

Appendix 9.1

Appropriate Assessment

**Report for the purposes of
Appropriate Assessment Screening**

**as required under Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive
(Council Directive 92/43/EEC)**

College Green Project

**Prepared by: Moore Group – Environmental Services
May 2017**



**On behalf of Dublin City Council
& An Bord Pleanála**

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Appendix A – Finding Of No Significant Effect Report

1. Introduction

1.1. General Introduction

This report contains information required for the competent authority to undertake an Appropriate Assessment (AA) process on the effects of a project consisting of the development of Traffic Management Measures and a Civic Plaza at College Green in Dublin City.

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

- i) whether a plan or project is directly connected to or necessary for the management of the site, and
- ii) whether a plan or project, alone or in combination with other plans and projects, is likely to have significant effects on a Natura 2000 site in view of its conservation objectives.

If the effects are deemed to be significant, potentially significant, or uncertain, or 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 or project.

When screening the project there are two possible outcomes:

- the project poses no risk of a significant effect and as such requires no further assessment; and
- the project has potential to have a significant effect (or this is uncertain) and AA of the project is necessary.

This report has been prepared by Moore Group - Environmental Services for An Bord Pleanála and assesses the potential for the proposed development to impact on sites of European-scale ecological importance in accordance with Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive. The report was compiled by Ger O'Donohoe (B.Sc. Applied Aquatic Sciences (GMIT, 1993) & M.Sc. Environmental Sciences (TCD, 1999)) who has over 20 years' experience in environmental impact assessment and has completed numerous Appropriate Assessment Screening Reports and Natura Impact Statements in terrestrial and aquatic habitats.

The report assesses the potential for the proposed development to impact on sites of European-scale ecological importance. It is necessary that the Project has regard to Article 6 of the Council Directive

92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (as amended) (referred to as the Habitats Directive). This is transposed into Irish Law by the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011 (S.I. 477) (referred to as the Habitats Regulations).

1.2. Legislative Background - The Habitats and Birds Directives

The Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora) is the main legislative instrument for the protection and conservation of biodiversity in the EU. Under the Directive Member States are obliged to designate Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) which contain habitats or species considered important for protection and conservation in a European Union context.

The Birds Directive (Council Directive 79/409/EEC as codified by Directive 2009/147/EC), is concerned with the long-term protection and management of all wild bird species and their habitats in the EU. Among other things, the Directive requires that Special Protection Areas (SPAs) be established to protect migratory species and species which are rare, vulnerable, in danger of extinction, or otherwise require special attention.

Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) designated under the Habitats Directive and Special Protection Areas, designated under the Birds Directive, form a pan-European network of protected sites known as Natura 2000. The Habitats Directive sets out a unified system for the protection and management of SACs and SPAs.

Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive set out the requirement for an assessment of proposed plans and projects likely to affect Natura 2000 sites.

Article 6(3) establishes the requirement to screen all plans and projects and to carry out a further assessment if required (Appropriate Assessment (AA)):

Article 6(3): "Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subjected to an 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 general public.”

Article 6(4): “If, in spite of a negative assessment of the implications for the site and in the absence of alternative solutions, a plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature, Member States shall take all compensatory measures necessary to ensure that the overall coherence of the Natura 2000 is protected. It shall inform the Commission of the compensatory measures adopted. Where the site concerned hosts a priority natural habitat type and/or a priority species the only considerations which may be raised are those relating to human health or public safety, to the beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment or, further to an opinion from the Commission, to other imperative reasons of overriding public interest.”

This Report for Screening is a documentary record of the Appropriate Assessment process on the effects of a project consisting of the development of Traffic Management Measures and a Public Plaza at College Green in Dublin City, referred to in this case as the Project.

2. Methodology

The Commission’s methodological guidance (EC, 2002) promotes a four-stage process to complete the AA, and outlines the issues and tests at each stage. An important aspect of the process is that the outcome at each successive stage determines whether a further stage in the process is required.

Stages 1-2 deal with the main requirements for assessment under Article 6(3). Stage 3 may be part of Article 6(3) or may be a necessary precursor to Stage 4. Stage 4 is the main derogation step of Article 6(4).

Stage 1 Screening: This stage examines the likely effects of a project either alone or in combination with other projects upon a Natura 2000 site and considers whether it can be objectively concluded that these effects will not be significant.

Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment: In this stage, there is a consideration of the impact of the project with a view to ascertain whether there will be any adverse effect on the integrity of the Natura 2000 site either

alone or in combination with other projects or plans, with respect to the site's structure and function and its conservation objectives. Additionally, where there are predicted impacts, an assessment of the potential mitigation of those impacts.

Stage 3 Assessment of Alternative Solutions: This stage examines alternative ways of implementing the project that, where possible, avoid any adverse impacts on the integrity of the Natura 2000 site.

Stage 4 Assessment 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 sites will be necessary.

To ensure that the Project complies fully with the requirements of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive and all relevant Irish transposing legislation, Moore Group compiled this report for screening of the Project to determine if Stage 2 AA is required.

2.1. Guidance

The AA has been compiled in accordance with guidance contained in the following documents:

- Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland - Guidance for Planning Authorities. (Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2010 rev.).
- Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive: Guidance for Planning Authorities. Circular NPWS 1/10 & PSSP 2/10.
- Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly Affecting Natura 2000 sites: Methodological Guidance on the Provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (European Commission Environment Directorate-General, 2001); hereafter referred to as the EC Article Guidance Document.
- Managing Natura 2000 Sites: The Provisions of Article 6 of the Habitat's Directive 92/43/EEC (EC Environment Directorate-General, 2000); hereafter referred to as MN2000.

2.2. Data Sources

Sources of information that were used to collect data on the Natura 2000 network of sites are listed below:

- Ordnance Survey of Ireland mapping and aerial photography available from www.osi.ie and Bing and Google Earth aerial photography (2017).

- Online data available on Natura 2000 sites as held by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) from www.npws.ie including; the Natura 2000 network Data Form; Site Synopsis; Generic Conservation Objective data;
 - Online database of rare, threatened and protected species,
 - Publicly accessible biodiversity datasets.
- Status of EU Protected Habitats in Ireland. (National Parks & Wildlife Service, 2013),
- Relevant Development Plans and Local Area Plans in neighbouring areas.

