

APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

STAGE 1 SCREENING

STARRUS ECO HOLDINGS LTD

CAPPAGH ROAD

FINGLAS

DUBLIN 11

Prepared For: -

Starrus Eco Holdings Ltd
Cappogue
Finglas
Dublin 11

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March 2021

Project		Appropriate Assessment Screening Report		
Client		Starrus Eco Holdings Limited		
Report No.	Date	Status	Prepared By	Reviewed By
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	10/04/2020	Rev A		
	07/07/2020	Rev B		
	31/03//2021	Final		

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1. INTRODUCTION

Panda commissioned O'Callaghan Moran & Associates (OCM) to carry out an Appropriate Assessment Screening of a proposed development at its waste recovery and transfer facility at Cappagh Road, Finglas, Dublin 11. The assessment is required to support a planning application to increase the annual waste intake to 450,000 tonnes per annum.

The Habitats Directive, which is implemented under the European Communities Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No 477 of 2011), requires an "appropriate assessment" of the potential impacts any proposed development that may have an impact on the conservation objectives of any Natura 2000 site.

Article 6(3) of the Directive stipulates that *any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of a Natura 2000 Site, but likely to have a significant effect thereon...shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives.*

Guidance documents issued by Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DEHLG) and the National Parks and Wildlife Services (NPWS) recommend that the assessment be completed in a series of Stages, which comprise:

Stage 1: Screening

The purpose of this Stage is to determine, on the basis of a preliminary assessment and objective criteria, whether a plan or project, alone and in combination with other plans or projects, could have significant effects on a Natura 2000 Site in respect of the site's conservation objectives.

Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment

This Stage is required if the Stage 1 Screening exercise identifies that the project is likely to have a significant impact on a Natura 2000 Site.

Stage 3: Assessment of Alternative Solutions.

If Stage 2 determines that the project will have an adverse impact upon the integrity of a Natura 2000 Site, despite the implementation of mitigation measures, it must be objectively concluded that no alternative solutions exist before the plan can proceed.

Stage 4: Compensatory Measures:

Where no alternative solutions are feasible and where adverse impacts remain but imperative reasons of overriding public interest require the implementation of a project an assessment of compensatory measures that will effectively offset the damage to the Natura Site 2000 is required.

1.1 Methodology

The Screening Assessment was based on a site inspection and the nature and scale of the proposed development. It comprised a Source-Pathway-Receptor risk evaluation. This starts with the source i.e. the hazard, which can include air emissions, noise, surface water run-off, wastewater and raw materials and wastes handling and storage. The next step is to identify how a hazard can travel through the environment i.e. the pathway. The final step is to determine the receptors that could be affected by the hazard.

The assessment followed the guidance presented in the DEHLG (2009, revised February 2010) Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland and the NPWS (2010) Circular NPW 1/10 & PSSP 2/10 Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive: Guidance for Planning Authorities. The information sources included;

- National Parks & Wildlife Service (NPWS) - www.npws.ie
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) – www.epa.ie
- National Biodiversity Data Centre – www.biodiversityireland.ie
- Fingal County Council Development Plan 2017-2023.

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2. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT

2.1 Site Location & Layout

The site is on Cappagh Road and covers 2.5 hectares (ha). The layout is shown on Drawing No.18139-200. There are three waste handling buildings (Building A1 -2,030 m²; Building A2 - 2,800 m² and Building B1 - 4,088 m²) an electrical substation, two weighbridges and office and associated control rooms, staff amenity building (100 m²), fuel tanks and paved open yards.

2.2 Site Operations

The site operates 24 hours a day seven days a week. Wastes are delivered in Panda's waste collection trucks and those of other commercial waste companies and wastes are not accepted from members of the public. All deliveries are weighed in and the trucks then enter appropriate waste processing building where the wastes are off loaded, inspected and processed.

Mixed dry recyclables are sorted into the different types and these are then baled and stored before being sent for further treatment. Source separated wastes are baled and also stored before being sent off-site. Processed mixed solid wastes are accepted from other waste pre-treatment facilities and these are treated to remove recyclables, with the residues then further processed to produce a solid recovered fuel (SRF). The SRF is sent to cement kilns where it is used as a replacement for fossil fuels.

