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14<sup>th</sup> February 2017

IW-ER-LT0325

Dear Karen,

**RE: Ringsend Waste Water Discharge Licence - Technical Amendment Application D0034-01**

The Agency issued a Wastewater Discharge Licence for the Greater Dublin Area Agglomeration (D0034-01) on the 27<sup>th</sup> July 2010 and Technical Amendment 16<sup>th</sup> December 2016. Irish Water now requests a Technical Amendment under Section 33 (1) of the Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations 2007, to amend *Schedule A.4 Storm Water Overflows*, to include an additional stormwater overflow as follows:-

Licence Code	SWO Discharge Location	Storm Water Overflow Location	Name of Receiving Water	WFD Code Receiving Water
D0034-01	308267 E 238976 N	WWTP Storm Tank Overflow	River Tolka	IE_EA_09T011150

Irish Water intends to install 4 No. underground storage tanks to balance combined sewer flows before controlled discharge into the Existing 9C sewer network. It is expected that the storm water overflow will be operational by Q4 2020. The tanks provide a stormwater overflow to the River Tolka for return periods in excess of 5 years. Any overflow to the River Tolka will be screened prior to discharge. The overflow will be fully compliant with the DOEHLG's 'Procedures and criteria in relation to Stormwater Overflows'.

The additional storm water overflow discharges to the same water body (where the characteristics of the receiving water are similar, including the proximity of Natura 2000 sites) as a number of the current stormwater discharges which are already included in WWDL D0034-01.

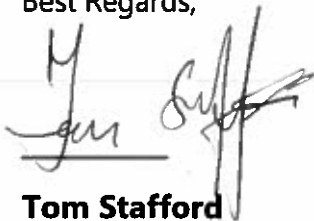
Irish Water has had regard to the EPA's publication *EPA Guidance for Irish Water on Requests for Alterations to a Waste Water Discharge Licence or Certificate of Authorisation* in compiling this submission for a Technical Amendment.

A screening report for Appropriate Assessment has been undertaken in relation to the Storm Water Overflow and which determined that a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment is not required.

Please find enclosed:

1. Map of Stormwater Overflow Location
2. Appropriate Assessment Screening

Best Regards,

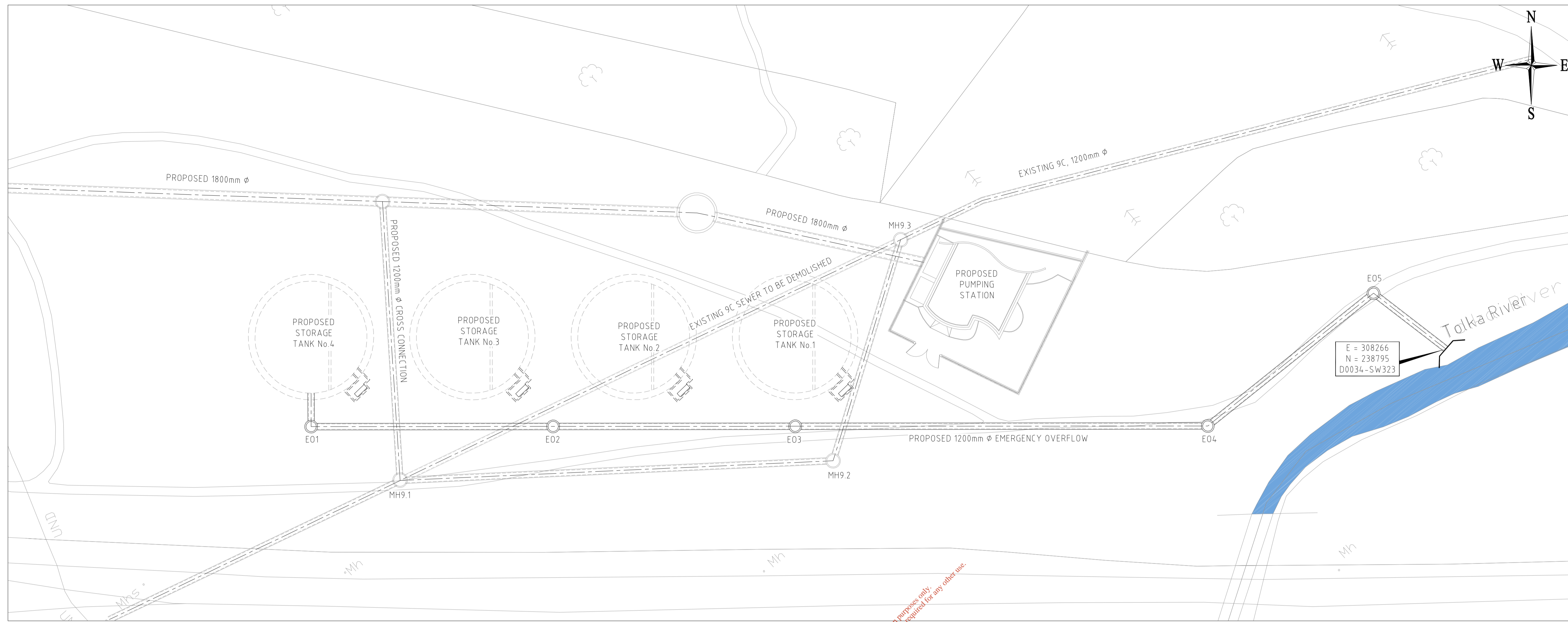


**Tom Stafford**  
**Environmental Regulation Manager**

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**Appendix 1. Map of Stormwater Overflow Location**

