



PROVISION OF INFORMATION REGARDING APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT SCREENING

**PROPOSED CELBRIDGE LINK ROAD
ADAMSTOWN, CO. DUBLIN**

PREPARED FOR CASTLETHORN CONSTRUCTION

Project Reference:		170149			
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	Introduction	1
2	Methodology	1
3	Screening for Appropriate Assessment	4
4	Conclusions of the Screening Assessment	15
	References	16

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1	Overview of the Proposed Development and its Receiving Environment	4
Table 2	Analysis of European Sites within 15km.....	9

LIST OF FIGURES AND APPENDICES

Figure 1.	All European Sites within 15km of the proposed development	14
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1 Introduction

The information in this report forms part of, and should be read in conjunction with, the documentation accompanying the application for planning permission for the proposed Celbridge Link Road development at Adamstown, Lucan, Co. Dublin.

This report, which contains information required for the competent authority (in this instance South Dublin County Council) to undertake a screening exercise for Appropriate Assessment (AA), was prepared by Scott Cawley Ltd. on behalf of the applicant. It provides information on and assesses the potential for the proposed development to significantly affect Natura 2000 sites (hereafter “European Sites”¹).

It is necessary that the proposal has regard to Article 6 of the *Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora* (as amended) (hereafter “the Habitats Directive”). This is transposed in Ireland primarily by the *European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 477/2011)* (hereafter the Birds and Habitats Regulations) and the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act, 2010 as amended.

An AA is required if likely significant effects on European Sites arising from a proposed development cannot be ruled out at the screening stage, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.

It is the responsibility of the competent authority to make a decision as to whether or not the proposed development is likely to have significant effects on European Sites, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects.

Following the preparation of this screening statement it may be objectively concluded that there is no likelihood of any significant effects on any European Sites arising from the proposed development, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. Therefore it is our view that an Appropriate Assessment is not required in this instance. The information in the tables below provide a summary of the information gathered for this screening exercise and the conclusions made.

2 Methodology

This Screening Statement for Appropriate Assessment was prepared with regard to the following guidance documents, where relevant:

- *Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland - Guidance for Planning Authorities*. (Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2010 revision).
- *Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive: Guidance for Planning Authorities*. Circular NPW 1/10 & PSSP 2/10.
- *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* (European Commission Environment Directorate-General, 2001); hereafter referred to as the EC Article 6 Guidance Document. The guidance within this document provides a non-mandatory methodology for carrying out assessments required under Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive.
- *Managing Natura 2000 Sites: The Provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC* (EC Environment Directorate-General, updated April 2015); hereafter referred to as MN2000.

¹ Natura 2000 sites are defined under the Habitats Directive (Article 3) as a European ecological network of special areas of conservation composed of sites hosting the natural habitat types listed in Annex I and habitats of the species listed in Annex II. The aim of the network is to aid the long-term survival of Europe's most valuable and threatened species and habitats. In Ireland these sites are designed as *European Sites* - defined under the Planning Acts and/or Birds and Habitats Regulations as (a) a candidate site of Community importance, (b) a site of Community importance, (c) a candidate special area of conservation, (d) a special area of conservation, (e) a candidate special protection area, or (f) a special protection area. They are commonly referred to in Ireland as candidate Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs).

- *Guidelines for Good Practice Appropriate Assessment of Plans under Article 6(3) Habitats Directive.* Findings of an international workshop on Appropriate Assessment in Oxford, December 2009.
- *Communication from the Commission on the precautionary principle.* European Commission (2000).

The above referenced guidance sets out a staged process for carrying out Appropriate Assessment. To determine if Appropriate Assessment is required, documented screening is required. Screening identifies the likely effects on European Sites, if any, which would arise from a proposed plan or project, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects.

If the conclusions at the end of screening are that there is no likelihood of significant effects occurring on any European Sites, as a result of the proposed plan or project, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects, then there would be no requirement to undertake Appropriate Assessment.

However, even if screening makes a finding of no significant effects, and therefore concludes that Appropriate Assessment is not required, these findings must be clearly documented in order to provide transparency of decision-making, and to ensure the application of the '*precautionary principle*'².

Screening for Appropriate Assessment involves the following:

- Determining whether a project or plan is directly connected with or necessary to the conservation management of any European Sites³;
- Describing the details of the project/plan proposals and other plans or projects that may cumulatively affect any European Sites (see Table 1);
- Describing the characteristics of relevant European Sites (Table 2); and,
- Assessing the likelihood of significant effects on relevant European Sites (see Table 2).

