



Appropriate Assessment Screening Report

*Carmanhall Road Strategic Housing Development,
Sandyford Industrial Estate, Dublin 18*

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

This evaluation presents a Stage 1 Screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA) to address an assessment of the potential effects that may occur on Natura 2000 sites and associated qualifying species as a result of the proposed project (the Project) located at the Former Avid Technology International Site, Carmanhall Road, Sandford Industrial Estate, Dublin 18 (hereafter referred to as the 'Site' or the 'Development').



Figure 1: Location of the proposed Carmanhall Road Development

This Screening for Appropriate Assessment comprises an appraisal of potential impacts on European designated conservation sites within a 15 km radius of the Site. This AA Screening has been prepared by **Freddy Brookes MSc., MCIEEM – Senior Ecologist**, Golder Associates (Golder). The terms of reference of this report are set out below.

1.1 Terms of Reference

This screening has been undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the EU Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/EEC). Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Fauna and Flora – the 'Habitats Directive' - provides legal protection for habitats and species of European importance. Article 2 of the Directive requires the maintenance or restoration of habitats and species of European Community interest, at a favourable conservation status. Articles 3 - 9 provide the legislative means to protect habitats and species of Community interest through the establishment and conservation of an EU-wide network of sites known as *Natura 2000*. Natura 2000 sites are Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) designated under the Habitats Directive and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) designated under the Conservation of Wild Birds Directive (79/409/EEC).

Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive set out the decision-making tests for plans or projects affecting Natura 2000 sites. Article 6(3) establishes the requirement for Appropriate Assessment:

“Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives. In the light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implications for the site and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, the competent national authorities shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public.”

Article 6(4) deals with the steps that should be taken when it is determined, as a result of Appropriate Assessment, that a plan/project will adversely affect a European site. Issues dealing with alternative solutions, imperative reasons of overriding public interest and compensatory measures need to be addressed in this case.

Article 6(4) states:

“If, in spite of a negative assessment of the implications for the site and in the absence of alternative solutions, a plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature, the Member States shall take all compensatory measures necessary to ensure that the overall coherence of Natura 2000 is protected. It shall inform the Commission of the compensatory measures adopted.

Where the site concerned hosts a priority natural habitat type and/or a priority species, the only considerations which may be raised are those relating to human health or public safety, to beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment or, further to an opinion from the Commission, to other imperative reasons of overriding public interest.”

The requirements of Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive have been transposed into Irish legislation by means of the Habitats Regulations, 1997 (S.I. No. 94 of 1997) and the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 477/2011).

1.2 Approach and Planning Precedent

This stage 1 screening is presented with embedded design parameters detailed in section 1.3 below. These measures are not intended to be interpreted as mitigations to address a likely significant effect to a Natura 2000 site. Planning precedent¹ dictates that mitigation should only be presented as part of stage two in the appropriate assessment (AA) process if required to minimise likely significant effect.

1.3 Project Scope, Description and Embedded Design Parameters

The Proposed Development comprises the construction of a Build-To-Rent residential development within a new six to seventeen storey over basement level apartment building comprising 428 no. apartments 41 no. studio, 285 no. one-bedroom, 94 no. two-bedroom and 8 no. three-bedroom units. Of these apartments 413 no. will have access to private amenity space, in the form of a balcony or lawn/terrace, and 15 no. apartments will have access to a shared private roof terrace (142 m²) at ninth floor level.

All of the apartments will have access to ca. 2,600 m² of communal amenity space, spread over a courtyard at first floor level and roof terraces at the sixth, eighth and ninth floor levels. A residents' childcare facility will be located on the ground floor level. Further residents' amenities will include concierge/meeting rooms, office/co-working space, cinema, gym, yoga studio, laundry and café/lounge at ground floor level. The café/lounge will

¹ Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) in the matter of People Over Wind and Sweetman v Coillte Teoranta (C-323/17)

primarily serve the residents of the development and will be open for community use on a weekly/sessional basis.