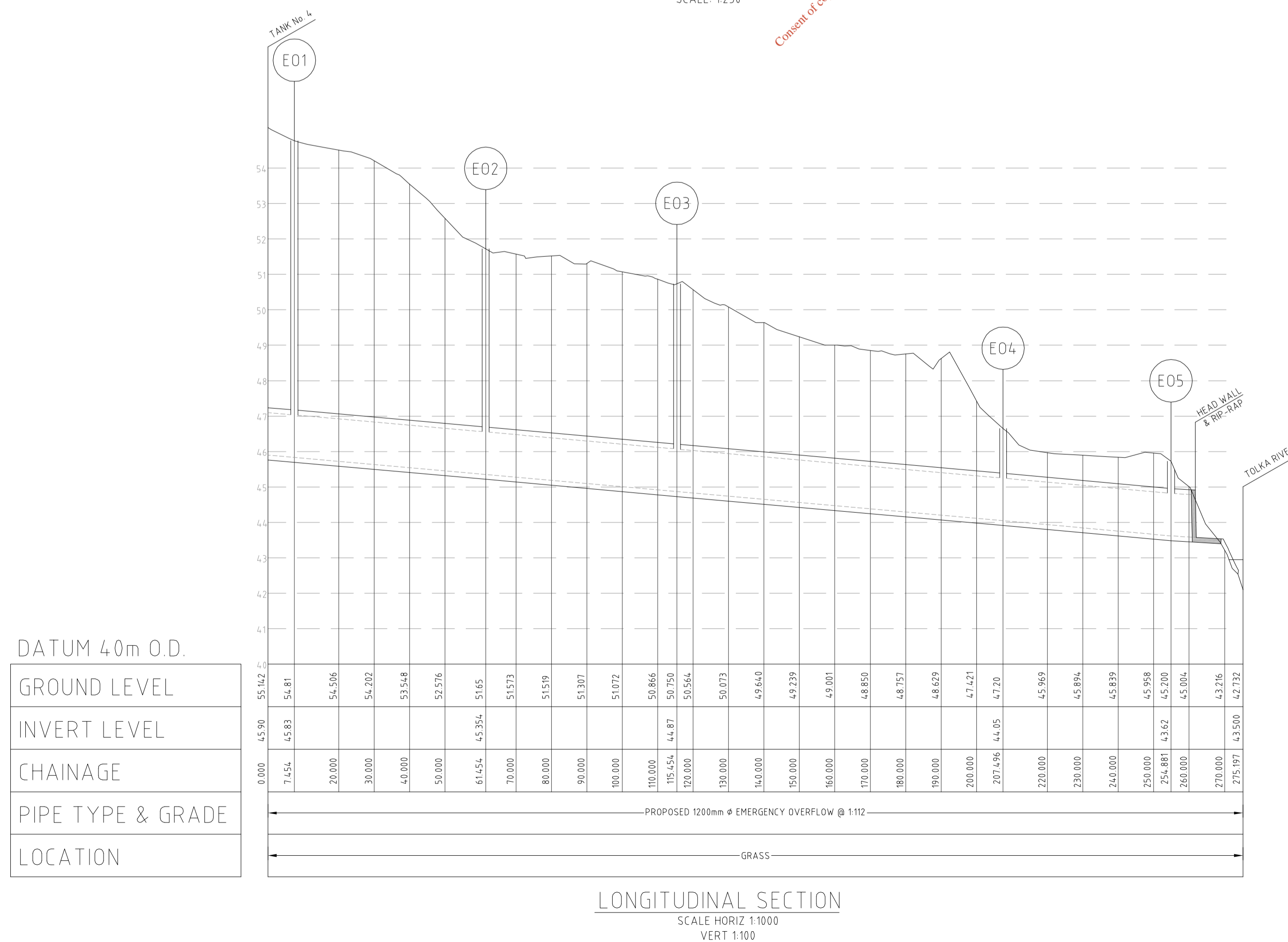
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LOCATION PLAN  
SCALE 1:250

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Rev	Date	Description	By	Chk	App

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PROJECT  
BLANCHARDSTOWN REGIONAL DRAINAGE SCHEME 9C  
SEWER DUPLICATION & TOLKA VALLEY PUMP STATION

