



**PROVISION OF INFORMATION REGARDING APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT SCREENING  
PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT  
SOCIAL HOUSING AT ANNE STREET, PROSPEROUS, CO. KILDARE**

**PREPARED FOR MCORM  
ON BEHALF OF KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL**

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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 Part 8 application for planning permission for proposed social housing in Prosperous, Co. Kildare.

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

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.

Following the preparation of this screening statement it may be objectively concluded that there is no possibility 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 provides 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 Habitat’s Directive 92/43/EEC* (EC Environment Directorate-General, updated April 2015); hereafter referred to as MN2000.
- *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<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> 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).

<sup>2</sup> Available online at <http://www.levett-therivel.co.uk/AAguidelines.htm> Accessed December 2013

- *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*'<sup>3</sup>.

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 sites<sup>4</sup>;
- 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 and significance of 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 14<sup>th</sup> February 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](http://www.osi.ie);
- Online data available on European sites as held by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) from [www.npws.ie](http://www.npws.ie);
- Planning application documentation for the proposed development (planning reference: F08A/1057), available from <http://www.fingalcoco.ie/planning-and-buildings/>;
- Information on land-use zoning from the online mapping of the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government <http://www.myplan.ie/en/index.html>;
- Information on water quality in the area available from [www.epa.ie](http://www.epa.ie);
- Information on the Eastern River Basin District from [www.wfdireland.ie](http://www.wfdireland.ie);
- Information on soils, geology and hydrogeology in the area available from [www.gsi.ie](http://www.gsi.ie);
- Information on water catchments in Ireland from [www.catchments.ie](http://www.catchments.ie);
- Information on the location, nature and design of the proposed development supplied by the 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, 2013).

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<sup>3</sup> 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."*

<sup>4</sup> In this instance the proposed development is not directly connected with or necessary to the conservation management of any European sites.

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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 Plan 2011 – 2016* (Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, 2011);
- *County Kildare Biodiversity Plan – Action to enhance our living environment (2009 – 2014)* (Kildare County Council, 2009);
- *Kildare County Development Plan 2011-2017* (Kildare County Council, 2011);
- *Draft Kildare County Development Plan 2017 – 2023* (Kildare County Council, Under Review);  
and,
- *Eastern River Basin District, River Basin Management Plan 2009-2015*.