The Proposed Development is served by a ground floor level carpark, accessible via new vehicular entrance from Carmanhall Road, providing a total of 145 no. vehicular parking spaces (including 8 no. mobility parking spaces, 2 no. club-car spaces and 44 no. electric charging spaces) and 5 no. motorcycle parking spaces. Bicycle parking, plant and storage is accommodated at basement level with 752 no. bicycle parking spaces. A further 22 no. residential short stay bicycle parking are provided at Ground Floor Level bringing the total bicycle parking provision for the development to 774 no. spaces.

The Proposed Development includes improvements to street frontages and the public realm of Carmanhall Road and Blackthorn Road comprising provision of an upgraded pedestrian footpath, an increased quantum of landscaping and street-planting, new cycling infrastructure, the provision of new street furniture comprising bins, benches and cycle parking spaces and the upgrading of the existing Carmanhall Road and Blackthorn Road junction through provision of a new uncontrolled pedestrian crossing.

Surface and Wastewater Embedded Design Parameters

Design parameters that are pertinent to ecology and biodiversity are focussed on surface water and wastewater management as any impact pathway in a terrestrial context is negligible. According to AECOM (2021) within their infrastructure design report the Project will address surface water management by *'discharging surface water from the development to the existing 450mm diameter concrete surface water sewer in Carmanhall Road, via a new connection. It is proposed to decommission the existing connection. The proposed storage network to serve the proposed development has been designed and modelled, using Innovyze Microdrainage, for the 1 in 100-year storm event, with an allowance of 10% for climate change'*. Furthermore, *'the implementation of the proposed Green Roof system provides additional storage volume throughout the Site'*.

Further review of the AECOM (2021) report indicates that *'in accordance with DLRCC guidance, runoff from the Site will be restricted to 2 l/s. This is approximately equal to the Site's greenfield Qbar rate, which is calculated as 1.98 l/s, for a Site area of 0.73 ha and an assumed soil class of 2 (which corresponds to a soil index of 0.3). The proposed maximum discharge rate is 2 l/s, which is significantly lower than the current maximum discharge rate of runoff leaving the Site'*. Embedded design parameters include the design brief being undertaken in accordance with Irish Water's Code of Practice for Wastewater Infrastructure. In accordance with the Greater Dublin Strategic Drainage Study the Project will incorporate sustainable drainage systems (SUDS) that will reduce the current run-off rate. This will ensure that the flow leaving the Site will be reduced to a 'greenfield rate'. The drainage system for this Project will contain a range of SuDs treatment methods for surface water including green roofs, permeable paving, bioretention, swales, filter drains and treatment via open graded crush rock below all SUDS measures preventing materials and contaminants discharging from the Site. Discharge to the public surface water sewer will be via an oil and grit interceptor.

Again, according to AECOM (2021) wastewater from the Site will connect to the existing 225 mm diameter clay wastewater sewer in Carmanhall Road. A connection from the Site to this sewer exists but it is proposed to connect to the sewer further upstream of this connection. It is understood that foul wastewater will be processed at the wastewater treatment plant at Ringsend in Dublin. In April 2019 Irish Water was granted planning permission for an upgrade to the Ringsend facility². This will see improved treatment standards and will increase network capacity by 50%, with a target completion date of 2023.

² <https://www.water-technology.net/projects/ringsend-wastewater-treatment-plant-upgrade-project/>

Embedded General Design Parameters

Measures which follow generic environmental best design practice are proposed which will include:

- All Site construction will be undertaken in accordance with the CIRIA (2016) Environmental Good Practice on Site Guide (fourth edition); and
- New landscape planting will be provided as described in the accompanying Landscape Design Statement (NLP, 2020). This will promote net gain for biodiversity by undertaking additional tree planting to promote Carbon Sequestration, use of native tree and shrub planting and wildflower meadow grass areas to promote the pollination plan, in addition to the provision of SUDS systems such as green roofs and rain gardens.

2.0 METHODS

2.1 Desktop Review and Data Collation

A desktop review was conducted in January 2021 of available published and unpublished information, including data available on the NPWS <http://www.npws.ie>, Geological Survey Ireland (GSI), and Environment Protection Agency (EPA) web-based databases. In addition, reports pertaining to Site operations including previous EIAR submissions and Natura Stage 1 screening assessments have been used as reference materials.

