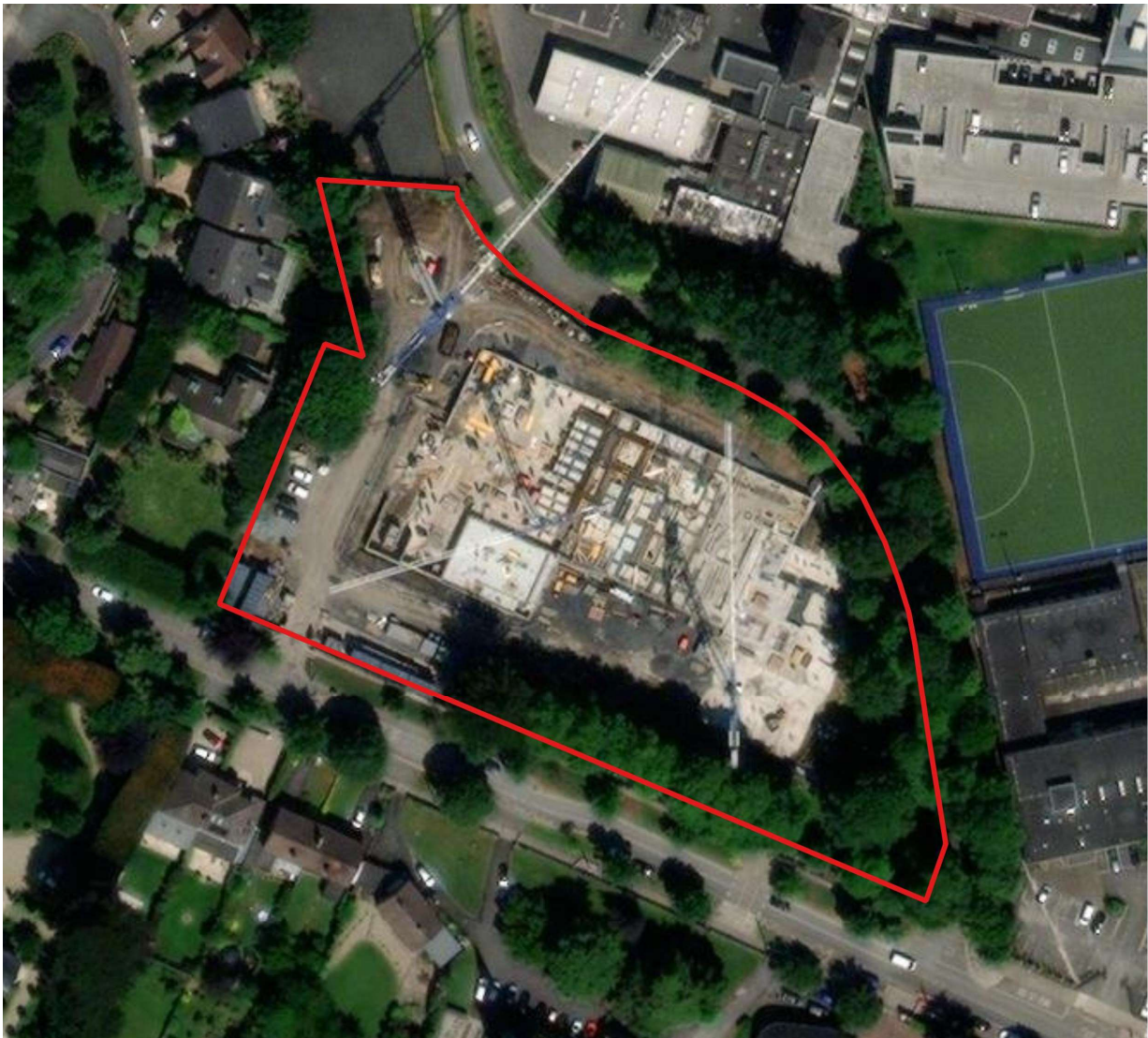


ALTEMAR

Marine & Environmental Consultancy

Appropriate Assessment Screening & Natura Impact Statement - Information for a Stage 1 (AA Screening) and Stage 2 (Natura Impact Statement) AA for Proposed Amendments to a Large-Scale Residential Development at Cross Avenue, Blackrock, Co. Dublin



16th May 2024

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On behalf of: 1 Players Land Limited.

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Document Control Sheet

Project	Appropriate Assessment Screening & Natura Impact Statement - Information for a Stage 1 (AA Screening) and Stage 2 (Natura Impact Statement) AA for proposed amendments to a large-scale residential development at Cross Avenue, Blackrock, Co. Dublin.		
Report	Appropriate Assessment Screening		
Date	16 th May 2024		
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Introduction

The following Appropriate Assessment (AA) (Screening Stage) has been prepared by **Altemar Ltd.** at the request of 1 Players Land Limited in relation to a proposed amendments to a previously approved Large-Scale Residential Development at Cross Avenue, Blackrock, Co. Dublin (ABP-3111190-21).

An Appropriate Assessment is an assessment of the potential effects of a proposed project or plan, on its own, or in combination with other plans or projects, on one or more Natura 2000 sites. Natura 2000 sites are those sites designated as Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) or Special Protection Areas (SPA).

The AA Screening stage examines the likely significant effects of a plan or project, either on its own, or in combination with other plans and projects, upon a Natura 2000 site and considers whether, on the basis of objective scientific evidence, it can be concluded that there are not likely to be significant effects on any European site, in view of best scientific knowledge and the conservation objectives of the relevant European sites.

The Natura Impact Statement examines whether the plan or project, either alone, or in combination with other plans and projects, in the view of best scientific knowledge and in view of the sites' conservation objectives, will adversely affect the integrity of the European sites.

Altemar Ltd.

Since its inception in 2001, Altemar has been delivering ecological and environmental services to a broad range of clients. Operational areas include: residential; infrastructural; renewable; oil & gas; private industry; Local Authorities; EC projects; and, State/semi-State Departments. Bryan Deegan, the managing director of Altemar, is an Environmental Scientist and Marine Biologist with 30 years' experience working in Irish terrestrial and aquatic environments, providing services to the State, Semi-State and industry. He is currently contracted to Inland Fisheries Ireland as the sole "External Expert" to environmentally assess internal and external projects. He is also chair of an internal IFI working group on environmental assessment. Bryan Deegan (MCIEEM) holds a MSc in Environmental Science, BSc (Hons.) in Applied Marine Biology, NCEA National Diploma in Applied Aquatic Science and a NCEA National Certificate in Science (Aquaculture). Bryan Deegan carried out all elements of this Appropriate Assessment Screening.

Background to the Appropriate Assessment

The Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (together with the Birds Directive (2009/1477/EC)) forms the cornerstone of Europe's nature conservation policy. The Habitats Directive protects over 1000 animals and plant species and over 200 "habitat types" which are of European importance. In the Habitats Directive, Articles 3 to 9 provide the legislative means to protect habitats and species of European Community interest through the establishment and conservation of an EU-wide network of conservation sites (NATURA, 2000). These are Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) designated under the Habitats Directive and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) designated under the Birds Directive, Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive set out the decision-making tests for plans and projects likely to affect European sites (Annex 1.1). Article 6(3) establishes the requirement for Appropriate Assessment:

"Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the [NATURA 2000] site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans and projects, shall be subjected to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives. In light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implication for the site and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, the component national authorities shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public."

As outlined in "Managing European sites, The provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC" (European Commission, 21 November 2018) *"The purpose of the appropriate assessment is to assess the implications of the plan or project in respect of the site's conservation objectives, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects. The conclusions should enable the competent authorities to ascertain whether the plan or project will adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned. The focus of the appropriate*

assessment is therefore specifically on the species and/or the habitats for which the European site is designated.”

As outlined in the EC guidance document on Article 6(4) (January 2007)¹:

“Appropriate assessments of the implications of the plan or project for the site concerned must precede its approval and take into account the cumulative effects which result from the combination of that plan or project with other plans or projects in view of the site's conservation objectives. This implies that all aspects of the plan or project which can, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, affect those objectives must be identified in the light of the best scientific knowledge in the field.

Assessment procedures of plans or projects likely to affect European sites should guarantee full consideration of all elements contributing to the site integrity and to the overall coherence of the network, both in the definition of the baseline conditions and in the stages leading to identification of potential impacts, mitigation measures and residual impacts. These determine what has to be compensated, both in quality and quantity. Regardless of whether the provisions of Article 6(3) are delivered following existing environmental impact assessment procedures or other specific methods, it must be ensured that:

- *Article 6(3) assessment results allow full traceability of the decisions eventually made, including the selection of alternatives and any imperative reasons of overriding public interest.*
- *The assessment should include all elements contributing to the site's integrity and to the overall coherence of the network as defined in the site's conservation objectives and Standard Data Form, and be based on best available scientific knowledge in the field. The information required should be updated and could include the following issues:*
 - *Structure and function, and the respective role of the site's ecological assets;*
 - *Area, representativity and conservation status of the priority and nonpriority habitats in the site;*
 - *Population size, degree of isolation, ecotype, genetic pool, age class structure, and conservation status of species under Annex II of the Habitats Directive or Annex I of the Birds Directive present in the site;*
 - *Role of the site within the biographical region and in the coherence of the European network; and,*
 - *Any other ecological assets and functions identified in the site.*
- *It should include a comprehensive identification of all the potential impacts of the plan or project likely to be significant on the site, taking into account cumulative impacts and other impacts likely to arise as a result of the combined action of the plan or project under assessment and other plans or projects.*
- *The assessment under Article 6(3) applies the best available techniques and methods, to estimate the extent of the effects of the plan or project on the biological integrity of the site(s) likely to be damaged.*
- *The assessment provides for the incorporation of the most effective mitigation measures into the plan or project concerned, in order to avoid, reduce or even cancel the negative impacts on the site.*
- *The characterisation of the biological integrity and the impact assessment should be based on the best possible indicators specific to the European assets which must also be useful to monitor the plan or project implementation.”*

¹ European Commission. (2007). Guidance document on Article 6(4) of the 'Habitats Directive' 92/43/EEC – Clarification of the concepts of: alternative solutions, imperative reasons of overriding public interest, compensatory measures, overall coherence, opinion of the commission;

Stages of the Appropriate Assessment

This Appropriate Assessment screening and Natura Impact Statement was undertaken in accordance with the European Commission Methodological Guidance on the provision of Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC (EC, 2001), Part XAB of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, in addition to the December 2009 publication from the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government; 'Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland: Guidance for Planning Authorities' and the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011. In order to comply with the above Guidelines and legislation, the Appropriate Assessment process has been structured as follows:

- 1) Screening stage:
 - Description of plan or project, and local site or plan area characteristics;
 - Identification of relevant European sites, and compilation of information on their qualifying interests and conservation objectives
 - Identification and description of individual in combination effects likely to result from the proposed project;
 - Assessment of the likely significance of the effects identified above. Exclusion of sites where it can be objectively concluded that there will be no likely significant effects; and,
Conclusions
- 2) Appropriate Assessment (Natura Impact Statement):
 - Description of the European sites that will be considered further;
 - Identification and description of potential adverse impacts on the conservation objectives of these sites likely to occur from the project or plan; and,
 - Mitigation Measures that will be implemented to avoid, reduce or remedy any such potential adverse impacts
 - Assessment as to whether, following the implementation of the proposed mitigation measures, it can be concluded, beyond all reasonable scientific doubt, that there will be no adverse impact on the integrity of the relevant European Site in light of its conservation objectives"
 - Conclusions.

If it can be demonstrated during the AA screening phase (Stage 1), that the proposed project will not have a significant effect, whether alone or in combination with other plans or projects, on the conservation objectives of a Natura 2000 site, then no further AA (Stage 2) will be required. It is important to note that there is a requirement to apply a precautionary approach to AA screening. Therefore, where effects are possible, certain or unknown at the screening stage, AA will be required.

In addition, it should be noted that Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive must be interpreted as meaning that, in order to determine whether it is necessary to carry out, subsequently, an AA of the implications, for a site concerned, of a plan or project, it is not appropriate, at the screening stage, to take account of the measures intended to avoid or reduce the harmful effects of the plan or project on that site.

Stage 1 Screening Assessment

Management of the Site

The plan or project is not directly connected with, or necessary to the management of European sites.

Project Description

1 Players Land Limited intend to apply for Permission for Large-Scale Residential Development at this site at Cross Avenue, Blackrock, Co. Dublin. The application site includes lands formerly part of/ owned by Blackrock College.

The development will consist of amendments to Blocks A and B of the permitted Strategic Housing Development (SHD) (Ref. ABP-311190-21) to provide 5 no. additional apartments resulting in a total of 246 no. apartments across the entire development.

The proposed amendments include the following:

- Extension of the fourth floor of block A to provide 3 no. additional apartments made up of 2 no. 1 bed and 1 no. 2 bed apartments.
- Extension of the seventh floor of block B to provide 2 no. additional 1 bed apartments.
- Alteration of open space at ground floor level to provide additional communal open space.

The proposed amendment includes all associated site services and development works required to facilitate the amendment to blocks A and B.

All other works will be completed as permitted by the parent permission ABP-311190-21.

The site outline, site location and architectural plans are shown in Figures 1-5.

Landscape

The landscape strategy for the proposed development has been prepared by Niall Montgomery + Partners.

The landscape masterplan is shown in Figure 6.

Drainage

An Engineering Infrastructure Report has been prepared by Barrett Mahony Consulting Engineers to accompany this application. It outlines the following:

'SURFACE WATER DRAINAGE SYSTEM

3.1 SURFACEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE

The proposed additional units do not increase the building footprint area and do not give rise to an increase in impermeable surfaces. The additional units are to be located wholly within the existing building footprint of Blocks A and B. Therefore, the proposed additional units will not result in an increase in surface water discharge from the development and will have negligible impact on the existing surface water system and attenuation volumes.

The surface water system, attenuation volume provided and the rate of discharge from the site will be as per the original granted permission ABP-311190-21.

3.2 SUDS STRATEGY

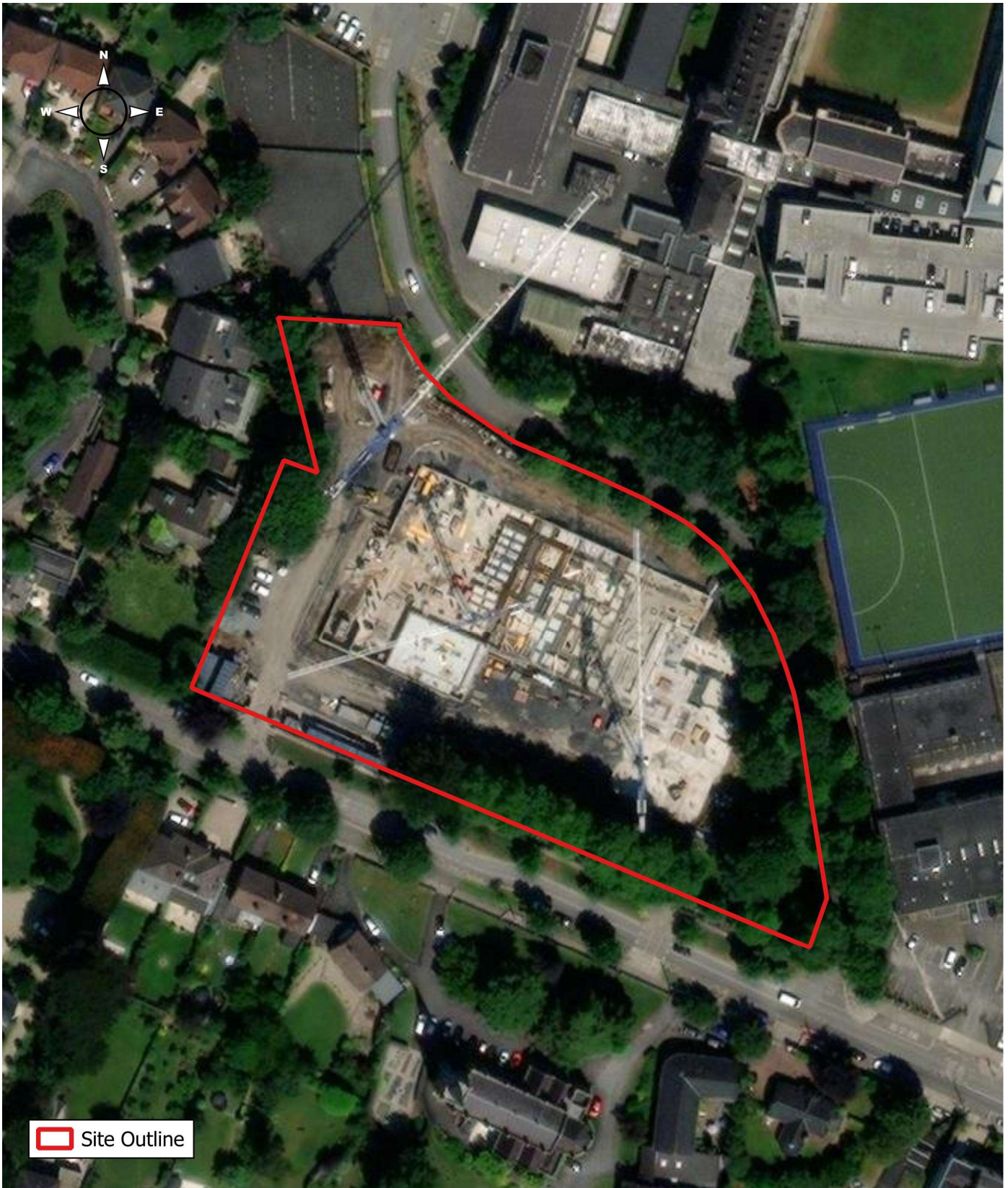
The SuDS strategy will be as per the original granted permission ABP-311190-21. As noted in Section 1 above, it is proposed that the new roof of the additional units will incorporate a green roof. Therefore, no decrease in green roof area is proposed and the development will still achieve a minimum of 60% green roof area. See drawings CAV-BMCE-00-ZZ-DR-C-0110 and CAVBMCE- 00-ZZ-DR-C-0111 for existing and proposed green roof areas.

FOUL DRAINAGE SYSTEM

4.1 FOUL SEWER INFRASTRUCTURE

'The proposed additional units will result in a minor increase in foul effluent from the development. The existing pipe network has sufficient capacity to cater for this small increase in foul flows. Therefore, the foul drainage system will be as per the original granted permission ABP-311190-21.'

The drainage layout from the permitted Cross Avenue SHD (ABP-311190-21) is shown in Figure 7.