3. Description of the Project

The project is the College Green Traffic Management Measures and Civic Plaza which will be carried out at College Green and surrounding streets. The proposal will allow for the creation of a civic plaza area in College Green from Church Lane to Lower Grafton Street with all through traffic except pedestrians and cyclists being removed., see Figure 1 for the site location in Dublin City.



Figure 1. Scheme extents of the College Green Traffic Management Measures and Civic Plaza project in Dublin City.

The proposed development will consist of;

Traffic Management Proposals on College Green including:

- No through east-west traffic movements in the College Green area except for pedestrians and cyclists.
- Two-way segregated cycle track at the Bank of Ireland opposite Trinity College.
- Bus turn-around arrangement on Dame Street, west of the Plaza area.

The project involves the carrying out of works as well as the change of the character and intensity of use over an extensive area of the city centre business district. The proposed development, therefore, constitutes 'development' arising from;

- The carrying out of works over a large extent of a city centre [urban] location.
- The significant alteration of the nature and character of the use [alteration from vehicular to pedestrian use, alteration of appearance].
- The significant alteration of the intensity of the use [increase in pedestrian and reduction in vehicular movements].

The core area of works, involving the alteration of surface pavement, kerbs, street furniture, signage and utilities extends east-west from the Central Bank Plaza to the front of Trinity College. It extends north-south from the end of Grafton Street to Westmoreland Street. This core area falls within an area of approximately 1.3 hectares.

4. Identification of Natura 2000 Sites

4.1. Description of Natura Sites Potentially Affected

Departmental guidance suggests an assessment of Natura 2000 sites within a zone of influence of 15 km which can be revised down depending on the proposed development and location of Natura 2000 sites. There are 16 Natura 2000 sites located within a 15km radius of the project study area including the following:

- 000199 Baldoyle Bay SAC (10.5 km)
- 000202 Howth Head SAC (11.5 km)
- 000205 Malahide Estuary SAC (14 km)
- 000206 North Dublin Bay SAC (5.5 km)
- 000210 South Dublin Bay SAC (2.5 km)

- 001209 Glenasmole Valley SAC (13 km)
- 002193 Ireland's Eye SAC (14.5 km)
- 003000 Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC (11.5 km)
- 004006 North Bull Island SPA (7 km)
- 004016 Baldoyle Bay SPA (10.5 km)
- 004024 South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA (3.5 km)
- 004025 Malahide Estuary SPA (14 km)
- 004040 Wicklow Mountains SPA (12 km)
- 004113 Howth Head Coast SPA (11.5 km)
- 004117 Ireland's Eye SPA (14.5 km)
- 004172 Dalkey Island SPA (13 km)

Of the 16 Natura 2000 sites identified, a number of these are not considered to have any direct ecological or hydrological connectivity to the proposed development site, by which a significant impact could arise.

These sites include:

- 000199 Baldoyle Bay SAC
- 000202 Howth Head SAC
- 000205 Malahide Estuary SAC
- 001209 Glenasmole Valley SAC
- 002193 Ireland's Eye SAC
- 003000 Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC
- 004016 Baldoyle Bay SPA
- 004025 Malahide Estuary SPA
- 004040 Wicklow Mountains SPA
- 004113 Howth Head Coast SPA
- 004117 Ireland's Eye SPA
- 004172 Dalkey Island SPA

It is determined that there is no potential for significant effect on these sites and they are screened out at this preliminary stage for the following reasons:

- Distance from the development site,
- There is no direct connection between the site of the proposed development and these three sites,
- The potential for indirect impacts is unlikely due to distance and lack of connectivity.

The development location at College Green is then considered in terms of source-pathway-receptor relationship and proximity to the River Liffey with regards direct ecological and hydrological connectivity to Dublin Bay. There are four Natura 2000 sites located within a potential zone of influence of the development:

- 000206 North Dublin Bay SAC
- 000210 South Dublin Bay SAC
- 004006 North Bull Island SPA
- 004024 South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA

The location of the development site is presented in Figure 2 below in relation to the Natura 2000 sites considered within the potential zone of influence. These are listed in Tables 1 and 2 below and Site Synopses are available on the NPWS metadata site. Spatial boundary data on the Natura 2000 network was extracted from the NPWS website on 20th January 2017.