**Table 1 Overview of the Proposed Development and its Receiving Environment**

<p>Brief Site Description</p>	<p>The proposed development site (c. 4907.8m<sup>2</sup> in total area) is located within lands at Anne Street in Prosperous, Co. Kildare. From aerial photography, the site appears to include improved amenity grassland/rough grassland in parts, with a number of hedgerow and tree boundaries and is surrounded by existing residential housing (approximate centroid grid reference: N 82924 27297). The lands immediately surrounding the site are suburban in nature, consisting of residential properties with associated gardens, as well as amenity grasslands within public open spaces. The town of Prosperous is surrounded largely by agricultural land, with the R403 main road running through its centre.</p>
<p>Features of the Surrounding Environment</p>	<p>The desktop study found one record in 2010 of <i>Euphydryas aurinia</i> Marsh Fritillary butterfly species which is a qualifying interest species for Ballynafagh Lake [001387] SAC which lies within c.2.5km of the proposed site. In addition there are also records from 1997 within 2km of the proposed site for the protected whorl snail <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i> Desmoulin's which is a qualifying interest species of both Ballynafagh Lake [001387] SAC and Pollardstown Fen SAC [000396].</p> <p>However, as this site has been previously cleared for development in 2005 (see aerial photography sourced from <a href="http://map.geohive.ie/mapviewer.html">http://map.geohive.ie/mapviewer.html</a>) it is deemed highly unlikely that any of these sensitive European Protected species or the niche habitats which support them would now be found within the proposed development site<sup>5</sup>.</p> <p>The proposed development site is located within the Barrow river catchment (<a href="http://www.catchments.ie">www.catchments.ie</a>). According to the EPA Envision Map Viewer, there are no rivers or streams directly on the site, however the River Slate is located c. 300m north of the proposed development site, and an unnamed stream exists c.300m west of the proposed site. Other watercourses in the larger environs are the River Liffey, which lies to east of Clane and the River Barrow, which runs to the west of Prosperous – both of these rivers are at risk of not achieving good status under the Water Framework Directive (WFD), however they are outside of 15km from the proposed site. The River Slate is monitored at 6 stations and is currently achieving an overall WFD status of 'moderate'. The two monitoring stations downstream of Prosperous (at Quigley's Bridge and Ford Bridge) are both achieving a river water quality score of poor (Q value of 2-3).</p> <p>According to the GSI mapping, the site has moderately permeable subsoil and is overlain by well-drained soil, with till being derived chiefly from limestone. The bedrock at the proposed development site is classified as the 'Boston Hill Formation' which comprises of nodular and muddy limestone and shale. Generalised bedrock geology at the site is 'Diniantian Lower Impure Limestones'. This site lies on a 'Locally Important Aquifer – Bedrock which is Moderately Productive only in Local Zones'. The ground waterbody WFD status for the area is 'good' and is described as 'possibly at risk of not achieving good status' (EPA Envision Mapping). According to the GSI Map Viewer, the level of vulnerability to groundwater contamination from human activities at this site is 'Moderate'.</p> <p>Foul effluent generated from the proposed development will be collected within a proposed foul water drainage system (see Engineers Drawing No. 1642-101) and will fall by gravity towards the existing foul water sewer on Anne Street. From there it will be transferred to the Osberstown Town Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) for treatment prior to discharge to the River Liffey (via Prosperous pumping station). The anticipated loading of the proposed development is 36 P.E. (Population Equivalent). Osberstown WWTP is currently being upgraded from its</p>

<sup>5</sup> According to NBDC online data [www.biodiversity.ie](http://www.biodiversity.ie) accessed 14<sup>th</sup> February 2017 records of species within a 2km<sup>2</sup> of the proposed site.

**Table 1 Overview of the Proposed Development and its Receiving Environment**

	<p>capacity of 80,000 P.E. to a design capacity to treat 130,000 P.E. It has a current annual mean loading of 84,683 P.E.<sup>6</sup> Works are due for completion in 2017. Therefore it will have adequate capacity to treat waste arising from the proposed development once the Phase III upgrade to the WWTP is completed.</p> <p>No major contamination was noted at this site during sample testing (Site Investigation Ltd., 2016).</p>
<p>Description of Proposed Development</p>	<p>Full details of the proposed development are provided in the Part 8 planning documentation. In brief, the proposed development will involve:</p> <p>The development of 12 social housing units on the proposed site. The development consists of 1 No 3 Bed single storey unit, 1 No 4 Bed single storey unit, 3 No 3 Bed 2 storey semi-detached units, 1 No 4 Bed 2 storey semi-detached unit and 6 no 3 Bed 2 storey terrace units on an infill site in St Anne's , Prosperous , Co Kildare. The car parking is a mixture of on street and on curtilage. The development faces on to an existing public open space and a new pocket park with private open space consisting of south and west facing rear gardens which also contain external storage, refuse areas and external boilers.</p> <p>Foul effluent generated from the proposed development will discharge to the existing foul sewer drainage network, which is located to the North of the site. From there, it continues East by gravity discharging to the prosperous pumping station, and on to Osberstown Wastewater Treatment Plant.</p> <p>Runoff shall be collected through a newly proposed surface water network which shall connect into the existing network on the east of the proposed site. A surface water attenuation tank exists on the adjacent site (to the north of the proposed development). This will collect overflows of surface water during high water levels. This shall be controlled by a hydrobrake located within the existing surface water drainage network of the existing development. A hydrocarbon interceptor will be installed at the surface water outfall into the River Slate to the north of the existing development so that runoff from the proposed development shall also flow through this interceptor prior to it discharging into the River Slate.</p> <p>Permeable paving is proposed to be used at roadside parking bays along the eastern boundary of the proposed development.</p> <p>During construction, piling of the foundations will ensure that excavations shall remain above the water table and will avoid the need for dewatering pumping via sumps.</p>
<p>Defining the Zone of Influence of the Proposed Development</p>	<p>The zone of influence is at 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 for AA. Available guidance (NPWS, 2010) recommends that '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'. 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 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 the distance</p>

