

**RILTA ENVIRONMENTAL LTD. (W0185-01)
Block 14A1 Grants Road,
Greenogue Business Park,
Rathcoole,
Co. Dublin**

Appropriate Assessment Screening Report for Technical Amendment

October 2016

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REPORT

PROJECT:

RILTA AA 2016

CLIENT:

RILTA Environmental Ltd.

COMPANY:

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TOBIN Consulting Engineers							

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1 INTRODUCTION

RILTA has requested a Technical Amendment to Waste Licence W0185-01, for the installation of a bagging plant and associated pallet racking at the existing RILTA Waste Facility, Block 14A1 Greenogue Business Park, Rathcoole, Co. Dublin. The waste material for bagging and racking will consist of both flue gas residue and boiler ash, produced at the Dublin Waste to Energy (DWtE) Covanta Plant located in Poolbeg, Co. Dublin. Once bagged and racked, the waste residue will be shipped to a treatment facility in Norway for sustainable re-use. This report forms a Screening for Appropriate Assessment to inform the Technical Amendment.

The purpose of this Screening Report is to inform the Appropriate Assessment (AA) process, which is undertaken by the appropriate competent authority. Appropriate Assessment is an assessment of whether a plan or project, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, could have a significant effect on a European site, otherwise known as Natura 2000 sites (EC Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC), in view of the site's conservation objectives.

2 THE APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT PROCESS

2.1 INTRODUCTION TO APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

European and national legislation places a collective obligation on Ireland and its citizens to maintain habitats and species in the Natura 2000 network at a favourable conservation condition. The Government and its agencies are responsible for the implementation and enforcement of regulations, in particular Part XAB of the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2010 and the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 477) (often referred to as the Habitats Regulations), to ensure the ecological integrity of these sites.

An AA is an assessment of whether a plan or project, alone or in combination with other plans or projects, could result in significant effects on a European site in view of the site's conservation objectives.

Council Directive 92/43/EEC of the 21 May 1992 on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora - 'The Habitats Directive', has been transposed into Irish law by The European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 477). The Birds Directive, Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament, seeks to protect birds of special importance by the designation of Special Protection Areas (SPAs), whereas the Habitats Directive does the same for habitats and other species groups with Special Areas of Conservation (SACs). The requirement for an AA is outlined in Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the EU Habitats Directive. Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive requires that:

“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.”

Furthermore, Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive requires that:

“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 State 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.”

An AA should be based on best scientific knowledge and Planning Authorities should ensure that scientific data is utilised. This report provides details regarding the AA Screening, which will inform the AA process undertaken by the statutory authority. Information for this Screening Report was obtained by a desk study undertaken by a professional Ecologist from TOBIN Consulting Engineers who is familiar with the RILTA site.

2.2 APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

There are four main stages in the AA process; the requirements for each depending on likely impacts to European Sites (candidate SAC/ SPA).

Stage One: Screening – This process identifies the likely significant impacts upon a European site from a proposed project or plan. Its purpose is to determine, on the basis of a preliminary assessment and objective criteria, whether a plan or project which is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site as a European Site, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, is likely to have a significant effect upon the European site. A project may be “screened-in” if there is a possibility or uncertainty of significant adverse effects upon the European site, requiring a Stage Two AA. If there is no evidence to suggest significant effects due to the proposed plan or development the project is “screened-out” and progression to AA is not required.

Stage Two: Appropriate Assessment - Consideration is given if the project or plan may adversely impact the integrity of surrounding European Sites, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, with respect to the site's structure and function and its conservation objectives. Additionally,

where adverse impacts have been identified, an assessment of the potential mitigation to reduce/minimise/avoid such impacts is required. This stage is the responsibility of the planning authority which is informed by a Natura Impact Statement. Stage Two, i.e. AA, is required where uncertainty of effect arises or a potential effect has been defined which requires further procedures/ mitigation to remove uncertainty of a defined impact.

Stage Three: Assessment of Alternative Solutions – Where adverse effects on a European Site are identified at the end of Stage Two despite the application of mitigation, this third stage examines alternative ways of achieving the objectives of the project or plan that avoid adverse impacts on the integrity of the European Site.

Stage Four: Assessment Where Adverse Impacts Remain - The fourth and final stage applies where the project can only proceed for Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest (IROPI), despite the plan or project resulting in adverse effects on European Site(s). This stage requires an assessment of compensation measures to maintain or enhance the overall coherence of the Natura 2000 network.

