

APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT (AA)

SCREENING REPORT

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DRAFT O'CONNELL STREET AND ENVIRONS  
SCHEME OF SPECIAL PLANNING CONTROL 2022

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF

ARTICLE 6(3) OF THE EU HABITATS DIRECTIVE

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**Pursuant to Sections 85 and 86 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) Dublin City Council (DCC) has reviewed the existing Scheme of Special Planning Control (SSPC) for O’Connell Street and Environs, which was approved in 2016. A number of changes to the original scheme are recommended and these have been incorporated into a Draft SSPC for O’Connell Street and Environs 2022 (the Draft SSPC).**

A Screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA) was completed by DCC in respect of the Draft SSPC. Having regard to Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive, the guidance contained in the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government’s *Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland: Guidance for Planning Authorities* (2010) and based on the objective information provided in the Appropriate Assessment Screening Report for the Draft SSPC, DCC as the Competent Authority determines that the Draft SSPC, individually, and in combination with other plans and projects, does not have the potential to give rise to likely significant effects on the Special Conservation Interests / Qualifying Interests and their respective Conservation Objectives of any Natura 2000 site, and does not require an Appropriate Assessment.

**The observations received from the required environmental authorities, within the appropriate period, were considered by the Planning Authority in making a final determination on the requirement for AA for the Draft SSPC. No objections were received within the appropriate period.**

**DCC as the competent authority has determined that Appropriate Assessment is not required in respect of the Draft O’Connell Street and Environs Scheme of Special Planning Control 2022.**

This report provides the findings of the screening exercise that examined the potential for the Draft SSPC to result in likely significant effects to European Sites. This report was used by DCC in supporting its Screening for Appropriate Assessment Determination.

### 1.2 Terms of Reference

In compliance with Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and EU Birds Directive (79/409/EEC), as transposed into Irish legislation by the Natura 2000 Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 and Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), the potential effects of the policies and objectives of all statutory land use plans and projects on certain sites that are designated for the protection of nature under EU legislation must be assessed as an integral part of the plan process.

For the purposes of Article 6 Assessments, Natura 2000 network sites or European Sites are those identified as Sites of Community Importance under the Habitats Directive (normally called Special Areas of Conservation) or classified as Special Protection Areas under the EU Birds Directive (79/409/EEC). The principal trigger for undertaking an AA would be if the Draft SSPC was likely, either directly or indirectly, to have significant effects on a Natura 2000 Network site.

For the purposes of this report, the Draft SSPC is the plan being assessed in compliance with Article 6(3).

This AA Screening assesses, 1) whether the making of the Draft SSPC, is directly connected to or necessary for the conservation management of any European site, and 2) whether the Draft SSPC, alone or in combination

with other plans and projects, is likely<sup>1</sup> to result in significant<sup>2</sup> effects on any European site within the Natura 2000 network in view of its conservation objectives. The purpose of this Screening is to identify whether land use measures facilitated by the Draft SSPC will have the potential to adversely affect the conservation objectives of European Sites. Such a conclusion will be arrived at by assessing the nature of current and future land use activities that will be supported by the Draft SSPC, the potential for these activities to interact with European Sites occurring within the SSPC's Zone of Influence, and the likely changes that will result from the making of the Draft SSPC, in combination with other plans and projects.

Circular Letter SEA 1/08 & NPWS 1/08 issued by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government requires that, as a result of European Court of Justice Case 418/04 EC Commission v Ireland, any draft land use plan (or amendments or variations) proposed under the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended), specifically Section 177 of the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2010, must be screened for any potential impact on areas designated as Natura 2000 network sites. The results of the Screening should be recorded and made available to the public.

The Draft SSPC has been screened to ascertain if it is required to be subject to an *'Appropriate Assessment'* under the EU Habitats Directive. Based on the *'Methodological guidance on the provision of Article 6(3) and (4) of the EU Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC'*, a *'Screening Matrix'* and a *'Finding of No Significant Effects Matrix'* have been completed.

This Screening was undertaken by the Planning and Property Development Department of Dublin City Council. It should be noted that a Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening (SEA) Report has also been prepared for the Draft SSPC.

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<sup>1</sup> "likely" meaning any effect that may be reasonably predicted

<sup>2</sup> "significant" meaning not trivial or inconsequential but an effect that is potentially relevant to the Site's conservation objectives (i.e. any effect, which would compromise the functioning and viability of a Site and interfere with achieving the conservation objectives of the Site would constitute a significant effect)

## SECTION 2 – METHODOLOGY

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The DoEHLG's *Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland - Guidance for Planning Authorities* (2009, 2010) outlines the stages involved in undertaking a Screening Assessment of a plan or project that has the potential to have likely significant effects on European Sites. The methodology adopted for the Screening of the Draft SSPC is informed by this Guidance and was undertaken in the following stages:

1. **Description of the Draft SSPC** and the receiving environment, and determination as to whether the plan is directly connected to or **necessary for the conservation management of a European Site(s)**;
2. **Identification of European Sites** occurring within the **Zone of Influence** of the Draft SSPC;
3. Identification of whether or not there are elements of the Draft SSPC with **potential to give rise to likely significant effects** – i.e. direct, indirect etc. - on the conservation objectives of European Sites; and,
4. **Identification of other plans or projects** that, in **combination** with the Draft SSPC, have the **potential to effect European Sites**.

### 2.1 The Draft Scheme of Special Planning Control

DCC proposes amending the existing SSPC to include a number of text changes, to ensure consistency with the Dublin City Development Plan 2016-2022 (the Development Plan) and taking into account wider planning policy and economic changes that have occurred since the SSPC was adopted.

The changes proposed include:

- Updates to general land use controls.
- Updates to street specific land uses considered permitted, open for consideration and non-permissible.
- Text changes, to include updated objectives.

The changes proposed **are consistent** with the Development Plan, which was subject to AA.

**For clarity, no change to the boundary of the Area of Special Planning Control is proposed.**

## 2.2 Area of Special Planning Control Context

The physical area covered by the Draft Scheme is identical to the O’Connell Street Architectural Conservation Area (ACA). The designation of the O’Connell Street ACA as an Area of Special Planning Control allows DCC to specify development objectives for the preservation or enhancement of the area that would further strengthen its designation as an ACA.