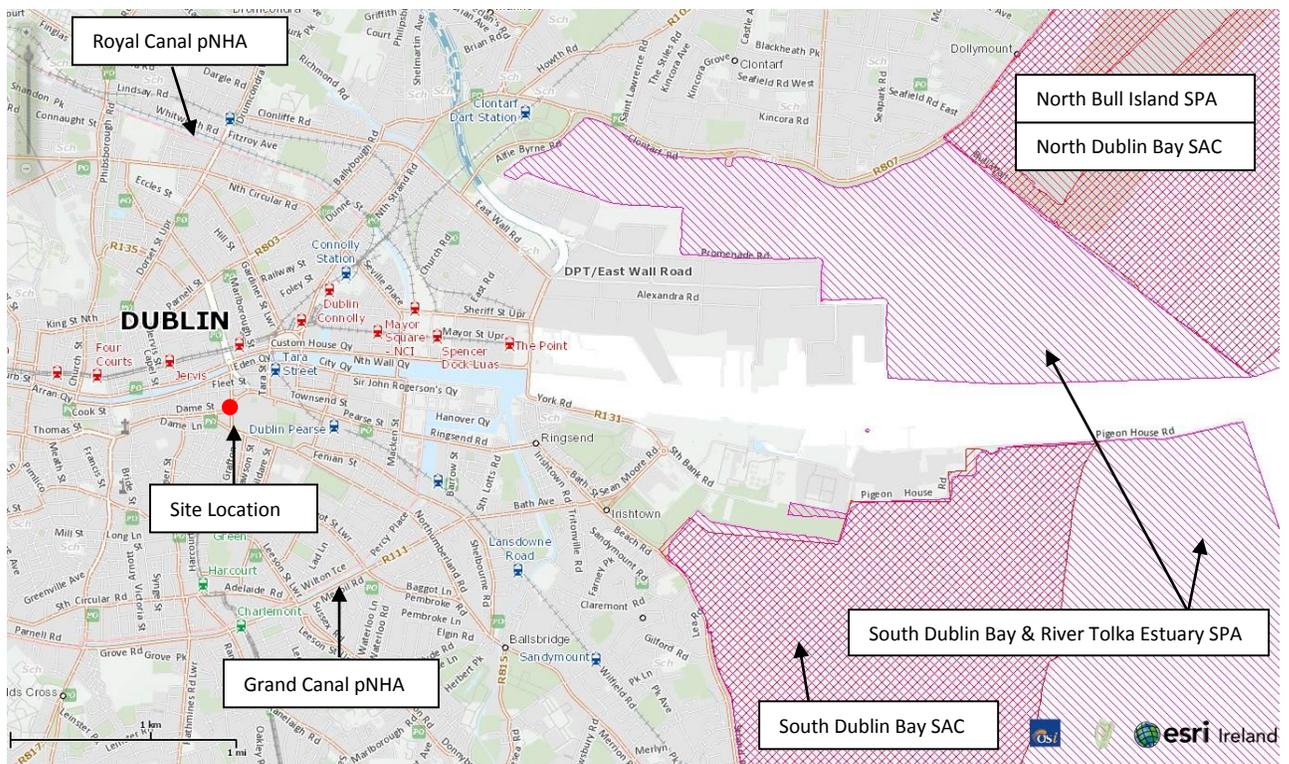


Figure 2. Site Location at College Green in relation to downstream Natura 2000 sites.

Table 1. SACs located within the zone of influence of the Project (*indicates priority habitat).

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Habitats	Qualifying Species
000206	North Dublin Bay SAC	[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 [1330] Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>) [1410] Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [2110] Embryonic shifting dunes [2120] Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> ("white dunes") [2130] * Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("grey dunes") [2190] Humid dune slacks	[1395] <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i>
000210	South Dublin Bay SAC	[1140] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide	

Table 2. SPAs located within the zone of influence of the Project.

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Habitats	Qualifying Species
004006	North Bull Island SPA	Wetlands [A999]	Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046] Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048] Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052] Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) [A054] Shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>) [A056] Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130] Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140] Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143] Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144] Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149] Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156] Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157] Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160] Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162] Turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>) [A169] Black-headed Gull (<i>Larus ridibundus</i>) [A179]

004024	South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA	Wetlands [A999]	Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046] Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130] Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137] Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143] Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144] Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149] Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157] Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162] Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179] Roseate Tern (<i>Sterna dougallii</i>) [A192] Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193] Arctic Tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) [A194]
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4.2. Conservation Objectives of the Natura 2000 Sites

The following Conservation Objectives, available from the NPWS, are set out for the SAC. Specific attributes, measures and targets are presented in the Conservation Objectives document and will be addressed in more detail if required after potential impacts have been determined.

North Dublin Bay SAC [000206]. Version 1. 6th November 2013;

1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide

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

Habitat area: Hectares- The permanent habitat area is stable or increasing, subject to natural processes.

Community extent: Hectares- Maintain the extent of the *Mytilus edulis*-dominated community, subject to natural processes.

Community structure: *Mytilus edulis* density: Individuals/m²- Conserve the high quality of the *Mytilus edulis* dominated community, subject to natural processes.

Community distribution: Hectares- Conserve the following community types in a natural condition: Fine sand to sandy mud with *Pygospio elegans* and *Crangon crangon* community complex; Fine sand with *Spio martinensis* community complex.

1210 Annual vegetation of drift lines

To restore the favourable conservation condition of Annual vegetation of drift lines in North Dublin Bay SAC, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Habitat area: Hectares- Area increasing, subject to natural processes, including erosion and succession. Total area mapped: South Bull - 0.11ha.

Habitat distribution: Occurrence- No decline, or change in habitat distribution, subject to natural processes.

Physical structure: functionality and sediment supply: Presence/ absence of physical barriers- Maintain the natural circulation of sediment and organic matter, without any physical obstructions.

Vegetation structure: zonation: Occurrence- Maintain the range of coastal habitats including transitional zones, subject to natural processes including erosion and succession.

Vegetation composition: typical species and sub-communities: Percentage cover- at a representative number of monitoring stops Maintain the presence of species-poor communities with typical species: sea rocket (*Cakile maritima*), sea sandwort (*Honckenya peploides*), prickly saltwort (*Salsola kali*) and oraches (*Atriplex* spp.).

Vegetation composition: negative indicator species: Percentage cover- Negative indicator species (including non-natives) to represent less than 5% cover

1310 *Salicornia* and other annuals colonising mud and sand

To restore the favourable conservation condition of *Salicornia* and other annuals colonizing mud and sand in North Dublin Bay SAC, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Habitat area: Hectares Area- stable or increasing, subject to natural processes, including erosion and succession. For sub-site mapped: North Bull Island - 29.10ha.

Habitat distribution: Occurrence- No decline, or change in habitat distribution, subject to natural processes.

Physical structure: sediment supply: Presence/ absence of physical barriers- Maintain, or where necessary restore, natural circulation of sediments and organic matter, without any physical obstructions.

Physical structure: creeks and pans: Occurrence- Maintain creek and pan structure, subject to natural processes, including erosion and succession.

Physical structure: flooding regime: Hectares- flooded; frequency Maintain natural tidal regime.

Vegetation structure: zonation: Occurrence- Maintain the range of coastal habitats including transitional zones, subject to natural processes including erosion and succession.

Vegetation structure: vegetation height: Centimetres- Maintain structural variation within sward.

Vegetation structure: vegetation cover: Percentage cover at a representative number of monitoring stops- Maintain more than 90% of area outside creeks vegetated.

Vegetation composition: typical species and sub-communities: Percentage cover- Maintain the presence of species-poor communities listed in SMP (McCorry and Ryle, 2009).

Vegetation structure: negative indicator species - *Spartina anglica*: Hectares- No significant expansion of common cordgrass (*Spartina anglica*), with an annual spread of less than 1%.