2.3 GUIDANCE

This report has been carried out using the following guidance:

- Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the 'Habitats Directive: Guidance for Planning Authorities. (Circular NPW 1/10 & PSSP 2/10)¹.
- Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland - Guidance for Planning Authorities. (Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2010)².
- Managing Natura 2000 Sites: the provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC, Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Luxembourg (EC 2000)³.
- 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, Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Luxembourg (EC 2002)⁴.
- Guidance document on Article 6(4) of the 'Habitats Directive' 92/43/EEC – Clarification of the concepts of: alternative solutions, imperative reasons of overriding public interest, compensatory measures, overall coherence, opinion of the commission. Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Luxembourg (EC 2007)⁵.

¹ NPWS (2010). Legislation Unit, NPWS Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 7 Ely Place Dublin 2.

² National Parks and Wildlife Services (2010):

http://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/publications/pdf/NPWS_2009_AA_Guidance.pdf

³ European Commission (2000)

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/management/docs/art6/provision_of_art6_en.pdf

⁴ European Commission (2000)

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/management/docs/art6/natura_2000_assess_en.pdf

⁵ European Commission (2007)

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/management/docs/art6/guidance_art6_4_en.pdf

3 SCREENING ASSESSMENT

3.1 INTRODUCTION

This stage of the process identifies any likely significant effects upon European sites from a project or plan, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans. A series of questions are asked during the Screening Stage of the AA process in order to determine:

- Whether a plan or project can be excluded from AA requirements because it is directly connected with or necessary to the management of a European Site; and
- Whether the project or plan will have a potentially significant effect on a European Site, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, in view of the site's conservation objectives or if residual uncertainty exists regarding potential impacts.

This report comprises a Screening Assessment of the bagging and storage activities in which potential impacts to European Sites are considered. Best practice methods described below will be required and are evaluated as an integral part of the activities being considered in the Technical Amendment.

3.2 RILTA BAGGING PLANT & RACKING

3.2.1 Site Location

The Technical Amendment submission is for a change of handling equipment within an existing industrial building in Greenogue Business Park, Rathcoole, County Dublin. The immediate locality of the business park is characterised by industrial development, in an otherwise agricultural landscape, located on the outskirts of Dublin City (see Figure 1). The business park is located less than 2km north of the N7 dual carriageway. From there, the Regional R120 Road links the N7 to the internal road network of the business park.

3.2.2 Description of Project

The installation works will comprise of:

