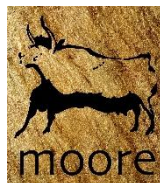


Report for the purposes of Appropriate Assessment Screening

Clonee Data Centre EPA Industrial Emissions Licence (Ref P1192-01) Technical Amendment

Prepared by: Moore Group – Environmental Services

30 April 2024



On behalf of Runways Information Services

Project Proponent	Runways Information Services Limited
Project	Clonee Data Centre EPA Industrial Emissions Licence (Ref P1192-01) -01 T/A
Title	Report for the purposes of Appropriate Assessment Screening Clonee Data Centre EPA Industrial Emissions Licence (Ref P1192-01) -01 T/A

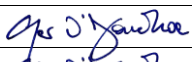
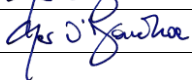
Project Number	24074	Document Ref	24074 Clonee Data Centre WWT Licence T/A AAS1 Rev0
Revision	Description	Author	Date
Rev0	Issued to Client	G. O'Donohoe 	21 March 2024
Rev1	Issued to Client	G. O'Donohoe 	30 April 2024
Moore Archaeological and Environmental Services Limited			

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Abbreviations

AA	Appropriate Assessment
ABP	An Bord Pleanála
CEMP	Construction Environmental Management Plan
EEC	European Economic Community
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
EU	European Union
FWPM	Freshwater Pearl Mussel
GIS	Geographical Information System
LAP	Local Area Plan
NHA	Natural Heritage Area
NIS	Natura Impact Statement
NPWS	National Parks and Wildlife Service
OSI	Ordnance Survey Ireland
pNHA	proposed Natural Heritage Area
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SPA	Special Protection Area
SuDS	Sustainable Drainage System
UÉ	Uisce Éireann
WFD	Water Framework Directive

1. Introduction

1.1. General Introduction

This report for the purposes of Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening. This report contains information required for the competent authority to undertake screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA) in respect of the application for a technical amendment to the EPA Industrial Emissions Licence (Ref P1192-01) for the Data Centre at located in the townlands of Gunnocks, Portan, Loughsallagh and Clonee, County Meath (hereafter referred to as the Proposed Development) to determine whether it is likely individually or in combination with other plans or projects to have a significant effect on any European sites, in light of best scientific knowledge.

Having regard to the provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended (the "Planning Acts") (section 177U), the purpose of a screening exercise under section 177U of the PDA 2000 is to assess, in view of best scientific knowledge, if the proposed development, individually or in combination with other plans or projects is likely to have a significant effect on a European site.

If it cannot be *excluded* on the basis of objective information that the proposed development, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will have a significant effect on a European site then it is necessary to carry out a Stage 2 appropriate assessment under section 177V of the Planning Acts.

When screening the project, there are two possible outcomes:

- the project poses no potential for the possibility of a significant effect and as such requires no Stage 2 assessment; or
- the project has potential to have a significant effect (or this is uncertain and therefore cannot be excluded) and therefore a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment of the project is necessary.

This report has been prepared by Moore Group - Environmental Services to enable the competent authority to carry out AA screening in relation to the Proposed Development. The report was compiled by Ger O'Donohoe B.Sc. Applied Aquatic Sciences (ATU Galway, 1993) & M.Sc. Environmental Sciences (TCD, 1999) who has 30 years' experience in environmental impact assessment and has completed numerous Appropriate Assessment Screening Reports and Natura Impact Statements on terrestrial and aquatic habitats for various development types.

1.2. Legislative Background - The Habitats and Birds Directives

Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive are transposed into Irish Law inter alia by the Part XAB of the Planning Acts (in particular section 177U and 177V) which governs the requirement to carry out appropriate assessment screening and appropriate assessment, where required, per Section 1.1 above.

The Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora) is the main legislative instrument for the protection and conservation of biodiversity in the European Union (EU). Under the Habitats Directive, Member States are obliged to designate Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) which contain habitats or species considered important for protection and conservation in a EU context.

The Birds Directive (Council Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds), transposed into Irish law by the Bird and Natural Habitats Regulations 2011 as amended, and the Wildlife Act 1976, as amended, is concerned with the long-term protection and management of all wild bird species and their habitats in the EU. Among other things, the Birds Directive requires that Special Protection Areas (SPAs) be established to protect migratory species and species which are rare, vulnerable, in danger of extinction, or otherwise require special attention.

SACs designated under the Habitats Directive and SPAs, designated under the Birds Directive, form a pan-European network of protected sites known as Natura 2000. The Habitats Directive sets out a unified system for the protection and management of SACs and SPAs. These sites are also referred to as European sites.

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

Article 6(3) establishes the requirement to screen all plans and projects and to carry out an appropriate assessment if required (Appropriate Assessment (AA)). Article 6(4) establishes requirements in cases of imperative reasons of overriding public interest:

Article 6(3): *“Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subjected to an appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site’s conservation objectives. In light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implications for the site and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, the competent national authorities shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public.”*

2. Methodology

The Commission’s methodological guidance (EC, 2002, 2018, 2021 see Section 2.1 below) promotes a four-stage process to complete the AA and outlines the issues and tests at each stage. An important aspect of the process is that the outcome at each successive stage determines whether a further stage in the process is required.