Food waste (brown bin) and mixed household waste (black bin) that contains odorous materials are accepted and stored in a section of one of the buildings that is fitted with an odour control system. It is then sent to other waste management facilities for further treatment.

Out of date packaged food from commercial operators is accepted and stored pending transfer to other treatment plants where the packaging is removed. This activity is authorised by the Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine under the Animal By-Products Regulations.

2.3 Services

The site has connections to the main electricity supply and telecoms systems. Water for the staff toilets is obtained from an on-site well. There is no connection to the municipal foul sewer. Sanitary wastewater from the toilets is collected in an underground holding tank and sent off site for treatment.

Rainwater run-off from the building roofs is harvested for use as 'grey water' in the toilets, with the surplus along with the run-off from the paved yards discharged to the storm sewer serving the adjoining Stadium Business Park via an attenuation tank. There is a shut off valve on the attenuation tank that can be closed in the event of an incident that has the potential to contaminate surface water retain the water inside the site boundary.

2.4 Hydrology

The site is in the catchment of the Tolka River, which is approximately 2 kilometres to the south west and south. There are no streams or water courses either on site, or in the surrounding area.

2.5 Geology and Hydrogeology

The subsoils beneath the site are between 1.3 and 8.45 m thick and comprise sandy gravelly boulder clays. The bedrock belongs to the Boston Hill Formation and comprises nodular and muddy limestones and shale.

The bedrock is a locally important (Lm) aquifer that is productive in local zones. The local direction of groundwater flow is to the south, but is likely to be greatly influenced by the large scale quarrying immediately to the east and north of the site (Huntstown Quarry). The aquifer vulnerability to pollution from the ground surface is Extreme.

2.6 Proposed Development

It is proposed to increase the annual waste intake from 250,000 tonnes to 450,000 tonnes and operate on a 24/7 basis permanently. The changes do not require the construction of any new buildings, alterations to the foul and surface water drainage system and will not result in any new point or fugitive emissions to air, surface water, ground and groundwater and will not be a new or additional source of noise and light emissions. Therefore control measures to mitigate the impacts of the proposed development on Natura 2002 Sites are not required.

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3. NATURA 2000 SITES

SACs are selected for the conservation and protection of habitats listed on Annex I and species (other than birds) listed on Annex II of the Habitats Directive, and their habitats. The habitats on Annex I require special conservation measures. SPAs are selected for the conservation and protection of bird species listed on Annex I of the Birds Directive and regularly occurring migratory species, and their habitats, particularly wetlands. The selected habitats and species are termed Qualifying Interests.

A statement of Conservation Objectives is prepared for each designated site which identifies the qualifying interests or conservation features. The Conservation Objectives are intended to ensure that the relevant habitats and species present on a site are maintained, and where necessary restored, at a Favourable Conservation Status.

Favourable Conservation Status of a habitat, as defined in 2011 Birds and Natural Habitats Regulations, is when:

- its natural range, and area it covers within that range, are stable or increasing, and
- the specific structure and functions which are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future, and
- the conservation status of its typical species is favourable

Conservation Status of a species is when:

- the Favourable population dynamics data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself on a long-term basis as a viable component of its natural habitats,
- the natural range of the species is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future, and
- there is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis.

3.1 Natura 2000 Sites Potentially Affected by the Project

The site is not in either an SAC, or an SPA. There are eleven Natura 2000 sites within 15 km of the site, as listed in Table 3.1 and shown on Figure 3.1.

Table 3.1. Natura 2000 Sites within 15 km of the proposed Development

Site	Code	Distance (km)
South Dublin Bay & Tolka River Estuary SPA	004024	8.7 SE
Rye Water Valley/Carlton SAC	001398	10.8 SW
South Dublin Bay SAC	000210	11.2 SE
Malahide Estuary SPA	004025	11.3 NE
Malahide Estuary SAC	000205	11.3 NE
North Dublin Bay SAC	00206	11.4 SE
North Bull Island SPA	004006	11.5 SE
Baldoyle Bay SAC	000199	13.0 E
Baldoyle Bay SPA	004016	13.2 E
Rogerstown Estuary SAC	000208	14.5 NE
Rogerstown Estuary SPA	004015	14.9 NE

