

**KAVANAGH TUIE ARCHITECTS**

**SECTION 3**

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**Site Screening Report**

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## EU Habitats Directive

### Screening Statement for Appropriate Assessment

in relation to

new ADSIL DUB 50 building and the  
refurbishment of ADSIL DUB 52 building at  
Clonshaugh Site

*for*

**CSEA Consulting Engineers**

Doherty Environmental

May 2013

DCC, PLAN NO. 2979/13  
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Clifton Scannell Emerson (CSEA) Ltd.  
ADSIL DUB 50 & 52 Site,  
Clonshaugh Business & Technology Park  
Clonshaugh  
Dublin 17  
09 May, 2013

| Document Stage | Document Version | Prepared by            |
|----------------|------------------|------------------------|
| Final          | 2                | Pat Doherty MSc, MIEEM |

For and on behalf of  
Doherty Environmental

Prepared By: Pat Doherty

Signed:



Date: 9<sup>th</sup> May, 2013

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## 1 Introduction

The EU Birds and Habitat Directive oblige member states to establish a network of designated conservation areas known as the Natura 2000 (N2K) Network. The N2K network includes sites designated as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), under the EU Habitats Directive and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) under the EU Birds Directive. Under Irish legislation SACs and SPAs are referred to as European Sites. Article 6 of the EU Habitats Directive imposes strict land-use control measures on SACs and SPAs, with Articles 6(3) and 6(4) establishing a prior authorisation process for any land-use plan or project likely to have a significant effect on a European site.

In the case of the current project to develop the proposed ADSIL DUB 50 & 52 sites it has been considered necessary by Dublin City Council to examine whether the proposal will have the potential to significantly effect the integrity and conservation status of qualifying features of interests for which European Sites have been designated.

The approach for this Article 6 assessment broadly follows the guidelines outlined in the European Commission (2001) guidance document *Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly Affecting Natura 2000 Sites: Methodological Guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the EU Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC* (to be referred to throughout this report as the “EC guidance”). The completion of an Article 6 Assessment may involve a number of assessment stages with Stage 1 Screening determining whether additional Stages in the Article 6 Assessment process are required. These stages, as outlined in the above EC guidance and in more recent guidance published by the DOEHLG<sup>1</sup>, include:

- Stage 1 Screening for AA: This stage defines the project or activity to be assessed, establishes whether the project/activity is necessary for the conservation management of the European site and assesses the likelihood of the project having a significant effect, alone or in combination with other plans or projects, upon a European Site.
- Stage 2 AA: If a project is likely to have a significant effect, an Appropriate Assessment must be undertaken. In this stage the impact of the project to the Conservation Objectives of the European site is assessed and measures are proposed to avoid or reduce impacts so that they do not result in significant effects to the site. The outcome of this assessment will establish whether the project will have an adverse effect upon the integrity of the European site.
- Stage 3 Alternative Solutions: If it is concluded that, subsequent to the implementation of mitigation measures, a project has an adverse impact upon the integrity of a European site, it must be objectively concluded that no alternative solutions exist before the project can proceed to Stage 4.
- Stage 4 IROPI: Where no alternative solutions exist and where adverse impacts remain but imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI) exist for the implementation of a project, an assessment of compensatory measures that will effectively offset the damage to the European Site will be necessary.

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<sup>1</sup> Department of the Environment Heritage and Local Government (DEHLG) (2010). *Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland: Guidance for Planning Authorities*. Second Edition, February, 2010

The remainder of this report outlines the results of a Stage 1 Screening Assessment.

## **2 Stage 1: Screening**

The function of the Screening Assessment is to identify whether or not the project will have a likely significant effect on European Sites. In this context "likely" refers to the presence of doubt with regard to the absence of significant effects (ECJ case C-127/02) and "significant" means not trivial or inconsequential but an effect that has the potential to undermine the site's conservation objectives (English Nature, 1999; ECJ case C-127/02). In other words, any effect, which would compromise the functioning and viability of a site, and interfere with achieving the conservation objectives of the site, would constitute a significant effect.

The nature of the likely interactions between the project and the integrity of European Sites will depend upon the sensitivity of the European Site's qualifying features to potential impacts arising from the project; the current conservation status of the European Sites occurring within the sphere of influence of the project; and any potential perturbations to the water quality of surface waters, most notably the Santry River, draining into European Sites.

The EC guidance outlines the steps involved in undertaking a Screening Assessment. These steps include:

1. Describe the project and determine whether it is necessary for the conservation management of European Sites;
2. Identify European Sites likely to be influenced by the project;
3. Review the project to determine if it has the potential to affect European Sites and determine whether the European Sites are vulnerable to the effects; and
4. Identify other plans or projects that, in combination with the project, have the potential to affect European Sites.

### **2.1 Description of the Project and Relationship with European Sites**

#### **2.1.1 Project Description & Activities**

The development will comprise of alterations and additions to the two existing buildings and the provision of temporary accommodation. The alterations and additions at the former Acco Rexel building will comprise of (1) the partial demolition of the two-storey offices on its eastern facade (2) the demolition of an associated sprinkler tank, a pump house, fuel tanks, bunds and existing sheds on its western side; additions to the west and north side. At the former Cahill Printers building the works comprise (3) demolition of the existing first floor offices, (4) screening to external plant at south of the building; (5) a new double loading bay and link buildings joining the two above existing buildings; Ancillary works comprise (6) the construction of an auxiliary sprinkler tank, pump and water houses, and adjoining water storage tanks; (7) the construction of new site roadways and (8) car parking for 57 cars (9) the upgrade of the existing boundary structures comprising new railings to the east and north of the enlarged site and fencing to the other boundaries and (10) associated structures and landscaping works over the enlarged site. The temporary buildings comprise

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portacabins for staff offices, welfare and security for use during the phased construction of the development.