The information that was collected to allow the competent authority to screen the proposal was based on a desktop study carried out on 30th August 2017. Information relied upon included the following information sources, which included maps, ecological and water quality data:

- Ordnance Survey of Ireland mapping and aerial photography available from www.osi.ie;
- Online data available on European Sites as held by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) from www.npws.ie;
- Information on land-use zoning from the online mapping of the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government www.myplan.ie;
- Information on water quality in the area available from www.epa.ie;
- Information on the Eastern River Basin District from www.wfdireland.ie;
- Information on soils, geology and hydrogeology in the area available from www.gsi.ie;
- Information on the location, nature and design of the proposed development supplied by the applicant's design team;
- Information on the status of EU protected habitats and species in Ireland (National Parks & Wildlife Service, 2013a & 2013b); and,
- Information on the conservation status of birds in Ireland (Colhoun & Cummins, 2014).

² One of the primary foundations of the precautionary principle, and globally accepted definitions, results from the work of the Rio Declaration. Principle #15 declaration notes:

"In order to protect the environment, the precautionary approach shall be widely applied by States according to their capabilities. Where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation."

³ In this instance the proposed development is not directly connected with or necessary to the conservation management of any European Sites.

The following planning and policy documents were relevant to the subject lands, in particular with regard to the assessment of other plans and projects with potential for cumulative effects

- *National Biodiversity Action Plan 2017-2021, (DCHG, 2011);*
- *Eastern River Basin District, River Basin Management Plan 2009-2015;*
- *South Dublin County Council Development Plan (2016 – 2022); and,*
- *Adamstown Strategic Development Zone Planning Scheme (2014)*

3 Screening for Appropriate Assessment

Table 1 Overview of the Proposed Development and its Receiving Environment

Brief Site Description	<p>The subject lands are located between Backweston Farm and Adamstown in Co. Dublin, within the Adamstown Strategic Development Zone (SDZ). The subject lands are roughly located between grid reference O 00533 34101 and O 01645 33276. Based on a review of aerial photography, the proposed development site comprises of agricultural lands with mature trees and boundary hedgerows, as well as areas of disturbed ground in its southern extent. According to MyPlan.ie the subject lands are zoned as '<i>P1- Agriculture</i>' and '<i>R3- Residential, mixed residential and other uses</i>' under the South Dublin County Council Development Plan 2016-2022 with the following respective planning objectives; '<i>to protect and improve rural amenity and to provide for the development of agriculture</i>' and '<i>to provide for strategic development in accordance with approved planning schemes</i>'.</p>
Features of the Surrounding Environment	<p>The desktop study found no records of any species or habitats for which European Sites listed in Table 2 are designated within the subject lands or environs. Two old records (dating from 1980) for otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> exists from the Grand Canal c. 1.7km south-east and along the River Liffey c. 1.7km to the north-west of the proposed development respectively⁴. Otter are relatively abundant in Ireland and are found in watercourses throughout the country.</p> <p>According to the EPA online Envision Maps, the subject lands are located within the Liffey and Dublin Bay catchment and the Liffey sub-catchment. The closest watercourse is the Lucan Stream, located approximately 150m east of the proposed development at its closest point. There is no available information regarding the water quality of the Lucan Stream. This watercourse is connected to European Sites within Dublin Bay by the River Liffey. The Lucan Stream flows north-easterly for 2.2km before converging with the River Liffey upstream of Lucan. The Liffey flows for approximately a further 20.7km eastwards to discharge into Dublin Bay, with its associated complex of marine and intertidal European Sites. The quality of the Lower Liffey Estuary transitional waterbody is given as unpolluted, while the quality of Dublin Bay is also deemed unpolluted.</p> <p>All surface, transitional and coastal waterbodies within and downstream of the River Liffey Catchment are identified as having a Water Framework Directive (WFD) risk score of '<i>at risk of not achieving good status</i>'. This means that they are at risk of missing targets for water quality as set out within the WFD.</p> <p>The proposed development is located above the Dublin Groundwater body. This is classified as poorly productive bedrock and it is considered to be at extreme risk from human activities according to the GSI online Map Viewer. The bedrock of the area is described as the Lucan Formation, composed of '<i>dark limestone and shale (calp)</i>' and is considered to be a poorly productive bedrock. The Dublin Groundwater body is expected to achieve good status based on the WFD commitments.</p>
Description of the Proposed Development	<p>Full details of the proposed development can be found in the applicants planning application. In brief, the proposed development will comprise of:</p>