0 50 100 m

Project: Cross Avenue
 Location: Blackrock, Co. Dublin
 Date: 14th May 2024
 Drawn By: Bryan Deegan (Altamar)

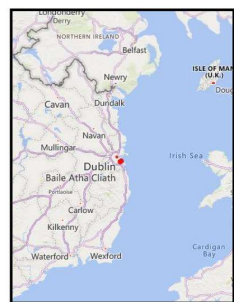
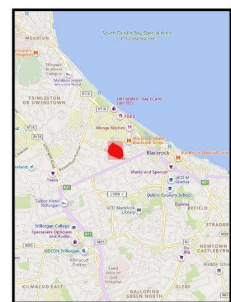


Figure 1. Site outline



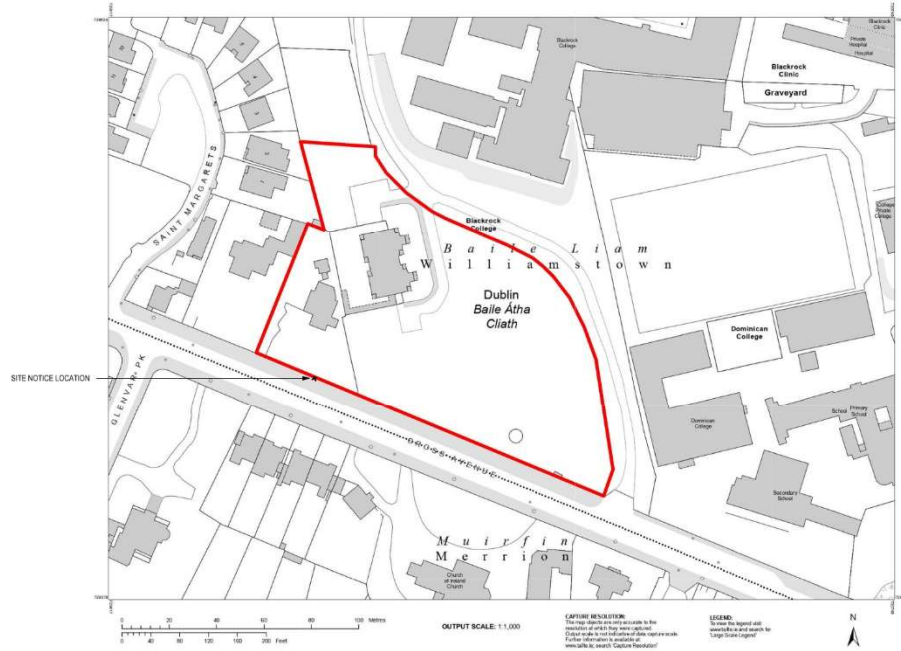
0 0.5 1 km

Project: Cross Avenue
 Location: Blackrock, Co. Dublin
 Date: 14th May 2024
 Drawn By: Bryan Deegan (Altemar)



Figure 2. Site location

Planning Pack Map



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Client: **1 PLAYERS LAND LIMITED**

Project: **CROSS AVENUE, BLACKROCK**

Title: **SITE LOCATION PLAN**

Stage: **PLANNING**

Status: **S2 - FOR INFORMATION**

Sheet No: **1320-MDO-XX-XX-DR-A-01002**

Scale as: **1:1,000 @ A1** Current Rev: **P4** Project No.: **1320**

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Figure 3. Site location plan



2 PLANNING PROPOSED SITE PLAN
Scale: 1:500

REV	DATE	DESCRIPTION	BY
PS	14/03/2024	PLANNING	JAR
PS	14/03/2024	PLANNING	JAR
PS	14/03/2024	PLANNING	JAR
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PS	14/03/2024	PLANNING	JAR
PS	14/03/2024	PLANNING	JAR

NORTH POINT

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Client: 1 PLAYERS LAND LIMITED
 Project: CROSS AVENUE, BLACKROCK
 Title: PROPOSED SITE PLAN

Stage: **PLANNING**
 Status: S2 - FOR INFORMATION

Sheet No: **1320-MDO-XX-XX-DR-A-20002**
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Figure 4. Proposed site plan

A1



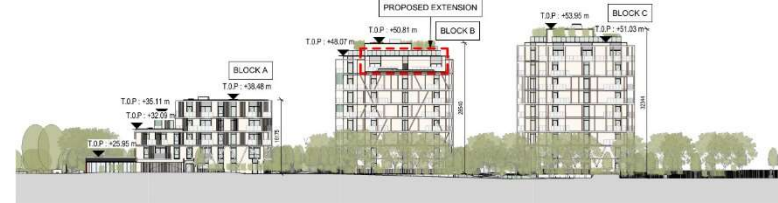
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Scale: 1 : 500



③ EXISTING PLANNING CONTIGUOUS SOUTH ELEVATION 1.500
Scale: 1 : 500



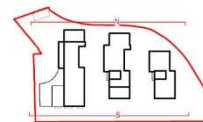
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Scale: 1 : 500



② PROPOSED PLANNING CONTIGUOUS SOUTH ELEVATION 1.500
Scale: 1 : 500

REV	DATE	DESCRIPTION	BY
P1	10/07/2024	PLANNING	GC
P2	14/02/2024	PLANNING	GC
P3	16/02/2024	PLANNING	GC
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Client: 1 PLAYERS LAND LIMITED
Project: CROSS AVENUE, BLACKROCK
Title: PLANNING NORTH & SOUTH CONTIGUOUS ELEVATIONS
Stage: PLANNING
Status: S2 - FOR INFORMATION
Sheet No: 1320-MDO-XX-ZZ-DR-A-06001
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Figure 5. Contiguous elevations



Figure 6. Landscape masterplan



Figure 8. Proposed SuDS strategy

Identification of Relevant European Sites

The proposed development site is not within a European site. As outlined in Office of the Planning Regulator (2021) *“The zone of influence of a proposed development is the geographical area over which it could affect the receiving environment in a way that could have significant effects on the Qualifying Interests of a European site. This should be established on a case-by-case basis using the Source- Pathway-Receptor framework and not by arbitrary distances (such as 15 km).”*

A key factor in the consideration as to whether a particular European site is likely to be affected by the proposed development is its distance from the development location. It is generally, but not necessarily, the case that the greater the distance from the plan or project the smaller the likelihood of impacts. In this case, the nearest Natura 2000 sites are South Dublin Bay SAC and South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA (600m each). A minor watercourse (Brewery Stream) is located to the south and east of the subject site, and discharges to the marine environment of Dublin Bay, which is approximately 500m north of the site (Figure 11). It is proposed to discharge the stormwater drainage within the site, during construction to the surface water network (which leads to Mount Merrion Avenue) and during operation to the existing 900mm concrete surface water sewer on Mount Merrion Avenue. This surface water network ultimately outfalls to Dublin Bay and so it is considered that there is an indirect hydrological pathway between the subject site and two Natura 2000 sites at Dublin Bay, namely South Dublin Bay SAC and South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA. Foul water from the site will discharge by gravity to the 300mm vitrified clay combined sewer on Cross Avenue which ultimately discharges to the treatment works at Ringsend WwTP. The site is currently under construction under the approved Cross Avenue SHD (ABP-311190-21). An NIS was previously provided for the approved scheme. As a result, mitigation measures are currently in place on site to based on the previously submitted NIS, and these will be in place during the construction of the proposed application. As a result, it is necessary to prepare an NIS for the proposed amendments as these mitigation measures will be in place to prevent significant effects on the qualifying interests of two Natura 2000 sites.

In the interest of carrying out a thorough assessment in line with both the Habitats Directive, and the precautionary principle, the ZoI was expanded for this assessment to include designated sites within 15km of the proposed development site, and sites beyond 15km with the potential for a hydrological connection. This was done in the interest of ensuring that any pathways, however indirect or remote, were considered. The Natura 2000 sites within 15km are seen in Figures 9 & 10. Watercourses and Natura 2000 sites proximate to the proposed development are demonstrated in Figures 11-13. All Natura 2000 sites within 15km are listed in Table 1. The conservation objectives, qualifying interests, and the potential impact of the development on each European site and qualifying interest, are outlined in Table 2. There is no direct or indirect pathway to Natura 2000 sites beyond 15km. No European Sites outside of the 15km could be impacted by the proposed development.

Table 1. Proximity to designated sites of conservation importance

Code	NATURA 2000 Site	Distance	Direct Hydrological / Biodiversity Connection
<i>Special Areas of Conservation</i>			
IE000210	South Dublin Bay SAC	0.5 km	No
IE000206	North Dublin Bay SAC	5.4 km	No
IE003000	Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC	6.5 km	No
IE002122	Wicklow Mountains SAC	9.4 km	No
IE000202	Howth Head SAC	9.7 km	No
IE001209	Knocksink Wood SAC	9.9 km	No
IE000713	Ballyman Glen SAC	10.4 km	No
IE000199	Baldoyle Bay SAC	11.1 km	No
IE001209	Glenasmole Valley SAC	12.6 km	No
IE000714	Bray Head SAC	13.3 km	No
IE002193	Ireland's Eye SAC	13.8 km	No
<i>Special Protection Areas</i>			
IE004024	South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA	0.5 km	No
IE004006	North Bull Island SPA	5.4 km	No
IE004236	North-West Irish Sea SPA	5.5 km	No
IE004172	Dalkey Islands SPA	6.7 km	No
IE004040	Wicklow Mountains SPA	9.5 km	No
IE004016	Baldoyle Bay SPA	11.1 km	No
IE004113	Howth Head Coast SPA	11.3 km	No
IE004117	Ireland's Eye SPA	13.5 km	No

Table 2. Initial screening of NATURA 2000 sites within 15km and NATURA 2000 sites beyond 15km with potential of hydrological connection to the proposed development

NATURA Code	Name	Screened IN/OUT	Details/Reason
Special Areas of Conservation			
IE000210	South Dublin Bay SAC	IN	<p>Conservation Objectives To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide in South Dublin Bay SAC, which is defined by the following targets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The permanent habitat area is stable or increasing, subject to natural processes. • Maintain the extent of the <i>Zostera</i> –dominated community, subject to natural processes. • Conserve the high quality of the <i>Zostera</i> –dominated community, subject to natural processes • Conserve the following community type in a natural condition: Fine sands with <i>Angulus tenuis</i> community complex. <p>Features of Interest 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]</p> <p>Potential Impact The development site is located within a suburban area approximately 0.5 km from this SAC. This SAC is coastal in nature.</p>

NATURA Code	Name	Screened IN/OUT	Details/Reason
			<p>There is no direct pathway to this SAC. However, there is an indirect pathway to this site via the surface water network. Mitigation measures will be required to ensure protection of the surface water quality and prevent impact on this SAC. In addition, the works will need be carried out in compliance with Local Government (Water Pollution) Acts.</p> <p>Based on the precautionary principle and the fact that the project will utilize existing mitigation measures to prevent impacts on the surface water network which is only 500m from this SAC, a NIS is deemed appropriate as significant effects on the integrity of this site cannot be ruled out in the absence of mitigation measures, which are currently in place.</p> <p>A Stage II Appropriate Assessment is Required.</p>
IE000206	North Dublin Bay SAC	OUT	<p>Conservation Objectives: To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected.</p> <p>Features of Interest 1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide 1210 Annual vegetation of drift lines 1310 Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand 1330 Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) 1395 Petalwort (<i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i>) 1410 Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) 2110 Embryonic shifting dunes 2120 Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> 2130 Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) 2190 Humid dune slacks</p> <p>Potential Impacts The development site is located within a suburban area approximately 5.4 km from this SAC. There is no direct pathway to this site. However, there is a potential indirect pathway to this SAC via surface water and foul water networks. Measures will be required to comply with Water Pollution Acts to ensure silt and pollution does not enter the surface water network that leads to Dublin Bay. In the absence of measures on site, silt or pollution would likely enter the marine environment and would settle, dilute and mix with marine water. Due to the distance, dilution settlement and mixing, in the absence of any measures on site, any silt or pollution that enters the marine environment would not be at levels that would significantly affect the Natura 2000 site.</p> <p>No potential impact is foreseen. There is no direct pathway from this site to the SAC. The construction and operation of the proposed development will not impact on the conservation interests of the site.</p> <p>No significant effects likely</p>

NATURA Code	Name	Screened IN/OUT	Details/Reason
IE003000	Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC	OUT	<p>Conservation Objectives</p> <p>To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Reefs and Harbour porpoise, in Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC, which is defined by the following list of targets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The permanent habitat area is stable or increasing, subject to natural processes. • Distribution of habitat is stable or increasing, subject to natural processes. • Conserve the following community types in a natural condition: Intertidal reef community complex; and Subtidal reef community complex. • Porpoise range within site should not be restricted by artificial barriers to site use. • Human activities should occur at levels that do not adversely affect the harbour porpoise community at the site. <p>Feature of Interest</p> <p>Reefs [1170] <i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour porpoise) [1351]</p> <p>Potential Impact</p> <p>The development site is located within a suburban area approximately 6.5 km from this SAC. This SAC is coastal in nature and its features of interest are terrestrial habitats. There is no direct pathway to this site. However, there is a potential indirect pathway to this SAC via surface water and foul water networks. Measures will be required to comply with Water Pollution Acts to ensure silt and pollution does not enter the surface water network that leads to Dublin Bay. In the absence of measures on site silt or pollution would likely enter the marine environment and would settle, dilute and mix with marine water. Due to the distance, dilution settlement and mixing, in the absence of any measures on site, any silt or pollution that enters the marine environment would not be at levels that would significantly affect the Natura 2000 site.</p> <p>No potential impact is foreseen. There is no direct pathway from this site to the SAC. The construction and operation of the proposed development will not impact on the conservation interests of the site.</p> <p>No significant effects are likely.</p>
IE002122	Wicklow Mountains SAC	OUT	<p>Conservation Objectives</p> <p>To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected.</p> <p>Features of Interest</p> <p>Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the <i>Littorelletea uniflorae</i> and/or Isoeto-Nanojuncetea [3130] Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160] Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010] European dry heaths [4030] Apine and Boreal heaths [4060] Species-rich <i>Nardus</i> grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe) [6230]</p>

NATURA Code	Name	Screened IN/OUT	Details/Reason
			<p>Blanket bogs (if active bog) [7130] Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (<i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsietalia ladani</i>) [8110] Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8210] Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220] Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0] <i>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter) [1355]</p> <p>Potential Impact The development site is located 9.4 km from the Wicklow Mountains SAC. The development does not have a direct or indirect connection or pathway to the SAC. The SAC is located inland and the feature of interest is a terrestrial habitat. The proposed development would not impact on the features of interest or the conservation objectives of this SAC.</p> <p>No significant effects are likely.</p>
IE0000202	Howth Head SAC	OUT	<p>Conservation Objectives To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected.</p> <p>Qualifying Interests (1230) Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts (4030) European dry heaths</p> <p>Source/Pathway/Receptor links between the works and the Natura 2000 site, with the potential to result in significant adverse effects. The development site is located within a suburban area approximately 9.7 km from this SAC. There is no direct or indirect pathway to this SAC. Measures will be required to comply with Water Pollution Acts to ensure silt and pollution does not enter the surface water network that leads to Dublin Bay. In the absence of measures on site silt or pollution would enter the marine environment and would settle, dilute and mix with marine water. Due to the distance, dilution settlement and mixing, in the absence of any measures on site, any silt or pollution that enters the marine environment would not be at levels that would significantly affect the Natura 2000 site.</p> <p>No potential impact is foreseen. There is no direct pathway from this site to the SAC. The construction and operation of the proposed development will not impact on the conservation interests of the site.</p> <p>No significant adverse effects are likely</p>
IE001209	Knocksink Wood SAC	OUT	<p>Conservation Objectives To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected.</p> <p>Features of Interest Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>) [7220]</p>

NATURA Code	Name	Screened IN/OUT	Details/Reason
			<p>Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0] Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (<i>Alno-Padion</i>, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>) [91E0]</p> <p>Potential Impact The development is 9.9 km from the Knocksink Wood SAC. The development has no direct or indirect hydrological connection to this SAC that is located at a higher elevation. The proposed development would not impact on the features of interest or the conservation objectives of this SAC.</p> <p>No significant effects are likely.</p>
IE000713	Ballyman Glen SAC	OUT	<p>Conservation Objectives To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected.</p> <p>Features of Interest Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220] Alkaline fens [7230]</p> <p>Potential Impact The development is 10.4 km from the Ballyman Glen SAC. The development has no direct or indirect hydrological connection to this SAC that is located at a higher elevation. The proposed development would not impact on the features of interest or the conservation objectives of this SAC.</p> <p>No significant effects are likely.</p>
IE000199	Baldoyle Bay SAC	OUT	<p>Conservation Objectives: To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected.</p> <p>Qualifying Interests 1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide 1310 Salicornia and other annuals colonizing mud and sand 1330 Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) 1410 Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>)</p> <p>Potential Impact The development site is located within a suburban area approximately 11.1 km from this SAC. There is no direct or indirect pathway to this SAC. Measures will be required to comply with Water Pollution Acts to ensure silt and pollution does not enter the surface water network that leads to Dublin Bay. In the absence of measures on site silt or pollution would enter the marine environment and would settle, dilute and mix with marine water. Due to the distance, dilution settlement and mixing, in the absence of any measures on site, any silt or pollution that enters the marine environment would not be at levels that would significantly affect the Natura 2000 site.</p> <p>No potential impact is foreseen. There is no direct pathway from this site to the SAC. The construction and operation of the proposed</p>

NATURA Code	Name	Screened IN/OUT	Details/Reason
			<p>development will not impact on the conservation interests of the site.</p> <p>No significant effects are likely</p>
IE000714	Bray Head SAC	OUT	<p>Conservation Objectives To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected</p> <p>Features of Interest Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230] European dry heaths [4030]</p> <p>Potential Impact The development site is located within a suburban area approximately 13.3 km from this SAC.</p> <p>There is no direct or indirect pathway to this SAC. Measures will be required to comply with Water Pollution Acts to ensure silt and pollution does not enter the surface water network that leads to Dublin Bay. In the absence of measures on site silt or pollution would enter the marine environment and would settle, dilute and mix with marine water. Due to the distance, dilution settlement and mixing, in the absence of any measures on site, any silt or pollution that enters the marine environment would not be at levels that would significantly affect the Natura 2000 site.</p> <p>No potential impact is foreseen. There is no direct pathway from this site to the SAC. The construction and operation of the proposed development will not impact on the conservation interests of the site.</p> <p>No significant effects are likely.</p>
IE001209	Glenasmole Valley SAC	OUT	<p>Conservation Objectives To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected.</p> <p>Qualifying Interests Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) (* important orchid sites) [6210] Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>) [6410] Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>) [7220]</p> <p>Source/Pathway/Receptor links between the works and the Natura 2000 site, with the potential to result in significant adverse effects. The development site is located 12.6 km from the Glenasmole Valley SAC. The development does not have a direct or indirect connection or pathway to the SAC. The SAC is located inland and the feature of interest is a terrestrial habitat. The proposed development would not impact on the features of interest or the conservation objectives of this SAC.</p>

NATURA Code	Name	Screened IN/OUT	Details/Reason
			No significant adverse effects are likely
IE002193	Ireland's Eye SAC	OUT	<p>Conservation Objectives: To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected.</p> <p>Qualifying Interests 1220 Perennial vegetation of stony banks 1230 Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts</p> <p>Potential Impact The development site is located within a suburban area approximately 13.8 km from this SAC.</p> <p>There is no direct or indirect pathway to this SAC. Measures will be required to comply with Water Pollution Acts to ensure silt and pollution does not enter the surface water network that leads to Dublin Bay. In the absence of measures on site silt or pollution would enter the marine environment and would settle, dilute and mix with marine water. Due to the distance, dilution settlement and mixing, in the absence of any measures on site, any silt or pollution that enters the marine environment would not be at levels that would significantly affect the Natura 2000 site.</p> <p>No potential impact is foreseen. There is no direct pathway from this site to the SAC. The construction and operation of the proposed development will not impact on the conservation interests of the site.</p> <p>No significant effects are likely</p>
Special Protection Areas			
IE004024	South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA	IN	<p>Conservation Objectives To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Conservation Interests for this SPA.</p> <p>To maintain the favourable conservation condition of the wetland habitat in South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA as a resource for the regularly occurring migratory waterbirds that utilise it.</p> <p>Features of Interest <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> (Light-bellied Brent Goose) [A046] <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> (Oystercatcher) [A130] <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> (Ringed Plover) [A137] <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> (Grey Plover) [A141] <i>Calidris canutus</i> (Knot) [A143] <i>Calidris alba</i> (Sanderling) [A144] <i>Calidris alpina</i> (Dunlin) [A149] <i>Limosa lapponica</i> (Bar-tailed Godwit) [A157] <i>Tringa totanus</i> (Redshank) [A162] <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> (Black-headed Gull) [A179] <i>Sterna dougallii</i> (Roseate Tern) [A192]</p>

