



Screening Report for Appropriate Assessment  
for a  
Waste Licence Application  
Bray Co. Wicklow

July 2019

Verde Environmental Consultants Ltd.



[info@verde.ie](mailto:info@verde.ie)

[www.verde.ie](http://www.verde.ie)

**HEAD OFFICE**  
E7,  
Network Enterprise Park,  
Kilcoole,  
Co. Wicklow A63 KV04,  
Ireland.

**CORK**  
U3, Airport East Business  
& Technology Park,  
Farmer's Cross,  
Co. Cork T12 T854,  
Ireland.

**GALWAY**  
Cloran,  
Athenry,  
Galway, H65 FK75,  
Ireland.

**MAYO**  
Breaffy Medical &  
Business Centre,  
Breaffy, Castlebar,  
Co Mayo F23 T228,  
Ireland.

**NIGERIA**  
88 Raymond Njoku  
Street, Ikoyi,  
Lagos,  
Nigeria.

Verde Environmental Consultants Ltd is registered in Ireland No. 432891.

Registered office at E7 Network Enterprise Park, Kilcoole, Co. Wicklow A63 KV04 – part of the Verde Environmental Group  
Directors: P. Van den Bergh B.A., Dip. Mkt. Mgt. (Managing), H.P. Van den Bergh B.E., O. Van den Bergh B.A. (Mod) MSISS, K. Cleary BSc., MSc., FGS, PGeo., EurGeol.

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## DOCUMENT CONTROL

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Created By	Pat Doherty		1 <sup>st</sup> July 2019	Senior Ecologist
Reviewed By	Malcolm Dowling		3 <sup>rd</sup> July 2019	Principal Environmental Consultant
Approved by	Kevin Cleary		3 <sup>rd</sup> July 2019	Operations Director



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## LIMITATIONS

This report represents the results of the site inspection and site investigation work conducted at the above referenced site. Best practice was followed at all times and within the limitations stated; works were undertaken according to budgetary considerations. This report is the property of Verde Environmental Consultants Limited (Verde) and cannot be used, copied or given to any third party without the explicit prior approval or agreement of Verde.

This report represents an assessment of the site and was performed in accordance with generally accepted standards regarding environmental assessments. Verde makes no other representations whatsoever, including those concerning the legal significance of its findings or as to other legal matters touched on in this report, including, but not limited to ownership of any property or the application of any law to the facts set forth herein.



## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Verde Environmental Consultants, (VEC) was commissioned by Packaging Laundry Ltd to undertake a Stage 1 Habitats Directive Assessment: Screening for Appropriate Assessment for a waste licence application for their existing facility located at Oldcourt Industrial Estate at Boghall Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow (see Figure 1.1 for site location).

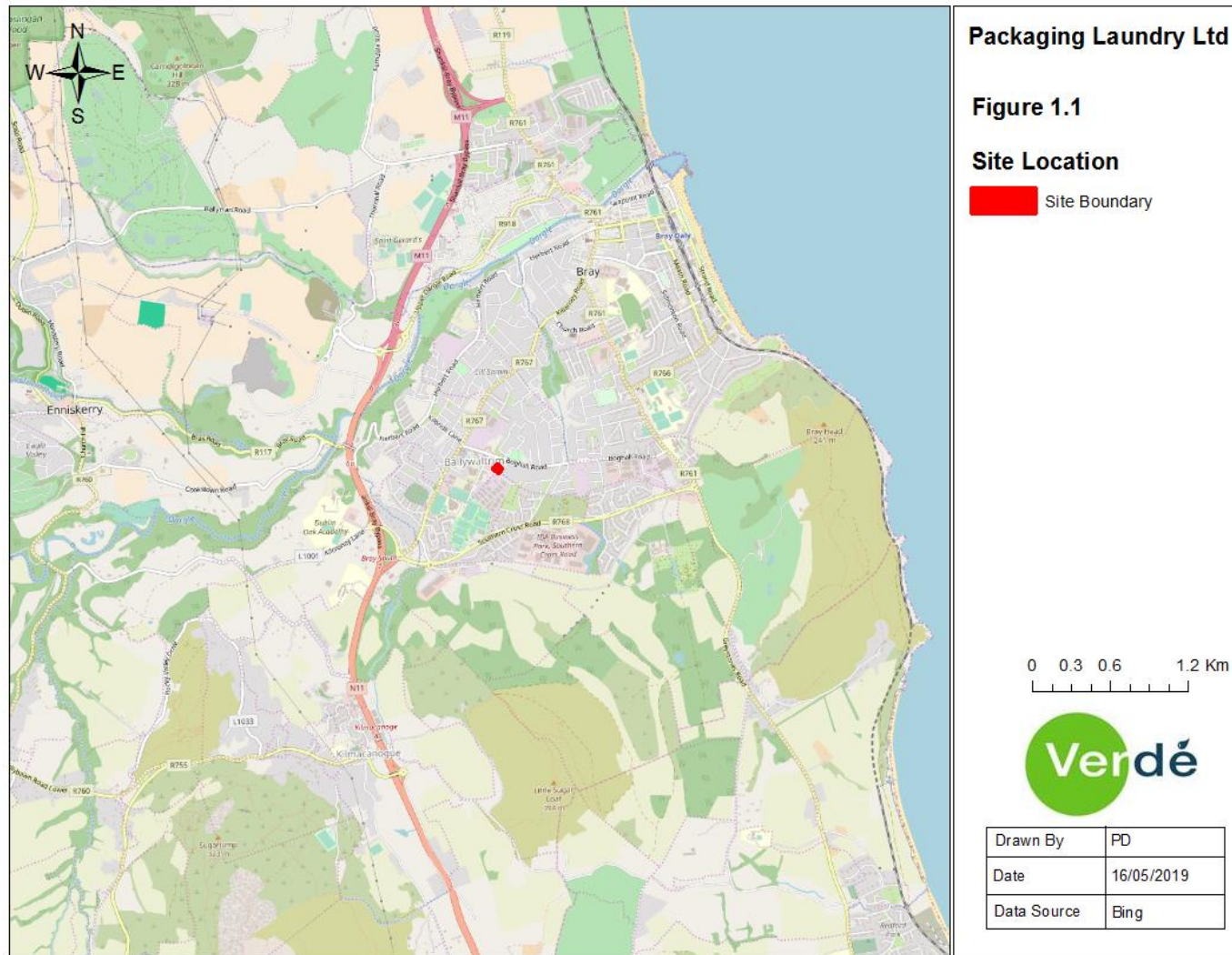
This Screening Report for Appropriate Assessment is being undertaken in order to comply with the requirements of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive and Article 42 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations. Section 42(1) of these Regulations requires a Public Authority to carry out a screening for appropriate assessment of a project for which an application for consent is received. The screening for Appropriate Assessment is required to assess the project individually or in combination with another plan or project for its potential to result in a likely significant effect on a European Site(s), in view of best scientific knowledge and in view of the conservation objectives of relevant European Site(s).