The facility is to house electrical rooms for electronic operations, mechanical plant rooms, a loading bay, a workshop and a two-storey office and staff welfare facility. The works will include external roof top air handling units with associated visual/acoustic screening and ground level external air handling units with associated visual/acoustic screening.

### 2.1.2 Site Description

The DUB 50 and DUB 52 facility is located within the established IDA Clonshaugh Business & Technology Park,. Throughout this Screening Statement both DUB 50 and DUB 52 will be referred to as the project site. The project site is approximately 450m off Oscar Traynor Road immediately to the north of the existing DUB 10 facility which is currently under development. Developments within this business park are similar 'individual lot' type developments. The ADSIL site is located towards the south east of the business park boundary. Internal access roads border the site's northern and eastern boundaries whilst neighbouring developed 'lots' border to the north and west of the site.

The project site covers a site area of 4.06 Hectares and is cordoned off by a concrete post and wire fence to the western boundary. The remaining boundaries are open and separated from the internal roads by a line of trees. There are two buildings within the site. The building to the North was occupied by Acco Rexel who are a manufacturer of office equipment. The existing facility has a total gross floor area of 7,464m<sup>2</sup> between warehouse, office and storage. Access to the Acco Rexel site is directly off the main business park estate road.

The second unit to the south of the site was occupied by Cahill Printers who are one of Ireland's largest printing companies. This facility has a total gross floor area of 7,825m<sup>2</sup>. Access to the Cahill Printers facility is currently off the main spine road through the business park.

The habitats supported by the site include built land and artificial surfaces (BL3), landscaped treelines (WL2) and amenity grassland (GA2).

The built land and artificial surfaces consist of the existing buildings and paved hardstanding within the project site.

The treelines occurring within the site are landscaped and dominated by non-native species. Species occurring include Swedish whitebeam (*Sorbus aria*), balsam poplar (*Populus balsamifera*), birch (*Betula pubescens*), lime (*Tilia sp.*), grey alder (*Alnus incana*), Norway maple (*Acer platanoides*), Western red cedar (*Thuja plicata*), Leyland cypress (*Cupressocyparis leylandii*) and cypress cultivars (*Chamaecyparis cv.*).

Thin strips of amenity grassland surround building within the site to the north and east. A larger area of amenity grassland is located to the south of the project site. This is well-managed and likely to support a typically restricted range of common grasses and herbs.

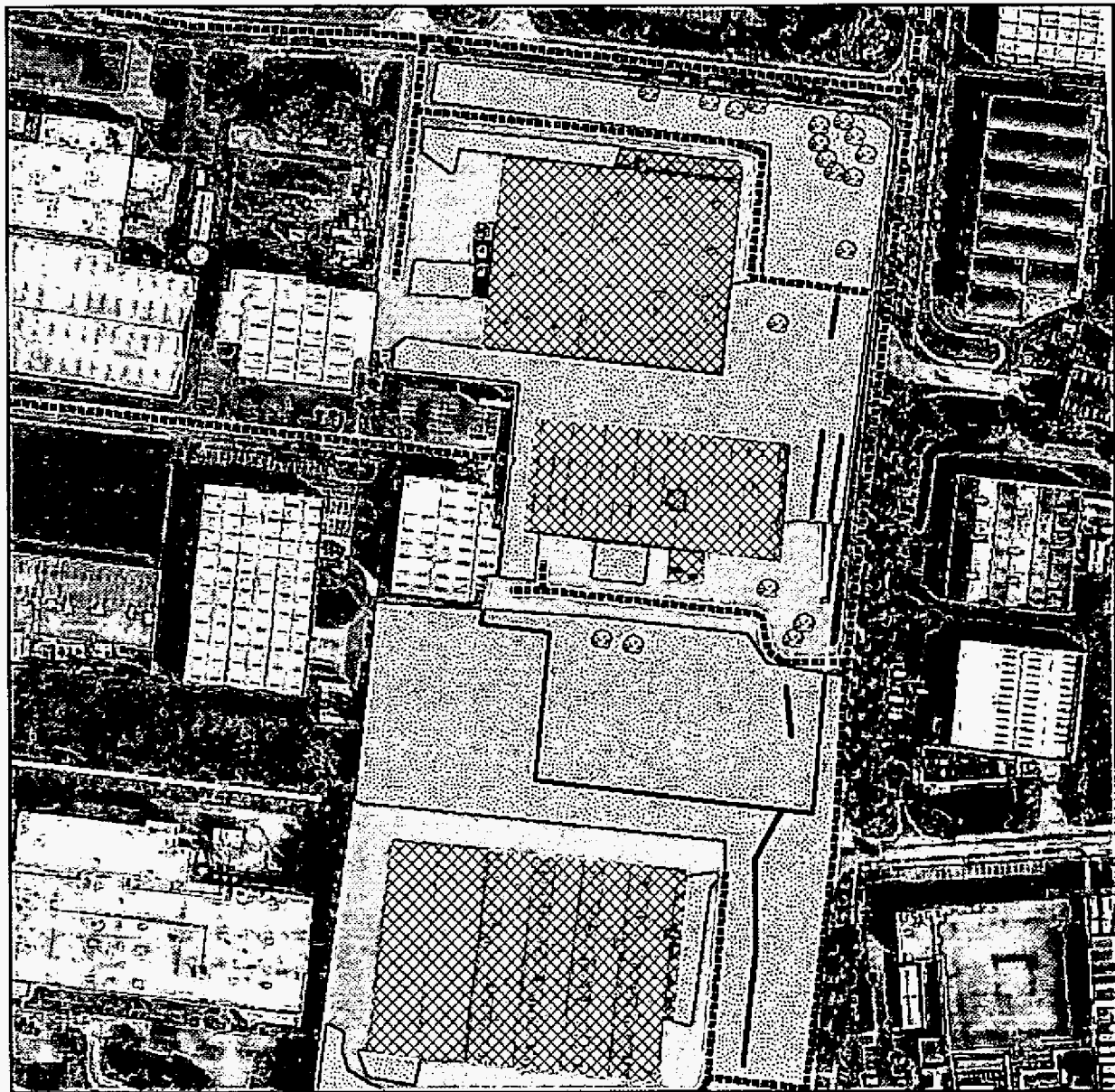
The Santry River corridor is located approximately 240m to the south of the project site. The project site is buffered from the river by the existing DUB 10 site, amenity grassland, treelines and an existing road way. The stretch of the Santry River to the south of the site is an example of a lowland

