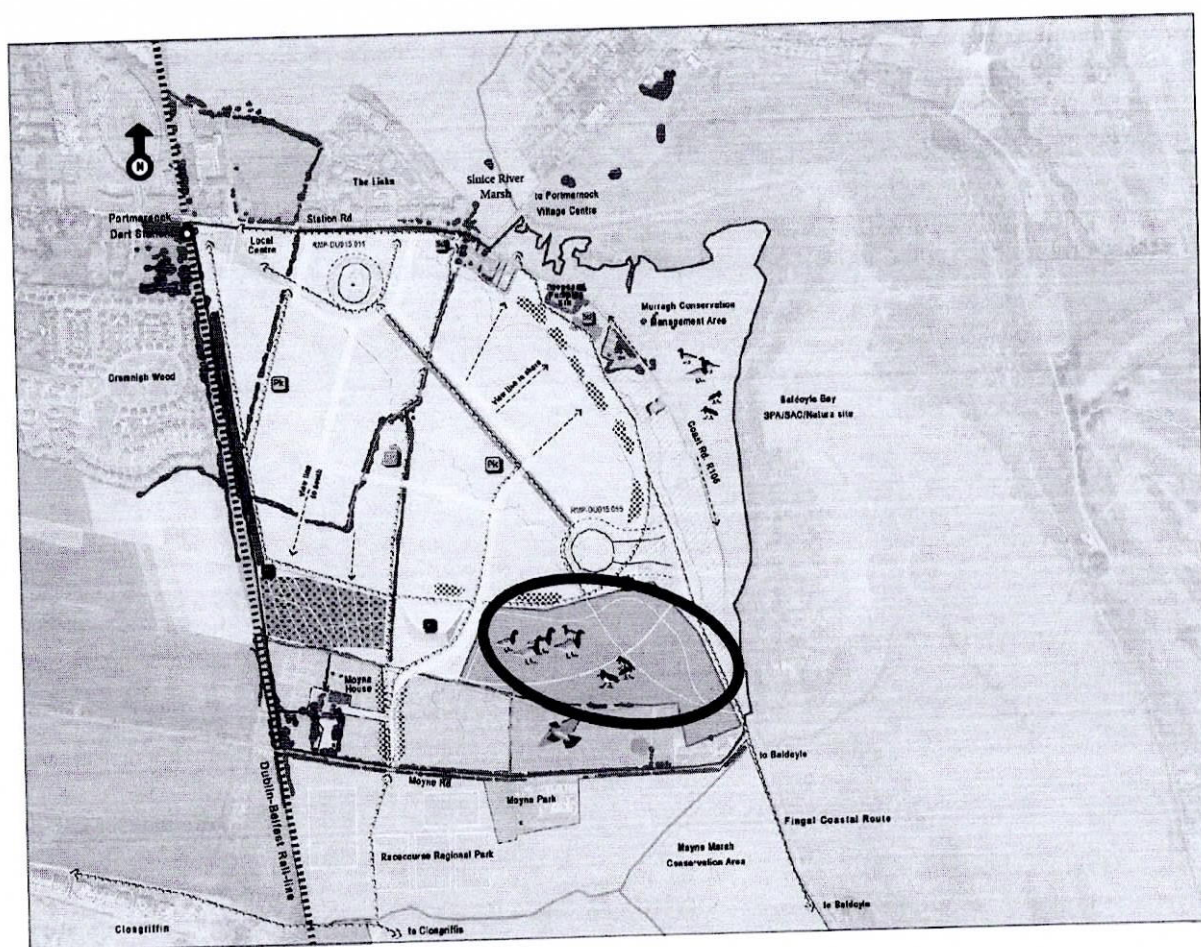




Figure indicating the Murrough Spit Grassland (c.0.8ha – east of Coast Road, Portmarnock) - an enclosed (fenced and gated) and mown area of grassland.



- Construction compound no. 9 will be located within the south eastern corner of the *Bird Quiet Zone*. Considering both the construction compound no. 9 and the route of the pipeline, a portion of the *Bird Quiet Zone* will remain potentially available for use by brent geese and waders.

[illegible]

- The western most portion of the *Bird Quiet Zone* lands are separated from the proposed construction compound no 9 by an existing hedgerow as well as the existing topography which will provide visual screening.
- The duration of works is estimated to be 18 months which at worst represents 2 winter seasons.
- The proposal includes mitigation in the form of 2.4m high hoarding at construction compound no. 9 and its associated access track. To avoid disturbance to wintering birds, the hoarding will only be erected and uninstalled between April and August under supervision by a professional ecologist.