The function of this Screening Exercise is to identify the potential for the project to result in likely significant effects to the Conservation Objectives of European Sites and to provide information so that the competent authority can determine whether an Appropriate Assessment is required for the project.

### 1.1 Stage 1 Screening Method

The function of the Screening Assessment is to identify whether or not the proposal 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 that compromises the functioning and viability of a site and interferes with achieving the conservation objectives for the site would constitute a significant effect.

The nature of the likely interactions between the proposed development and the integrity of a European Site will depend upon whether or not European Sites occur within the zone of influence of the project. The potential for likely significant effects to European Sites that do occur within the zone of influence of the project will depend upon the project’s potential to result in ecological effects and the sensitivity of European Site qualifying features to such effects.



**Packaging Laundry Ltd**

**Figure 1.1**

**Site Location**

Site Boundary

0 0.3 0.6 1.2 Km





This Screening for Appropriate Assessment has been undertaken with reference to respective National and European guidance documents: Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland: Guidance for Planning Authorities (DEHLG 2010) and Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly Affecting Natura 2000 sites – Methodological Guidance of the Provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats directive 92/43/EEC and relevant European and National case law. The following guidance documents were also of relevance during this Screening Assessment:

- A guide for competent authorities. Environment and Heritage Service, Sept 2002. Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland – Guidance for Planning Authorities (2010), DEHLG
- Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly Affecting Natura 2000 Sites – Methodological Guidance of the Provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/42/EED. European Commission (2001)
- Managing Natura 2000 Sites – The provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats directive 92/43/EEC. European commission (2000). (To be referred to as MN 2000)

The EC (2001) guidelines outline the stages involved in undertaking a Screening exercise of a project that has the potential to have likely significant effects on European Sites. The methodology adopted for this Screening exercise is informed by these guidelines and was undertaken in the following stages:

1. Describe the project and determine whether it is necessary for the conservation management of European Sites
2. Identify European Sites that could be influenced by the project
3. Where European Sites are identified as occurring within the zone of influence of the project identify potential effects arising from the project and screen the potential for such effects to negatively affect European Sites identified under Point 2 above; and
4. Identify other plans or projects that, in combination with the project, have the potential to affect European Sites.



## 2.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project involves an application for a Waste Licence to the Environmental Protection Agency (Agency). Packaging Laundry Ltd currently operates under a waste facility permit that was issued by Wicklow County Council in May 2018 (Permit Ref. No. WFP-WW-18-0043-01). The permit was granted listing principal activity at the facility as Class 10 (Recovery of non-hazardous waste < 50,000 tonnes per annum and with <15% residual to onward Disposal). Acceptable List of Waste Codes are LoW 15 01 02 and 15 01 04. At present, the facility accepts less than 1,000 tonnes of material per annum of which 98% is reconditioned for re-use and 2% is transferred onwards for recycling/further recovery. The Licence will allow the facility to accept up to a maximum of 1,650 tonnes of packaging per annum.

The following is a brief overview of the operations that currently occur at the Packaging Laundry site.