<sup>6</sup> Irish Water (2015) AER 2015 Upper Liffey Valley Regional Sewerage Scheme – D0002-01 (available at: [http://www.epa.ie/licences/lic\\_eDMS/090151b28059c5e0.pdf](http://www.epa.ie/licences/lic_eDMS/090151b28059c5e0.pdf) )

Table 1 Overview of the Proposed Development and its Receiving Environment	
	of 15km exceeds the potential zone of influence of the proposed works and any likelihood of significant effects in relation to European Sites beyond 15km can be ruled out.
Other existing or proposed plans or projects nearby which may lead to cumulative effects on European sites.	<p><b>Existing habitat loss pressures</b></p> <p>The subject lands do not physically overlap with any European sites. They appear to be dominated by amenity/rough grassland, ephemeral weeds and hedgerows/trees - none of which are habitats listed under Annex I of the Habitats Directive. These habitats are not directly connected overland with any habitats within European sites. No mobile fauna species for which European sites are designated are known to use the habitats within the subject lands.</p> <p>The groundwater of both the Ballynafagh Lake SAC and the Ballynafagh Bog SAC as they share an aquifer with the proposed development site. Design measures have ensured that runoff shall be collected through a series of road gullies and directed into the piped network where it shall be attenuated during high flows, or discharged through a petrol interceptor located at the outfall along the River Slate i.e. it would not infiltrate directly to ground. Surface water at roadside parking bays will drain through permeable paving which shall filter runoff at these locations. During construction, piling of the foundations will ensure that excavations shall remain above the water table and will avoid the need for dewatering pumping via sumps. POGA engineers perceive the risk of hydrocarbons from the proposed and existing site infiltrating to ground to be low as any small oil/diesel spills are likely to occur on the impermeable roads from vehicles and are likely to be small. It is unlikely therefore that these pollutants will reach the groundwater in significant quantities. POGA consider that Local spillages on driveways are unlikely to be sufficiently large in volume to pollute the ground water. The Contractor must ensure good building practice is employed to contain the risk of spillages and minimise the potential of pollution to the exposed sub soil during construction.</p> <p>The construction works are temporary in nature (anticipated to be 12 months) and the proposed surface water and foul water drainage shall ensure that wastewater from the site is sufficiently treated prior to discharge to the River Slate (treated surface water) and the River Liffey (treated foul water). There is therefore no potential for cumulative effects relating to habitat loss.</p> <p><b>Existing pressures on water quality within European Sites in proximity to the site</b></p> <p>Some of the habitats for which European Sites listed in Table 2 are designated are failing to meet favourable conservation status. For some of these, diffuse surface water pollution from agricultural and forestry activities, household sewage and waste waters and diffuse groundwater pollution from agricultural and forestry activities are considered to be a threat ranked as being of <i>'high importance'</i> to <i>'medium importance'</i><sup>7</sup> (NPWS, 2013a).</p> <p>There is potential for <i>'in-combination'</i> effects to arise from proposed plans and projects within the <i>Kildare County Development Plan 2011-2017</i> and other county level land use plans which can influence conditions in the River Barrow via rivers and other surface water features. The</p>

<sup>7</sup> For example, *'Alkaline fens'* was of *"bad"* conservation status (NPWS, 2013a). This habitat was threatened by water pollution and is one of the Qualifying Interest of Polldardstown Fen SAC River Boyne and Blackwater SAC.