DRAWING TITLE  
PROPOSED STORAGE TANKS  
EMERGENCY OVERFLOW  
PLAN & SECTION

STATUS  
INFORMATION

Date: 17/04/16	Scale: AS SHOWN	Drawn: MS	Chk: AMC	App: ES
Project No: W3036	Dwg. No: W3036/SK083	Rev: D3		

## Appendix 2. Appropriate Assessment Screening

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# Irish Water Report

Appropriate Assessment Screening of an overflow to the River  
Tolka as part of a Technical Amendment to the Ringsend Waste  
Water Discharge Licence

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# Introduction

This report provides an Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening of an overflow to the River Tolka from proposed stormwater tanks which form part of the Blanchardstown Regional Drainage Scheme, for the purposes of the Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations, 2007 (S.I. No. 684 of 2007), as amended. It assesses whether the proposed operation of the overflow, alone or in combination with other plans and projects, is likely to have significant effects on a Natura 2000 Site(s) in view of best scientific knowledge and the conservation objectives of the site(s). Natura 2000 Sites are those identified as sites of European Community importance designated as Special Areas of Conservation under the Habitats Directive or as Special Protection Areas under the Birds Directive.

This report follows the guidance for AA published by the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) 'Note on Appropriate Assessments for the purposes of the Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations, 2007 (S.I. No. 684 of 2007)' (EPA, 2009); and takes account of the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government's guidelines 'Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland. Guidance for Planning Authorities' (DoEHLG, 2009) and Circular L8/08 'Water Services Investment and Rural Water Programmes – Protection of Natural Heritage and National Monuments' (DoEHLG, 2008).

This Screening for Appropriate Assessment was carried out by a qualified ecologist working for Irish Water.

## Legislative Context

The Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora, better known as "The Habitats Directive", provides legal protection for habitats and species of European importance. Articles 3 to 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. These 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/ECC) as codified by Directive 2009/147/EC.

Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive set out the decision-making tests for plans and projects likely to affect Natura 2000 sites (Annex 1.1). Article 6(3) establishes the requirement for Appropriate Assessment (AA):

*Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the [Natura 2000] site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subjected to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives. In 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) states:

*If, in spite of a negative assessment of the implications for the [Natura 2000] 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, 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.*

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# Methodology

## Guidance Followed

Both EU and national guidance exists in relation to Member States fulfilling their requirements under the EU Habitats Directive, with particular reference to Article 6(3) and 6(4) of that Directive. The methodology followed in relation to this AA Screening has had regard to the following guidance:

- Note on Appropriate Assessments for the purposes of the Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations, 2007 (S.I. No. 684 of 2007). Environmental Protection Agency, (EPA, 2009).
- Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland: Guidance for Planning Authorities. Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, (DoEHLG, 2010).
- Circular L8/08 – Water Services Investment and Rural Water Programmes – Protection of Natural Heritage and National Monuments. Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, (DoEHLG, 2008).
- Communication from the Commission on the Precautionary Principle. Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Luxembourg, (EC, 2000a).
- 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, 2000b).
- Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites: Methodological guidance on the provisions of Articles 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Brussels (EC, 2001).
- 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).
- Nature and biodiversity cases: Ruling of the European Court of Justice. Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Luxembourg (EC, 2006).
- Marine Natura Impact Statements in Irish Special Areas of Conservation: A working document, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Dublin (NPWS, 2012).
- European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011 (S.I. No.477 of 2011).

- Interpretation Manual of European Union Habitats. Version EUR 28. European Commission (EC, 2013).

## **Stages Involved in the Appropriate Assessment Process**

### **Stage 1: Screening / Test of Significance**

This process identifies whether the stormwater tank overflow is directly connected to or necessary for the management of a Natura 2000 Site(s); and identifies whether the overflow is likely to have significant impacts upon a Natura 2000 Site(s) either alone or in combination with other projects or plans.

The output from this stage is a determination for each Natura 2000 Site(s) of not significant, significant, potentially significant, or uncertain effects. The latter three determinations will cause that site to be brought forward to Stage 2.

### **Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment**

This stage considers the impact of the stormwater tank overflow on the integrity of a Natura 2000 Site(s), either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, with respect to (1) the site's conservation objectives; and (2) the site's structure and function and its overall integrity. Additionally, where there are adverse impacts, an assessment of the potential mitigation of those impacts

The output from this stage is a Natura Impact Statement (NIS). This document must include sufficient information for the EPA to carry out the appropriate assessment. If the assessment is negative, i.e. adverse effects on the integrity of a site cannot be excluded, then the process must consider alternatives (Stage 3) or proceed to Stage 4.

### **Stage 3: Assessment of Alternatives**

This process examines alternative ways of achieving the objectives of the project or plan that avoid adverse impacts on the integrity of the Natura 2000 Site. This assessment may be carried out concurrently with Stage 2 in order to find the most appropriate solution. If no alternatives exist or all alternatives would result in negative impacts to the integrity of the Natura 2000 Sites then the process either moves to Stage 4 or the project is abandoned.