- IBC Reconditioning Closed Loop - Packaging Laundry Ltd. provides a Reconditioning Service for customers IBC's and return to the customer for re-use again for the same purpose
- IBC Reconditioning Open Loop – This occurs where empty IBCs are collected from customers who have no further use for the packaging. Following reconditioning, these IBC's are sold to third party customers for re-use as alternatives to having to purchase new IBC's.
- Steel Barrel Reconditioning Open Loop
- IBC Dismantling and Rebottling – Damaged bottles (e.g. that fail leak tests/end of life bottles) are removed, washed, dried and cut into manageable pieces before transfer to authorised recyclers. New bottles are then placed into the Reconditioned IBC steel cages and supplied as a Re-Bottled IBC to 3rd party customers
- Steel Drum Dismantling – Steel drums that are damaged beyond safe repair are washed and crushed before transfer to authorised metal recovery facility

Emissions from the project site relate to surface water emissions from a wash down area on site and emissions to atmosphere from an air conditioning unit. All containers external surfaces are cleaned and labelling removed. Containers are then cleaned internally in a three-stage high pressure/low volume water system. A specialist 360° hose is mechanically lowered inside the IBC which cleans the interior of the container using high pressure water spray at 400 Bar pressure. The containers undergo a three stage washing process before the cleaning water is removed from the container. All washings from the washing process are drained and stored in an on-site 5,000 litre water storage tank. The site is subject to an Irish Water trade effluent discharge permit (ID: IW-DTS-809938-01) to the local foul sewage network. This Licence was issued in December 2017.





Packaging Laundry Limited has consulted with the County Council and the Agency (under Article 11) to be allowed to accept packaging material (IBCs for reconditioning) that formerly contained hazardous material. The Agency has confirmed that the acceptance of non-hazardous waste IBCs and steel drums for reconditioning as described above and to prepare material for reuse through dismantling, replacement of IBC bottles, washing and crushing etc. can be accommodated under a waste facility permit. The Agency has further confirmed that acceptance, waste recovery and storage of used packaging that contained hazardous substances is more appropriately authorised under conditions of a waste licence. This material is described under List of Waste Code 15 01 10\* (Packaging containing residues of or contaminated by hazardous substances).

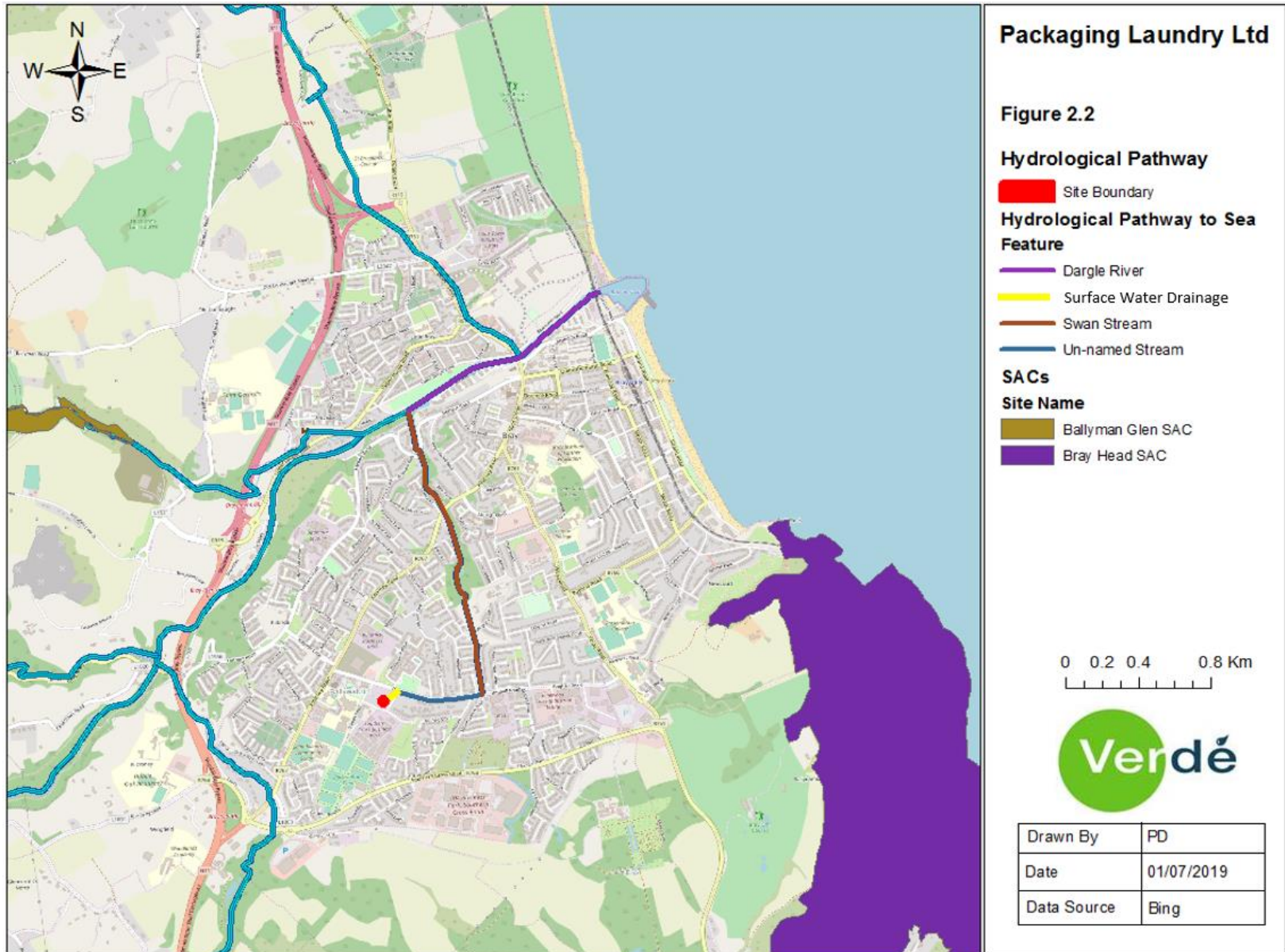
Packaging Laundry intends to apply to the Agency so that List of Waste Code 15 01 10\* can be accepted at the facility. The containers accepted onto the site will empty (as is currently the case with all IBCs and steel drum containers accepted onto the site). Strict waste acceptance criteria are in place to ensure that all container packaging is empty as empty as practically possible. Of the packaging material received on site, approximately 98% is refurbished/reconditioned for re-use by either the owner of the container or a third-party customer. The remaining 2% is prepared on site (washed, cut, crushed etc) prior to collection for delivery to an authorised plastic or metal recycler/waste recovery facility.

