Appropriate Assessment Screening Report

The North Circular Road
Dorset Street Lower to Amiens Street
Walking and Cycling Scheme

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Executive Summary

This report presents the outcome of a Screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA) for the proposed Dorset Street lower to Amiens Street Walking and Cycling Scheme, hereafter referred to as "the proposed project". The Walking & Cycling scheme commences at the Dorset Street Lower / North Circular Road junction, heading south-eastward along the North Circular Road to its junction with Summerhill, then southward along Portland Row to its junction with Amiens Street (The Five Lamps). This is referred to hereafter as "The Scheme".

Dublin City Council have identified the Scheme for developing a walking and cycle design. The proposed scheme will deliver a cycle route approximately 1.1km long, in an area of 2.98ha. The route forms part of the National Transport Authority's GDA Cycle Network Plan. The scheme will provide quality, protected cycling facilities to cater for all ages and abilities. It will facilitate a more active lifestyle for all ages bringing multiple benefits for physical and mental wellbeing.

This report details the results of field surveys and a desktop study which have informed this Screening for AA for the proposed development. The report assesses any potential impacts on EU designated sites, in particular (but not exclusively) the potential hydrological pathways during the construction phase of the proposed development.

This AA Screening Report examines whether any potential effects upon a Natura 2000 site will be significant and determines whether the AA process for the proposed development from Dorset Street lower to Amiens Street alone andin combination with other developments in the area requires to proceed to a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment.

Having regard to the limited nature and scale of the proposed development and the absence of any significant environmental sensitivity in the vicinity / the absence of any connectivity to any sensitive location, there is no likelihood of significant effects on the environment arising from the proposed project. The nature and scale of the proposed development is small and there will be no loss of habitats for which any European site is designated and no indirect disturbance of qualifying habitats. There is no evidence that this limited site acts as a roost or foraging site for species of conservation interest. There are no operational emissions to the European sites.

It is concluded that on the basis of the relevant information, which is considered adequate in order to conclude a screening determination, that the proposed development, individually or in combination with other plans or projects (given the implementation of best codes of practice) would not be likely to have a significant effect on any European Site, in view of the site's Conservation Objectives, and a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment is not therefore required.

The contents of this Screening for AA, prepared by Veon Ecology are true and have been prepared with due regard to the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management's (CIEEM) Code of Professional Conduct.

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Section 1: INTRODUCTION

Veon Ltd. (Veon Ecology) has been appointed by Dublin City Council (DCC), to carry out a Screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA) for the proposed development of approximately 1.1km of protected cycle paths and improved pedestrian facilities along the route from Dorset Street lower to Amiens Street Walking and Cycling Scheme, hereafter referred to as "the proposed project". The Walking & Cycling scheme commences at the Dorset Street Lower / North Circular Road junction, heading south-eastward along the North Circular Road to its junction with Summerhill, then southward along Portland Row to its junction with Amiens Street (The Five Lamps). This is referred to hereafter as "The Scheme".

Dublin City Council have identified the Scheme for developing a walking and cycle design. The proposed scheme will deliver a cycle route approximately 1.1km long, in an area of 2.98ha. The route forms part of the National Transport Authority's GDA Cycle Network Plan. The scheme will provide quality, protected cycling facilities to cater for all ages and abilities. It will facilitate a more active lifestyle for all ages bringing multiple benefits for physical and mental wellbeing.

The Screening for Appropriate Assessment has been prepared to provide the Competent Authority (CA), with the relevant scientific information to conduct the Appropriate Assessment (AA) in accordance with the requirement of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43). This information will allow the competent national authorities to determine, in view of best scientific knowledge, if the proposed project, individually or in combination with other plans and projects is likely to have a significant effect on a European Site and, where necessary, to ascertain whether or not the proposed project would adversely affect the integrity of any European Site(s).

A Screening for Appropriate Assessment for the proposed project has been prepared and is provided in **Section 4**. The screening assessment concluded as follows:

It can be concluded, in view of best scientific knowledge on the basis of objective information and in light of the conservation objectives of the relevant European Sites, that the proposed project (i.e. Dorset street lower to Amiens Street, Walking and Cycling Scheme with all associated infrastructure works), individually or in combination with other plans and projects, (given the implementation of best codes of practice) would not have a likely significant effect on any European Site.

1.1 Legislative Background

The Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora, better known as "The Habitats Directive", provides legal protection for habitats and species of European importance. Articles 3 to 9 provide the legislative means to protect habitats and species of Community interest through the establishment and conservation of an EU-wide network of sites known as Natura 2000.

Natura 2000 sites are defined under the Habitats Directive (Article 3) as a coherent 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, shall enable the natural habitat types and the species' habitats concerned to be maintained or, where appropriate, restored at a favorable conservation status in their natural range. In Ireland, these sites are designated as European Sites and include Special Protection Areas (SPAs), established under the EU Birds Directive (79/409/EEC, as codified by 2009/147/EC) for birds and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), established under the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC for habitats and species.

The Habitats Directive has been transposed into Irish law by Part XAB of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 - 2021 and the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (SI 477/2011) as amended. Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive set out the decision-making tests for plans and projects likely to adversely affect the integrity of European Sites (Annex 1.1).

Article 6(3) establishes the requirement for Appropriate Assessment (AA):

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

Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive, transposed into Irish Law relevant to this project includes Part XAB of the Planning and Development Act, 2000-2021 and the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (as amended).

Natura 2000 sites in Ireland (herein referred to as European sites) that form part of the Natura 2000 network of protected sites include Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) designated due to their significant ecological importance for species and habitats protected under Annexes I and II respectively of the Habitats Directive, and Special Protected Areas (SPAs), designated for the protection of populations and habitats of bird species protected under the EU Birds Directive (Council Directive 2009/409/EEC). Features for which SACs and SPAs are designated are termed Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests respectively. Collectively, Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests are herein referred to as Qualifying Features.

As the proposed project is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of any European Site, the competent authority, is obliged to assess, in view of best scientific knowledge, if the proposed development, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, is likely to have a significant effect on European Sites.

The appropriate assessment process undertaken to meet Article 6(3) obligations is described in **Section 1.2.1** below.

1.2 Methodology & Report Structure

The above regulations require that before consent for a project or development is given, a Screening for Appropriate Assessment of a project for which an application for consent is received (which is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site as a European Site), must be carried out by the relevant public authority to assess, in view of best scientific knowledge and in view of the conservation objectives of the site, if that project, individually or in combination with other plans or projects is likely to have a significant effect on the European site.

The proposed development is described in detail in **Section 2** of this report. Following on from this the results of the desk and field surveys that were undertaken and presented in **Section 3** and **Appendix 2**, to provide the necessary details of the ecological baseline conditions of the site for the proposed development. The proposed operations of the project are considered in the context of potential effects on the baseline environment, with particular reference to the potential for adverse effects on the integrity of the relevant European Sites.

Finally, a concluding statement is provided in **Section 7** of the report. This includes a summary of the results of the assessment along with a summary statement of the potential of adverse effects on the integrity of any European Site (in light of the Conservation Objectives of the site as per Box 10 of EC, 2001). As per EC (2001) the meaning of integrity is defined as follows:

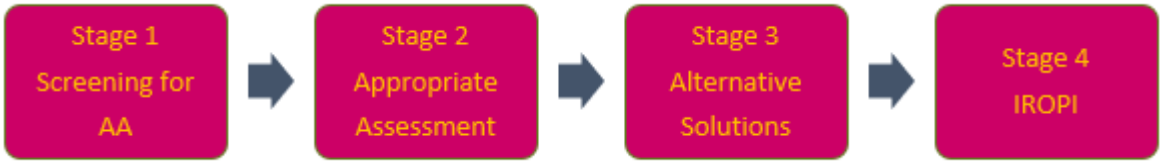
The integrity of a site involves its ecological functions. The decision as to whether it is adversely affected should focus on and be limited to the site's conservation objectives (MN2000, paragraph 4.6(3)). The information contained in this report will allow the Competent Authority to determine that the Proposed Project either individually or in combination with other projects will not adversely affect the integrity of any European Site.

1.2.1 Appropriate Assessment Methodology

The purpose of an Appropriate Assessment (AA) is to establish whether a particular plan or project is likely to have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 Site, either individually or in combination with other plans and/or projects. Natura 2000 sites in Ireland are European sites, including Special Protection Areas (SPAs), and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs).

The four distinct stages in the AA process are summarised diagrammatically in **Figure 1.1**. Stages 1-2 deal with the main requirements for assessment under Article 6(3). Stage 3 may be part of the Article 6(3) Assessment or may be a necessary precursor to Stage 4. Stage 4 is the main derogation step of Article 6(4).

Figure 1.1: Stages of Appropriate Assessment.



Stage 1: Screening for Appropriate Assessment.

Screening is the process that addresses and records the reasoning and conclusions in relation to the first two tests of Article 6(3):

Whether a plan or project is directly connected to or necessary for the management of the site, and whether a plan and/or project, alone or in combination with other plans and/or projects, is likely to have significant effects on a European site in view of its conservation objectives.

If the effects are deemed to be significant, potentially significant, or uncertain, or if the screening process becomes overly complicated, then the process must proceed to Stage 2 (AA). Screening should be undertaken without the inclusion of mitigation, unless potential impacts clearly can be avoided through the modification or redesign of the plan or project, in which case the screening process is repeated on the altered plan. The greatest level of evidence and justification will be needed in circumstances when the process ends at screening stage on grounds of no impact.

Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment (Natura Impact Statement).

The aim of Stage 2 of the AA process is to identify any adverse impacts that the plan or project might have on the integrity of relevant European sites. As part of the assessment, a key consideration is 'in combination' effects with other plans or projects. Where adverse impacts are identified, mitigation measures can be proposed that would avoid, reduce or remedy any such negative impacts and the plan or project should then be amended accordingly, thereby avoiding the need to progress to Stage 3.

This stage considers whether the plan or project, alone or in combination with other projects or plans, will have adverse effects on the integrity of a European site, and includes any mitigation measures necessary to avoid, reduce or offset negative effects. The proponent of the plan or project will be required to submit a Natura Impact Statement, i.e. the report of a targeted professional scientific examination of the plan or project and the relevant European sites, to identify and characterise any possible implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives, taking account of in-combination effects. This should provide information to enable the public authority to carry out the AA.

Section 177T(1)(b) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) provides that *"[a] Natura impact statement means a statement, for the purposes of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive, of the implications of a proposed development, on its own or in combination with other plans or projects, for one or more than one European site, in view of the conservation objectives of the site or sites".*

Section 177T(2) states that *"[w]ithout prejudice to the generality of subsection (1), […] a Natura impact statement, […], shall include a report of a scientific examination of evidence and data, carried out by competent persons to identify and classify any implications for one or more than one European site in view of the conservation objectives of the site or sites".*

Section 177T(7)(*a*) states that *"[w]ithout prejudice to subsection (1) […] a Natura impact statement shall include all information prescribed by regulations under section 177AD".*

Section 177T(*b*) states that *"[w]here appropriate, […] a Natura impact statement shall include such other information or data as the competent authority considers necessary to enable it to ascertain if the […] proposed development will not affect the integrity of the site".*

Where appropriate, an Appropriate Assessment shall include, in addition:

(i) The alternative solutions that have been considered and the reasons why they have not been adopted.

(ii) The imperative reasons of overriding public interest that are being relied upon to indicate that the plan or project should proceed notwithstanding that it may adversely affect the integrity of a European site.

(iii) The compensatory measures that are being proposed.

If the assessment is negative, i.e. adverse effects on the integrity of a site cannot be excluded, then the process must proceed to Stage 3, or the plan or project should be abandoned. The competent authority must make a determination to that effect before proceeding to the next stage.

Stage 3 includes the Assessment of Alternative Solutions: Should the Appropriate Assessment determine that adverse impacts are likely upon a Natura 2000 site, this stage examines alternative ways of implementing the project that, where possible, avoid these adverse impacts.

Stage 4 involves the assessment of where no alternative solutions exist and where adverse impacts remain: Where imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI) exist, an assessment to consider whether compensatory measures will or will not effectively offset the damage to the Natura site will be necessary.

1.2.2 Assessment Approach

The approach taken in preparing this screening report is set out below and is broadly based on standard methods and best practice guidance, as listed in Section **1.3** below.

The nature of the likely interactions between the project and the integrity of a European Site will depend upon the sensitivity of the European Site's qualifying features to potential impacts arising from the project; the current conservation status of the European Site and its qualifying features; and any likely changes to key environmental indicators (e.g. water quality) that underpin the conservation status of European Site(s) and their qualifying features, in combination with other projects and plans. The European Commission (2001) Guidelines outline the stages involved in undertaking a Screening Assessment of a project that has the potential to have likely significant effects on European Sites.

The approach considered in preparation of this screening report and followed for this assessment are outlined below:

- Identify the Natura 2000 site(s), within the potential zone of influence of the proposed development.
- Identify the features of interest of the Natura 2000 site(s) and review their conservation objectives.
- Assess whether there is potential for the proposed development to affect the features of interest of the relevant Natura 2000 site(s) based on information such as the vulnerabilities of the European site(s), proximity to the development site and the nature and scale of the works associated with the proposed development.
- Take into consideration the likelihood of potential impacts occurring based on professional judgement and the collated information.
- Identify the likelihood of significant effects on Natura 2000 sites occurring because of the proposed development.
- Take into consideration the likelihood of cumulative impacts arising from the proposed development in-combination with other projects and plans.

1.2.3 Desk Study

A desk study was carried out to collate the available information on the ecological environment with respect to Natura 2000 sites identified within the potential zone of influence of the proposed development.

The desktop study comprised a review of the following key datasets and information sources:

- Identification of European sites within the Zone of Influence (ZoI) of the proposed development area through the identification of potential pathways/links from the proposed development area and European sites and/or supporting habitats.
- Review of the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) site synopsis, Natura 2000 data forms and Conservation Objectives for European sites identified through potential pathways from the Proposed Development (https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites).
- Review of available literature and web data. This included a detailed review of the NPWS and National Biodiversity Data Centre (NBDC) websites including mapping and available reports for relevant sites and in particular Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests described and their Conservation Objectives.
- GIS Online mapping (http://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com; and EPA Mapping database (https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/AAGeoTool).

In addition, aerial photography (Google Earth, Bing Maps) and mapping (Ordnance Survey of Ireland, Geological Survey of Ireland) were used to identify non-designated habitats such as rivers, woodlands, and hedgerows of local ecological importance.