NATURA Code	Name	Screened IN/OUT	Details/Reason
			<p><i>Sterna hirundo</i> (Common Tern) [A193] <i>Sterna paradisaea</i> (Arctic Tern) [A194] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]</p> <p>Potential Impact The development site is located 0.5 km from the South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA (Fig. 10). This SPA and its features of interest are marine based. The site is not an important foraging or roosting area for these species. Wintering bird surveys have been previously carried out for the original application (ABP-311190-21). Surveys indicate that the proposed development site is not important for wintering birds and the qualifying interests of this SPA.</p> <p>Noise from the works would be localized to the vicinity of the site. There are main roads, a train line and Blackrock Park between the proposed development site and this SPA. Noise from the works, and the already permitted development of Cross Avenue SHD would be deemed to have a negligible impact on the qualifying interests due to the distance and existing background noise levels in the vicinity of the SPA.</p> <p>There is no direct pathway to this SPA. However, there is an indirect pathway to this site via the surface water network and foul water networks. The existing mitigation measures will be required to ensure protection of the surface water quality and prevent impacts on this SPA. In addition, the works will need be carried out in compliance with Local Government (Water Pollution) Acts.</p> <p>Based on the precautionary principle and the fact that the project will utilize mitigation measures that are currently in place, to prevent impacts on the surface water network which is only 500m from this SPA, a NIS is deemed appropriate as significant effects on the integrity of this site cannot be ruled out in the absence of mitigation measures.</p> <p>A Stage II Appropriate Assessment is Required.</p>
IE0004006	North Bull Island SPA	OUT	<p>Conservation Objective: To maintain or restore the favourable conservation conditions of the species and/or habitats listed as Qualifying Interests for this SPA.</p> <p>Qualifying Interests A046 Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) A048 Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) A052 Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) A054 Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) A056 Shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>) A130 Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) A140 Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) A141 Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) A143 Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) A144 Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) A149 Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina alpina</i>) A156 Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) A157 Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>)</p>

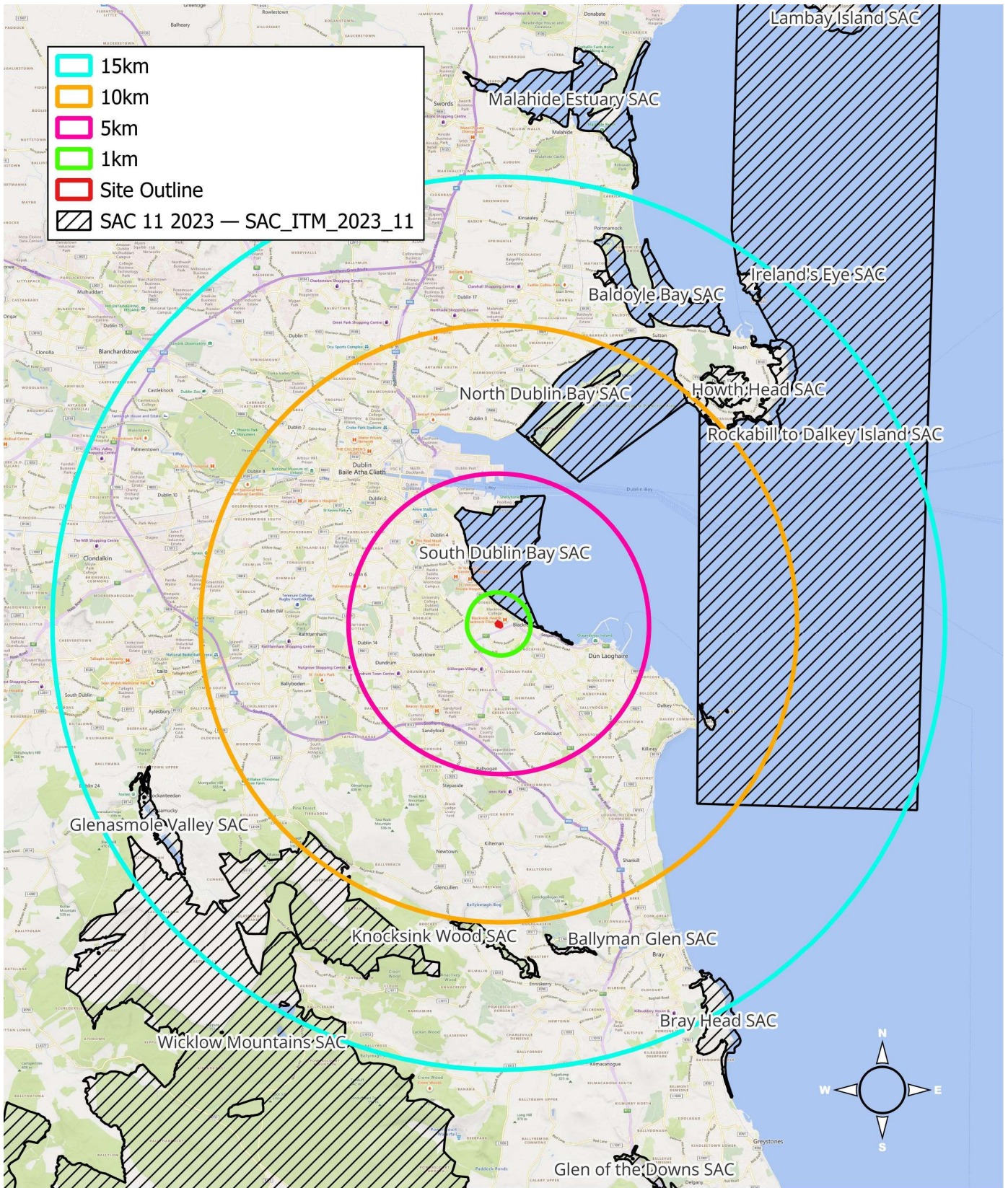
NATURA Code	Name	Screened IN/OUT	Details/Reason
			<p>A160 Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) A162 Redshank (<i>Tringa tetanus</i>) A169 Turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>) A179 Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) A999 Wetlands</p> <p>Potential Impact The proposed development site is located 5.4 km from the North Bull Island SPA (Fig. 10). This SPA and its features of interest are marine based. The site is not an important foraging or roosting area for these species. However, wintering bird surveys have been carried out by Hugh Delaney (ornithologist). The site is not important for wintering birds and the qualifying interests of this SPA.</p> <p>Noise from the works would be localized to the vicinity of the site. There are main roads, a train line, and Blackrock Park between the proposed development site and this SPA. Noise from the works, and the already permitted development of Cross Avenue SHD would be deemed to have a negligible impact on the qualifying interests due to the distance and existing background noise levels in the vicinity of the SPA.</p> <p>There is no direct pathway to this site. However, there is a potential indirect pathway to this site via surface water and foul water networks. The existing mitigation measures will be required to comply with Water Pollution Acts to ensure silt and pollution does not enter the surface water network that leads to Dublin Bay. In the absence of measures on site silt or pollution would enter the marine environment and would settle, dilute and mix with marine water. Due to the distance, dilution settlement and mixing, in the absence of any measures on site, any silt or pollution that enters the marine environment would not be at levels that would significantly affect the Natura 2000 site.</p> <p>No significant effects are likely</p>
IE004236	North-West Irish Sea SPA	OUT	<p>Conservation Objectives</p> <p>The maintenance of habitats and species within Natura 2000 sites at favourable conservation condition will contribute to the overall maintenance of favourable conservation status of those habitats and species at a national level.</p> <p>Qualifying Interests</p> <p>Red-throated Diver (<i>Gavia stellata</i>) [A001] Great Northern Diver (<i>Gavia immer</i>) [A003] Fulmar (<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>) [A009] Manx Shearwater (<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>) [A013] Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017] Shag (<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>) [A018] Common Scoter (<i>Melanitta nigra</i>) [A065] Little Gull (<i>Larus minutus</i>) [A177] Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179] Common Gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) [A182] Lesser Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>) [A183]</p>

NATURA Code	Name	Screened IN/OUT	Details/Reason
			<p>Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) [A184] Great Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus marinus</i>) [A187] Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) [A188] Roseate Tern (<i>Sterna dougallii</i>) [A192] Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193] Arctic Tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) [A194] Little Tern (<i>Sterna albifrons</i>) [A195] Guillemot (<i>Uria aalge</i>) [A199] Razorbill (<i>Alca torda</i>) [A200] Puffin (<i>Fratercula arctica</i>) [A204]</p> <p>Potential Impact The proposed development site is located 5.5 km from the North Bull Island SPA (Fig 10). This SPA and its features of interest are marine based. The site is not an important foraging or roosting area for these species. However, wintering bird surveys have been carried out by Hugh Delaney (ornithologist). The site is not important for wintering birds and the qualifying interests of this SPA.</p> <p>Noise from the works would be localized to the vicinity of the site. There are main roads, a train line, and Blackrock Park between the proposed development site and this SPA. Noise from the works, and the already permitted development of Cross Avenue SHD would be deemed to have a negligible impact on the qualifying interests due to the distance and existing background noise levels in the vicinity of the SPA.</p> <p>There is no direct pathway to this site. However, there is a potential indirect pathway to this site via surface water and foul water networks. The existing mitigation measures will be required to comply with Water Pollution Acts to ensure silt and pollution does not enter the surface water network that leads to Dublin Bay. In the absence of measures on site silt or pollution would enter the marine environment and would settle, dilute and mix with marine water. Due to the distance, dilution settlement and mixing, in the absence of any measures on site, any silt or pollution that enters the marine environment would not be at levels that would significantly affect the Natura 2000 site.</p> <p>No significant effects are likely</p>
IE004172	Dalkey Islands SPA	OUT	<p>Conservation Objectives To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA.</p> <p>Features of Interest <i>Sterna dougallii</i> (Roseate Tern) [A192] <i>Sterna hirundo</i> (Common Tern) [A193] <i>Sterna paradisaea</i> (Arctic Tern) [A194]</p> <p>Potential Impact The development site is located 6.7 km from the Dalkey Islands SPA (Fig. 9). The features of interest of this SPA are summer migratory bird species and the site is not an important foraging or roosting area for these species.</p>

NATURA Code	Name	Screened IN/OUT	Details/Reason
			<p>Noise from the works would be localized to the vicinity of the site. There are main roads, a train line, Blackrock Park and a substantial suburban area between the proposed development site and this SPA. Noise from the works, and the already permitted development of Cross Avenue SHD would be deemed to have a negligible impact on the qualifying interests due to the distance and existing background noise levels in the vicinity of the SPA.</p> <p>There is no direct or indirect pathway to this SPA. Measures will be required to comply with Water Pollution Acts to ensure silt and pollution does not enter the surface water network that leads to Dublin Bay. In the absence of measures on site silt or pollution would enter the marine environment and would settle, dilute and mix with marine water. Due to the distance, dilution settlement and mixing, in the absence of any measures on site, any silt or pollution that enters the marine environment would not be at levels that would significantly affect the Natura 2000 site. interests of the site.</p> <p>No significant effects are likely.</p>
IE004040	Wicklow Mountains SPA	OUT	<p>Conservation Objectives To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA.</p> <p>Features of Interest Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>) [A098] Peregrine (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>) [A103]</p> <p>Potential Impact The site is 9.5 km from the Wicklow Mountains SPA (Figure 10). The development site is not an important foraging or roosting area for these species. There is no direct or indirect pathway to this Natura 2000 site.</p> <p>No significant effects are likely.</p>
IE0004113	Howth Head Coast SPA	OUT	<p>Conservation Objective: To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA.</p> <p>Qualifying Interests A188 Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>)</p> <p>Potential Impact The proposed development site is located 11.3 km from the SPA (Fig. 10). Noise from the works would be localized to the vicinity of the site. There are main roads, a train line, and Blackrock Park between the proposed development site and this SPA. Noise from the works, and the already permitted development of Cross Avenue SHD would be deemed to have a negligible impact on the qualifying interests due to the distance and existing background noise levels in the vicinity of the SPA.</p> <p>Surveys indicate that the proposed development site is not important for the qualifying interests of this SPA.</p>

NATURA Code	Name	Screened IN/OUT	Details/Reason
			<p>There is no direct or indirect pathway to this SPA. Measures will be required to comply with Water Pollution Acts to ensure silt and pollution does not enter the surface water network that leads to Dublin Bay. In the absence of measures on site silt or pollution would enter the marine environment and would settle, dilute and mix with marine water. Due to the distance, dilution settlement and mixing, in the absence of any measures on site, any silt or pollution that enters the marine environment would not be at levels that would significantly affect the Natura 2000 site.</p> <p>No significant effects are likely</p>
IE0004016	Baldoyle Bay SPA	OUT	<p>Conservation Objectives: The maintenance of habitats and species within Natura 2000 sites at favourable conservation condition will contribute to the overall maintenance of favourable conservation status of those habitats and species at a national level.</p> <p>Qualifying Interests A046 Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) A048 Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) A137 Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) A140 Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) A141 Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) A157 Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) A999 Wetlands</p> <p>Potential Impact The proposed development site is 11.1 km from the Baldoyle Bay SPA (Figure 9). This SPA and its features of interest are marine based. Wintering bird surveys have been previously carried out for the original application (ABP-311190-21). Surveys indicate that the proposed development site is not important for wintering birds and the qualifying interests of this SPA.</p> <p>Noise from the works would be localized to the vicinity of the site. There are main roads, a train line, and Blackrock Park between the proposed development site and this SPA. Noise from the works, and the already permitted development of Cross Avenue SHD would be deemed to have a negligible impact on the qualifying interests due to the distance and existing background noise levels in the vicinity of the SPA.</p> <p>Surveys indicate that the proposed development site is not important for wintering birds and the qualifying interests of this SPA.</p> <p>There is no direct or indirect pathway to this SPA. Measures will be required to comply with Water Pollution Acts to ensure silt and pollution does not enter the surface water network that leads to Dublin Bay. In the absence of measures on site silt or pollution would enter the marine environment and would settle, dilute and mix with marine water. Due to the distance, dilution settlement and mixing, in the absence of any measures on site, any silt or pollution that enters the marine environment would not be at levels that would significantly affect the Natura 2000 site.</p> <p>No significant effects are likely</p>

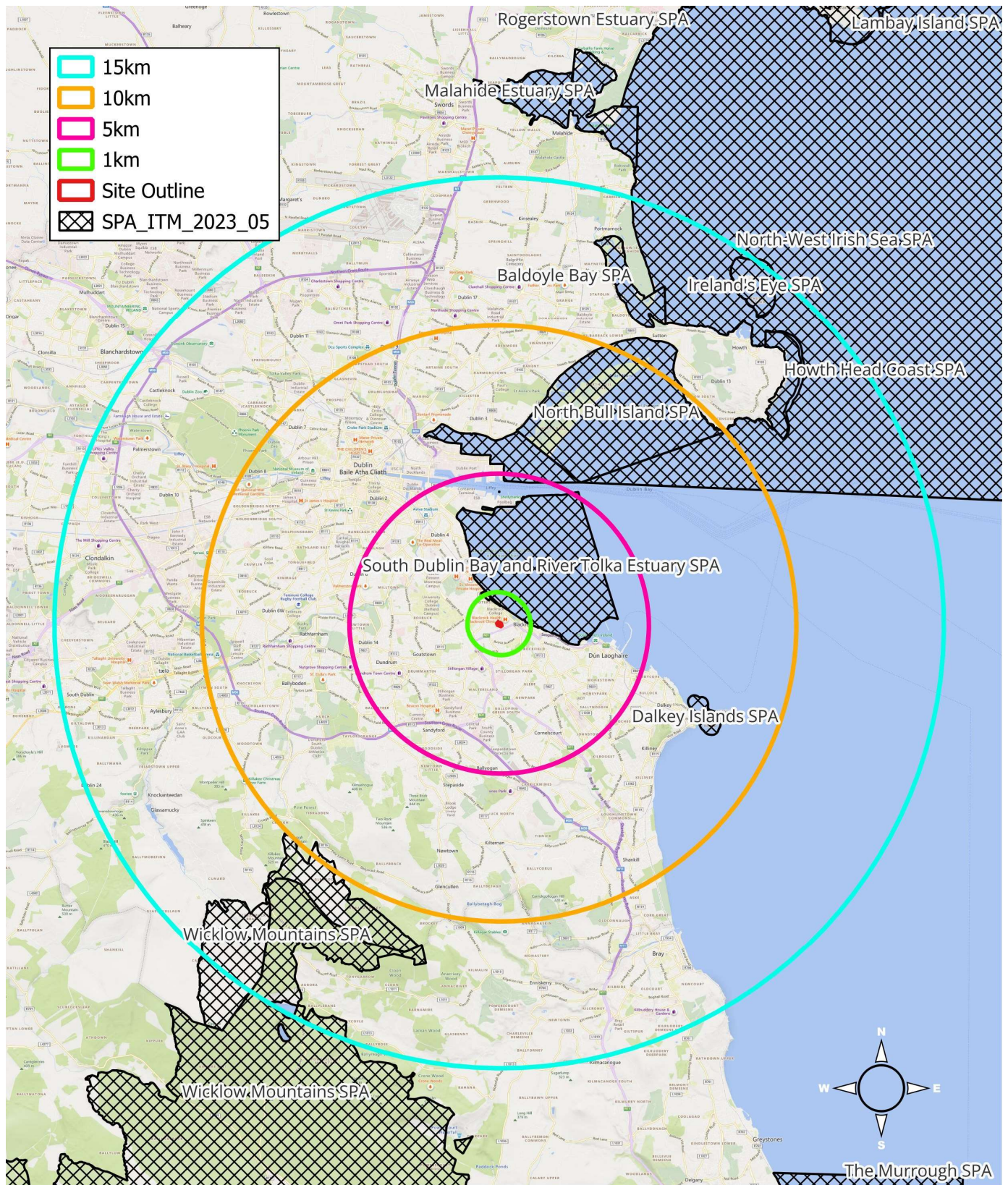
NATURA Code	Name	Screened IN/OUT	Details/Reason
IE0004117	Ireland's Eye SPA	OUT	<p>Conservation Objectives: To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA.</p> <p>Qualifying Interests Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017] Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) [A184] Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) [A188] Guillemot (<i>Uria aalge</i>) [A199] Razorbill (<i>Alca torda</i>) [A200]</p> <p>Potential Impact The proposed development site is 13.4 km from Ireland's Eye SPA (Figure 10).</p> <p>This SPA and its features of interest are marine based. The site is not an important foraging or roosting area for these species.</p> <p>Noise from the works would be localized to the vicinity of the site. There are main roads, a train line, Blackrock Park and Howth Head between the proposed development site and this SPA. Noise from the works, and the already permitted development of Cross Avenue SHD would be deemed to have a negligible impact on the qualifying interests due to the distance and existing background noise levels in the vicinity of the SPA.</p> <p>Surveys indicate that the proposed development site is not important for wintering birds and the qualifying interests of this SPA.</p> <p>There is no direct or indirect pathway to this SPA. Measures will be required to comply with Water Pollution Acts to ensure silt and pollution does not enter the surface water network that leads to Dublin Bay. In the absence of measures on site silt or pollution would enter the marine environment and would settle, dilute and mix with marine water. Due to the distance, dilution settlement and mixing, in the absence of any measures on site, any silt or pollution that enters the marine environment would not be at levels that would significantly affect the Natura 2000 site.</p> <p>No significant effects are likely</p>