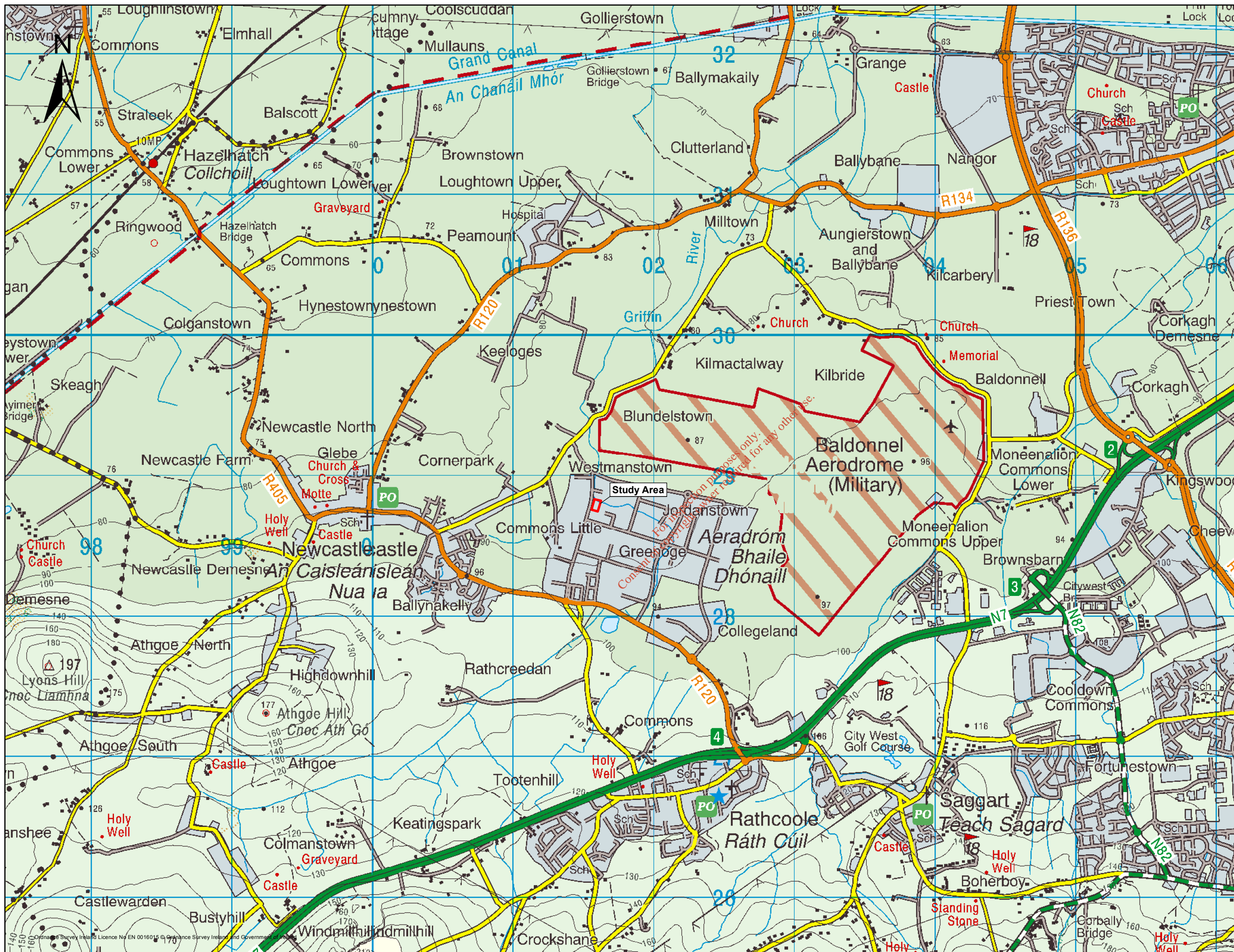
- Preparatory works;
- Installation of three storage silos (Total Usable Volume/ Tonnage + 525m³/ 262 tonnes);
- Installation of a pressure transfer system;
- Control measures to prevent fugitive emissions;
- Installation of two bulk bag loading systems (for main use and one for back- up/ redundancy);
and
- Installation of a pallet racking system for the warehouse.

Once the bagging plant and racking area are installed, RILTA proposes to aid in the recovery of waste residues from the DWtE Covanta Plant. The DWtE Covanta Plant will produce three solid residues, two of which will be received by the RILTA Facility;

- Boiler ash (approximately 3,000 tonnes per annum); and
- Flue gas treatment residues (approximately 25,000 tonnes per annum).

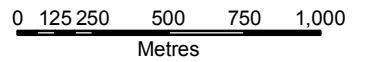
All works associated with the Installation and Operational phases of the activities will occur within an existing building. In addition, the outdoor area of the premises is existing hardstanding.

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Legend

Application Boundary



- NOTES**
1. FIGURED DIMENSIONS ONLY TO BE TAKEN FROM THIS DRAWING
 2. ALL DRAWINGS TO BE CHECKED BY THE CONTRACTOR ON SITE
 3. ENGINEER TO BE INFORMED OF ANY DISCREPANCIES BEFORE ANY WORK COMMENCES
 4. ALL LEVELS RELATE TO ORDNANCE SURVEY DATUM AT MALIN HEAD

Issue	Date	Description	By	Chkd.
A	SEP-16	ISSUED	G.F.	J.Q.



Project:
RILTA Technical Amendment AA

Title:
Site Location

Scale @ A3: 1:25,000

Prepared by: G.Fil
Checked: J.Quinn
Date: September 2016
Project Manager: S.Tinnelly

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Figure 1 A

3.3 DESCRIPTION OF THE EXISTING ENVIRONMENT

3.3.1 Information Sources

The ecological desktop study to inform the Appropriate Assessment Screening comprised the following elements:

- Identification of European Sites within the Zone of Influence (Zol) of the licensed facility through the identification of potential pathways/links from the licensed facility and European sites and/or supporting habitats;
- Review of the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) site synopses (Natura 2000 data form) and conservation objectives for European Sites⁶ with identification of potential pathways from the licensed facility ; and
- Review of available literature and web data. This included a detailed review of the NPWS website including mapping and available reports⁷ for relevant sites and in particular Qualifying Interests described and their conservation objectives.

An outline of the key datasets and information sources reviewed as part of the study are provided below:

- National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) database of areas designated (and proposed) for nature conservation;
- National Biodiversity Data Centre database (NBDC);
- Water Framework Directive website⁸; and
- EPA Envision database (<http://gis.epa.ie/Envision>); and
- OSI and Google aerial photography and mapping were used to identify non-designated semi-natural habitats of local ecological importance.