## 2.1 PROJECT SITE DESCRIPTION

The project site is located within an industrial estate just off the Boghall Road in Bray Co. Wicklow. It is situated within the urban environment of Bray town and is surrounded by artificial surfaces and built land. There are no natural habitats occurring in the immediate vicinity of the project site. An aerial view of the project site and surrounds is provided as Figure 2.1 below.

The project site is located within the Dargle River catchment. Surface water drains connect the project site to an un-named and un-mapped stream that flows east along the Boghall Road to the north of the project site. This stream discharges to the Swan Stream which is a tributary of the Dargle River. The Dargle River discharges to the sea at Bray. No European Sites occur within the vicinity of the Dargle River discharge point. This hydrological pathway is shown on Figure 2.2. It is noted that only clean surface water runoff discharging from roofs and outdoor yard areas drain to this hydrological pathway. No process or washdown water generated at the project site drains to this surface water hydrological pathway. As described in Section 2.0 above all process and washdown waters discharge to the foul sewerage network. The nearest European Site to the surface water hydrological pathway discharge point is Bray Head SAC which is designated for terrestrial habitats, not influenced by marine or surface water bodies.







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## 4.0 THE PROJECT & EUROPEAN SITE BASELINE

### 4.1 Identification of European Sites within the Zone of Influence of the Project

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). Thirteen European Sites, comprising of nine SACs and four SPAs occur within the surrounding 15km radius of the site (see Figure 4.1 and Figure 4.2 and Table 4.1 for list of European Sites). The qualifying features of interest for which each of these European Sites has been designated is provided in Appendix 1.

As the project does not occur within or adjoin a European Site, the project will not have the potential to result in direct impacts to European Sites. Thus this Screening exercise focuses on investigating whether the project will have the potential to result in indirect effects to European Sites or effect mobile species associated with European Sites beyond the boundaries of their designated conservation areas.

A source-pathway-receptor model has been used to establish which European Sites could occur within the zone of influence of potential indirect impacts. Under such a model, the project, as described in Section 2 of this Screening Report, represents the source.

Potential impact pathways are restricted to hydrological pathways and the potential for interaction with qualifying habitats and mobile species listed as qualifying features of interest/special conservation interests for European Sites. Noise, aerial and visual emissions will not represent potential impacts to surrounding European Sites due to the distance between the project site and the nearest European Sites and the imperceptible noise and air emissions that are generated from the project site during operations. It is noted that air emissions are generated at the project site via an air conditioning unit. This unit does not emit pollutants to atmosphere and does not have the potential to result in any changes to air quality in the vicinity of the emissions point or in the wider surrounding area.

The receptors represent European Sites and their associated qualifying features of interest.