⁴ According to NBDC online data www.biodiversity.ie (Accessed 22/09/2016)

Table 1 Overview of the Proposed Development and its Receiving Environment

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The construction of 820m of new single carriageway two-way road alignment with off road cycle track and footpaths linking the Adamstown SDZ to the Celbridge Link road. The road will be a single three-lane carriageway with 60km/h design speed. The overall road reservation will be 17m wide not including side slopes for the embankment. The vertical alignment of the new road falls gently from west to east and at the connection point with the Adamstown SDZ its 2m lower. A new signalised junction where the Celbridge Link Road connects to existing Celbridge road. A new uncontrolled T-Junction onto Tubber Lane on the western side of the Link Road and a cul-de-sac of Tubber lane on the eastern side of the Link Road. Pedestrian and cyclist access will be maintained along Tuber Lane with the Turning head provided at the end of the cul-de-sac to facilitate refuge and emergency vehicles. It is proposed to provide a 1.5m cycletrack and 2.0m footpath at both sides of the new link road, these will be separated from the vehicular lanes by a 1.5m grass and tree verge. The public lights along the existing Celbridge Road is at approx. 30m spacing on alternative sides of the road and using a 8m high column. The lighting columns will be located in the grass verge with a minimum clearance to the kerb of 800mm. This lighting scheme will be extended onto the proposed link road through the SDZ. The details of the new lighting will be considered at the detailed design stage. The Lighting will be designed to meet the "South Dublin County Council, Public Lighting Specification, Rev. 2 14/10/216, or specification current at the time. <p>The proposed route of the road crosses the Backstown stream in three locations. In two of these locations it is proposed to culvert the stream under the road while in the third location (the junction where the proposed road and the existing Celbridge road meet) it is proposed to divert the stream and also culvert it under the proposed road.</p> <p>With regards to surface water, attenuation is proposed at three locations over the course of the road. Attenuation volumes are as follows;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attenuation Pond 1- 244m³; Attenuation Pond 2- 343m³; and; Attenuation Pond 3- 464m³. <p>Furthermore, a Hydrobrake will be installed to limit the rate of discharge to the Backstown stream. Discharge will be limited to 1.66l/s. A non-return valve will be installed at the outfall to the Backstown stream. Upstream attenuation pipes will be sized accordingly. This design complies with GDSDS standards. The areas beneath the verges and cycle track will be constructed of permeable materials to permit infiltration into the surrounding soils.</p>
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Table 1 Overview of the Proposed Development and its Receiving Environment

	<p>A Surface Water Treatment Train approach has been applied to the design of the surface water drainage on this site, in accordance with the SuDS philosophy. This technique suits the sites topography, ground conditions and the receiving environment. The treatment train approach ensures that both runoff quantity and quality are addressed through the following techniques:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Source Control- this aims to detain or infiltrate runoff as close as possible to the source/ point of origin. The use of such source control devices reduces the peak runoff rate and attenuates flows. Infiltration of flows would ensure that unavoidable pollutants are treated where practicable. Proposed open swales will allow the treatment of runoff and recharge the ground water where the infiltration is possible. • Site control- this comprises runoff and treatment installations to serve individual sites, using elements such as attenuation tanks detention basins, permeable paving, or cellular systems. On this road it is proposed to use three open swales and this will allow for the storage of the 1:100 year storm event plus 10% for climate change. • Regional control- this comprises treatment facilities to reduce pollutants from contaminated runoff, with the potential to provide biological treatment on a catchment scale. It is proposed to add the treatment of the runoff from the road by providing a downstream defender (or similar) on the upstream side of the swales. This will aid the removal of fine and coarse particles, hydrocarbons and floatable debris from surface water runoff. It is also proposed to provide a bypass separator on downstream side of the swales to further remove any fine oil particles before the runoff enters the outfall watercourses. <p>The inclusion of this suite of SuDS measures will ensure that the volume of surface water runoff discharging to the surface water network is reduced and of a sufficient environmental quality to avoid impacts of downstream habitats and species. Surface water drainage for the portion of the proposed road located in the SDZ lands will be treated in a similar manner. Attenuation for this section of road has been provided for in previous planning applications contained within the overall SDZ lands.</p> <p>Landscaping proposals include the planting of a range of trees including silver birch <i>Betula pendula</i>, Scot's pine <i>Pinus sylvestris</i>, holm oak <i>Quercus ilex</i>, white willow <i>Salix alba</i>, fastigate oak <i>Quercus robur</i> 'Fastigata', lime <i>Tilia cordata</i> and Turkish hazel <i>Corylus colurna</i>. In addition, landscape sculpting will be required along the road cutting. The majority of the existing hedgerows will be retained, and some will be partially fragmented where the proposed route of the road requires it. Boundary treatment will comprise the installation of a post and rail fence with plastic coated mesh and hedge planting of hawthorn <i>Crataegus monogyna</i>.</p> <p>The duration of the construction phase is estimated to be 12 months.</p>
Defining the Zone of Influence of the Proposed Development	<p>The zone of influence is a distance within which the proposed works could potentially affect the conservation condition of QI habitats or species. There is no set recommended distance for which European sites are considered as being relevant (i.e. within the zone of influence of proposed works) for AA. Available guidance (NPWS, 2010) recommends that '<i>the distance should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis with reference to the nature, size and location of the project, and the sensitivities of the ecological receptors, and the potential for in combination effects</i>'. As a general rule of thumb, it is often considered appropriate to examine all European sites within 15km as a starting point. In some instances, where there are far reaching hydrological/hydrogeological connections, a whole river catchment or a groundwater aquifer may need</p>