depositing river. The nearest EPA monitoring station providing Q-value water quality ratings for the Santry River is located downstream of the project site at Clonshaugh Road Bridge. Current water quality for the Santry River at this monitoring point is Q2-3/Q3 and is representative of poor water quality.

No designated conservation areas occur in the immediate vicinity of the project site. Santry Demesne, a proposed Natural Heritage Area, is located approximately 1.5km to the west of the project site. The location of European Sites within the surrounding area are outlined in Section 2.2 below.

A habitat map of the project site and surrounding area is provided belows as Figure 2.1.

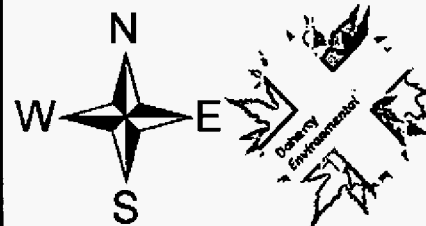




**Figure 2.1  
Habitat Map**

-  Site Boundary
-  Santry River
-  Trees
-  Treeline
-  Amenity Grassland
-  Buildings
-  Paved Surface
-  Existing Road

0 20 40 80 m



|             |             |
|-------------|-------------|
| Drawn By    | Pat Doherty |
| Date        | 09/05/2013  |
| Data Source | NPWS        |

## **2.2 Identification and Description of European Sites**

### **2.2.1 Identification of European Sites**

Current guidance on undertaking EU Habitats Directive Article 6 Assessments advises that all European Sites occurring within a 15km radius of a project site should be included within a Screening Assessment (Scott Wilson *et al.*, 2006; DOEHLG, 2010). Fourteen European Sites, 7 SPAs and 7 SACs occur within the surrounding 15km radius of the site. These sites are listed in Table 2.1 below and shown in Figures 2.2 and 2.3.

Table 2.1 lists the 14 European Sites occurring within a 15km radius of the project site and determines, using the bullet points below, whether each of these Sites occur within the sphere of influence of the project site.

- with qualifying Annex species not supported by the project site;
- with terrestrial qualifying habitats occurring at a remote distance from the project site (i.e buffered from the project site by a minimum of 200m); and
- not hydrologically linked to, or occurring upstream of, the project site.

**Table 2-1: European Sites occurring within the Sphere of Influence of the Project**

| European Site         | Distance from Project Site | Is there a hydrological link between the Project Site and European Sites?   | Does the Project Site have the potential to affect Qualifying Species of European Sites?   | Are Qualifying Terrestrial Habitats sufficiently buffered from Direct/Indirect Impacts? | Does this European Site occur within the Sphere of Influence of the Project Site? |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|---|--|---|---|
| Baldoyle Bay SPA      | 5.1km to the east.         | No.   | No. The Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) of this SPA are restricted to waterbirds. The site not provide suitable wetland habitat and is not likely to function as grazing habitat for SCIs. | Yes   | No  |
| Baldoyle Bay SAC      | 5.1km to the east.         | No.   | No. No Annex II species are listed as qualifying features of interest for this SAC.  | Yes   | No  |
| North Bull Island SPA | 5.4km to the south.        | Yes. The Santry River discharges to this SPA and surface water runoff from the site will be directed to the Santry River. | No. SCIs of this SPA are restricted to waterbirds. The site not provide suitable wetland habitat and is not likely to function as grazing habitat for SCIs.                                      | Yes   | Yes   |