1330 Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*)

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*) in North Dublin Bay SAC, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Habitat area: Hectares- Area stable or increasing, subject to natural processes, including erosion and succession. For sub-site mapped: North Bull Island - 81.84ha.

Habitat distribution: Occurrence- No decline or change in habitat distribution, subject to natural processes.

Physical structure: creeks and pans: Occurrence- Maintain creek and pan structure, subject to natural processes, including erosion and succession.

Physical structure: flooding regime: Hectares- flooded; frequency Maintain natural tidal regime.

Vegetation structure: zonation: Occurrence- Maintain range of coastal habitats including transitional zones, subject to natural processes including erosion and succession.

Vegetation structure: vegetation height: Centimetres- Maintain structural variation within sward.

Vegetation structure: vegetation cover: Percentage cover at a representative number of monitoring stops- Maintain more than 90% area outside creeks vegetated.

Vegetation composition: typical species and sub-communities: Percentage cover at a representative sample of monitoring stops- Maintain range of sub-communities with typical species listed in SMP (McCorry and Ryle, 2009).

Vegetation structure: negative indicator species - *Spartina anglica*: Hectares- No significant expansion of common cordgrass (*Spartina anglica*), with an annual spread of less than 1%.

1410 Mediterranean salt meadows (*Juncetalia maritimi*)

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Mediterranean salt meadows (*Juncetalia maritimi*) in North Dublin Bay SAC, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Habitat area: Hectares- Area stable or increasing, subject to natural processes, including erosion and succession. For sub-site mapped: North Bull Island - 7.98ha.

Habitat distribution: Occurrence- No decline or change in habitat distribution, subject to natural processes.

Physical structure: sediment supply: Presence/absence of physical barriers- Maintain/restore natural circulation of sediments and organic matter, without any physical obstructions.

Physical structure: creeks and pans: Occurrence- Maintain creek and pan structure, subject to natural processes, including erosion and succession.

Physical structure: flooding regime: Hectares- flooded; frequency Maintain natural tidal regime.

Vegetation structure: zonation: Occurrence- Maintain range of coastal habitats including transitional zones, subject to natural processes including erosion and succession.

Vegetation structure: vegetation height: Centimetres- Maintain structural variation in the sward.

Vegetation structure: vegetation cover: Percentage cover at a representative sample of monitoring stops- Maintain more than 90% of area outside creeks vegetated.

Vegetation composition: typical species and sub-communities: Percentage cover at a representative number of monitoring stops- Maintain range of sub-communities with characteristic species listed in SMP (McCorry and Ryle, 2009).

Vegetation structure: negative indicator species - *Spartina anglica*: Hectares- No significant expansion of common cordgrass (*Spartina anglica*), with an annual spread of less than 1%.

2110 Embryonic shifting dunes

To restore the favourable conservation condition of Embryonic shifting dunes in North Dublin Bay SAC, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Habitat area: Hectares- Area stable or increasing, subject to natural processes, including erosion and succession. For sub-sites mapped: North Bull - 2.64ha; South Bull - 3.43ha.

Habitat distribution: Occurrence- No decline or change in habitat distribution, subject to natural processes.

Physical structure: functionality and sediment supply: Presence/absence of physical barriers- Maintain the natural circulation of sediment and organic matter, without any physical obstructions.

Vegetation structure: zonation: Occurrence- Maintain the range of coastal habitats including transitional zones, subject to natural processes including erosion and succession.

Vegetation composition: plant health of foredune grasses: Percentage cover- More than 95% of sand couch (*Elytrigia juncea*) and/or lyme-grass (*Leymus arenarius*) should be healthy (i.e. green plant parts above ground and flowering heads present).

Vegetation composition: typical species and sub-communities: Percentage cover at a representative number of monitoring stops- Maintain the presence of species-poor communities with typical species: sand couch (*Elytrigia juncea*) and/or lyme-grass (*Leymus arenarius*).

Vegetation composition: negative indicator species: Percentage cover- Negative indicator species (including non-native species) to represent less than 5% cover.

2120 Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* (white dunes)

To restore the favourable conservation condition of Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* ('white dunes') in North Dublin Bay SAC, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Habitat area: Hectares- Area stable or increasing, subject to natural processes including erosion and succession. North Bull - 2.20ha; South Bull - 0.97ha.

Habitat distribution: Occurrence- No decline, or change in habitat distribution, subject to natural processes.

Physical structure: functionality and sediment supply: Presence/ absence of physical barriers- Maintain the natural circulation of sediment and organic matter, without any physical obstructions.

Vegetation structure: zonation: Occurrence- Maintain the range of coastal habitats including transitional zones, subject to natural processes including erosion and succession.

Vegetation composition: plant health of dune grasses: Percentage cover- 95% of marram grass (*Ammophila arenaria*) and/or lyme-grass (*Leymus arenarius*) should be healthy (i.e. green plant parts above ground and flowering heads present).

Vegetation composition: typical species and sub-communities: Percentage cover at a representative number of monitoring stops- Maintain the presence of species-poor communities dominated by marram grass (*Ammophila arenaria*) and/or lyme grass (*Leymus arenarius*).

Vegetation composition: negative indicator species: Percentage cover- Negative indicator species (including non-natives) to represent less than 5% cover.

2130 Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes)

To restore the favourable conservation condition of Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation ('grey dunes') in North Dublin Bay SAC, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Habitat area: Hectares- Area stable or increasing, subject to natural processes including erosion and succession. For subsites mapped: North Bull - 40.29ha; South Bull - 64.56ha.

Habitat distribution: Occurrence- No decline, or change in habitat distribution, subject to natural processes.

Physical structure: functionality and sediment supply: Presence/ absence of physical barriers- Maintain the natural circulation of sediment and organic matter, without any physical obstructions.

Vegetation structure: zonation: Occurrence- Maintain the range of coastal habitats including transitional zones, subject to natural processes including erosion and succession.

Vegetation structure: bare ground: Percentage cover- Bare ground should not exceed 10% of fixed dune habitat, subject to natural processes.

Vegetation structure: sward height: Centimetres- Maintain structural variation within sward.

Vegetation composition: typical species and sub-communities: Percentage cover at a representative number of monitoring stops- Maintain range of sub-communities with typical species listed in Delaney et al. (2013).

