



Proposed Residential Development  
St. Marks, Co. Dublin

Screening Report for Appropriate  
Assessment

Doherty Environmental Consultants Ltd

May 2019

## Proposed Residential Development

### Screening Report for Appropriate Assessment

Document Stage	Document Version	Prepared by
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This report has been prepared by Doherty Environmental Consultants Ltd. with all reasonable skill, care and diligence. Information report herein is based on the interpretation of data collected and has been accepted in good faith as being accurate and valid.

This report is prepared for South Dublin County Council and we accept no responsibility to third parties to whom this report, or any part thereof, is made known. Any such party relies on the report at their own risk.

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Doherty Environmental Consultants (DEC) Ltd. have been commissioned by South Dublin County Council to undertake a Screening Report for Appropriate Assessment for a proposed residential development at St Marks, Co. Dublin (see Figure 1.1 for location).

This Screening Report for Appropriate Assessment forms Stage 1 of the Habitats Directive Assessment process and is being undertaken in order to comply with the requirements of the Habitats Directive Article 6(3). The function of this Screening Report is to identify the potential for the project to result in likely significant effects to European Sites and to provide information so that the competent authority can determine whether a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment is required for the project.

### 1.1 LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

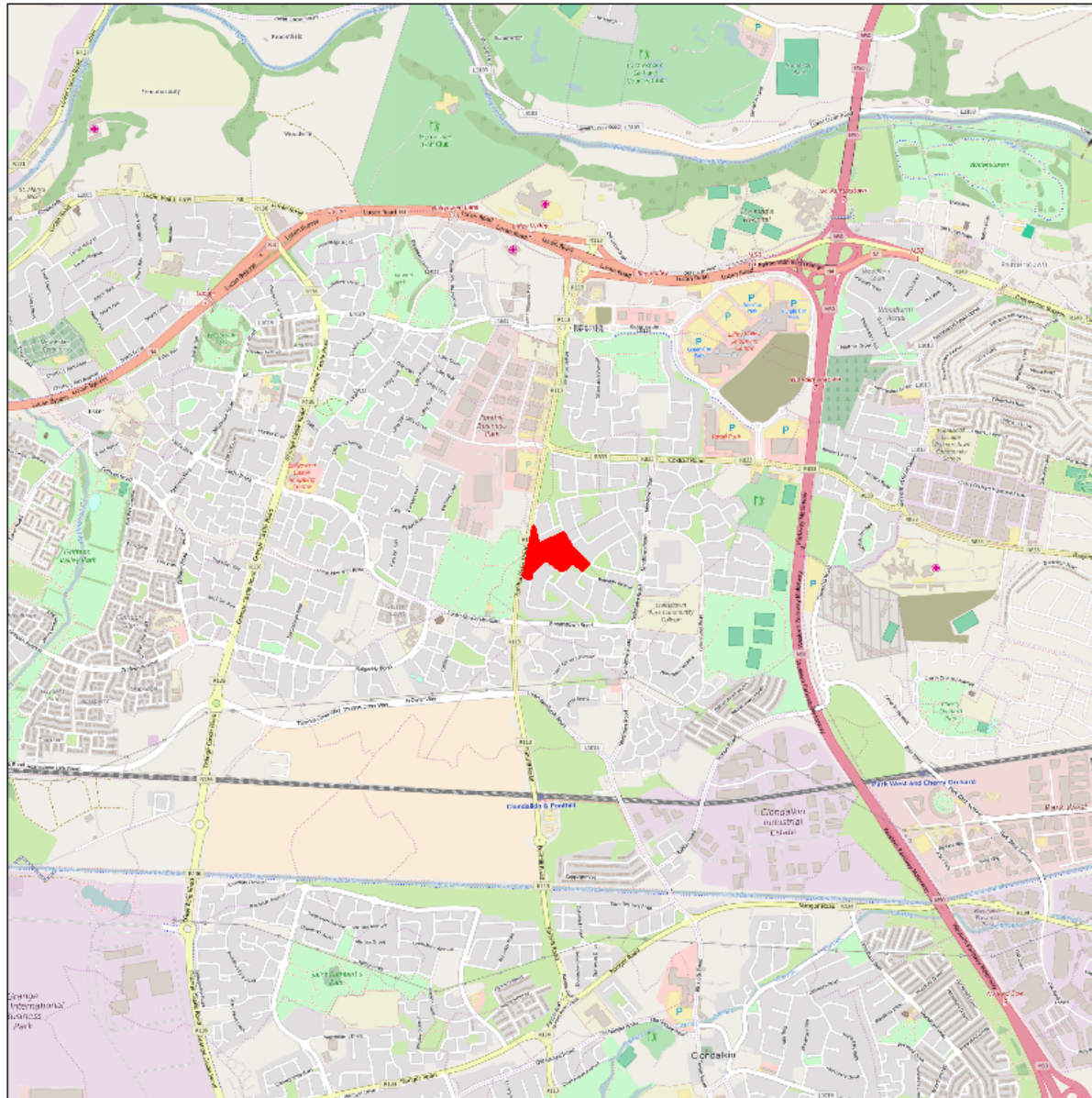
This Screening Report for Appropriate Assessment is being prepared in order to enable the competent authority to comply with Article 6(3) of Council Directive 92/43/EEC (The Habitats Directive). It is prepared to assess whether or not the project alone or in combination with other plans and projects is likely to have a significant effect on any European Site in view of best scientific knowledge and in view of the conservation objectives of the European Sites and specifically on the habitats and species for which the sites have been designated.

#### ***1.1.1 Requirement for an Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive***

According to Regulation 42(1) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 – 2015, the competent authority has a duty to:

- Determine whether the proposed Project is directly connected to or necessary for the management of one of more European Sites; and, if not,
- Determine if the Project, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, would be likely to have a significant effect on the European Site(s) in view of best scientific knowledge and the Conservation Objectives of the site(s).