3.2 SPAs

Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA

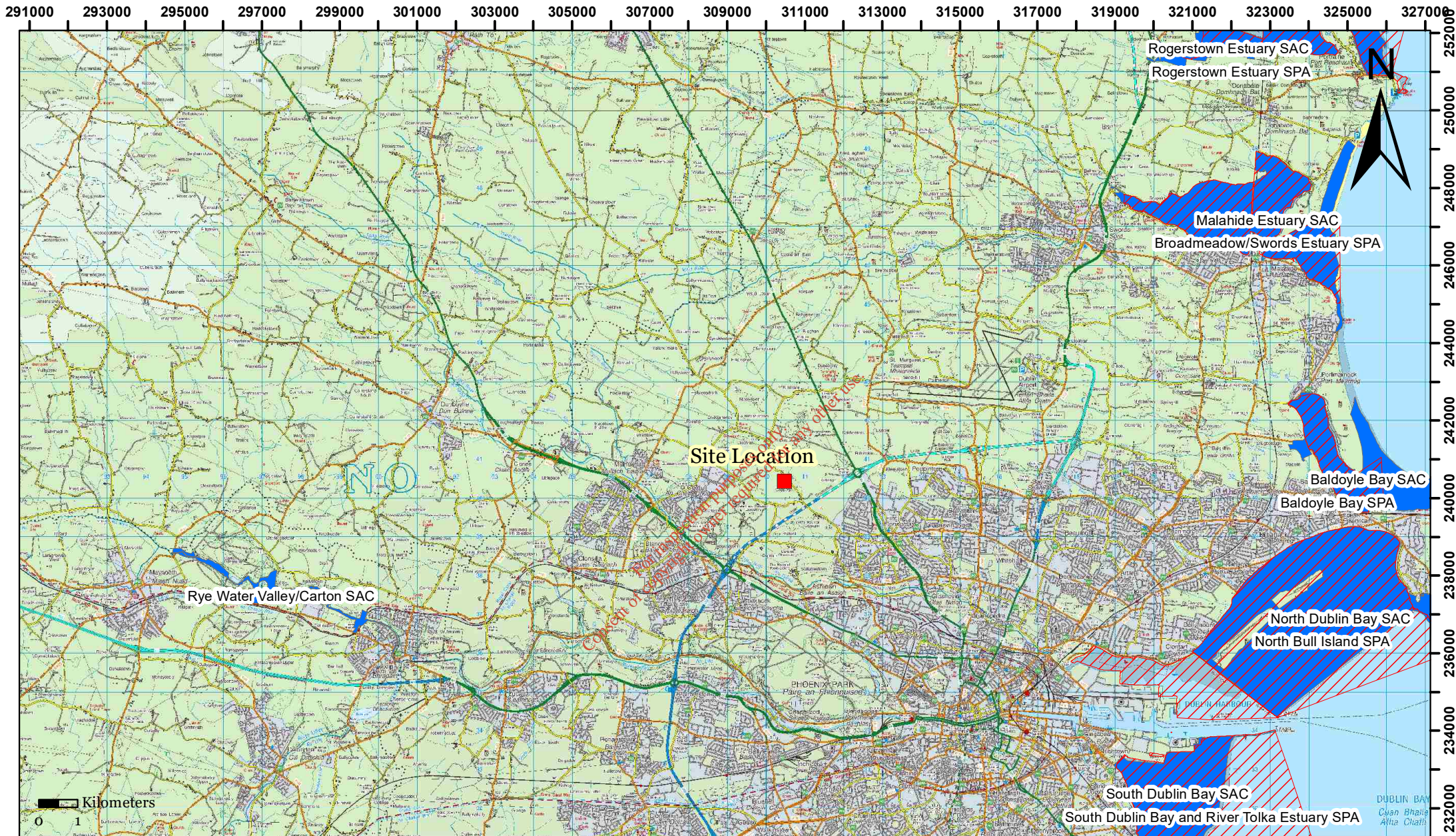
The South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA comprises a substantial part of Dublin Bay. It includes the intertidal area between the River Liffey and Dun Laoghaire, and the estuary of the River Tolka to the north of the River Liffey, as well as Booterstown Marsh. A portion of the shallow marine waters of the bay is also included.