Section 84 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended) states:

*‘A planning authority may, if it considers that all or part of an architectural conservation area is of special importance to, or as respects, the civic life or the architectural, historical, cultural or social character of a city or town in which it is situated, prepare a scheme setting out development objectives for the preservation and enhancement of that area, or part of that area’, including the promotion of an appropriate mix of uses and the remediation of derelict or vacant sites.’*

The SSPC shall remain in operation for six years. DCC will monitor and review the impact of the Scheme over this six year period and may by resolution, amend or revoke the Scheme as necessary. The SSPC should be read in conjunction with the O’Connell Street Architectural Conservation Area Plan, in particular with regard to the general controls over works to the exterior of all buildings, both protected and non-protected.

**Figure 1: O’Connell Street Area of Special Planning Control**



## 2.3 Purpose of amendments to the SSPC

### 2.3.1 Background

On 9<sup>th</sup> July 2001, DCC designated O'Connell Street and environs as an ACA in recognition of its major architectural, historical, cultural, artistic and social importance to the city. DCC subsequently approved a SSPC for the entire O'Connell Street ACA on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2003 in order to provide more appropriate guidance on how to achieve a strong and dynamic relationship between the quality of architecture and the uses to which it is put. The 2003 SSPC was reviewed and subsequently updated in 2009 and 2016.

### 2.3.2 Policy Context Update

Since the adoption of the SSPC in 2016, the context for the Area of Special Planning Control has changed, including the adoption of the **Dublin City Development Plan 2016-2022**, and in particular revised policies relating to conservation, retail, urban design and public realm. Broader international and national economic trends relating to retailing will impact on the long term mix and range of land uses anticipated within the O'Connell Street area.

Furthermore, national and regional policy has reinforced the importance of city and town centres in achieving compact growth and facilitating vibrant and sustainable economic development. The **National Planning Framework (NPF)** (Project Ireland 2040) identifies 10 National Strategic Outcomes (NSOs) for the future growth and sustainable development of Ireland, including Compact Growth. It states that at least 50% of all new homes for Dublin City and suburbs are required to be delivered within and adjoining its existing built-up footprint. To achieve this, the NPF identifies the reusing of large and small 'brownfield' land, infill sites, and underutilised lands at locations well served by existing and planned public transport. The NPF particularly highlights the need to focus on underutilised lands within the canals and the M50 ring.

The **Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES)** for the Eastern and Midlands Region is underpinned by three key principles: healthy placemaking; climate action; and economic opportunity. It seeks the consolidation and re-intensification of infill, brownfield, and underutilised lands within Dublin City and its suburbs. 50% of all new homes within Dublin City and its suburbs are to be located in the existing built-up area. To facilitate this growth the RSES also includes a **Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan (MASP)** for Dublin. The MASP directs future growth to identified Strategic Development Areas located on existing and planned strategic transport corridors and anticipates future growth will also be accommodated on infill development lands in the city.

The **National Transport Authority's Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area 2016-2035**<sup>3</sup> provides a framework for developing a sustainable transport network. Key public transportation projects for Dublin City include:

- **Luas** - expansion of the existing network. Luas Cross City has provided two stops on O'Connell Street by connected the exiting Luas Red and Green Lines. It has made the historic O'Connell St district more accessible

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<sup>3</sup> Draft Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area 2022-2042 published.

to visitors, and the main attractions in the O'Connell Street area (i.e. GPO's Witness History, The Gate Theatre, The Abbey Theatre, and the Dublin City Hugh Lane Gallery).

- **Bus Connects** – enhancement of Dublin's bus network along with several identified Core Bus Corridors. O'Connell Street will be a focal point for significant interchange on the network.
- **Metrolink** – proposed rail link from the City Centre to Dublin Airport / Swords. Both the Luas and Bus Connects are being designed to integrate and interchange with Metrolink as part of a wider strategic transport network for Dublin. A MetroLink stop is proposed on O'Connell Street.

The Draft SSPC acknowledges the link between significant State investment in the public transport infrastructure of the area and the anticipated changes to and intensification of land uses that will occur in the area. Significant re-development proposals and opportunities exist on O'Connell Street and its environs.

It is within this context that it is proposed to update the SSPC.

#### 2.4 Identification of Relevant European Sites within the Zone of Influence of the SSPC

In order to identify the European Sites that could potentially be significantly affected by the implementation of the Draft SSPC, the Appropriate Assessment Screening of the operational Development Plan was reviewed and those European Sites within a 15 km radius (determined to be the precautionary or potential Zone of Influence (ZOI)) of the SSPC area were assessed in accordance with DoEHLG recommended procedures for identifying European Sites. It is noted that the nearest Natura 2000 site is 2.2 km from the SSPC and that O'Connell Street is located within the existing built up area of Dublin City. The SSPC will not generate a new building but may intensify existing uses. As a result the 15 km buffer was decided upon based upon the precautionary principle. In addition, and in line with the methodology followed in the Development Plan, potential connectivity between designated sites (such as river catchments etc.) were also reviewed to identify potential interactions with the plan area and designated sites outside the 15 km zone. It was found that the 15 km buffer zone generally captured all potentially significant impacts to European Sites arising from the implementation of the Draft SSPC.





**TABLE 3: SPECIAL AREAS OF CONSERVATION WITHIN C. 15KM OF SSPC (THE POTENTIAL ZONE OF INFLUENCE)**

SPECIAL AREAS OF CONSERVATION (SACS)			
Site Code	European Site Name	Qualifying Features of Interest/Special Conservation Interests	Distance from SSPC
000199	Baldoyle Bay SAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]</li> <li>• Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310]</li> <li>• Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) [1330]</li> <li>• Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410]</li> </ul>	c. 10 km
000202	Howth Head SAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230]</li> <li>• European dry heaths [4030]</li> </ul>	c. 11 km
000206	North Dublin Bay SAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]</li> <li>• Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210]</li> <li>• Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310]</li> <li>• Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) [1330]</li> <li>• Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410]</li> <li>• Embryonic shifting dunes [2110]</li> <li>• Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120]</li> <li>• Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130]</li> <li>• Humid dune slacks [2190]</li> <li>• <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> (Petalwort) [1394]</li> </ul>	c. 5.3 km