This Report contains a Screening for Appropriate Assessment and is intended to assess and address all issues regarding the construction and operation of the Project and to inform and allow the competent authority to comply with the Habitats Directive. Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive defines the requirements for assessment of projects and plans for which likely significant effects on European Sites may arise. The European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011 – 2015 (the Habitats Regulations) transpose into Irish law Directive 2009/147/EC (the Birds Directive) and Council Directive 92/43/EEC (the Habitats Directive) lists habitats and species that are of international importance for conservation and require protection. The Habitats legislation requires competent authorities, to carry out a Screening for Appropriate Assessment of plans and projects that, alone or in combination with other plans or projects, would be likely to have significant effects on European Sites in view of best scientific knowledge and the Site’s conservation objectives. This requirement is transposed into Irish Law by Part 5 of the Habitats Regulations and Part XAB of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended).




## Residential Development St Marks

Figure 1.1

### Project Site

 Project Site

0 0.2 0.4 0.8 Km  




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Date	10/05/2019
Data Source	Bing

## 1.2 STAGE 1 SCREENING METHOD

This Screening Report has been prepared in order to comply with the legislative requirements outlined in Section 1.1 above and aims to establish whether or not the proposed residential development, alone or in combination with other plans or projects, will be likely to have significant effects on European Sites in view of best scientific knowledge and the Site's conservation objectives. In this context "likely" refers to the presence of doubt with regard to the absence of significant effects (ECJ case C-127/02) and "significant" means not trivial or inconsequential but an effect that has the potential to undermine the European Site's conservation objectives (English Nature, 1999; ECJ case C-127/02). In other words any effect that compromises the conservation objectives of a European Site and interferes with achieving the conservation objectives for the site would constitute a significant effect.

The nature of the likely interactions between the project and the conservation objectives of European Sites will depend upon the sensitivity of these sites and their reasons for designation to potential impacts arising from the project; the current conservation status of the features for which European Sites have been designated; and any likely changes to key environmental indicators (e.g. habitat structure; vegetation community) that underpin the conservation status of European Sites, in combination with other plans and projects.

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

- A guide for competent authorities. Environment and Heritage Service, Sept 2002. Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland – Guidance for Planning Authorities (2010). DEHLG.
- Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly Affecting Natura 2000 Sites – Methodological Guidance of the Provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/42/EEC. European Commission (2001).



- Managing Natura 2000 Sites – The provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. European commission (2018).

The EC (2001) guidelines outline the stages involved in undertaking a Screening Report for Appropriate Assessment for projects. The methodology adopted during the preparation of this Screening Report is informed by these guidelines and was undertaken in the following stages:

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

## **2.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The project is to develop 39 housing units. The development description as follows:

Development of a Social Housing Project of 39 units on undeveloped lands off St. Marks Avenue, St. Marks Grove, and Rowlagh Crescent, situated in St. Marks Estate, Clondalkin, Dublin 22.

South Dublin County Council proposes:

9 No. 3 Bedroom houses, 4 person, 2 storey

28 No. 3 Bedroom houses, 5 person, 2 storey

2 No.4 Bedroom, 5 person, 2 storey + attic

The works include: New access off St. Marks Avenue, St. Marks Grove, and Rowlagh Crescent, landscaping works to boundaries and new park/play area to existing green, ancillary works to landscape housing areas, and all necessary associated ancillary works on the site and adjacent areas. All units to be minimum A2 BER rated. The housing provision comprises one / two storey units and two storey units grouped in terraces.

Proposed Development of a Social Housing Project of 39 units on undeveloped lands off St. Marks Avenue, St. Marks Grove, and Rowlagh Crescent, situated in St. Marks Estate, Clondalkin, Dublin 22.

In accordance with the requirements of the above, notice is hereby given that South Dublin County Council proposes:

#### ***2.1.1 Duration of Construction***

The duration of construction is 60 weeks and will provide the following housing:

#### ***2.1.2 Construction Approach***

The housing will be delivered using timber frame and steel frame construction and will be delivered via a Design Build Contract.

#### ***2.1.3 Landscaping proposals***

Landscaping proposals will consider providing nectar rich flowers for insects across the season. Removal of undergrowth and weed plants will be carried out on site. Supplementary planting will be provided to boundaries and within the project, mainly through planting of suitable slow growing native trees. Permeable paving will be provided to curtilage of units. Approach roads and pavements will be tarmac/concrete to SDCC Roads taking in charge standard.

#### ***2.1.4 Water Supply***

The project site is located within the Greater Dublin Water Supply Area (GDWSA). The GDWSA is served by 5 major water treatment plants, Ballymore Eustace, Srowland, Leixlip, Ballyboden and Vartry, and a number of smaller sources. The total capacity of current sources

and treatment plants is 598ML/day and based on proposed capital investment between 2017 and 2021 this water available from existing sites will increase to 656ML/day.

### **2.1.5 Surface Water Management**

Surface water attenuation will be provided by 'Stormteck' or similar approved system.

### **2.1.6 Wastewater Management**

Wastewater will connect into the existing wastewater sewerage network and will be treated at Ringsend wastewater treatment plant.

## **3.0 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT SITE**

The proposed site is located in the townlands of Ronanstown and Irishtown, South Dublin County. The proposed development area is located on open space lands associated with existing residential development and comprises an area of 3.31ha.

The site is surrounded by residential development on three sides at Glenfield Park, St Mark's Grove and St Mark's Avenue whilst the Fonthill Road, forms the western boundary. The development lands are located approximately 60m above Ordnance Datum. Figure 3.1 provides an aerial view of the project site.