### **Stage 4: Assessment Where Adverse Impacts Remain**

An assessment of compensatory measures where, in the light of an assessment of Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest (IROPI), it is deemed that the project or plan should proceed.

## **Stage 1: Screening / Test of Significance**

In complying with the obligations under Article 6(3) and following the appropriate guidelines, this AA Screening has been structured as a stage by stage approach as follows:

- Description of the project;
- Identification of Natura 2000 sites potentially affected;
- Identification and description of individual and cumulative impacts likely to result;
- Assessment of the significance of any effects on the Natura 2000 sites;
- Exclusion of sites where it can be objectively concluded that there will be no significant effects; and
- Screening conclusion.

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# Screening

## Description of the Project

### Background Information on the BRDS Scheme

Irish Water intend to undertake the duplication of the existing 9C Sewer (9CS) and provide an associated pumping station and storage in Blanchardstown, Dublin 15. The proposed scheme will be referred to as the BRDS 9C Sewer Duplication and Storage Scheme, incorporating Tolka Valley Park Pumping Station. The proposed works are required to cater for inter alia future domestic population growth within the 9C catchment (including Fingal, Meath and Kildare areas), industrial growth within the 9C catchment and the significant industrial/manufacturing growth proposed in the adjacent Liffey catchment (Leixlip, Co. Kildare). The proposed scheme is also needed to reduce existing uncontrolled spills to the Tolka River as a result of surcharging and excess flows in addition to associated water pollution and odour issues.

The design philosophy for the BRDS 9C Sewer Duplication (9CSD) is to duplicate the existing 9C Sewer (9CS) for a distance of approximately 3.2 km through Tolka Valley Park, from Parslickstown Bridge to Waterville Park (immediately west of Mill Road) and provide 4 No. off line storage tanks and a pumping station within Waterville Park.

The 9CSD scheme proposal aligns with the Greater Dublin Drainage Study design parameters and has been tested using hydraulic modelling to ensure that the design proposal satisfies the requirement to limit a Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) spill to the Tolka River to a 1 in 5 year return period storm event, and prevent manhole surcharging for a 1 in 30 year return period storm event.

An EIS and AA Screening is currently being prepared for the scheme and planning permission will be sought from Fingal County Council in 2017.

### Stormwater Tank Overflow to the River Tolka

The 4 No. Underground Storage Tanks will be located within an existing park to balance combined sewer flows before controlled discharge into the Existing 9C sewer network. The tanks provide emergency overflow facilities to the River Tolka for return periods in excess of 5 years in accordance with DOEHLG's 'Procedures and criteria in relation to Stormwater Overflows'. The proposed technical amendment to the Ringsend Licence (D0034-01) is for the addition of this overflow location.

### Description of the Receiving Environment and Monitoring Results

EPA monitoring data from 2015 for the River Tolka upstream (Mulhuddart Br) and downstream (Abbotstown Br) of the proposed overflow is provided in Table 1.0. Results for Ammonia and BOD meet the Surface Water Regulations 'Good status' EQS's for these parameters. Orthophosphate measured is slightly above the EQS for Good status.

**Table 1.0: River Tolka Monitoring Data**

	Ammonia	BOD	Dissolved Oxygen	Ortho-Phosphate	Total Oxidised Nitrogen
<b>SW Regs EQS</b>	≤0.14 (good) ≤0.090 (high)	≤2.6 (good) ≤2.2 (high)		≤0.075 (good) ≤0.045 (high)	
<b>Mulhuddart Br</b>					
20/03/2015	0.07	0.5	97	0.06	2.12
26/06/2015	0.3	2	101	0.09	0.91
18/09/2015	0.08	0.5	94	0.1	0.86
11/12/2015	0.03	0.5	96	0.12	1.7
<b>Abbotstown Br</b>					
20/03/2015	0.07	0.5	98	0.06	2.12
26/06/2015	0.08	2	97	0.08	1.3
18/09/2015	0.05	0.5	107	0.09	1.17
11/12/2015	0.03	0.5	103	0.07	1.79

The EPA carry out biological water quality monitoring on the Tolka. The closest station upstream of the proposed outfall is currently assigned Bad status (Q2 in 2015), while the nearest downstream station is currently assigned Poor status (Q3 in 2013). The EPA class the Tolka Estuary as Potentially Eutrophic (2010-2012). In terms of Water Framework Directive Status<sup>1</sup>, the River Tolka is currently classed as Bad upstream of Mulhuddart and Poor elsewhere in the catchment of the river within Dublin.

EPA reports suggest there has been a downward trend in the levels of total phosphorus and total nitrogen present in the River Tolka discharging into the Tolka Estuary (Bradley et al., 2015<sup>2</sup>, Ní Longphuirt and Stengel, 2016<sup>3</sup>). Currently however, uncontrolled spills from the existing 9C sewer are likely to be contributing to water quality pressures in the River Tolka.