**SPECIAL AREAS OF CONSERVATION (SACS)**

Site Code	European Site Name	Qualifying Features of Interest/Special Conservation Interests	Distance from SSPC
000210	South Dublin Bay SAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]</li> <li>• Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210]</li> <li>• Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310]</li> <li>• Embryonic shifting dunes [2110]</li> </ul>	c. 3.5 km
001209	Glenasmole Valley SAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia)</li> <li>• (* important orchid sites) [6210]</li> <li>• Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae) [6410]</li> <li>• Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220]</li> </ul>	c. 12.5 km
002122	Wicklow Mountains SAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (Littorelletalia uniflorae) [3110]</li> <li>• Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160]</li> <li>• Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix [4010]</li> <li>• European dry heaths [4030]</li> <li>• Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060]</li> <li>• Calaminarian grasslands of the Violetalia calaminariae [6130]</li> <li>• Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe) [6230]</li> <li>• Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130]</li> <li>• Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (Androsacetalia alpinae and Galeopsietalia ladani) [8110]</li> <li>• Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8210]</li> <li>• Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220]</li> <li>• Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0]</li> <li>• Lutra (Otter) [1344]</li> </ul>	c. 12.5 km

**SPECIAL AREAS OF CONSERVATION (SACS)**

Site Code	European Site Name	Qualifying Features of Interest/Special Conservation Interests	Distance from SSPC
003000	Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reefs [1170]</li> <li>• Phocoena (Harbour Porpoise) [1341]</li> </ul>	c. 11.3 km
000205	Malahide Estuary SAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]</li> <li>• Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310]</li> <li>• Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>) [1330]</li> <li>• Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410]</li> <li>• Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120]</li> <li>• Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130]</li> </ul>	c. 12.8 km
002193	Ireland's Eye SAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Perennial vegetation of stony banks.</li> <li>• Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts.</li> </ul>	c. 14 km

**TABLE 4: SPECIAL PROTECTION AREAS WITHIN C. 15KM OF SSPC (THE POTENTIAL ZONE OF INFLUENCE)**

SPECIAL PROTECTION AREAS (SPAS)			
Site Code	European Site Name	Qualifying Features of Interest/Special Conservation Interests	Distance from SSPC
004006	North Bull Island SPA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>)</li> <li>• Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>)</li> <li>• Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>)</li> <li>• Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>)</li> <li>• Shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>)</li> <li>• Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>)</li> <li>• Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>)</li> <li>• Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>)</li> <li>• Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>)</li> <li>• Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>)</li> <li>• Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>)</li> <li>• Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>)</li> <li>• Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>)</li> <li>• Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>)</li> <li>• Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>)</li> <li>• Turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>)</li> <li>• Black-headed Gull (<i>Larus ridibundus</i>)</li> </ul>	c. 5.2 km
004016	Baldoyle Bay SPA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046]</li> <li>• Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048]</li> <li>• Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137]</li> <li>• Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140]</li> <li>• Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141]</li> <li>• Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A147]</li> <li>• Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]</li> </ul>	c. 10.3 km

**SPECIAL PROTECTION AREAS (SPAS)**

Site Code	European Site Name	Qualifying Features of Interest/Special Conservation Interests	Distance from SSPC
<b>004024</b>	South Dublin Bay And River Tolka Estuary SPA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>)</li> <li>• Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>)</li> <li>• Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>)</li> <li>• Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>)</li> <li>• Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>)</li> <li>• Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>)</li> <li>• Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>)</li> <li>• Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>)</li> <li>• Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>)</li> <li>• Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>)</li> <li>• Roseate Tern (<i>Sterna dougallii</i>)</li> <li>• Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>)</li> <li>• Arctic Tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>)</li> </ul>	c. 2.2 km
<b>004040</b>	Wicklow Mountains SPA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>)</li> <li>• Peregrine (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>)</li> </ul>	c. 12.7 km
<b>004172</b>	Dalkey Islands SPA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Roseate Tern (<i>Sterna dougallii</i>) [A192]</li> <li>• Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193]</li> <li>• Arctic Tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) [A194]</li> </ul>	c. 13.5 km
<b>004025</b>	Malahide Estuary SPA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>)</li> <li>• Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>)</li> <li>• Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>)</li> <li>• Goldeneye (<i>Bucephala clangula</i>)</li> </ul>	c. 12.8 km

**SPECIAL PROTECTION AREAS (SPAS)**

Site Code	European Site Name	Qualifying Features of Interest/Special Conservation Interests	Distance from SSPC
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Red-breasted Merganser (<i>Mergus serrator</i>)</li> <li>• Great Crested Grebe (<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>)</li> <li>• Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>)</li> <li>• Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>)</li> <li>• Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>)</li> <li>• Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>)</li> <li>• Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>)</li> <li>• Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>)</li> <li>• Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>)</li> <li>• Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>)</li> </ul>	
<b>004113</b>	Howth Head Coast SPA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>)</li> </ul>	c. 13.7 km
<b>004117</b>	Ireland's Eye SPA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>)</li> <li>• Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>)</li> <li>• Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>)</li> <li>• Guillemot (<i>Uria aalge</i>)</li> <li>• Razorbill (<i>Alca torda</i>)</li> </ul>	c. 13.8 km

In summary, Tables 3 and 4 illustrate that 17 no. European Sites are located within c. 15km of the potential zone of influence of the SSPC area.

In order to determine if each of these European Sites are located in the actual Zone of Influence of the SSPC, further consideration needs to be given to:

- Whether there is **connectivity / a pathway** between the European site (Receptor) and the land subject to the SSPC (Source). This is considered further in Table 5 below.
- If there are elements of the Draft SSPC identified as having the potential to result in development / land use **activities which could result in negative ecological effects** for any European Sites (this is considered further in Section 3).

#### 2.4.2 Assessment of connectivity/pathways between European Sites and Development Framework

European Sites and their associated qualifying features are identified as occurring in the Zone of Influence of a plan **where pathways establish a link** between the lands subject to that plan and European Sites, or where the lands subject to the plan are likely to play an important role in supporting populations of mobile species (i.e. migratory birds etc.) that are listed as special conservation interests/qualifying species for surrounding European Sites.

This assessment specifically relates to lands which is subject to a Draft SSPC.

##### 1. *Hydrological Pathways*

A hydrological pathway (incl. surface water and groundwater) is established where a European Site is located **downstream** of the plan area, or **upstream** of the plan area where qualifying feature of interest of the European Site includes freshwater dependent mobile qualifying species.

##### 2. *Noise Pathway*

A noise disturbance pathway is established where the European Site is located within 500m of the boundary of the plan area. European Sites at a greater distance than **500m** will not be sensitive to noise emissions that could be generated by any land use activities that may arise as a result of the Draft SSPC.

##### 3. *Light Disturbance Pathway*

A light disturbance pathway is established where the European Site is located within 250m of the boundary of the plan area. European Sites at a greater distance than **250m** will not be sensitive to light emissions that could be generated by any land use activities that may arise as a result of the Draft SSPC.