The project site is entirely dominated by amenity grassland (GA2) habitat. The project lands are situated within the Liffey and Dublin Bay surface water catchment (code: 09). The area of this catchment covers 1,624,42km<sup>2</sup> and supports a total population density of 777 people per km<sup>2</sup>. No surface water features are present on or adjacent to the project site. The closest surface water features are the Griffeen River, some 3km to the west and the River Liffey approximately 1.5km to the north.

Surface water status is classified under the WFD from 'high' to 'bad' status. In measuring this status both ecological and chemical parameters are measured and the overall status is determined by the lower threshold achieved for both ecological and chemical parameters. The latest information from the catchments.ie website shows the overall WFD status of the River Griffeen to be Moderate (Q3-4). The main channel of the River Liffey is unassigned for

much of its length but is classified as moderate further downstream; the most recent Water Framework Directive but tributaries are either poor or moderate in overall quality<sup>1</sup>.

The study area is underlain by limestone and soil type is classified as urban.

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**<sup>1</sup> Liffey Catchment Assessment 2010-2015 (HA 09), Catchment Science & Management Unit, Environmental Protection Agency, December 2018, Version no. 3**



### Residential Development St Marks

Figure 3.1

Aerial View

 Project Site

0 0.01 0.03 0.06 Km



Drawn By	PD
Date	10/05/2019
Data Source	Bing

#### **4.0 IS THE PROJECT NECESSARY FOR THE CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT OF EUROPEAN SITES**

The project has been described in Section 2 of the Screening Report and it is clear from the description provided that the project is not directly connected with or necessary for the future conservation management of any European Sites.

#### **5.0 EUROPEAN SITES WITHIN THE ZONE OF INFLUENCE OF THE PROJECT**

##### **5.1 LIST OF EUROPEAN SITES**

Current guidance recommends that all European Sites occurring within 15km of project sites should be identified at the outset of a screening exercise. A total of eight European Sites have been identified in the surrounding 15km area. Table 5.1 lists these European Sites and the spatial relationship between each of these sites and the study area is shown on Figure 5.1 and Figure 5.2. Appendix 1 lists the qualifying features of interest/special conservation interest for each of these European Sites.

In addition to the European Sites occurring within a 15km area of the project site the DEHLG 2010 guidelines on Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland also advise that where the potential exists for a hydrological pathway to occur between the project site and European Sites beyond the 15km distance, then these sites should also be included as part of the Screening. No other European Sites are connected to the project site via hydrological pathways or any other pathways and as such only those sites located within a 15km distance of the project site are included in this Screening for Appropriate Assessment.

##### **5.2 IDENTIFICATION OF EUROPEAN SITES IN THE PROJECT ZONE OF INFLUENCE**

European Sites occur in the zone of influence of the project where there is potential for such sites to be impacted by the project.

Table 5.1 lists all European Sites occurring within a 15km radius of the project site. As the nearest European Site (Rye Water Valley SAC) is located over 6km from the project site, the

project will not have the potential to result in direct impacts (such as habitat loss) within European Sites.

Thus this Screening exercise focuses on investigating whether impact pathways exist between the project and the 8 European Sites listed in Table 5.1.

A source-pathway-receptor model has been used to establish which European Sites could occur within the zone of influence of the project. Under such a model the project, as described above in Section 3.1, represents the source.

Impacts will have the potential to arise where elements of the Plan interact with qualifying features of interest/special conservation interests of European Sites. Potential impact pathways are restricted to hydrological pathways. Other emissions that could be generated by the project, such as noise, lighting, emissions to atmosphere or the presence of people during the construction phase and operation phase, will not have the potential to influence European Sites due to the distance between the Plan Area and these Sites. This is due to the distance of over 6km separating the Plan area from the nearest European Sites (Rye Water Valley SAC). Notwithstanding this, the potential for mobile qualifying species of surrounding European Sites to interact with the Plan area is also included as a potential impact pathway.