Table 1 Overview of the Proposed Development and its Receiving Environment

	<p>to be included in determining the zone of influence. All European sites within 15km of the proposed works are listed in Table 2 below and shown on Figure 1. In this case there is a potential source-receptor pathway connecting the proposed development with downstream European Sites in Dublin Bay, and for this reason, European Sites within Dublin Bay have been included within the assessment on a precautionary basis. The source-receptor pathway in this instance, is the surface water network. Surface waters from the proposed development will ultimately drain to Dublin Bay via natural surface water features such as the Backstown stream and the River Liffey.</p>
Potential pressures on European Sites as a result of the proposed development	<p>Pressures from loss of habitats, and direct loss of QI Species</p> <p>The subject lands do not physically overlap with any European Sites. They do not contain records of any habitats or species for which the European Sites within the zone of influence have been designated. Based on examination of aerial photography, the subject lands appear to be largely composed of agricultural lands with mature trees and boundary hedgerows and disturbed ground, none of which are listed under the Habitats Directive (1992). These habitats are not indirectly connected with any habitats within European Sites (e.g. by groundwater). There is therefore no potential for significant effects on European Sites resulting from loss of habitats, or direct loss of QI species during the proposed development.</p> <p>Pressures from Water Quality Changes</p> <p>The proposed development is within the catchment of rivers that drain to Dublin Bay. Several intertidal habitats for which European Sites in Dublin Bay are designated are failing to meet favourable conservation status. For some of these, water pollution is considered to be a threat ranked as being of '<i>high importance</i>' (NPWS, 2013a).</p> <p>Pressures on European sites in Dublin Bay from surface waters</p> <p>With regards to surface waters, there is not considered to be any potential for significant effects resulting from the proposed development alone on downstream European Sites due to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The significant distance between the proposed development and downstream European Sites in Dublin Bay (>20km by watercourse) is considered to reduce the risk of any potential contaminants from the construction phase of the development reaching European Sites to extremely unlikely; and, • Surface waters from the proposed development will pass through a suite of SUDs systems prior to discharge including flow control devices, attenuation ponds, bypass separators etc., thus reducing the likelihood of suspended solids or pollutants travelling further downstream.
Other existing or proposed plans or projects nearby which may lead to cumulative effects on European Sites.	<p>Cumulative Water Quality Pressures</p> <p>Potential Cumulative Impacts in relation to Surface Waters</p> <p>There is potential for '<i>in-combination</i>' effects of proposed plans and projects within the <i>Adamstown SDZ Planning Scheme (2014)</i>, the <i>South Dublin County Council Development Plan 2016-2022</i>, <i>Dublin City Development Plan 2016 - 2022</i>, <i>Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Development Plan 2016 - 2022</i>, <i>Fingal Development Plan 2011-2017</i> and other county level land use plans which can influence conditions in Dublin Bay via</p>