1.3 Guidance and Legislation

This Screening for AA report has been prepared with regard to the relevant provisions of the EU Council Directive 92/43/EEC and Ireland's EU (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (as amended). The methodology considered in preparation of this report and additional guidance and legislation followed for this assessment are outlined below:

- DoEHLG (2009, rev. 2010) Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland Guidance for Planning Authorities. Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.
- European Commission (EC) (2018), Managing Natura 2000 Sites: the provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats Directive' 92/43/EEC, Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Luxembourg. European Commission.
- EC (2002) 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, Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Luxembourg. European Commission.
- EC (2021) Assessment of Plans and Projects in relation to Natura 2000 sites - Methodological guidance on Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC.
- EC (2007a) Guidance document on Article 6(4) of the 'Habitats Directive' 92/43/EEC - Clarification of the concepts of: alternative solutions, imperative reasons of overriding public interest, compensatory measures, overall coherence, opinion of the commission. European Commission.
- EC, (2007b), Guidance document on the strict protection of animal species of Community interest under the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. European Commission.
- EC (2013) Interpretation Manual of European Union Habitats. Version EUR 28. European Commission.
- EC (2021) Assessment of Plans and Projects in relation to Natura 2000 sites - Methodological guidance on Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC.
- Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) Version 1.2 (April 2022), Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland.
- NPWS (2019). The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland. Volume 2: Habitat Assessments. Unpublished NPWS report.
- NPWS (2019). The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland. Volume 3: Species Assessments. Unpublished NPWS report.
- Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR) (2021) Practice Note PN01 - Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management.
- The European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 as amended.
- The Planning and Development Act 2000-2023 as amended.
- The Planning and Development Regulations 2001-2023 as amended.

Section 2: PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

2.1 Project Location

The proposed development site is located from Dorset Street lower to Amiens Street **(See Location Map, Figure 2.1).** The location of the project is within the urban built environment of North Circular Road, Co. Dublin. The site layout covers a narrow construction envelope of existing built surfaces and amenities. The area of the proposed development redline boundary is approximately 2.98 ha. The extent of the site is approximately 1.1 km in length.

The proposed scheme is located in the North Circular Road - Dorset Street Lower to Amiens Street. The Walking & Cycling scheme commences at the Dorset Street Lower / North Circular Road junction, heading south-eastward along the North Circular Road to its junction with Summerhill, then southward along Portland Row to its junction with Amiens Street (The Five Lamps).

The proposed scheme is located within a highly populated urban area. The route traverses through generally suburban neighborhoods providing access to secondary schools, as well as services, amenities and recreational facilities. There are numerous amenities nearby the route as well as a number of schools and public parks including Mountjoy Square Park. The proposed development footprint is highly urbanized and heavily car dominated. It is surrounded by buildings, parking spaces and footways.

The development footprint is not located within any Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) or Special Areas of Protection (SPAs). The closest European site is the South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA (004024) which is located c. 1500 m east of the proposed development site (nearest point). No annex I habitats are recorded onsite or in the immediate vicinity.

A map of all of the hydrological features in the vicinity of the proposed development site is presented in **Appendix 1**. There are no watercourses or drains located within the footprint of the proposed development site.

A detailed walkover survey was undertaken on the 26th of June 2024 by Pascal Mc Kenna, MSIF BSc Hons with Veon Ltd. The proposed development site consists of an urban built environment comprising buildings and artificial surfaces (Fossitt Habitat Code: BL3) and tree lines (Fossitt Habitat Code: WL2). No invasive plant species listed in Part 1 of the Third Schedule of S.I No. 477 of 2011, European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations (2011) were recorded within the proposed development site footprint.

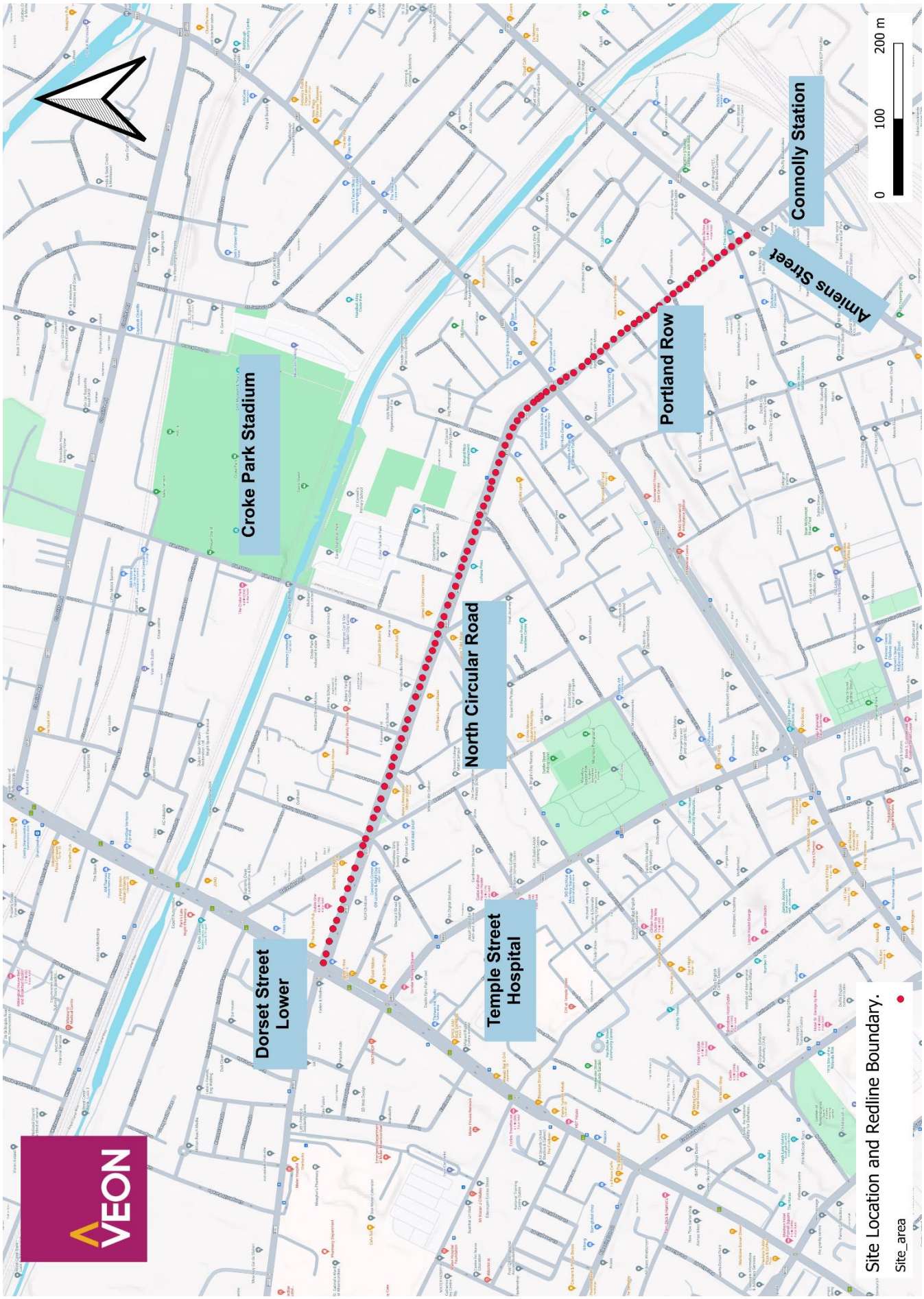


Figure 2.1: Project site location map.

2.2 Project Description

North Circular Road Improvement Scheme – Dorset Street Lower to Amiens Street

Dublin City Council has proposed a scheme to develop dedicated walking and cycling infrastructure along the North Circular Road, from Dorset Street Lower to Amiens Street. This project will establish a 1.1 km cycle route within a 2.98-hectare area, as part of the National Transport Authority's Greater Dublin Area (GDA) Cycle Network Plan.

Scope of Works

The project aims to create a safe, accessible environment for pedestrians and cyclists, with the following key elements:

- **Segregation Measures**: Installation of separation features including kerbs, build-out islands, greenery, and bituminous surfacing.
- **Road Markings**: Removal and reapplication of road markings to accommodate new walking and cycling zones.
- **Traffic Signage and Poles**: Potential removal and installation of signage to reflect the new road layout.
- **Reduction of Vehicle Space**: Narrowing or removing traffic lanes to enhance space for pedestrians and cyclists.
- **Traffic Calming Measures**: Introduction of features to reduce vehicle speeds and improve safety for all users.
- **Traffic Signal Adjustments**: Modification of signal phasing and timings to support the new cycling and pedestrian-focused layout.
- **Side Road Treatments**: Enhancements at intersections, including the addition of modal filters and road closures to limit through-traffic. These modifications will support the creation of quieter, pedestrian-friendly cul-de-sacs.

Tree Preservation and Safety Considerations

A core objective of the scheme is to preserve existing trees where possible. However, for the safety of road users, particularly regarding visibility at intersections, some trees may need to be removed if they obstruct sightlines. An initial review of the preliminary General Arrangement (GA) drawings identified three trees that may impact visibility; further analysis is recommended. A comprehensive assessment of visibility sightlines at each side road will be conducted in the detailed design phase to ensure compliance with safety standards.

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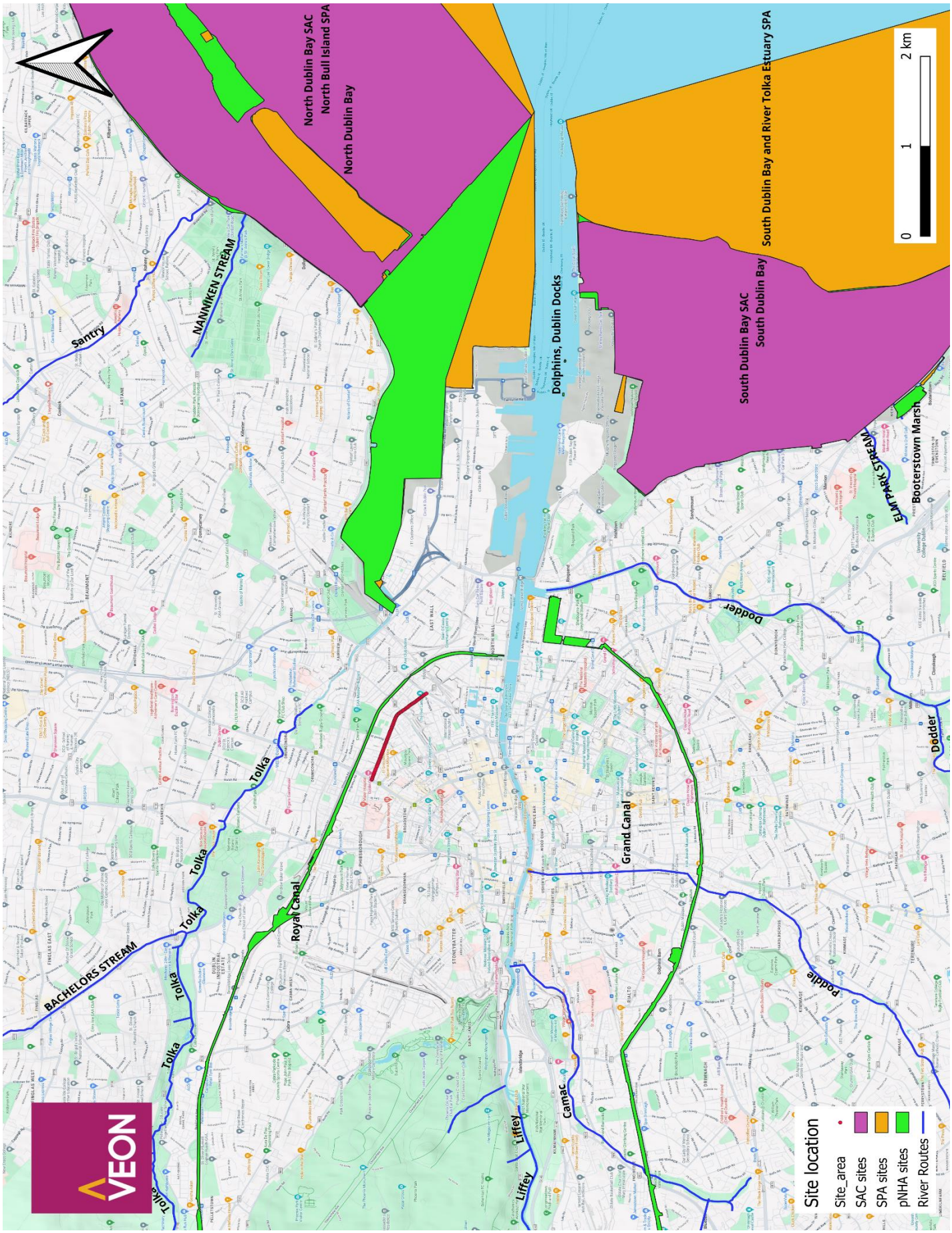

Figure 2.2: Site location

2.3 Potentially Affected Natura 2000 Sites

Natura 2000 sites in the vicinity of the proposed development and with a direct physical/hyrological connection to this development were checked for on the mapping system of the NPWS website http://webgis.npws.ie/npwsviewer/. Natura 2000 sites within 15km of the subject site are shown in **Appendix 1**.

The Natura 2000 sites within 15km of the proposed works include:

Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

- South Dublin Bay SAC (000210)
- North Dublin Bay SAC (000202)
- Baldoyle Bay SAC (000199)
- Howth Head SAC (000202)
- Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC (003000)
- Malahide Estuary SAC (000205)
- Glenasmole Valley SAC (001209)
- Wicklow Mountains SAC (002122)
- Ireland's Eye SAC (002193)

Special Protection Area (SPA)

- South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA (004024)
- North Bull Island SPA (004006)
- North-west Irish Sea SPA (004236)
- Baldoyle Bay SPA (004016)
- Malahide Estuary SPA (004025)
- Howth Head Coast SPA (004113)
- Ireland's Eye SPA (004117)
- Wicklow Mountains SPA (004040)
- Dalkey Islands SPA (004172)

There are no pathways (physical or hydrological connections which could act as a route for potential direct impacts) from the source site to any of these European Sites listed above. In total there are No. 18 Natura 2000 sites (Special Area of Conservation (SAC)/Special Protection Area (SPA)) within 15km of the proposed development site. The relevant Natura 2000 site(s) are discussed in more detail in **Section 5**.