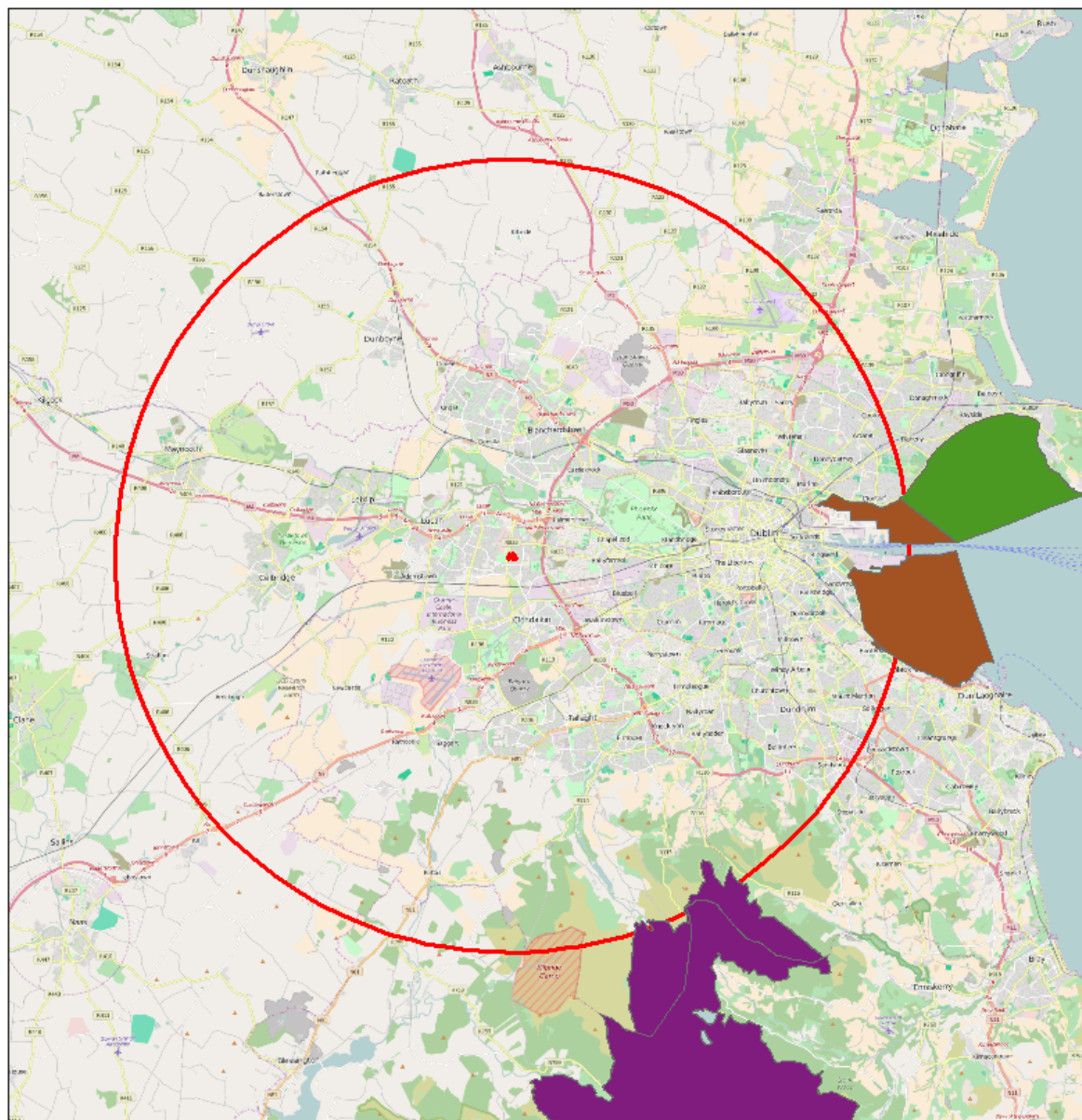
The receptors represent European Sites and their associated qualifying features of interest/special conservation interests.

Table 5.1 provides a determination as to whether each European Site (as listed in Table 5.1) occur within the zone of influence of the project. This determination has been undertaken in line with the following assessment questions:

Is there a hydrological pathway linking the project to European Sites and does this pathway have the potential to function as an impact pathway?

Does the project have the potential to interact with qualifying habitats?

Does the project have the potential to interact with qualifying species/special conservation interest bird species?