3.3.2 Existing Environment

The licensed facility is located within an existing industrial building in the north-western sector of Greenogue Business Park, Rathcoole, County Dublin. The Facility encompasses approximately 0.5 hectares of hard standing of low ecological value. Buildings onsite have 2,183m² of gross floor area comprising of a main warehouse, ancillary offices, a hazardous chemical store with an underground water retention tank, three covered and bulk-tanker bays and a covered dispatch area along with a weighbridge, parking and associated surface water infrastructure. The industrial estate is located 1.5km

⁶ National Parks and Wildlife Service: <http://www.npws.ie/protectedsites/> (accessed June, 2016)

⁷ National Parks and Wildlife Service: <http://www.npws.ie/mapsanddata/> (accessed June, 2016)

⁸ EPA & RBD Coordinating Bodies <http://www.wfdireland.ie/wfd-more.html> (accessed June, 2016)

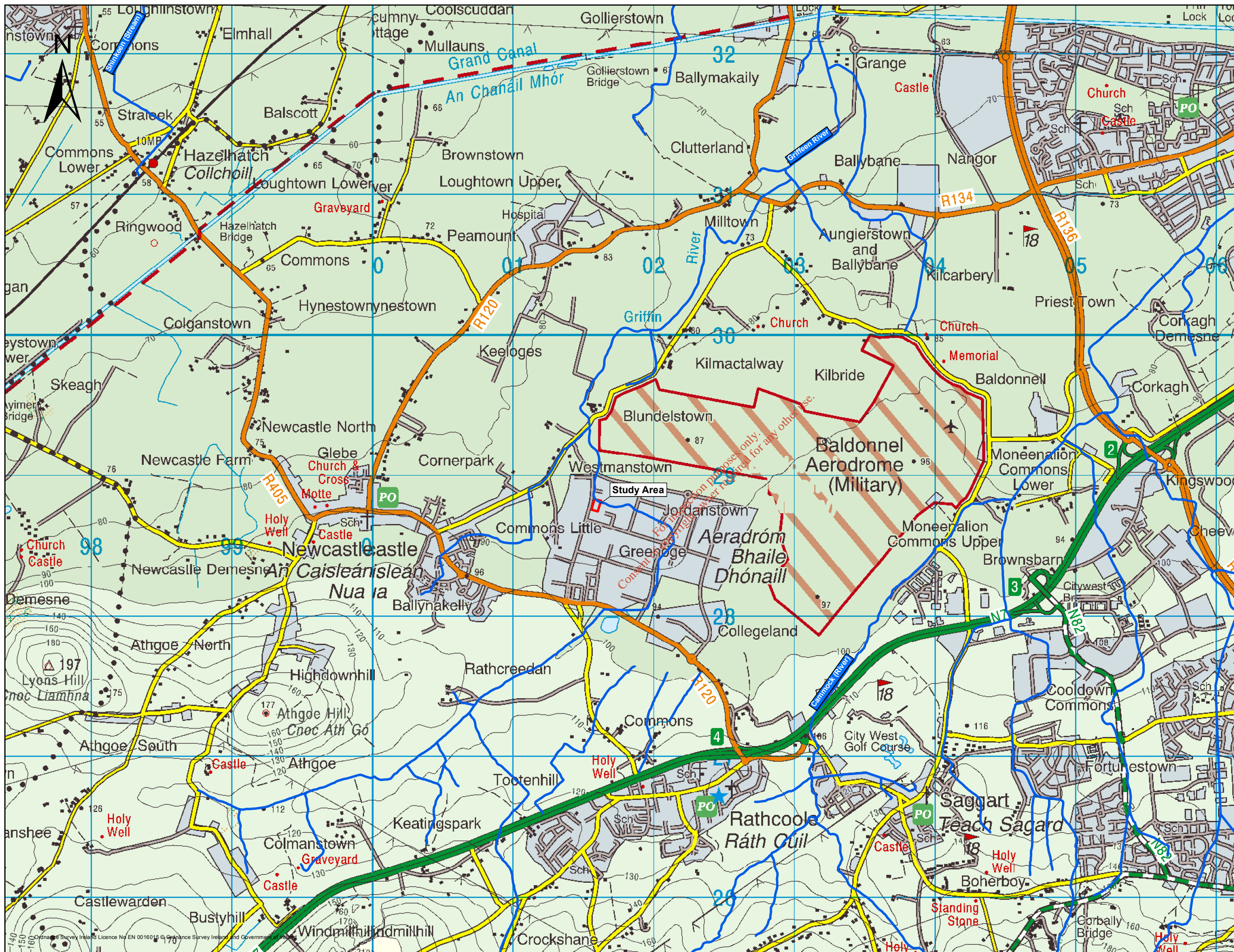
south-east of the village of Newcastle. The immediate locality of the business park is characterised by industrial development, in an otherwise agricultural landscape, located on the outskirts of Dublin City (see Figure 1). The business park is located less than 2km north of the N7 dual carriageway. From there, the Regional R120 Road links the N7 to the internal road network of the business park.