2.4 Potentially Affected Habitats/Species

The area of potential impact during construction phase is taken as being the site of the proposed development and the downstream aquatic habitat. While the aquatic zone of potentially highest impact is from the location of a proposed development to 5km downstream (Escauriaza *et. al.*, 2017), potential impacts on protected habitats and species in the entire downstream section of the adjoining watercourses are also considered.

No annex I Habitats are recorded onsite so there is no potential for direct impacts on the QI Annex Habitats for which the relevant Natura 2000 site(s) are designated. The possibility of impacts within 5km was considered, and it is deemed unlikely that the proposed project would have impacts over distances greater than 2km. There is No. 1 European Sites within the approximate 2km Zone of Influence (ZoI) of the proposed development (i.e. South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA).

A number of nationally designated sites are also located within 15km of the proposed project site. While Natural Heritage Areas (NHA) and Proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs) are designated for nature conservation they are not included within the Natura 2000 network and are therefore outside of the scope of an Appropriate Assessment Screening.

2.5 Assessment of Likely Effects

This Screening Assessment determines whether the construction and operational phases of the proposed development, alone or in combination with other projects and plans, will have the potential to result in likely significant effects on the above relevant European Sites. The likely significant effects of the proposed works are outlined in **Table 2.1**.

Table 2.1: Summary of likely significant effects of the proposed development

Assessment Criteria	
Describe any likely direct, indirect, or secondary impacts of the project (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) on the Relevant European Site(s):	
Size and Scale	The proposed works are outlined in **Section 2.2**. The overall site wherein the proposed development works are to take place is approximately 2.98 ha in size. The site is located approximately 1500 m from the nearest European Site (i.e. South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA).
Land take	There are no European sites present within the redline boundary and the closest European site is c. 1500 m south of the proposed development site. Similarly, there were no Annex I habitats or supporting habitat for Annex II species recorded on site. Therefore, there will be no effects posed to European Sites in this respect. Therefore, the proposed works will not result in land take from any European Site.
Distance from European Sites or key features of the site	The proposed development site is not located within any Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) or Special Areas of Protection (SPAs). The closest European Site is the South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA which is located c. 1500 m east of the proposed development site. There are no Annex habitats recorded within or adjacent to the site of works. There are no pathways (physical or hydrological connections which could act as a route for potential impacts) from the source site to any European Site. The site is buffered from the relevant European sites by housing, road networks and amenity areas. Therefore, no significant impacts to the relevant European Sites and their listed QIs are anticipated as a result of the separation distance to the proposed works.
Excavations and Resource requirements	There will be no instream works undertaken as part of the proposed development within the relevant Natura 2000 Sites. The proposed works will require the transportation and pouring of concrete. Fuel will be consumed by construction equipment. Some aggregates will be used during the construction phase. The exact quantities of materials required have not been determined at this point in the development of the project. The impacts to the relevant Natura 2000 sites as a result of these works can be discounted due to the site being adequately buffered from the relevant European Sites.
Transportation	During the construction phase of the proposed development delivery of machinery and material to site will be via the existing road network and access roadway.
Emissions	Construction works will be required for the proposed development plan. Emissions to any watercourses are not expected as a result of the proposed development due to the minor scale of the construction works.

	Emission to air will include temporary fine particulate matter associated with ongoing works and other construction practices. Such emissions will not impact negatively on the qualifying features or species of any Natura 2000 Site. The proposed works will be confined to the immediate vicinity of the site. All works will be conducted during daylight hours. Therefore, significant negative impacts on the relevant designated sites as a result of noise emissions are not considered likely and can be discounted.
In Combination Effects	Dublin City County Council's planning website gives details on all proposed development applications, a review of the relevant planning applications was assessed and detailed below in **Section 6** of this report.
Describe any likely changes to the Relevant European Site(s) arising as a result of the following:	
Disturbance of key species	All proposed works will take place within the proposed development site overall redline boundary. No indirect hydrological impacts on Natura 2000 sites are expected as a result of the proposed development due to the minor scale of the construction and earthworks (with no in-stream works). Furthermore, construction works will be carried out according to best practice with standard environmental controls in place. Construction works will be buffered from the relevant Natura 2000 sites by housing, road networks and amenity areas. These works will not result in any effects or impact that could potentially impact on any of the species of conservation interest within these Natura 2000 sites. None of the species and/or habitats listed as QIs of the relevant European Sites were recorded on site. The nearest European site is c. 1500 m away from the proposed site and therefore disturbance effects due to noise or lighting etc. are not likely. Given the setting of the area as well as the temporary small-scale nature of the development, there are no significant effects related to ex-situ foraging identified. Therefore, there are no effects related to disturbance effects to any European Site.
Habitat or Species Fragmentation	The development site is not part of any of the Natura 2000 Sites under consideration and does not require any resources from them, thereby ruling out any direct habitat loss impacts. The nearest Natura 2000 site to the proposed development site is located c. 1500 m from the proposed works therefore, there will be no habitat or species fragmentation associated with the proposed works within the relevant designated sites. No indirect hydrological impacts on Natura 2000 sites are expected as a result of the proposed development due to the minor scale of the construction and earthworks (with no in-stream works). Furthermore, construction works will be carried out according to best practice with standard environmental controls in place.
Changes in key indicators of conservation status	The construction of the proposed development (i.e. The Dorset Street lower to Amiens Street,Walking and Cycling Scheme) will not cause ex-situ disturbance/displacement impacts on key species of any Natura 2000 Sites due to the minor scale of the proposed development works and distance between the project site and nearest Natura 2000 site (minimum 1.5 km). Furthermore, the development site does not currently support habitats of significance for the listed QIs of the relevant European Sites and does not have a known history of usage from the listed QIs. Habitats of QI within the relevant Natura 2000 sites are not present at the proposed development site and therefore no changes in key indicators of conservation value are anticipated as a result of the proposed development works.

Describe any likely impacts on the European Site(s) as a whole in terms of:	
Interference with key relationships that define the structure and function of the European Site(s)	No likely negative impacts are predicted that could interfere with the key relationships that define the current structure of any European Site. The construction works will be carried out according to best practice with standard environmental controls in place. Thus, the potential for water quality/pollution and the introduction and spread of Alien Invasive Species (IAS) within the proposed development site, are not expected. Given the limited and confined nature of the proposed works and the existing intervening buffers between the proposed works and relevant Natura 2000 sites it is unlikely that there will be any significant impacts on any European Site.
Describe from the above the elements of the project or plan or combination of elements, where the above impacts are likely to be significant or where the scale of magnitude of impacts is not known.	
likely significant impacts/ unknow scale or magnitude of impact.	It is considered that the impacts of the construction phase of the proposed development to the relevant Natura 2000 sites (nearest c 1500 m) are not likely to have adverse effects on the water quality and listed Qls of the relevant designated sites. Once construction is complete there will be no adverse effects on the relevant European Sites. Dublin City County Council's planning website gives details on all proposed development applications. A review of the relevant planning applications was assessed and detailed below in **Section 6** of this report.

Section 3: EXISTING ENVIRONMENT

3.1 Existing Site Ecology

The habitats within the study area have been assessed, following a detailed desktop study, and were cross referenced with 'A Guide to Habitats in Ireland' (Fossitt, 2000). Aerial Images and photographs illustrating the key areas to which the proposed development is applicable are provided in **Appendix 3**.

A photograph of a section of the site is presented in **Figure 3.1** below. The primary habitats within the proposed development area comprise of Built Land and Artificial Surfaces (BL3) and Tree lines (WL2). Numerous species of overwintering birds are known to utilize the areas within the estuary of the River Tolka located beyond the northern site boundary. Given the scale of the project and habitats present, species of conservation concern are unlikely to occur within the area of the works footprint and immediately adjacent. However, given the proximity of the site to the Tolka River estuary, numerous species of conservation concern are almost certain to occur within the wider area of the site, primarily overwintering bird species, many of which are Qualifying Interests of the South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA.

Currently, the most significant hydrological feature near the proposed development site is the Royal Canal Main Line (Liffey and Dublin Bay) (EPA Code: IE_09_AWB_RCMLE), situated approximately 200m north of the development site's boundary at Charleville Mall. TOLKA_060 (EPA code: IE_EA_09T011150) lies 850m to the north-east of the development site, adjacent to the South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA. LIFFEY_190 (EPA code: IE_EA_09L012360) is located 1100m south-east of the development site, adjoining the North-West Irish Sea SPA.

Figure 3.1: North circular towards Dorset Street

Section 4: STAGE 1. SCREENING FOR APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

4.1 Overview of Potential Impacts

A screening matrix of unmitigated impacts on the Natura 2000 habitats and species found to be present, or considered possibly present, is presented as part of this assessment. The reasons for the decision in the screening matrix are detailedbelow. Potential impacts on habitats and species not occurring within the zone of impact can be screened out.

There are a number of elements associated with the proposed construction works that may give rise to direct and indirect impacts. The significance of these impacts depends on the scale of the impact as well as the ecological condition and the sensitivities of the qualifying interests. Elements of the proposed development that may give rise to impacts which have been considered with regards to potential likely significant effects to European Sites are as follows:

- Release of sediment and pollutants which may be discharged into surface waters, particularly during high rainfall events.
- Movement of vehicles and machinery associated with construction works and the potential for spillages of oils, fuels or other pollutants which could be transported to the surface water system during rainfall events.
- Transportation, pouring of concrete onsite and washing of concrete lorry flume - risk for entry into surface waters.
- Increased silt loading, which may stunt aquatic plant growth, limit dissolved oxygen capacity and overall reduce the ecological quality of watercourses, with the most critical period associated with low flow conditions.
- The introduction or spread of invasive alien species due to construction works.
- Disturbance to fauna (e.g. through noise from construction activity and/or human presence) resulting in the displacement of affected species.
- Accidental mortality of wildlife from construction machinery.

These potential impacts listed above are associated with the construction, and not the operational phase.

4.2 Determining the Likely Zone of Influence

Guidance on AA of Plans and Projects in Ireland notes that 15km is recommended in the case of plans, derived from UK guidance. In some cases, the distance could be much less, or much more than 15km, but this must be evaluated on a case-by-case basis with reference to the nature, size and location of the proposed development, and the sensitivities of the ecological receptors and for the in-combination effects (OPR, 2021). Using the source- pathway-receptor model an examination of the potential effects of the proposed development was undertaken (aloneand in-combination with other plans and projects) to identify what European sites, and which of their Qualifying Interests or Special Conservation Interest species were potentially at risk. This examination was used to determine theZone of Influence (ZoI) for the Proposed Development.

It is vital that an assessment of potential pathways is undertaken to assess potential impact links between the receptor (European Sites) and source (proposed development) to establish the risk of any likely significant effects. Additional designated sites including proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHA's), Natural Heritage Areas (NHA's) sites were also reviewed, although they do not form part of the AA, they often provide important supporting functions to European Sites.

With regards to potential habitat degradation effects associated with the release of sediment and other pollutants to surface water, the ZoI of the proposed development is considered to include receiving water bodies in close proximity to, or downstream of, the proposed development site during the construction phase. The distance downstream is associated with the current biological condition of the accepting water body and its capacity to accept and assimilate sediment and other pollutants. The distance downstream is also associated with the sensitivity of the Qualifying Interests of the European Site which may be hydrologically connected to the proposed development site.

Noise from construction activities has the potential to cause disturbance to resting, foraging and commuting Qualifying Interest and Special Conservation Interest species. With regards to disturbance effects, the potential ZoI is considered to be in the local vicinity (within 300m) of the proposed development during the construction phase. The proposed works during the construction phase are anticipated to generate relatively low levels of noise and only during permitted construction hours. In general, machinery will be designed to ensure that the maximum noise level 10m outside the site boundary do not exceed an equivalent continuous sound level beyond what is recommended in the BSI British Standards (BS5228-1:2009+A1:2014). It should be noted, no night works are anticipated.

Where the proposed development site does not have the potential to impact on the qualifying Annex ll species of the EU Habitats Directive or Annex I species of the EU Birds Directive of a European Site or if the terrestrial qualifying habitats of the European sites occur at a remote distance from the proposed works site, (i.e. buffered from the proposed development site), then these European Sites are not considered to be within the ZoI of the proposed development.

Given the location and scale of the development, the zone of influence is considered likely to be limited to the immediate vicinity of the project. Taking this particular case (i.e. The Dorset Street lower to Amiens Street, Walking andCycling Scheme) into consideration and the requirements for an effective Screening for Appropriate Assessment as outlined above in previous sections, it has been deemed appropriate to reduce the recommended 15km distance to 2km for an assessment of potential influence on European Designated Sites. The proposed development site is not hydrologically connected to any European Sites. Thus, potential direct and indirect impacts on other Natura 2000 Sites were considered within a potential zone of influence of 2km[1].

4.3 Identification of Relevant European Sites

The source-pathway-receptor (S-P-R) conceptual model was used to identify a list of 'relevant' European sites (i.e. those which could be potentially affected by the proposed development). This conceptual model is a standard tool in environmental assessment (OPR, 2021). In order for an effect to occur, all three elements of this mechanism must be in place. The absence or removal of one of the elements of the mechanism means there is no likelihood for the effect to occur. In the context of the proposed development, the model comprises:

- Source (s) – e.g. Sediment run-off from proposed development works.
- Pathway (s) – e.g. Rivers and drains connecting to a European site.
- Receptor (s) – e.g. Special Conservation Interests (SCI) or Qualifying Interests (QI).

There are currently No. 18 European sites within 15km of the Proposed Development. These include South Dublin Bay SAC (000210), North Dublin Bay SAC (000202), Baldoyle Bay SAC (000199), Howth Head SAC (000202), Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC (003000), Malahide Estuary SAC (000205), Glenasmole Valley SAC (001209), Wicklow Mountains SAC (002122), Ireland's Eye SAC (002193), South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA (004024), North Bull Island SPA (004006), North-west Irish Sea SPA (004236), Baldoyle Bay SPA (004016), Malahide Estuary SPA (004025), Howth Head Coast SPA (004113), Ireland's Eye SPA (004117), Wicklow Mountains SPA (004040) and Dalkey Islands SPA (004172).

There are no pathways (physical or hydrological connections which could act as a route for potential direct impacts) from the source site to any of these European Sites listed above. Of these Natura 2000 sites listed above, South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA are the only European Sites within the approximate 2km Zone of Influence (ZoI) for the proposed development.

[1] The potential zone of influence which is considered to be proportionate for the project due to the nature of the proposed development and its setting.

4.4 Stage 1: Screening of Relevant European Sites

Potential impacts and their significance, if any, within the Relevant European Sites are considered below**.** Impacts are considered in light of the Conservation Objectives/Special Conservation Interests for which these European Sites are designated.

