OPW
Oifig na nOibreacha Poiblí
Office of Public Works

Appropriate Assessment Screening Form

Part 9 Planning Submission

for

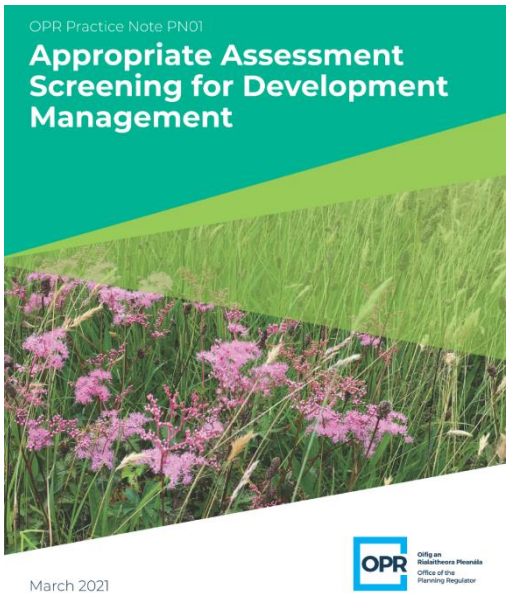
Installation of a Banner to the Portico

At

The Four Courts

December 2023

format taken from:



Appropriate Assessment Screening Form

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

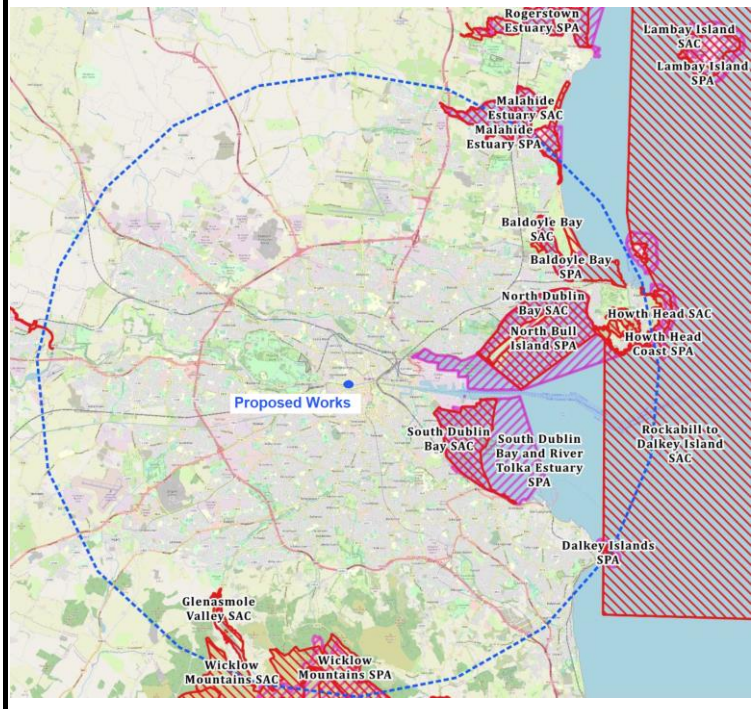
(a) File Reference No:
B4158 – The Four Courts – Banner to Portico

(b) Brief description of the project or plan:
Installation of a 4m x 1.8m banner to the Portico of the Four Courts, suspended between the central columns from non-invasive supports a t a height of approx. 6.24m above ground level. The banner will be in place for a period of 6 months from February to August 2024.

(c) Brief description of site characteristics:
The site is the entrance Portico to the south-facing façade of the Four Courts, Inns Quay, Dublin 7.
The site is bordered to the north by Chancery Street to the north, Chancery Place to the east and Church Street to the west. In addition to the Four Courts main building, the complex houses the Public Records Office and Tailte Éireann.

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 cSAC which is approximately 3km to the east.



Location of the site showing Natura 2000 sites within a 15km radius.
Including cSACs and SPAs which are indicated with red hatching

(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 prop. development (km) (2)	Connections (Source - Pathway - Receptor)	Considered further in screening Y/N
Protected Sites in Ireland | National Parks & Wildlife Service (npws.ie)				
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 All site surface water discharges into the existing urban main drainage system	No
North Dublin Bay SAC 000206	10 QIs	< 15km	No	No
South Dublin Bay & River Tolka SPA 004024	QI – 14 Bird Species	Closest natura site @ 3km to the east	No	No
North Bull Island SPA 004006	QI – 15 Bird Species	< 15km	No	No
Irelands Eye SPA 004117	QI – 3 Bird Species	>15km	No	No
Howth Head Coast SPA 004113	2 QIs	< 15km	No	No
Howth Head cSAC 000202	QI – 2 Bird Species	< 15km	No	No
Dalkey Islands SPA 004127	QI – 3 Bird Species	< 15km	No	No
Baldoyle Bay SPA 004016	QI – 6 Bird Species	< 15km	No	No
Malahide Estuary SPA 004025	QI – 13 Bird Species	>15km	No	No
Rockabill to Dalkey Island cSAC 003000	2 QIs	< 15km	No	No
Wicklow Mountains SPA 004040	QI – 2 Bird Species	< 15km	No	No
Wicklow Mountains cSAC 002122	12 QIs	< 15km	No	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.)
Construction phase 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 Installation of banner from a mobile working platform. Minor noise. 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	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. The existing environment includes an urban drainage system 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:	07.12.2023	Alan Keenan MRIAI
SIGNATURE AND DATE OF THE DECISION MAKER:		