Project: Cross Avenue
 Location: Blackrock, Co. Dublin
 Date: 14th May 2024
 Drawn By: Bryan Deegan (Altamar)



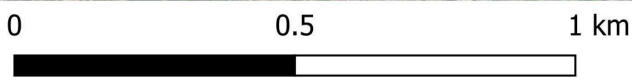
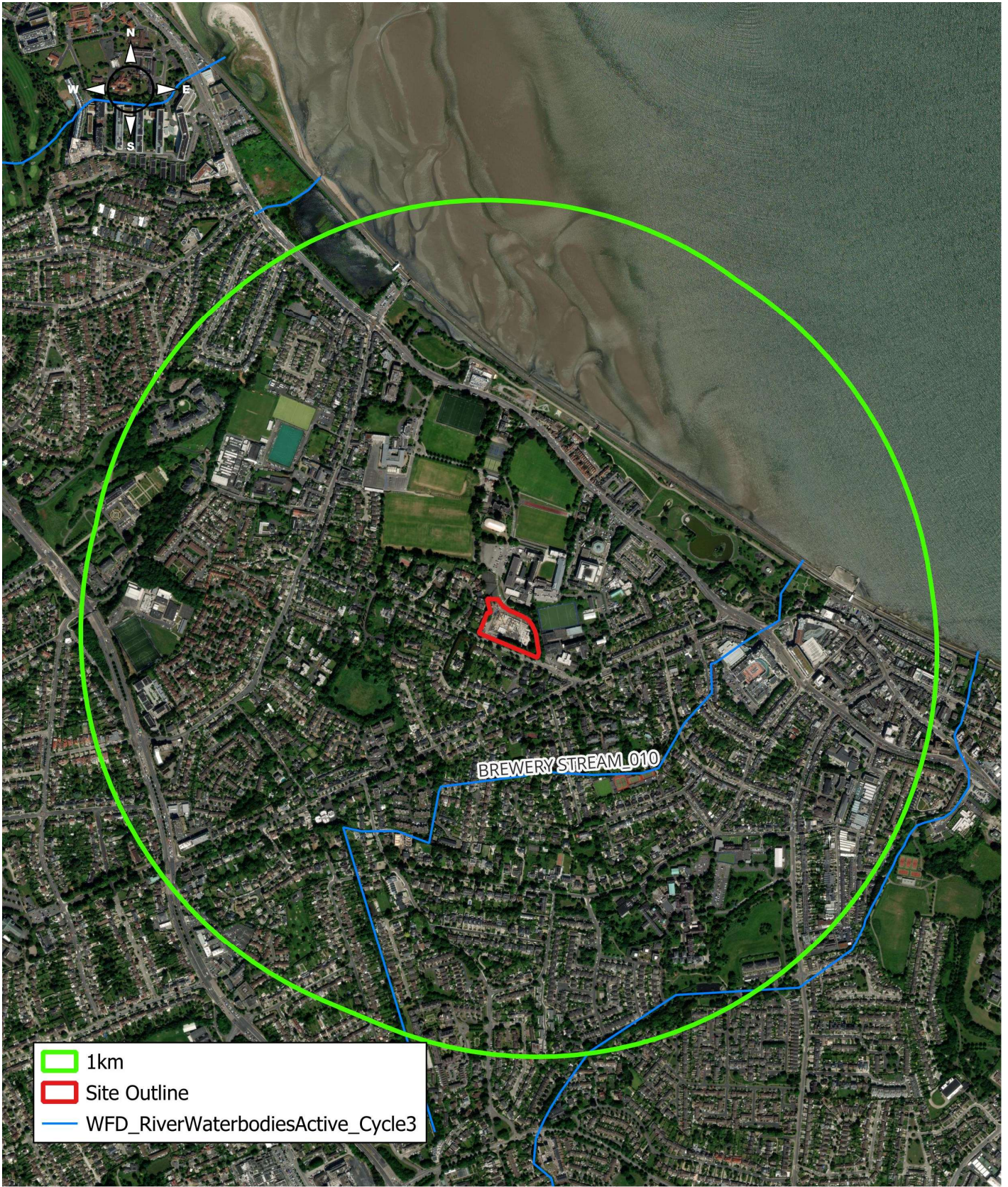
Figure 9. SACs within 15km of the subject site



Project: Cross Avenue
 Location: Blackrock, Co. Dublin
 Date: 14th May 2024
 Drawn By: Bryan Deegan (Altamar)



Figure 10. SPAs within 15km of the subject site



Project: Cross Avenue
 Location: Blackrock, Co. Dublin
 Date: 14th May 2024
 Drawn By: Bryan Deegan (Altamar)

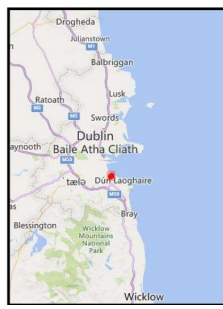
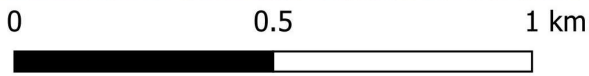


Figure 11. Watercourses within 1km of the subject site



- 1km
- WFD_RiverWaterbodiesActive_Cycle3
- SAC 11 2023 — SAC_ITM_2023_11
- Site Outline



Project: Cross Avenue
 Location: Blackrock, Co. Dublin
 Date: 14th May 2024
 Drawn By: Bryan Deegan (Altamar)

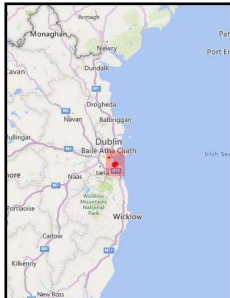


Figure 12. Watercourses and SACs within 1km of the subject site



Figure 13. Watercourses and SPAs within 1km of the subject site

In-Combination Effects

There are several proposed developments located in the area immediately surrounding the subject site. The following is a list of planning applications as identified on the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage's 'National Planning Application Database' portal²:

Table 3. In-combination effects considered

Ref. No.	Address	Proposal
D22A/0582	Goleen', Cross Avenue, Booterstown, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, A94E6F3	Permission for development. The site is accessed via Cross Avenue. The site is 0.195 ha. in size. The proposed development will comprise: The demolition of the existing 2 storey detached dwelling 'Goleen' (a habitable house) and associated sheds (508.77 sqm in total) and the construction of 7 no. residential dwellings (gross floor area of 1,252sqm) consisting of the following: 5 no. detached 4 bedroom houses of 3 storeys in height with gross floor areas ranging from 217-219 sqm, 2 no. semi-detached 2 bedroom houses 2 storeys in height with gross floor areas of 80 sqm. The proposed development includes 12 no. car parking spaces, 14 no. bicycle parking spaces for residential units and 4 no visitor cycle parking spaces, with a new access of Cross Avenue and associated reconfiguration of on-street parking and: All associated site development works including landscaping, bin storage, public lighting, private open space, utilities, internal access road and footpaths.
D23B/0101	1, Little Oaks, St. Margarets, Cross Avenue, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, A94EC62	Permission is sought for alterations to the external elevations to include the replacement of existing single storey side extension and new attic window to side/south elevation: new first floor window and attic window side/north elevation; new dormer to replace roof light to back/east elevation; and all ancillary works
D22A/0232	St. Philip & Saint James' Church, Cross Avenue, Booterstown, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, A94 VR80, a Protected Structure	Permission for alterations for already approved plans on Planning Reg. Ref. D21A/0292 consisting of the provision of an enclosed proprietary external gas boiler cabinet containing two gas boilers and associated pump and equipment at ground level adjacent the external wall of the church, in the position of the existing semi-basement boiler house, and in lieu of the approved proposal to provide an additional gas fired boiler to serve the central heating in the church within the existing plant room serving the Parish Hall and new associated heating pipework form the new boiler location to the church.
D20A/0908	Glenvar, Cross Avenue, Booterstown, Blackrock, County Dublin, (A Protected Structure), A94H7W1	Permission is sought for a single storey garden room to the rear of the property, site landscaping and all other associated site works, which is a protected structure
D17A/0482	Froebel College Of Education, Sion Hill, Cross Avenue, Blackrock, Co Dublin	Permission for the development/refurbishment/conversion of the existing College building to create a suitable Special Needs School, approx. net area 3156 sqm. This proposal will provide/contain 7 no. special Needs classrooms, Occupational Therapy Rooms, several safe spaces, clinical room, wood work room, multi-sensory room, general activity areas and administrative areas along with the provision of level access ramps at ground floor and the installation of a lift to accommodate universal access, outdoor play space areas, with associated car/bicycle and accessible parking, boundary treatments and all associated site works. The proposal is adjacent to a Protected Structure (RPS no. 183).
D22A/0905	Froebel College of Education, Sion Hill, Cross Avenue, Blackrock, Co Dublin	Permission for development. The development will consist of extension/refurbishment/conversion of the existing Froebel College Building to create a suitable Special Needs School, Approx. net area 3156 sq. meters. The proposal will provide/contain 7 no. Special Needs classrooms, Occupational Therapy Rooms, sveral safe spaces, clinical room, wood work room, multi-sensory room, general activity areas, and administrative areas along with the provision of level access ramps at Ground Floor and the installation of a lift to accommodate universal access, outdoor play space areas with associated car/bicycle and accessible parking, boundary treatments and all associated site works

² <https://housinggovie.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=9cf2a09799d74d8e9316a3d3a4d3a8de>

ABP31119021	site of c.1.5441 ha at Cross Avenue, Blackrock, Co. Dublin	Permission for a strategic housing development. The development will include the demolition of the existing buildings on site, Tower Green and Clareville, along with the associated outbuildings and existing wall along the southern boundary. It will include the construction of a 'Build to Rent' (BTR) apartment development consisting of 3 no. blocks ranging in height up to 9 storeys (and including basement). 244 no. apartments are proposed comprising 18 no. studios, 122 no. 1 -beds, 100 no. 2...
ABP30804620	Frascati Shopping Centre, Frascati Road, Blackrock, Co. Dublin	Permission for a strategic housing development relates to alterations to the Phase 1 permission for 45 no. apartments (Reg. Ref.: D17A/0950 & ABP Ref. : 300745-18), from second to fourth floor level of the rejuvenated Frascati Centre. The proposed development also includes the provision of 57 no. additional apartments, as an extension of the Phase 1 permission, located above the existing / permitted podium car park to the north west of the centre, as a Phase 2 residential development. The subject application therefore relates to a total of 102 no. residential units. The proposed alterations to the 45 no. apartments (Block A and B) and associated development, permitted under the Phase 1 residential development, includes the following: Internal rationalisation of the permitted units, including changes in overall unit size and internal layouts , and associated external alterations including the provision of winter gardens. Provision of an external walkway connection between the Phase 1 and Phase 2 residential blocks at second floor level. The refuse, car and cycle parking facilities permitted at lower ground floor level will be altered to cater for the additional residential units, including the introduction of a barrier control system. The main entrance to the Phase 1 residential scheme from Frascati Road will serve both the permitted and proposed units. A concierge facility room to serve the overall residential development is proposed at second floor level near the main core of Phase 1, with an associated minor reduction in the area of the permitted communal terrace at second floor level. The communal open space for Phase 1 and 2 will be accessible to all residents. Alterations to the cycle parking provision at lower ground floor / basement level and at the first-floor level podium car park. The Phase 2 proposal consists of 20 no. studios, 22 no. 1 beds and 15 no. 2 beds (57 no. apartments) in three no. blocks (Block D, E & F), arranged around a central communal courtyard space, above the existing and permitted podium car park to the north west of the centre. Block D is a five storey block, Block E is a part two to part four storey block and Block F is a part two to part three storey block, all above three levels of podium / basement car park. Balconies / winter gardens are provided to all apartments (on the north western, north eastern, south western elevations and into the internal courtyard) and access to the blocks is via stair/ lift cores and an external walkway fronting the communal courtyard. A roof terrace is also proposed at fifth floor level of Block E. The proposal includes the allocation of 57 no. car parking spaces at lower ground floor level and 214 no. bicycle parking spaces at lower ground and surface level for the 102 no. residential units. The proposal includes alterations to existing surface car parking to provide additional landscaping and bicycle spaces, a bin storage area and stair / lift cores are proposed within the existing / permitted basement / podium car parks below the Phase 2 residential units, and the proposal includes all associated ancillary site development works. The proposal also includes alterations to the location of 30 no. permitted cycle parking spaces associated with the rejuvenation of the Frascati Centre, Reg. Ref.: D14A/0134, as amended. The site is zoned 'Objective DC' which seeks 'To protect, provide for and/or improve mixed use district centre facilities' under the Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Development Plan 2016-2022, under which the proposed uses are permitted in principle. The application contains a statement setting out how the proposal will be consistent with the objectives of the Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Development Plan 2016 - 2022 and Blackrock Local Area Plan 2015- 2021. An Environmental Impact Assessment Report has been prepared in respect of the proposed development and accompanies this application. The application contains a statement indicating why permission should be granted for the proposed development, having regard to a consideration specified in Section 37(2)(b) of the Planning and Development Act , 2000, as amended, notwithstanding that the proposed development materially contravenes a

		relevant development plan or local area plan other than in relation to the zoning of the land.
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In relation to Planning Ref. **ABP30804620**, an Appropriate Assessment Screening Report has been prepared by OPENFIELD Ecological Services to accompany the application. The report concludes:

'In carrying out this AA screening, mitigation measures have not been taken into account. Standard best practice construction measures which could have the effect of mitigating any effects on any European Sites have similarly not been taken into account. Whilst construction management measures are proposed for the development, this screening exercise did not take account of those measures for the purpose of avoiding and / or reducing the impacts on any European sites.

On the basis of the screening exercise carried out above, it can be concluded that the possibility of any significant impacts on any European Sites, whether arising from the project itself or in combination with other plans and projects, can be excluded beyond a reasonable scientific doubt on the basis of the best scientific knowledge available.' As a result, no in combination effect on biodiversity is foreseen from this development.

Following an analysis of development proposals proximate to the subject site, it is considered that in-combination effects with other existing and proposed developments in proximity to the application area would be unlikely, neutral, not significant and localised. It is concluded that no significant effects on Natura 2000 sites are likely as a result of the proposed development in combination with other projects. No in-combination effects are foreseen.

No projects in the vicinity of the proposed development would be seen to have a significant in-combination effect on Natura 2000 sites.

Appropriate Assessment Screening Conclusions

An initial screening of the proposed project, using the precautionary principle and the Source/Pathway/Receptor links between the proposed works and European sites with the potential to result in significant effects on the conservation objectives and features of interest of the European sites was carried out in Table 2. Based on best scientific knowledge and objective information and assessment, the possibility of significant effects caused by the proposed project was excluded for the following European sites within 15km in addition to sites beyond 15km with a direct/indirect pathway:

Special Areas of Conservation

- North Dublin Bay SAC
- Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC
- Howth Head SAC
- Wicklow Mountains SAC
- Knocksink Wood SAC
- Ballyman Glen SAC
- Baldoyle Bay SAC
- Glenasmole Valley SAC
- Bray Head SAC
- Ireland's Eye SAC

Special Protection Areas

- North Bull Island SPA
- North-West Irish Sea SPA
- Dalkey Islands SPA
- Wicklow Mountains SPA
- Baldoyle Bay SPA
- Howth Head Coast SPA
- Ireland's Eye SPA

The project is limited in scale and extent and the potential zone of influence is seen to be restricted to the immediate vicinity of the proposed development. However, it should also be noted that there is an indirect pathway to the surface water networks on Cross Avenue and Mount Merrion Avenue, which discharge in the vicinity of Blackrock Park. Mitigation measures are currently in place on site and will be in place during the construction of the proposed application. As a result, it is necessary to prepare an NIS for the proposed amendments. Based on the precautionary principle and based on the absence of mitigation measures there may be potential for impact on the features of interest of the following Natura 2000 sites:

- South Dublin Bay SAC;
- South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA

An NIS or Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment is not required for the effects of the project on all other listed Natura sites above because it can be excluded on the basis of the best objective scientific information following screening that the plan or project, individually and/or in combination with other plans or projects, will have a significant effect on the European Site/s.

A Natura Impact Statement is required for the proposed development.

Stage 2: Natura Impact Statement

A Natura Impact Statement (NIS) is Stage 2 of the Appropriate Assessment process. In the case of the proposed amendments to previously approved Cross Avenue SHD (ABP-311190-21), acting on a strictly precautionary basis, an NIS is required in respect of the effects of the project on South Dublin Bay SAC and South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA (due to the potential for petrochemicals or silt laden material to enter the surface water drainage network and marine environment downstream of the works), because it cannot be excluded on the basis of best objective scientific information, in the absence of control or mitigation measures, following screening that the plan or project, individually and/or in combination with other plans or projects, will have a significant effect on the named European Site/s. Mitigation measures are currently in place on site and will be in place during the construction of the proposed application. As a result, it is necessary to prepare an NIS for the proposed amendments as these mitigation measures will be in place.

A Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment or NIS is not required for the effects of the project on all other listed Natura sites within, and sites beyond, 15km because, it can be excluded, on the basis of the best objective scientific information following screening, that the plan or project, individually and/or in combination with other plans or projects, will have not a significant effect on the European Site/s.

The NIS evaluates the potential for direct, indirect effects, alone or in combination with other plans and projects having considered the use of mitigation measures. A further review of the Conservation Objectives and qualifying interests is necessary to determine if significant effects are likely to impact the identified Natura 2000 sites.

South Dublin Bay SAC (Site code: 000210)

As outlined in the South Dublin Bay SAC Site Synopsis³ (NPWS, version date 10.12.2015):

'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 is a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) selected for the following habitats and/or species listed on Annex I / II of the E.U. Habitats Directive (= priority; numbers in brackets are Natura 2000 codes):*

[1140] Tidal Mudflats and Sandflats

[1210] Annual vegetation of drift lines

³ <https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/synopsis/SY000210.pdf>

[1310] *Salicornia* and other annuals colonising mud and sand

[2110] Embryonic shifting dunes

The bed of Dwarf Eelgrass (*Zostera noltii*) found below Merrion Gates is the largest stand on the east coast. Green algae (*Enteromorpha* spp. and *Ulva lactuca*) are distributed throughout the area at a low density. Furoid algae occur on the rocky shore in the Maretimo to Dún Laoghaire area. Species include *Fucus spiralis*, *F. vesiculosus*, *F. serratus*, *Ascophyllum nodosum* and *Pelvetia canaliculata*.