The Greenogue Business Park is drained by the Grifeen River, which bisects the business park less than 500m south of the RILTA facility. The Grifeen River is culverted under the Grand Canal and joins the River Liffey approximately 7 km downstream at Lucan Village⁹ (see Figure 2).

Currently, all surface water runoff from tanker bays, vehicle parking and marshalling areas are directed through a Class 1 interceptor before discharging to a surface water sewer. Wastewater drains to a 5m³ self-contained monitoring tank prior to discharge. Wastewater is only discharged to the sewer following confirmation that the discharge has met the requirement of Schedule C.3: Emissions Limits for Foul Water Emissions to Sewer, D.1.1 Monitoring locations, and D.4.1 monitoring and frequency technique.

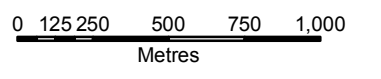
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⁹ <http://gis.epa.ie/Envision>



Legend

- Application Boundary
- Stream



- NOTES**
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 - ALL LEVELS RELATE TO ORDNANCE SURVEY DATUM AT MALIN HEAD

Issue	Date	Description	By	Chkd.
A	SEP-16	ISSUED	G.F.	J.Q.



Project: RILTA Technical Amendment AA

Title: Surface Water Features

Scale @ A3: 1:25,000

Prepared by: G.Fil
Checked: J.Quinn
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Figure 2 A

3.4 IDENTIFICATION OF RELEVANT NATURA 2000 SITES

A standard source-receptor-pathway conceptual model was used to identify a preliminary list of 'relevant' European sites (i.e. those which could be potentially affected). This conceptual model is a standard tool in environmental assessment. In order for an effect to occur, all three elements of this mechanism must be in place. The absence or removal of one of the elements of the mechanism means there is no likelihood for the effect to occur. In the context of the activities being considered, the model comprises:

- Source (s) – e.g. sediment run-off
- Pathway (s) – e.g. drains and streams connecting to a European site
- Receptor (s) – Qualifying habitats and species of European sites

Direct impacts will not occur to any Natura 2000 site as the licensed facility is outside of and at a distance from any designated European Site. Six European sites are located within 15km of the licensed facility site (refer to Figure 3); these sites are listed in Table 3-1 below. The Site Synopses for each site listed is included in Appendix 1.

Table 3-1 Designated sites within 15km of the licensed facility

Site Name	Designation	Site Code	Approximate distance to licensed facility
Rye Water Valley/Cartron	SAC	001398	7km North
Glenasmole Valley	SAC	001209	8.4 South East
Red Bog	SAC	000397	11.8 South West
Poulaphuca Reservoir	SPA	004063	13 km South
Wicklow Mountains	SAC	002122	13.1 km South East
Wicklow Mountains	SPA	004040	13.1 km South East

Due to the degree of separation, dust and noise are unlikely to cause a significant impact to any of the Designated Sites listed above. The key issue being considered is the likelihood of indirect or secondary effects such as any sediment run-off or pollutants, or invasive species, entering watercourses in the study area and reaching designated sites. This could potentially interfere with the relationships that sustain Annex I habitats and Annex II species.

There are no pathways for effects identified with respect to any designated Natura 2000 sites identified within the Zol; including sites potentially occurring outside of the 15km buffer (North Dublin Bay SAC, South Dublin Bay SAC, South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA). Potential impacts and their significance, if any, of a plan or project in this area on these European sites are considered in Table 3-2 below, where the potential for a source-receptor-pathway relationship has been identified. Impacts are considered in light of the conservation objectives of the Annex I habitats and Annex II species for which these sites are designated.