Vegetation composition: negative indicator species (including *Hippophae rhamnoides*): Percentage cover- Negative indicator species (including non-natives) to represent less than 5% cover.

Vegetation composition: scrub/trees: Percentage cover- No more than 5% cover or under control.

2190 Humid dune slacks

To restore the favourable conservation condition of Humid dune slacks in North Dublin Bay SAC, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Habitat area: Hectares- Area increasing, subject to natural processes including erosion and succession. For sub-sites mapped: North Bull - 2.96ha; South Bull - 9.15ha.

Habitat distribution: Occurrence- No decline or change in habitat distribution, subject to natural processes.

Physical structure: functionality and sediment supply: Presence/ absence of physical barriers- Maintain the natural circulation of sediment and organic matter, without any physical obstructions.

Physical structure: hydrological and flooding regime: Water table levels; groundwater fluctuations (metres)- Maintain natural hydrological regime.

Vegetation structure: zonation: Occurrence- Maintain the range of coastal habitats including transitional zones, subject to natural processes including erosion and succession.

Vegetation structure: bare ground: Percentage cover- Bare ground should not exceed 5% of dune slack habitat, with the exception of pioneer slacks which can have up to 20% bare ground.

Vegetation structure: vegetation height: Centimetres- Maintain structural variation within sward.

Vegetation composition: typical species and sub-communities: Percentage cover at a representative number of monitoring stops- Maintain range of sub-communities with typical species listed in Delaney et al. (2013).

Vegetation composition: cover of *Salix repens*: Percentage cover; centimetres- Maintain less than 40% cover of creeping willow (*Salix repens*).

Vegetation composition: negative indicator species: Percentage cover- Negative indicator species (including non-natives) to represent less than 5% cover.

Vegetation composition: scrub/trees: Percentage cover- No more than 5% cover or under control.

1395 Petalwort *Petalophyllum ralfsii*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Petalwort in North Dublin Bay SAC, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Distribution of populations: Number and geographical spread of populations- No decline.

Population size: Number of individuals- No decline. Population at Bull Island estimated at a maximum of 5,824 thalli. Actual population is more likely to be 5% of this, or c. 300 thalli.

Area of suitable habitat: Hectares- No decline. Area of suitable habitat at Bull Island is estimated at c. 0.04ha.

Hydrological conditions: soil moisture: Occurrence- Maintain hydrological conditions so that substrate is kept moist and damp throughout the year, but not subject to prolonged inundation by flooding in winter.

Vegetation structure: height and cover: Centimetres and percentage- Maintain open, low vegetation with a high percentage of bryophytes (small acocarps and liverwort turf) and bare ground.

South Dublin Bay SAC [000210]. Version 1. 22nd August 2013;

1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide

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

Habitat area: Hectares- The permanent habitat area is stable or increasing, subject to natural processes.

Community extent: Hectares- Maintain the extent of the *Zostera*-dominated community, subject to natural processes.

Community structure: *Zostera* density: Shoots/m²- Conserve the high quality of the *Zostera*-dominated community, subject to natural processes.

Community distribution: Hectares- Conserve the following community type in a natural condition: Fine sands with *Angulus tenuis* community complex.

North Bull Island SPA [004006]. Version 1. 9th March 2015;

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of [Bird Species] in North Bull Island SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Population trend: Percentage change- Long term population trend stable or increasing

Distribution: Range, timing and intensity of use of areas- No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by [Bird Species], other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation.

A999 Wetlands

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of the wetland habitat in North Bull Island SPA as a resource for the regularly occurring migratory waterbirds that utilise it. This is defined by the following attribute and target:

Habitat area: Hectares- The permanent area occupied by the wetland habitat should be stable and not significantly less than the area of 1,713 hectares, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation.

South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA [004024]. Version 1. 9th March 2015;

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of [Bird Species] in South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Population trend: Percentage change- Long term population trend stable or increasing.

Distribution: Range, timing and intensity of use of areas- No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by [Bird Species], other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation.

The following species have the same COs:

A192 Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii*

A193 Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

A194 Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Roseate/ Common/Arctic Tern in South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Passage population: Number of individuals- No significant decline.

Distribution: roosting areas: Number; location; area (hectares)- No significant decline.

Prey biomass available: Kilogrammes- No significant decline.

Barriers to connectivity: Number; location; shape; area (hectares)- No significant increase.

Disturbance at roosting site: Level of impact- Human activities should occur at levels that do not adversely affect the numbers of Arctic tern among the post-breeding aggregation of terns.

A999 Wetlands

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of the wetland habitat in South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA as a resource for the regularly occurring migratory waterbirds that utilise it. This is defined by the following attribute and target:

Habitat area: Hectares- The permanent area occupied by the wetland habitat should be stable and not significantly less than the area of 2,192 hectares, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation.

4.3. Assessment Criteria**4.3.1. Examples of Direct, Indirect or Secondary Impacts**

To identify those sites that could be potentially affected, it is necessary to describe the Natura 2000 site in the context of why it has been designated i.e. in terms of its Qualifying Interests and the environmental and ecological conditions that maintain the condition of these features. The underpinning conditions that are required to maintain the 'health' of these features are listed in Table 3 below.

Table 3. Qualifying Interests and Key environmental conditions supporting site integrity.