#### *4. General Disturbance Pathway*

A general disturbance (i.e. resulting from human-related terrestrial and other activities) pathway is established where the European Site is located within **500m** of the boundary of the plan area. European Sites at a greater distance than 500m will not be sensitive to human-related activities that may arise as a result of the Draft SSPC.

Table 5 assesses whether or not each of the Natura 2000 sites is deemed to be within the Zone of Influence.

**TABLE 5: ASSESSMENT OF CONNECTIVITY / PATHWAYS BETWEEN EUROPEAN SITES AND SSPC**

European Site	Hydrological Pathway	Noise Pathway	Light Pathway	Human-related Disturbance Pathway	Does the European Site occur within the Zone of Influence of the Plan?
Baldoyle Bay SAC	No. There are no hydrological pathways connecting the plan area to this SAC.	No. This SAC is located c. 10 km from the SSPC lands and is outside the Zone of Influence of any noise generated within the SSPC area.	No. This SAC is located c. 10 km from the SSPC lands and is outside the Zone of Influence of any light generated within the SSPC area.	No. This SAC is located c. 10 km from the SSPC lands and is outside the Zone of Influence of any human-related activity generated within the SSPC area.	No. This European Site is located outside the Zone of Influence of the SSPC due to the absence of any impact pathways between the plan area and this SAC.
Howth Head SAC	No. There are no hydrological pathways connecting the plan area to this SAC.	No. This SAC is located c. 11 km from the SSPC lands and is outside the Zone of Influence of any noise	No. This SAC is located c. 11 km from the SSPC lands and is outside the Zone of Influence of any light	No. This SAC is located c. 11 km from the SSPC lands and is outside the Zone of Influence of any	No. This European Site is located outside the

European Site	Hydrological Pathway	Noise Pathway	Light Pathway	Human-related Disturbance Pathway	Does the European Site occur within the Zone of Influence of the Plan?
		generated within the SSPC area.	generated within the SSPC area.	human-related activity generated within the SSPC area.	Zone of Influence of the SSPC due to the absence of any impact pathways between the plan area and this SAC.
Malahide Estuary SAC	No. There are no hydrological pathways connecting the plan area to this SAC.	No. This SAC is located c. 12.8 km from the SSPC lands and is outside the Zone of Influence of any noise generated within the SSPC area.	No. This SAC is located c. 12.8 km from the SSPC lands and is outside the Zone of Influence of any light generated within the SSPC area.	No. This SAC is located c. 12.8 km from the SSPC lands and is outside the Zone of Influence of any human-related activity generated within the SSPC area.	No. This European Site is located outside the Zone of Influence of the SSPC due to the absence of any impact pathways

European Site	Hydrological Pathway	Noise Pathway	Light Pathway	Human-related Disturbance Pathway	Does the European Site occur within the Zone of Influence of the Plan?
					between the plan area and this SAC.
North Dublin Bay SAC	<p>Yes. The plan area is located upstream of this SAC. Given the potential connectivity and physical proximity, and in line with the findings of the AA Screening undertaken for the current Development Plan, there is a potential pathway.</p> <p>The River Liffey is within the area covered by the SSPC. There is a potential hydrological connection between the lands and the SAC via the surface water drainage network and via groundwater.</p>	No. This SAC is located c. 5.3 km from the SSPC lands and is outside the Zone of Influence of any noise generated within the SSPC area.	No. This SAC is located c. 5.3 km from the SSPC lands and is outside the Zone of Influence of any light generated within the SSPC area.	No. This SAC is located c. 5.3 km from the SSPC lands and is outside the Zone of Influence of any human-related activity generated within the SSPC area.	Yes

European Site	Hydrological Pathway	Noise Pathway	Light Pathway	Human-related Disturbance Pathway	Does the European Site occur within the Zone of Influence of the Plan?
South Dublin Bay SAC	<p>Yes. The plan area is located upstream of this SAC. Given the potential connectivity and physical proximity, and in line with the findings of the AA Screening undertaken for the current Development Plan, there is a potential pathway.</p> <p>The River Liffey is within the area covered by the SSPC. There is a potential hydrological connection between the lands and the SAC via the surface water drainage network and via groundwater.</p>	No. This SAC is located c. 3.5 km from the SSPC lands and is outside the Zone of Influence of any noise generated within the SSPC area.	No. This SAC is located c. 3.5 km from the SSPC lands and is outside the Zone of Influence of any light generated within the SSPC area.	No. This SAC is located c. 3.5 km from the SSPC lands and is outside the Zone of Influence of any human-related activity generated within the SSPC area.	Yes
Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC	No. There are no hydrological pathways connecting the plan area to this SAC.	No. This SAC is located c. 11.3 km from the SSPC lands and is outside the Zone of Influence of any noise	No. This SAC is located c. 11.3 km from the SSPC lands and is outside the Zone of Influence of any light	No. This SAC is located c. 11.3 km from the SSPC lands and is outside the Zone of Influence of any human-related activity	No. This European Site is located outside the Zone of

European Site	Hydrological Pathway	Noise Pathway	Light Pathway	Human-related Disturbance Pathway	Does the European Site occur within the Zone of Influence of the Plan?
		generated within the SSPC area.	generated within the SSPC area.	generated within the SSPC area.	Influence of the SSPC due to the absence of any impact pathways between the plan area and this SAC.
Glenasole Valley SAC	No. There are no hydrological pathways connecting the plan area to this SAC.	No. This SAC is located c. 12.5 km from the SSPC lands and is outside the Zone of Influence of any noise generated within the SSPC area.	No. This SAC is located c. 12.5 km from the SSPC lands and is outside the Zone of Influence of any light generated within the SSPC area.	No. This SAC is located c. 12.5 km from the SSPC lands and is outside the Zone of Influence of any human-related activity generated within the SSPC area.	No. This European Site is located outside the Zone of Influence of the SSPC due to the absence of any impact pathways between the