2.2 Screening for Appropriate Assessment

This report has been prepared with reference to the following documents:

- European Communities (2001) Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites: Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6 (3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC;
- European Communities (2000) Managing Natura 2000 sites: the provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats Directive' 92/43/EC;
- Department of Environment Heritage and Local Government (2009, Revision Notes 2010). Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland. Guidance for Planning Authorities;
- European Communities (2007) Guidance document on Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC; and
- Commission notice Managing Natura 2000 sites. The provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (2018)

Appropriate Assessment is carried out in stages, as recommended by the above-referenced Guidance Documents. There are four stages as follows:

2.2.1 Stage 1: Screening

This initial stage aims to identify the likely impacts of the project on a Natura 2000 site, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans. The impacts are examined to establish whether these impacts are likely to be significant. Assessment of the significance of effects is carried out in consultation with the relevant nature agencies.

2.2.2 Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment

The aim of this stage is to identify the conservation objectives of the site and to assess whether or not the project, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans will result in adverse effects on the integrity of the site, as defined by the conservation objectives and status of the site. Stage 2 is carried out in consultation with the relevant nature agencies. Where it cannot be demonstrated that there will be no adverse effects on the site, it is necessary to devise mitigation measures to avoid, where possible, any adverse effects.

2.2.3 Stage 3: Assessment of Alternative Solutions

This stage examines alternative ways of implementing the project that, where possible, avoid any adverse impacts on the integrity of the Natura 2000 site. If alternative solutions have been identified that will either avoid any adverse impacts or result in less severe impacts on the site, it will be necessary to assess their potential impact by recommencing the assessment at Stage One or Stage Two as appropriate. However, if it can be reasonably and objectively concluded that there is an absence of alternatives, it will be necessary to proceed to Stage Four of this assessment methodology.

2.2.4 Stage 4: Assessment where Adverse Impacts Remain

For sites that host priority habitats and species, it is necessary to consider whether or not there are human health or safety considerations or environmental benefits flowing from the project. If such considerations do exist, then it will be necessary to carry out the Stage Four assessments of compensatory measures. If no such considerations exist, then it is necessary to establish whether there are other imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI) before carrying out the Stage Four assessments. Where IROPI exist, an assessment to consider whether compensatory measures will or will not effectively offset the damage to the site will be necessary before the project or plan can proceed.

This report is for Screening (stage 1) for Appropriate Assessment only.

3.0 BASELINE AND HISTORIC SITE CONDITIONS

3.1 Baseline Conditions

3.1.1 Habitats

Habitats

The Site setting is an existing built-up residential and commercial zone and is predominantly composed of artificial surfaces and general anthropogenic characteristics. Habitats recorded on Site during the Site survey of 18th February 2020 are listed in Table 1. The Site footprint is almost entirely comprised of hardstanding (Figure 2).

Table 1: Habitats Recorded on site (Fossitt, 2000)

Habitat	Habitat code
Hardstanding	BL3
Scattered trees	WD5



Figure 2: The Site which is dominated by hard standing (asphalt) with no vegetative establishment

Hardstanding

The Site footprint consists of hardstanding with just two relatively young silver birch (*Betula pendula*) trees remaining that are possibly testament to the previous Site use landscaping scheme. The Site footprint clearly hosted buildings that have been demolished in the recent past as no brownfield vegetative succession had occurred in the intervening time.

Scattered trees

The presence of two immature silver birch trees within the Site footprint can most closely be classified as scattered trees in accordance with Fossitt nomenclature. These trees are relatively young and lack any significant structure such that they may offer roosting or nesting potential to bats or birds respectively.

There is no suggestion that habitats on Site are protected under the Habitats Directive Annex I.

3.1.2 Aquatic Habitats and Receptors

The assessment considers the potential for hydrological connectivity between the Site and surface water features, and also considers what effects could arise to aquatic fauna and habitat receptors. There are no watercourses present on the Site. Desk based assessment reveals that the Carrickmines Stream is located approximately 600 m to the south. This feature flows towards the south-east to become the Carrickmines River; eventually converging with the Loughlinstown River (North) to the east of the Site (near the N11 road and

Loughlinstown) and discharging, as the Shanganah River, into the Irish Sea between Loughlinstown and Shankhill.