**Table 1 Overview of the Proposed Development and its Receiving Environment**

	<p>pollutant content of future surface water discharges into the River Liffey and within the Barrow catchment is considered likely to decrease in the long-term. This is because it is an objective of the <i>Kildare County Development Plan 2011-2017</i> 'to improve the provision of water and drainage services, having regard to best practice in new developments and in those areas of the county where deficiencies exist at present' and 'to ensure that all developments have regard to the surface water management policies in the <i>Greater Dublin Strategic Drainage Study</i>'. This objective is considered likely to reduce pressures on designated species and habitats in the Kildare.</p> <p>During operation, surface water generated from the development shall be collected via a new piped network which shall discharge into the existing surface water drainage network to the east of the site. From there it will flow to a 900mm culvert, through a petrol interceptor at the outfall where it discharges into the Slate to the north of the existing development site (and north of the proposed site). SUDS measures will be utilised on site. These will include a petrol interceptor and permeable paving.</p> <p>Due to the nature of the proposed development of 12 housing units, it is anticipated that any unlikely pollution event during construction would be of such a small magnitude that it could not have significant adverse effects on the Qualifying Interest/Special Conservation Interests of the European sites. There is therefore no potential for cumulative impacts.</p> <p>Foul effluent generated from the proposed development will ultimately discharge to Osberstown WWTP for treatment prior to discharge into the River Liffey. The Population Equivalent of the proposed development is 36 P.E. As described above, Osberstown WWTP is currently undergoing a major upgrade to a capacity of 130,000 P.E. ensuring that this facility shall have more than sufficient capacity to treat waste from the proposed development on completion of this upgrade (due for completion in 2017).</p> <p><i>Conclusion for potential in-combination effects from surface and/or foul waters</i></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"> <li>• It is an objective of the <i>Kildare County Development Plan 2011-2017</i> that all new developments within County Kildare have regard to the surface water management policies in the <i>Greater Dublin Strategic Drainage Study</i>. This objective will help to minimise surface water discharges and that surface water runoff is adequately treated prior to discharge to the existing local drainage network;</li> <li>• Any unlikely pollution event during construction would be of such a small magnitude that it could have significant adverse effects on the Qualifying Interest/Special Conservation Interests of the European sites;</li> <li>• Surface water runoff generated from the proposed development site will discharge to the local surface water drainage network via a petrol interceptor to be installed at the outfall to the River Slate. Permeable paving SUDS measures will be used on site to treat surface water from roadside parking; and,</li> <li>• There are no watercourses on the site which directly connect with any European Sites. The River Slate borders the south-eastern side of the Ballynafagh Bog SAC (which lies within 900m of the proposed site), however, this river does not drain into the bog.</li> </ul>
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European sites within 1km, 5km and 15km of the proposed development site are shown in Figure 1 overleaf.

<b>Table 2 Analysis of European sites within 15km.</b>			
<b>Site name and code</b>	<b>Distance from Proposed Development (approximate)</b>	<b>Reasons for designation<sup>8</sup> (*= Priority Habitat) (Sourced from NPWS online Conservation Objectives Generic Version 3.0 for SACs and 4.0 for SPAs, unless otherwise stated).</b>	<b>Relevant source-pathway-receptor links between proposed development and European site?</b>
<b>Special Areas of Conservation</b>			
<b>Ballynafagh Bog [000391]</b>	c.900m NW	<b>Conservation Objectives Version 1.0 (10/11/2015)</b> <b>Annex I Habitats:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Active raised bogs [7110]</li> <li>• Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120]</li> <li>• Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> [7150]</li> </ul>	There are no direct connections through watercourses from the proposed site. Surface water attenuated on the site will eventually drain into the River Slate via a petrol interceptor at the outfall. Surface water is not the main source of water for this raised bog. Due to the topography, runoff from the bog is likely to drain into the River Slate. The bog is fed mainly by precipitation and by groundwater (NPWS 2015). The likelihood of groundwater pollution by fuel/oil spills on the site is deemed to be low, and it is considered that this would not occur at a sufficient capacity that it might be capable of polluting the groundwater body at this site (POGA Engineers). As such, no potential impact on groundwater will arise from the proposed development. All excavations shall remain above the

<sup>8</sup> “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 September 2016.