Table 3-2 Assessment of Relevant Designated Natura 2000 Sites

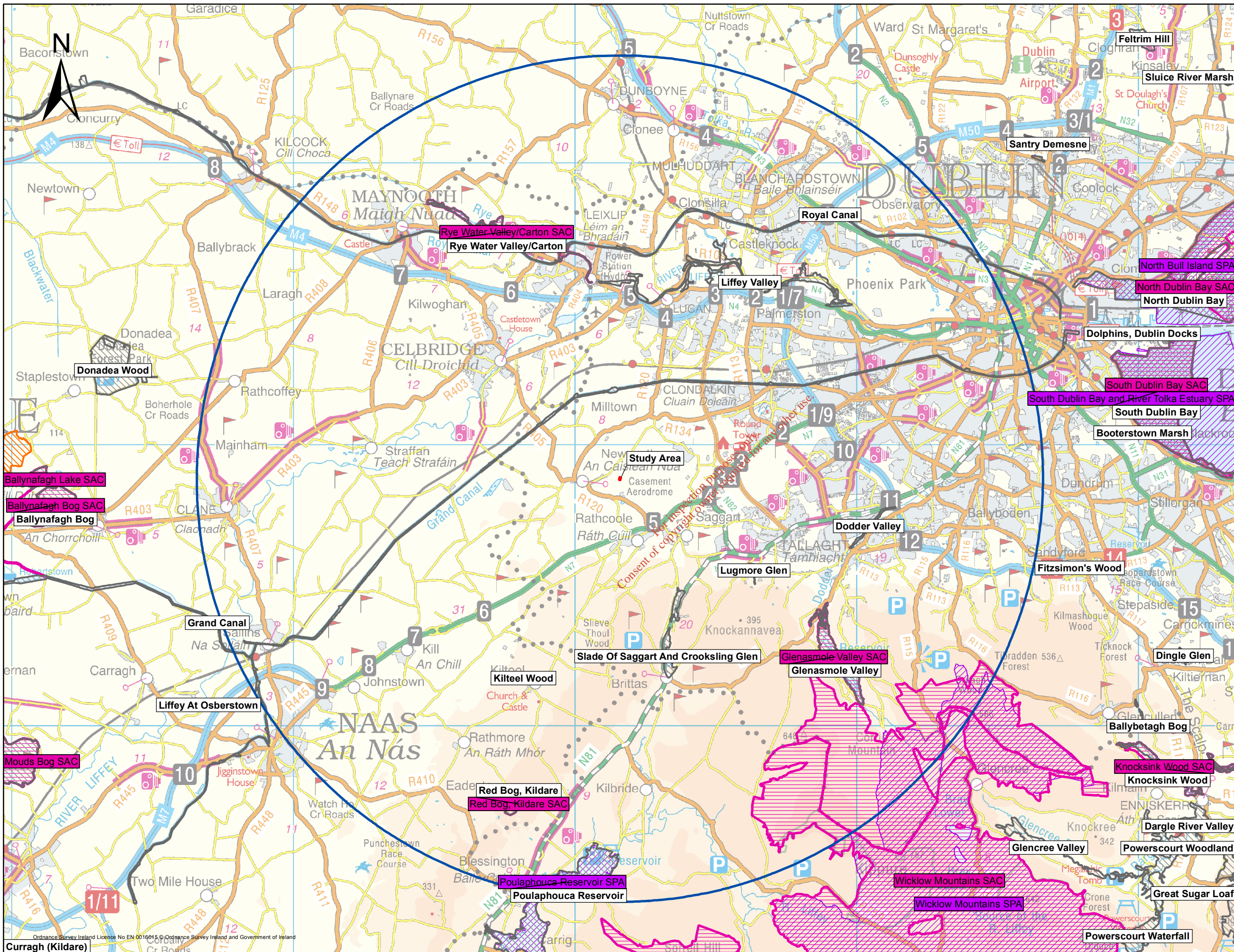
European Sites	Designated Features 7568	Likely Significant Effects
Rye Water Valley/ Carton SAC	<p><i>Vertigo angustior</i> [1014] <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i> [1016] Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220]</p>	<p>This is the nearest SAC to the licensed facility which is located ca. 7 km north of the study area. This SAC is selected for the Annex I habitat Petrifying Springs, and the Annex II species Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail (<i>Vertigo angustior</i>) and Desmoulin's Whorl Snail (<i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i>). The designation includes wetland, woodland and spring habitats and supports several rare and threatened plant and animal species.</p> <p>Following the source-receptor-pathway model, the licensed facility is not linked to this European site. This SAC is upstream of any linkages with the River Liffey and the licensed facility and therefore there is no likelihood of significant effects on the site from the Technical Amendment changes under consideration.</p>
Glenasmole Valley SAC	<p>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]</p>	<p>This site is located in the Dublin Mountains and is designated for terrestrial habitats and springs. The River Dodder flows through the valley and has been impounded here to form two reservoirs which supply water to south Dublin.</p> <p>Following the source-receptor-pathway model, the licensed facility is not linked to this European site. It is hydrologically separate from the study area (River Dodder catchment) and approximately 8.4 km from the licensed facility at its nearest point. Therefore there is no likelihood of significant effects on the site from the Technical Amendment changes under consideration.</p>
Red Bog SAC	<p>Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140]</p>	<p>This site is located 11.8 km south west of the licensed facility and is designated for transition mires and quaking bogs.</p> <p>Following the source-receptor-pathway model, the licensed facility</p>