Table 1 Overview of the Proposed Development and its Receiving Environment

	<p>rivers and the surface water drainage network. Dublin Bay is of unpolluted water quality status and the pollutant content of future surface water discharges to the Bay is considered likely to be decreased in the long-term. This is because it is an objective of the Greater Dublin Strategic Drainage Study, and all development plans within the catchment of Ringsend WWTP to include Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems in new development. Together these objectives are considered likely to reduce pressures on designated marine and intertidal species and habitats in Dublin Bay.</p> <p>There are a number of existing and proposed developments⁵ within the vicinity of this site which have the potential to produce '<i>in combination</i>' effects to water quality in Dublin Bay. However, the potential for cumulative pressures on surface waters is considered to be limited to short duration (12 months during the construction period) impacts resulting from construction activities which could result in elevated levels of hydrocarbons or silts entering the surface water network. These are not considered to be significant given the large (>20km) downstream distance to European Sites.</p> <p>In the unlikely event of a pollution event occurring during construction, this would not be of such a magnitude that would have a significant adverse effect on water quality in Dublin Bay, or affect the Qualifying Interest/Special Conservation Interests of the European sites therein, due to the urban buffer that exists between the site and Dublin Bay and potential for dilution in the local drainage network. There is therefore no potential for cumulative impacts as a result of additional surface water generation.</p> <p>Conclusion for potential <i>in-combination</i> effects from surface waters</p> <p>It is our professional opinion that there will be no likelihood of significant effects on any European sites during the construction or operation of the proposed development, in combination with other plans or projects. This judgement was reached on the basis that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The coastal waters in Dublin Bay are classed as unpolluted by the EPA; • It is an objective of all development plans within the catchment of Ringsend WWTW to include Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems for all new development; • In the unlikely event of a pollution event during construction, this would not be of such a magnitude that it would have a significant adverse effect on water quality in Dublin Bay; • The significant distance between the proposed development and downstream European Sites in Dublin Bay (>20km by watercourse) is considered to reduce the risk of any potential contaminants from the construction phase of the development reaching European Sites to extremely unlikely; and; • Surface waters from the proposed development will pass through a suite of SUDs systems prior to discharge including flow control devices, attenuation ponds, bypass separators etc., thus reducing the likelihood of suspended solids or pollutants travelling further downstream.
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European Sites within 1km, 5km and 15km of the proposed development site are shown in Figure 1 overleaf.

⁵ South Dublin County Council Planning Application Search <http://sdublincoco.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Solutions/s2.html?appid=b83a115566bd43648a4b9fa3bb3a4cae> Accessed 19/10/2017

Table 2 Analysis of European Sites within 15km.

Site name and code	Distance from Proposed Development (approximate)	Reasons for designation ⁶ (*= Priority Habitat) (Sourced from NPWS online Conservation Objectives Generic Version 4.0 for SACs and 4.0 for SPAs, unless otherwise stated).	Relevant source-pathway-receptor links between proposed development and European Site?
Special Areas of Conservation			
Rye Water Valley/ Carton SAC (001398)	Located c. 1.6km north of the proposed development site	Annex I Habitats: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>) [7220] Annex II Species: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail <i>Vertigo angustior</i> [1014] Desmoulin's Whorl Snail <i>Vertigo mouliniana</i> [1016] 	No. The European Site lies upstream of the proposed development site. There is no potential for the development to affect any of the conservation objectives of the European Site.
Glenasmole Valley SAC (001209)	Located c. 11.5km southeast of the proposed development	Annex I Habitats: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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] 	No. The European Site lies within a separate river sub-basin and separate groundwater body to the proposed development. There is no potential for the development to affect any of the conservation objectives of the European Site.
Wicklow Mountains SAC (002122)	Located c. 13.2km southeast of the proposed	Annex I Habitats: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the <i>Littorelletea uniflorae</i> and/or <i>Isoeto-Nanojuncetea</i> [3130] Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160] 	No. The European Site lies upstream of the proposed development and there are no connections between the two in terms of habitats or fauna. There is no potential for the development to affect any of the conservation objectives of the European Site.

⁶ "Qualifying Interests" for SACs and "Special Conservation Interests" for SPAs based on relevant Statutory Instruments for each SPA, and NPWS Conservation Objectives for SACs downloaded from www.npws.ie in July 2017.

⁷ For significant effects to arise, there must be a risk enabled by having a 'source' (e.g. construction works at a proposed development site), a 'receptor' (e.g. a SAC), and a pathway between the source and the receptor (e.g. a watercourse connecting a proposed development site to a SAC). The identification of a pathway does not automatically mean significant effects will arise. The likelihood for significant effects will depend upon the characteristics of the source (e.g. duration of construction works), the characteristics of the pathway (e.g. water quality status of watercourse receiving run-off from construction) and the characteristics of the receptor (e.g. the ecology including conservation status of the SAC reason for designation). When expert judgment determines, that significant effects are likely to arise, both the pathway, and the European Site are considered "Relevant", and an Appropriate Assessment is triggered.