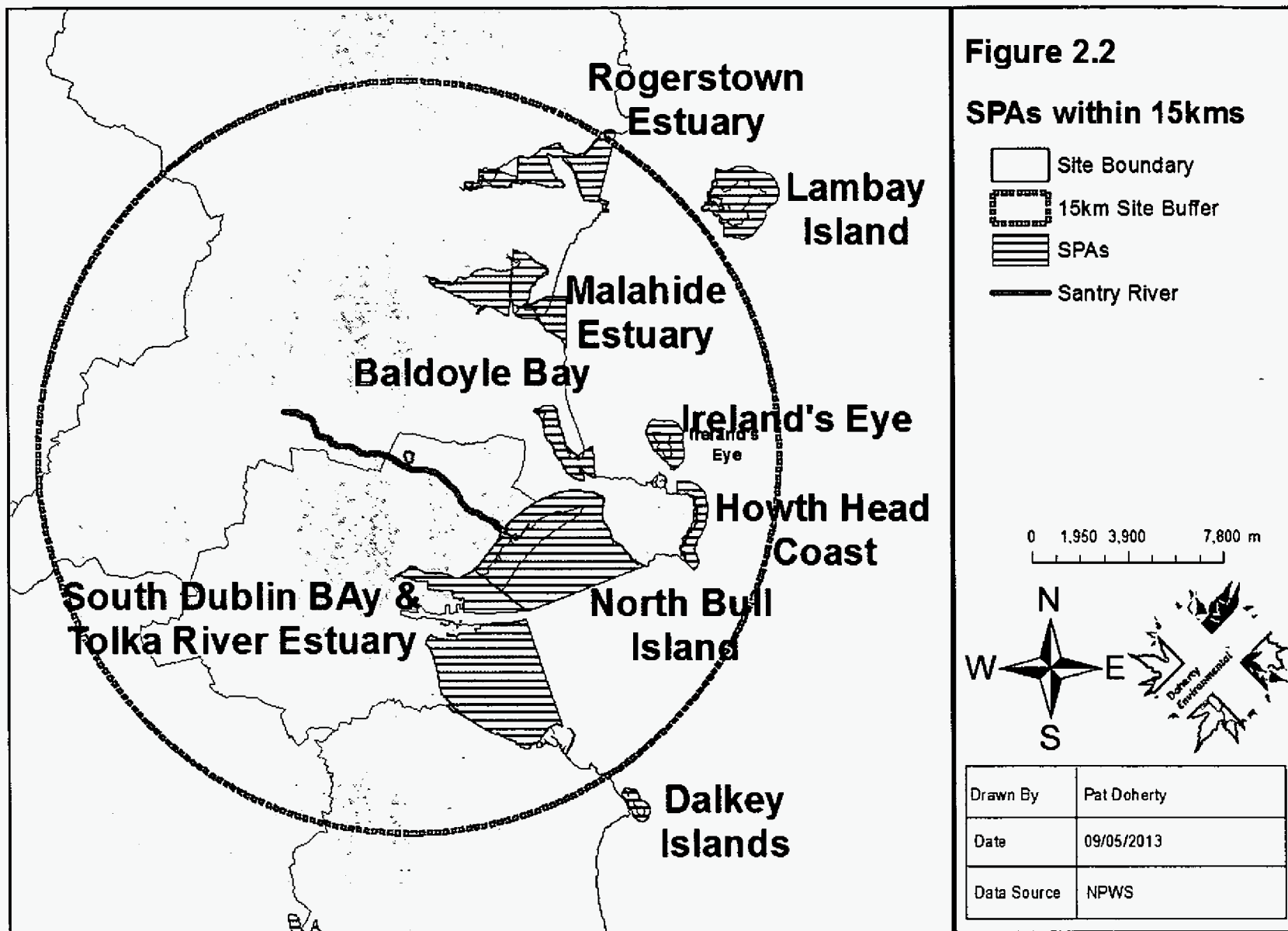
|                              |                         |   |  |     |     |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|---|--|-----|-----|
| North Dublin Bay SAC         | 5.4km to the south.     | Yes. The Santry River discharges to this SPA and surface water runoff from the site will be directed to the Santry River. | No. Petalwort, a liverwort species restricted to dune habitats in Ireland is the only Annex II species listed as a qualifying feature of interest for this SAC. The site does not support or have the potential to support this species. | Yes | Yes |
| Malahide Estuary SAC         | 5.6km to the northeast. | No  | No. No Annex II species are listed as qualifying features of interest for this SAC.  | Yes | No  |
| Malahide Estuary SPA         | 5.6km to the northeast. | No  | No. SCIs of this SPA are restricted to waterbirds. The site not provide suitable wetland habitat and is not likely to function as grazing habitat for SCIs.  | Yes | No  |
| South Dublin Bay SAC         | 15km to the southeast   | No  | No. No Annex II species are listed as qualifying features of interest for this SAC.  | Yes | No  |
| South Dublin Bay River Tolka | 15km to the             | No  | No. SCIs of this SPA are restricted to waterbirds.   | Yes | No  |