Qualifying Interests	Key environmental conditions supporting site integrity	Current Threats to Qualifying Interests
Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>)	Marine and groundwater dependent. Medium sensitivity to hydrological change. Changes in salinity and tidal regime. Overgrazing, erosion and accretion.	Overgrazing; erosion; invasive species, particularly common cordgrass (<i>Spartina anglica</i>); infilling and reclamation.
Annual vegetation of drift lines	Marine and groundwater dependent. Sensitivity to hydrological change. Changes in salinity and tidal regime. Overgrazing, erosion and accretion.	Grazing, Sand and gravel extraction – removal of beach materials, Walking, horse riding and non-motorised vehicles, Outdoor sports and leisure activities – 21otorized vehicles, Other leisure and tourism impacts (beach cleaning), Trampling, overuse, Sea defence or coastal protection works
Embryonic shifting dunes	Marine and groundwater dependent. Substrate is highly unstable, availability of nutrients is low and there is an absence of organic soil and humus. The habitat is subject to salt spray and occasional tidal inundation. Exposure increases the risk of water loss.	Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, Motorised vehicles, Trampling, overuse, Sea defence or coastal protection works, Erosion, Other natural processes (depletion of sediment source)
* Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("grey dunes")	Marine and groundwater dependent. Once a complete sward is established and sand mobility has effectively ceased, dunes are said to be stable or 'fixed' and are referred to as 'fixed dunes'. A combination of geomorphologic, edaphic, climatic and anthropogenic factors determine the composition of the fixed dune vegetation that develops at a particular site.	Mowing/cutting, Agricultural improvement, Fertilisation, Grazing, Abandonment of pastoral systems, Overgrazing by sheep, Overgrazing by cattle, Overgrazing by hares, rabbits, small mammals, Undergrazing, Restructuring agricultural holding, Stock feeding, Burning, Sand and gravel extraction, Urbanised areas, human habitation, urbanization, Dispersed habitation, Disposal of household waste, Other urbanisation, industrial or similar activities, Paths, tracks, cycling routes, Routes, autoroutes, course, Sports pitch, Camping and caravans, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles,

		Motorised vehicles, , Trampling, overuse, pollution or human activities, Sea defence or coastal protection works, Erosion, Invasion by a species, Competition
Humid dune slacks	Marine and groundwater dependent. Sensitivity to hydrological change. Changes in salinity and tidal regime.	Agricultural improvement, Fertilisation, Grazing, Overgrazing by sheep, Overgrazing by cattle, Overgrazing by hare, rabbits, small mammals, Undergrazing, Restructuring agricultural land holding, Forestry, Stock feeding, Golf course, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, Motorised vehicles, Trampling, overuse, Drainage, human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Drying out, Invasion by a species
Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>)	Marine and groundwater dependent. Sensitivity to hydrological change. Changes in salinity and tidal regime. Overgrazing, erosion and accretion	Overgrazing; erosion; invasive species, particularly common cordgrass (<i>Spartina anglica</i>); infilling and reclamation.
Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide	Surface and marine water dependent. Low sensitivity to hydrological changes. Aquaculture, fishing and pollution.	Aquaculture, fishing, dumping of wastes and water pollution.
<i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i>	Lime-rich sandy habitat. Overgrazing. Water supply for damp conditions.	Grazing Imbalance, Physical Disturbance, Pollution, Desiccation, trampling from stock and recreation, changes in land use.
Salicornia and other annuals colonizing mud and sand	Marine and groundwater dependent. Medium sensitivity to hydrological change. Changes in salinity and tidal regime. Infilling, reclamation, invasive species.	Invasive Species; erosion and accretion.
Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> ("white dunes")	Marine habitat subject to accretion (sand accumulation) and ablation (sand removal). Plants highly specialised and can cope with some degree of salinity (in the form of salt spray and occasional periods of inundation), an unstable substrate and limited levels of nutrients and moisture.	Grazing, Sand and gravel extraction, Removal of beach materials, Paths, tracks, cycling routes, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, Motorised vehicles, Trampling, overuse, Sea defence or coastal protection works, Erosion, Other natural processes (depletion of sediment source)

Wetlands & Waterbirds	Highly sensitive to hydrological changes and loss of wetland habitat. Sensitive to disturbance.	A number of pressures have been identified by Crowe (2005). These pressures include: the modification of wetland sites, particularly for industry or housing and increased levels of disturbance, largely related to recreational activity. Eutrophication at a number of wetland sites as a result of nutrient inputs from a range of polluting activities were also identified as a potential pressure. However this latter pressure is now being alleviated through stricter control of activities associated with water discharge/runoff etc. Climate change was also noted as a significant factor underlying changes in trends of wintering waterbirds in Ireland.
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4.3.2. Ecological Network Supporting Natura 2000 Sites

An analysis of the proposed Natural Heritage Areas and designated Natural Heritage Areas in terms of their role in supporting the species using Natura 2000 sites was undertaken. It was assumed that these supporting roles mainly related to mobile fauna such as mammals and birds which may use pNHAs and NHAs as “stepping stones” between Natura 2000 sites.

Article 10 of the Habitats Directive and the Habitats Regulations 2011 place a high degree of importance on such non-Natura 2000 areas as features that connect the Natura 2000 network. Features such as ponds, woodlands and important hedgerows were considered during the rest of the AA process.

The ESB Dolphins in Dublin Docks are a pNHA and are included in the South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA. The Royal and Grand Canals pNHAs have no relevant connectivity with the project and will not be affected.

5. Identification of Potential Impacts & Assessment of Significance

The project is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the sites considered in the assessment and therefore potential impacts must be identified and considered.

5.1. Potential Impacts

This section uses the information collected on the sensitivity of each Natura 2000 site and describes any likely significant effects of implementation of the Project. This assumes the absence of any controls, conditions or assumption mitigation measures.

The likely significant effects of the Project are presented in Table 4 below, both in isolation and potentially in combination with other plans and projects.

A worst-case scenario would occur whereby the project would result in a significant detrimental change in water quality in Dublin Bay either alone or in combination with other projects or plans. The effect would have to be considered in terms of changes in water quality which would affect the habitats or food sources for which the SACs and SPA species are designated.

The proposed development includes works, involving the alteration of surface pavement, kerbs, street furniture, signage and utilities extends east-west from the Central Bank Plaza to the front of Trinity College extending north-south from the end of Grafton Street to Westmoreland Street.

However, given the lack of source-pathway-receptor links to the River Liffey, a deterioration of water quality in Dublin Bay downstream as a result of surface water contamination is highly unlikely.

The works will be carried out under a Construction & Environmental Management Plan which includes design measures to avoid unforeseen discharges to surface water.

Table 4. Outlining the potential impacts in the absence of mitigation of the Project.

