

DIAGEO: Bottle Store and Bulk Storage Shed

APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT SCREENING

**Competent Authority: South Dublin City Council
Author of AAS: Dr Niamh Roche MCIEEM**

1. Introduction and Legislative Background

1.1 Background

This Appropriate Assessment Screening has been prepared by Dr Niamh Roche MCIEEM on behalf of the applicant, Diageo Baileys Global Supply. The Assessment addresses a proposed development of two storage sheds (one a bottle shed, another for bulk storage) at Diageo Baileys Global Supply, Nangor House, New Nangor Road, Dublin. The initial purpose is to determine the effects of the proposed development, if any, on European conservation designated site(s) (i.e. Natura 2000 sites) and if necessary to proceed with further steps in the AA process. The report also aims to determine the appropriateness, or otherwise of the proposed development in the context of the conservation status of such sites.

A statutory Environmental Impact Statement is not necessary because the size and nature of the proposed development does not exceed the threshold whereby one would be required. However, as part of a Further Information Request from the local authority an ecological survey, a bat survey and this Appropriate Assessment have been carried out.

1.2 Regulatory Context

The Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Flora and Fauna, also known as The Habitats Directive, provides the framework for legal protection of habitats and species of European importance. Articles 3 to 9 of the Directive 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. These are: Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) designated under the Habitats Directive; and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) designated under the Conservation of Wild Birds Directive (79/409/EEC) (also known as the Birds Directive).

Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive set out the decision making tests for plans and projects likely to affect Natura 2000 sites (Annex 1.1). Article 6(3) establishes the requirement for Appropriate Assessment:

"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 and 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 implication 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."

1.3 Stages of Appropriate Assessment (AA)

The procedure has been undertaken in accordance with the European Commission Methodological Guidance on the provision of Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive (EC2001), the European Commission Guidance 'Managing Natura 2000 Sites' (EC 2002) and the Guidance Document for Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland by the DOEHLG (Anon, 2009, revised 2010).

There are up to four successive stages involved in the Appropriate Assessment process (European Commission 2002). The outcome at each stage determines whether the next stage in the process is required. The following describes each of the four stages:

Stage 1 – Screening

This is the first stage in the process and is carried out to determine the necessity for a more detailed Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment where potential impacts on European sites are deemed to be of significance. The following steps are involved in the Stage 1 Screening:

- Description of the project and site characteristics (existing environment)
- Identification and description of Natura sites that could potentially be affected
- Identification and description of potential impacts
- Assessment of potential impacts
- Exclusion of sites where no significant effects are foreseen

Stage 2 – Appropriate Assessment

This stage involves the consideration of the impact on the integrity of the European site of the project, 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 adverse impacts, an assessment of the potential mitigation of those impacts. If adequate mitigation is proposed to ensure no significant adverse impacts on European sites, then the process may end at this stage. However, if the likelihood of significant impacts remains, then the process must proceed to Stage 3.

Stage 3 – Assessment of Alternatives

The process which examines alternative ways of achieving the objectives of the plan or project that may avoid adverse impacts on the integrity of the European site.

Stage 4 – Assessment where no Alternative Solutions Exist and where Adverse Impacts Remain

The Habitats Directive promotes a hierarchy of avoidance, mitigation and compensatory measures. First, the project should aim to avoid any negative impacts on Natura 2000 sites by identifying possible impacts early in the planning stage, and designing the project in order to avoid such impacts. Secondly, mitigation measures should be applied, if necessary, during the AA process to the point where no adverse impacts on the site(s) remain. If the project is still likely to result in adverse effects, and no further practicable mitigation is possible, then it is rejected. If no alternative solutions are identified and the project is required for imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI test) under Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, then compensation measures are required for any remaining adverse effect.