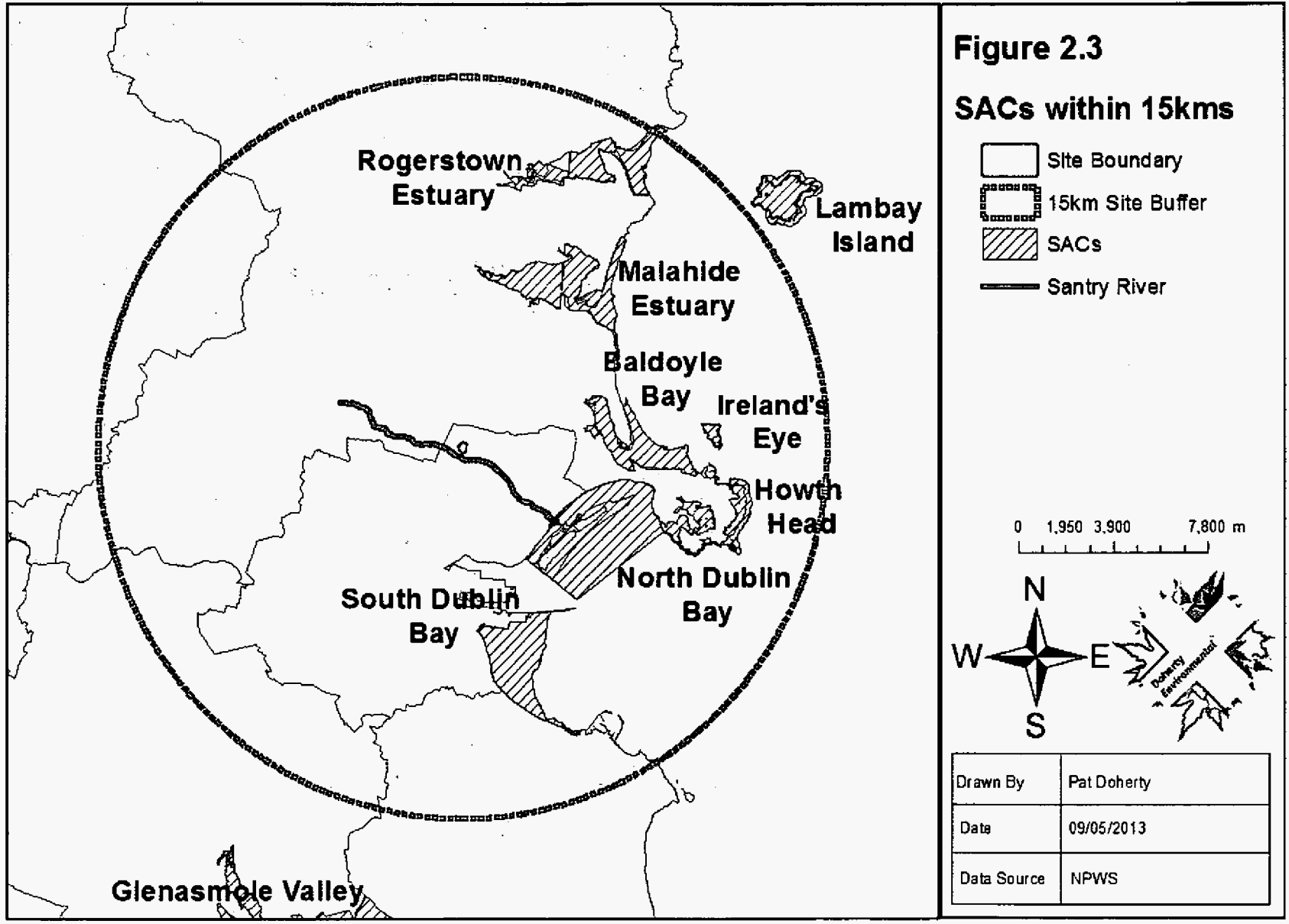
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|                        |                     |    |   |     |    |
|------------------------|---------------------|----|---|-----|----|
| Estuary SPA            | southeast           |    | The site not provide suitable wetland habitat and is not likely to function as grazing habitat for SCIs.  |     |    |
| Howth Head SAC         | 9.2km to the east.  | No | No. No Annex II species are listed as qualifying features of interest for this SAC.   | Yes | No |
| Ireland's Eye SAC      | 9.2km to the east.  | No | No. No Annex II species are listed as qualifying features of interest for this SAC.   | Yes | No |
| Rogerstown Estuary SAC | 9.8km to the north. | No | No. No Annex II species are listed as qualifying features of interest for this SAC.   | Yes | No |
| Rogerstown Estuary SPA | 9.8k.m to the north | No | No. SCIs of this SPA are restricted to waterbirds. The site not provide suitable wetland habitat and is not likely to function as grazing habitat for SCIs. | Yes | No |
| Howth Head Coast SPA   | 10.9km to the east. | No | No. SCIs of this SPA are restricted to one coastal species. The site not provide suitable habitat   | Yes | No |



|  |  |  |                   |  |  |
|--|--|--|-------------------|--|--|
|  |  |  | for this species. |  |  |
|--|--|--|-------------------|--|--|





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Table 2.1 above outlines the relationship between the proposed site and the European Sites occurring within the surrounding 15km buffer area. As noted within this table no European Sites occur in close proximity to the proposed site. The site is hydrologically linked to the North Dublin Bay SAC and North Bull Island SPA by surface water discharges to the Santry River which eventually discharges to these European Sites (see Figure 2.4: Hydrological Pathway above). Henceforth these European Sites will be referred to as the North Dublin Bay European Sites. These European Sites are located approximately 5km downstream from the project site's surface water outfall to the Santry River. This hydrological pathway linking the project site to the North Dublin Bay European Sites will have the potential to function as a pollution pathway between the project site and these European Sites in the event of significant contamination to the Santry River arising from the project site activities.

While it is acknowledged that the activities associated with the proposed development and operation of the project site are not likely to result in a risk of pollution to the Santry River a precautionary approach to this Screening Assessment has been adopted and the potential for impacts to occur is further examined in Section 3 below.

### 2.3 European Sites Baseline and Sensitivity

Conservation management objectives have been formulated for the each of the Dublin Bay European Sites. The following subsections outline these objectives along with the qualifying interests and their conservation status and sensitivities for each European Site.

#### North Dublin Bay SAC

Objective: To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and /or Annex II species (see Table 2.2 below) for which the SAC has been selected.

Table 2.2: North Dublin Bay SAC Qualifying Features

| Qualifying Annex Feature  | Conservation Status |
|---|---------------------|
| Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide        | Poor                |
| Annual vegetation of drift lines                                  | Poor                |
| Salicornia and other annuals colonizing mud and sand              | Poor                |
| Spartina swards ( <i>Spartinion maritimae</i> )                   | Poor                |
| Atlantic salt meadows ( <i>Glaucopuccinellietalia maritimae</i> ) | Poor                |
| Petalwort ( <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> )                        | Good                |
| Mediterranean salt meadows ( <i>Juncetalia maritimi</i> )         | Poor                |
| Embryonic shifting dunes  | Poor                |
| Shifting dunes along the shoreline with                           |                     |

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|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Ammophila arenaria (white dunes)                            |     |
| Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) | Bad |
| Humid dune slacks   | Bad |

### North Bull island SPA

Objective: To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species (see Table 2.3 below) listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA.