Several small, sandy beaches with incipient dune formation occur in the northern and western sectors of the site, notably at Poolbeg, Irishtown and Merrion/ Booterstown. The formation at Booterstown is very recent. Drift line vegetation occurs in association with the embryonic and incipient fore dunes. Typically drift lines occur in a band approximately 5 m wide, though at Booterstown this zone is wider in places. The habitat occurs just above the High Water Mark and below the area of embryonic dune. Species present are Sea Rocket (*Cakile maritima*), Frosted Orache (*Atriplex laciniata*), Spear-leaved Orache (*A. prostrata*), Prickly Saltwort (*Salsola kali*) and Fat Hen (*Chenopodium album*). Also occurring is Sea Sandwort (*Honkenya peploides*), Sea Beet (*Beta vulgaris* subsp. *maritima*) and Annual Sea-blite (*Suaeda maritima*). A small area of pioneer saltmarsh now occurs in the lee of an embryonic sand dune just north of Booterstown Station. This early stage of saltmarsh development is here characterised by the presence of pioneer stands of glassworts (*Salicornia* spp.) occurring below an area of drift line vegetation. As this is of very recent origin, it covers a small area but ample areas of substrate and shelter are available for the further development of this habitat.

Lugworm (*Arenicola marina*), Cockles (*Cerastoderma edule*) and annelids and other bivalves are frequent throughout the site. The small gastropod *Hydrobia ulvae* occurs on the muddy sands off Merrion Gates.

South Dublin Bay is an important site for waterfowl. 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. The principal species are Oystercatcher (1215), Ringed Plover (120), Sanderling (344), Dunlin (2628) and Redshank (356) (average winter peaks 1996/97 and 1997/98). Up to 100 Turnstones are usual in the south bay during winter. Brent Goose regularly occur in numbers of international importance (average peak 299). Bar-tailed Godwit (565), a species listed on Annex I of the E.U. Birds Directive, also occur.

Large numbers of gulls roost in South Dublin Bay, e.g. 4,500 Black-headed Gulls in February 1990; 500 Common Gulls in February 1991. It is also an important tern roost in the autumn, regularly holding 2000-3000 terns including Roseate Terns, a species listed on Annex I of the E.U. Birds Directive. South Dublin Bay is largely protected as a Special Protection Area.

At low tide the inner parts of the south bay are used for amenity purposes. Baitdigging is a regular activity on the sandy flats. At high tide some areas have windsurfing and jet-skiing.

This site is a fine example of a coastal system, with extensive sand and mudflats, and incipient dune formations. South Dublin Bay is also an internationally important bird site.'

The Natura 2000 Standard Data Form (2020)⁴ states that:

'This intertidal site extends from the South Wall at Dublin Port to the West Pier at Dun Laoghaire, a distance of c. 5 km. At their widest, the intertidal flats extend for almost 3 km. The seaward boundary is marked by the low tide mark, while the landward boundary is now almost entirely artificially embanked. Several permanent channels exist, the largest being Cockle Lake. A small sandy beach occurs at Merrion Gates, while some bedrock shore occurs near Dun Laoghaire. A number of small streams and drains flow into the site. The proximity of the site to Dublin City results in it being a very popular recreational area. It is also important for educational and research purposes.

Site possesses a fine and fairly extensive example of intertidal flats. Sediment type is predominantly sand, with muddy sands in the more sheltered areas. A typical macro-invertebrate fauna exists. Has the largest stand of *Zostera* on the east coast. Supports part of the important wintering waterfowl populations of Dublin Bay. Regularly has an internationally population of *Branta bernicla horta*, plus nationally important numbers of at least a further 6 species, including *Limosa lapponica*. Regular autumn roosting ground for significant numbers of *Sterna* terns, including *S. dougallii*. The scientific interests of the site have been well documented.'

⁴ <https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/natura2000/NF000210.pdf>

As outlined in the Conservation objectives supporting document⁵ (NPWS, 2013), it is an objective:

‘To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide in South Dublin Bay SAC, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets.’

Target 1: *“The permanent habitat area is stable or increasing, subject to natural processes.”*

Target 2: *“Maintain the extent of the Zostera-dominated community, subject to natural processes.”*

Target 3: *“Conserve the high quality of the Zostera-dominated community, subject to natural processes.”*

Target 4: *“Conserve the following community type in a natural condition: Fine sands with Angulus tenuis community complex.’*

5

https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/publications/pdf/000210_South%20Dublin%20Bay%20SAC%20Marine%20Supporting%20Doc_V1.pdf

Figure 1. Extent of Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide in South Dublin Bay SAC

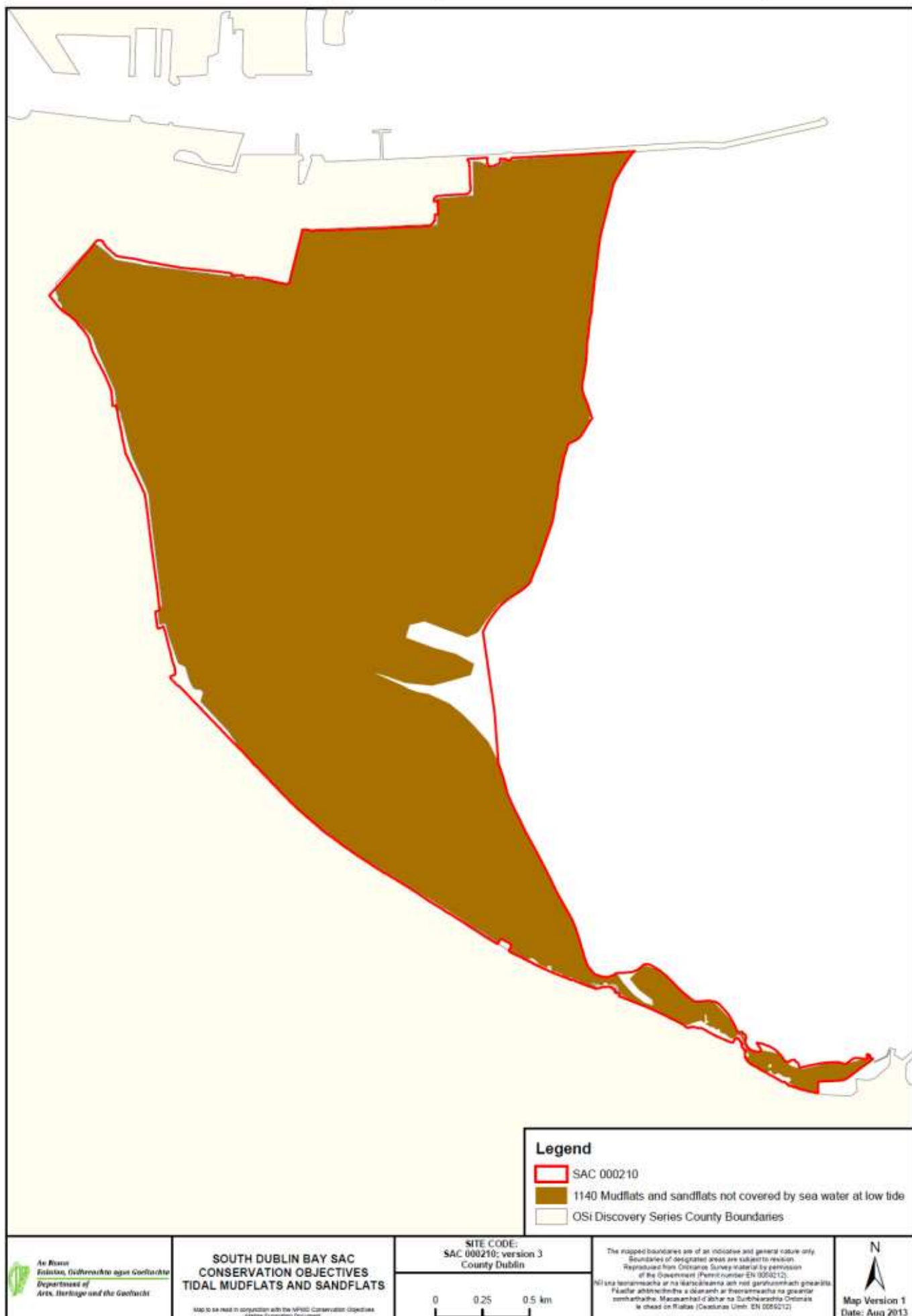
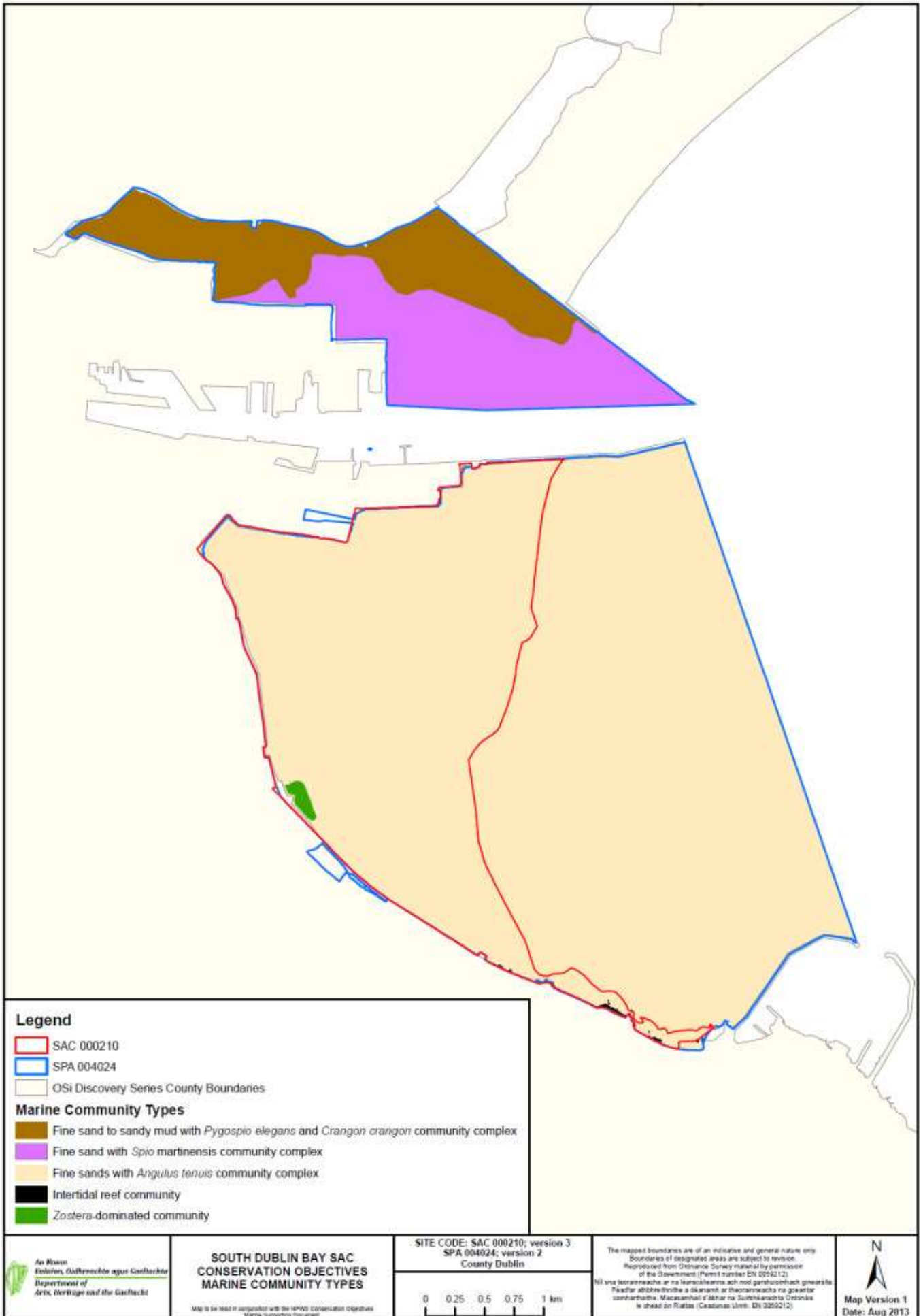


Figure 2. Distribution of community types in South Dublin Bay SAC



South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA (Site code: 004024)

As outlined in the South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA Site Synopsis⁶. (NPWS, version date 30.05.2015):

'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.

*In the south bay, the intertidal flats extend for almost 3 km at their widest. The sediments are predominantly well-aerated sands. Several permanent channels exist, the largest being Cockle Lake. A small sandy beach occurs at Merrion Gates, while some bedrock shore occurs near Dun Laoghaire. The landward boundary is now almost entirely artificially embanked. There is a bed of Dwarf Eelgrass (*Zostera noltii*) below Merrion Gates which is the largest stand on the east coast. Green algae (*Ulva* spp.) are distributed throughout the area at a low density. The macroinvertebrate fauna is well-developed, and is characterised by annelids such as Lugworm (*Arenicola marina*), Nephthys spp. and Sand Mason (*Lanice conchilega*), and bivalves, especially Cockle (*Cerastoderma edule*) and Baltic Tellin (*Macoma balthica*). The small gastropod Spire Shell (*Hydrobia ulvae*) occurs on the muddy sands off Merrion Gates, along with the crustacean *Corophium volutator*. Sediments in the Tolka Estuary vary from soft thixotropic muds with a high organic content in the inner estuary to exposed, well-aerated sands off the Bull Wall. The site includes Booterstown Marsh, an enclosed area of saltmarsh and muds that is cut off from the sea by the Dublin/Wexford railway line, being linked only by a channel to the east, the Nutley stream. Sea water incursions into the marsh occur along this stream at high tide. An area of grassland at Poolbeg, north of Irishtown Nature Park, is also included in the site.*

The site is a Special Protection Area (SPA) under the E.U. Birds Directive, of special conservation interest for the following species: Light-bellied Brent Goose, Oystercatcher, Ringed Plover, Grey Plover, Knot, Sanderling, Dunlin, Bar-tailed Godwit, Redshank, Black-headed Gull, Roseate Tern, Common Tern and Arctic Tern. The E.U. 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. At the time of designation the site supported nationally important numbers of a further nine species: Oystercatcher (1,145), Ringed Plover (161), Grey Plover (45), Knot (548), Sanderling (321), Dunlin (1,923), Bar-tailed Godwit (766), Redshank (260) and Black-headed Gull (3,040). Other species occurring in smaller numbers include Great Crested Grebe (21), Curlew (127) and Turnstone (52). Little Egret, a species which has recently colonised Ireland, also occurs at this site.

South Dublin Bay is a significant site for wintering gulls, with a nationally important population of Black-headed Gull, but also Common Gull (330) and Herring Gull (348). Mediterranean Gull is also recorded from here, occurring through much of the year, but especially in late winter/spring and again in late summer into winter.

Both Common Tern and Arctic Tern breed in Dublin Docks, on a man-made mooring structure known as the E.S.B. dolphin – this is included within the site. Small numbers of Common Tern and Arctic Tern were recorded nesting on this dolphin in the 1980s. A survey in 1995 recorded nationally important numbers of Common Tern nesting here (52 pairs). The breeding population of Common Tern at this site has increased, with 216 pairs recorded in 2000. This increase was largely due to the ongoing management of the site for breeding terns. More recent data highlights this site as one of the most important Common Tern sites in the country with over 400 pairs recorded here in 2007.

South Dublin Bay is an important staging/passage site for a number of tern species in the autumn (mostly late July to September). The origin of many of the birds is likely to be the Dublin breeding sites (Rockabill and the

⁶ <https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/synopsis/SY004024.pdf>

Dublin Docks) though numbers suggest that the site is also used by birds from other sites, perhaps outside the state. This site is selected for designation for its autumn tern populations: Roseate Tern (2,000 in 1999), Common Tern (5,000 in 1999) and Arctic Tern (20,000 in 1996).

The South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA is of ornithological importance as it supports an internationally important population of Light-bellied Brent Goose and nationally important populations of a further nine wintering species. Furthermore, the site supports a nationally important colony of breeding Common Tern and is an internationally important passage/staging site for three tern species. It is of note that four of the species that regularly occur at this site are listed on Annex I of the E.U. Birds Directive, i.e. Bar-tailed Godwit, Common Tern, Arctic Tern and Roseate Tern. Sandymount Strand/Tolka Estuary is also a Ramsar Convention site.'

The Natura 2000 Standard Data Form (2020)⁷ states that:

'This site comprises a substantial part of Dublin Bay. It includes virtually all of the intertidal area in the south bay, as well as much of the Tolka Estuary to the north of the River Liffey. A portion of the shallow bay waters is also included. In the south bay, the intertidal flats extend for almost 3 km at their widest. The sediments are predominantly well-aerated sands. The sands support the largest stand of *Zostera noltii* on the East Coast. Several permanent channels exist, the largest being Cockle Lake. A small sandy beach occurs at Merrion Gates, while some bedrock shore occurs near Dun Laoghaire. The landward boundary is now almost entirely artificially embanked. Sediments in the Tolka Estuary vary from soft thixotropic muds with a high organic content in the inner estuary to exposed, well aerated sands off the Bull Wall. The proximity of the site to Dublin City results in it being a very popular recreational area. It is also important for educational and research purposes.

The site possesses extensive intertidal flats which support wintering waterfowl which are part of the overall Dublin Bay population. It regularly has an internationally important population of *Branta bernicla hrota*, which feeds on *Zostera noltii* in the autumn. It has nationally important numbers of a further 6 species: *Haematopus ostralegus*, *Charadrius hiaticula*, *Calidris canutus*, *Calidris alba*, *Calidris alpina* and *Limosa lapponica*. It is an important site for wintering gulls, especially *Larus ridibundus* and *Larus canus*. South Dublin Bay is the premier site in Ireland for *Larus melanocephalus*, with up to 20 birds present at times. Is a regular autumn roosting ground for significant numbers of terns, including *Sterna dougallii*, *S. hirundo* and *S. paradisaea*.'

According to the conservation Objectives Supporting Document⁸ (NPWS 2014) for the South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA:

'The overarching Conservation Objective for North Bull Island Special Protection Area, and for South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary Special Protection Area, is to ensure that waterbird populations and their wetland habitats are maintained at, or restored to, favourable conservation condition. This includes, as an integral part, the need to avoid deterioration of habitats and significant disturbance; thereby ensuring the persistence of site integrity.

The site should contribute to the maintenance and improvement where necessary, of the overall favourable status of the national resource of waterbird species, and continuation of their long-term survival across their natural range.

Conservation Objectives for North Bull Island Special Protection Area, and for South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary Special Protection Area, based on the principles of favourable conservation status, are described below and summarised in Table 3.1. Note that these objectives should be read and interpreted in the context of information and advice provided in additional sections of this report.

⁷ <https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/natura2000/NF004024.pdf>

⁸ Note that 'population' refers to site population (numbers wintering at the site) rather than the species biogeographic population.

[https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/publications/pdf/South%20Dublin%20Bay%20and%20River%20Tolka%20Estuar%20SPA%20\(004024\)%20Conservation%20objectives%20supporting%20document%20-%20\[Version%201\].pdf](https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/publications/pdf/South%20Dublin%20Bay%20and%20River%20Tolka%20Estuar%20SPA%20(004024)%20Conservation%20objectives%20supporting%20document%20-%20[Version%201].pdf)

Objective 1: To maintain the favourable conservation condition of the non-breeding waterbird Special Conservation Interest species listed for North Bull Island SPA and South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA.