2.0 Appropriate Assessment Matrix

Screening determines whether appropriate assessment is necessary by examining:

1. Whether a plan or project can be excluded from AA requirements because it is directly connected with or necessary to the management of a Natura 2000 site.
2. Whether the project will have a potentially significant effect on a Natura 2000 site, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, in view of the site's conservation objectives.

Screening involves the following:

- Description of plan or project
- Identification of relevant Natura 2000 sites, and compilation of information on their qualifying interests and conservation objectives
- Assessment of likely effects – direct, indirect and cumulative – undertaken on the basis of available information as a desk study or field survey or primary research as necessary
- Screening Statement with conclusions

A full Appropriate Assessment (Stage 2 in the AA process) goes further than an AA Screening. The same guidelines as above are followed, but in addition, the following are taken into account:

- Proposed mitigation measures that will be taken to prevent any negative effects
- A review of the proposed mitigation measures to determine whether the project must progress to Stage 3, Assessment of Alternatives.
- Appropriate Assessment with conclusions.

This report is an Appropriate Assessment Screening in line with the requirements of Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/EEC) of the proposed development of two storage shed units at Nangor House, New Nangor Road, Dublin.

2.1 Description of the project

The site is situated within the Diageo industrial complex at Nangor House. There is a small area of amenity grassland on the site but it is mainly composed of hard core tarmac. The locations where the two buildings are proposed for development are bounded by young deciduous trees and industrial buildings. The Grand Canal pNHA bounds the overall Diageo site's northern boundary.

- The proposal development is for two warehouse-style sheds for the purpose of storage.
- The site is in Gallanstown and falls under the South Dublin City Council Development Plan 2016-2022.
- The site of proposed development covers <1ha and is situated within a 12.28ha industrial facility.
- The land is not within any Natura 2000 designation.
- The site is located approximately 7.5km north of the nearest Natura conservation designation Glenasmole Valley SAC.
- Other Natura sites such as Rye Valley Water SAC, South Dublin Bay SAC and North Dublin Bull Island SAC are all located within 9-13km.
- The development will be preceded by removal of hard surfaces and a small area of amenity grassland, followed by construction of two warehouse buildings, one a bottle store and one for bulk storage.

2.1.1 Description of Existing Proposed Development Site

The site at Nangor Road is situated within the 12.28ha Diageo industrial complex. It consists of two locations separated by an existing building. It is bounded on its western side by an embankment with cover of immature broadleaved trees. Industrial buildings are situated to the east of the proposed

shed locations. The Grand Canal is very close to the site but there is a screen of immature broadleaved woodland in between.

The entire locality at Gallanstown and Nangor Road is highly modified and industrialised, with high traffic levels, noise and artificial light at night. The area is zoned 'to facilitate enterprise' (Anon 2020).

The habitat types on the site are either artificial or highly managed. The predominant habitat type is 'buildings and artificial surfaces'. Figure 1 shows the site footprint. While tarmac and concrete support little in the way of vegetation, occasional ruderal species such as groundsel (*Senecio vulgaris*) or dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale* agg.) can grow in crevices and unused areas where dust or soil accumulates. Grassland subject to regular mowing bounds part of the site. A small area of amenity grassland is included within the site footprint. The species here include mouse ear chickweed (*Cerastium fontanum*), white clover (*Trifolium repens*), creeping cinquefoil (*Potentilla reptans*), self heal (*Prunella vulgaris*) and various grasses such as fescue (*Festuca rubra* agg.) and rye grass (*Lolium perenne*). Please refer to the Ecology Assessment (Roche, 2020) for a list of plant species on the site.

No evidence for the presence of protected species was found in August or September 2020, apart from occasional bats (common and soprano pipistrelles) that were observed in flight along the tree canopy adjacent to it.

There was no evidence in August or September 2020 of bats roosting in the buildings on site.