**Table 2.3: North Dublin Bay SPA SCIs**

| SCIs   | Conservation Status  |
|--|--|
| Light-bellied Brent Goose ( <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> ) | Amber listed species- Species of medium conservation concern           |
| Shelduck ( <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> )                        | Amber listed species- Species of medium conservation concern           |
| Teal ( <i>Anas crecca</i> )                                | Amber listed species- Species of medium conservation concern           |
| Pintail ( <i>Anas acuta</i> )                              | Red listed species – Species of high conservation concern <sup>†</sup> |
| Shoveler ( <i>Anas clypeata</i> )                          | Red listed species – Species of high conservation concern <sup>†</sup> |
| Oystercatcher ( <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> )             | Amber listed species- Species of medium conservation concern           |
| Golden Plover ( <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> )               | Red listed species – Species of high conservation concern              |
| Grey Plover ( <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> )                | Amber listed species- Species of medium conservation concern           |
| Knot ( <i>Calidris canutus</i> )                           | Red listed species – Species of high conservation concern <sup>†</sup> |
| Sanderling ( <i>Calidris alba</i> )                        | Green listed species – Species not threatened                          |
| Dunlin ( <i>Calidris alpina</i> )                          | Amber listed species- Species of medium conservation concern           |
| Black-tailed Godwit ( <i>Limosa limosa</i> )               | Amber listed species- Species of medium conservation concern           |
| Bar-tailed Godwit ( <i>Limosa lapponica</i> )              | Amber listed species- Species of medium conservation concern           |
| Curlew ( <i>Numenius arquata</i> )                         | Red listed species – Species of high conservation concern              |
| Redshank ( <i>Tringa totanus</i> )                         | Red listed species – Species of high conservation concern              |
| Turnstone ( <i>Arenaria interpres</i> )                    | Green listed species – Species not threatened                          |
| Black-headed Gull ( <i>Larus ridibundus</i> )              | Red listed species – Species of high conservation concern              |
| Wetlands & Waterbirds                                      |  |

Favourable conservation status of a habitat is achieved when:

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- Its natural range, and area it covers within that range, is stable or increasing, and
- The ecological factors that 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 as defined below.

Favourable conservation status of a species is achieved when:

- Population data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself, and
- The natural range of the species is neither being reduced or 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 Assessment of Effects

**Describe the individual elements of the project that could give rise to impacts (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) on the European Site.**

As the project site is not located within or immediately adjacent to European Sites it will not have the potential to result in likely significant direct impacts to qualifying habitats of the North Dublin Bay European Sites. Furthermore the project will not result in the loss of important foraging or resting habitat for qualifying bird species outwith the North Bull Island SPA. The rare liverwort Petalwort represents the only Annex II qualifying species of interest for which North Dublin Bay is designated as an SAC. This liverwort species is restricted to coastal dune and machair habitats. As such the project will not have the potential to directly affect this species.

With regard to indirect impacts, it is considered that disturbance to qualifying bird species and mudflats as a result of perturbation to the water quality will represent the only potential source of impact to European Sites. The Santry River may function as a potential pollution pathway between the project site and the North Dublin Bay European Sites in the event of a significant discharge of contaminated surface water from the project site to the river. As noted above it is considered unlikely that the proposed refurbishment and operation of the project site will have the capacity to generate contaminated surface water that will pose a threat to the water quality of the Santry River.

Nevertheless, as a precautionary approach has been adopted to the project, a detailed examination of the likelihood of perturbations arising during the construction and operation phase is outlined in Table 3.1 below. With regard to potential hydrological effects downstream the assessment follows a source pathway receiver model with the project site representing the source, the surface water outfall and Santry River representing the pathway and North Dublin Bay representing the receiver. The assessment of the effects of the proposed refurbishment and operation of the project site is informed by the various measures that will be incorporated into the construction approach to ensure risks to the water quality of the Santry River are minimised to a low risk and/or avoided.

#### 3.1 Screening Assessment Criteria

Table 3.1 outlines the assessment criteria against which the project is examined for its potential to result in likely significant effects to the North Dublin Bay European Sites.

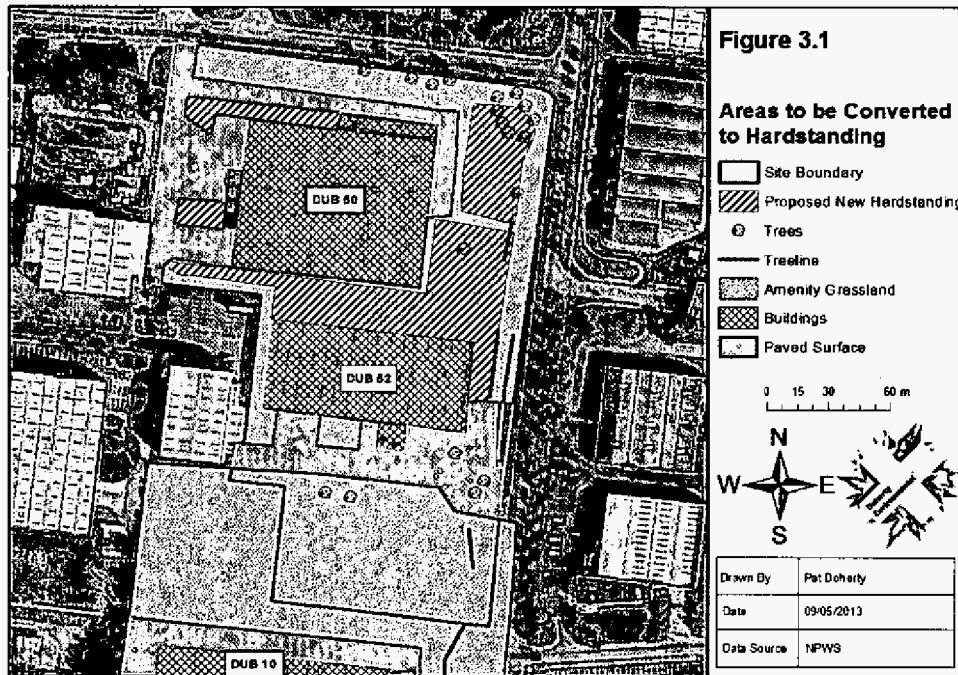
**Table 3.1: Assessment of Likely Significant Effects to European Sites**

| Assessment Criteria   |   |
|---|---|
| <i>Describe any likely direct, indirect or secondary impacts of the project (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) on the European Site by virtue of</i> |   |
| Size and Scale  | <p>The project site is approximately 40,000m<sup>2</sup> in size. The scale of the project is relatively small being restricted to an existing industrial estate lot of the Clonshaugh Business and Technology Park.</p> <p>The project will involve the refurbishment of existing buildings and the conversion of areas of greenfield, amenity grassland habitat to hardstanding.</p> <p>The development of the site will be completed within 3 years.</p> |
| Land-take   | <p>The project will not involve any land take from European Sites.</p> <p>In terms of greenfield land take the project proposes to convert areas of amenity grassland to</p>  |

hardstanding areas to be used for Air Handling Units (AHUs), condensers and car parking. The area of amenity grassland to be converted to hardstanding will amount to approximately 8000m<sup>2</sup>. Existing landscaped trees will also be removed as part of the project. As noted above these trees are generally non-native trees planted for landscaping purposes.