3.2 Natura 2000 Sites

Sites of international importance, including Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs), are collectively known as Natura 2000 sites. These sites contain examples of some of the most important natural and semi-natural ecosystems in Europe. The Site is not located within or directly adjacent to any Natura 2000 sites. The designated zone of influence was 15 km from the Site for Natura 2000 sites (Table 2 and Figure 3 below). All ecological pathways are considered in the context of the Site and connectivity with the Natura 2000 sites e.g. terrestrial and hydrological. However, no Likely Significant Effect is predicted owing to inherent design parameters.

Table 2: Natura 2000 Sites within 15 km

Natura 2000 Site	SAC/SPA (Truncated Key qualifying features) numbers in brackets are Natura 2000 codes:	Approximate distance to Site (km)
South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA	The site possesses extensive intertidal flats which support wintering waterfowl which are part of the overall Dublin Bay population. It regularly has an internationally important population of Branta Brent goose (<i>Bernicla hrota</i>), which feeds on eel grasses (<i>Zostera noltii</i>) in the autumn.	3.6
South Dublin Bay SAC	SAC - Qualifying Interests mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210] Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] Embryonic shifting dunes [2110]	3.6
Wicklow Mountains SAC	SAC - Selected for the following habitats and/or species listed on Annex I / II of the E.U. Habitats Directive [3160] Dystrophic Lakes; [4010] Wet Heath; [4030] Dry Heath; [4060] Alpine and Subalpine Heaths; [6130] Calaminarian Grassland; [6230] Species-rich Nardus Grassland*; [7130] Blanket Bogs (Active)*; [8110] Siliceous Scree; [8210] Calcareous Rocky Slopes; [8220] Siliceous Rocky Slopes; [91A0] Old Oak Woodlands; and [1355] Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>).	6.4
Wicklow Mountains SPA	SPA - The site is designated under the E.U. Birds Directive, of special conservation interest for the following species: Merlin and Peregrine.	6.7
Knocksink Wood SAC	SAC - Qualifying Interests Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220] Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0] Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i>) [91E0]	7.0
Dalkey Islands SPA	SPA - Qualifying Interests, Roseate Tern (<i>Sterna dougallii</i>) [A192] Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193] Arctic Tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) [A194]	7.5

Natura 2000 Site	SAC/SPA (Truncated Key qualifying features) numbers in brackets are Natura 2000 codes:	Approximate distance to Site (km)
Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC	SAC - Qualifying Interests, Reefs [1170] <i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]	7.9
Ballyman Glen SAC	SAC - Qualifying Interests, Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220] Alkaline fens [7230]	8.0
North Bull Island SPA	SPA - The site is a Special Protection Area (SPA) under the E.U. Birds Directive, of special conservation interest for the following species: 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.	8.6
North Dublin Bay SAC	SAC - Qualifying Interests, Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210] Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>) [1330] Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410] Embryonic shifting dunes [2110] Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120] Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130] Humid dune slacks [2190] <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> (Petalwort) [1395]	8.7
Glenasmole Valley SAC	SAC - Qualifying Interests, Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) (* important orchid sites) [6210] Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>) [6410] Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220]	10.4
Bray Head SAC	SAC - Qualifying Interests, Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230] European dry heaths [4030]	11.9
Howth Head SAC	SAC - Qualifying Interests, Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230] European dry heaths [4030]	12.6
Howth Head Coast SPA	SPA - Qualifying Interests Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) [A188]	14
Baldoyle Bay SPA	SPA - Qualifying Interests, Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046] Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048] Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137] Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140] Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	14.3
Baldoyle Bay SAC	SAC - Qualifying Interests Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>) [1330] Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410]	14.3