Table 2 Analysis of European Sites within 15km.

	development site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010] • European dry heaths [4030] • Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060] • Species-rich <i>Nardus</i> grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe) [6230] • 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] <p>Annex II Species:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> [1355] 	
North Dublin Bay SAC (000206)	Located c. 19.7km north-east of the proposed development site	<p>Conservation Objectives Version 1.0 (06/11/13)</p> <p>Annex I Habitats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] • Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210] • <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonizing mud and sand [1310] • Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) [1330] • Petalwort <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> [1395] • Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410] • Embryonic shifting dunes [2110] • Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> ("white dunes") [2120] • Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("grey dunes") [2130] • Humid dune slacks [2190] 	<p>Whilst there is a potential source-receptor pathway between the proposed development and the European site (surface waters from the proposed development ultimately discharge to Dublin Bay), no significant effects are predicted due to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a significant distance over the surface water network between the proposed development and the European Sites (>20km); • Surface waters from the proposed development will pass through a suite of SUDs systems prior to discharge including flow control devices, attenuation ponds, bypass separators etc., thus reducing the likelihood of suspended solids or pollutants travelling further downstream;

Table 2 Analysis of European Sites within 15km.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The known potential for waters in Dublin Bay to rapidly mix and assimilate pollutants (Wilson and Jackson, 2011); and; • In the unlikely event of a pollution event during construction, this would not be of such a magnitude that it would have a significant adverse effect on water quality in Dublin Bay.
South Dublin Bay SAC [000210]	Located c. 17.5km east of the proposed development site	<p>Conservation Objectives Version 1.0 (22/08/13)</p> <p>Annex I Habitats :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] 	<p>Whilst there is a potential source-receptor pathway between the proposed development and the European site (surface waters from the proposed development discharge to Dublin Bay), no significant effects are predicted due to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a significant distance over the surface water network between the proposed development and the European Sites (>20km); • Surface waters from the proposed development will pass through a suite of SUDs systems prior to discharge including flow control devices, attenuation ponds, bypass separators etc., thus reducing the likelihood of suspended solids or pollutants travelling further downstream; • The known potential for waters in Dublin Bay to rapidly mix and assimilate pollutants (Wilson and Jackson, 2011); and; • In the unlikely event of a pollution event during construction, this would not be of such a magnitude that it would have a significant adverse effect on water quality in Dublin Bay.
Special Protection Areas			
South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA (004024)	Located c. 16.6km north-east of the proposed	<p>Special Conservation Interest Species:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Light-bellied Brent Goose <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> [A046] [wintering] • Oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> [A130] [wintering] 	No. See entry under South Dublin Bay SAC above. Furthermore, none of the Conservation Interest species for which the European Site has been