This objective is defined by the following attributes and targets:

- To be favourable, the long term population trend for each waterbird Special Conservation Interest species should be stable or increasing⁹. Waterbird populations are deemed to be unfavourable when they have declined by 25% or more, as assessed by the most recent population trend analysis.*
- To be favourable, there should be no significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by the waterbird species of Special Conservation Interest, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation.*

Factors that can adversely effect the achievement of Objective 1 include:

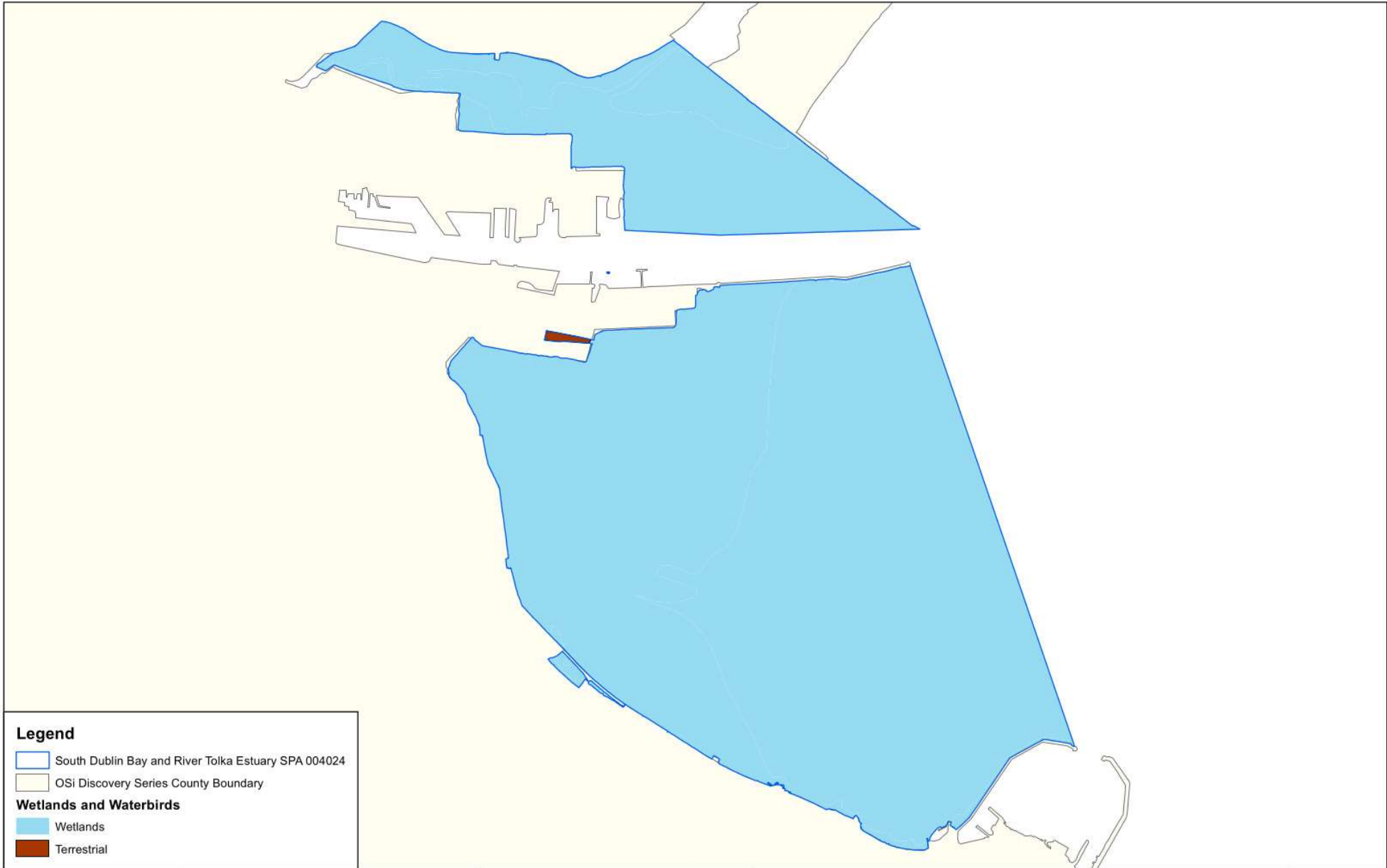
- Habitat modification: activities that modify discreet areas or the overall habitat(s) within the SPA in terms of how one or more of the listed species use the site (e.g. as a feeding resource) could result in the displacement of these species from areas within the SPA and/or a reduction in their numbers (for further discussion on this topic please refer to Section 5.4).*
- Disturbance: anthropogenic disturbance that occurs in or near the site and is either singular or cumulative in nature could result in the displacement of one or more of the listed waterbird species from areas within the SPA, and/or a reduction in their numbers (for further discussion on this topic please refer to Section 5.4).*
- Ex-situ factors: several of the listed waterbird species may at times use habitats situated within the immediate hinterland of the SPA or in areas ecologically connected to it. The reliance on these habitats will vary from species to species and from site to site. Significant habitat change or increased levels of disturbance within these areas could result in the displacement of one or more of the listed waterbird species from areas within the SPA, and/or a reduction in their numbers (for further information on this topic please refer to Section 5.2).*

Objective 2. To maintain the favourable conservation condition of the wetland habitat at North Bull Island SPA and South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA as a resource for the regularly-occurring migratory waterbirds that utilise these areas.

This objective is defined by the following attributes and targets:

- To be favourable, the permanent area occupied by the wetland habitat should be stable and not significantly less than the area of 3,904 ha, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation.*

This objective seeks to maintain the permanent extent of the wetland habitats that are contained within the boundary of these two SPAs, and which constitute an important resource for regularly-occurring migratory waterbirds (note that the total designated area also contains some non-wetland habitat).




Legend

- South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA 004024
- OSi Discovery Series County Boundary

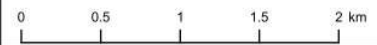
Wetlands and Waterbirds

- Wetlands
- Terrestrial

 *An Roinn Ealaíon, Oidhreacht agus Gaeltachta*
 Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

MAP 3:
SOUTH DUBLIN BAY AND RIVER TOLKA ESTUARY SPA CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES WETLANDS AND WATERBIRDS
 Map to be read in conjunction with the NPWS Conservation Objectives Document.

SITE CODE:
SPA 004024; version 2. CO. DUBLIN



The mapped boundaries are of an indicative and general nature only. Boundaries of designated areas are subject to revision.
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Níl sna teorainneacha ar na léarscáileanna ach nod garshuíonhach ginearálta. Féadfar aithreithníthe a déanamh ar theorainneacha na gceantar comharthaíthe. Suirbhéarachtá Ordoínáils na hÉireann Ceardúnas Uimh EN 0059214. © Suirbhéarachtá Ordoínáils na hÉireann Riailtas na hÉireann

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Map Version 1
Date: Sep 2014

Status of Qualifying Interests & Conservation Objectives

The Qualifying Interests (QI) (Features of Interest), Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) for the SAC and SPA sites and the National conservation status of the Natura 2000 sites subject to the NIS are seen in Table 4. The site-specific conservation Objectives for Natura 2000 sites are seen in Table 5.

Table 4. Qualifying Interests, Conservation Status, Management Objectives, Conditions underpinning site integrity for Natura 2000 sites

Natura 2000 Site Name & Code	Qualifying Interests	Current Conservation Status
Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)		
South Dublin Bay SAC	[1140] Tidal Mudflats and Sandflats	Inadequate
	[1210] Annual vegetation of drift lines	Inadequate
	[1310] Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand	Favourable
	[2110] Embryonic shifting dunes	Inadequate
Special Protection Areas (SPA)		
South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA	A046 Brent Goose <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>	Amber
	A130 Oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	Amber
	A137 Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	Green
	A141 Grey Plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	Amber
	A143 Knot <i>Calidris canutus</i>	Amber
	A144 Sanderling <i>Calidris alba</i>	Green
	A149 Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i>	Red
	A157 Bar-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa lapponica</i>	Amber
	A162 Redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i>	Red
	A179 Black-headed Gull <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	Red
	A192 Roseate Tern <i>Sterna dougallii</i>	Amber
A193 Common Tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i>	Amber	
A194 Arctic Tern <i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	Amber	
A999 Wetland and Waterbirds	N/A	

Table 5. The attributes, measure and target for the Qualifying Interests (QI) (Features of Interest)(FoI) and conservation status of the QI/FoI within South Dublin Bay SAC and South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA.

South Dublin Bay SAC [000210]		
Attribute	Measure	Target
[1140] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide		
Habitat area	Hectares	The permanent habitat area is stable or increasing, subject to natural processes
Community extent	Hectares	Maintain the extent of the Zostera-dominated community, subject to natural processes
Community structure: Zostera density	Shoots/m2	Conserve the high quality of the Zostera-dominated community, subject to natural processes
Community distribution	Hectares	Conserve the following community type in a natural condition: Fine sands with Angulus tenuis community complex
Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210]		
Habitat area	Hectares	Area increasing, subject to natural processes, including erosion and succession
Habitat distribution	Occurrence	No decline, or change in habitat distribution, subject to natural processes
Physical structure: functionality and sediment supply	Presence/ absence of physical barriers	Maintain the natural circulation of sediment and organic matter, without any physical obstructions
Vegetation structure: zonation	Occurrence	Maintain the range of coastal habitats including transitional zones, subject to natural processes including erosion and succession
Vegetation composition: typical species and subcommunities	Percentage cover at a representative number of monitoring stops	Maintain the presence of species-poor communities with typical species: sea rocket (Cakile maritima), sea sandwort (Honckenya peploides), prickly saltwort (Salsola kali) and oraches (Atriplex spp.)
Vegetation composition: negative indicator species	Percentage cover	Negative indicator species (including non-natives) to represent less than 5% cover
Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] (Restore the favourable conservation condition)		
Habitat area	Hectares	Area stable or increasing, subject to natural processes, including erosion and succession
Habitat distribution	Occurrence	No decline, or change in habitat distribution, subject to natural processes
Physical structure: sediment supply	Presence/ absence of physical barriers	Maintain, or where necessary restore, natural circulation of sediments and organic matter, without any physical obstructions
Physical structure: creeks and pans	Occurrence	Maintain creek and pan structure, subject to natural processes, including erosion and succession
Physical structure: flooding regime	Hectares flooded; frequency	Maintain natural tidal regime
Vegetation structure: zonation	Occurrence	Maintain the range of coastal habitats including transitional zones, subject to natural processes including erosion and succession
Vegetation structure: vegetation height	Centimetres	Maintain structural variation within sward

Vegetation structure: vegetation cover	Percentage cover at a representative number of monitoring stops	Maintain more than 90% of area outside creeks vegetated
Vegetation composition: typical species and subcommunities	Percentage cover	Maintain the presence of species-poor communities listed in SMP (McCorry and Ryle, 2009)
Vegetation structure: negative indicator species- <i>Spartina anglica</i>	Hectares	No significant expansion of common cordgrass (<i>Spartina anglica</i>), with an annual spread of less than 1%
Embryonic shifting dunes [2110] (Restore the favourable conservation condition)		
Habitat area	Hectares	Area stable or increasing, subject to natural processes, including erosion and succession.
Habitat distribution	Occurrence	No decline, or change in habitat distribution, subject to natural processes.
Physical structure: functionality sediment supply	Presence/ absence of physical barriers	Maintain natural circulation of sediments and organic matter, without any physical obstructions
Vegetation structure: zonation	Occurrence	Maintain the range of coastal habitats including transitional zones, subject to natural processes including erosion and succession
Vegetation composition: plant health of fore dune grasses	Percentage cover	More than 95% of sand couch (<i>Elytrigia juncea</i>) and/or lyme-grass (<i>Leymus arenarius</i>) should be healthy (i.e. green plant parts above ground and flowering heads present)
Vegetation composition: typical species and subcommunities	Percentage cover at a representative number of monitoring stops	Maintain the presence of species-poor communities with typical species: sand couch (<i>Elytrigia juncea</i>) and/or lymegrass (<i>Leymus arenarius</i>)
Vegetation composition: negative indicator species	Percentage cover	Negative indicator species (including non-native species) to represent less than 5% cover

South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA [004024]		
Attribute	Measure	Target
A046 Light-bellied Brent Goose <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>		
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by light-bellied brent goose, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation
A130 Oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>		
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by oystercatcher, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation
A137 Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>		
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing

Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by ringed plover, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation
A143 Knot <i>Calidris canutus</i>		
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by knot, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation
A144 Sanderling <i>Calidris alba</i>		
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by sanderling, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation
A149 Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i>		
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by dunlin, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation
A157 Bar-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa lapponica</i>		
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by bar-tailed godwit, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation
A162 Redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i>		
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by redshank, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation
A179 Black-headed Gull <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>		
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by black-headed gull, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation
A192 Roseate Tern <i>Sterna dougallii</i>		
Passage population	Number of individuals	No significant decline
Distribution: roosting areas	Number; location; area (hectares)	No significant decline
Prey biomass available	Kilogrammes	No significant decline
Barriers to connectivity	Number; location; shape; area (hectares)	No significant increase
Disturbance at roosting site	Level of impact	Human activities should occur at levels that do not adversely affect the numbers of roseate tern among the post-breeding aggregation of terns
A193 Common Tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i>		

Breeding population abundance: apparently occupied nests (AONs)	Number	No significant decline
Productivity rate: fledged young per breeding pair	Mean number	No significant decline
Passage population	Number of individuals	No significant decline
Distribution: breeding colonies	Number; location; area (hectares)	No significant decline
Distribution: roosting areas	Number; location; area (hectares)	No significant decline
Prey biomass available	Kilogrammes	No significant decline
Barriers to connectivity	Number; location; shape; area (hectares)	No significant increase
Disturbance at breeding site	Level of impact	Human activities should occur at levels that do not adversely affect the breeding common tern population
Disturbance at roosting site	Level of impact	Human activities should occur at levels that do not adversely affect the numbers of common tern among the post-breeding aggregation of terns
A194 Arctic Tern <i>Sterna paradisaea</i>		
Passage population	Number of individuals	No significant decline
Distribution: roosting areas	Number; location; area (hectares)	No significant decline
Prey biomass available	Kilogrammes	No significant decline
Barriers to connectivity	Number; location; shape; area (hectares)	No significant increase
Disturbance at roosting site	Level of impact	Human activities should occur at levels that do not adversely affect the numbers of Arctic tern among the post-breeding aggregation of terns

Analysis of the Potential Impacts

Development works have begun onsite including the removal of the existing terrestrial habitats, including several buildings, internal habitats including grassland, deep excavations and the construction of the onsite buildings and associated services. The site is not an ex-situ site for the qualifying interests of nearby SPA's.

Do-Nothing Impact

The current species diversity on site is relatively poor and the site is built land or grassland and treelines. If the proposed amendments to the previously permitted development does not take place, the site will still be developed to the original approved plans. No difference in biodiversity value would be expected.

Construction Impacts

Construction phase mitigation measures are in place on site as part of the previously permitted Cross Avenue SHD. There is an indirect pathway to Dublin Bay (500m) via surface water networks. Works and excavations are proposed on site and trucks will remove soil from site and travel along Cross Avenue. There is potential for silt laden runoff and pollution to enter the public surface water network with potential for downstream impacts including, based on the precautionary principle, impacts on South Dublin Bay SAC and South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA.

Designated Natura 2000 sites

The proposed development is not within a designated conservation site. An indirect pathway exists via surface water to the nearby Natura 2000 sites on the southern shore of Dublin Bay. The construction of the proposed development would potentially impact on the existing ecology of the construction site and the surrounding area. These potential construction impacts would include localised noise impacts that may arise during the site clearance, excavation, re-profiling of the site and the building of the proposed development. These impacts would not be expected to impact on Natura 2000 sites due to a significant distance across an urban/suburban environment, dual carriage way and rail line. However, unmitigated surface water discharge, surface runoff, maintenance of site/surrounding roads, or discharges during site demolition, excavation, re-profiling during the construction of project elements could enter the surface water network which leads to the Dublin Bay and Natura 2000 sites. Details on the potential adverse impacts on Natura 2000 sites are seen in Table 5. Mitigation measures are required to ensure the prevention of downstream impacts (Table 6).

Ecology

The impact of the development during construction phase will be a loss of existing habitats and species on site. An initial field survey was carried out by Altemar Ltd. on the 28th April 2021, following completion of the desk-based assessment. A site visit was carried out by Bryan Deegan (MCIEEM) in relation to flora, fauna and included a bat survey. A second survey was carried out by Altemar on the 21st June 2021 and also included a bat assessment. The surveys were carried out in mild dry conditions and covered all the lands within the site outline and the land immediately outside the site. In addition, more detailed information on the species composition and structure of habitats, conservation value and other data were gathered (See EciA for further details).

From the 7th December 2020 to March 2021 site visits were carried out by Hugh Delaney (ornithologist) to monitor the site for wintering birds that are qualifying interests of nearby Special Protection Areas. These assessments took place each Saturday when activity on the school grounds was low and there was a greater likelihood of birds foraging on site.

No flora, bird or terrestrial mammal species of conservation importance were recorded in NPWS or NBDC records. Wintering bird surveys and a mammal survey were carried out (Appendix I). No mammals of conservation importance were noted on site. A bat assessment was carried out. Foraging activity was noted on site by Common pipistrelle bats (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*) but no roosts were noted. Flora and habitat assessments were carried out. No habitats of conservation importance were noted on site. A single bee orchid (*Ophrys apifera*) was noted on site. This is not a protected species in Ireland but it is a noteworthy species none the less.

Operational Impacts

No SUDS drainage is currently present on site. Surface water runoff will comply with SUDS. Once constructed all onsite drainage will be connected to separate foul and surface water systems. The biodiversity value of the site would be expected to improve as the landscaping matures. The lighting plan will have to comply with bat lighting guidelines. As the landscaping elements improve with maturity it would be expected that the biodiversity value of the site to birds and flora would also increase.

Designated Conservation sites

Currently the site has no attenuation or SUDS control. The proposed development will require a sustainable drainage strategy and this will improve impacts on the surface water network and Natura 2000 sites, particularly during extreme weather events. The development must comply with the Water Pollution Acts and measures will be in place to prevent downstream impacts. No significant impacts on designated sites are likely.

Mitigation Measures & Monitoring

Mitigation measures will be incorporated into the proposed development project to prevent the potential negative impacts on downstream Natura 2000 sites. These are outlined in Table 7.

Table 6. Potential for adverse effects on the qualifying Interests and conservation objectives of Natura 2000 sites.

Natura 2000 Site Name & Site Code	Qualifying Interests	Potential for adverse effects
<p>South Dublin Bay SAC (IE000210)</p>	<p><i>Annex I Habitats (Features of interest):</i></p> <p>Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]</p> <p>Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210]</p> <p>Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310]</p> <p>Embryonic shifting dunes [2110]</p>	<p>The use of plant and machinery, as well as the associated temporary storage of construction materials, oils, fuels and chemicals could lead to pollution on site or in adjacent surface water networks. The surface water network in the vicinity of the proposed development ultimately discharges to the marine environment in Dublin via indirect pathway and the public network. The storage of topsoil or works in the vicinity of the drainage networks and uncleaned trucks leaving the site could lead to dust, soil or silt laden runoff entering the surface water network with potential for downstream impacts.</p> <p>Surface water runoff, construction traffic on roads, or pumping of excavations on site during construction may lead to silt or contaminated materials from site entering the Surface Water Network. Concrete, silt or pollution could enter the surface water network during dewatering of the basement, foundations or drainage trenches, if required during construction. Breaking of concrete (associated with structure demolition) has the potential to emit noise and alkaline dust into the receiving environment. If on-site concrete production is required or cement works are carried out in the vicinity of drains there is potential for contamination of the surface water network. Localised activity on site and noise may be generated during works. Given the nature of the works in a suburban environment all of these effects would be expected to be localised in nature restricted to the immediate vicinity of the site and would have little effect on Natura 2000 sites. However, without the presence of mitigation measures there is a potential for downstream effects if significant quantities of pollution or silt were introduced into the surface water network with downstream effects.</p> <p>Given the nature of the potential effects outlined above, the proposed project would not be expected to affect the:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Habitat area, Physical structure: functionality and sediment supply, Habitat distribution, Vegetation structure: zonation, Vegetation composition: typical species and subcommunities, Vegetation composition: negative indicator species of <i>Annual vegetation of drift lines</i> [1210]. 2) Habitat area, Habitat distribution, Physical structure: sediment supply, Physical structure: creeks and pans, Physical structure: flooding regime, Vegetation structure: zonation, Vegetation structure: vegetation height, Vegetation structure: vegetation cover, Vegetation composition: typical species and subcommunities, Vegetation structure: negative indicator species-<i>Spartina anglica</i> of <i>Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand</i> [1310].