European Site	Hydrological Pathway	Noise Pathway	Light Pathway	Human-related Disturbance Pathway	Does the European Site occur within the Zone of Influence of the Plan?
					plan area and this SAC.
Wicklow Mountains SAC	No. There are no hydrological pathways connecting the plan area to this SAC.	No. This SAC is located c. 12.5 km from the SSPC lands and is outside the Zone of Influence of any noise generated within the SSPC area.	No. This SAC is located c. 12.5 km from the SSPC lands and is outside the Zone of Influence of any light generated within the SSPC area.	No. This SAC is located c. 12.5 km from the SSPC lands and is outside the Zone of Influence of any human-related activity generated within the SSPC area.	No. This European Site is located outside the Zone of Influence of the SSPC due to the absence of any impact pathways between the plan area and this SAC.
Ireland's Eye SAC	No. There are no hydrological pathways connecting the plan area to this SAC.	No. This SAC is located c. 14 km from the SSPC lands and is outside the Zone of	No. This SAC is located c. 14 km from the SSPC lands and is outside the Zone of	No. This SAC is located c. 14 km from the SSPC lands and is outside the Zone of	No. This European Site is located

European Site	Hydrological Pathway	Noise Pathway	Light Pathway	Human-related Disturbance Pathway	Does the European Site occur within the Zone of Influence of the Plan?
		Influence of any noise generated within the SSPC area.	Influence of any light generated within the SSPC area.	Influence of any human-related activity generated within the SSPC area.	outside the Zone of Influence of the SSPC due to the absence of any impact pathways between the plan area and this SAC.
North Bull Island SPA	<p>Yes. The plan area is located upstream of this SPA. Given the potential connectivity and physical proximity, and in line with the findings of the AA Screening undertaken for the current Development Plan, there is a potential pathway.</p> <p>The River Liffey is within the area covered by the SSPC. There is a</p>	No. This SPA is located c. 5.2 km from the SSPC lands and is outside the Zone of Influence of any noise generated within the SSPC area.	No. This SPA is located c. 5.2 km from the SSPC lands and is outside the Zone of Influence of any light generated within the SSPC area.	No. This SPA is located c. 5.2 km from the SSPC lands and is outside the Zone of Influence of any human-related activity generated within the SSPC area.	Yes



European Site	Hydrological Pathway	Noise Pathway	Light Pathway	Human-related Disturbance Pathway	Does the European Site occur within the Zone of Influence of the Plan?
	potential hydrological connection between the lands and the SPA via the surface water drainage network and via groundwater.				
Baldoyle Bay SPA	No. There are no hydrological pathways connecting the plan area to this SPA.	No. This SPA is located c. 10.3 km from the SSPC lands and is outside the Zone of Influence of any noise generated within the SSPC area.	No. This SPA is located c. 10.3 km from the SSPC lands and is outside the Zone of Influence of any light generated within the SSPC area.	No. This SPA is located c. 10.3 km from the SSPC lands and is outside the Zone of Influence of any human-related activity generated within the SSPC area.	No. This European Site is located outside the Zone of Influence of the SSPC due to the absence of any impact pathways between the plan area and this SPA.
South Dublin Bay And River	Yes. The plan area is located upstream of this SPA. Given the	No. This SPA is located c. 2.2 km from the	No. This SPA is located c. 2.2 km from the	No. This SPA is located c. 2.2 km from the	Yes

European Site	Hydrological Pathway	Noise Pathway	Light Pathway	Human-related Disturbance Pathway	Does the European Site occur within the Zone of Influence of the Plan?
Tolka Estuary SPA	<p>potential connectivity and physical proximity, and in line with the findings of the AA Screening undertaken for the current Development Plan, there is a potential pathway.</p> <p>The River Liffey is within the area covered by the SSPC. There is a potential hydrological connection between the lands and the SPA via the surface water drainage network and via groundwater.</p>	SSPC lands and is outside the Zone of Influence of any noise generated within the SSPC area.	SSPC lands and is outside the Zone of Influence of any light generated within the SSPC area.	SSPC lands and is outside the Zone of Influence of any human-related activity generated within the SSPC area.	
Malahide Estuary SPA	No. There are no hydrological pathways connecting the plan area to this SPA.	No. This SPA is located c. 12.8 km from the SSPC lands and is outside the Zone of Influence of any noise	No. This SPA is located c. 12.8 km from the SSPC lands and is outside the Zone of Influence of any light	No. This SPA is located c. 12.8 km from the SSPC lands and is outside the Zone of Influence of any human-related activity	No. This European Site is located outside the Zone of Influence of

European Site	Hydrological Pathway	Noise Pathway	Light Pathway	Human-related Disturbance Pathway	Does the European Site occur within the Zone of Influence of the Plan?
		generated within the SSPC area.	generated within the SSPC area.	generated within the SSPC area.	the SSPC due to the absence of any impact pathways between the plan area and this SPA.
Dalkey Islands SPA	No. There are no hydrological pathways connecting the plan area to this SPA.	No. This SPA is located c. 13.5 km from the SSPC lands and is outside the Zone of Influence of any noise generated within the SSPC area.	No. This SPA is located c. 13.5 km from the SSPC lands and is outside the Zone of Influence of any light generated within the SSPC area.	No. This SPA is located c. 13.5 km from the SSPC lands and is outside the Zone of Influence of any human-related activity generated within the SSPC area.	No. This European Site is located outside the Zone of Influence of the SSPC due to the absence of any impact pathways between the

European Site	Hydrological Pathway	Noise Pathway	Light Pathway	Human-related Disturbance Pathway	Does the European Site occur within the Zone of Influence of the Plan?
					plan area and this SPA.
Wicklow Mountains SPA	No. There are no hydrological pathways connecting the plan area to this SPA.	No. This SPA is located c. 12.7 km from the SSPC lands and is outside the Zone of Influence of any noise generated within the SSPC area.	No. This SPA is located c. 12.7 km from the SSPC lands and is outside the Zone of Influence of any light generated within the SSPC area.	No. This SPA is located c. 12.7 km from the SSPC lands and is outside the Zone of Influence of any human-related activity generated within the SSPC area.	No. This European Site is located outside the Zone of Influence of the SSPC due to the absence of any impact pathways between the plan area and this SPA.
Howth Head Coast SPA	No. There are no hydrological pathways connecting the plan area to this SPA.	No. This SPA is located c. 13.7 km from the SSPC lands and is outside the Zone of	No. This SPA is located c. 13.7 km from the SSPC lands and is outside the Zone of	No. This SPA is located c. 13.7 km from the SSPC lands and is outside the Zone of	No. This European Site is located

European Site	Hydrological Pathway	Noise Pathway	Light Pathway	Human-related Disturbance Pathway	Does the European Site occur within the Zone of Influence of the Plan?
		Influence of any noise generated within the SSPC area.	Influence of any light generated within the SSPC area.	Influence of any human-related activity generated within the SSPC area.	outside the Zone of Influence of the SSPC due to the absence of any impact pathways between the plan area and this SPA.
Ireland's Eye SPA	No. There are no hydrological pathways connecting the plan area to this SPA.	No. This SPA is located c. 13.8 km from the SSPC lands and is outside the Zone of Influence of any noise generated within the SSPC area.	No. This SPA is located c. 13.8 km from the SSPC lands and is outside the Zone of Influence of any light generated within the SSPC area.	No. This SPA is located c. 13.8 km from the SSPC lands and is outside the Zone of Influence of any human-related activity generated within the SSPC area.	No. This European Site is located outside the Zone of Influence of the SSPC due to the absence of any impact

European Site	Hydrological Pathway	Noise Pathway	Light Pathway	Human-related Disturbance Pathway	Does the European Site occur within the Zone of Influence of the Plan?
					pathways between the plan area and this SPA.