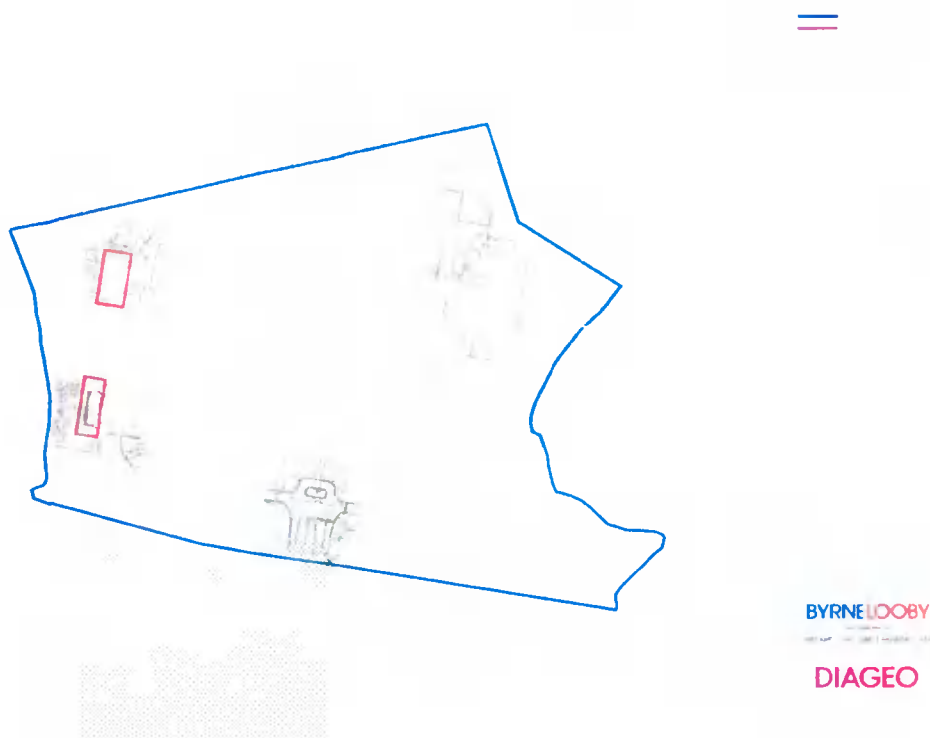


Figure 1: Red line boundary of the site, proposed bottle store to the north and bulk storage shed to the south.



Figure 2: Site of proposed Bulk Store. Existing habitats are BL3 (Buildings and artificial surfaces) and GA2 (Amenity Grassland). Immature trees are adjacent to the site and are not included in the site footprint.

2.2 Identification of Natura 2000 sites

In accordance with the European Commission Methodological Guidance (EC2001), consideration is given to European sites that could potentially be affected by the proposed project. For completeness, the possibility of impacts on Natura sites that are located up to a 15km radius of the site are investigated.

These Natura sites are considered for potential impacts because they are most proximate. However, it should be noted that in no case is there a clear direct or indirect linkage between the Nangor Road site and the Natura sites, e.g. potential aquatic pathways, between source and receptor.

2.2.1 Glenasmole Valley SAC (Site Code 1209)

Glenasmole Valley in south Co. Dublin lies on the edge of the Wicklow uplands, approximately 8km from the site at Nangor Road. The River Dodder flows through the valley and has been impounded there to form two reservoirs which supply water to south Dublin. There is cover of scrub and woodland, and on less precipitous slopes of the valley, herb-rich grassland including a number of rare and threatened orchid species. There is much seepage through the deposits, which brings to the surface water rich in bases, which induces local patches of calcareous fen and, in places, petrifying springs.

The site is a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) selected for the following habitats and/or species listed on Annex I / II of the E.U. Habitats Directive (* = priority; numbers in brackets are Natura 2000 codes):

[6210] Orchid-rich Calcareous Grassland*

[6410] Molinia Meadows

[7220] Petrifying Springs*

2.2.1.1 Conservation Objectives of Glenasmole Valley SAC

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 (see list above).