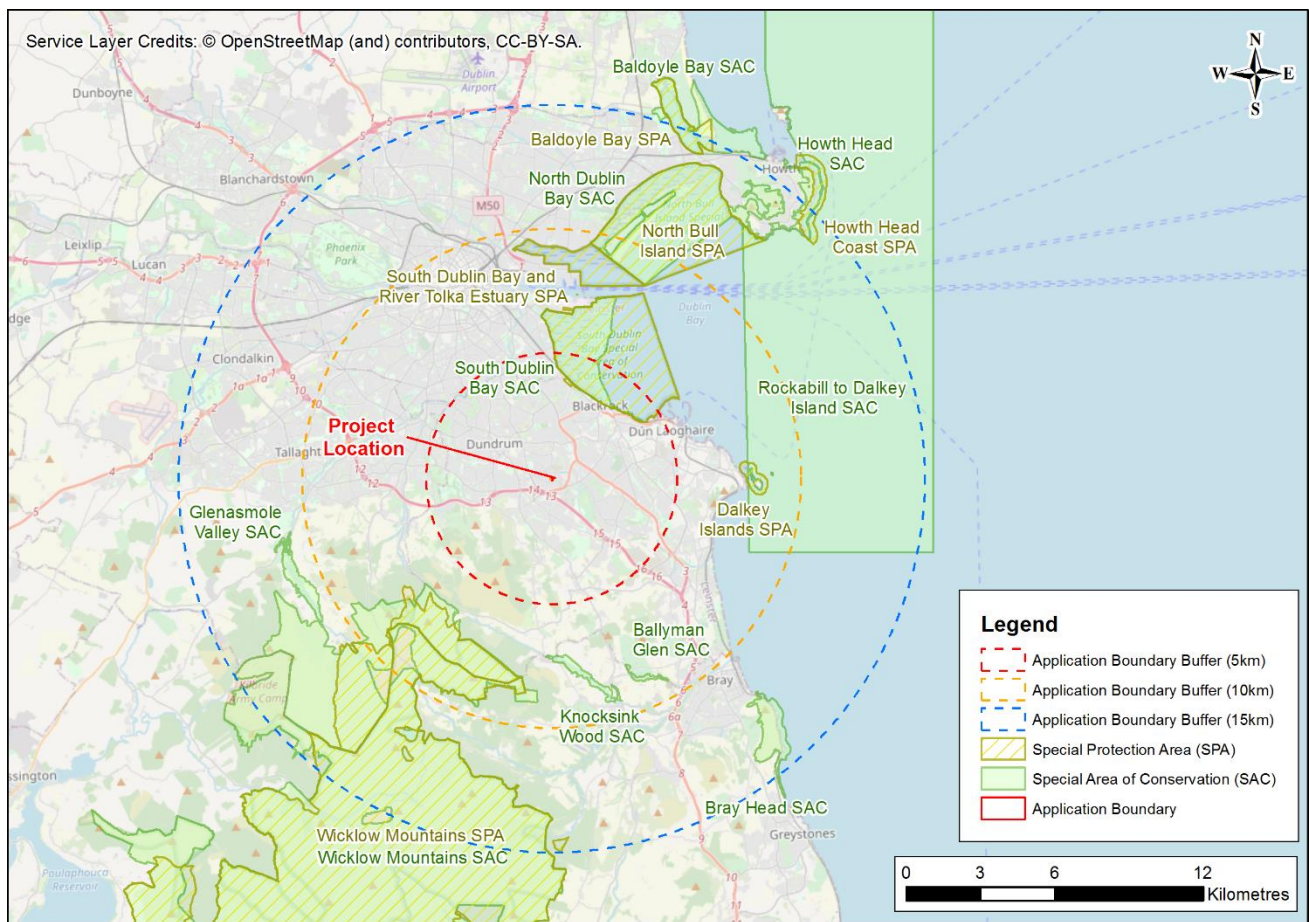


Figure 3: Natura 2000 Sites within 15 km of the Site

3.3 Screening Assessment

Throughout this stage 1 screening assessment it is important to reiterate the key focus points required. In essence, will the residential development described herewith have the potential to cause likely significant effect (LSE) on Natura 2000 sites and associated qualifying species. The following sections serve to consider this question.