		is not linked to this European site. It is hydrologically separate from the study area and sufficiently removed. Therefore there is no likelihood of significant effects on the site from the Technical Amendment changes under consideration
Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA	<p>Greylag Goose (<i>Anser anser</i>) [A043]</p> <p>Lesser Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>) [A183]</p>	<p>This site is located in the foothills of the Wicklow Mountains and is designated for Greylag Goose and Lesser Black-backed Gull.</p> <p>Following the source-receptor-pathway model, the licensed facility is not linked to this European site. It is hydrologically separate from the study area and approximately 13 km from the licensed facility at its nearest point. Therefore there is no likelihood of significant effects on the site from the Technical Amendment changes under consideration.</p>
Wicklow Mountains SAC	<p>Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) [1355]</p> <p>Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the Littorelletea uniflorae and/or of the Isoetes-Nanojuncetea [3130]</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 bog (*active only) [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>Wicklow Mountains SAC is a complex of upland areas in Counties Wicklow and Dublin, flanked by the Blessington reservoirs to the west and Vartry reservoir in the east, Cruagh Mountain in the north and Lybagh Mountain in the south.</p> <p>Following the source-receptor-pathway model the licensed facility is not linked to this European site. It is hydrologically separate from the licensed facility and is separated by approximately 9 km at its nearest point. Therefore there is no likelihood of significant effects to the site from the Technical Amendment changes under consideration.</p>

	<p>Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in British Isles [91A0]</p>	
<p>Wicklow Mountains SPA</p>	<p>Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>) [A098] Peregrine (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>) [A103]</p>	<p>This is an extensive upland site, comprising a substantial part of the Wicklow Mountains. Most of the site is in County Wicklow, but a small area lies in County Dublin.</p> <p>Following the source-receptor-pathway model the licensed facility is not linked to this European site. The SPA is hydrologically separate from the licensed facility and is approximately 13.1 km away at its nearest point. Typical foraging distance for merlin is within 5km and so this species is unlikely to forage in the licensed facility (SNH, 2013¹⁰). The core foraging distance for peregrine is 2km, with a maximum distance of 16km (SNH, 2013). It is unlikely that peregrine associated with the SPA would travel 13km to the licensed facility, which is industrial in nature. Therefore there is no likelihood of significant effects to the site from the Technical Amendment changes under consideration.</p>

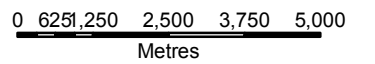
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¹⁰ Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) 2013 Guidance: Assessing Connectivity with Special Protection Areas (SPAs)



Legend

- Application Boundary
- 15 km Buffer from Study Area
- Natural Heritage Area
- Proposed Natural Heritage Area
- Special Area of Conservation
- Special Protection Area



- NOTES**
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Issue	Date	Description	By	Chkd.
A	SEP-16	ISSUED	G.F.	J.Q.



Project:
RILTA Technical Amendment AA

Title:
Designated Sites

Scale @ A3: **1:125,000**

Prepared by: G.Fil
Checked: J.Quinn
Date: September 2016

Project Manager: S.Tinnelly

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Figure 3
A

3.5 POTENTIAL ADVERSE EFFECTS ON NATURA 2000 SITES

3.5.1 *Potential for direct impacts*

The licensed facility site is not located within or directly adjacent to any designated European Site. The Technical Amendment changes under consideration will not give rise to any direct loss, fragmentation or disturbance of Annex I habitats or Annex II species (or their supporting habitats), which may be listed as Qualifying Interests of European Sites.