2.2.2 Wicklow Mountains SAC (Site Code 2122)

Wicklow Mountains SAC is very large SAC including a complex of upland areas in Counties Wicklow and Dublin, flanked by the Blessington reservoir to the west and Vartry reservoir in the east, Cruagh Mountain in the north and Lybagh Mountain in the south. Most of the site is over 300 m, with much ground over 600 m. This site's most northern boundary is located approximately 8.5km from the Nangor Road site.

The site is a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) selected for the following habitats and/or species listed on Annex I / II of the E.U. Habitats Directive (* = priority; numbers in brackets are Natura 2000 codes):

- [3110] Oligotrophic Waters containing very few minerals
- [3160] Dystrophic Lakes
- [4010] Wet Heath
- [4030] Dry Heath
- [4060] Alpine and Subalpine Heaths
- [6130] Calaminarian Grassland
- [6230] Species-rich *Nardus* Grassland*
- [7130] Blanket Bogs (Active)*
- [8110] Siliceous Scree
- [8210] Calcareous Rocky Slopes
- [8220] Siliceous Rocky Slopes
- [91A0] Old Oak Woodlands
- [1355] Otter (*Lutra lutra*)

The vegetation over most of Wicklow Mountains SAC is a mosaic of heath, blanket bog and upland grassland (mostly on peaty soil, though some on mineral soil), stands of dense Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*), and small woodlands mainly along the rivers.

2.2.2.1 Conservation Objectives of Wicklow Mountains SAC

In summary, the objectives are to maintain or where necessary restore the favourable conservation condition of the habitats and species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SAC.

2.2.3 Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC (Site Code 1398)

Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC is located between Leixlip and Maynooth, in Counties Meath and Kildare, and extends along the Rye Water, a tributary of the River Liffey. This SAC is situated approximately 9km to the north west of the Nangor Road site. It is a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) selected for the following habitats and/or species listed on Annex I / II of the E.U. Habitats Directive (* = priority; numbers in brackets are Natura 2000 codes):

- [7220] Petrifying Springs*
- [1014] Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail (*Vertigo angustior*)
- [1016] Desmoulin's Whorl Snail (*Vertigo moulinsiana*)

The Rye Water in Carton Estate is dammed at intervals, creating a series of lakes. Reed Sweet-grass (*Glyceria maxima*) is frequent around the lakes, along with Yellow Iris (*Iris pseudacorus*), Reed Canary-grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), Bulrush (*Typha latifolia*), Water Forget-me-not (*Myosotis scorpioides*), Marsh-marigold (*Caltha palustris*) and starworts (*Callitriche* spp.)

2.2.3.1 Conservation Objectives of Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC

The objective is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the habitats and species for which this SAC was selected.

2.2.4 South Dublin Bay SAC (Site Code 210)

This site lies south of the River Liffey in Co. Dublin, and extends from the South Wall to the west pier at Dun Laoghaire. It is an intertidal site with extensive areas of sand and mudflats. Its western boundary is situated approximately 10.5km from the Nangor Road site.

The sediments are predominantly sands but grade to sandy muds near the shore at Merrion Gates. The main channel which drains the area is Cockle Lake. The site is a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) selected for the following habitats and/or species listed on Annex I / II of the E.U. Habitats Directive (* = priority; numbers in brackets are Natura 2000 codes):

[1140] Tidal Mudflats and Sandflats

[1210] Annual vegetation of drift lines

[1310] Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand

[2110] Embryonic shifting dunes

2.2.4.1 Conservation Objectives of South Dublin Bay SAC

The objective is to maintain the favourable conservation condition of the habitats and species for which this SAC was selected