Table 4.1: Screening assessment of the potential effects arising from the proposed development using SPR model.

Site Code	Site Name	Distance To (m)	Qualifying Interests (* denotes a priority habitat)	Assessment
000210	South Dublin Bay SAC	c. 3643	**[1140] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide** **]1210] Annual vegetation of drift lines** **]1310] Salicornia and other annuals colonizing mud and sand** **[2110] Embryonic shifting dunes**	This European Site is located entirely outside the proposed development site. At its nearest the designated site is c. 3.6 km southeast of the proposed developments site. There is no hydrological connectivity between the site and this European site (i.e. through surface or ground water pathways). Based on this rationale, South Dublin Bay SAC has been screened-out for potential impacts.
000206	North Dublin Bay SAC	c. 4693	**[1140] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide** **[1210] Annual vegetation of drift lines** **[1310] Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand** **[1330] Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae)** **[1410] Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi)** **[2110] Embryonic shifting dunes** **[2120] Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria (white dunes)** **[2130] Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes)*** **[2190] Humid dune slacks** **[1395] Petalwort *(Petalophyllum ralfsii)***	This European Site is located entirely outside the proposed development site. The nearest designated site is c. 4.6km northeast of the proposed developments site. There is no hydrological connectivity between the site and this European site (i.e. through surface or ground water pathways). Based on this rationale, North Dublin Bay SAC has been screened-out for potential impacts.
000199	Baldoyle Bay SAC	c. 9139	**[1140] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide** **[1310] Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand** **[1330] Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae)** **[1410] Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi)**	This European Site is located entirely outside the proposed development site. At its nearest the designated site is c. 9.1 km northeast of the proposed developments site. There is no hydrological connectivity between the site and this European site (i.e. through surface or ground water pathways). Based on this rationale, Baldoyle Bay SAC has been screened-out for potential impacts.
000202	Howth Head SAC	c. 10418	**[1230] Vegetated Sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts** **[4030] European dry heaths**	This European Site is located entirely outside the proposed development site. At its nearest the designated site is c. 10.4 km northeast of the proposed developments site. There is no hydrological connectivity between the site and this European site (i.e. through surface or ground water pathways). Based on this rationale, Howth Head SAC has been screened-out for potential impacts.

003000	Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC	c. 10843	**[1170] Reefs** **[1351] Harbour Porpoise (Phocoena phocoena)**	This European Site is located entirely outside the proposed development site. At its nearest the designated site is c. 10.8 km east of the proposed developments site. There is no hydrological connectivity between the site and this European site (i.e. through surface or ground water pathways). Based on this rationale, Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC has been screened-out for potential impacts.
000205	Malahide Estuary SAC	c. 11797	**[1140] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide** **[1310] Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand** **[1330] Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae)** **[1410] Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi)** **[2120] Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria (white dunes)** **[2130] Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes)***	This European Site is located entirely outside the proposed development site. At its nearest the designated site is c. 11.7 km northeast of the proposed developments site. There is no hydrological connectivity between the site and this European site (i.e. through surface or ground water pathways). Based on this rationale, Malahide Estuary SAC has been screened-out for potential impacts.
002193	Ireland's Eye SAC	c. 13311	**[1220] Perennial vegetation of stony banks** **[1230] Vegetated Sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts**	This European Site is located entirely outside the proposed development site. At its nearest the designated site is c. 13.3 km northeast of the proposed developments site. There is no hydrological connectivity between the site and this European site (i.e. through surface or ground water pathways). Based on this rationale, Ireland's Eye SAC has been screened-out for potential impacts.
002122	Wicklow Mountains SAC	c. 13434	**[3110] Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (Littorelletalia uniflorae)** **[3160] Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds** **[4010] Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix** **[4030] European dry heaths** **[4060] Alpine and Boreal heaths** **[6130] Calaminarian grasslands of the Violetalia calaminariae** **[6230] Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe) *** **[7130] Blanket bogs (* if active bog)** **[8110] Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (Androsacetalia alpinae and Galeopsietalia ladani)** **[8210] Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation** **[8220] Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation** **[91A0] Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles Species** **[1355] Otter (Lutra lutra)**	This European Site is located entirely outside the proposed development site. At its nearest the designated site is c. 13.4 km south of the proposed developments site. There is no hydrological connectivity between the site and this European site (i.e. through surface or ground water pathways). Based on this rationale, Wicklow Mountains SAC has been screened-out for potential impacts.

001209	Glenasmole Valley SAC	c. 13442	**[6210] Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (* important orchid sites)** **[6410] Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae)** **[7220] Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion)***	This European Site is located entirely outside the proposed development site. At its nearest the designated site is c. 13.4 km south of the proposed developments site. There is no hydrological connectivity between the site and this European site (i.e. through surface or ground water pathways). Based on this rationale, Glenasmole Valley SAC has been screened-out for potential impacts.
004024	South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA	c. 1545	**[A046] Light-bellied Brent Goose (Branta bernicla hrota)** **[A130] Oystercatcher (Haematopus ostralegus)** **[A137] Ringed Plover (Charadrius hiaticula)** **[A141] Grey Plover (Pluvialis squatarola)** **[A143] Knot (Calidris canutus)** **[A144] Sanderling (Calidris alba)** **[A149] Dunlin (Calidris alpina)** **[A157] Bar-tailed Godwit (Limosa lapponica)** **[A162] Redshank (Tringa totanus)** **[A179] Black-headed Gull (Chroicocephalus ridibundus)** **[A192] Roseate Tern (Sterna dougallii)** **[A193] Common Tern (Sterna hirundo)** **[A194] Arctic Tern (Sterna paradisaea)** **[A999] Wetlands and Waterbirds**	This European Site is located entirely outside the proposed development site. At its nearest the designated site is c. 1.5 km southeast of the proposed developments site. There is no hydrological connectivity between the site and this European site (i.e. through surface or ground water pathways). Disturbance effects are known to be negligible beyond 1.5km and this SPA is 1.545 km from the proposed site. Given the distance between the proposed project and the SPA, the small-scale temporary nature of the project and the absence of direct pathways there are no effects identified to the ecological integrity of the SPA. Based on this rationale, South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA has been screened-out for potential impacts.
004006	North Bull Island SPA	c. 4682	**[A046] Light-bellied Brent Goose (Branta bernicla hrota)** **[A048] Shelduck (Tadorna tadorna)** **[A052] Teal (Anas crecca)** **[A054] Pintail (Anas acuta)** **[A056] Shoveler (Anas clypeata)** **[A13]0 Oystercatcher (Haematopus ostralegus)** **[A140] Golden Plover (Pluvialis apricaria)** **[A141] Grey Plover (Pluvialis squatarola)** **[A143] Knot (Calidris canutus)** **[A144] Sanderling (Calidris alba)** **[A149] Dunlin (Calidris alpina)** **[A156] Black-tailed Godwit (Limosa limosa)** **[A157] Bar-tailed Godwit (Limosa lapponica)** **[A160] Curlew (Numenius arquata)** **[A162] Redshank (Tringa totanus)** **[A169] Turnstone (Arenaria interpres)** **[A179] Black-headed Gull (Chroicocephalus ridibundus)** **Habitats** **[A999] Wetland and Waterbirds**	This European Site is located entirely outside the proposed development site. At its nearest the designated site is c. 4.6 km east of the proposed developments site. There is no hydrological connectivity between the site and this European site (i.e. through surface or ground water pathways). Disturbance effects are known to be negligible beyond 1.5km and this SPA is 4.6 km from the proposed site. Given the distance between the proposed project and the SPA, the small-scale temporary nature of the project and the absence of direct pathways there are no effects identified to the ecological integrity of the SPA. Based on this rationale, North Bull Island SPA has been screened-out for potential impacts.

004236	North-west Irish Sea SPA	c. 6997	**[A001] Red-throated Diver (Gavia stellata)** **[A003] Great Northern Diver (Gavia immer)** **[A009] Fulmar (Fulmarus glacialis)** **[A013] Manx Shearwater (Puffinus puffinus)** **[A017] Cormorant (Phalacrocorax carbo)** **[A018] Shag (Phalacrocorax aristotelis)** **[A065] Common Scoter (Melanitta nigra)** **[A177] Little Gull (Larus minutus)** **[A179] Black-headed Gull (Chroicocephalus ridibundus)** **[A182] Common Gull (Larus canus)** **[A183] Lesser Black-backed Gull (Larus fuscus)** **[A184] Herring Gull (Larus argentatus)** **[A187] Great Black-backed Gull (Larus marinus)** **[A188] Kittiwake (Rissa tridactyla)** **[A192] Roseate Tern (Sterna dougallii)** **[A193] Common Tern (Sterna hirundo)** **[A194] Arctic Tern (Sterna paradisaea)** **[A19]5 Little Tern (Sterna albifrons)** **[A199] Guillemot (Uria aalge)** **[A200] Razorbill (Alca torda)** **[A204] Puffin (Fratercula arctica)**	This European Site is located entirely outside the proposed development site. At its nearest the designated site is c. 6.9 km east of the proposed developments site. There is no hydrological connectivity between the site and this European site (i.e. through surface or ground water pathways). Disturbance effects are known to be negligible beyond 1.5km and this SPA is 6.9 km from the proposed site. Given the distance between the proposed project and the SPA, the small-scale temporary nature of the project and the absence of direct pathways there are no effects identified to the ecological integrity of the SPA. Based on this rationale, North Bull Island SPA has been screened-out for potential impacts.
004016	Baldoyle Bay SPA	c. 9473	**[A046] Light-bellied Brent Goose (Branta bernicla hrota)** **[A04]8 Shelduck (Tadorna tadorna)** **[A137] Ringed Plover (Charadrius hiaticula)** **[A140] Golden Plover (Pluvialis apricaria)** **[A141] Grey Plover (Pluvialis squatarola)** **[A157] Bar-tailed Godwit (Limosa lapponica)** **[A999] Wetland and Waterbirds**	This European Site is located entirely outside the proposed development site. At its nearest the designated site is c. 9.4 km northeast of the proposed developments site. There is no hydrological connectivity between the site and this European site (i.e. through surface or ground water pathways). Disturbance effects are known to be negligible beyond 1.5km and this SPA is 9.4 km from the proposed site. Given the distance between the proposed project and the SPA, the small-scale temporary nature of the project and the absence of direct pathways there are no effects identified to the ecological integrity of the SPA. Based on this rationale, Baldoyle Bay SPA has been screened-out for potential impacts.

004025	Malahide Estuary SPA	c. 11799	**[A005] Great Crested Grebe (Podiceps cristatus)** **[A046] Light-bellied Brent Goose (Branta bernicla hrota)** **[A048] Shelduck (Tadorna tadorna)** **[A054] Pintail (Anas acuta)** **[A067] Goldeneye (Bucephala clangula)** **[A069] Red-breasted Merganser (Mergus serrator)** **[A130] Oystercatcher (Haematopus ostralegus)** **[A140] Golden Plover (Pluvialis apricaria)** **[A141] Grey Plover (Pluvialis squatarola)** **[A143] Knot (Calidris canutus)** **[A149] Dunlin (Calidris alpina)** **[A156] Black-tailed Godwit (Limosa limosa)** **[A157] Bar-tailed Godwit (Limosa lapponica)** **[A162] Redshank (Tringa totanus)** **[A999] Wetland and Waterbirds**	This European Site is located entirely outside the proposed development site. At its nearest the designated site is c. 11.8 km northeast of the proposed developments site. There is no hydrological connectivity between the site and this European site (i.e. through surface or ground water pathways). Disturbance effects are known to be negligible beyond 1.5km and this SPA is 11.8 km from the proposed site. Given the distance between the proposed project and the SPA, the small-scale temporary nature of the project and the absence of direct pathways there are no effects identified to the ecological integrity of the SPA. Based on this rationale, Malahide Estuary SPA has been screened-out for potential impacts.
004113	Howth Head Coast SPA	c. 13122	**[A188] Kittiwake (Rissa tridactyla)**	This European Site is located entirely outside the proposed development site. At its nearest the designated site is c. 13.1 km east of the proposed developments site. There is no hydrological connectivity between the site and this European site (i.e. through surface or ground water pathways). Disturbance effects are known to be negligible beyond 1.5km and this SPA is 13.1 km from the proposed site. Given the distance between the proposed project and the SPA, the small-scale temporary nature of the project and the absence of direct pathways there are no effects identified to the ecological integrity of the SPA. Based on this rationale, Howth Head Coast SPA has been screened-out for potential impacts.
004172	Dalkey Islands SPA	c. 13672	**[A192] Roseate Tern (Sterna dougallii)** **[A193] Common Tern (Sterna hirundo)** **[A194] Arctic Tern (Sterna paradisaea)**	This European Site is located entirely outside the proposed development site. At its nearest the designated site is c. 13.6 km southeast of the proposed developments site. There is no hydrological connectivity between the site and this European site (i.e. through surface or ground water pathways). Disturbance effects are known to be negligible beyond 1.5km and this SPA is 13.6 km from the proposed site. Given the distance between the proposed project and the SPA, the small-scale temporary nature of the project and the absence of direct pathways there are no effects identified to the ecological integrity of the SPA. Based on this rationale, Dalkey Islands SPA has been screened-out for potential impacts.

004040	Wicklow Mountains SPA	c. 13682	**[A098] Merlin (Falco columbarius)** **[A103] Peregrine (Falco peregrinus)**	This European Site is located entirely outside the proposed development site. At its nearest the designated site is c. 13.6 km south of the proposed developments site. There is no hydrological connectivity between the site and this European site (i.e. through surface or ground water pathways). Disturbance effects are known to be negligible beyond 1.5km and this SPA is 13.6 km from the proposed site. Given the distance between the proposed project and the SPA, the small-scale temporary nature of the project and the absence of direct pathways there are no effects identified to the ecological integrity of the SPA. Based on this rationale, Wicklow Mountains SPA has been screened-out for potential impacts.
004117	Ireland's Eye SPA	c. 13109	**[A017] Cormorant (Phalacrocorax carbo)** **[A184] Herring Gull (Larus argentatus)** **[A188] Kittiwake (Rissa tridactyla)** **[A199] Guillemot (Uria aalge)** **[A200] Razorbill (Alca torda)**	This European Site is located entirely outside the proposed development site. At its nearest the designated site is c. 13.1 km northeast of the proposed developments site. There is no hydrological connectivity between the site and this European site (i.e. through surface or ground water pathways). Disturbance effects are known to be negligible beyond 1.5km and this SPA is 13.1 km from the proposed site. Given the distance between the proposed project and the SPA, the small-scale temporary nature of the project and the absence of direct pathways there are no effects identified to the ecological integrity of the SPA. Based on this rationale, Ireland's Eye SPA has been screened-out for potential impacts.