The Site Synopsis, which lists the full Qualifying Interests, and the Conservation Objectives are accessible at <https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/spa/004024> and the information is summarised below.

Qualifying Interests

The site is special conservation interest for the following species:

- Light-bellied Brent Goose [A046]
- Oystercatcher [A130]
- Ringed Plover [A137]
- Grey Plover [A141]
- Knot [A143]
- Sanderling [A144]
- Dunlin [A149]
- Bar-tailed Godwit [A157]
- Redshank [A162]
- Black-headed Gull [A179]
- Roseate Tern [A192]
- Common Tern [A193]
- Arctic Tern [A194]
- Wetlands [A999]



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CLIENT
 Starrus Eco Holdings Ltd

TITLE
 Natura 2000 Sites

- Details:
- Site Location ING
 - SPAs
 - SACs

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Figure 3.1

The Birds Directive pays particular attention to wetlands, and as these form part of the SPA, the site and its associated waterbirds are of special conservation interest for Wetland & Waterbirds.

The site is an important site for wintering waterfowl, being an integral part of the internationally important Dublin Bay complex – all counts for wintering waterbirds are five year mean peaks for the period 1995/96 to 1999/2000. Although birds regularly commute between the south bay and the north bay, recent studies have shown that certain populations which occur in the south bay spend most of their time there. An internationally important population of Light-bellied Brent Goose (368) occurs regularly and newly arrived birds in the autumn feed on the Eelgrass bed at Merrion.

Conservation Objectives

The conservation objectives are to maintain or restore the favorable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SPA has been selected.

Malahide Estuary SPA

Malahide Estuary is situated in north County. Dublin, between the towns of Malahide and Swords. The site encompasses the estuary, saltmarsh habitats and shallow subtidal areas at the mouth of the estuary. The Site Synopsis, which lists the full Qualifying Interests, and the Conservation Objectives are accessible at <https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/spa/004025> and the information is summarised below.

Qualifying Interests

The site is of special conservation interest for the following species:

- Great Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*) [A005]
- Light-bellied Brent Goose (*Branta bernicla hrota*) [A046]
- Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*) [A048]
- Pintail (*Anas acuta*) [A054]
- Goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*) [A067]
- Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator*) [A069]
- Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*) [A130]
- Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*) [A140]
- Grey Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*) [A141]
- Knot (*Calidris canutus*) [A143]
- Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*) [A149]
- Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*) [A156]
- Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*) [A157]
- Redshank (*Tringa totanus*) [A162]
- Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]

The Birds Directive pays particular attention to wetlands, and as these form part of the SPA, the site and its associated waterbirds are of special conservation interest for Wetland & Waterbirds.

Conservation Objectives

The conservation objectives are to maintain or restore the favorable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SPA has been selected.

North Bull Island SPA

This site covers all of the inner part of north Dublin Bay, with the seaward boundary extending from the Bull Wall lighthouse across to Drumleck Point at Howth Head. The Site Synopsis, which lists the full Qualifying Interests, and the Conservation Objectives are accessible at <https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/spa/004006> and the information is summarised below.

Qualifying Interests

The site is of special conservation interest for the following species:

- Light-bellied Brent Goose (*Branta bernicla hrota*) [A046]
- Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*) [A048]
- Teal (*Anas crecca*) [A052]
- Pintail (*Anas acuta*) [A054]
- Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*) [A056]
- Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*) [A130]
- Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*) [A140]
- Grey Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*) [A141]
- Knot (*Calidris canutus*) [A143]
- Sanderling (*Calidris alba*) [A144]
- Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*) [A149]
- Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*) [A156]
- Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*) [A157]
- Curlew (*Numenius arquata*) [A160]
- Redshank (*Tringa totanus*) [A162]
- Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*) [A169]
- Black-headed Gull (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*) [A179]
- Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]

The Birds Directive pays particular attention to wetlands, and as these form part of the SPA, the site and its associated waterbirds are of special conservation interest for Wetland & Waterbirds.