Site	Distance from Project	Potential Direct Impacts e.g. Habitat Loss	Potential Indirect Impacts e.g. alteration to hydrological regime	Surface or Groundwater Contamination	Disturbance to Protected Species (Habitats Directive Annex II & IV)	Stage 2 AA Required
000206 North Dublin Bay SAC	5.5 km	No	None	No	No	No
000210 South Dublin Bay SAC	2.5 km	No	None	No	No	No
004006 North Bull Island SPA	7 km	No	None	No	No	No
004024 South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA	3.5 km	No	None	No	No	No

5.2. Assessment of Potential Cumulative Effects

Cumulative impacts or effects are changes in the environment that result from numerous human-induced, small-scale alterations. Cumulative impacts can be thought of as occurring through two main pathways: first, through persistent additions or losses of the same materials or resource, and second, through the compounding effects as a result of the coming together of two or more effects.

As part of the Screening for an Appropriate Assessment, in addition to the proposed works, other relevant projects and plans in the region must also be considered at this stage. This step aims to identify at this early stage any possible significant in-combination or cumulative effects / impacts of the proposed development with other such plans and projects on the Natura 2000 sites.

Other schemes that are not integral to the College Green Traffic Management Measures but which would be relevant for consideration of cumulative effects include but are not limited to:

- South Quays (Aston Quay and Wellington Quay) –Additional bus lane and bus stops (i.e. double bus lane), Reduction of general traffic lanes from two lanes to one lane;

- O’Connell Bridge – Revised arrangements including no right turn from Bachelors Walk; single straight ahead and single public transport only right turn northbound on O’Connell Bridge; single straight ahead and single public transport only right turn southbound on O’Connell Bridge;
- North Quays (Eden Quay) – Public Transport only between O’Connell Bridge and Rosie Hackett Bridge;
- North Quays (Ormond Quay and Bachelors Walk) – Additional bus lane and bus stops (i.e. double bus lane), Reduction of general traffic lanes from two lanes to one lane from Millennium bridge;
- Burgh Quay - Additional bus priority measures;
- Grafton Street Lower - 2-way traffic buses, taxis and Luas only.
- Liffey cycle route
- Carpark signage scheme
- City wide Directional signage scheme

Any development in central Dublin City with potential surface water connectivity to the River Liffey is required to comply with Best Practice Construction Methodology to avoid surface water contamination/runoff. In this way, these developments would be unlikely to have in-combination effects.

The Dublin City Development Plan in complying with the requirements of the Habitats Directive requires that all Projects and Plans that could affect the Natura 2000 sites in the same zone of influence of the project site would be initially screened for Appropriate Assessment and if requiring Stage 2 AA, that appropriate employable mitigation measures would be put in place to avoid, reduce or ameliorate negative impacts. In this way, any in-combination impacts with Plans or Projects for the area in which the development is located, would be avoided.

Any new applications for the project area will be assessed on a case by case basis by Dublin City Council which will determine the requirement for AA Screening as per the requirements of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive.

6. Screening Statement

The conclusion of this Screening Report is that given the lack of biological and hydrological connectivity and the employment of best practice construction methods, there would be no significant impacts on the Qualifying interests or Conservation Objectives of the European sites considered in this assessment.

It has been objectively concluded by Moore Group Environmental Services that:

1. The project is not directly connected with, or necessary to the conservation management of the European sites considered in this assessment.
2. The implementation of the project will not have a direct impact on the European sites considered in this assessment.
3. The project has been designed to include appropriate treatment of wastewater and therefore avoids indirect impacts on the European sites considered in this assessment.
4. The project, alone or in combination with other projects or plans, is not likely to have a significant effect on the European sites considered in this assessment in view of their conservation objectives.

It is the view of Moore Group Environmental Services that it is not necessary to undertake any further stage of the Appropriate Assessment process.

A finding of no significant effects report is presented in Appendix A in accordance with the EU Commission's methodological guidance (European Commission, 2001).

7. References

Crowe, O. (2005) Ireland's Wetlands and their Waterbirds; Status and Distribution. Birdwatch Ireland.

Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (2010) Guidance on Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland (as amended February 2010).

European Commission (2000) Managing Natura 2000 sites: the provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC.

European Commission Environment DG (2001) 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 92/43EEC. European Commission, Brussels.

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

NPWS (2013) The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Dublin.

NPWS (2013) Site Synopsis: North Dublin Bay SAC 000206. Version date: 12.08.2013_000206_Rev13.Doc. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives: North Dublin Bay SAC 000206. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives: South Dublin Bay SAC 000210. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

NPWS (2014) Site synopsis of the North Bull Island SPA 004006. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

NPWS (2015) Site Synopsis: South Dublin Bay SAC 000210. Version date: 10.12.2015_000210_Rev15.Docx. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

NPWS (2015) Conservation Objectives: North Bull Island SPA 004006. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

NPWS (2015) Site synopsis of the South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA. Version date: 30.05.2015. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

NPWS (2015) Conservation Objectives: South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA 004024. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

Appendix A
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS REPORT
 Finding no significant effects report matrix

Name of project or plan

College Green Traffic Management Measures and Public Plaza.

Name and location of the Natura 2000 site(s)

Departmental guidance suggests an assessment of Natura 2000 sites within a zone of influence of 15 km which can be revised down depending on the proposed development and location of Natura 2000 sites. There are 16 Natura 2000 sites located within a 15km radius of the project study area including the following:

- 000199 Baldoyle Bay SAC (10.5 km)
- 000202 Howth Head SAC (11.5 km)
- 000205 Malahide Estuary SAC (14 km)
- 000206 North Dublin Bay SAC (5.5 km)
- 000210 South Dublin Bay SAC (2.5 km)
- 001209 Glenasmole Valley SAC (13 km)
- 002193 Ireland's Eye SAC (14.5 km)
- 003000 Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC (11.5 km)
- 004006 North Bull Island SPA (7 km)
- 004016 Baldoyle Bay SPA (10.5 km)
- 004024 South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA (3.5 km)
- 004025 Malahide Estuary SPA (14 km)
- 004040 Wicklow Mountains SPA (12 km)
- 004113 Howth Head Coast SPA (11.5 km)
- 004117 Ireland's Eye SPA (14.5 km)
- 004172 Dalkey Island SPA (13 km)

Of the 16 Natura 2000 sites identified, a number of these are not considered to have any direct ecological or hydrological connectivity to the proposed development site, by which a significant impact could arise. These sites include:

- 000199 Baldoyle Bay SAC
- 000202 Howth Head SAC
- 000205 Malahide Estuary SAC
- 001209 Glenasmole Valley SAC
- 002193 Ireland's Eye SAC
- 003000 Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC
- 004016 Baldoyle Bay SPA
- 004025 Malahide Estuary SPA
- 004040 Wicklow Mountains SPA
- 004113 Howth Head Coast SPA
- 004117 Ireland's Eye SPA
- 004172 Dalkey Island SPA

It is determined that there is no potential for significant effect on these sites and they are screened out at this preliminary stage for the following reasons:

- Distance from the development site,

- There is no direct connection between the site of the proposed development and these three sites,
- The potential for indirect impacts is unlikely due to distance and lack of connectivity.