Section 5: ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS

The available information on the relevant Natura 2000 sites was reviewed to establish whether the proposed development site is likely to have a significant effect on any European Site. The potential for impacts on the features of interest is identified using information collated from the desk study in conjunction with the ecological appraisal data presented below in **Section 3**.

The likelihood of impacts occurring are established in light of the type and scale of the project, the location of the project with respect to the Natura 2000 Sites and the features of interest and conservation objectives of the relevant Natura 2000 Sites.

The assessment was carried out following the source-pathway-receptor model. The potential impacts are summarized into the following categories for screening process.

- Direct impacts which refer to habitat loss or fragmentation arising from possible land-take requirements for development. Direct impacts can be as a result of a change in land use or management (e.g. the removal of agricultural practices which prevent scrub encroachment).
- Indirect and secondary impacts do not have a straight-line route between source and receptor. As a result, it is often difficult to ensure that all the possible indirect impacts of the plan or development, in combination with other plans and projects are established.
- Indirect and secondary impacts can occur when a development alters the hydrology of a catchment area, which in turn affects the movement of groundwater to a site and the qualifying interests that rely on the maintenance of water levels.
- Deterioration in water quality can occur as an indirect consequence of a development, which in turn changes the aquatic environment and reduces its capacity to support certain plants and animals.
- Disturbance to fauna can occur directly through the loss of habitat (e.g. potential bat roosts) or indirectly through noise, vibration and increased activity associated with construction and operation.

Site-Specific Conservation Objectives (SSCOs) have been prepared for a number of European sites. These detailed SSCOs aim to define favourable conservation condition for the qualifying habitats and species at that site by setting targets for appropriate attributes which define the character habitat. The maintenance of the favourable condition for these habitats and species at the site level will contribute to the overall maintenance of favourable conservation status of those habitats and species at a national level.

Favourable conservation status of a species can be described as being achieved when:

'Population data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself, and the natural range of the species is neither being reduced or likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future, and there is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis.'

Favourable conservation status of a habitat can be described as being achieved when:

'Its natural range, and area it covers within that range, is stable or increasing, and the ecological factors that are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future, and the conservation status of its typical species is favourable'.

A Generic Conservation Objective for a SAC is as follows:
To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected.

A Generic Conservation Objective for a SPA is as follows:
To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA.

5.1 Identification of potential significant effects

The features of Qualifying Interests/Special Conservation Interest(s) for the relevant European Sites are presented above in **Table 4.1**. Potential impacts, both direct and indirect, as a result of the proposed development were identified in the previous section and summarized below. The potential for cumulative impacts to occur and likelihood of effects being significant are also discussed below.

Direct Impacts
The construction phase of the proposed development will not result in any direct impacts to the relevant European Sites due to the distance of these Natura 2000 Sites from the proposed development site, in addition the proposed development will not result in any loss of habitat or fragmentation of habitats which form part of the relevant European Sites.

Indirect Impacts
There is no hydrological connectivity between the site and any European Site (i.e. through surface or ground water pathways).

Disturbance effects are known to be negligible beyond 1.5km and the nearest European Site (i.e. South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA) is located c. 1500 m south of the proposed development site. However, given the small-scale temporary nature of the project and the characteristics of the site, there are no effects identified to the ecological integrity of any European Site. In addition, no pathways were identified between the Site and any Natura 2000 Sites. Therefore, there is no risk of any indirect impact on Natura 2000 Sites during the construction and operational phasesof the proposed development.

The proposed development site is approximately 2.98 ha in size of primarily Built Land and Artificial Surfaces (BL3) and Tree lines (WL2) and it does not offer habitats suitable for species listed as conservation interest for the relevant European Sites which may forage terrestrially, outside the designated site boundaries. Given the minor scale of the proposed development and distance between the proposed development site and the relevant European Sites, it is not likely that species listed asconservation interest will be negatively impacted by noise or activity during the construction phase of the proposed development.

Thus, it is considered that the proposed development does not have the potential to impact, directly or indirectly, any of the species or habitats listed as features of interest of the relevant European Sites (i.e. South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA).

Section 6: IN-COMBINATION AND CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

The proposed development was considered in combination with other plans and projects in the locality that could result in cumulative/in-combination effects on the relevant European Sites. Cumulative effects can result from individually insignificant but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time or concentrated within an area or location.

Cumulative effects can occur where a proposed development results in impacts that when considered in-combination with impacts caused by other proposed or permitted projects and plans may result in a cumulative effect. Plans or Projects Which Might Act in Combination Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive requires that, any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the European site(s) but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site(s) in view of the site's conservation objectives.

A search of the Dublin City County Council planning enquiry system (https://planning.agileapplications.ie/dublincity), and the EIA portal was carried out on the 30th of July 2024. Finalized applications lodged within the vicinity of the proposed development within the last 5 years were examined. Planning applications within the last 5 years in the locality of theproposed development site consisted primarily of applications for alterations and extensions to existing buildings, along with the construction of small-scale developments (**See Table 6.1**).

The majority of these developments are small scale in nature and given the scale of the proposed development and the distance between the development site and the relevant Natura 2000 Sites, it is not considered that potential cumulative effects and resulting impacts from the proposed works will occur.

In the absence of any potential impacts to the relevant Natura 2000 Sites due to the proposed development there is no pathway for other existing permitted or proposed plans and projects to act in-combination and to give rise to cumulative impacts.

Table 6.1: Other plans and projects in the locality.

Planning reference	proposal	Characteristics of the potential interactions between the projects; sources and pathways	Is there a risk of in-combination effects	Are significant in-combination effects likely
0415/23	The Clontarf to City Centre Cycle & Bus Priority Project (C2CC Project) will provide segregated cycling facilities and bus priority infrastructure along a 2.7km route that extends from Clontarf Road at the junction with Alfie Byrne Road, to Amiens Street at the junction with Talbot Street.	Provide high quality, continuous and consistent cycling facilities to cater for existing and future demand; Improve the urban realm, landscape and built environment along the route; Protect vulnerable road users through the delivery of a safe and attractive route for commuter and recreational cycling, and the upgrade and provision of additional pedestrian crossings; Improve bus journey times and reliability; Simplify the interchange between bus services and other transport modes; Reduce reliance on private car transport; Provide for a reduction in transport emissions through encouraging a modal shift to active travel and public transport use;	No	No
HA06D.317121	The Swords to City Scheme is part of the BusConnects Dublin programme, a key element of the Government's policy to improve public transport and address climate change. The objectives of the Scheme include provision of necessary bus, cycle, and walking	The aim of the Proposed Scheme is to provide improved walking, cycling and bus infrastructure on this key access corridor in the Dublin region, which will enable and deliver efficient, safe, and integrated sustainable transport movement along the corridor. The Proposed Scheme is a key measure that delivers on commitments within the National Development Plan (2021-2030), the Transport Strategy for the Greater	No	No

	infrastructure enhancements that will facilitate modal shift from car dependency contributing to an efficient, low carbon and climate resilient City.	Dublin Area (2022-2042) the Climate Action Plan (2023) and the National Planning Framework 2040.		
0425/23	The MetroLink project aims to develop a new high-capacity high frequency segregated rail corridor from Charlemont to Swords, via Dublin Airport. The MetroLink Project integrates with Irish Rail, Dublin Bus and Luas services to provide a fully integrated public transport system in the Greater Dublin Area. The corridor is predominately in tunnel and includes 16 new stations, including 11 underground stations, and a park and ride facility.	MetroLink will deliver transformative public transportation infrastructure for Ireland and the Greater Dublin Area, the first of its kind for the country. MetroLink's high-capacity, high-frequency, modern and efficient metro railway with 16 new stations running from Swords to Charlemont will link Dublin Airport, Irish Rail, DART, Dublin Bus and Luas services and create a fully integrated public transport network with major interchanges at Glasnevin and Tara. MetroLink is being designed with full accessibility and active travel modes such as walking and cycling at its core. As well as linking major transport hubs, MetroLink will connect key destinations including the Mater and Rotunda Hospitals, Dublin City University (DCU) and Trinity College Dublin (TCD) and serve such communities as Swords, Ballymun, Glasnevin, Ranelagh and all points in between. Much of the 18.8km route will run underground, an exciting innovation for Irish public transport. MetroLink's fully automated trains will run every three minutes during peak periods. MetroLink will be capable of delivering a service frequency of one train every 90 seconds to accommodate growing passenger numbers when required. The system will be capable of carrying up to 20,000 passengers per direction per hour in each direction. For comparison, current Luas Green Line services can carry approximately 9,000 passengers per direction per hour. Passengers will be able to travel from Swords to Dublin city centre in approximately 25 minutes.	No	No

The existing public roads, paved surfaces and roadside verges are not specifically zoned for development under the Dublin City Development Plan 2022-2028. Other areas adjoining the scheme are zoned for existing residential, community services/facilities use (e.g. Sustainable Residential Neighborhoods, Education, Recreation, Green Infrastructure) and open spaces (e.g. Amenity/Open Space Lands/Green Network) (Source interactive mapping tool, myplan.ie). It is a mature, settled area that is unlikely to be under development pressure in the short to medium term.

Section 7: SCREENING DETERMINATION

In accordance with the Habitats Directive, an Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening has been carried out on the proposed development, in relation to any potential impacts upon the relevant European Sites.

The proposed development works are unlikely to have any significant impact on any European Site due to the scale and remote distance of the proposed development site from the relevant designated sites and the intervening buffers including urban development, housing, road networks and amenity areas. All the relevant European Sites can therefore be screened out.

It can be concluded with certainty that, in view of the best scientific knowledge, and on the basis of objective information, the proposed works will not have a likely significant effect on any European Site. While no significant adverse effects are anticipated during the construction phase of the proposed development, measures will be taken to prevent any potential pollution from the proposed construction works.

As the potential effects that could arise from the proposed development have been examined in the context of several factors that could potentially affect the integrity of any Relevant European Site(s). On the basis of the findings of this Screening for AA, it is concluded that the proposed development:

- Is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of any European Site(s).
- And will not have a likely significant adverse effect on the integrity of any European Site(s).

Therefore, in conclusion Stage 2 AA is not required for the proposed development. On the basis of this screening assessment which determined that, in view of best scientific knowledge and in the absence of mitigation measures, potential likely significant effects from the proposed development can be ruled out, in view of the conservation objectives of these European Sites. In addition, there is no potential for significant adverse effects from the proposed development, alone or in-combination with other plans and projects, on the integrity of these European Sites.

Section 8: REFERENCES

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Section 9: APPENDICES

Appendix 1. MAPS & FIGURES

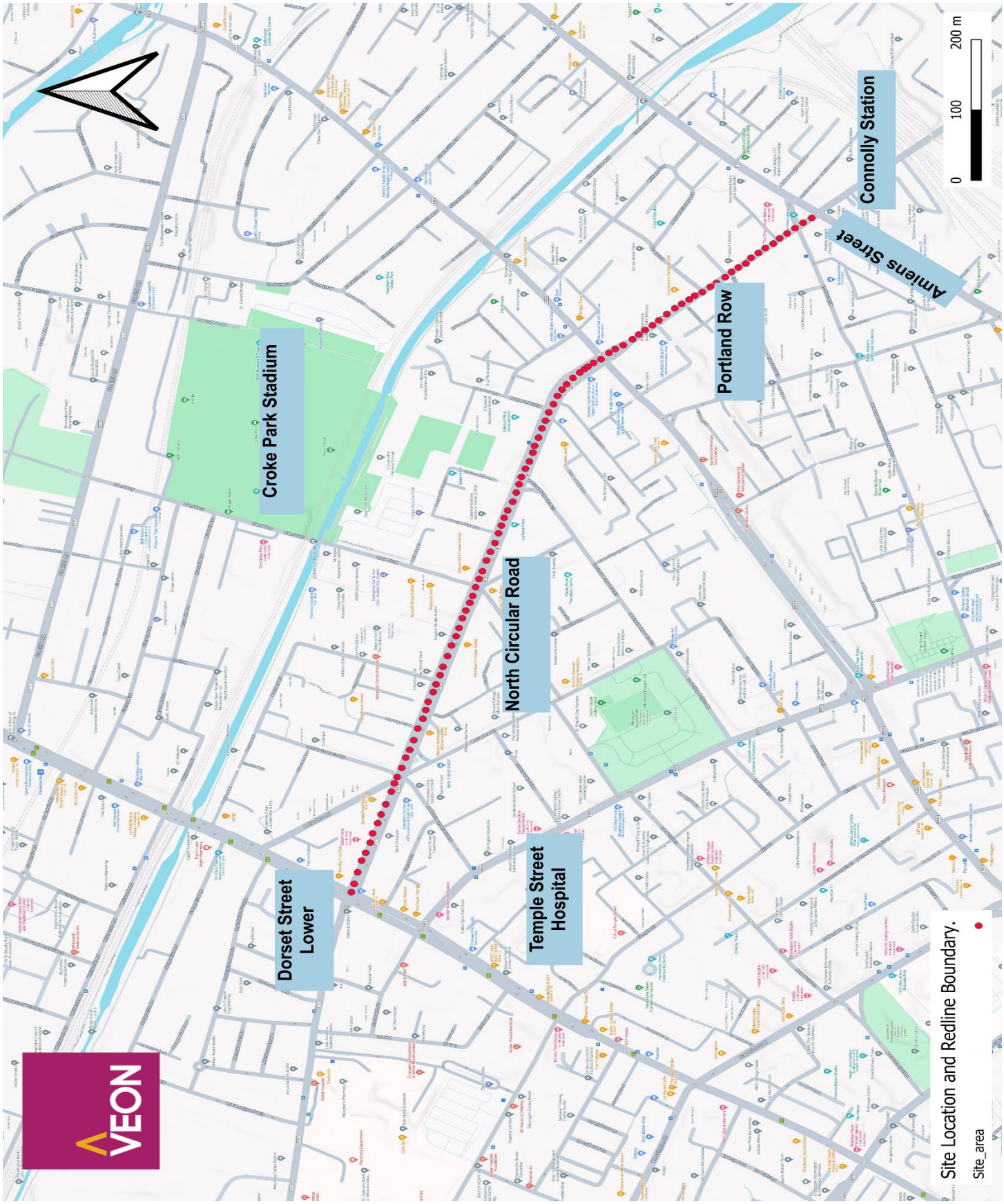

Figure 9.1: Proposed Development Site Location and Redline Boundary.