<sup>9</sup> 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.

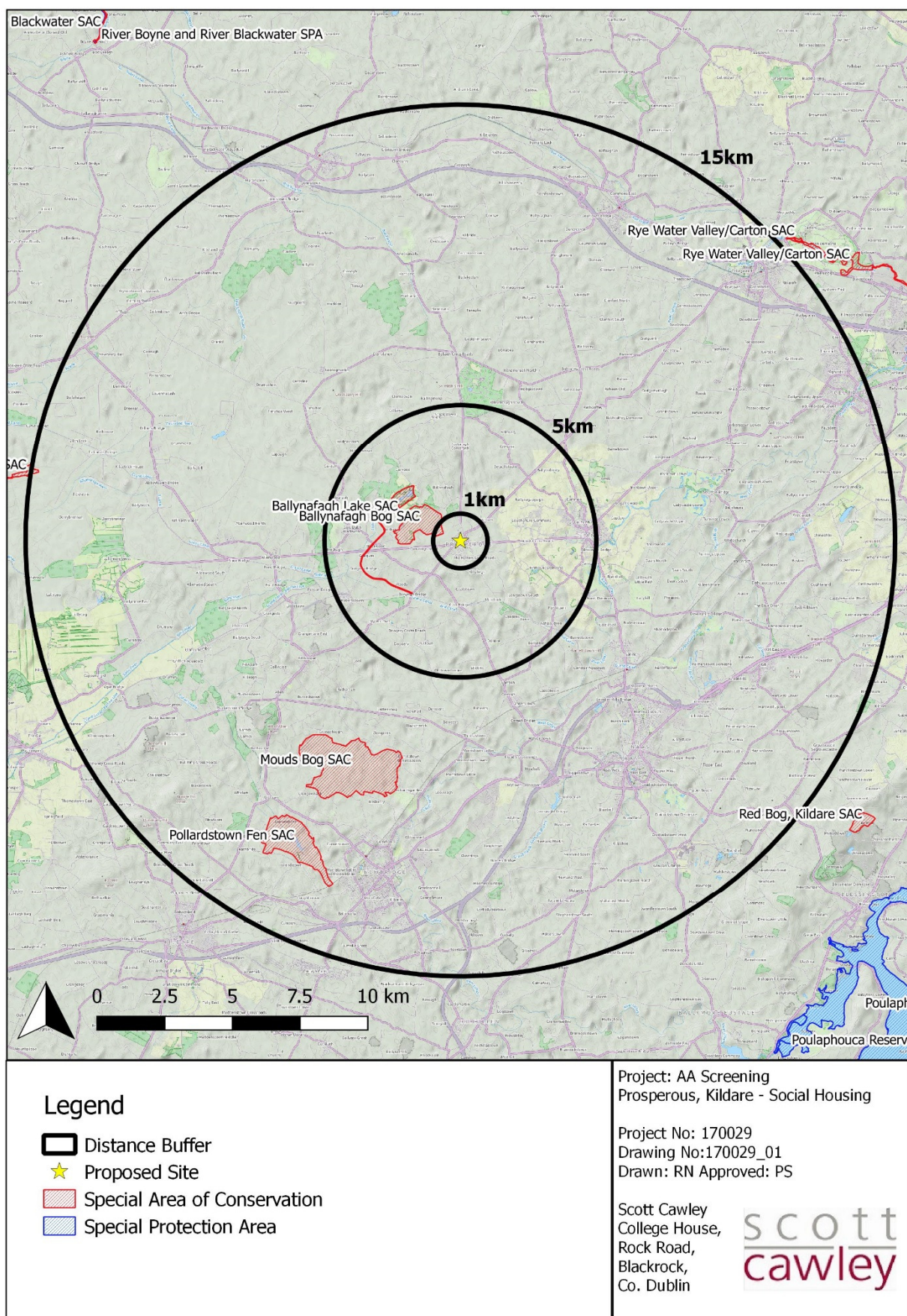
**Table 2 Analysis of European sites within 15km.**