European Sites and their associated qualifying features are likely to occur in the zone of influence of the project only where potential emissions from the project site, in the form of hydrological or mobile species pathways establish a link between the project and the European Site. Table 4.1 provides a determination as to whether

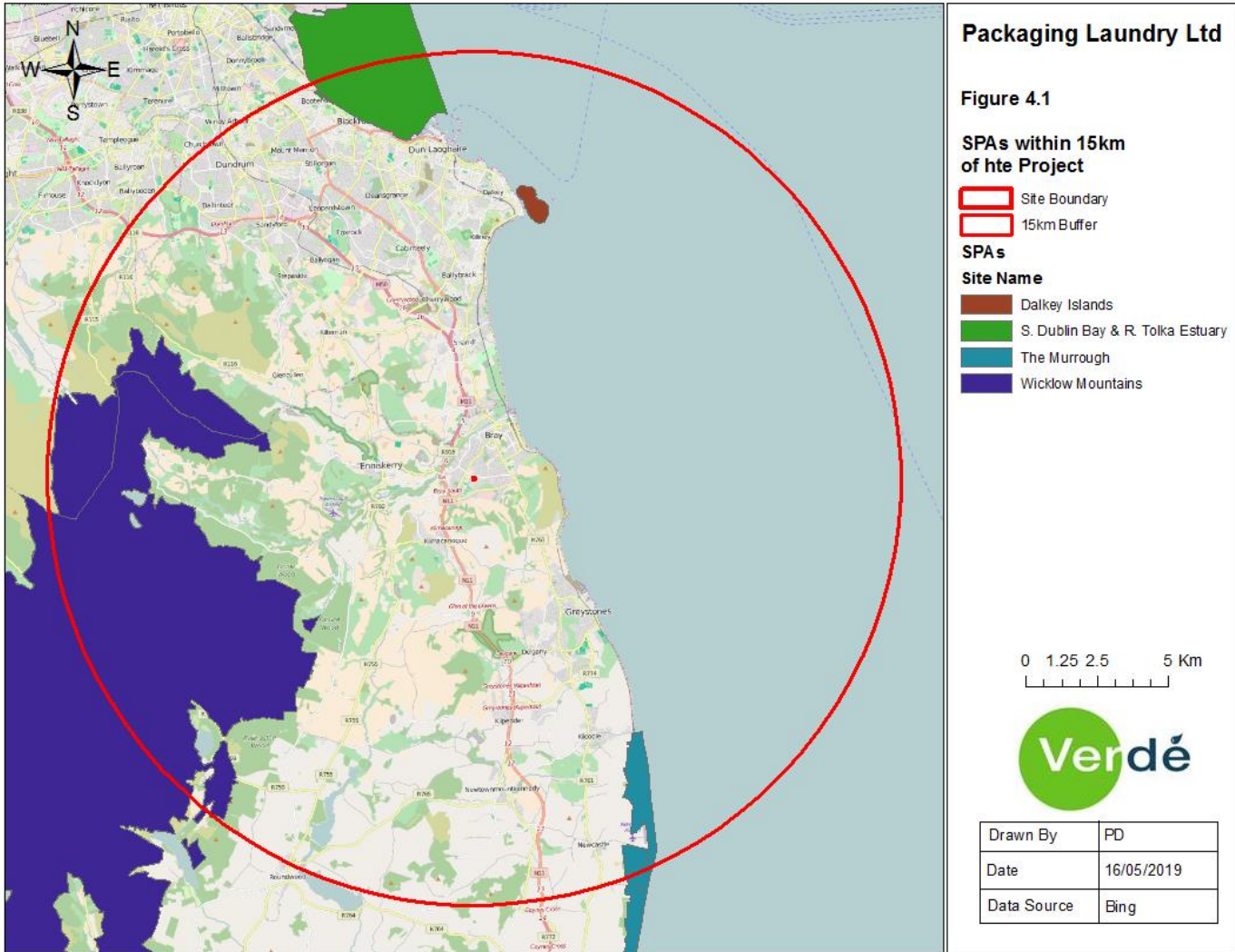


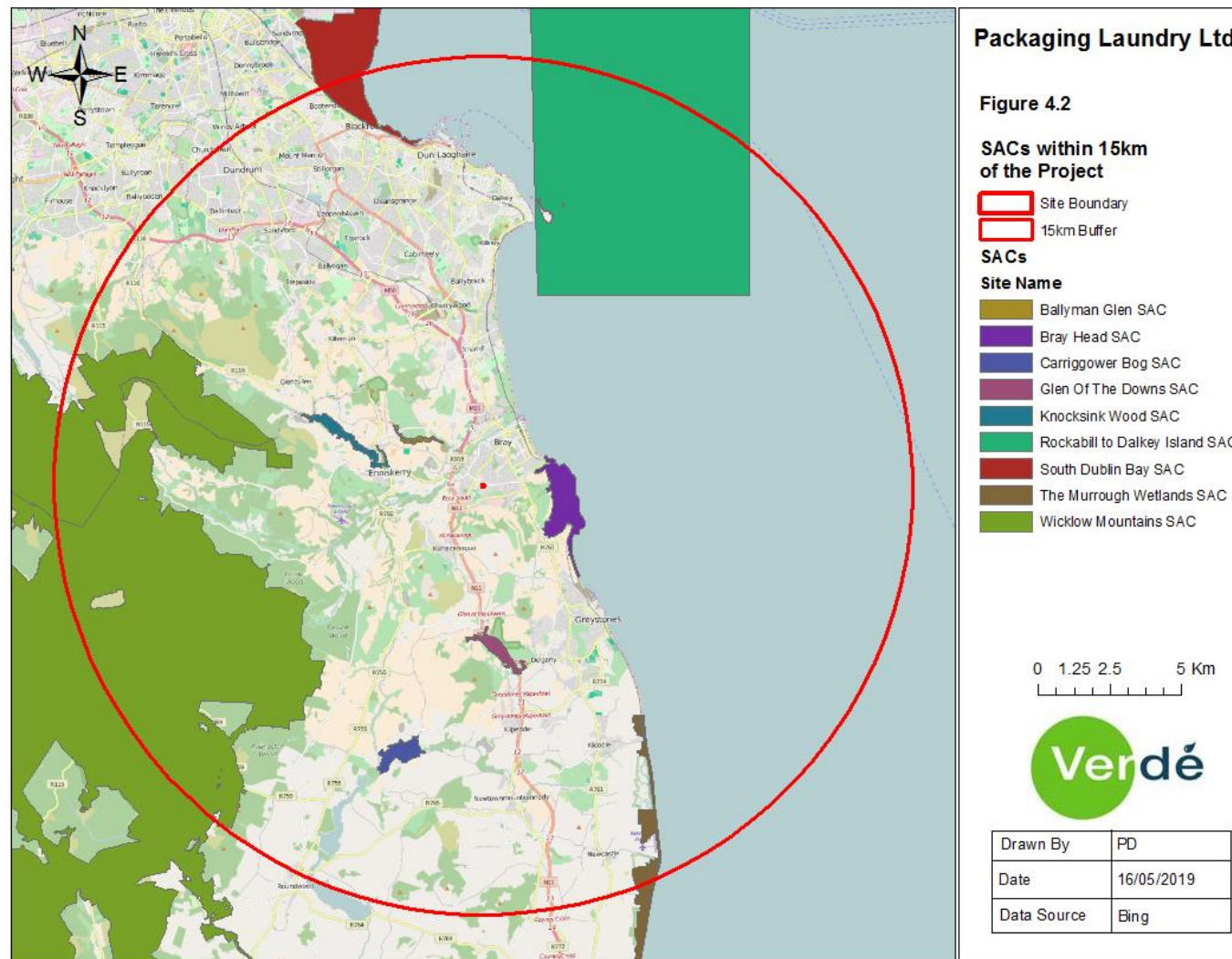
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each European Site occurs within the zone of influence of the project. This determination has been undertaken in line with the following assessment questions:

- Is there an impact pathway link between the Project site and European Sites?
- Are qualifying habitats of these European Sites at risk of experiencing impacts as a result of the project?
- Does the project site have the potential to interact with Annex II qualifying species/ special conservation interest species of these European Sites?

The evaluation of these assessment questions has been undertaken in view of the qualifying features of interest (see Appendix 1) of each of the European Sites listed in Table 4.1.





**Table 4.1: Identification of European Sites within the Zone Of Influence of the Project**

European Sites	Site Code	Distance from Project Site	Hydrological pathway	Risks to Qualifying Habitats	Mobile Species	Does the European Sites occur within the zone of influence of the project?
Bray Head SAC	714	1.8	<p>No. There is no hydrological pathway linking the project site to this SAC. All process and washdown waters generated at the project site are discharged to the foul sewerage network and are conveyed to the Bray Wastewater Pumping Station from where it is pumped to Shanganagh Treatment Works (near Shankill). All wastewater is fully treated at the treatment works prior to discharge to Irish Sea off Killiney.