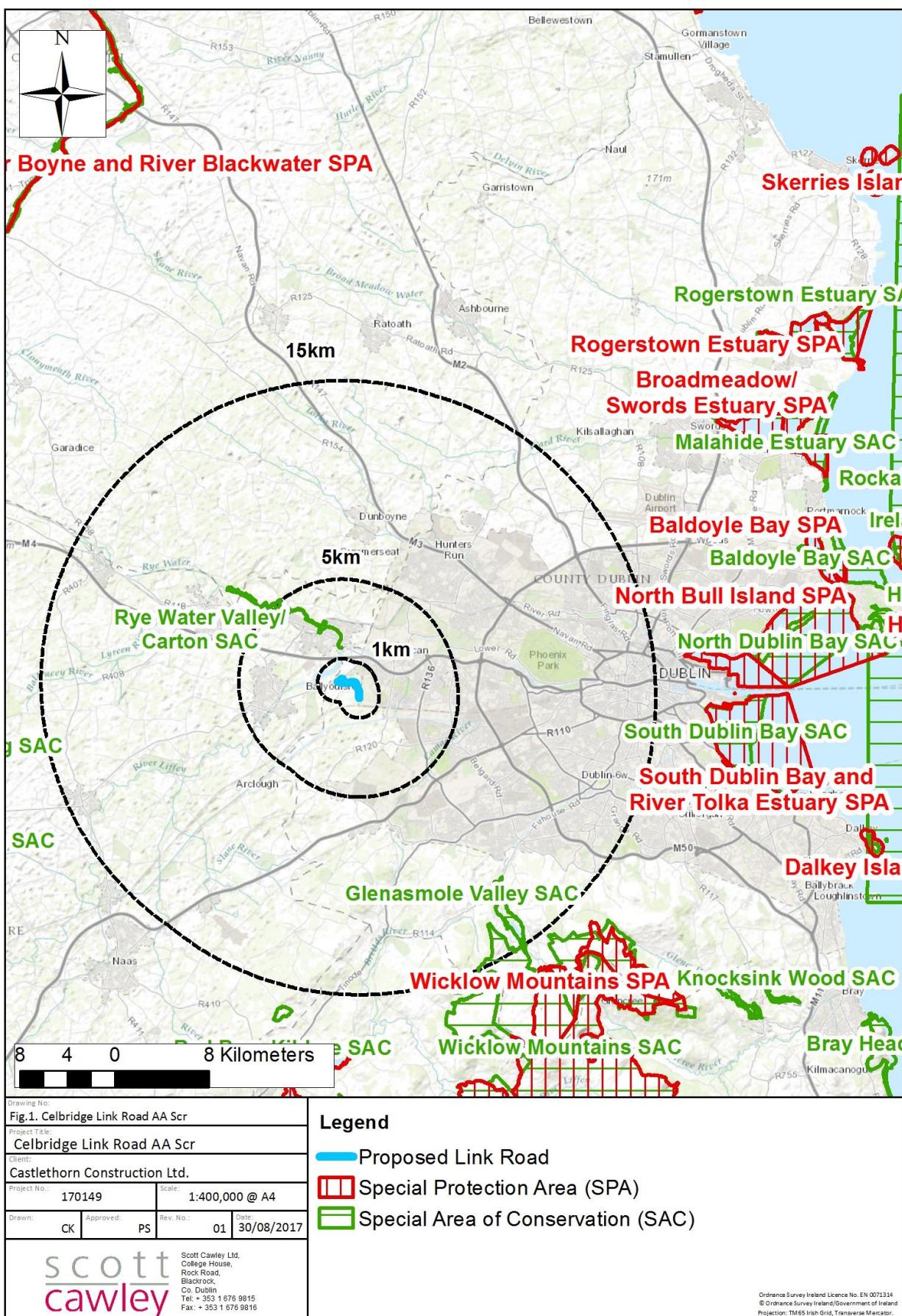
Table 2 Analysis of European Sites within 15km.

	development site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> [A137] [wintering] • Grey Plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> [A140] [wintering] • Knot <i>Calidris canutus</i> [A143] [wintering] • Sanderling <i>Calidris alba</i> [A144] [wintering] • Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina</i> [A149] [wintering] • Bar-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa lapponica</i> [A157] [wintering] • Redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i> [A162] [wintering] • Black-headed Gull <i>Croicocephalus ridibundus</i> [A179] [wintering] • Roseate Tern <i>Sterna dougallii</i> [A192] [passage] • Common Tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i> [A193] [breeding] • Arctic Tern <i>Sterna paradisaea</i> [A194] [passage] • Wetlands & Waterbirds [A999] 	designated are considered likely to utilise the habitats within the subject lands.
North Bull Island SPA (004006)	Located c. 19.8km north-east of the proposed development site	<p>Special Conservation Interest Species:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Light-bellied Brent Goose <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> [A046] [wintering] • Shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> [A048] [wintering] • Teal <i>Anas crecca</i> [A052] [wintering] • Pintail <i>Anas acuta</i> [A054] [wintering] • Shoveler <i>Anas clypeata</i> [A056] [wintering] • Oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> [A130] [wintering] • Golden Plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> [A140] [wintering] • Grey Plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> [A141] [wintering] • Knot <i>Calidris canutus</i> [A143] [wintering] • Sanderling <i>Calidris alba</i> [A144] [wintering] • Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina</i> [A149] [wintering] • Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa</i> [A156] [wintering] • Bar-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa lapponica</i> [A157] [wintering] • Curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i> [A160] [wintering] 	No. See entry under North Dublin Bay SAC above. Furthermore, none of the Conservation Interest species for which the European Site has been designated are considered likely to utilise the habitats within the subject lands.