Conservation Objectives

The conservation objectives are to maintain or restore the favorable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SPA has been selected.

Rogerstown Estuary SPA

Rogerstown Estuary is situated about 2 km north of Donabate in north County Dublin. It is a relatively small, funnel shaped estuary separated from the sea by a sand and shingle peninsula; the site extends eastwards to include an area of shallow marine water. The Site Synopsis, which lists the full Qualifying Interests, and the Conservation Objectives are accessible at <https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/spa/004015> and the information is summarised below.

Qualifying Interests

The site is of special conservation interest for the following species:

- Greylag Goose (*Anser anser*) [A043]
- Light-bellied Brent Goose (*Branta bernicla hrota*) [A046]
- Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*) [A048]
- Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*) [A056]
- Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*) [A130]
- Ringed Plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*) [A137]
- Grey Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*) [A141]
- Knot (*Calidris canutus*) [A143]
- Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*) [A149]
- Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*) [A156]
- Redshank (*Tringa totanus*) [A162]
- Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]

The Birds Directive pays particular attention to wetlands, and as these form part of the SPA, the site and its associated waterbirds are of special conservation interest for Wetland & Waterbirds.

Conservation Objectives

The conservation objectives are to maintain or restore the favorable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SPA has been selected.

3.3 SACs

South Dublin Bay SAC

This site lies south of the River Liffey in Co. Dublin, and extends from the South Wall to the west pier at Dun Laoghaire. It is an intertidal site with extensive areas of sand and mudflats. The sediments are predominantly sands but grade to sandy muds near the shore at Merrion Gates. The main channel which drains the area is Cockle Lake.

The Site Synopsis, which lists the full Qualifying Interests, and the Conservation Objectives are accessible at <https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/sac/000210> and the information is summarised below.

Qualifying Interests

The site is selected for the following habitats and/or species listed on Annex I/II of the Habitats Directive (* = priority; numbers in brackets are Natura 2000 codes):

- 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]

Conservation Objectives

The conservation objectives are to maintain or restore the favorable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected:

Rye Water Valley/Cartron SAC

Rye Water Valley/Cartron SAC is located between Leixlip and Maynooth, in Counties Meath and Kildare, and extends along the Rye Water, a tributary of the River Liffey.

The Site Synopsis, which lists the full Qualifying Interests, and the Conservation Objectives are accessible at <https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/sac/001398> and the information is summarised below.

Qualifying Interests

The site is selected for the following habitats and/or species listed on Annex I/II of the Habitats Directive (* = priority; numbers in brackets are Natura 2000 codes):

- Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220]
- *Vertigo angustior* (Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail) [1014]
- *Vertigo moulinsiana* (Desmoulin's Whorl Snail) [1016]

Conservation Objectives

The conservation objectives are to maintain or restore the favorable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected:

Malahide Estuary SAC

Malahide Estuary is situated immediately north of Malahide and east of Swords in Co. Dublin. It is the estuary of the River Broadmeadow. The site is divided by a railway viaduct which was built in the 1800s.

The Site Synopsis, which lists the full Qualifying Interests, and the Conservation Objectives are accessible at <https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/sac/000205> and the information is summarised below.

Qualifying Interests

The site is selected for the following habitats and/or species listed on Annex I/II of the Habitats Directive (* = priority; numbers in brackets are Natura 2000 codes):

- Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]
- Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310]
- Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima*) [1330]
- Mediterranean salt meadows (*Juncetalia maritima*) [1410]
- Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* (white dunes) [2120]
- Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130]

Conservation Objectives

The conservation objectives are to maintain or restore the favorable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected:

North Dublin Bay SAC

This site covers the inner part of north Dublin Bay, the seaward boundary extending from the Bull Wall lighthouse across to the Martello Tower at Howth Head. The North Bull Island is the focal point of this site.

The Site Synopsis, which lists the full Qualifying Interests, and the Conservation Objectives are accessible at <https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/sac/000206> and the information is summarised below.