Table 6. Potential for adverse effects on the qualifying Interests and conservation objectives of Natura 2000 sites.

Natura 2000 Site Name & Site Code	Qualifying Interests	Potential for adverse effects
		<p>3) Habitat area, Habitat distribution, Physical structure: functionality sediment supply, Vegetation structure: zonation, Vegetation composition: plant health of fore dune grasses, Vegetation composition: typical species and subcommunities Vegetation composition: negative indicator species of <i>Embryonic shifting dunes</i> [2110].</p> <p>However, given the location of the <i>Zostera</i> beds on the south eastern shore of the Bay impacts in the absence of standard construction phase mitigation can't be ruled out for the:</p> <p>4) Habitat area, Community extent on Community Structure: <i>Zostera</i> density Community distribution of <i>Mudflats and sandflats not covered by water at low tide</i> [1140].</p> <p>The mitigation measures outlined should be carried out to ensure that no silt or pollution enters the surface water network from the construction or operational phases of the proposed project and create localised pollution. However, the level of effect on South Dublin Bay SAC, without the use of mitigation measures, is not deemed to be significant due to the small scale of the proposed development, the distance to the SAC and the significant mixing in the marine environment in Dublin Bay.</p>
<p>South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA (IE004024)</p>	<p>Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046] Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>)[A130] Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137] Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A140] Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143] Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144] Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149] Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>)[A157] Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162] Black-headed Gull (<i>Larus ridibundus</i>) [A179] Roseate Tern (<i>Sterna dougallii</i>) [A192]</p>	<p>The use of plant and machinery, as well as the associated temporary storage of construction materials, oils, fuels and chemicals could lead to pollution on site or in adjacent surfacewater networks. The storage of topsoil or works in the vicinity of the drainage networks and uncleaned trucks leaving the site could lead to dust, soil or silt laden runoff entering the surface water network with potential for downstream impacts.</p> <p>Surface water runoff, construction traffic on roads, or pumping of excavations on site during construction may lead to silt or contaminated materials from site entering the surface water network. Concrete, silt or pollution could enter the surface water network during dewatering of the basement, foundations or drainage trenches, if required during construction. Breaking of concrete (associated with structure demolition) has the potential to emit noise and alkaline dust into the receiving environment. If on-site concrete production is required or cement works are carried out in the vicinity of drains there is potential for contamination of the surface water network. Localised activity on site and noise may be generated during works. Given the nature of the works in a suburban environment all of these effects would be expected to be localised in nature restricted to the immediate vicinity of the site and would have little effect on Natura 2000 sites. However, without the presence of mitigation measures there is a potential for</p>

Table 6. Potential for adverse effects on the qualifying Interests and conservation objectives of Natura 2000 sites.

Natura 2000 Site Name & Site Code	Qualifying Interests	Potential for adverse effects
	<p>Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193] Arctic Tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) [A194] Wetlands & Waterbirds [A999]</p>	<p>downstream effects if significant quantities of pollution or silt were introduced into the surface water network with downstream effects.</p> <p>Given the nature of the potential effects outlined above, the proposed project would not be expected to affect the:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Distribution and Range, timing and intensity of use of areas of the SPA for Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130], Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137], Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A140], Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143], Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144], Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149], Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157], Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162], Black-headed Gull (<i>Larus ridibundus</i>) [A179] 2. The area of Wetlands [A999] 3. Breeding population abundance: apparently occupied nests (AONs), Productivity rate: fledged young per breeding pair, Passage population: individuals, Distribution: breeding colonies Distribution:roosting areas, Barriers to connectivity, Disturbance at breeding site, Disturbance at roosting site for Common Tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i> [A193] but, not the Prey biomass available. 4. Passage population: individuals, Distribution: roosting areas, Barriers to connectivity, Disturbance at roosting site Arctic Tern <i>Sterna paradisaea</i> [A194] but not the Prey biomass available 5. Passage population: individuals, Distribution: roosting areas, Barriers to connectivity, Disturbance at roosting site of Roseate Tern <i>Sterna dougallii</i> [A192] it they are present in Dublin Port during the works. It would not be expected that the works would impact on the Prey biomass available. <p>As potential impacts on <i>Zostera</i> distribution, in the absence of mitigation measures, can't be ruled out the project has the potential (in the absence of mitigation measures) to impact on the distribution and range, timing and intensity of use of areas of the SPA for Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046]. Mitigation measures are required to limit the effect of the project on Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>)</p>

Table 7. Sensitive Receptors/Impacts and Mitigation Measures.

Sensitive Receptors	Potential Impacts	Designed-in Mitigation	Other Avoidance / Reduction Measures
South Dublin Bay SAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat degradation • Dust deposition • Pollution • Silt ingress from site runoff • Damage to intertidal • Negative impacts on aquatic and bird fauna • Noise and Vibration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staging of project to reduce risks to surface water network from contamination. • Ecological supervision is required in relation to the project and will be in place prior to the commencement of works on site. • All water leaving the site during construction will be desilted using standard techniques including silt buster/silt socks etc. • Desilting and petrochemical interception of all surface runoff/pumped water will take place for the length of the construction project. • A petrochemical interceptor will be placed on the surface water network prior to discharge. • Local silt traps established throughout site. • Mitigation measures on site include dust control, stockpiling away from drains • Stockpiling of loose materials will be a minimum of 20m from drains. • Stockpiles and runoff areas following clearance will have suitable silt barriers to prevent runoff of fines into the drainage system. • Fuel, oil and chemical storage will be sited within a bunded area. The bund will be at least 50m away from drains, excavations and other locations where it may cause pollution. • Bunds will be kept clean and spills within the bund area will be cleaned immediately to prevent groundwater contamination. Any water-filled excavations, including the attenuation tank during construction, that require pumping will not directly discharge to the surface water network. Prior to discharge of water from excavations adequate filtration and petrochemical interception will be provided to ensure no deterioration of water quality and ensure compliance with the Water Pollution Acts. • Site layout during excavation works will be designed to ensure vehicles do not enter the works area unless necessary for the excavation and soil removal processes. All machinery leaving the works area will be thoroughly cleaned before being allowed on to public roads. A road sweeper (including vacuum) will be in place (as required) to ensure cleanliness of nearby and haul roads (where necessary), particularly during enabling works. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • maintenance of any drainage structures (e.g. de-silting operations) must not result in the release of contaminated water to the surface water network. • no entry of solids to the associated drainage network during the connection of pipework to the existing surface water system

Sensitive Receptors	Potential Impacts	Designed-in Mitigation	Other Avoidance / Reduction Measures
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dust may deposit on surrounding roads thus entering into the surface water network. Effective site management regarding dust emissions will be carried out. An ecologist will be employed to oversee the enabling works and implementation of mitigation. 	

Sensitive Receptors	Potential Impacts	Designed-in Mitigation	Other Avoidance / Reduction Measures
South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Habitat degradation Dust deposition Pollution Silt ingress from site runoff Damage to intertidal Negative impacts on aquatic and bird fauna Noise and Vibration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staging of project to reduce risks to surface water network from contamination. Ecological supervision is required in relation to the project and will be in place prior to the commencement of works on site. All water leaving the site during construction will be desilted using standard techniques including silt buster/silt socks etc. Desilting and petrochemical interception of all surface runoff/pumped water will take place for the length of the construction project. A petrochemical interceptor will be placed on the surface water network prior to discharge. Local silt traps established throughout site. Mitigation measures on site include dust control, stockpiling away from drains Stockpiling of loose materials will be a minimum of 20m from drains. Stockpiles and runoff areas following clearance will have suitable silt barriers to prevent runoff of fines into the drainage system. Fuel, oil and chemical storage will be sited within a bunded area. The bund will be at least 50m away from drains, excavations and other locations where it may cause pollution. Bunds will be kept clean and spills within the bund area will be cleaned immediately to prevent groundwater contamination. Any water-filled excavations, including the attenuation tank during construction, that require pumping will not directly discharge to the surface water network. Prior to discharge of water from excavations adequate filtration and petrochemical interception will be provided to ensure no deterioration of water quality and ensure compliance with the Water Pollution Acts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> maintenance of any drainage structures (e.g. de-silting operations) must not result in the release of contaminated water to the surface water network. no entry of solids to the associated drainage network during the connection of pipework to the existing surface water system

Sensitive Receptors	Potential Impacts	Designed-in Mitigation	Other Avoidance / Reduction Measures
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site layout during excavation works will be designed to ensure vehicles do not enter the works area unless necessary for the excavation and soil removal processes. All machinery leaving the works area will be thoroughly cleaned before being allowed on to public roads. A road sweeper (including vacuum) will be in place (as required) to ensure cleanliness of nearby and haul roads (where necessary), particularly during enabling works. • Dust may deposit on surrounding roads thus entering into the surface water network. Effective site management regarding dust emissions will be carried out. • An ecologist will be employed to oversee the enabling works and implementation of mitigation. 	

Adverse Effects on the conservation objectives of Natura 2000 sites likely to occur from the project (post mitigation)

Mitigation measures are currently in place as part of the Cross Avenue SHD, and will be carried out to ensure contaminated or silt laden water does not enter the surface water network which has an indirect pathway to Natura 2000 sites. These would ensure that pathway for water entering the surface water networks which leads to the South Dublin Bay SAC and South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA in the vicinity of Blackrock Park, is clean and uncontaminated.

With the successful implementation of standard mitigation measures to limit surface water impacts on the surface water network and the successful installation of the surface water and foul water networks, there will be no significant impacts on the downstream Natura 2000 site from the construction or operation of the proposed project. Residual impacts of the proposed project will be localised to the immediate vicinity of the proposed works.

There will be no significant adverse impacts on the conservation objectives of Natura 2000 sites following the implementation of the mitigation measures outlined above.

It is essential that these measures outlined are complied with, to ensure that the proposed development does not have “downstream” environmental impacts. These measures are to protect the surface water network, which is the primary vector of impacts from the site, and to ensure that Natura 2000 sites are not impacted during construction phase of the proposed development.

In-Combination Effects

There are several proposed developments located in the area immediately surrounding the subject site. The following is a list of planning applications as identified on the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage’s ‘National Planning Application Database’ portal¹⁰:

Table 3. In-combination effects considered

Ref. No.	Address	Proposal
D22A/0582	Goleen', Cross Avenue, Booterstown, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, A94E6F3	Permission for development. The site is accessed via Cross Avenue. The site is 0.195 ha. in size. The proposed development will comprise: The demolition of the existing 2 storey detached dwelling 'Goleen' (a habitable house) and associated sheds (508.77 sqm in total) and the construction of 7 no. residential dwellings (gross floor area of 1,252sqm) consisting of the following: 5 no. detached 4 bedroom houses of 3 storeys in height with gross floor areas ranging from 217-219 sqm, 2 no. semi-detached 2 bedroom houses 2 storeys in height with gross floor areas of 80 sqm. The proposed development includes 12 no. car parking spaces, 14 no. bicycle parking spaces for residential units and 4 no visitor cycle parking spaces, with a new access of Cross Avenue and associated reconfiguration of on-street parking and: All associated site development works including landscaping, bin storage, public lighting, private open space, utilities, internal access road and footpaths.
D23B/0101	1, Little Oaks, St. Margarets, Cross Avenue, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, A94EC62	Permission is sought for alterations to the external elevations to include the replacement of existing single storey side extension and new attic window to side/south elevation: new first floor window and attic window side/north elevation; new dormer to replace roof light to back/east elevation; and all ancillary works
D22A/0232	St. Philip & Saint James' Church, Cross Avenue, Booterstown, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, A94 VR80, a Protected Structure	Permission for alterations for already approved plans on Planning Reg. Ref. D21A/0292 consisting of the provision of an enclosed proprietary external gas boiler cabinet containing two gas boilers and associated pump and equipment at ground level adjacent the external wall of the church, in the position of the existing semi-basement boiler house, and in lieu of the approved proposal to provide an additional gas fired boiler to serve the central heating in the church within the existing plant room serving the Parish Hall and new associated heating pipework form the new boiler location to the church.

¹⁰ <https://housinggov.ie/maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=9cf2a09799d74d8e9316a3d3a4d3a8de>

D20A/0908	Glenvar, Cross Avenue, Booterstown, Blackrock, County Dublin, (A Protected Structure), A94H7W1	Permission is sought for a single storey garden room to the rear of the property, site landscaping and all other associated site works, which is a protected structure
D17A/0482	Froebel College Of Education, Sion Hill, Cross Avenue, Blackrock, Co Dublin	Permission for the development/refurbishment/conversion of the existing College building to create a suitable Special Needs School, approx. net area 3156 sqm. This proposal will provide/contain 7 no. special Needs classrooms, Occupational Therapy Rooms, several safe spaces, clinical room, wood work room, multi-sensory room, general activity areas and administrative areas along with the provision of level access ramps at ground floor and the installation of a lift to accommodate universal access, outdoor play space areas, with associated car/bicycle and accessible parking, boundary treatments and all associated site works. The proposal is adjacent to a Protected Structure (RPS no. 183).
D22A/0905	Froebel College of Education, Sion Hill, Cross Avenue, Blackrock, Co Dublin	Permission for development. The development will consist of extension/refurbishment/conversion of the existing Froebel College Building to create a suitable Special Needs School, Approx. net area 3156 sq. meters. The proposal will provide/contain 7 no. Special Needs classrooms, Occupational Therapy Rooms, several safe spaces, clinical room, wood work room, multi-sensory room, general activity areas, and administrative areas along with the provision of level access ramps at Ground Floor and the installation of a lift to accommodate universal access, outdoor play space areas with associated car/bicycle and accessible parking, boundary treatments and all associated site works
ABP31119021	site of c.1.5441 ha at Cross Avenue, Blackrock, Co. Dublin	Permission for a strategic housing development. The development will include the demolition of the existing buildings on site, Tower Green and Clareville, along with the associated outbuildings and existing wall along the southern boundary. It will include the construction of a 'Build to Rent' (BTR) apartment development consisting of 3 no. blocks ranging in height up to 9 storeys (and including basement). 244 no. apartments are proposed comprising 18 no. studios, 122 no. 1 -beds, 100 no. 2...
ABP30804620	Frascati Shopping Centre, Frascati Road, Blackrock, Co. Dublin	Permission for a strategic housing development relates to alterations to the Phase 1 permission for 45 no. apartments (Reg. Ref.: D17A/0950 & ABP Ref. : 300745-18), from second to fourth floor level of the rejuvenated Frascati Centre. The proposed development also includes the provision of 57 no. additional apartments, as an extension of the Phase 1 permission, located above the existing / permitted podium car park to the north west of the centre, as a Phase 2 residential development. The subject application therefore relates to a total of 102 no. residential units. The proposed alterations to the 45 no. apartments (Block A and B) and associated development, permitted under the Phase 1 residential development, includes the following: Internal rationalisation of the permitted units, including changes in overall unit size and internal layouts , and associated external alterations including the provision of winter gardens. Provision of an external walkway connection between the Phase 1 and Phase 2 residential blocks at second floor level. The refuse, car and cycle parking facilities permitted at lower ground floor level will be altered to cater for the additional residential units, including the introduction of a barrier control system. The main entrance to the Phase 1 residential scheme from Frascati Road will serve both the permitted and proposed units. A concierge facility room to serve the overall residential development is proposed at second floor level near the main core of Phase 1, with an associated minor reduction in the area of the permitted communal terrace at second floor level. The communal open space for Phase 1 and 2 will be accessible to all residents. Alterations to the cycle parking provision at lower ground floor I basement level and at the first-floor level podium car park. The Phase 2 proposal consists of 20 no. studios, 22 no. 1 beds and 15 no. 2 beds (57 no. apartments) in three no. blocks (Block D, E & F), arranged around a central communal courtyard space, above the existing and permitted podium car park to the north west of the centre. Block D is a five storey block, Block E is a part two to part four storey block and Block F is a part two to part three storey block, all above three levels of podium / basement car park. Balconies /

		<p>winter gardens are provided to all apartments (on the north western, north eastern, south western elevations and into the internal courtyard) and access to the blocks is via stair/ lift cores and an external walkway fronting the communal courtyard. A roof terrace is also proposed at fifth floor level of Block E. The proposal includes the allocation of 57 no. car parking spaces at lower ground floor level and 214 no. bicycle parking spaces at lower ground and surface level for the 102 no. residential units. The proposal includes alterations to existing surface car parking to provide additional landscaping and bicycle spaces, a bin storage area and stair / lift cores are proposed within the existing / permitted basement / podium car parks below the Phase 2 residential units, and the proposal includes all associated ancillary site development works. The proposal also includes alterations to the location of 30 no. permitted cycle parking spaces associated with the rejuvenation of the Frascati Centre, Reg. Ref.: D14A/0134, as amended. The site is zoned 'Objective DC' which seeks 'To protect, provide for and/or improve mixed use district centre facilities' under the Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Development Plan 2016-2022, under which the proposed uses are permitted in principle. The application contains a statement setting out how the proposal will be consistent with the objectives of the Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Development Plan 2016 - 2022 and Blackrock Local Area Plan 2015- 2021. An Environmental Impact Assessment Report has been prepared in respect of the proposed development and accompanies this application. The application contains a statement indicating why permission should be granted for the proposed development, having regard to a consideration specified in Section 37(2)(b) of the Planning and Development Act , 2000, as amended, notwithstanding that the proposed development materially contravenes a relevant development plan or local area plan other than in relation to the zoning of the land.</p>
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In relation to Planning Ref. **ABP30804620**, an Appropriate Assessment Screening Report has been prepared by OPENFIELD Ecological Services to accompany the application. The report concludes:

'In carrying out this AA screening, mitigation measures have not been taken into account. Standard best practice construction measures which could have the effect of mitigating any effects on any European Sites have similarly not been taken into account. Whilst construction management measures are proposed for the development, this screening exercise did not take account of those measures for the purpose of avoiding and / or reducing the impacts on any European sites.

On the basis of the screening exercise carried out above, it can be concluded that the possibility of any significant impacts on any European Sites, whether arising from the project itself or in combination with other plans and projects, can be excluded beyond a reasonable scientific doubt on the basis of the best scientific knowledge available.' As a result, no in combination effect on biodiversity is foreseen from this development.

Following an analysis of development proposals proximate to the subject site, it is considered that in-combination effects with other existing and proposed developments in proximity to the application area would be unlikely, neutral, not significant and localised. It is concluded that no significant effects on Natura 2000 sites are likely as a result of the proposed development in combination with other projects. No in-combination effects are foreseen.