### Residential Development St Marks

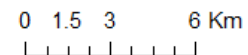
Figure 5.1

SPAs within 15km of the Project Site

SPAs

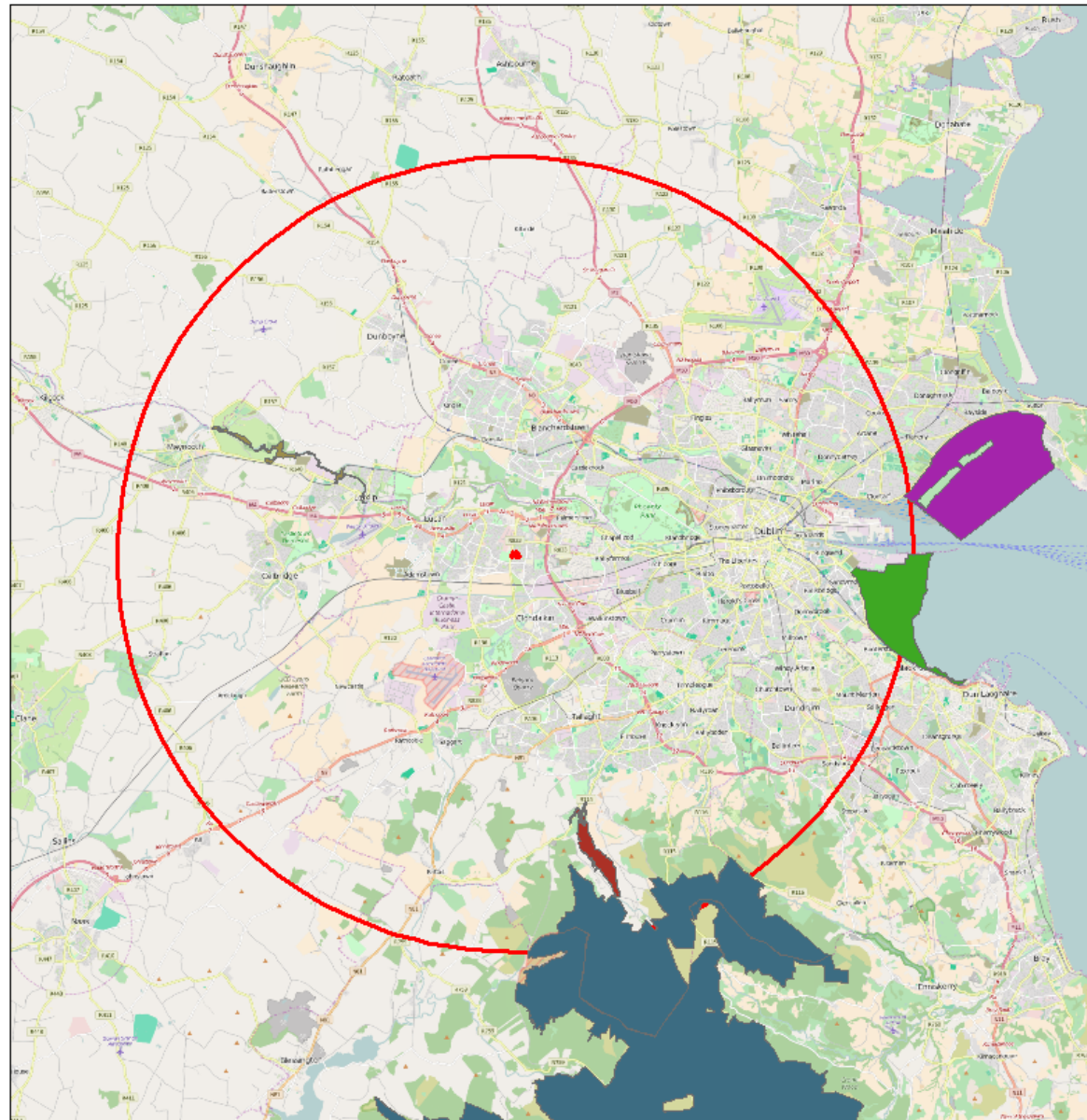
Site Name

- North Bull Island
- S. Dublin Bay & R. Tolka Estuary
- Wicklow Mountains
- 15km\_Buffer
- Project Site



Drawn By	PD
Date	10/05/2019
Data Source	Bing





### Residential Development St Marks

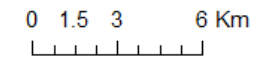
Figure 5.2

SACs within 15km of the Project Site

SACs

Site Name

- Glenasmole Valley SAC
- North Dublin Bay SAC
- Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC
- South Dublin Bay SAC
- Wicklow Mountains SAC
- 15km\_Buffer
- Project Site



Drawn By	PD
Date	10/05/2019
Data Source	Bing

**Table 5.1: Identification of European Sites within the Zone of Influence of the Project**

European Sites	Is there a Hydrological Pathway and does it have the potential to function as an Impact Pathway	Does the Plan have the potential to interact with Qualifying Habitats	Does the Plan have the potential to interact with Mobile Qualifying Species	Do European Sites occur within the Projects Zone of Influence?
Rye Water Valley SAC Site Code: 001398	No. This SAC is designated for the presence of the Annex 1 habitat petrifying spring. The springs are located within a separate sub-catchment to the project site and are not hydrological pathway connected to it.	No. There are no impact pathways connecting the project site to the qualifying habitat of this SAC and due to this, and the distance between the project site and this SAC of over 6km there will be no potential for the project to interact with or influence the conservation status of these qualifying habitats.	No. The Annex 2 species that are listed as qualifying species for this SAC are sedentary snail species. Due to the absence of any connections between the project site and this SAC and the distance of over 14km between the project site and this SAC there will be no potential for the project to interact with or influence the conservation status of the populations of snail	No. This SAC does not occur within the zone of influence of the project.

			qualifying species of this SAC.	
Glenasmole Valley SAC  Site Code: 001209	No. This SAC is located at the head of the main channel of the River Dodder and is not hydrologically connected to the project. In addition this SAC is designated for the presence of the Annex 1 grassland habitats and petrifying spring. The grassland habitats do not rely on lotic processes while the spring relies on soligenous hydrological processes.	No. There are no impact pathways connecting the project site to the qualifying habitats of this SAC and due to this, and the distance between the project site and this SAC of over 9km there will be no potential for the project to interact with or influence the conservation status of these qualifying habitats.	No. No Annex 2 species are listed as qualifying features of interest for this SAC.	No. This SAC does not occur within the zone of influence of the project.
Wicklow Mountains SAC  Site Code: 002122	No. This SAC is located within a separate surface water catchment to the project site and is not hydrologically connected to the project.	No. There are no impact pathways connecting the project site to the qualifying habitats of this SAC and due to this, and the distance between the project site and this SAC of approximately 11km there will be no potential for the project to interact with or influence the conservation status of these qualifying habitats.	No. Otters are the only Annex 2 species listed as qualifying species for this SAC. The project site is located in an urban area, within a separate surface water catchment to this SAC and the habitats upon which the otter population of this SAC rely, and no surface watercourses occur within the vicinity of the project site. For these reasons the project will not	No. This SAC does not occur within the zone of influence of the project.

			have the potential to interact with or influence the conservation status of the otter population for which this SAC is designated.	
South Dublin Bay SAC Site Code: 000210	<p>No. The project is located within the River Liffey surface water catchment, which drains to Dublin Bay where this SAC is located.</p> <p>While the project site is located within the surface water catchment that drains to Dublin Bay no hydrological pathway that could function as an impact pathway links the project site to this SAC. There are no surface watercourses occurring in the vicinity of the project site and there will be no potential for runoff from the project footprint during the construction phase to the Liffey catchment and downstream to Dublin Bay. During the operation phase it is proposed to direct all surface water runoff generated at the project site to an existing surface water sewer, which discharges to the River Liffey to the north of the project site.</p>	No. There are no impact pathways connecting the project site to the qualifying habitats of this SAC and due to this, and the distance between the project site and this SAC of over 9km there will be no potential for the project to interact with or influence the conservation status of these qualifying habitats.	No. No Annex 2 species are listed as qualifying features of interest for this SAC.	No. No potential impact pathways link the plan area to this SAC.