Qualifying Interests

The site is selected for the following habitats and/or species listed on Annex I/II of the Habitats Directive (* = priority; numbers in brackets are Natura 2000 codes):

- 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 (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*) [1330]
- Mediterranean salt meadows (*Juncetalia maritimi*) [1410]
- Embryonic shifting dunes [2110]
- Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* (white dunes) [2120]
- Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130]
- Humid dune slacks [2190]
- *Petalophyllum ralfsii* (Petalwort) [1395]

Conservation Objectives

The conservation objectives are to maintain or restore the favorable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected:

Baldoyle Bay SAC

Baldoyle Bay SAC extends from just below Portmarnock village to the west pier at Howth in Co. Dublin. It is a tidal estuarine bay protected from the open sea by a large sand-dune system. Two small rivers, the Mayne and the Sluice, flow into the bay.

The Site Synopsis, which lists the full Qualifying Interests, and the Conservation Objectives are accessible at <https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/sac/000199> and the information is summarised below.

Qualifying Interests

The site is selected for the following habitats and/or species listed on Annex I / II of the Habitats Directive (* = priority; numbers in brackets are Natura 2000 codes):

- Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]
- Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310]
- Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*) [1330]
- Mediterranean salt meadows (*Juncetalia maritimi*) [1410]

Conservation Objectives

The conservation objectives are to maintain or restore the favorable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected:

Rogerstown Estuary SAC

Rogerstown Estuary is situated about 2 km north of Donabate in Co. Dublin. It is a relatively small, narrow estuary separated from the sea by a sand and shingle bar. The estuary is divided by a causeway and narrow bridge, built in the 1840s to carry the Dublin-Belfast railway line.

The Site Synopsis, which lists the full Qualifying Interests, and the Conservation Objectives are accessible at <https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/sac/000208> and the information is summarised below.

Qualifying Interests

The site is selected for the following habitats and/or species listed on Annex I/II of the Habitats Directive (* = priority; numbers in brackets are Natura 2000 codes):

- Estuaries [1130]
- Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]
- Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310]
- Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*) [1330]
- Mediterranean salt meadows (*Juncetalia maritimi*) [1410]
- Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* (white dunes) [2120]
- Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130]

Conservation Objectives

The conservation objectives are to maintain or restore the favorable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected:

3.4 Source-Pathway-Receptor Linkages

Given the distances between the development site and the Natura 2000 Sites there is no potential for noise, light, air emissions and groundwater movement to adversely impact the qualifying interests and conservation objectives of any of the Sites.

The only potential direct connection between the installation and a Natura 2000 site is the surface water run-off to the storm drainage system. This ultimately enters the River Tolka, whose estuary is part of the Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA, which is 8.7 km to the south-east.

4. LIKELY EFFECTS

4.1 Plan or Project

The proposed development does not require any construction works and will not result in any loss of habitats either within, or outside the site boundary. It will not result in any new or additional emissions to surface water, air, ground and groundwater, or any new noise and light emissions.

4.2 Direct Impacts

The installation is not located within or adjoining to a Natura 2000 Site and the proposed development will not result in any direct habitat loss or fragmentation of any SPA or SAC. There is a surface water pathway between the facility and the South Dublin and River Tolka Estuary SPA and this is the only pathway between the facility and a Natura 2000 Site.

The proposed development will not result in any changes to either the volume or quality of the surface water run-off from the facility, which the routine testing has confirmed to be good. This, in conjunction with the distance to the River Tolka Estuary mean that the potential for any adverse impact on the South Dublin and River Tolka Estuary SPA is not significant.

4.3 Indirect Impacts

The proposed development will not result in any new processes, there will be no changes to the existing emissions and it will not give rise to any new direct or indirect emission to air, surface water, ground, groundwater or the foul sewer and no new or addition noise and light emission. There will be no change to the currently authorised operational hours. Given the separation distances between the facility and the Natura 2000 Sites the proposed development presents no risk of indirect impacts.

4.4 Cumulative Effects

As the proposed development will not result in any changes to the current emissions it will not contribute to the cumulative effects on the South Dublin and River Tolka SPA.

5. SCREENING CONCLUSION & STATEMENT

5.1 Conclusion

The proposed changes will not have any direct or indirect effects on a Natura 2002 Site.

5.2 Statement

The proposed development does not present a risk of significant effects on the Qualifying Interests and Conservation Objectives of any Natura 2000 Sites.

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