3.3.1 Water

Consideration of the committed design parameters demonstrates why LSE will not arise to Natura 2000 receptors. There are no watercourses on or near the Site. The Site is approximately 3.6 km from the boundary of the South Dublin Bay and River Tolka estuary SPA/SAC and the habitat between the Site and these Natura sites is essentially residential, industrial and transport related development with no ecological pathway.

In a construction context, a worst-case scenario would be an item of machinery associated with the construction of the Site leaking hydraulic fluid or hydrocarbon. In this instance the spill would be contained at the scene and collected if possible. Residual spill would be contained within the Site subject to dilution and evaporation over an extended period of time and pollutants would be contained at the Site scale. As such, no risks would be afforded to Natura 2000 habitat or species as defined by the source pathway model of likelihood. In addition, operational effects (residential occupation) will be addressed in accordance with the following embedded design parameters which have been truncated where previously identified in full within Section 1.3:

- *The proposed storage network to serve the development has been designed and modelled, using Innovyze Microdrainage, for the 1 in 100-year storm event, with an allowance of 10% for climate change'. Furthermore, 'the implementation of the proposed Green Roof system provides additional storage volume throughout the Site'. (AECOM, 2021);*
- *In accordance with DLRCC guidance, runoff from the Site will be restricted to 2 l/s. The proposed maximum discharge rate is 2 l/s, which is significantly lower than the current maximum discharge rate of runoff leaving the Site'; (AECOM, 2021);*
- Flow leaving the Site will be reduced to a 'greenfield rate'. and
- Wastewater from the Site will connect to the existing 225 mm diameter clay wastewater sewer in Carmanhall Road. Foul wastewater will be processed at the wastewater treatment plant at Ringsend in Dublin which is due to be upgraded to accord with the EU Waste Water Treatment Directive.

Air Quality – Dust Construction Effects

Dust deposition is the predominant air-related risk which may arise from construction activities resulting from aggregate movement and dust mobilised from vehicle movements. However, given the embedded design parameters dust deposition and residual effects to Natura 2000 are considered highly unlikely. The nearest SACs are over 3.6 km from the Site. Advice provided within the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB)³ suggests that the most sensitive species appear to be affected by dust deposition at levels above 1000 mg/m²/day (five times greater than the level at which most dust deposition may become a perceptible nuisance to humans). Accordingly, given the low risk of dust mobilisation on Site, embedded design parameters and distance to the nearest Natura 2000 site, it is considered unlikely that dust deposition will have an impact on any nearby Natura 2000 designations.

Noise

Of the Natura 2000 designations in the search area, it is considered that the SPAs would be sensitive to noise disturbance, given that they are designated on the basis of supporting bird species. Activities within Site which may contribute to increased noise levels include construction traffic movements and general construction noise. Residential occupation is unlikely to result in a measurable contribution to noise that may disturb qualifying bird species of the SPAs. The closest SPAs to the Site are situated 3.6 km away. Given the distance of the SPAs from the Site and relative ambient noise levels of the Site and local context e.g. Dublin cityscape, it is considered that over this distance the noise levels within the Site will have a negligible impact on the SPAs.

4.0 STAGE 1 SCREENING ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

4.1 Describe any likely direct, indirect or secondary impacts of the Project (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) on the Natura 2000 sites by virtue of:

Size and Scale	None – the size and scale of the Natura 2000 sites will not be affected.
Land-take	None from Natura 2000 sites.
Distance from Natura 2000 site or	Closest Natura sites are 3.6 km away.

³ The Highways Agency, Transport Scotland, Welsh Assembly Government & The Department for Regional Development Northern Ireland (2007) Design Manual for Roads and Bridges Volume 11, Section 3, Part 1 HA 207/07 Air Quality

key features of the site	
Resource requirements (water abstraction etc.)	No resources from a Natura site are required. Site water during construction and residential occupation will be sourced from mains utilities.
Emissions (disposal to land, water or air)	There are no emissions to water that could affect Natura 2000 sites. Air emissions from the Site (use of plant and machinery at the Site during construction e.g. dust) are unlikely to cause impacts on the Natura 2000 sites due to the absence of ecological pathways and negligible emissions.
Excavation requirements	There are no excavation requirements within the Natura 2000 sites or those that could affect Natura 2000 sites through source pathway modelling.
Transportation requirements	Transportation of goods to and from Site would not affect Natura 2000 sites in a way that would be measurable.
Duration of construction, operation, decommissioning etc.	Construction of the residential units would occur over a ca. 24 month timeframe. Residential occupation would occur in perpetuity.
Other	None.