The area of amenity grassland to be lost to the project is detailed in Figure 3.1 below.

The loss of amenity grassland and trees to hardstanding will represent a negligible to low impact to the baseline ecology at the project site. This land take will have no impact on European Sites.



|  |   |
|--|---|
| Distance from European Sites or key features of the site | The project site is located approximately 5km upstream from the nearest point of the North Dublin Bay European Sites.                       |
| Resource requirements                                    | No resources associated with European Sites (e.g. water or mud/sand for abstraction etc.) will be required for, or utilized by the project. |

Emissions

**Surface Water Emissions**

The contamination of surface water runoff as a result of project activities represents the only source of potential pollution that could be generated at the project site. Other emissions such as waste water, noise and air will not posed a threat to the local environment or further afield at the North Dublin Bay European Sites. More information on these other emissions is provided below.

With regard to surface water emissions under the existing situation at the project site surface water runoff from paved areas and buildings is not controlled in any way.

The project will result in an increase in the overall area of hardstanding within the site from 20,526m<sup>2</sup> to 28,027m<sup>2</sup>.

The proposed overall drainage system for the project site was investigated with a view to identifying suitable measures for surface water management as outlined in the Greater Dublin Strategic Drainage Study (GSDSDS).

For reasons outlined in the Drainage Report for the project a number of surface water drainage measures outlined in the GSDSDS are not suitable for the site. However measures to significantly attenuate and reduce surface water discharge from the site will be incorporated in the project design. These attenuation measures will involve the installation of a hydrobrake at the outfall location, stormtech MC3500 chamber cells and the installation of a larger pipe size network. The Drainage Report notes that the installation of this drainage infrastructure will offer substantial benefits to the overall catchment area in that the rates of discharge of surface water will be attenuated and controlled to greenfield levels, which is judged to be a considerable improvement on the current system. The proposed system will result in a 98% reduction in surface water discharge from the project site. A petrol inceptor shall also be installed as part of the drainage network as per the Greater Dublin Regional Code of Practice for Drainage Works.

All potentially contaminating materials associated with the refurbishment activities will be stored in suitably sealed and banded containers and no precipitation will interact with such materials to generate contaminated surface water runoff.

During the operation phase all activities will be housed in doors and there will be no potential for the project to generate levels of contaminated surface water runoff that could further exacerbate the already low water quality of the Santry River.

Considering the approach to the refurbishment activities, the nature of the operation phase and the installation of an upgraded drainage network it is concluded that the project will have a very low to negligible potential to generate contaminated surface water runoff within the site. This negligible to very low potential to generate contaminated surface water will ensure that surface water emissions from the project site will not pose a threat to the water quality of the Santry River or downstream at the North Dublin Bay European Sites.

**Wastewater Emissions**

The existing foul sewer drainage system will continue to be used with the replacement of the existing foul line running parallel to the east side of the building. The remainder of the foul drainage system does not need to be adjusted to accommodate the proposed development. There will be no increase to the foul load following development; instead there will be a decrease in the number of people working in the building. The existing system was designed to accommodate staff levels in excess of 100 people, however the incoming occupant of this building will have circa 30 staff at any shift period.

The existing pipe network has been visually inspected inclusive of CCTV surveys and there is no

|   |   |
|---|---|
|   | <p>visible evidence of any ground water infiltration, damage or flow restrictions.</p> <p>The project will not result in waste water emission to the Santry River.</p> <p><b>Noise Emissions</b></p> <p>The distance of the project site from the North Dublin European Sites will preclude any negative effect resulting from noise emissions to qualifying species.</p> <p><b>Aerial Emissions</b></p> <p>Due to the small-scale nature of activities at the project site no potential impacts to the local environment derived from air emissions are predicted to occur.</p> <p><b>Light Emissions</b></p> <p>All works will be undertaken during the daytime hours.</p> <p>Lighting during the operation phase will be restricted to the project site and will not interfere with European Sit</p> |
| Excavation requirements   | The project will not involve any excavations from European Sites. Minor excavations are likely to be associated with the project for the installation of bridge supports.   |
| Transportation requirements   | <p>The project will generate temporary construction traffic. The operation phase of the project is likely to result in a decrease in traffic movements from current baseline levels. This will be due to the decrease in staff numbers at the project site.</p> <p>Traffic generated at the site will not result in impacts to European Sites.</p>  |
| Duration of the project   | The project will be constructed to a design life of 50 years.   |
| Other   | See Below   |
| <b>Describe any likely changes to the European site arising as a result of:</b> |   |
| Reduction of habitat area   | The project will not result in a reduction in area of any habitats occurring within European Sites.   |
| Disturbance of key species  | <p>No key species, listed as qualifying interests of the North Dublin Bay European Sites, occur within the vicinity of the project site.</p> <p>Downstream indirect impacts to key species will be avoided by implementing the approach and</p>   |