</p> <p>Only clean surface water runoff is generated at the project site and this discharges via the hydrological pathway shown in Figure 2.2 to the sea</p>	<p>No. The qualifying habitats of this SAC are terrestrial in nature and are not influenced by hydrological pathway. There are no hydrological pathway and no emissions from the project that could interact with or affect these habitats.</p>	<p>No. No Annex II species are listed as qualifying features of interest for this SAC.</p>	<p>No. Due to the absence of any emissions and hydrological pathway that could connect the project to this SAC and the distance between the project site and this SAC there will be no potential for the project site to interact with or effect this SAC. This SAC lies outside the zone of influence of the project.</p>



			at Bray. The discharge point of the surface water hydrological pathway is located at a remote distance from this SAC and is not connected to it.			
South Dublin Bay SAC	210	12.2km	No. There is no hydrological pathway linking the project site to this SAC.	No. The qualifying habitats of this SAC are terrestrial in nature and are not influenced by hydrological pathway. There are no hydrological pathway and no emissions from the project that could interact with or affect these habitats.	No. No Annex II species are listed as qualifying features of interest for this SAC.	No. Due to the absence of any emissions and hydrological pathway that could connect the project to this SAC and the distance between the project site and this SAC there will be no potential for the project site to interact with or effect this SAC. This SAC lies outside the zone of influence of the project.