4.2 Describe any likely changes to the site arising as a result of:

Reduction of habitat area	None to Natura 2000 sites.
Disturbance to key species	Disturbance to key species is highly unlikely owing to the distance between the Site and Natura 2000 sites including the absence of ecological pathways or synergies.
Habitat or species fragmentation	There will be no habitat or species fragmentation due to the development of the Site. The Site is not part of the Natura 2000 sites in question and no resources are required from them. Designated habitats and species of the SACs/SPAs will not be impacted given their distance from the Site.
Reduction in species density	No reduction in species density is anticipated.
Changes in key indicators of conservation value (water quality etc.)	No measurable increase in water quality degradation is predicted.
Climate change	No measurable contribution.

4.3 Describe any likely impacts on the Natura 2000 sites as a whole in terms of:

<i>Interference with the key relationships that define the structure of the site:</i>	No impacts are likely to be afforded.
<i>Interference with key relationships that define the function of the site</i>	No impacts are likely to be afforded.

4.4 Provide indicators of significance as a result of the identification of effects set out above in terms of:

Loss (Estimated percentage of lost area of habitat)	Habitat loss on Site will be negligible and of no biodiversity value. No habitat loss of Natura 2000 sites will occur.
Fragmentation	There will be no habitat fragmentation.
Disruption and disturbance	Disturbance and disruption to species is considered highly unlikely. Species for which the Natura 2000 sites have been designated are highly unlikely to utilise the Site or be influenced by the Site due to distance and / or a lack of environmental connectivity between sites.
Change to key elements of the site (e.g. water quality etc.)	None. The project will not have a significant adverse effect on surface and groundwater quality, availability, flow or distribution.

4.5 Cumulative Impact

Cumulative impacts focus on the likely expansion of residential development as defined by proposed plans and projects within the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Development Plan 2016-2022, Dublin City Development Plan 2016-2022, Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023, South Dublin County Development Plan 2016-2022, and other planning applications.

Cumulative impact assessment is based upon a realisation of additional nutrient loading and pressure on the Ringsend WTP. However, cumulative impacts regarding nutrient loading and potential for eutrophication of freshwater and marine habitat are considered to be not-significant. That is due to the commitment by Irish Water to upgrade the Ringsend WTP which will occur in advance of the operational phase of the Development. Other permitted / under construction developments are of a similar nature and incorporate similar design principles and widely adopted good practice mitigation, and it is therefore considered that there will be imperceptible cumulative effect.

Cumulative impacts concerning other local committed developments in the vicinity of the Site are assessed in Chapter 16 of the EIA which accompanies this SHD Application. Other permitted / under construction developments identified, include four residential developments, two 300 m to the north-west of the Proposed Development and another two 700-800 m south-east of the Proposed Development. These developments are of a similar nature and incorporate similar design principles and widely adopted good practice mitigation, and it is therefore considered that there will be no significant cumulative effect with these development.

4.6 Describe from the above those elements of the project or plan, or combination of elements, where the above impacts are likely to be significant or where the scale or magnitude of impacts is unknown

As described within this Stage 1 Screening Assessment, it is considered likely that the residential development of the Site will not have a likely significant effect on the Natura 2000 sites pertinent to this assessment. There is a high level of confidence in the assessment of the likely degree of the magnitude of impacts given the Site proposals, and as such it is concluded objectively that significant effects will not be afforded.

The following key considerations contributed towards this conclusion:

- The Site will effectively operate as a closed loop system regarding discharges with no aquatic or terrestrial connectivity with Natura 2000 receptors as defined within this report; and
- There is sufficient distance between the Site and all Natura sites that the Site will not cause disturbance / displacement of those species that form the part of the qualifying interests of the Natura 2000 designation.



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