Table 2 Analysis of European Sites within 15km.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i> [A162] [wintering]• Turnstone <i>Arenaria interpres</i> [A169] [wintering]• Black-headed Gull <i>Croicocephalus ridibundus</i> [A179] [wintering]• Wetlands & Waterbirds [A999]	
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Figure 1. All European Sites within 15km of the proposed development



4 Conclusions of the Screening Assessment

Following an examination, analysis and evaluation of the relevant information, including in particular, the nature of the proposed works and their potential relationship with European sites, as well as considering other plans and projects, and applying the precautionary principle, it is the professional opinion of the authors of this report that **it is possible to rule out likely significant effects on all European sites**. The judgement has been reached for the reasons outlined below:

1) The AA Screening process has identified that a number of European Sites in Dublin Bay lie within the potential zone of influence of the proposed development. However, for the reasons outlined below no European Sites are deemed to be at risk of likely significant effects from construction or operation of the proposed development:

Surface Water

The existing natural surface water features, to which surface water runoff will discharge to, are potential pathways between the proposed development and Dublin Bay. No significant adverse effects are predicted due to the following:

- In the unlikely event of a pollution event during construction, this would not be of such a magnitude that it would have a significant adverse effect on water quality in Dublin Bay;
- The distance between the site and Dublin Bay (>20km) and potential for dilution in the drainage network;
- The employment of the several SUDs techniques in the proposed surface water drainage system including Hydrobrakes, attenuation ponds, downstream defenders and bypass separators. This will improve the quality of water discharged from the site and reduce the effects of storm flows on downstream European sites. It will also reduce the likelihood of suspended solids or pollutants travelling further downstream European Sites; and,
- The known potential for waters in Dublin Bay to rapidly mix and assimilate pollutants (Wilson and Jackson, 2011).

For these reasons, it is the professional opinion of the authors of this report that the application for planning permission for the proposed development does not require an Appropriate Assessment.

However, the authors of this report acknowledge that it is for South Dublin County Council, as the competent authority, to issue an AA Screening determination based on the information contained in this report and the recommendation reached in its conclusion. The Council must reach one of the following determinations:

- a) AA of the proposed development is required if it cannot be excluded, on the basis of objective information, that the proposed development, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will have a significant effect on any European sites;
- b) AA of the proposed development is not required if it can be excluded, on the basis of objective information, that the proposed development, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will have a significant effect on any European sites.

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COMHAIRLE CHONTAE ATHA CLIATH THEAS
SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL
Record of Executive Business and Chief Executive's Orders

RE: THE CELBRIDGE LINK ROAD
Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening Determination
Planning and Development Act 2000 – 2016 (as amended)
Planning and Development Regulations, 2001-2015 - Part 8

Pursuant to the requirements of the above, South Dublin County Council is proposing to develop the proposed Celbridge Link Road (the Scheme) in the townlands of Tobermaclugg and Backstown:

Having regard to Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive, the guidance contained in the Department of Housing Planning Community and Local Government's "*Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland Guidance for Planning Authorities*" (2010) and on the basis of the objective information provided in the "*Celbridge Link Road AA Screening Report*" (the Screening Report) carried out by Scott Cawley Ltd, South Dublin County Council as the Competent Authority determines that the Scheme, individually, and in combination with other plans and projects, does not require an AA as it has been concluded that it is possible to rule out likely significant effects on all European sites. The principal reasons supporting this determination include:

The existing natural surface water features, to which surface water runoff will discharge to, are potential pathways between the proposed development and Dublin Bay. No significant adverse effects are predicted due to the following:

- In the unlikely event of a pollution event during construction, this would not be of such a magnitude that it would have a significant adverse effect on water quality in Dublin Bay;
- The distance between the site and Dublin Bay (>20km) and potential for dilution in the drainage network;
- The employment of the several SUDs techniques in the proposed surface water drainage system including Hydrobrakes, attenuation ponds, downstream defenders and bypass separators. This will improve the quality of water discharged from the site and reduce the effects of storm flows on downstream European sites. It will also reduce the likelihood of suspended solids or pollutants travelling further downstream European Sites; and,
- The known potential for waters in Dublin Bay to rapidly mix and assimilate pollutants (Wilson and Jackson, 2011).

Therefore a Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment will not be required to inform the Scheme either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, with respect to any Natura 2000 site and its Conservation Objectives.



 Senior Planner

ORDER: That South Dublin County Council as the Competent Authority having considered the AA Screening Report prepared by Scott Cawley Ltd, makes a determination that a

Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment will not be required to inform the Celbridge Link Road Scheme either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, with respect to any Natura 2000 site and its Conservation Objectives as recommended by the Senior Planner in the foregoing report is hereby approved.

Date: 19/12/17

John Gleeson

A/Director of Land Use,
Planning and Transportation