2.2.5 South Dublin Bay and River Tolka SPA (Site Code 4024)

The South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA comprises a substantial part of Dublin Bay. It includes the intertidal area between the River Liffey and Dun Laoghaire, and the estuary of the River Tolka to the north of the River Liffey, as well as Booterstown Marsh. A portion of the shallow marine waters of the bay is also included. In the south bay, the intertidal flats extend for almost 3 km at their widest. The sediments are predominantly well-aerated sands. Several permanent channels exist, the largest being Cockle Lake. A small sandy beach occurs at Merrion Gates, while some bedrock shore occurs near Dun Laoghaire. The site is a Special Protection Area (SPA) under the E.U. Birds Directive, of special conservation interest for the following species: Light-bellied Brent Goose, Oystercatcher, Ringed Plover, Grey Plover, Knot, Sanderling, Dunlin, Bar-tailed Godwit, Redshank, Black-headed Gull, Roseate Tern, Common Tern and Arctic Tern. The E.U. Birds Directive pays particular attention to wetlands, and as these form part of the SPA, the site and its associated waterbirds are of special conservation interest for Wetland & Waterbirds. The site is an important site for wintering waterfowl, being an integral part of the internationally important Dublin Bay complex. Although birds regularly commute between the south bay and the north bay, recent studies have shown that certain populations which occur in the south bay spend most of their time there. An internationally important population of Light-bellied Brent Goose (368) occurs regularly.

2.2.5.1 Conservation Objectives of South Dublin Bay and River Tolka SPA (Site Code 4024)

The overall objective is to maintain the favourable conservation condition of the species for which this SPA was selected. Specific targets and attributes are assigned to each species.

2.2.6 North Dublin Bay SAC (Site Code 206)

This site covers the inner part of north Dublin Bay, the seaward boundary extending from the Bull Wall lighthouse across to the Martello Tower at Howth Head. This Natura designation is situated approximately 11km from the Nangor Road site.

North Bull Island is the focal point of the Natura designation. The site is a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) selected for the following habitats and/or species listed on Annex I / II of the E.U. Habitats Directive (* = priority; numbers in brackets are Natura 2000 codes):

[1140] Tidal Mudflats and Sandflats

[1210] Annual Vegetation of Drift Lines

[1310] Salicornia Mud

- [1330] Atlantic Salt Meadows
- [1410] Mediterranean Salt Meadows
- [2110] Embryonic Shifting Dunes
- [2120] Marram Dunes (White Dunes)
- [2130] Fixed Dunes (Grey Dunes)*
- [2190] Humid Dune Slacks
- [1395] Petalwort (*Petalophyllum ralfsii*)

North Bull Island is a sandy spit which formed after the building of the South Wall and Bull Wall in the 18th and 19th centuries. It now extends for about 5 km in length and is up to 1 km wide in places. A well-developed and dynamic dune system stretches along the seaward side of the island. Various types of dunes occur, from fixed dune grassland to pioneer communities on foredunes. The scarce Bee Orchid (*Ophrys apifera*) occurs. About 1 km from the tip of the island, a large dune slack with a rich flora occurs, usually referred to as the 'Alder Marsh' because of the presence of Alder trees (*Alnus glutinosa*).

2.2.6.1 Conservation Objectives of North Dublin SAC (Site Code 206)

The overall objective is to maintain the favourable conservation condition of the species and habitats for which this SAC was selected.

2.2.7 North Bull Island SPA (Site Code 4006)

This site covers all of the inner part of north Dublin Bay, with the seaward boundary extending from the Bull Wall lighthouse across to Drumleck Point at Howth Head. The North Bull Island sand spit is a relatively recent depositional feature, formed as a result of improvements to Dublin Port during the 18th and 19th centuries. It is almost 5 km long and 1 km wide and runs parallel to the coast between Clontarf and Sutton. Part of the interior of the island has been converted to golf courses. Saltmarsh extends along the length of the landward side of the island and provides the main roost site for wintering birds in Dublin Bay. The island shelters two intertidal lagoons which are divided by a solid causeway. These lagoons provide the main feeding grounds for the wintering waterfowl. The sediments of the lagoons are mainly sands with a small and varying mixture of silt and clay. Green algal mats (*Ulva* spp.) are a feature of the flats during summer.