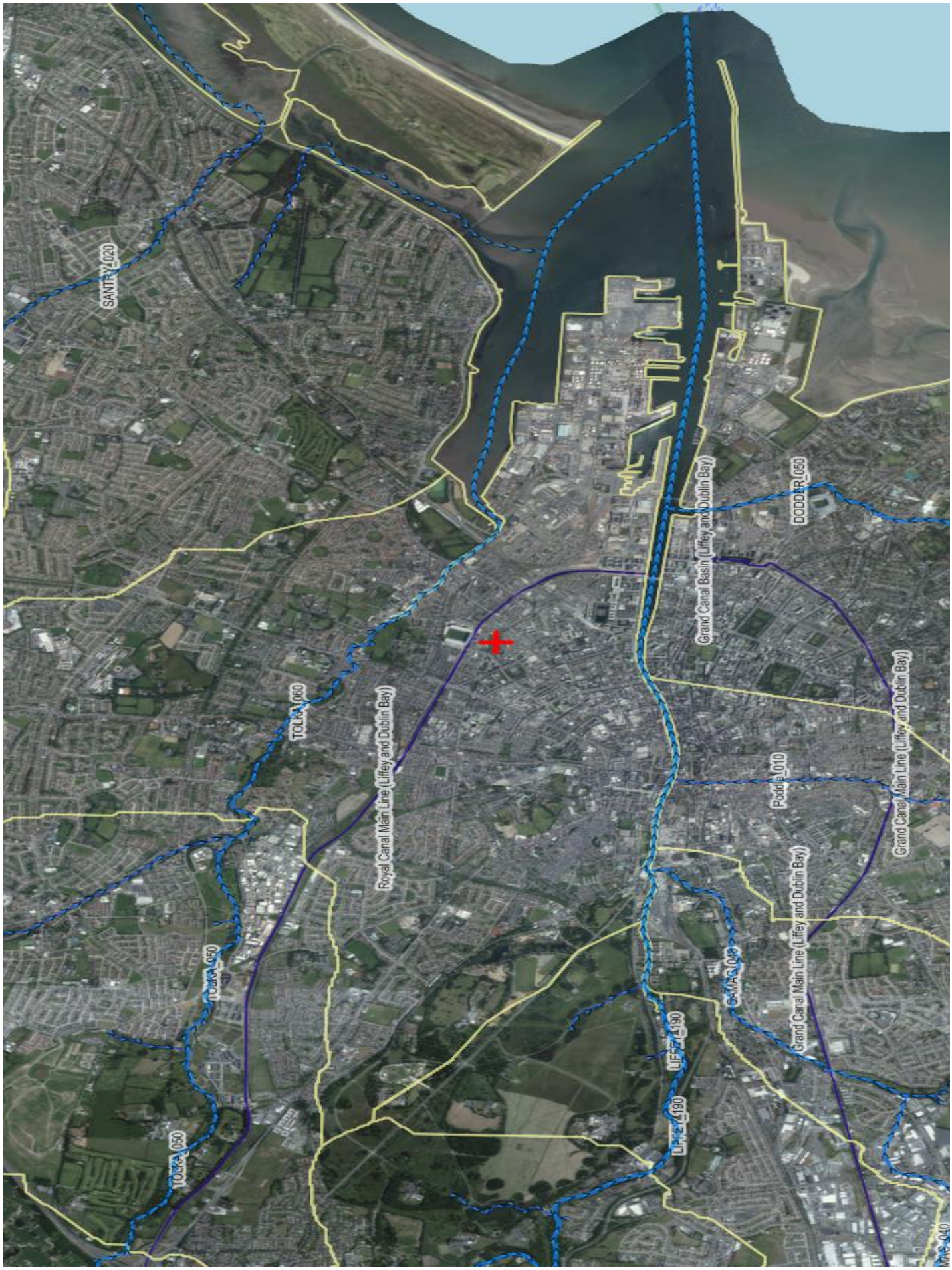

Figure 9.2: River and Waterbody Network in the vicinity of Project Area.

Figure 9.3: Soil Profile, National Soils.

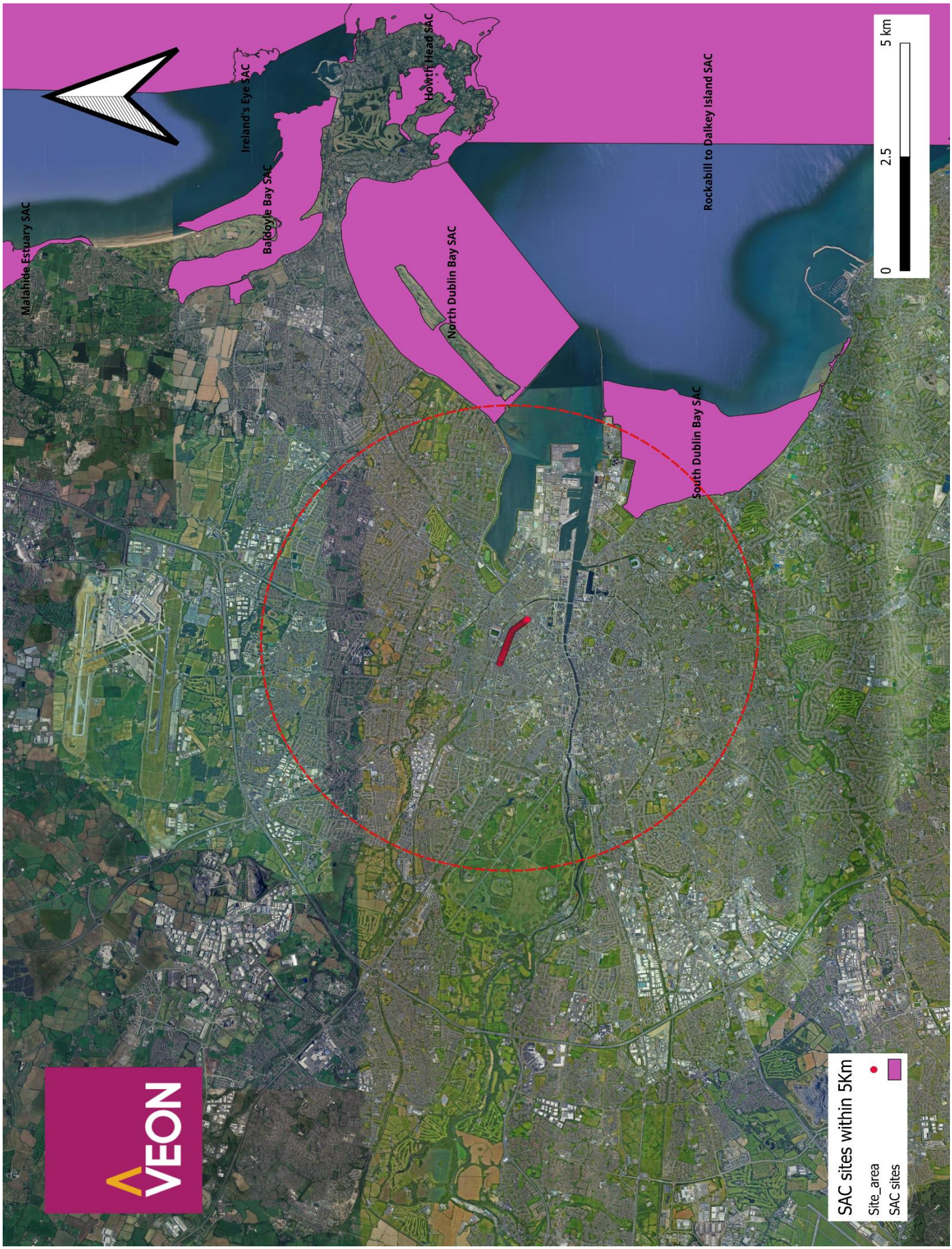

Figure 9.4: Natura 2000 SAC Sites within 5km.

Figure 9.5: Natura 2000 SPA Sites within 5km.

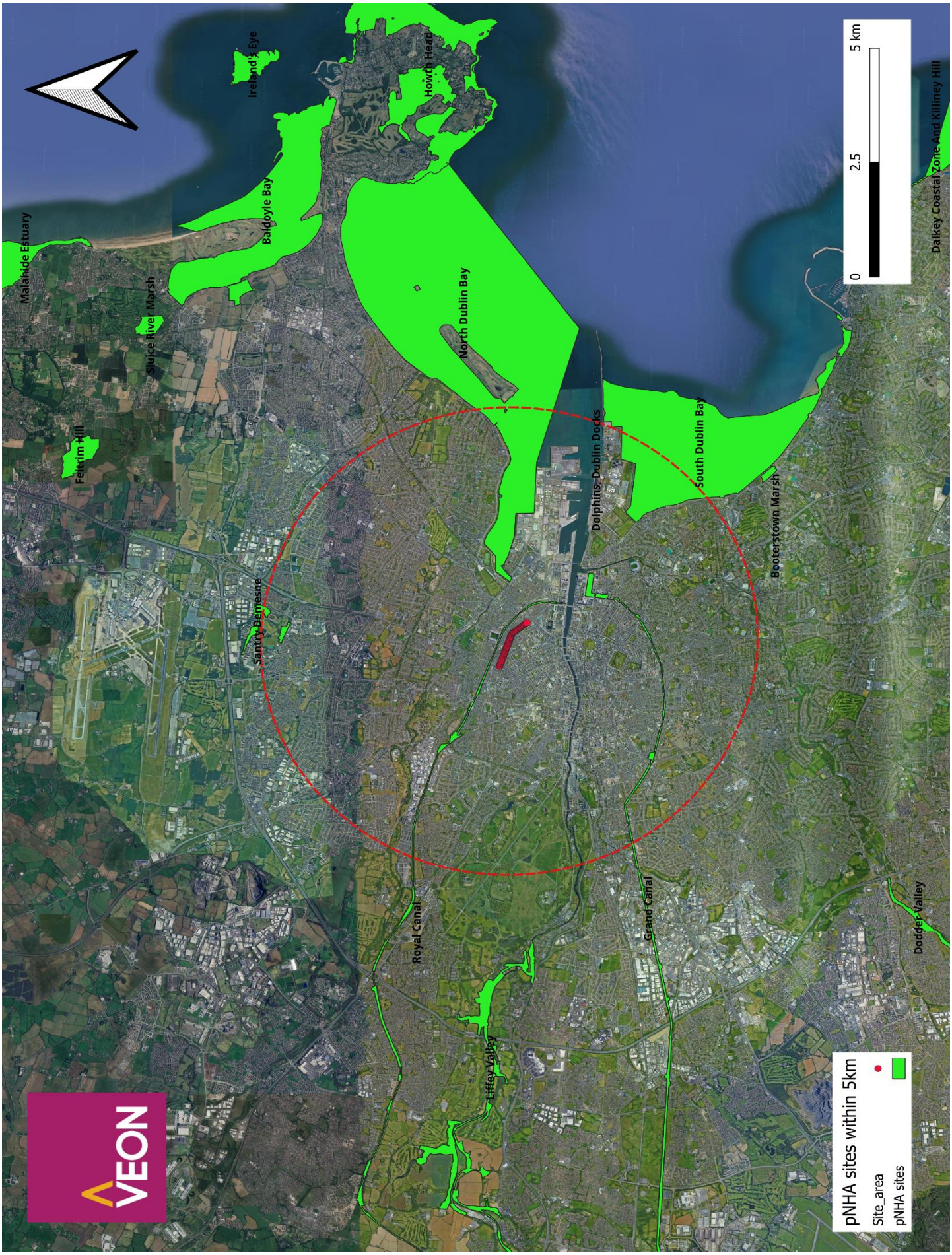

Figure 9.6: pNHA Sites within 5km.

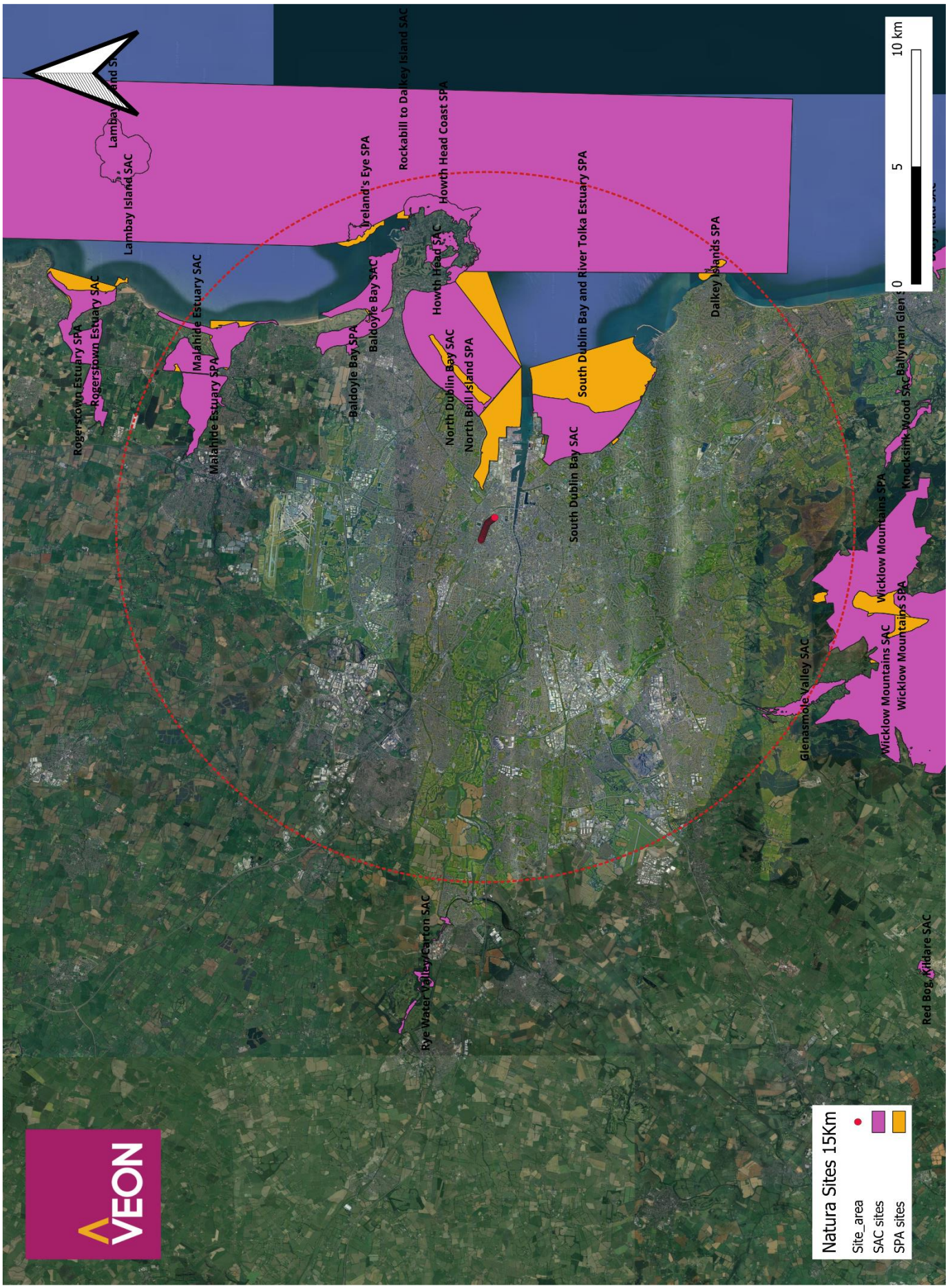

Figure 9.7: Natura Sites within 15km.