<sup>1</sup> <http://gis.epa.ie/Envision/> 2010-2015 Status

<sup>2</sup> Bradley, C., Byrne, C., Craig, M., Free, G., Gallagher, T., Kennedy, B., Little, R., Lucey, J., Mannix, A., McCreesh, P., McDermott, G., McGarrigle, M., Ní Longphuirt, S., O'Boyle, S., Plant, C., Tierney, D., Trodd, W., Webster, P., Wilkes, R. and Wynne, C., 2015. Water Quality in Ireland 2010-2012. Environmental Protection Agency, Johnstown Castle, Co. Wexford.

<sup>3</sup> Ní Longphuirt, S. and Stengel, D.B., 2016. Assessing Recent Trends in Nutrient Inputs to Estuarine Waters and Their Ecological Effect. (2012-W-FS-9) EPA Final Report. Prepared for the Environmental Protection Agency by Botany and Plant Science, School of Natural Sciences, National University of Ireland Galway

## Brief Description of the Natura 2000 Sites

This section of the screening process describes the Natura 2000 sites within a 15km radius of the stormwater tank overflow location. A 15km buffer zone has been chosen as a precautionary measure, to ensure that all potentially affected Natura 2000 sites are included in the screening process, which is in line with Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland – Guidance for Planning Authorities produced by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

Table 2.0 lists the SACs and Table 3.0 lists the SPAs that are within 15km of the overflow location, and Figure 1.0 shows their location in relation to the proposed stormwater tanks and the overflow location. The qualifying interests of each of the identified Natura 2000 Sites is also provided.

**Table 3.0: SACs located within 15km of the stormwater tank overflow**

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Habitats	Qualify Species
000205	Malahide Estuary SAC	<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>Spartina swards (Spartinion maritima) [1320]</p> <p>Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima) [1330]</p> <p>Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) [1410]</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>	
000206	North Dublin Bay SAC	<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> <p>Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima) [1330]</p> <p>Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) [1410]</p> <p>Embryonic shifting dunes [2110]</p> <p>Shifting dunes along the shoreline</p>	<i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> (Petalwort) [1395]



Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Habitats	Qualify Species
		with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120] Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130] Humid dune slacks [2190]	
000210	South Dublin Bay SAC	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]	
001209	Glenasmole Valley SAC	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]	
001398	Rye Water Valley/Cartron SAC	Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220]	<i>Vertigo angustior</i> (Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail) [1014] <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i> (Desmoulin's Whorl Snail) [1016]

**Table 4.0: SPAs located within 15km of the stormwater tank overflow**

Site Code	Site Name	Special Conservation Interests
004006	North Bull Island SPA	Light-bellied Brent Goose ( <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> ) [A046] Shelduck ( <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> ) [A048] Teal ( <i>Anas crecca</i> ) [A052] Pintail ( <i>Anas acuta</i> ) [A054] Shoveler ( <i>Anas clypeata</i> ) [A056] Oystercatcher ( <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> ) [A130] Golden Plover ( <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> ) [A140] Grey Plover ( <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> ) [A141]

		<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>
004024	South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA	<p>Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046]</p> <p>Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130]</p> <p>Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137]</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>Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157]</p> <p>Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162]</p> <p>Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179]</p> <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>
004025	Broadmeadow/Swords Estuary SPA	<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> <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>