No projects in the vicinity of the proposed development would be seen to have a significant in-combination effect on Natura 2000 sites.

Conclusion

Construction on this site has begun and will create localised light and noise disturbance. Mitigation measures are in place as part of the Cross Avenue SHD to ensure there are no significant impacts on the surface water networks that lead to Natura 2000 sites. Surface water discharge from site will be developed in accordance with the requirements of the Drainage Division as set out in the Greater Dublin Strategic Drainage Study's 'Technical Document on New Development' regarding SUDS, and Water Pollution Acts. Following the implementation of the mitigation measures outlined, the construction and presence of this development will have no adverse effects on Natura 2000 sites or their conservation objective, alone or in combination with other plans and projects. The implementation of construction phase mitigation measures will be followed and will be sufficient to prevent adverse effects on the integrity of Natura 2000 sites.

This report presents an Appropriate Assessment Screening and NIS for the proposed development. It outlines the information required for the competent authority to screen for appropriate assessment and to determine whether or not the proposed development, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, in view of best scientific knowledge and in view of the sites conservation objectives, will adversely affect the integrity of the European site.

On the basis of the content of this report, the competent authority is enabled to conduct an Appropriate Assessment and consider whether, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, in view of best scientific knowledge and in view of the sites conservation objectives, will adversely affect the integrity of the European site.

No significant effects are likely on Natura 2000 sites, their features of interest or conservation objectives.

Data used for the AA Screening/NIS Assessment

NPWS site synopses and Conservation objectives of sites within 15km were examined. The most recent SAC and SPA boundary shapefiles were downloaded and overlaid on ESRI terrain maps and satellite imagery. Several site visits were carried out, to determine if the site contained possible threats to a Natura 2000 site or any Natura 2000 species or habitats.

References

1. Department of Environment Heritage and Local Government Circular NPW 1/10 and PSSP 2/10 on Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive – Guidance for Planning Authorities March 2010.
2. Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland: Guidance for Planning Authorities, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government 2009;
www.npws.ie/publications/archive/NPWS_2009_AA_Guidance.pdf
3. Managing NATURA 2000 Sites: the provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, European Commission 2000;
ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/Natura2000/management/docs/art6/provision_of_art6_en.pdf
4. Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly Affecting NATURA 2000 Sites: Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC;
ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/Natura2000management/docs/art6/Natura_2000_assess_en.pdf
5. Guidance document on Article 6(4) of the 'Habitats Directive' 92/43/EEC – Clarification of the concepts of: alternative solutions, imperative reasons of overriding public interest, compensatory measures, overall coherence, opinion of the commission;
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8. NPWS (2021) Conservation objectives for Glenasmole Valley SAC [001209]. Generic Version 8.0. Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
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13. NPWS (2015) Conservation Objectives: North Bull Island SPA 004006. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
14. NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives: North Dublin Bay SAC 000206. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
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19. NPWS (2021) Conservation objectives for Howth Head Coast SPA [004113]. Generic Version 8.0. Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
20. NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives: Baldoyle Bay SPA 004016. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
21. NPWS (2021) Conservation objectives for Ireland's Eye SPA [004117]. Generic Version 8.0. Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
22. NPWS (2012) Conservation Objectives: Baldoyle Bay SAC 000199. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
23. NPWS (2017) Conservation Objectives: Ireland's Eye SAC 002193. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.
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26. NPWS (2023) Conservation Objectives: North-west Irish Sea SPA 004236. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

Appendix I Cross Avenue, Blackrock, Winter Bird Surveys 2020-2021

Introduction

From November 2020 until March 2021 winter bird surveys were conducted at a site at entrance into Blackrock College from Cross Avenue. Two surveys were completed for each month by Hugh Delaney, a freelance Ecologist (Birds primarily) having completed work on numerous sites with ecological consultancies over 10+ years. Hugh is local to the Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown area and is especially familiar with the bird life and its ecology in the environs going back over 30 years.

Winter Bird Survey Methodology

Winter bird surveys are conducted from soon after sunrise until late in the afternoon before sunset, the site is monitored throughout the day and all bird species utilizing the site recorded, including species flying through overhead. Checks are also made on suitable habitat nearby or adjacent the site for comparative purposes and to monitor any interchange of birds between sites. Target species (species of more special interest) utilizing the site will be mapped and estimates of the time these species frequented the site recorded.

Survey Results –

November 14th, 2021

Sunrise- 07.48hrs/Sunset 16.30hrs. Weather – Wind F4 South, Cloud 6/8, Occasional showers, 12c, Excellent visibility. On-site 08.00hrs – 16.00hrs.

Species recorded – Magpie, Hooded Crow, Starling, Goldfinch, Bullfinch, Song Thrush, Blackbird, Blue Tit, Herring Gull, Black-headed Gull, Robin, Dunnock, Woodpigeon, Wren, Lesser Redpoll, Chaffinch, Coal Tit, Long-tailed Tit, Jackdaw, Great Tit, Rook, Mistle Thrush, Siskin.

08.10hrs - 12.00hrs. – Site walked and vantage points selected (2 points selected). Sections of larger stands of trees, some suburban garden type habitat and a green sward area identified. Mostly a typical selection of commoner passerines typical in Dublin of this type of habitat. No target species observed (namely Geese or waders) noted feeding on the green area or observed passing over site. At 10.00hrs the main playing fields area of Blackrock College were visited 0.5km to north of site, 107 Oystercatcher and 3 Little Egret were observed feeding there.

12.00hrs – 16.00hrs. – Site regularly walked and observed throughout from vantage points. Again, usual selection of passerines, occasional gull species (Herring & Black-headed) observed flying over site. No target species observed on-site throughout afternoon, 2 Mistle Thrush observed feed on the grass area of site.

November 26th, 2020

Sunrise- 08.10hrs/Sunset 16.14hrs. Weather – Wind F1 West, Cloud 3/8, Dry, 6c, Excellent visibility. On-site 07.45hrs – 16.00hrs.

Species recorded – Magpie, Hooded Crow, Starling, Goldfinch, Bullfinch, Song Thrush, Blackbird, Blue Tit, Herring Gull, Black-headed Gull, Robin, Dunnock, Woodpigeon, Wren, Lesser Redpoll, Chaffinch, Coal Tit, Long-tailed Tit, Jackdaw, Great Tit, Rook, Mistle Thrush, Treecreeper, Grey Wagtail, Greenfinch, Pied Wagtail, Redwing, Goldcrest.

07-45hrs – 12.00hrs. Site observed throughout from vantage points and walked at intervals, again species list comprising mostly passerines, some additions such a Redwing, Treecreeper, Greenfinch, Pied & Grey Wagtail. Small numbers (usually 3-4) Herring Gull foraging on the green area peaking at 11 birds at 08.05hrs on the green

area. No other target species on-site. Main Blackrock pitches area to north was visited at 09.10hrs, 7 Brent Geese and 5 Oystercatcher present there at that time. At 11.05hrs in same area north of the site were 33 Brent Geese and 35 Oystercatcher.

12.00hrs – 16.00hrs – Site monitoring continued; Treecreeper observed foraging along tree line at Cross Avenue. Occasional 2-3 Herring Gull observed feeding on green, no other target species on-site or passing overhead. Blackrock pitches visited at 12.20hrs, 28 Brent Geese present.

December 9th, 2020

Sunrise- 08.28hrs/Sunset 16.07hrs. Weather – Wind F2 South, 8/8, Intermittent Light rain, 8c, Excellent visibility. On-site 08.15hrs – 15.45hrs.

Species recorded – Magpie, Hooded Crow, Starling, Goldfinch, Bullfinch, Song Thrush, Blackbird, Blue Tit, Herring Gull, Black-headed Gull, Robin, Dunnock, Woodpigeon, Wren, Lesser Redpoll, Chaffinch, Coal Tit, Long-tailed Tit, Jackdaw, Great Tit, Rook, Mistle Thrush, Grey Wagtail, Greenfinch, Pied Wagtail, Goldcrest, Linnet, Siskin.

08.15hrs- 12.00hrs. – Site monitored from vantage points and walked at intervals. One Herring Gull foraging on green area at intervals throughout morning. One Black-headed Gull briefly also foraging on green at 11.55hrs. Main Blackrock Pitches area north of the site visited at 10.30hrs – 46 Brent Geese, 5 Redshank, and 30 Oystercatcher present. No target species recorded on-site at Cross avenue throughout morning.

1200hrs-15.45hrs. – Monitoring continued on-site, 1-2 Herring Gull foraging on green at intervals throughout afternoon, no target species recorded at Cross Avenue. Main Blackrock Pitches area to north visited at 14.00hrs, 42 Brent Geese and 4 Redshank recorded there at that time.

December 19th, 2020

Sunrise- 08.37hrs/Sunset 16.07hrs. Weather – Wind F2 Southwest, 3/8, Dry, 8c, Excellent visibility. On-site 08.45hrs – 15.45hrs.

Species recorded – Magpie, Hooded Crow, Starling, Goldfinch, Bullfinch, Song Thrush, Blackbird, Blue Tit, Herring Gull, Black-headed Gull, Robin, Dunnock, Woodpigeon, Wren, Lesser Redpoll, Chaffinch, Coal Tit, Long-tailed Tit, Jackdaw, Great Tit, Rook, Mistle Thrush, Grey Wagtail, Goldcrest, Redwing, Treecreeper, Grey Heron.

08.45hrs-12.00hrs. – Surveys commenced as usual, monitoring from vantage points etc. Up to 4 Herring Gull observed at intervals foraging on green area. Single Treecreeper again noted at tree line along Cross Avenue. Blackrock Playing fields visited at 11.00hrs, 14 Brent Geese and 5 Redshank recorded there at that time. No target species recorded on-site.

12.00hrs-15.45hrs. – Up to 4 Herring Gull foraging on green in afternoon, and 1 Grey Heron foraging in a grass around a small wet area on green at Cross Avenue from 13.00-14.15hrs. Blackrock Pitches visited at 14.30hrs, no target species present there at that time.

January 6th, 2021

Sunrise- 08.38hrs/Sunset 16.23hrs. Weather – Wind F2 Northwest, 8/8, Light rain, 2c, Good visibility. On-site 09.00hrs – 16.00hrs.

Species recorded – Magpie, Hooded Crow, Starling, Goldfinch, Bullfinch, Song Thrush, Blackbird, Blue Tit, Herring Gull, Black-headed Gull, Robin, Dunnock, Woodpigeon, Wren, Lesser Redpoll, Chaffinch, Coal Tit, Long-tailed Tit, Jackdaw, Great Tit, Rook, Mistle Thrush, Pied Wagtail, Goldcrest, Little Egret, Grey Heron.

09.00hrs-12.00hrs. – Site at Cross Avenue monitored from 09.00hrs, up to 8 Herring Gull foraging on green from 09.20hrs throughout morning, two Black-headed Gull from 09.40hrs-10.00hrs. Usual passerine species noted on site walks around perimeter at garden area to northwest of site. Blackrock Pitches north of the site were visited at 10.45hrs, 40 Brent Geese, 6 Redshank and 1 Black-tailed Godwit were noted on the pitches at that time.

12.00hrs-16.00hrs. – 2 Grey Heron foraging on green area from 13.00hrs to 15.20hrs (foraging on earthworms), up to 8 Herring Gull also on green area during afternoon. 1 Little Egret joined the Grey Heron at 13.30hrs foraging on green until 15.30hrs. No target species (namely geese or waders) noted on-site, however.

January 20th, 2021

Sunrise- 08.27hrs/Sunset 16.46hrs. Weather – Wind F1 Northwest, 7/8, Dry in morning & light showers later, 5c, Excellent visibility. On-site 08.30hrs – 16.15hrs.

Species recorded – Magpie, Hooded Crow, Starling, Goldfinch, Bullfinch, Song Thrush, Blackbird, Blue Tit, Herring Gull, Black-headed Gull, Robin, Dunnock, Woodpigeon, Wren, Chaffinch, Coal Tit, Long-tailed Tit, Jackdaw, Great Tit, Rook, Mistle Thrush, Grey Wagtail, Pied Wagtail, Goldcrest, Redwing, Treecreeper, Siskin, Greenfinch, Grey Heron.

08.30hrs-12.00hrs. – 1 Grey Heron foraging around small, flooded pool on green from 09.15-09.37hrs. Blackrock Pitches visited at 09.20hrs, 25 Brent Geese and 68 Oystercatcher foraging north of the site at that time. Grey Heron foraging on pool again from 11.30hrs – 13.00hrs. 1 Herring Gull foraging on green from 11.58hrs-12.05hrs. 17 Redwing foraging around trees/Garden area throughout the morning.

12.00hrs-16.15hrs – 1 Little Egret foraging on green area from 12.20hrs joined by a 2nd at 13.02, remaining until 14.40. 3 Little Egret from 14.50, still on-site at 16.15hrs. Blackrock Pitches to north visited at 13.05hrs, 173 Oystercatcher, 28 Brent Geese, 10 Redshank and 1 Black-tailed Godwit foraging there at that time. 2-3 Herring Gull foraging on green during afternoon, no target species present.

February 3rd, 2021

Sunrise- 08.05hrs/Sunset 17.12hrs. Weather – Wind F2 Southwest, 7/8, Dry, 6c, Excellent visibility. On-site 08.15hrs – 16.30hrs.

Species recorded – Magpie, Hooded Crow, Starling, Goldfinch, Bullfinch, Song Thrush, Blackbird, Blue Tit, Herring Gull, Black-headed Gull, Robin, Dunnock, Woodpigeon, Wren, Lesser Redpoll, Chaffinch, Coal Tit, Long-tailed Tit, Jackdaw, Great Tit, Rook, Mistle Thrush, Goldcrest, Little Egret, Grey Heron.

08.15hrs-12.00hrs. – Monitoring from vantage points and site walked at regular intervals. Up to 7 Herring Gull foraging on green throughout morning, normally 2-3 present. 2 Little Egret foraging (Earthworm) on wet area on green from 09.10hrs to 11.30hrs. Blackrock Pitches north of site visited at 10.15hrs, 52 Brent Geese and 24 Oystercatcher present at that time there. Usual selection of passerine species present on-site, no target species present at Cross Avenue.

12.00hrs-16.30hrs. – Up to 4 Herring Gull foraging on green in afternoon, one Black-headed Gull from 13.00hrs-13.40hrs also. 1 Grey Heron and 1 Little Egret foraging from 13.15hrs to 15.45hrs on green. Blackrock Pitches visited at 15.00hrs, 45 Brent Geese and 6 Oystercatcher counted foraging north of the site at that time.

February 23rd, 2021

Sunrise- 07.25hrs/Sunset 17.51hrs. Weather – Wind F5 South, 7/8, Light rain, 9c, Good visibility. On-site 08.00hrs – 17.00hrs.

Species recorded – Magpie, Hooded Crow, Starling, Goldfinch, Bullfinch, Song Thrush, Blackbird, Blue Tit, Herring Gull, Black-headed Gull, Robin, Dunnock, Woodpigeon, Wren, Lesser Redpoll, Chaffinch, Coal Tit, Long-tailed Tit, Jackdaw, Great Tit, Rook, Mistle Thrush, Goldcrest, Little Egret, Redwing, Pied Wagtail.

08.00hrs-12.00hrs. – 2-5 Herring Gull foraging on green throughout morning, 1 Little Egret present from 08.50hrs-10.15hrs foraging also on green. Blackrock Pitches north of the site visited at 11.00hrs, 24 Brent Geese and 17 Oystercatchers foraging there at that time. 10 Redwing foraging on-site around green during morning.

12.00hrs-17.00hrs – 2 Herring Gull foraging on green intermittently during afternoon, 3 Black-headed Gull also from 15.00hrs to 15.20hrs. 1 Little Egret present from 14.00hrs. Blackrock Pitches visited at 13.30hrs, no target species observed there at that time. No target species observed on-site.

March 11th, 2021

Sunrise- 06.49hrs/Sunset 18.22hrs. Weather – Wind F4 Southwest, 7/8, Intermittent showers, 7c, Excellent visibility. On-site 07.30hrs – 17.30hrs.

Species recorded – Magpie, Hooded Crow, Starling, Goldfinch, Bullfinch, Song Thrush, Blackbird, Blue Tit, Herring Gull, Black-headed Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Robin, Dunnock, Woodpigeon, Wren, Chaffinch, Coal Tit, Long-tailed Tit, Jackdaw, Great Tit, Rook, Mistle Thrush, Goldcrest, Little Egret, Redwing, Peregrine Falcon.

07.30hrs-12.00hrs – Two Herring Gull foraging on green during morning intermittently, 1 Grey Heron roosting on-site on green from 11.35hrs to 12.50hrs. Blackrock College Pitches north of site visited at 10.00hrs, 78 Brent Geese and 34 Oystercatcher present there at that time.

12.00hrs-17.30hrs – Two Herring Gull foraging on green from 13.25hrs-14.00hrs and one from 15.05hrs to 15.30hrs. One Peregrine Falcon was observed to pass the south edge of the site at 16.12hrs going Northeast. At the Blackrock Playing fields north of the site at 15.00hrs, 62 Brent Geese and 44 Oystercatcher were recorded foraging. No target species on-site.

March 27th, 2021

Sunrise- 06.10hrs/Sunset 18.51hrs. Weather – Wind F3 Southwest, 6/8, Dry, 8c, Excellent visibility. On-site 07.00hrs – 16.30hrs.

Species recorded – Magpie, Hooded Crow, Starling, Goldfinch, Bullfinch, Song Thrush, Blackbird, Blue Tit, Herring Gull, Black-headed Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Robin, Dunnock, Woodpigeon, Wren, Chaffinch, Coal Tit, Long-tailed Tit, Jackdaw, Great Tit, Rook, Mistle Thrush, Goldcrest, Grey Heron, Sparrowhawk.

07.00hrs-12.00hrs – Monitoring from vantage points and site regularly walked. 1-2 Herring Gull foraging on green throughout morning. One Grey Heron roosting on green from 09.00-11.15hrs. Blackrock pitches visited at 10.30hrs, 14 Oystercatcher present at that time. No target species recorded on-site.

12.00hrs-17.30hrs – Up to 4 Herring Gull foraging on-site during afternoon, 1 Male Sparrowhawk passed through site from south to north at 14.10hrs. No target species observed on the Blackrock pitches at 14.30hrs. No target species recorded on-the Cross Avenue site.

Site & Vantage Point locations & some summary notes

Much of the monitoring on site was made from two vantage points, at yellow x near house, and at red x from Tree cover, in order to survey grass area for potential usage by species such as Brent Geese or Wader species,

neither of which was observed on site at any survey, the relatively small area and high tree surround likely making the site unsuitable, especially given the proximity of much bigger feeding areas nearby (namely the Blackrock playing pitches to the north). The garden areas on rest of site was also checked at regular intervals. 35 bird species were recorded on-site across the surveys, comprising mainly of passerine species typical of semi-natural, suburban Dublin site. Grey Heron and Little Egret were noted to forage on the green area of site, especially after wet weather (foraging for Earthworms). Herring Gulls were also noted in small numbers foraging on the green with also occasional Black-headed Gulls.

From the recently published Birds of conservation concern lists (2020-2026), recently updated by Birdwatch Ireland, Herring Gull is amber-listed (breeding and wintering) and Redwing is red-listed (wintering). Species recorded on the surveys on-site, albeit in small numbers.