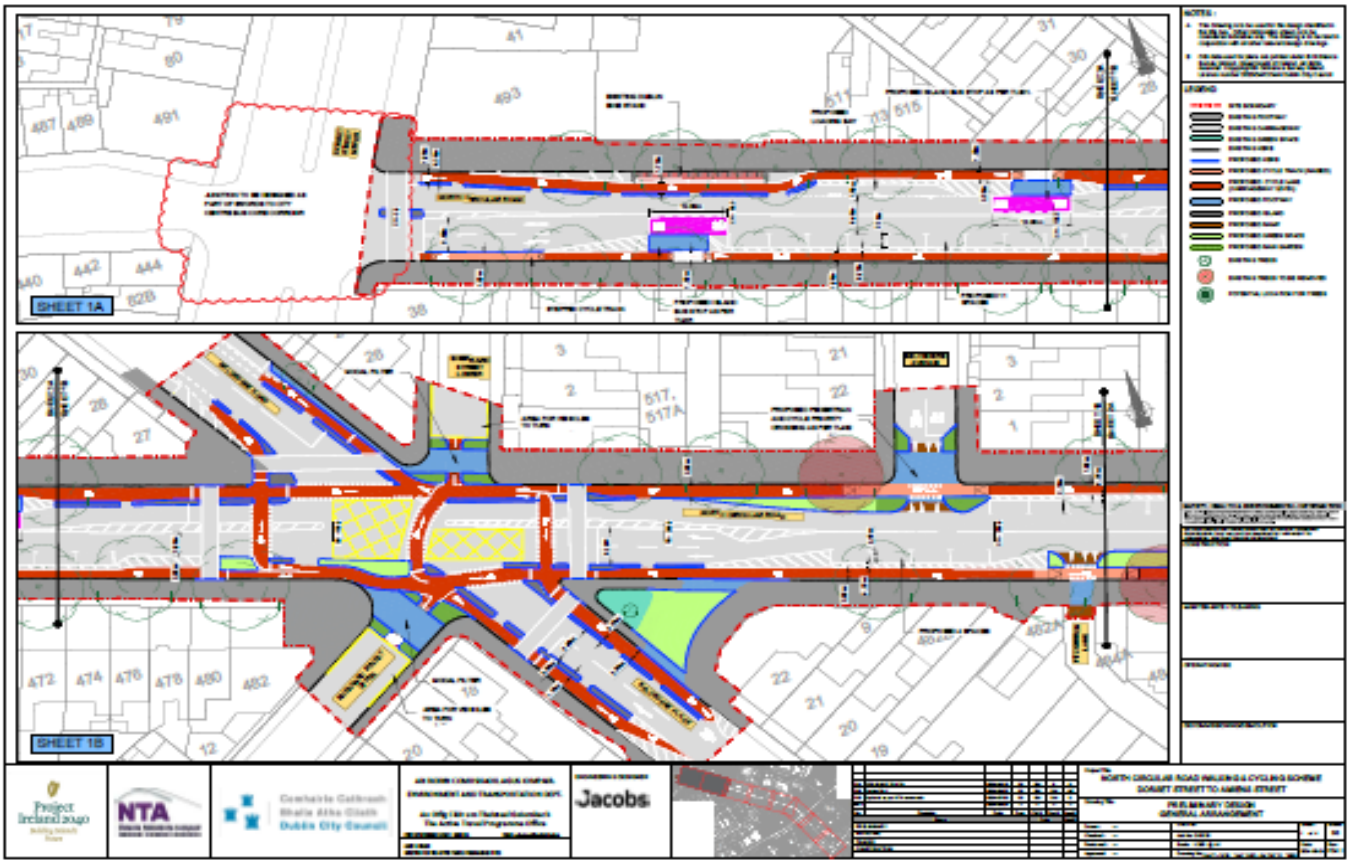

Figure 9.8: Sheet 1A and 1B.

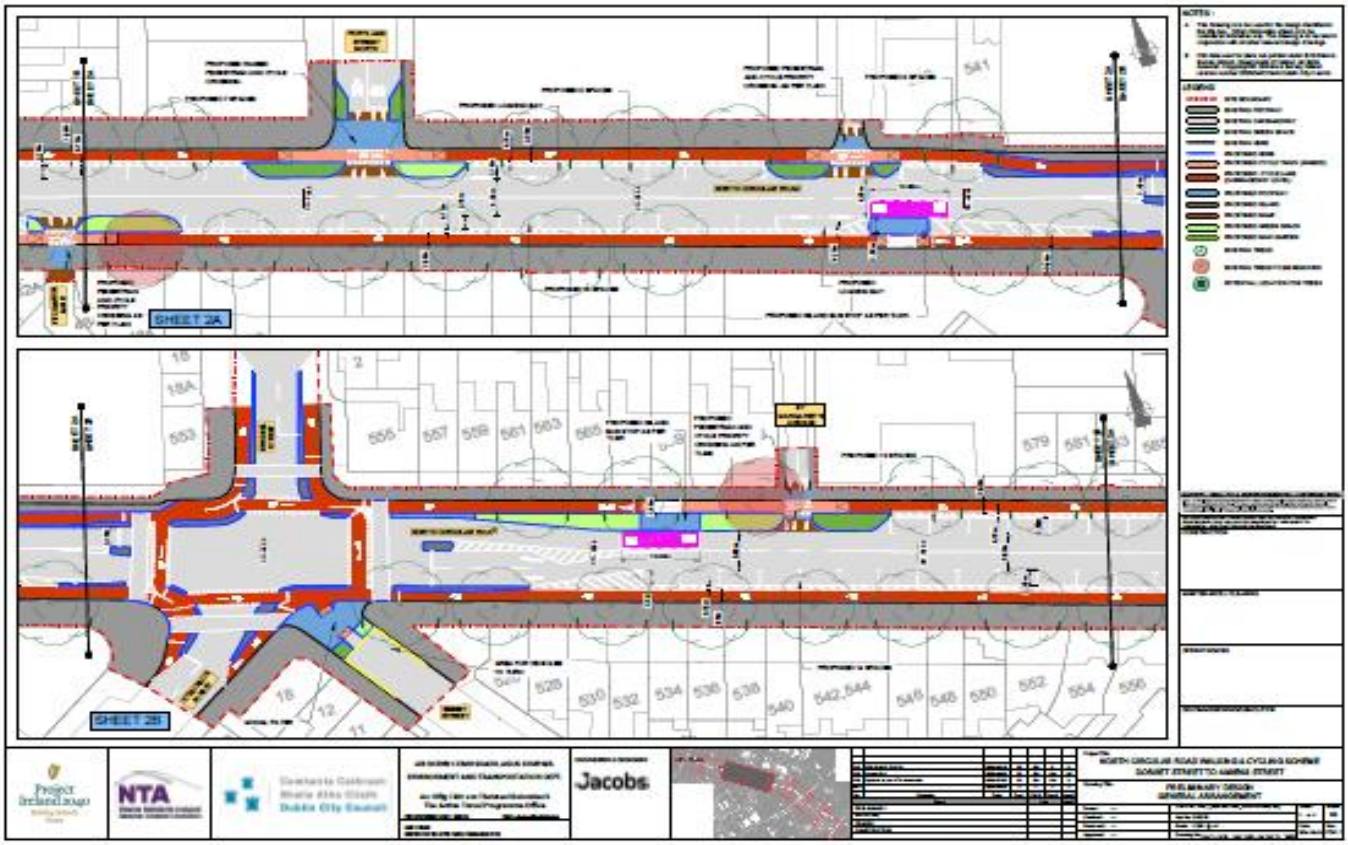

Figure 9.9: Sheet 2A and 2B.

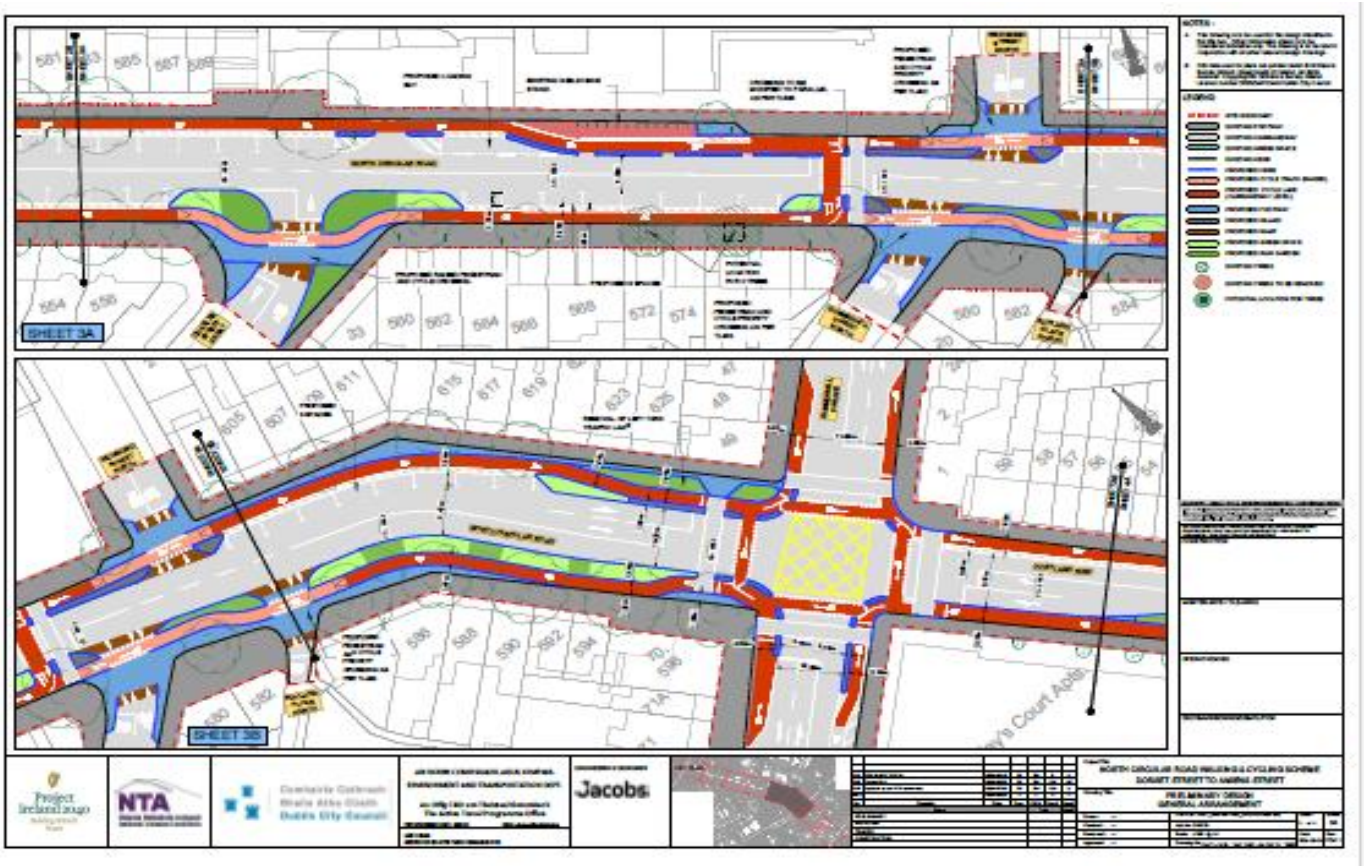

Figure 9.9: Sheet 3A and 3B.

