Appropriate Assessment Screening Form

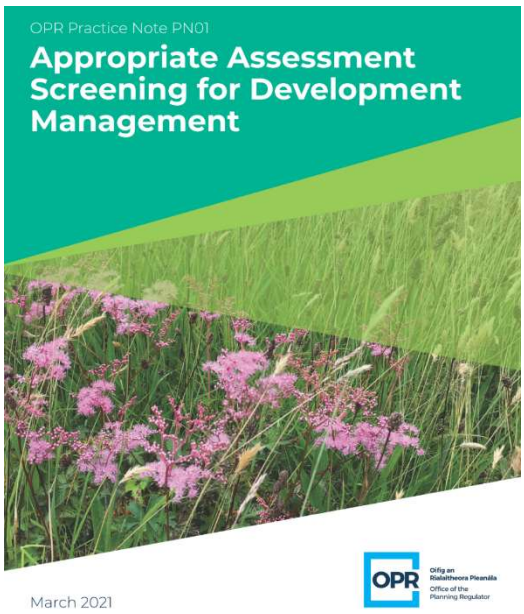
Part 9 Planning Submission

For

Change of use of existing office space, on the first floor of the four storey block, to a multi-functional space including a servery at the Printworks / Stamping Building, Dublin Castle, Dublin 2.

February 2025

Format taken from:



Appropriate Assessment Template Screening Form

STEP 1. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT/PROPOSAL AND LOCAL SITE CHARACTERISTICS

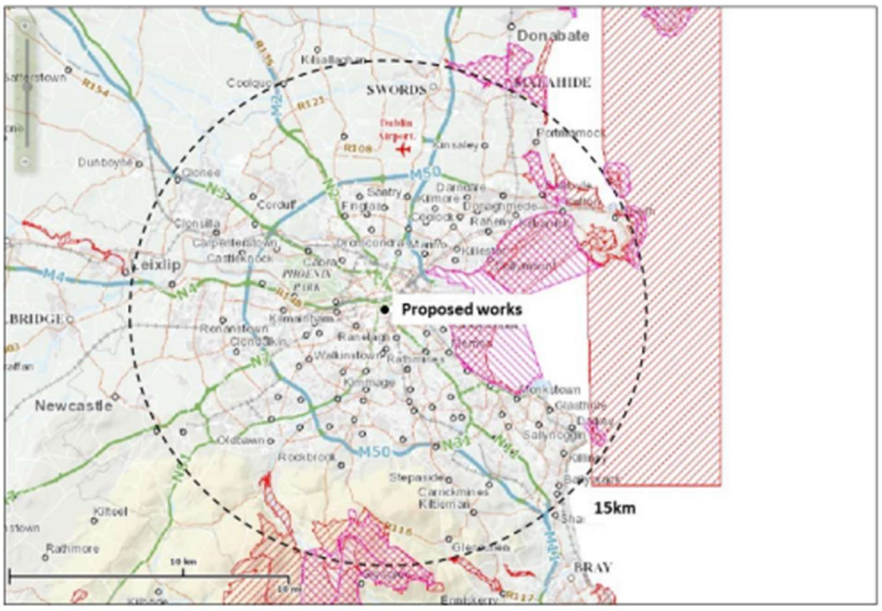
(a) File Reference No: H.24.024

(b) Brief description of the project or plan: Change of use of existing office space, on the first floor of the four storey block, to a multi-functional space including a servery at the Printworks / Stamping Building, Dublin Castle, Dublin 2.

(c) Brief description of site characteristics: Dublin Castle is located in Dublin city centre, south of Dame Street and the River Liffey. It is bound to the north by Castle Street, City Hall, the Dame Street Garden and Palace Street; to the south by the Dunnes Stores Headquarters along Upper Stephen Street; to the east by Ship Street; and to the west by a series of shops, restaurants and bars along South Great George's Street.
The site is divided between the Upper Yard and the Lower Yard along the East-West Axis. Both yards are surrounded by buildings on all sides. The Garda Traffic Unit, The Garda Drugs Unit, the OPW Dublin South Regional Office, the Dubhlinn Gardens, the Chester Beatty Library and the Assay office are also situated within the complex, south of the castle proper. The castle is separated from the gardens by the Back Avenue, which leads from the Ship Street Gate, past the Chapel Royal, to the Lower Yard. This roadway is located at basement level relative to the buildings located in the Upper Yard.
The Printworks Building is located to one side of the lower yard.

The subject site is not located within or immediately adjacent to any Natura / European site and will not therefore, have any direct impact on the integrity of these sites.

The closest Natura 2000 site is South Dublin Bay SAC which is approximately 3Km to the east.