	<p>Modelling of the Liffey Estuary and Dublin Bay has shown that the waters from the Liffey draining into Dublin Bay are deflected east and north towards Dollymount and Howth. The presence of the South Great Wall in Dublin Bay provides a barrier to the movement of waters towards the south (Bedri et al., 2012; Camp, Dresser &amp; McKee, 2012). As such there is no effective hydrological pathway between the project site and this SAC.</p> <p>All wastewater generated at the project site will be connected to the existing sewerage network and will be conveyed to Ringsend WWTP for treatment prior to disposal. There are currently plans to upgrade the capacity of this WWTP and the proposed project will only be provided where sufficient capacity is available to adequately all wastewater loads generated from the project.</p>			
<p>North Dublin Bay SAC Site Code:</p>	<p>No. The project is located within the River Liffey surface water catchment, which drains to Dublin Bay where this SAC is located.</p> <p>While the project site is located within the</p>	<p>No. There are no impact pathways connecting the project site to the qualifying habitats of this SAC and due to this, and the distance between the project site and this SAC of over 9km there will be no potential</p>	<p>No. No Annex 2 species are listed as qualifying features of interest for this SAC.</p>	<p>No. No potential impact pathways link the plan area to this SAC.</p>

	<p>surface water catchment that drains to Dublin Bay no hydrological pathway that could function as an impact pathway links the project site to this SAC. There are no surface watercourses occurring in the vicinity of the project site and there will be no potential for runoff from the project footprint during the construction phase to the Liffey catchment and downstream to Dublin Bay. During the operation phase it is proposed to direct all surface water runoff generated at the project site to an existing surface water sewer, which discharges to the River Liffey to the north of the project site.</p> <p>It is noted that the River Liffey drains into Dublin Bay where this SAC is located. However studies have shown that pollutants in the Liffey estuary are rapidly mixed and become diluted within the estuary and Dublin Bay (O'Higgins and Wilson, 2005; Wilson and Jackson, 2011) such that the water quality of the Liffey estuary does not influence the water quality status of Dublin Bay surrounding this SAC.</p>	<p>for the project to interact with or influence the conservation status of these qualifying habitats.</p>		
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	<p>In addition the nature of the operation phase of the project, which will be for residential dwelling, is not predicted to have the potential to result in the ongoing release of significantly polluted surface water runoff to the receiving surface water sewer and on to the River Dodder.</p> <p>Given the nature of the project and the low risk it poses to surface water quality within the receiving River Liffey, coupled with the results of previous studies that have shown that water quality in the River Liffey estuary does not influence water quality within Dublin Bay, it is concluded that there is no functional surface water impact pathway connecting the project site to this SAC.</p> <p>All wastewater generated at the project site will be connected to the existing sewerage network and will be conveyed to Ringsend WWTP for treatment prior to disposal. There are currently plans to upgrade the capacity of this WWTP and the proposed project will only be provided where sufficient capacity is available to adequately all wastewater loads generated from the project.</p>			
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Wicklow Mountain SPA  Site Code: 004040	No. This is an upland SPA designated for its role in supporting merlin and Peregrine falcon. There is no hydrological pathway linking the study area to this SPA.	No. The project site is located at a remote distance from this SPA and does not support habitats upon which the special conservation interest bird species of this SPA rely.	No. The project site is not predicted to play an important role in terms of the provision of roosting, nesting or foraging habitat for either merlin or Peregrine falcon.	No. No potential impact pathways link the plan area to this SPA.



<p>North Bull Island SPA</p> <p>Site code: 004006</p>	<p>The project is located within the River Liffey surface water catchment, which drains to Dublin Bay where this SPA is located.</p> <p>While the project site is located within the surface water catchment that drains to Dublin Bay no hydrological pathway that could function as an impact pathway links the project site to this SPA. There are no surface watercourses occurring in the vicinity of the project site and there will be no potential for runoff from the project footprint during the construction phase to the Liffey catchment and downstream to Dublin Bay. During the operation phase it is proposed to direct all surface water runoff generated at the project site to an existing surface water sewer, which discharges to the River Liffey to the north of the project site.</p> <p>It is noted that the River Liffey drains into Dublin Bay where this SAC is located. However studies have shown that pollutants in the Liffey estuary are rapidly mixed and become diluted within the estuary and Dublin Bay (O'Higgins and Wilson, 2005; Wilson and</p>	<p>No. There are no impact pathways connecting the project site to the qualifying habitats of this SPA and due to this, and the distance between the project site and this SPA of over 13km there will be no potential for the project to interact with or influence the conservation status of these qualifying habitats.</p>	<p>No. This SPA is designated for its role in supporting a number of wetland bird species. Individuals associated with the SPA populations of these species are reliant on coastal habitats for foraging and roosting. Some species of this SPA are also known to forage in grassland habitats. However the project site is located at a remote distance from this SPA and does not have the potential to provide a source of foraging habitat upon which these species will rely.</p>	<p>No. No potential impact pathways link the plan area to this SPA.</p>
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	<p>Jackson, 2011) such that the water quality of the Liffey estuary does not influence the water quality status of Dublin Bay surrounding this SPA.</p> <p>In addition the nature of the operation phase of the project, which will be for residential dwelling, is not predicted to have the potential to result in the ongoing release of significantly polluted surface water runoff to the receiving surface water sewer and on to the River Dodder.</p> <p>Given the nature of the project and the low risk it poses to surface water quality within the receiving River Liffey, coupled with the results of previous studies that have shown that water quality in the River Liffey estuary does not influence water quality within Dublin Bay, it is concluded that there is no functional surface water impact pathway connecting the project site to this SPA.</p> <p>All wastewater generated at the project site will be connected to the existing sewerage network and will be conveyed to Ringsend WWTP for treatment prior to disposal. There are currently plans to upgrade the capacity of this WWTP and</p>			
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	<p>the proposed project will only be provided where sufficient capacity is available to adequately all wastewater loads generated from the project.</p>			
<p>South Dublin Bay &amp; Tolka Estuary SPA</p> <p>Site Code: 004024</p>	<p>The project is located within the River Liffey surface water catchment, which drains to Dublin Bay where this SPA is located.</p> <p>While the project site is located within the surface water catchment that drains to Dublin Bay no hydrological pathway that could function as an impact pathway links the project site to this SPA. There are no surface watercourses occurring in the vicinity of the project site and there will be no potential for runoff from the project footprint during the construction phase to the Liffey catchment and downstream to Dublin Bay. During the operation phase it is proposed to direct all surface water runoff generated at the project site to an existing surface water sewer, which discharges to the River Liffey to the north of the project site.</p> <p>It is noted that the River Liffey drains into</p>	<p>No. There are no impact pathways connecting the project site to the qualifying habitats of this SPA and due to this, and the distance between the project site and this SPA of over 9km there will be no potential for the project to interact with or influence the conservation status of these qualifying habitats.</p>	<p>No. This SPA is designated for its role in supporting a number of wetland bird species. Individuals associated with the SPA populations of these species are reliant on coastal habitats for foraging and roosting. Some species of this SPA are also known to forage in grassland habitats. However the project site is located at a remote distance from this SPA and does not have the potential to provide a source of foraging habitat upon which these species will rely.</p>	<p>No. No potential impact pathways link the plan area to this SPA.</p>