		Dunlin ( <i>Calidris alpina</i> ) [A149] Black-tailed Godwit ( <i>Limosa limosa</i> ) [A156] Bar-tailed Godwit ( <i>Limosa lapponica</i> ) [A157] Redshank ( <i>Tringa totanus</i> ) [A162] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]
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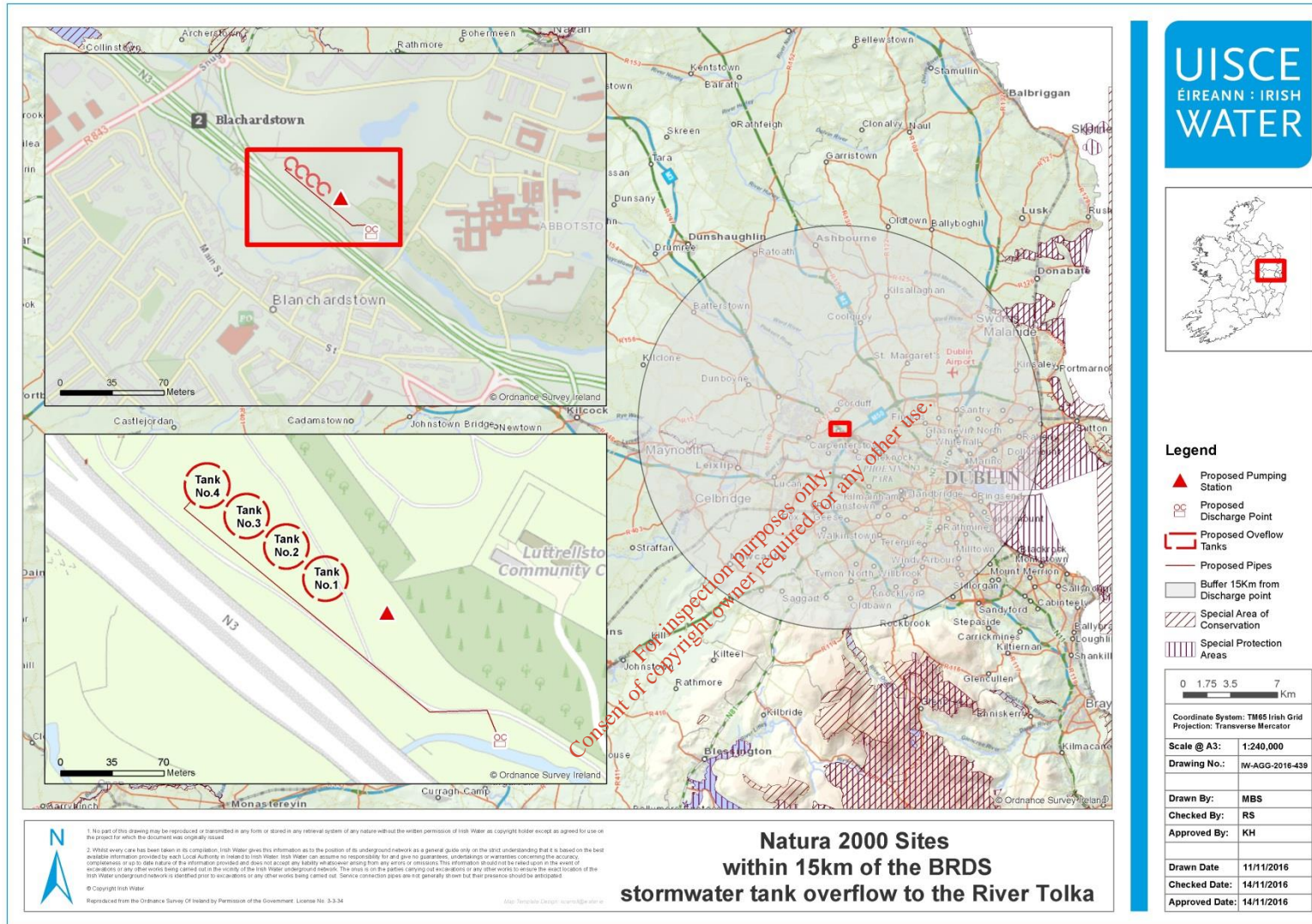


Figure 1.0: Natura 2000 Sites

## Potential Impacts of the Stormwater Tank Overflow and Likely Significant Effects on Natura 2000 Sites

The purpose of this section of the screening is to examine the possibility that the stormwater tank overflow, either individually or in combination with other plans and projects, may result in significant negative effects on the Conservation Objectives and the integrity of the Natura 2000 Sites identified.

The most apparent potential risk to a Natura 2000 Site(s) from a stormwater tank overflow is to the water quality of the receiving environment, and the assessment therefore needs to consider whether the receiving environments water quality has the potential to interact with the qualifying interests of the Natura 2000 Sites identified. Using the source-pathway-receptor model, only the qualifying interests and special conservation interests South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA, South Dublin Bay SAC the North Bull Island SPA and North Dublin Bay SAC were considered to have potential connectivity to the Tolka overflow. Sites at a further distance are not considered further in this assessment as they were either unconnected, or they are at a sufficient distance such that significant dilution/dispersion is considered available in intervening coastal waters.

The Conservation Objectives of these relevant sites were reviewed as part of this Screening Assessment:

- NPWS (2015) Conservation Objectives: South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA 004024. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
- NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives: South Dublin Bay SAC 000210. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
- NPWS (2015) Conservation Objectives: North Bull Island SPA 004006. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
- NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives: North Dublin Bay SAC 000206. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

The stormwater tank overflow to the River Tolka is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site for nature conservation.

### Direct, Indirect or Secondary Impacts

The existing 9C Sewer is regularly subject to flows in excess of the original design capacity. As a result, uncontrolled spills to the Tolka River occur from time to time when surcharging occurs in the existing sewers and excess flows discharge to the surface via the existing manholes. The proposed 9CSD project will provide additional capacity and therefore reduce frequency of surcharge and the likelihood of uncontrolled spills. The stormwater tanks will provide 30,000 m<sup>3</sup> of storage, which will limit such emergency discharges to storm events with a return period of greater than 5 years.



The overflow has been designed to be compliant with relevant guidelines. It is further noted that any overflow discharge would be very dilute due to the high volume of stormwater. It is expected that the BRDS scheme will result in an improvement in water quality in the River Tolka, and that as any stormwater overflow will occur so infrequently and be highly diluted, there will be no detrimental effect on water quality at a local scale.

The relevant Natura 2000 sites are located at a significant distance from the overflow location, the closest site being South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA over 10km downstream. With any dilute infrequent overflow not likely to impact locally, there is no potential for impacts to water quality in the Tolka Estuary given the distance involved. Furthermore, species for which the relevant sites are designated are adapted to nutrient and sediment rich environments and are not considered sensitive to such distant water quality pressures.

