

8 CONCLUSION OF APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

This NIS has been prepared following the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government guidance 'Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland - Guidance for Planning Authorities' (DoEHLG, 2010). As stated in that guidance document, the requirement of the AA is not to prove what the impacts and effects will be, but rather to establish beyond reasonable scientific doubt that adverse effects on site integrity will not result.

RPS has prepared this NIS to document the analysis and evaluation seeking to establish whether or not, in view of best scientific knowledge and applying the precautionary principle, and in light of the conservation objectives of relevant European sites, the proposed development, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will not adversely affect the integrity of European sites.

The construction and operation of the proposed development has been detailed (**Section 2**) and the receiving environment has been described (**Section 4**). Rogerstown Estuary SAC and SPA have been identified with the Zol of the proposed development (**Section 5**) via the following effect pathways (**Section 6**):

- Surface water and groundwater pollution; and
- Dispersal of scheduled invasive species.

To minimise, or even cancel, the negative impacts on a European site that are likely to arise as a result of the proposed development, mitigation measures have been recommended (**Section 7**). These mitigation measures provide recommendations for surface water and ground water management, invasive species management, emergency responses and environmental training, and site management during construction and operation of the proposed development. Provided the full implementation of mitigation measures is carried out, it is envisaged that there will be no significant residual effects on the integrity of any European sites.

In conclusion, it is the opinion of RPS that in view of best scientific knowledge and applying the precautionary principle, and in light of the conservation objectives of relevant European sites, the proposed development, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will not have adverse effect on any European site.