3.5.2 *Potential for indirect impacts*

The facility is located within an existing waste management facility at Greenogue Business Park in Rathcoole, County Dublin. All activities will occur indoors, with no ground works required. There is no potential for contamination of surface water features and no mitigation is required to protect Designated Sites from any potential impacts.

All unloading and bagging activities will occur indoors. The odourless waste residue will be pumped, from dedicated enclosed bulk vehicles, directly to bags that are then immediately sealed. Engineering Measures have been incorporated in the design to ensure there are no fugitive dust emissions from the activity. No mitigation is therefore required to control dust emissions or protect Designated Sites.

The business park is bisected by the Grifeen River, which flows north, is culverted under the Grand Canal and reaches the River Liffey 7 km downstream at Lucan Village. Currently, all surface water runoff from tanker bays, vehicle parking and marshalling areas are directed through a Class 1 interceptor before discharging to a surface water sewer. Wastewater drains to a 5m³ self-contained monitoring tank prior to discharge. Wastewater is only discharged to the sewer following confirmation that the discharge has met the requirement of Schedule C.3: Emissions Limits for Foul Water Emissions to Sewer, D.1.1 Monitoring locations, and D.4.1 monitoring and frequency technique. The waste residue transfer and bagging activity is unlikely to result in fugitive emissions to water and no reconfiguration of water management onsite is required to mitigate any potential impacts to water bodies or Designated Sites.

There will be no direct emissions to groundwater and no reconfiguration of water management onsite is required to mitigate any potential impacts to water bodies or Designated Sites.

The waste residue storage and bagging system will be situated in an enclosed building within a busy industrial estate. Noise sensitive qualifying interests (birds of SPAs) are sufficiently removed so that no impact is likely to occur. No additional mitigation is required to protect Designated Sites.

3.5.3 *Potential for in-combination or cumulative effects*

There are no potential significant adverse effects associated with the Technical Amendments under consideration within the facility.

Following the bagging of the waste residue at the RILTA Greenogue facility, the material will be shipped to a treatment facility in Norway for sustainable re-use.

Below is a summary regarding this arrangement:

“...the material will be shipped to a treatment facility in Norway for sustainable re-use. The waste residue will be used to neutralise sulphuric acid at the Langoya facility in Norway. Langoya is a small island dominated by a worked out limestone quarry which is being reinstated as a nature reserve under licence from the Norwegian government. The neutralised residue/ acid mixture is being used as part of this reinstatement...”

All transport companies utilised by RILTA for the transport of waste on and off site are licensed operators that adhere to the strict guidance of ‘ADR Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road A Guide for Business¹¹’.

Norway are outside of the European Union and are therefore outside of the remit of this Appropriate Assessment Screening Report. Despite this, the author notes:

“...the facility has an approved R treatment code... In addition, the facility has the following permits/licences/ approvals: Operation/ emission permit from the Norwegian Pollution Control Authority, 4 June 2003, renewed may 2009; EMAS registered 1998-2004; and ISO 14001 certification from Feb 2004;”

Taking account of the absence of potential significant adverse effects associated with the Technical Amendments under consideration at any stage, it is evaluated that there are no other projects and plans which could be considered to interact ‘in-combination’ or cumulatively to give rise to the potential for significant adverse effects on the Natura 2000 network.

4 SCREENING CONCLUSION

The licensed facility is not located within or directly adjacent to any Natura 2000 site. The Appropriate Assessment screening process considered potential impacts which may arise during the installation and operational phases of the changes being considered.

Through an assessment of the pathways for effects and an evaluation of the activities, taking account of the processes involved and the distance of separation between Natura 2000 designations in the wider study area, it has been evaluated that there are no likely significant adverse effects on the qualifying interests or the conservation objectives of any designated European Site.

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http://www.hsa.ie/eng/Publications_and_Forms/Publications/Chemical_and_Hazardous_Substances/ADR_Carriage_of_Dangerous_Goods_by_Road_A_Guide_for_Business.pdf

It is concluded that there are no likely potential impacts, whether direct, indirect or cumulative/in-combination, which could give rise to significant adverse effects on the qualifying interests or the conservation objectives of any designated Natura 2000 site. It can be concluded that it is unlikely that the licensed facility will result in significant effects to any European site, in view of their conservation objectives of the habitats or species for which it was designated, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. Consequently the activities which are the subject of the Technical Amendment, do not require an Appropriate Assessment; there is, therefore, no requirement to progress to Stage 2: NIS.

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