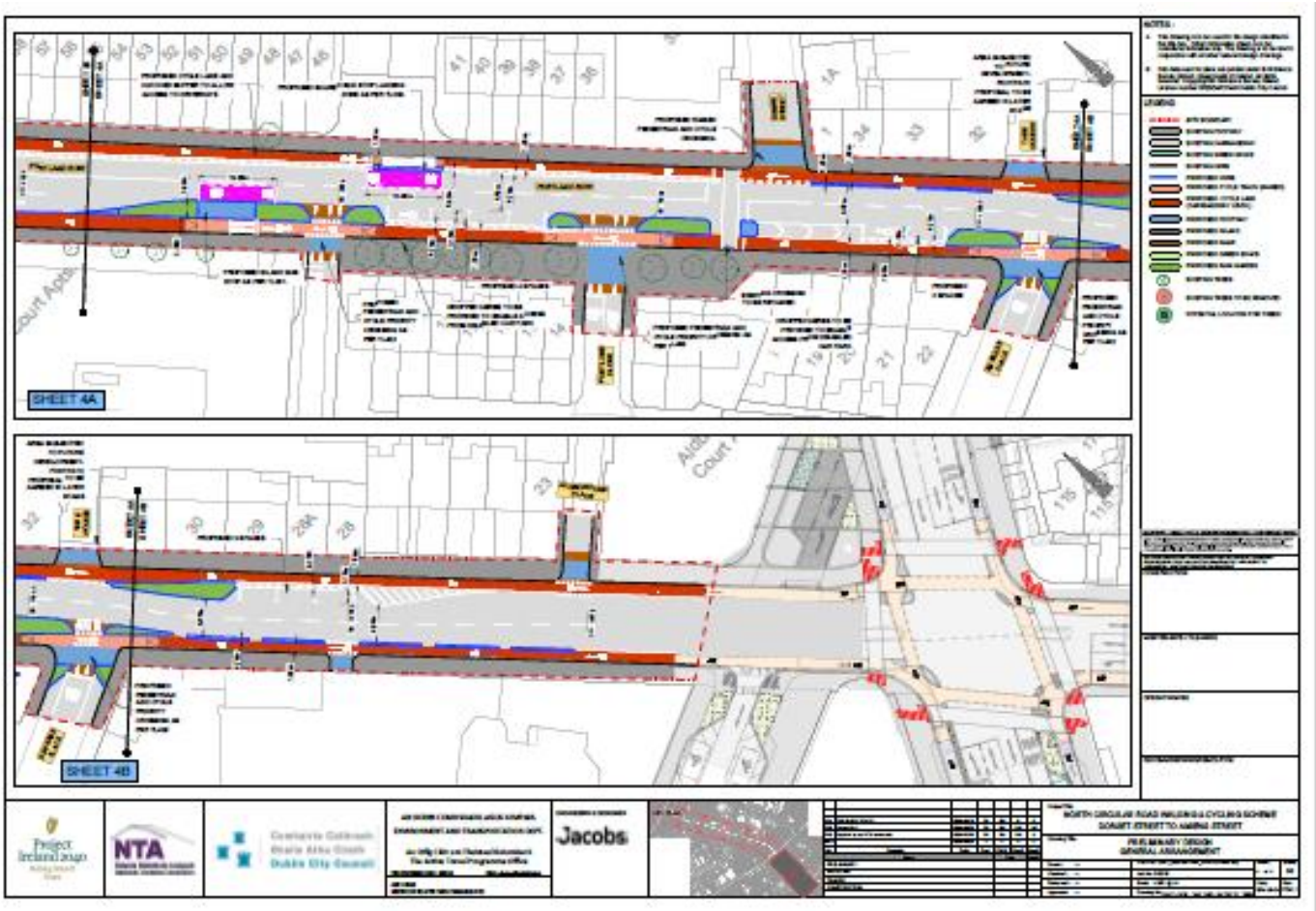

Figure 9.10: Sheet 4A and 4

Appendix 2. ECOLOGICAL APPRAISAL

1. Introduction

This report has been prepared to inform a Screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA) undertaken by Veon Ecology. A detailed walkover survey was undertaken on the 26th of June 2024 by Pascal Mc Kenna, MSIF BSc Hons with Veon Ltd. The location of the project is within the urban built environment from Coolock to Clontarf, Co. Dublin. The site layout covers a narrow construction envelope of existing built surfaces and amenities. The area of the proposed development redline boundary is approximately 2.98 ha. The extent of the site is approximately 1.1 km in length.

An ecological data search for the survey site and the surrounding area was reviewed through the NBDC andbiodiversity Ireland. In addition, aerial mapping and ordnance survey maps were reviewed to identify any features ofinterest within and surrounding the survey site (e.g. large ponds).

2. Site Overview

The proposed development site is located from Dorset Street lower to Amiens Street (See Location Map, **Figure 2.1**). The Walking & Cycling scheme commences at the Dorset Street Lower / North Circular Road junction, heading south-eastward along the North Circular Road to its junction with Summerhill, then southward along Portland Row to its junction with Amiens Street (The Five Lamps). This is referred to hereafter as "The Scheme".

Dublin City Council have identified the Scheme for developing a walking and cycle design. The proposed scheme will deliver a cycle route approximately 1.1km long, in an area of 2.98ha. The route forms part of the National Transport Authority's GDA Cycle Network Plan. The scheme will provide quality, protected cycling facilities to cater for all ages and abilities. It will facilitate a more active lifestyle for all ages bringing multiple benefits for physical and mental wellbeing.

The proposed scheme is located within a highly populated urban area. The route traverses through generally suburban neighborhoods providing access to secondary schools, as well as services, amenities and recreational facilities. The proposed development footprint is highly urbanized and heavily car dominated. It is surrounded by buildings, parking spaces and footways.

The habitats within the study area have been assessed, following a detailed desktop study, and were cross referenced with 'A Guide to Habitats in Ireland' (Fossitt, 2000). Aerial Images and photographs illustrating the key areas to which the proposed development is applicable are provided in **Appendix 3**. The primary habitats within the proposed development area comprise of Built Land and Artificial Surfaces (BL3) and Tree lines (WL2).

Numerous species of overwintering birds are known to utilize the surrounding areas within the estuary of the River Tolka located c. 850m beyond the northern site boundary. Given the scale of the project and habitats present, species of conservation concern are unlikely to occur within the area of the works and immediately adjacent. However, given the proximity of the site to the Tolka River estuary and Dublin Bay, numerous species of conservation concern are almost certain to occur within the wider area of the site, primarily overwintering bird species, many of which are Qualifying Interests of the South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA (004024).

Currently, the most significant hydrological feature near the proposed development site is the Royal Canal Main Line (Liffey and Dublin Bay) (EPA Code: IE_09_AWB_RCMLE), situated approximately 200m north of the development site's boundary at Charleville Mall. TOLKA_060 (EPA code: IE_EA_09T011150) lies 850m to the north-east of the development site, adjacent to the South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA. LIFFEY_190 (EPA code: IE_EA_09L012360) is located 1100m south-east of the development site, adjoining the North-West Irish Sea SPA.

3. Habitat & Vegetation Description

The habitats identified within the survey area are outlined below:

Built land (BL)
- Buildings and Artificial Surface (BL3)

Linear woodland/Scrub (WL)
- Tree Lines (WL2)

The features of these habitats and associated micro-habitats are described below with their suitability for biodiversity conservation within the context of the project. Photographs of the individual macro-habitats identified within the survey site are included for illustration purposes in **Appendix 3**.

3.1 Built Land (BL)

Buildings and Artificial Surface (BL3)

The overall development footprint wherein the proposed works are located includes this habitat type, which is mostly comprised of gravel, concrete and tarmac surfaces along with urban developments, amenities and recreational facilities. The areas of BL3 are highly disturbed with regular pedestrian footfall traffic and vehicle traffic. Vegetation is virtually absent from these areas. This type of habitat is species-poor and regularly disturbed.

3.2 LINEAR WOODLAND/ SCRUB (WL)

Tree lines (WL2)

The proposed development footprint includes tree lines intended for landscaping purposes.

4. Ecological Appraisal & Species Recorded

As part of this report the relevant historic records from the National Biodiversity Data Centre (NBDC) were accessed and the findings included as part of the overall biodiversity summary of the site.

4.1 Volant & Non-Volant Mammals

Historic NBDC records for protected volant and non-volant mammals were reviewed within the 2km grid squares surrounding the proposed development site and tabulated below in Further Appendices.

Bat Habitat Appraisal

Historic records of bats were recorded within the 2km grid squares on which the site is located. The overall suitability of the area for bat activity was low (18.89). The habitat suitability index for 'All bats' and for each individual species of bat is presented below (**See Table 9.1 below**). The index ranges from 0 to 100, with 100 being most suitable for bats. The area is deemed as less favorable for bat activity with some local areas of abundance likely due to the suitable habitats surrounding the survey area, thus it cannot be ruled out that bats may use the site for foraging and/or commuting through the site or along its boundaries, particularly along the hedgerows and tree lines.

Table 9.1: Bat Suitability Index for the site and its surrounding area (NBDC, 2024).

Suitability index for different bat species:		
Common Name	**Scientific Name**	**Suitability Score**
Soprano pipistrelle	*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*	29
Brown long-eared bat	*Plecotus auritus*	17
Common pipistrelle	*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*	40
Lesser horseshoe bat	*Rhinolophus hipposideros*	0
Leisler's bat	*Nyctalus leisleri*	33
Whiskered bat	*Myotis mystacinus*	11
Daubenton's bat	*Myotis daubentonii*	9
Nathusius' pipistrelle	*Pipistrellus nathusii*	16
Natterer's bat	*Myotis nattereri*	15
Total Score for All Bat Species		**18.89**

Eurasian Badger (*Meles meles*)

Badgers weren't recorded within the 2km grid squares on which the site is located. Due to the unsuitability of the habitatssurrounding the survey site, it is unlikely that badgers will use the site. However, it cannot be ruled out that these species may use the site for passageway between areas.

Otter (*Lutra lutra*)

Otters were not recorded within the 2km grid squares in which the site is located. Due to the unsuitability of the habitats within the survey site, it is unlikely that otters will use the site. However, it cannot be ruled out that these species may use the site for passageway between areas.

Other non-volant mammals

Evidence of other protected mammal species such as Eurasian red squirrel, Irish hare, West European Hedgehog and Pygmy Shrew were recorded within the 2km grid squares in which the site is located. Suitable habitats for these species are present in the larger geographic area. Thus, it cannot be ruled out that these species may use the site for passageway between areas.

4.2 Amphibians

The Common Frog (*Rana temporaria*) and Smooth Newt (*Lissotrition vulgaris*) were recorded in the 2km grid squares surrounding the site. Due to the unsuitability of the habitats within the survey site, it is unlikely that these species will use the site.

4.3 Reptiles

The Common Lizard (*Zootoca vivipara*) was not recorded in the 2km grid square wherein the site is located.

4.4 Birds/Avifauna

Protected birds recorded in the NBDC 2km grid squares which may utilize the site, wider site, or adjacent habitats are listed below in **Section 6: Further Appendices**. Numerous species of overwintering birds are known to utilize the areas within the estuary of the River Tolka located beyond the southern site boundary. Given the scale of the project and habitats present, species of conservation concern are unlikely to occur within the area of the works and immediately adjacent. However, given the proximity of the site to the Tolka River estuary, numerous species of conservation concern are almost certain to occur within the wider area of the site, primarily overwintering bird species, many of which are Qualifying Interests of the South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA (004024).

5. Further References

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6. Further Appendices

Table 9.2: Bird species recorded in 2km² grid surrounding the site (NBDC, 2023).

Bird species recorded in 2km²	
Species Name	**Designations/Conservation Status**
Barn Swallow (Hirundo rustica)	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts || Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern || Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List
Black Guillemot (Cepphus grylle)	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts || Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern || Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List
Black-headed Gull (Larus ridibundus)	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts || Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern || Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Red List
Black-legged Kittiwake (Rissa tridactyla)	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts || Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern || Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List
Brent Goose (Branta bernicla)	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts || Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern || Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List
Common Coot (Fulica atra)	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts || Protected Species: EU Birds Directive || Protected Species: EU Birds Directive >> Annex II, Section I Bird Species || Protected Species: EU Birds Directive >> Annex III, Section II Bird Species || Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern || Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List
Common Kingfisher (Alcedo atthis)	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts || Protected Species: EU Birds Directive || Protected Species: EU Birds Directive >> Annex I Bird Species || Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern || Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List
Common Linnet (Carduelis cannabina)	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts || Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern || Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List
Common Starling (Sturnus vulgaris)	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts || Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern || Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List
Common Swift (Apus apus)	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts || Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern || Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List
Common Tern (Sterna hirundo)	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts || Protected Species: EU Birds Directive || Protected Species: EU Birds Directive >> Annex I Bird Species || Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern || Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List
Common Wood Pigeon (Columba palumbus)	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts || Protected Species: EU Birds Directive || Protected Species: EU Birds Directive >> Annex II, Section I Bird Species || Protected Species: EU Birds Directive >> Annex III, Section I Bird Species
Eurasian Curlew (Numenius arquata)	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts || Protected Species: EU Birds Directive || Protected Species: EU Birds Directive >> Annex II, Section II Bird Species || Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern || Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Red List
Great Cormorant (Phalacrocorax carbo)	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts || Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern || Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List
Herring Gull (Larus argentatus)	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts || Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern || Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Red List
House Martin (Delichon urbicum)	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts || Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern || Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List
House Sparrow (Passer domesticus)	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts || Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern || Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List
Lesser Black-backed Gull (Larus fuscus)	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts || Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern || Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List
Little Egret (Egretta garzetta)	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts || Protected Species: EU Birds Directive || Protected Species: EU Birds Directive >> Annex I Bird Species
Mallard (Anas platyrhynchos)	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts || Protected Species: EU Birds Directive || Protected Species: EU Birds Directive >> Annex II, Section I Bird Species || Protected Species: EU Birds Directive >> Annex III, Section I Bird Species
Mew Gull (Larus canus)	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts || Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern || Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List
Mute Swan (Cygnus olor)	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts || Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern || Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List
Northern Lapwing (Vanellus vanellus)	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts || Protected Species: EU Birds Directive || Protected Species: EU Birds Directive >> Annex II, Section II Bird Species || Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern || Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Red List
Peregrine Falcon (Falco peregrinus)	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts || Protected Species: EU Birds Directive || Protected Species: EU Birds Directive >> Annex I Bird Species
Rock Pigeon (Columba livia)	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts || Protected Species: EU Birds Directive || Protected Species: EU Birds Directive >> Annex II, Section I Bird Species
Sand Martin (Riparia riparia)	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts || Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern || Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List
Spotted Flycatcher (Muscicapa striata)	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts || Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern || Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List
Tufted Duck (Aythya fuligula)	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts || Protected Species: EU Birds Directive || Protected Species: EU Birds Directive >> Annex II, Section I Bird Species || Protected Species: EU Birds Directive >> Annex III, Section II Bird Species || Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern || Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List

Table 9.3: Protected Mammal species recorded in 2km² grid surrounding the site (NBDC, 2024).

Protected Mammal species recorded in 2km²	
Species Name	**Designations/Conservation Status**
European Otter (Lutra lutra)	Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive || Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex II || Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex IV || Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
Lesser Noctule (Nyctalus leisleri)	Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive || Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex IV || Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
Nathusius's Pipistrelle (Pipistrellus nathusii)	Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive || Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex IV || Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
Soprano Pipistrelle (Pipistrellus pygmaeus)	Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive || Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex IV || Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
West European Hedgehog (Erinaceus europaeus)	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts

Table 9.4: Protected amphibian species recorded in 2km² grid surrounding the site (NBDC, 2024).

Protected Amphibian species recorded in 2km²	
Species Name	**Designations/Conservation Status**
Common Frog (Rana temporaria)	Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive || Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex V || Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
Smooth Newt (Lissotriton vulgaris)	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts

Appendix 3. PHOTOGRAPHS

Photograph 10.1: Corner of Amiens and Portland row

Photograph 10.2: Portland row towards north circular

Photograph 10.3: Portland row, north circular junction.

Photograph 10.4: North circular towards Dorset Street.