Following the precautionary principle, potential hydrological and other pathways between European Sites and the lands subject to the Draft SSPC have been highlighted in Table 5. However, the existence of a pathway does not automatically equate to the likelihood of a significant effect occurring (i.e. where a pathway exists but the magnitude of the potential impact generated at the source is sufficiently small, the likelihood of the pathway giving rise to a significant effect can be ruled out). This theme is explored further in Section 3 of this report where the potential for the SSPC to give rise to likely significant effects is assessed.

In line with the results of the AA Screening exercise undertaken for the Development Plan, Tables 3, 4 and 5 illustrate that the Draft SSPC could potentially impact, either directly or indirectly, on the following 4 no. European Sites by virtue of their physical proximity/connectivity:

1. North Dublin Bay SAC
2. South Dublin Bay SAC
3. North Bull Island SPA
4. South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA

## 2.5 Conclusion

In summary, and in line with the findings of the AA Screening carried out on the Development Plan, 4 no. sites have been identified as coming within the Zone of Influence of the SSPC.

The next step of this Screening is to examine the nature and extent of the SSPC in order to assess its potential to result in likely significant effects on the 4 no. European Sites identified above as occurring within the Zone of Influence of the SSPC.

### SECTION 3 – POTENTIAL FOR THE DRAFT SSPC TO GIVE RISE TO LIKELY SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS

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The Draft SSPC sits within the framework of the operational Development Plan. The Development Plan sets the strategic planning policy framework for all projects and development in the City (excluding Strategic Development Zones). All planning proposals are assessed against the policies and objectives of the Development Plan and all lower plans must be consistent with the Development Plan. An Appropriate Assessment was carried out at all stages of the Development Plan in order to ensure that its policies and objectives did not result in significant adverse impacts on the integrity of any of the identified European Sites. O'Connell Street is designated as an Architectural Conservation Area (ACA) and as an Area of Special Planning Control (ASPC). An SSPC was subsequently prepared for the area, which specifies development objectives for the preservation or enhancement of the area that would further strengthen its designation as an ACA.

The Draft SSPC is compatible, and complementary with, the policies and objectives of the operational Development Plan relating to compact urban development and environmental protection.

It is not anticipated that the Draft SSPC would give rise to significant development or land use effects over and above those considered as part of the current Development Plan. Furthermore, as noted in Section 2, the existence of a pathway does not automatically equate to the likelihood of a significant effect occurring (i.e. where a pathway exists but the magnitude of the potential impact generated at the source is sufficiently small, the likelihood of the pathway giving rise to a significant effect can be ruled out).

The Draft SSPC will not have the potential to result in land uses or activities over and above those previously assessed, identified, as part of the Screening for Appropriate Assessment / Appropriate Assessment of the Development Plan. On this basis, there will be no potential for the Draft SSPC to result in likely significant effects to European Sites.



#### SECTION 4 - IN-COMBINATION EFFECT WITH OTHER PLANS & PROJECTS

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As part of the Habitats Directive Article 6(3) assessment process, consideration must be given to the potential for the Draft SSPC to combine with other plans or projects to result in cumulative negative effects to European Sites.

The Development Plan sits at the Local Government level of the Spatial Planning Hierarchy in Ireland - below the Regional Assembly and Government levels. The Development Plan sits at the top of the Local Government Level Spatial Planning Hierarchy (SSPCs), with the requirement that all lower plans must be consistent with the Development Plan.

In this context, consideration has been given to the Draft SSPC's potential to combine with a number of other plans relevant to the wider surrounding area.

These plans include:

- The National Planning Framework (NPF)
- Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES)
- Climate Action Plan 2021: Securing Our Future
- Climate Change Action Plan for Dublin City 2019-2024 (CCAP)
- The Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area, 2016-2034
- Water Services Strategic Plan
- Neighbouring County Development Plans
- River Basin District Management Plans
- CFRAMS Study
- Greater Dublin Drainage

Given that the Draft SSPC, as identified in Sections 2 and 3 above, will not result in significant land use effects or activities that have the potential to result in likely significant effects on European Sites, there will be no potential for the adoption of the Draft SSPC to combine with the above listed plans and projects, or any other plans or projects to result in likely significant effects to European Sites.

SECTION 5 - SCREENING MATRIX FOR THE DRAFT SSPC

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

**Brief Description of Project or Plan (Draft O’Connell Street Scheme of Special Planning Control 2022)**

**Pursuant to Sections 85 and 86 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) Dublin City Council (DCC) has reviewed the existing Scheme of Special Planning Control (SSPC) for O’Connell Street, which was approved in 2016. A number of changes to the original scheme are recommended and these have been incorporated into a Draft SSPC for O’Connell Street 2022 (the Draft SSPC).**

DCC proposes amending the existing SSPC to include a number of text changes, to ensure consistency with the Dublin City Development Plan 2016-2022 (the Development Plan) and taking into account wider planning policy and economic changes that have occurred since the SSPC was adopted.

The changes proposed include:

- Updates to general land use controls.
- Updates to street specific land uses considered permitted, open for consideration and non-permissible.
- Text changes, to include updated objectives.

The changes proposed **are consistent** with the Development Plan, which was subject to AA.

**For clarity, no change to the boundary of the Area of Special Planning Control is proposed.**

**Brief description of the European Sites**

17 no. European Sites were identified within a c. 15km radius of the SSPC. These European Sites are identified and described in Tables 3 and 4 of Section 2 above.