The site is a Special Protection Area (SPA) under the E.U. Birds Directive, of special conservation interest for the following species: Light-bellied Brent Goose, Shelduck, Teal, Pintail, Shoveler, Oystercatcher, Golden Plover, Grey Plover, Knot, Sanderling, Dunlin, Black-tailed Godwit, Bar-tailed Godwit, Curlew, Redshank, Turnstone and Black-headed Gull.

The site is also of special conservation interest for holding an assemblage of over 20,000 wintering waterbirds. The E.U. Birds Directive pays particular attention to wetlands and, as these form part of this SPA, the site and its associated waterbirds are of special conservation interest for Wetland & Waterbirds. The North Bull Island SPA is of international importance for waterfowl on the basis that it regularly supports in excess of 20,000 waterfowl.

2.2.7.1 Conservation Objectives of North Bull Island SPA (Site Code 4006)

The overall objective is to maintain the favourable conservation condition of the species for which this SPA was selected.

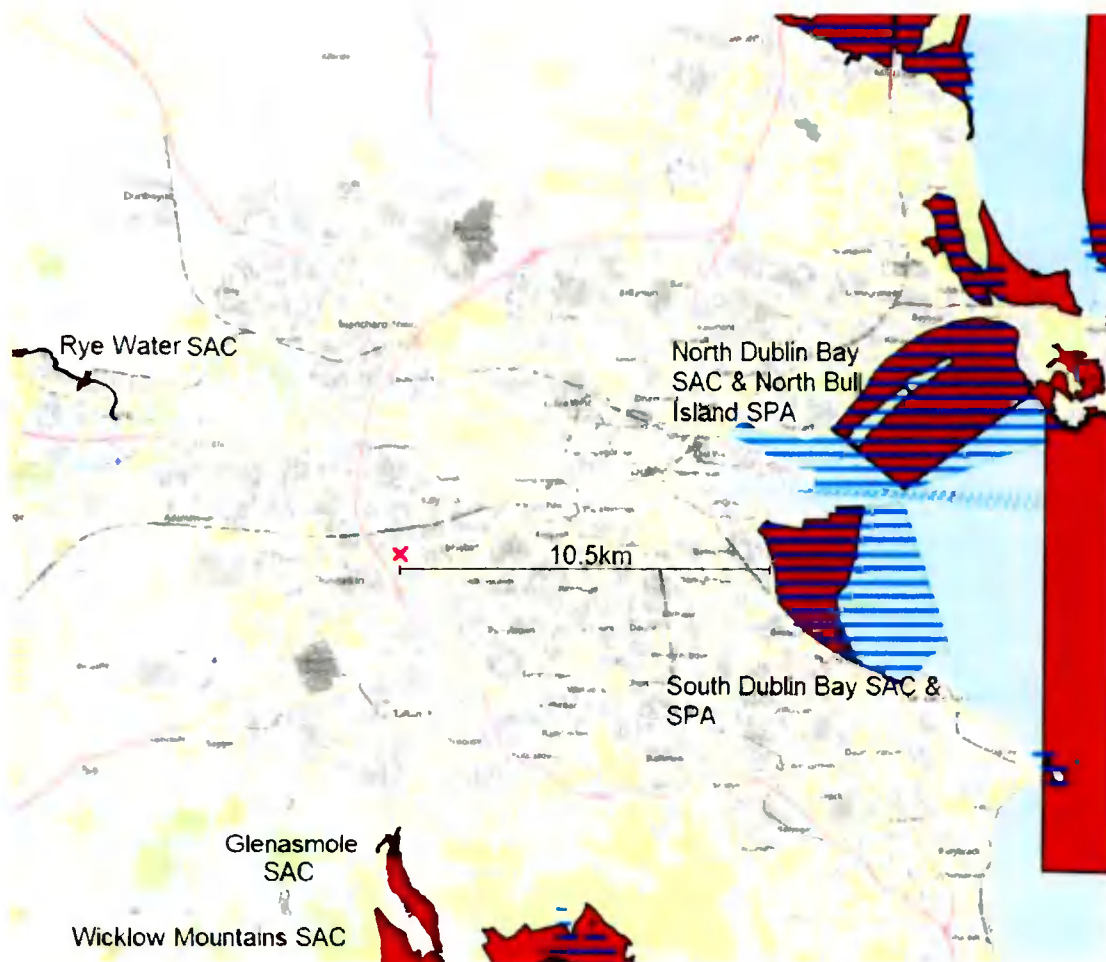


Figure 3: SAC designations (red) and SPA designations (blue horizontal lines) around Dublin and the Nangor Road site (red x).

2.3 Assessment of Likely Effects of Development

Potential impacts, if any, by the proposed project on European protected areas in the vicinity of the site are discussed below. Impacts are considered in the context of the Source-Pathway-Receptor (S-P-R) conceptual model for environmental management risk assessment. This method allows a determination and evaluation of the nature, effect and extent of exposure a vulnerable receptor may experience in relation to a particular hazard. An environmental hazard is an event, or continuing process, which has the potential to degrade, directly or indirectly, the quality of the environment (Royal Society, 1992). A pathway is a route by which a particle of water, substance or contaminant moves through the environment and comes into contact with, or otherwise, affects a receptor (Environment Agency, 2001).

2.3.1 Basis for Assessment

- Review of available information on site designations, e.g. Site Synopses, Mapping information from NPWS, other available biodiversity records e.g. National Biodiversity Data Centre, Bat Conservation Ireland.
- Results of site visits, ecology and bat surveys (August and September 2020)
- Documented consultation with statutory agency with responsibility for Nature Conservation (NPWS) where available.

2.3.2 Individual elements of the project (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) likely to give rise to impacts on the Natura 2000 sites:

- The proposed development is located at a distance of 8km from the nearest SAC/SPA designation (Glenasmole), the remaining designations are between 9km and 13km.
- The closest Natura site (Glenasmole) is located at a higher altitude (120m) compared with the Nangor Rd site (40-50m).
- The proposed development has no direct hydrological link to any SAC or SPA in Dublin or Wicklow.
- The proposed development is relatively small, the site is situated at a considerable distance from the Natura sites, and there are no direct links between the proposed development site and Natura sites. Therefore, any elements of clearance, construction and commissioning are likely to be of extremely low risk as to cause any impacts on the SACs or SPAs.
- The proposed development is to construct buildings for storage only.

2.3.3 Any likely direct, indirect or secondary impacts of the project (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) on the Natura 2000 sites by virtue of:

- size and scale;

(a) Direct impacts (in no particular order)

- Accidental deposition of spoil or rubbish
There is no potential during site preparation and construction, for accidental deposition of spoil or rubbish within any SAC.
- Dust
During construction there is very limited potential for dust arising and causing damage or increased sediment load in Natura sites situated at >5km distance.
- Invasive Species
No invasive species were found on the site
- Outdoor Light at Night
Artificial light at night has a myriad of effects on natural habitats from disrupting circadian rhythms of wild species to preventing dispersal of larval stages of aquatic insects. The extent of effects depends on wavelength and luminance (how bright the light is). Shorter wavelengths, particularly those in blue and UV range are particularly harmful to wildlife as are brighter lights. However, the existing environment on Nangor Road is brightly lit at night and there are already a number of street lights on the site. Changes to the lighting regime at Nangor House are unlikely to impact Natura designations at a distance of >5km. Some recommendations for lighting are made in the accompanying ecology assessment report in view of the presence of bats and the Grand Canal pNHA adjacent to the site.
- Pollution
There is extremely limited potential for pollution instances arising or impacting Natura sites since they are located at distances of >5km.
- Increased Silt and/or Sediment Load
Site clearance and construction will not impact sediment load on any waterways in the area or and SACs or SPAs