The project location at College Green is then considered in terms of source-pathway-receptor relationship and the proximity of the only water course in the vicinity, the River Liffey and hydrological connectivity to Dublin Bay. Thus, there are four Natura 2000 sites located within a potential zone of influence of the Project:

- 000206 North Dublin Bay SAC
- 000210 South Dublin Bay SAC
- 004006 North Bull Island SPA
- 004024 South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA

Description of the project or plan

The proposed development will consist of;

Traffic Management Proposals on College Green including:

- No through east-west traffic movements in the College Green area except for pedestrians and cyclists.
- Two-way segregated cycle track at the Bank of Ireland opposite Trinity College.
- Bus turn-around arrangement on Dame Street, west of the Plaza area.

The project involves the carrying out of works as well as the change of the character and intensity of use over an extensive area of the city centre business district. The proposed development, therefore, constitutes 'development' arising from;

- The carrying out of works over a large extent of a city centre [urban] location.
- The significant alteration of the nature and character of the use [alteration from vehicular to pedestrian use, alteration of appearance].
- The significant alteration of the intensity of the use [increase in pedestrian and reduction in vehicular movements].

Is the project or plan directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site(s)

No

Are there other projects or plans that together with the projects or plan being assessed could affect the site

Other schemes that are not integral to the College Green Traffic Management Measures but which would be relevant for consideration of cumulative effects include but are not limited to:

- South Quays (Aston Quay and Wellington Quay) – Additional bus lane and bus stops (i.e. double bus lane), Reduction of general traffic lanes from two lanes to one lane;
- O'Connell Bridge – Revised arrangements including no right turn from Bachelors Walk; single straight ahead and single public transport only right turn northbound on O'Connell Bridge; single straight ahead and single public transport only right turn southbound on O'Connell Bridge;
- North Quays (Eden Quay) – Public Transport only between O'Connell Bridge and Rosie Hackett Bridge;
- North Quays (Ormond Quay and Bachelors Walk) – Additional bus lane and bus stops (i.e. double bus lane), Reduction of general traffic lanes from two lanes to one lane from Millennium bridge;
- Burgh Quay - Additional bus priority measures;

- Grafton Street Lower - 2-way traffic buses, taxis and Luas only.
- Liffey cycle route
- Carpark signage scheme
- City wide Directional signage scheme

Any development in central Dublin City with potential surface water connectivity to the River Liffey is required to comply with Best Practice Construction Methodology to avoid surface water contamination/runoff. In this way, these developments would be unlikely to have in-combination effects.

The Dublin City Development Plan in complying with the requirements of the Habitats Directive requires that all Projects and Plans that could affect the Natura 2000 sites in the same zone of influence of the project site would be initially screened for Appropriate Assessment and if requiring Stage 2 AA, that appropriate employable mitigation measures would be put in place to avoid, reduce or ameliorate negative impacts. In this way, any in-combination impacts with Plans or Projects for the area in which the development is located, would be avoided.

Any new applications for the project area will be assessed on a case by case basis by Dublin City Council which will determine the requirement for AA Screening as per the requirements of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive.

The assessment of significance of effects

Describe how the project or plan (alone or in combination) is likely to affect the Natura 2000 site.

A worst-case scenario would occur whereby the project would result in a significant detrimental change in water quality in Dublin Bay either alone or in combination with other projects or plans. The effect would have to be considered in terms of changes in water quality which would affect the habitats or food sources for which the SACs and SPA species are designated.

The proposed development includes works, involving the alteration of surface pavement, kerbs, street furniture, signage and utilities extends east-west from the Central Bank Plaza to the front of Trinity College extending north-south from the end of Grafton Street to Westmoreland Street.

Explain why these effects are not considered significant

Given the lack of source-pathway-receptor links to the River Liffey, a deterioration of water quality in Dublin Bay downstream as a result of surface water contamination is highly unlikely.

The works will be carried out under a Construction & Environmental Management Plan which includes design measures to avoid unforeseen discharges to surface water.

List of agencies consulted: provide contact name and telephone or e-mail address

Dublin City Council.

Response to consultation

The need for Appropriate Assessment Screening was determined in pre-planning meetings with Dublin City Council.

Data collected to carry out the assessment

Who carried out the assessment

Moore Group Environmental Services.

Sources of data

NPWS database of designated sites at www.npws.ie
National Biodiversity Data Centre database <http://maps.biodiversityireland.ie>

Level of assessment completed

Desktop Assessment.

Where can the full results of the assessment be accessed and viewed

Dublin City Council Planning.

Overall Conclusions

The conclusion of this Screening Report is that given the lack of biological and hydrological connectivity and the employment of best practice construction methods, there would be no significant impacts on the Qualifying interests or Conservation Objectives of the European sites considered in this assessment.

It has been objectively concluded by Moore Group Environmental Services that:

1. The project is not directly connected with, or necessary to the conservation management of the European sites considered in this assessment.
2. The implementation of the project will not have a direct impact on the European sites considered in this assessment.
3. The project has been designed to include appropriate treatment of wastewater and therefore avoids indirect impacts on the European sites considered in this assessment.
4. The project, alone or in combination with other projects or plans, is not likely to have a significant effect on the European sites considered in this assessment in view of their conservation objectives.

It is the view of Moore Group Environmental Services that it is not necessary to undertake any further stage of the Appropriate Assessment process.