## Assessment Criteria

### **Describe the individual elements of the Draft SSPC (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) likely to give rise to impacts on the European Sites.**

The land use implications of the Draft SSPC have been assessed in Section 3 of this Screening report and it has been found that the SSPC will not have the potential, alone or in-combination with other plans or projects, to result in likely significant effects to European Sites.

### **Describe any likely direct, indirect or secondary impacts of the Draft SSPC (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) on the European site by virtue of:**

#### **Size and scale;**

The size and scale of the area subject to the Draft SSPC is in keeping with that of the operational Development Plan, with any relevant future/new development (or intensification of the use of the lands in line with current Development Plan policy) to be integrated into the established urban pattern. It is not predicted to have any likely impacts on the conservation function of any European site in respect to its size or scale. The Draft SSPC will not, either alone or in combination with other plans or project, have any impact on European Sites by virtue of its size and scale.

#### **Land-take;**

There is not predicted to be additional land-take arising from the implementation of the Draft SSPC. The Draft SSPC will not, either alone or in combination with other plans or project, have any impact on European Sites by way of additional land-take.

#### **Distance from European site or key features of the site;**

Full details are provided in Tables 3 and 4 of Section 2 above.

#### **Resource requirements (water abstraction etc);**

There are not predicted to be significant additional resource requirements arising from the implementation of the Draft SSPC. In line with the operational Development Plan, resource supply, including potable water, will be provided from existing municipal infrastructure/established networks in line with NPF and RSES water demand allocations for the Greater Dublin Area. The Development Plan includes the necessary policies, objectives and standards to ensure that no adverse impact will arise, singularly or in a cumulative

manner. The Draft SSPC will not, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, have any impact on European Sites by way of resource requirements.

**Emission (disposal to land, water or air);**

There are not predicted to be additional emissions arising from the implementation of the Draft SSPC. Any future development proposal will require planning consent which is required to satisfy the requirements of the Development Plan and to be subject to a project specific AA Screening, with any forthcoming planning permissions to be subject to conditions to ensure disposal to land, water and air has no impact on any European site. The operational Development Plan includes the necessary policies, objectives and standards to ensure that no adverse impact will arise, singularly or in a cumulative manner.

The Draft SSPC will not, either alone or in combination with other plans or project, have any impact on European Sites by way of emissions (disposal to land, water or air).

**Excavation requirements;**

There is not predicted to be additional excavation requirements arising from the implementation of the Draft SSPC. The Draft SSPC will not, either alone or in combination with other plans or project, have any impact on European Sites by way of excavation requirements.

**Transportation requirements;**

The subject site is situated within the existing built fabric and the built up area of Dublin City, which is served by existing, and will be served by planned, public transport. In line with Development Plan policy, local traffic / mobility assessments may be required in respect of future developments. The Draft SSPC will not, either alone or in combination with other plans or project, have any impact on European Sites by way of transportation requirements.

**Duration of construction, operation, decommissioning, etc;**

There are not predicted to be additional construction, operation or decommissioning requirements arising from the implementation of the Draft SSPC (i.e. over and above what would be allowed under the current zoning). The operational Development Plan includes the necessary policies, objectives and standards to ensure that no adverse impact will arise, singularly or in a cumulative manner. The Draft SSPC will not, either alone or in combination with other plans or project, have any impact on European Sites by way of construction, operation or decommissioning requirements.

**Other**

None.

In summary, the Draft SSPC will not result in land use effects that have the potential, alone or in-combination with other plans or projects, to result in likely significant effects to European Sites.

In light of this conclusion, there will be no potential for the Draft SSPC to result in direct, indirect or secondary effects to European Sites.

**Describe any likely changes to the site arising as a result of:**

**Reduction of habitat area:**

Not applicable.

**Disturbance to key species;**

Not applicable.

**Habitat or species fragmentation;**

Not applicable.

**Reduction in species density;**

Not applicable.

**Changes in key indicators of conservation value**

Not applicable.

**Climate change:**

Not applicable.

In summary, the Draft SSPC will not result in land use effects that have the potential to result in the: reduction in the extent of qualifying habitats of European Sites in the wider surrounding area; disturb qualifying species of European Sites in the wider surrounding area, or disturb the species that underpin the status of qualifying habitats of European Sites in the wider surrounding area; fragmentation of qualifying habitats or species populations; changes in key indicators of conservation value such as water quality or the attributes that underpin the conservation status of qualifying feature of interest of European Sites in the wider surrounding area; emission of greenhouse gases that could contribute towards climate change.

**Describe any likely impacts on the European Sites as a whole in terms of:**

**Interference with the key relationships that define the structure of the site;**

No predicted likely impact on the structure of any European Site.

**Interference with key relationships that define the function of the site;**

No predicted likely impact on the conservation function of any European Site.

In summary, as the Draft SSPC, alone or in combination with other plans or projects, will not have the potential to interact with any European Sites or their qualifying features of interest, it will not have the potential to interfere with key relationships that define the structure and function of European Sites.

**Provide indicators of significance as a result of the identification of effects set out above in terms of:**

**Loss;**

Not applicable.

**Fragmentation;**

Not applicable.

**Disruption;**

Not applicable.

**Disturbance;**

Not applicable.

**Change to key elements of the site (e.g. water quality etc);**

Not applicable.

In summary, as the Draft SSPC, alone or in combination with other plans or projects, will not have the potential to interact with any European Sites or their qualifying features of interest it will not have the potential to result in the: loss of qualifying habitats or habitats upon which qualifying species rely; fragmentation qualifying habitats or habitats upon which qualifying species rely; disruption qualifying habitats or habitats upon which qualifying species rely; disturbance qualifying habitats, habitats upon which qualifying species rely or qualifying species; and, change to key elements of European Sites (e.g. water quality etc.).

**Describe from the above those elements of the project or plan, or combination of elements, where the above impacts are likely to be significant or where the scale or magnitude of impacts are not known.**

There are no predicted likely impacts on the conservation function of any European Sites arising from the Draft SSPC in combination with the above plans or projects.

SECTION 6 – SCREENING CONCLUSION

The Screening of the Draft SSPC, as set out in Section 2 and assessed in Sections 3 and 4 above, shows that the land use elements of the Draft SSPC will not result in land use effects that will have the potential, alone or in-combination with other plans or projects, to result in likely significant effects to European Sites. In light of the findings of this report, it can be concluded by Dublin City Council that the Draft O’Connell Street and Environs SSPC 2022 is not likely, alone or in-combination with other plans or projects, to have a significant effect on any European Sites in view of their conservation objectives.