			water table. No contaminated land was identified with the site according to the site investigation report (Site Investigations Ltd. 2016)
<b>Ballynafagh Lake [001387]</b>	c.2.5km NW	<p><b>Conservation Objectives Generic Version (15/08/2016)</b></p> <p><b>Annex I Habitats:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alkaline fens [7230]</li> </ul> <p><b>Annex II Species:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i> (Desmoulin's Whorl Snail) [1016]</li> <li><i>Euphydryas aurinia</i> (Marsh Fritillary) [1065]</li> </ul>	As above for Ballynafagh Bog SAC.
<b>Mouds Bog SAC [002331]</b>	c.8km SW	<p><b>Conservation Objectives Version 1.0 (20/11/15)</b></p> <p><b>Annex I Habitats:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Active raised bogs [7110]</li> <li>Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120]</li> <li>Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> [7150]</li> </ul>	No. Due to the substantial terrestrial buffer that exists between the proposed development site and the European Site and the fact that there is no hydrological connection between the proposed development site and the European Site.
<b>Pollardstown Fen SAC [000396]</b>	c.12km SW	<p><b>Conservation Objectives Generic Version 4.0 (15/08/2016)</b></p> <p><b>Annex I Habitats:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i> [7210]</li> <li>Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>) [7220]</li> <li>Alkaline fens [7230]</li> </ul> <p><b>Annex II Species:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Vertigo geyeri</i> (Geyer's Whorl Snail) [1013]</li> <li><i>Vertigo angustior</i> (Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail) [1014]</li> <li><i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i> (Desmoulin's Whorl Snail) [1016]</li> </ul>	No for reasons outlined above for Mouds Bog SAC.

**There are no Special Protection Areas (SPA) located within 15km of the proposed development site.**



Figure 1. All European sites within 15km of the site



### 3 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 distance of 15km exceeds the potential zone of influence of the proposed works and any likelihood of significant effects in relation to European Sites beyond 15km can be ruled out. This judgement has been reached for the reasons outlined below.

The AA screening process has identified that a number of European Sites in Dublin Bay lie within the potential zone of influence of surface and foul effluent discharges from 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

No significant adverse effects are predicted due to the following:

- The temporary nature of any discharges related to construction of the site;
- Excavations shall remain above the water table by using a piling technique during construction (this shall avoid the need for pumping groundwater via sumps);
- The use of SUDs on site during operation which include permeable paving and the use of a petrol interceptor at the outfall into the River Slate; and,
- The closest SAC (Ballynafagh Bog) is a raised bog which is fed mainly by precipitation and partially by groundwater (NPWS 2015). The local River Slate is at a lower topography than this bog and therefore water is likely to drain off the bog into the River, as such the discharge to the River Slate shall not affect this SAC.

#### Foul Water

Foul waters generated on site during operation will be treated at Osberstown WWTP before being discharged into the River Liffey. According to the Annual Environmental Report (Irish Water, 2015), this WWTP is currently being upgraded from its capacity of 80,000 P.E. to a design capacity to treat 130,000 P.E. It has a current annual mean loading of 84,683 P.E. Works are due for completion in 2017. Therefore it will have adequate capacity to treat waste arising from the proposed development once the Phase III upgrade to the WWTP is completed.

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 Kildare County Council, as the competent authority, to carry out a screening for AA and to 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; and,
- 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.



## References

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