(b) Indirect impacts

- Dust
Potential for dust arising from construction at Nangor House to cause significant impact on other Natura Sites at a 5km+ distance is highly negligible.
- Removal of vegetation
A small area of amenity grassland will be removed to facilitate the development. There is no potential for any significant impacts on Natura 2000 sites.
- Pollution

There is very limited potential for pollution instances arising should accidental spills occur during site construction. Even if this should happen, there is no direct linkage to any Natura sites

- Accidental deposition

Potential for negative impacts the SACs/SPAs are not considered to be significant.

(c) Secondary

- Invasive Exotic Species

The risk of invasive exotics being introduced to Natura estuarine or coastal sites as a result of this development is non-existent.

- **land-take;**

None

- **distance from the Natura 2000 site or key features of the site;**

The site is located 8km from and approximately 70m below the Glenasmole Valley SAC boundary. It is situated 9km from the Rye Valley Water SAC, 10.5km from the South Dublin Bay SAC and 11km from North Dublin Bay SAC. There is no proposal to disturb or egress any Natura site at any point.

- **resource requirements (water abstraction etc.);**

Water will be sourced from the municipal water supply and will not be abstracted from the Grand Canal.

- **emissions following construction (disposal to land, water or air);**

Foul water will be discharged to the municipal sewerage system and will not, therefore, impact any Natura site.

A SuDS drainage system will be utilized for surface water on the site.

- **excavation requirements;**

No excavations in any SAC.

- **transportation requirements;**

None

- **duration of construction, operation, decommissioning, etc.;**

Construction approximately 1-3 months, operation timespan indefinite.

- **other**

None

Likely changes to the site arising as a result of:

- **reduction of habitat area**

None.

- **disturbance to key species**

None

Common pipistrelle bats were recorded foraging along tree cover adjacent to the site but were not observed to have emerged from any buildings or roosts on site. Appropriate artificial light at night will result in minimum disturbance to these species. Mitigation details are fully specified in the Ecology Assessment (Roche 2020).

While a number of Wildlife Act protected species such as Daubenton's bat have been recorded within the 1km grid square where the site is situated but there is no evidence for their presence at Nangor House location. No mitigation necessary.

No protected vascular plant species or plant species of conservation importance were found on the site. No mitigation necessary.

No Annex II (Birds Directive) bird species were found on the site. Some song birds were found in the woodland cover adjacent to the site, but the woodland will not be impacted as part of this proposed development.

- **habitat or species fragmentation;**

None. Bats occur in the area. Proposals for artificial light at night must comply with recommendations above.

- **reduction in species density;**

None

- **changes in key indicators of conservation value (water quality etc.);**

None.

- **climate change.**

None

2.4 Conclusion

Impacts on nearest Natura 2000 sites are considered to be highly unlikely. Therefore, due to the fact that there are no predicted negative impacts on Natura sites, the present report will not progress to Stage 2, full Appropriate Assessment.

2.5 List of agencies consulted:

The Development Applications Unit, Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht: Response to Planning Application, letter dated 14th September 2020.

2.6 Data collected to carry out the assessment

Who carried out the assessment?

Dr Niamh Roche MCIEEM

Sources of data

Field studies and existing records from National Parks and Wildlife Service, National Biodiversity Data Centre, Bat Conservation Ireland.

Level of assessment completed

Site visit in August 2020 to assess flora, vegetation, bird activity and general site ecology, passive bat survey over the course of 11 nights in August/September 2020. Active dusk bat survey carried out in September 2020 by Dr Tina Aughney. Desktop study including literature search and data searches.

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

Ecology Assessment Report by Dr Niamh Roche MCIEEM.

3.0 REFERENCES & SOURCES OF INFORMATION

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