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|  | design features to the construction and operation phases as outlined above under the <i>Emissions</i> section. This approach will ensure the water quality within the Santry River and downstream is not negatively affected by the project.   |
| Habitat or species fragmentation                 | The project site is located over 5km upstream of the North Dublin Bay European Sites and will not result in habitat or species fragmentation.  |
| Reduction in species density                     | For the reasons outlined above there will be no risk of the project resulting in a reduction in density of qualifying species occurring at North Dublin Bay European Sites.  |
| Changes in key indicators of conservation status | <p>The European Commission (2006) Explanatory Notes and Guidelines for the Assessment, Monitoring and Reporting under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive outlines key indicators for assessing the conservation status of designated sites. The key indicators for assessing the conservation status of key species i.e. species listed on Annex 1 of the EU Birds Directive and Annex 2 of the EU Habitats Directive are:</p> <p><i>Range:</i> as outlined above the elements of the project will not result in direct or indirect impacts to European Sites. Therefore the distribution of qualifying species associated with European Sites will not be altered by the project.</p> <p><i>Population:</i> As the project will not result in direct or indirect impacts to European Sites the populations of SCIs for the SPA and petalwort associated with the SAC will not be affected;</p> <p><i>Habitat for the species:</i> As direct or indirect impacts to European Sites are not predicted to occur, habitats which support SCIs and petalwort will not be affected by the project; and</p> <p><i>Future Prospects:</i> As the project will not result in direct or indirect affects to European Sites the future prospect of the SCIs or qualifying interests of this site will not be affected.</p> <p>The key indicators for assessing the conservation status of Annex 1 habitats of North Dublin Bay SAC and wetlands of North Bull Island SPAs are:</p> <p><i>Range:</i> As qualifying habitats are located at remote distances from the project site and the risk of pollution via hydrological pathways will be avoided, the range of qualifying habitats will not be affected by the project.</p> <p><i>Area covered by habitat type within range:</i></p> <p>The project will not result in changes to the area covered by qualifying habitats.</p> <p><i>Specific structures and functions:</i> Mudflats and other coastal habitats such as dunes and saltmarshes represent the qualifying habitats for the Dublin Bay European Sites.</p> <p>The structure of these habitats is dependent on abiotic and biotic influences such as deposition, erosion, freshwater and tidal flow patterns and trophic dynamics. These habitats function as breeding and foraging habitats for bird species. These functions are maintained by ensuring the hydrological integrity (which includes structure, water quality and tidal influences) of Dublin Bay as well as managing grazing and recreational activity within the Bay area.</p> <p>Due to the location and scale of the project site and the avoidance of any likely significant effects to</p> |

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|   | <p>water quality upstream of the Bay, the project will not have the potential to interfere with the structure or function of North Dublin Bay European Sites.</p> <p><i>Future prospects:</i> As the proposed project will not influence the status of habitats occurring within Dublin Bay it will not adversely affect the future prospects of these habitats.</p>   |
| Climate change  | There is currently insufficient information to predict the effects of climate change on the site. It is predicted that on a national level winters will become wetter and summers drier but the effect on local precipitation is unknown.  |
| <b>Describe any likely impacts on the European Site as a whole in terms of:</b>   |  |
| Interference with key relationships that define the structure and function of the site  | As outlined above the project will not have the potential to interfere with the key relationships that define the structure and function of the Dublin Bay European Sites.   |
| In-Combination Effects  | As the project design and approach to construction will incorporate the range of measures outlined in the Emissions section of this assessment it is predicted that the project will not pose a risk of significant impacts to the local surface water network. The avoidance of impacts to the surrounding surface water network will ensure that the project will not have the potential to combine with other plans or projects to result in effects to European Sites via hydrological pathways. |
| <b>Describe from the above the elements of the project or plan or combination of elements, where the above impacts are likely to be significant or where the scale of magnitude of impacts is not known.</b>  |  |
| <p>The project site is located at a remote distance from the nearest European Sites, the Baldoyle Estuary European Sites, approximately 5.1km to the east. These European Sites and all other Sites, with the exception of the North Dublin Bay European Sites were screened out of the Screening Assessment at an early stage as they were considered to lie outside the sphere of influence of the project site.</p> <p>The only European Sites considered to occur within the sphere of influence of the project site are those linked to the project site via hydrological pathways. During the Screening Assessment the Santry River was identified as a hydrological pathway linking the project site and European Sites at North Dublin Bay.</p> <p>A Source-Pathway-Receiver model was used to assess whether the project could result in likely significant effects to the North Dublin Bay European Sites via hydrological pathways.</p> <p>The assessment noted that the location and scale of the project were likely in themselves to ensure that significant effects to European Sites would not arise during the refurbishment or operation phase. However, a precautionary approach to the Screening Assessment was undertaken and a detailed assessment, in line with European guidelines, was undertaken.</p> |  |

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As part of the detailed Screening Assessment elements of the proposed design of the project and the approach to the refurbishment phase with regard to drainage management were outlined. It was concluded that the implementation of these elements during the refurbishment and operation of the project to manage surface water drainage will be of benefit to the Santry River catchment, with a significant reduction in discharge from the site. The activities associated with the refurbishment and operation phase and their potential to generate contaminated surface water runoff is considered to be very low to negligible. This low potential to generate contaminated surface water runoff, coupled with the design of an improved drainage network with very low discharge rates will ensure that the project does not pose a risk to the water quality of the Santry River.

Avoiding significant risks to the surrounding surface water quality will also ensure that the project, either alone or in combination with other projects, does not have the potential to result in likely significant effects to the Dublin Bay European Sites.

#### **4 Screening Conclusions**

This Stage 1 Screening Assessment has resulted in a Finding of No Significant Effects to the North Dublin Bay European Sites, which represent the only European Sites occurring within the potential sphere of influence of the project site.

As the implementation of the proposed project will not result in likely significant effects to European Sites a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment is not required.

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