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS MATRIX**

<p><b>Name of Project or Plan:</b></p>	<p>Draft O’Connell Street and Environs Scheme of Special Planning Control 2022.</p>
<p><b>Name and location of European Sites:</b></p>	<p>European Sites in the wider vicinity of the SSPC area are provided in Section 2 above.</p>
<p><b>Description of the Project or Plan</b></p>	<p>As provided in the Screening Matrix in Section 5 above</p>
<p><b>Is the Project or Plan directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site (provide details)?</b></p>	<p>No. See Section 2.1 above.</p>
<p><b>Are there other projects or plans that together with the project or plan being assessed could affect the site (provide details)?</b></p>	<p>No. full details in Section 4 above.</p>

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<b>The Assessment of Significance of Effects</b>	
<p><b>Describe how the project or plan (alone or in combination) is likely to affect the European Sites:</b></p>	<p>No predicted likely impact on the conservation function of any European Sites.</p>
<p><b>Explain why these effects are not considered significant:</b></p>	<p>The Draft SSPC provides for sustainable development in accordance with the current Development Plan and the principles of proper planning and sustainable development.</p> <p>Section 3 examines the Draft SSPC in detail and concludes that it will not have the potential to result in land use activities over and above those previously assessed, identified (and mitigated against) as part of the Appropriate Assessment (Screening and NIS) of the current Development Plan, and on this basis, there are no predicted likely impacts on the conservation structure or function of any European Sites arising from the implementation of the Draft SSPC.</p> <p>O’Connell Street is designated as an Architectural Conservation Area (ACA) and as an Area of Special Planning Control (ASPC). An SSPC was subsequently prepared for the area, which specifies development objectives for the preservation or enhancement of the area that would further strengthen its designation as an ACA.</p> <p>There are not predicted to be additional requirements arising from the Draft SSPC in terms of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• size and scale</li> <li>• land-take</li> <li>• resources</li> <li>• excavation</li> <li>• emissions</li> <li>• transportation</li> <li>• construction, operation or decommissioning</li> </ul>



	<p>On this basis, it is concluded that there are not likely to be changes to the sites, habitats or species arising as a result of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• loss</li> <li>• fragmentation</li> <li>• disruption</li> <li>• disturbance</li> <li>• changes to other key indicators of significance</li> </ul>
<p><b>List of Agencies Consulted: Provide contact name and telephone or email address:</b></p>	<p>The Manager, Development Applications Unit, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. Email: <a href="mailto:sea@environ.ie">sea@environ.ie</a></p> <p>Tadhg O'Mahony, Environmental Protection Agency, Regional Inspectorate, Iniscarra, County Cork. Email: <a href="mailto:t.omahony@epa.ie">t.omahony@epa.ie</a> Email: <a href="mailto:sea@epa.ie">sea@epa.ie</a></p> <p>Department of Environment, Climate and Communications. Email: <a href="mailto:CorporateSupport.Unit@dcew.gov.ie">CorporateSupport.Unit@dcew.gov.ie</a> Email: <a href="mailto:corporatesupport.unit@dcca.gov.ie">corporatesupport.unit@dcca.gov.ie</a></p> <p>The Manager, Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media Email: <a href="mailto:Manager.DAU@ahg.gov.ie">Manager.DAU@ahg.gov.ie</a> Email: <a href="mailto:nationamonuments@chg.gov.ie">nationamonuments@chg.gov.ie</a></p>
<p><b>Response to Consultation</b></p>	<p>Submissions received from the relevant environmental bodies within the appropriate period were considered by the Planning Authority in making its final determination. No objections were received within the appropriate period.</p>

<b>Data Collected to Carry out the Assessment</b>	
<b>Who carried out the Assessment?</b>	<p>Planning and Property Development Department</p> <p>Dublin City Council</p>
<b>Sources of Data</b>	<p>Existing data</p> <p>As part of the Appropriate Assessment Screening process for the Draft SSPC, particular reference has been made to the following documents / data sources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland, Guidance for Planning Authorities.</i> Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government (2009)</li> <li>• <i>Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites Methodological guidance on the provision of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC.</i> (2002) Natura 2000 Commission (2001)</li> <li>• Circular letter SEA 1/08 and NPWS 1/08. Department of the Environment Heritage and Local Government (DoEHLG, February 2008)</li> <li>• Department of the Environment Heritage and Local Government (DoEHLG) Circular letter NPWS 1/10 and PSSP 2/10 (March 2010)</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Dublin City Council Climate Change Action Plan 2019-2024</i> (2019)</li> <li>• <i>Dublin City Council Climate Change Action Plan 2019-2024 – Appropriate Assessment Conclusion Statement</i> (2019)</li> <li>• <i>Dublin City Council Climate Change Action Plan 2019-2024 – Final Natura Impact Statement</i> (2019)</li> <li>• <i>Dublin City Council Climate Change Action Plan 2019-2024 – Appropriate Assessment Determination</i> (2019)</li> <li>• Dublin City Development Plan 2016-2022. (incl. Appropriate Assessment (Volume 6) (2016)</li> <li>• Existing NPWS Data. (Source: <a href="https://www.npws.ie/">https://www.npws.ie/</a>)</li> <li>• <i>Managing Natura 2000 sites. The provisions of Article 6, of the ‘Habitats’ Directive 92/43/EEC.</i> (2000)</li> <li>• <i>OSI Map Viewer</i> <a href="http://map.geohive.ie/mapviewer.html">http://map.geohive.ie/mapviewer.html</a></li> <li>• <i>Appropriate Assessment Geo Tool,</i> <a href="http://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/AAGeoTool">http://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/AAGeoTool</a></li> <li>• Regional Spatial &amp; Economic Strategy for the Eastern &amp; Midlands Region (incl. AA Screening and NIS)</li> <li>• The National Planning Framework (NPF) (Project Ireland 2040) (incl. AA Screening and NIS)</li> </ul>
<b>Level of Assessment Completed</b>	Desktop study.

<b>Where can the full results of the assessment be accessed and viewed</b>	This document contains the full results of the Appropriate Assessment Screening exercise and will be placed on display with the Draft SSPC.
<b>Overall Conclusion</b>	Stage 1 Screening indicates that the Draft SSPC will not have any significant cumulative, direct or indirect impacts upon any of the Natura 2000 network sites. Therefore it is not considered necessary to undertake any further stages of the Appropriate Assessment process.