(d) Relevant prescribed bodies consulted:
This is an OPW submission. Prescribed bodies have not been consulted due to the minor scale of the development

(e) Response to consultation:

STEP 2. IDENTIFICATION OF RELEVANT NATURA 2000 SITES USING SOURCE-PATHWAY-RECEPTOR MODEL AND COMPLIATION OF INFORMATION ON QUALIFYING INTERESTS AND CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES				
European Site Code (1)	List of Qualifying Interest / Special Conservation Interest	Distance from proposed development (km) (2)	Connections (Source - Pathway - Receptor)	Considered further in screening Y/N
South Dublin Bay SAC 000210	• Mudflats & sandflats not covered by seawater • Annual vegetation of drift lines • Salicornia / other annuals colonising mud & sand • Embryonic shifting dunes	Closest natura site @ 3km to the east	None	No
North Dublin Bay SAC 000206	10 QIs	< 15km	None	No
South Dublin Bay & River Tolka SPA 004024	QI – 13 Bird Species & Wetlands	Closest natura site @ 3km to the east	None	No
North Bull Island SPA 004006	QI – 18 Bird Species	< 15km	None	No
Irelands Eye SPA 004117	QI – 5 Bird Species	>15km	None	No
Irelands Eye SAC 002193	• Perennial vegetation of stoney banks • Vegetation sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic Coasts	>15km	None	No
Howth Head Coast SPA 004113	QI – 1 Bird Species	< 15km	None	No
Howth Head SAC 000202	• Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic Coasts • Europea dry heaths	< 15km	None	No
Dalkey Islands SPA 004127	QI – 3 Bird Species	< 15km	None	No
Baldoyle Bay SPA 004016	QI – 7 Bird Species	< 15km	None	No
Baldoyle Bay SAC 00199	4 QIs	< 15km	None	No
Malahide Estuary SPA 004025	QI – 15 Bird Species	>15km	None	No
Malahide Estuary SAC 00205	6 QIs	>15km	None	No

Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC 003000	• Reefs • Harbour porpoise	< 15km	None	No
Wicklow Mountains SPA 004040	QI – 2 Bird Species	< 15km	None	No
Wicklow Mountains SAC 002122	13 QIs	< 15km	None	No

(1) Short paraphrasing and/or cross reference to NPWS is acceptable - it is not necessary to reproduce the full text on the QI/SCI

(2) If the site or part thereof is within the European site or adjacent to the European site, state here.

STEP 3. ASSESSMENT OF LIKELY SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS

(a) Identify all potential direct and indirect impacts that may have an effect on the conservation objectives of a European site, taking into account the size and scale of the project under the following headings:

Impacts:	Possible Significance of Impacts: (duration/magnitude etc.)
<u>Construction phase</u> e.g. • Vegetation clearance • Demolition • Surface water runoff from soil excavation/infill/landscaping (including borrow pits) • Dust, noise, vibration • Lighting disturbance • Impact on groundwater/dewatering • Storage of excavated/construction materials • Access to site • Pests	Works involve Demolition of certain fabric and M&E systems internally Minor works to roof to accommodate new M&E systems and solar panels Minor dust, noise and vibration. Demolished materials to be stored locally on site until disposal in accordance with local waste management regulations. The construction phase will not result in significant environmental impacts that could affect European Sites within the wider catchment area.

Operational phase e.g. • Direct emission to air and water • Surface water runoff containing contaminant or sediment • Lighting disturbance • Noise/vibration • Changes to water/groundwater due to drainage or abstraction • Presence of people, vehicles and activities • Physical presence of structures (e.g. collision risks) • Potential for accidents or incidents	Minor noise / vibration from new M&E plant Increase in number of people at the venue during certain times The operational phase will not result in significant environmental impacts that could affect European Sites within the wider catchment area.
In-combination/Other	No likely significant in-combination effects are identified

(b) Describe any likely changes to the European site:	
Examples of the type of changes to give consideration to include: • Reduction or fragmentation of habitat area • Disturbance to QI species • Habitat or species fragmentation • Reduction or fragmentation in species density • Changes in key indicators of conservation status value (water or air quality etc.) • Changes to areas of sensitivity or threats to QI • Interference with the key relationships that define the structure or ecological function of the Site	The subject site is not located within or immediately adjacent to any Natura / European site. It will not, therefore, present a risk of habitat loss or fragmentation or any effects on QI species directly or ex- situ. There is a significant distance and no discernible ecological pathway between the development and any European sites. As such the proposal will not result in any likely changes to the European Sites and Natura 2000 network in Dublin Bay and in particular South Dublin Bay SAC 000210 and South Dublin Bay & River Tolka SPA 004024

(c) Are 'mitigation' measures necessary to reach a conclusion that likely significant effects can be ruled out at screening?	
No	Best practice construction methods will be followed. Note however that these are not required to avoid or reduce any effects on a European site and are not taken into account to reach a conclusion of no likely significant effects on any European site.

STEP 4. SCREENING DETERMINATION STATEMENT

The assessment of significance of effects:

Describe how the proposed development (alone or in-combination) is/is not likely to have significant effects on European site(s) in view of its conservation objectives.

On the basis of the information available at Part 9 Submission Stage, which is considered adequate to undertake a screening determination and having regard to the :

- Nature and scale of the proposed development on lands which are serviced with fully functional drainage systems
- Distance from European sites
- Lack of direct connections with regard to the Source-Pathway- Receptor model.

It is concluded that the proposed development , individually or in-combination with other plans or projects, would not be likely to have a significant effect on the above listed European sites or any other European site, in view of the said sites' conservation objectives .
An appropriate assessment is not, therefore , required.

Conclusion	Tick as appropriate:	Recommendation:
(i) It is clear that there is no likelihood of significant effects on a European site.	X	**The proposal can be screened out: Appropriate assessment not required.**
(ii) It is uncertain whether the proposal will have a significant effect on a European site		**Request further information to complete screening**
		Request NIS
		Refuse planning permission
(iii) Significant effects are likely.		**Request NIS**
		Refuse planning permission

SIGNATURE AND DATE OF RECOMMENDING OFFICER:	
SIGNATURE AND DATE OF THE DECISION MAKER:	