In accordance with the Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations 2007 (S.I. No. 684 of 2007) the tank overflow to the River Tolka does not have the potential to impact the relevant qualifying interests identified, and therefore will not affect the conservation objectives of South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA, South Dublin Bay SAC the North Bull Island SPA and North Dublin Bay SAC. No significant adverse impacts on any Annex I habitat or Annex II species are anticipated as a result of the stormwater overflow.

No significant adverse impacts on the qualifying interests of the remaining Natura 2000 Sites identified within 15km of the overflow location is considered likely due to lack of hydrological connection between the overflow and the relevant terrestrial SACs and SPAs, or the dilution and dispersion provided by intervening coastal waters for remote coastal/marine SACs and SPA sites.

### **Possible Cumulative Impacts with other Plans and Projects in the Area**

As part of Stage 1 Screening, in addition to the stormwater overflow, other relevant projects and plans in the relevant region must also be considered. This step aims to identify at this early stage any possible significant effects on the Natura 2000 Sites from the stormwater tank overflow in-combination or cumulative with other plans and projects. Existing plans which have been examined include:

- Fingal Development Plan 2011-2017
- Eastern River Basin District – River Basin Management Plan (ERBD, 2010)
- Fingal Biodiversity Action Plan 2010-2015

The above plans have been assessed in accordance with Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive and Part XAB of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, and are not envisaged to result in significant effects on the integrity of the Natura 2000 network.

The potential cumulative/in-combination impacts with the existing Ringsend WwTP and wastewater network were also considered. As the proposed Tolka overflow is not likely to significantly impact water quality, or affect the QI's of any Natura 2000 site, there is no potential for in-combination effects with the ongoing discharges from Ringsend and the network. The Ringsend plant will be upgraded in the near future with an associated improvement in effluent

quality. The Greater Dublin Drainage Scheme will also lead to significant improvements in waste water quality entering the Dublin catchments and ultimately Dublin Bay.

A search for Planning Applications on the Fingal County Council Planning Search Website identified three proposed developments in the Tolka Valley area (FW15A/0156, FW16A/0122 and FW16A/0050). These projects do not have the potential to contribute to in-combination effects on any Natura 2000 sites with the proposed overflow to the Tolka.

### **Summary of Potential Impacts and Likely Significant Effects**

Table 4.0 provides a summary of the likely significant impact of the proposed stormwater tank overflow on the conservation objectives of the Natura 2000 sites potentially linked to the stormwater tank overflow as identified in Tables 2.0 and 3.0.

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**Table 5.0: Potential Significant Impacts on Natura 2000 sites from the Stormwater Tank Overflow**

Site Name	Direct Impacts	Indirect/ Secondary	Resource Requirements (Drinking Water Abstraction Etc.)	Emissions (Disposal to Land, Water or Air)	Excavation Requirements	Transportation Requirements	Duration of Construction, Operation, Decommissioning
Malahide Estuary SAC	No impact on qualifying interest	No impact on qualifying interest	No impact on qualifying interest	No impact on qualifying interest	No impact on qualifying interest	No impact on qualifying interest	No impact on qualifying interest
North Dublin Bay SAC	No impact on qualifying interest	No impact on qualifying interest	No impact on qualifying interest	No impact on qualifying interest	No impact on qualifying interest	No impact on qualifying interest	No impact on qualifying interest
South Dublin Bay SAC	No impact on qualifying interest	No impact on qualifying interest	No impact on qualifying interest	No impact on qualifying interest	No impact on qualifying interest	No impact on qualifying interest	No impact on qualifying interest
Glenasmole Valley SAC	No impact on qualifying interest	No impact on qualifying interest	No impact on qualifying interest	No impact on qualifying interest	No impact on qualifying interest	No impact on qualifying interest	No impact on qualifying interest
Rye Water Valley/Carlton SAC	No impact on qualifying interest	No impact on qualifying interest	No impact on qualifying interest	No impact on qualifying interest	No impact on qualifying interest	No impact on qualifying interest	No impact on qualifying interest
North Bull Island SPA	No impact on qualifying interest	No impact on qualifying interest	No impact on qualifying interest	No impact on qualifying interest	No impact on qualifying interest	No impact on qualifying interest	No impact on qualifying interest
South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA	No impact on qualifying interest	No impact on qualifying interest	No impact on qualifying interest	No impact on qualifying interest	No impact on qualifying interest	No impact on qualifying interest	No impact on qualifying interest
Broadmeadow/Swords Estuary SPA	No impact on qualifying interest	No impact on qualifying interest	No impact on qualifying interest	No impact on qualifying interest	No impact on qualifying interest	No impact on qualifying interest	No impact on qualifying interest

### Likely Changes to the Natura 2000 Site(s)

The likely changes that will arise from the stormwater tank overflow have been examined in the context of a number of factors that could potentially affect the integrity of the identified Natura 2000 Sites. Overall, it has been found that the proposed stormwater overflow will not affect the integrity of the identified Natura 2000 Sites, alone or in-combination with other plans or projects.