Ballyman Glen SAC	713	2	No. There is no hydrological pathway linking the project site to this SAC.	No. The qualifying habitats of this SAC are terrestrial in nature and are not influenced by hydrological pathway. There are no hydrological pathway and no emissions from the project that could interact with or affect these habitats.	No. No mobile species are designated as features of interest for this SAC.	No. Due to the absence of any emissions and hydrological pathway that could connect the project to this SAC and the distance between the project site and this SAC there will be no potential for the project site to interact with or affect this SAC. This SAC lies outside the zone of influence of the project.
Carriggower Bog SAC	716	9	No. There is no hydrological pathway linking the project site to this SAC.	No. The qualifying habitats of this SAC are terrestrial in nature and are not influenced by hydrological pathway. There are no hydrological pathway and no emissions from	No. No mobile species are designated as features of interest for this SAC.	No. Due to the absence of any emissions and hydrological pathway that could connect the project to this SAC and the distance between the project site and this SAC there will be no potential for the project site to interact with or

				the project that could interact with or affect these habitats.		effect this SAC. This SAC lies outside the zone of influence of the project.
Glen of The Downs SAC	719	5	No. There is no hydrological pathway linking the project site to this SAC.	No. The qualifying habitats of this SAC are terrestrial in nature and are not influenced by hydrological pathway. There are no hydrological pathway and no emissions from the project that could interact with or affect these habitats.	No. No mobile species are designated as features of interest for this SAC.	No. Due to the absence of any emissions and hydrological pathway that could connect the project to this SAC and the distance between the project site and this SAC there will be no potential for the project site to interact with or effect this SAC. This SAC lies outside the zone of influence of the project.
Knocksink Wood SAC	725	3.3	No. There is no hydrological pathway linking the project site to this SAC.	No. The qualifying habitats of this SAC are terrestrial in nature and are not influenced by hydrological pathway.	No. No mobile species are designated as features of interest for this SAC.	No. Due to the absence of any emissions and hydrological pathway that could connect the project to this SAC and the distance between the project site

				There are no hydrological pathway and no emissions form the project that could interact with or affect these habitts.		and this SAC there will be no potential for the project site to interact with or effect this SAC. This SAC lies outside the zone of influence of the project.
Wicklow Mountains SAC	2122	6.7	No. There is no hydrological pathway linking the project site to this SAC.	No. The qualifying habitats of this SAC are terrestrial in nature and are not influenced by hydrological pathway. There are no hydrological pathway and no emissions form the project that could interact with or affect these habitts.	No. Otters are the only mobile species listed as qualifying species for this SAC. There is no habitat occurring in the vicinity ofh te project site that could support otters and this project site is located at a significant distance from this SAC and the lotic habitats upon which otters rely.	No. Due to the absence of any emissions and hydrological pathway that could connect the project to this SAC and the distance between the project site and this SAC there will be no potential for the project site to interact with or effect this SAC. This SAC lies outside the zone of influence of the project.



The Murrough Wetlands SAC	2249	9.5	No. There is no hydrological pathway linking the project site to this SAC.	No. The qualifying habitats of this SAC are terrestrial in nature and are not influenced by hydrological pathway. There are no hydrological pathway and no emissions from the project that could interact with or affect these habitats.	No. No mobile species are designated as features of interest for this SAC.	No. Due to the absence of any emissions and hydrological pathway that could connect the project to this SAC and the distance between the project site and this SAC there will be no potential for the project site to interact with or affect this SAC. This SAC lies outside the zone of influence of the project.
Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC	3000	6.8	No. There is no hydrological pathway linking the project site to this SAC.	No. The qualifying habitats of this SAC are terrestrial in nature and are not influenced by hydrological pathway. There are no hydrological pathway and no emissions from	No. No mobile species are designated as features of interest for this SAC.	No. Due to the absence of any emissions and hydrological pathway that could connect the project to this SAC and the distance between the project site and this SAC there will be no potential for the project site to interact with or

				the project that could interact with or affect these habitats.		effect this SAC. This SAC lies outside the zone of influence of the project.
South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA	4024	9.5	No. There is no hydrological pathway linking the project site to this SPA.	No. there are no connections between the project site and the wetland habitats of this SPA.	No. No suitable habitat for the special conservation interest bird species of this SPA occur at or in the vicinity of the project site.	No. There are no connections between the project site and this SPA and there is no potential for the project to interact with this SPA. This SPA lies outside the zone of influence of the project.
Wicklow Mountains SPA	4040	7	No. There is no hydrological pathway linking the project site to this SPA.	No. there are no connections between the project site and the wetland habitats of this SPA.	No. No suitable habitat for the special conservation interest bird species of this SPA occur at or in the vicinity of the project site.	No. There are no connections between the project site and this SPA and there is no potential for the project to interact with this SPA. This SPA lies outside the zone of influence of the project.



Dalkey Islands SPA	4172	12	No. There is no hydrological pathway linking the project site to this SPA.	No. there are no connections between the project site and the wetland habitats of this SPA.	No. No suitable habitat for the special conservation interest bird species of this SPA occur at or in the vicinity of the project site.	No. There are no connections between the project site and this SPA and there is no potential for the project to interact with this SPA. This SPA lies outside the zone of influence of the project.
The Murrough SPA	4186	10.5	No. There is no hydrological pathway linking the project site to this SPA.	No. there are no connections between the project site and the wetland habitats of this SPA.	No. No suitable habitat for the special conservation interest bird species of this SPA occur at or in the vicinity of the project site.	No. There are no connections between the project site and this SPA and there is no potential for the project to interact with this SPA. This SPA lies outside the zone of influence of the project.