	<p>Dublin Bay where this SAC is located. However studies have shown that pollutants in the Liffey estuary are rapidly mixed and become diluted within the estuary and Dublin Bay (O'Higgins and Wilson, 2005; Wilson and Jackson, 2011) such that the water quality of the Liffey estuary does not influence the water quality status of Dublin Bay surrounding this SPA.</p> <p>In addition the nature of the operation phase of the project, which will be for residential dwelling, is not predicted to have the potential to result in the ongoing release of significantly polluted surface water runoff to the receiving surface water sewer and on to the River Dodder.</p> <p>Given the nature of the project and the low risk it poses to surface water quality within the receiving River Liffey, coupled with the results of previous studies that have shown that water quality in the River Liffey estuary does not influence water quality within Dublin Bay, it is concluded that there is no functional surface water impact pathway connecting the project site to this SPA.</p>			
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	<p>All wastewater generated at the project site will be connected to the existing sewerage network and will be conveyed to Ringsend WWTP for treatment prior to disposal. There are currently plans to upgrade the capacity of this WWTP and the proposed project will only be provided where sufficient capacity is available to adequately all wastewater loads generated from the project..</p>			
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Table 5.1 above examines the relationship between the project site and the eight European Sites occurring within the wider 15km area surrounding the project site. No pathways that could function as impact pathways connect the project site to any of these European Sites. Given the absence of any functional impact pathways these European Sites are not considered to occur within the zone of influence of the project and the project will not have the potential to result in likely significant effects to the conservation objectives of these European Sites.

### 5.3 IN-COMBINATION EFFECTS

The proposed development was considered in combination with other projects in the area that could result in cumulative effects on the environment.

The online planning system myplan.ie was consulted on the 1<sup>st</sup> May 2019 for the subject lands and immediate surrounds. Within the past three years there has been a total of 5 applications with associated decisions made by the local authority were returned for the last 3 years and comprised:

- Five regarding renovation/extension works to existing dwellings, all approved.
- Signage application on Fonthill Road, approved.

The works associated with the renovations and extensions to existing dwellings are considered to be small in scale and size and the activities and materials required for these projects will not have the potential to combine with the proposed residential development to result in cumulative negative effects to the conservation objectives of European Sites occurring in the wider surrounding area.

### 5.4 SCREENING MATRIX

A Screening Matrix, in line with European Commission (2001) guidelines is provided below in Table 5.2.

**Table 5.2: Screening Matrix for proposed project.**

Brief description of the project or plan	The project and associated activities are described in Section 3 above.
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<p>Brief description of the European Sites</p>	<p>The European Sites occurring in the wider surrounding area are identified and briefly described in Section 5.1 and 5.2 above.</p>
<p>Describe the individual elements of the project (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) likely to give rise to impacts on the European Sites.</p>	<p>Where development projects are located at remote distances from European Sites, as is the case for the proposed project, they can (conceivably) give rise to potential environmental effects to such European Sites if there are impact pathways connecting the project site to them.</p> <p>An example of where such offsite impacts to European Sites can arise is: where a hydrological pathway links the project site to the European Sites; where the European Sites supports qualifying features of interest that are sensitive to water quality; where the project will have the potential to result in negative impacts to water quality; and where these impacts could be conveyed downstream to affect the sensitive qualifying features of interest.</p> <p>The assessment is provided in Table 5.1 examines whether a pathway occurs between the project site and European Sites in the wider surrounding area and whether the pathway has the potential to function as an impact pathway. No such pathways have been identified linking the project site to any European Sites occurring in the wider surrounding area. As such no elements of the project will have the potential to give rise to impacts to European Sites.</p> <p>A review of all other projects occurring in the vicinity of the project site has been completed and no other projects have been identified to have the potential to combine with the proposed</p>

	project to result in likely significant effects to European Sites.
Describe any likely direct, indirect or secondary impacts of the project (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) on the European Sites site by virtue of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• size and scale;</li> <li>• land-take;</li> <li>• distance from the Natura 2000 site or key features of the site;</li> <li>• resource requirements (water abstraction etc.);</li> <li>• emissions (disposal to land, water or air);</li> <li>• excavation requirements;</li> <li>• transportation requirements;</li> <li>• duration of construction, operation, decommissioning, etc.;</li> </ul>	The project will not have the potential to result in direct, indirect or secondary impacts to European Sites. As the project is not predicted to result in the emission of potentially polluting substances to the surrounding environment it will not have the potential to combine with other projects in the surrounding area to result in cumulative significant effects to the local environment or European Sites occurring in the wider surrounding area.
Describe any likely changes to the site arising as a result of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• reduction of habitat area;</li> <li>• disturbance to key species;</li> <li>• habitat or species fragmentation;</li> <li>• reduction in species density;</li> <li>• changes in key indicators of conservation value</li> <li>• (water quality etc.);</li> <li>• climate change.</li> </ul>	Due to the absence of any functional impact pathways the project will not have the potential to result in changes to qualifying habitats or qualifying species of European Sites occurring in the wider surrounding area.
Describe any likely impacts on the European Sites site as a whole in terms of: interference with the key relationships that define the structure of the site; interference with key relationships that define the function of the site	As the project, alone or in-combination with other projects, will not have the potential to interact with any European Sites or their qualifying features of interest, it will not have the potential to interfere with key relationships that define the structure and function of European Sites.
Provide indicators of significance as a result of the identification of effects set out above in terms of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• loss;</li> <li>• fragmentation;</li> <li>• disruption;</li> </ul>	As the project, alone or in-combination with other projects, will not have the potential to interact with any European Sites or their qualifying features of interest it will not have the