**Table 6.0: Likely Affect on Natura 2000 Sites**

Site Name	Reduction of Habitat Area	Disturbance to Key Species	Habitat or Species Fragmentation	Reduction in Species Density	Changes in Key Indicators of Conservation Value (Water Quality Etc.)	Climate Change
Malahide Estuary SAC	None	None	None	None	None	None
North Dublin Bay SAC	None	None	None	None	None	None
South Dublin Bay SAC	None	None	None	None	None	None
Glenasmole Valley SAC	None	None	None	None	None	None
Rye Water Valley/Cartron SAC	None	None	None	None	None	None
North Bull Island SPA	None	None	None	None	None	None
South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA	None	None	None	None	None	None
Broadmeadow/Swords Estuary SPA	None	None	None	None	None	None

### Elements of the Project where the Impacts are Likely to be Significant

No elements of the proposed stormwater tank overflow are likely to cause significant impacts on NATURA 2000 Sites.

## Screening Conclusion

The likely impacts that will arise from the proposed BRDS stormwater tank overflow to the River Tolka have been examined in the context of a number of factors that could potentially affect the integrity of the Natura 2000 network. None of the sites within 15km of the overflow location will be adversely affected. A finding of No Significant Effects Matrix has been completed and is presented in next section of this Screening Statement.

On the basis of the findings of this Screening for Appropriate Assessment of Natura 2000 Sites, it is concluded that the proposed BRDS stormwater tank overflow will not have a significant effect on the Natura 2000 network, alone or in-combination with other plans or projects, and a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment is not required.

# Finding of No Significant Effects Report Matrix

Name of project or plan	
Name and location of Natura 2000 site	South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA South Dublin Bay SAC North Dublin Bay SAC
Description of the project or plan	The project subject to AA Screening is an overflow to the River Tolka from proposed stormwater tanks which form part of the Blanchardstown Regional Drainage Scheme. Underground Storage Tanks will be located within an existing park to balance combined sewer flows before controlled discharge into the Existing 9C sewer network. The tanks provide emergency overflow facilities to the River Tolka for return periods in excess of 5 years in accordance with DOEHLG's 'Procedures and criteria in relation to Stormwater Overflows'. The proposed technical amendment to the Ringsend Licence (D0034-01) is for the addition of this overflow location.
Is the project or plan directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site?	No.
Are there other projects or plans that together with the project or plan being assessed could affect the site?	No.
The Assessment of Significance of Effects	
Describe how the project or plan (alone or in combination) is likely to affect the European Site(s).	<p>The existing 9C Sewer is regularly subject to flows in excess of the original design capacity. As a result, uncontrolled spills to the Tolka River occur from time to time when surcharging occurs in the existing sewers and excess flows discharge to the surface via the existing manholes. The proposed 9CSD project will provide additional capacity and therefore reduce frequency of surcharge and the likelihood of uncontrolled spills. The stormwater tanks will provide 30,000 m<sup>3</sup> of storage, which will limit such emergency discharges to storm events with a return period of greater than 5 years.</p> <p>The overflow has been designed to be compliant with relevant guidelines. It is further noted that any overflow discharge would be very dilute due to the high volume of stormwater. It is expected that the BRDS scheme will result in an improvement in water quality in the River Tolka, and that as any stormwater overflow will occur so</p>

	infrequently and be highly diluted, there will be no detrimental effect on water quality at a local scale.
Explain why these effects are not considered significant.	The relevant Natura 2000 sites are located at a significant distance from the overflow location, the closest site being South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA over 10km downstream. With any dilute infrequent overflow not likely to impact locally, there is no potential for impacts to water quality in the Tolka Estuary given the distance involved. Furthermore, species for which the relevant sites are designated are adapted to nutrient and sediment rich environments and are not considered sensitive to such distant water quality pressures. On the basis of the findings of this Screening for Appropriate Assessment of Natura 2000 Sites, it is concluded that the proposed BRDS stormwater tank overflow will not have a significant effect on the Natura 2000 network, alone or in-combination with other plans or projects, and a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment is not required.
List of agencies consulted: provide contact name and telephone or e-mail address.	N/A
Response to consultation.	N/A
<b>Data Collected to Carry Out the Assessment</b>	
Who carried out the assessment?	Qualified Ecologist, Irish Water
Sources of data	NPWS database; EPA database; WFD Ireland database; and Information from Irish Water.
Level of assessment completed	Desktop survey
Where can the full results of the assessment be accessed and viewed?	EPA
Overall Conclusion	Stage 1 Screening indicates that the proposed BRDS stormwater tank overflow will not have a significant negative impact on the Natura 2000 network. Therefore, a Stage 2 'Appropriate Assessment' under Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC is not required.