Table 4.1 above shows that none of the thirteen European Sites occurring within a 15km radius of the project site occur within the zone of influence of the project

Table 4.2 provides a Screening Assessment in line with EU Guidance (2001) Assessment Criteria used to examine the potential of the proposed development to adversely impact upon European Sites. These assessment criteria are used to establish whether the project will have the potential to result in likely significant effects to the European Sites occurring in the wider area surrounding the project site.

Assessment Criteria	
<b><i>Describe any likely direct, indirect or secondary impacts of the project (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) to European Sites by virtue of:</i></b>	
Size and Scale	The project is small in size and scale and relates to ongoing operations at the Packaging Laundry Ltd. facility in Bray. The Licence will allow acceptance of up to 1,650 tonnes of empty packaging containers per annum.
Land-take	The project will not involve in any land take from European Sites or from semi-natural habitats.
Distance from European sites or key features of the site	The project is located at a remote distance from European Sites. The nearest European Sites is Bray Head SAC, located approximately 1.8km to the east. This SAC is designated for its cliff and heath habitats both of which are located over 1.8km from the project site.
Resource requirements	The project will not require the use of any resources that are connected with European Sites.
Emissions	The project operations generate emissions to the municipal foul water network and air. As outlined in Section 2.0 above, process water from washing of containers is discharged under controlled conditions from a 5000L holding tank to the municipal sewer. This discharge is licensed by Irish Water. Ultimately, foul water from Bray and surrounding area enters Bray Pumping Station from where it is pumped to Shanganagh Wastewater Treatment Works for treatment. There is no potential water emissions from the project site to interact with and influence the conservation status European Sites.





	Air emissions generated at the project site relate to emissions from an air conditioning unit. These emissions do not emit pollutants to the atmosphere and does not have the potential to negatively affect air quality locally or further afield in the vicinity of any European Sites.
Excavation requirements	No excavations are required as part of the project.
Transportation requirements	The project will not result in any changes to baseline traffic and transportation requirements.
Duration of construction, operation etc.	No construction activity is associated with the project. The licence that is being applied for is not time limited.
In-Combination Effects	As the project is not connected via any pathways to European Sites and as it is not resulting in any emissions to the local environment that could be perturbing air or water quality it will not have the potential to combine with other plans or project in the surrounding area to result in additive and cumulative effects to the environment and/or European Sites.
Reduction of habitat area	The project will not result in a reduction in the area of any qualifying habitats for European Sites.
Disturbance of key species	The project site is located in an urban area and will not result in any interaction with qualifying species/special conservation interest bird species of surrounding European Sites.
Habitat or species fragmentation	The project will not result in any fragmentation of natural, semi-natural habitats in the surrounding area or qualifying habitats of European Sites.
Reduction in species density	The project will not pose a risk of negative effects to the environment and will not have the potential to result in a reduction in the density of qualifying species or special conservation interest bird species of European Sites in the wider surrounding area.
Changes in key indicators of conservation status	The Site Specific Conservation Objectives of European Sites represent the key indicators of conservation status for the habitats and species that are supported under these sites. The project is not connected via impact pathways to any European Sites and will not have the potential to undermine the conservation objectives of these sites.
<b>Describe any likely impacts on the European Site as a whole in terms of:</b>	



<p>Interference with key relationships that define the structure and function of the site</p>	<p>The key relationships that define the structure and function of European Sites are detailed in the Site Specific Conservation Objectives for European Sites. As the project is not connected via any impact pathway to European Sites it will not have the potential to interfere with the Site Specific Conservation Objectives of European Sites and these key relationships.</p>
<p><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>	
<p>It has been concluded that the project will not have the potential to interact with any European Sites occurring in the wider area surrounding the project site due to the absence of any polluting emissions from the project site or emission pathways that could connect the project site to European Sites occurring in the wider surrounding area.</p>	



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## 6.0 SCREENING STATEMENT CONCLUSION: FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS

During the Screening of the proposed project it was found that 13 European Sites occur within a 15km radius of the project site. None of these European Sites are adjudged to be located within the zone of influence of the project.

In light of the findings of this report, it is the considered view of the author of this Screening Report for Appropriate Assessment that it can be concluded by the Agency that the project is not likely, alone or in combination with other plans or projects, to have a significant effect on any European Sites in view of their Conservation Objectives and on the basis of best scientific practice and there is no reasonable scientific doubt as to that conclusion.



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## REFERENCES

- Department of the Environment Heritage and Local Government (DEHLG) (2008) Circular letter SEA 1/08 & NPWS 1/08.
- Department of the Environment Heritage and Local Government (DEHLG) (2010). Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects. Guidance for Local Authorities.
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