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• disturbance;</li> <li>• change to key elements of the site (e.g. water quality etc.).</li> </ul>	<p>potential to result in the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• loss of qualifying habitats or habitats upon which qualifying species rely;</li> <li>• fragmentation qualifying habitats or habitats upon which qualifying species rely;</li> <li>• disruption qualifying habitats or habitats upon which qualifying species rely;</li> <li>• disturbance qualifying habitats, habitats upon which qualifying species rely or qualifying species;</li> <li>• change to key elements of European Sites (e.g. water quality etc.).</li> </ul>
<p>Describe from the above those elements of the project or plan, or combination of elements, where the above impacts are likely to be significant or where the scale or magnitude of impacts is not known.</p>	<p>The project will not have the potential to result in likely significant effects to European Sites.</p>

## 6.0 SCREENING CONCLUSION

During the preparation of this Screening Report for Appropriate Assessment of the proposed residential development at St. Marks, Co. Dublin it was found that eight European Sites occur within a 15km radius of the project site.

An assessment has been carried out to determine if any of these European Sites occur within the zone of influence of the project. These European Sites are considered to occur within the zone of influence of the project where there is a pathway connecting the project site to a European Sites and where this pathway could function as an impact pathway between the project and the European Sites. No potential impact pathways were identified linking the project site to any of the relevant European Sites occurring within the 15km area surrounding the project site.

In addition no other projects occurring in the vicinity of the project site were identified as having the potential to combine with the project to result in likely significant effects to European Sites.

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

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## APPENDIX 1: QUALIFYING FEATURES OF INTEREST OF EUROPEAN SITES OCCURRING WITHIN THE WIDER SURROUNDING AREA

A total of five European Sites were identified as occurring within a 15km radius of the project site. Table A1.1 below lists the qualifying features of interest of each of these European Sites.

**Table A1.1: Qualifying Features of Interest for European Sites occurring within 15km of the Project**

European Sites	Qualifying Features of Interest/Special Conservation Interests
South Dublin Bay SAC	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]
	Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210]
	Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310]
	Atlantic salt meadows ( <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i> ) [1330]
	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]
	Petalophyllum ralfsii (Petalwort) [1395]
South Dublin Bay & Tolka Estuary SPA	Light-bellied Brent Goose ( <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> )
	Oystercatcher ( <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> )
	Ringed Plover ( <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> )
	Grey Plover ( <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> )
	Knot ( <i>Calidris canutus</i> )
	Sanderling ( <i>Calidris alba</i> )
	Dunlin ( <i>Calidris alpina</i> )
	Bar-tailed Godwit ( <i>Limosa Draft Planponica</i> )
	Redshank ( <i>Tringa totanus</i> )
	Black-headed Gull ( <i>Croicocephalus ridibundus</i> )
	Roseate Tern ( <i>Sterna dougallii</i> )
	Common Tern ( <i>Sterna hirundo</i> )
Arctic Tern ( <i>Sterna paradisaea</i> )	
North Dublin Bay SAC	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]
	Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210]

	Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310]
	Atlantic salt meadows ( <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i> ) [1330]
	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]
	<i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> (Petalwort) [1395]
North Bull Island SPA	Light-bellied Brent Goose ( <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> )
	Shelduck ( <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> )
	Teal ( <i>Anas crecca</i> )
	Pintail ( <i>Anas acuta</i> )
	Shoveler ( <i>Anas clypeata</i> )
	Oystercatcher ( <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> )
	Golden Plover ( <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> )
	Grey Plover ( <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> )
	Knot ( <i>Calidris canutus</i> )

	Sanderling ( <i>Calidris alba</i> )
	Dunlin ( <i>Calidris alpina</i> )
	Black-tailed Godwit ( <i>Limosa limosa</i> )
	Bar-tailed Godwit ( <i>Limosa Draft Planponica</i> )
	Curlew ( <i>Numenius arquata</i> )
	Redshank ( <i>Tringa totanus</i> )
	Turnstone ( <i>Arenaria interpres</i> )
	Black-headed Gull ( <i>Larus ridibundus</i> )
Glenasmole Valley SAC	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (* important orchid sites) [6210]
	Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae) [6410]
	Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220]
Wicklow Mountain SAC	Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (Littorelletalia uniflorae) [3110]
	Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160]
	Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010]
	European dry heaths [4030]
	Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060]

	Calaminarian grasslands of the <i>Violetalia calaminariae</i> [6130]
	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]
	<i>Lutra</i> (Otter) [1355]
Rye Water Valley SAC	Petrifying springs with tufa formation ( <i>Cratoneurion</i> ) [7220]
	<i>Vertigo angustior</i> (Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail) [1014]
	<i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i> (Desmoulin's Whorl Snail) [1016]
Wicklow Mountain SPA	Merlin ( <i>Falco columbarius</i> )
	Peregrine ( <i>Falco peregrinus</i> )



## **APPENDIX 2: SCHEME DRAWING**