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

Stage 1 Screening: This stage examines the likely effects of a project either alone or in combination with other plans and projects upon a Natura 2000 site and considers whether it can be objectively concluded that these effects will not be significant. In order to screen out a project, it must be excluded, on the basis of objective information, that the Proposed Development, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will have a significant effect on a European site.

Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment: This stage examines whether it is likely that the project, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, will have a significant effect upon the integrity of a European site. In order to 'screen out' a project (i.e. in order to conclude that it is not necessary to move to the 'Stage 2' appropriate assessment stage (see immediately below), the possibility that the Proposed Development (individually or in combination with other plans or projects), will have a significant effect on the integrity of a European site must be excluded on the basis of objective information.

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

Stage 4 Assessment where no alternative solutions exist and where adverse impacts remain: Where imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI) exist, an assessment to consider whether compensatory measures will or will not effectively offset the damage to the sites will be necessary.

To ensure that the Proposed Development complies fully with the requirements of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive and all relevant Irish transposing legislation, Moore Group compiled this report to enable the competent authority to carry out AA screening in relation to the Proposed Development to determine whether it can be excluded, on the basis of objective information, that the Proposed Development, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will have a significant effect on a European site(s).

2.1. Guidance

This report has been compiled in accordance with guidance contained in the following documents:

- Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland - Guidance for Planning Authorities. (Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2010 rev.).
- Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive: Guidance for Planning Authorities. Circular NPWS 1/10 & PSSP 2/10.
- Managing Natura 2000 Sites: The Provisions of Article 6 of the Habitat's Directive 92/43/EEC (EC, 2018).
- Guidance document on the strict protection of animal species of Community interest under the Habitats Directive (EC, 2021).
- Assessment of plans and projects in relation to Natura 2000 sites - Methodological guidance on Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (EC, 2021).

- Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR) Practice Note PN01 Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management (OPR, 2021).
- Natura Impact Statement Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlement Guidelines for Planning Authorities (NPWS, 2024).

2.2. Data Sources

Sources of information that were used to collect data on the Natura 2000 network of sites, and the environment within which they are located, are listed below:

- The following mapping and Geographical Information Systems (GIS) data sources, as required:
 - National Parks & Wildlife (NPWS) protected site boundary data;
 - Ordnance Survey of Ireland (OSI) mapping and aerial photography;
 - OSI/Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) rivers and streams, and catchments;
 - Digital Elevation Model over Europe (EU-DEM);
 - Google Earth and Bing aerial photography 1995-2024;
- Online data available on Natura 2000 sites as held by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) from www.npws.ie including:
 - Natura 2000 - Standard Data Form;
 - Conservation Objectives;
 - Site Synopses;
- National Biodiversity Data Centre records;
 - Online database of rare, threatened and protected species;
 - Publicly accessible biodiversity datasets.
- Status of EU Protected Habitats in Ireland. (National Parks & Wildlife Service, 2019); and
- Relevant Development Plans;
 - Fingal County Development Plan 2023-2029

3. Description of the Proposed Development

Runways Information Services Limited ("RISL" or 'the applicant') operates their Data Center located in the townlands of Gunnocks, Portan, Loughsallagh and Clonee, County Meath. The Installation consists of five main Data Center Buildings (named CLN1, CLN2, CLN3, CLN5, and CLN6), that include roof-level mechanical plant, ground-level generator yard, as well as associated office and administration buildings, security and utility spaces, on site attenuation, internal roads. The Installation is licenced by the EPA Licence Number P1192-01 (the IEL).

The IEL contains emission limits set down in Scheule B.3 Emissions to Sewer of the existing Licence (P1192-01). Since the site has become operational, the operational demands and discharges have changed due to variations in incoming water quality provided via the UÉ mains supply. These variations have resulted in more frequent discharging of process wastewater; the data submitted to the EPA for the site IEL application was based on data available at the time of the original facility design.

RISL submits this IEL Amendment Application is to amend the discharge flow rates for Emission Point Reference Number SE1 set down in Scheule B.3 Emissions to Sewer of the existing Licence (P1192-01) to align with the revised connection agreement with UÉ (UÉ Ref: CDS2300688001).

The existing IEL Scheule B.3 Emissions to Sewer includes the following limits in relation to flow (m3) discharges to sewer set out in Table 1 below.

Table 1 Excerpt of emission limit values IEL

Emission Point Reference no:	SE1
Emission to (Sewer description):	UE sewer at R156
Location	703818 (E), 741332 (N)
Maximum in any one day	1,296 m ³ /day
Maximum rate per hour	54 m ³ /hr

It is requested to amend the IEL specifically to Scheule B.3 Emissions to Sewer to reflect the UÉ Connection Offer limits in relation to flow (l/s) for the discharges to sewer (Emission ref. SE1) set out in Table 2 below. There is no change to the discharge quality parameters (mg/l) proposed. The emission values for SE2 are to remain unchanged.

The current discharge Licence is to be revised prior to acceptance of any additional flows. The discharge load profile outlined on page 12 of the connection application (attached) is acceptable. Existing inhibitor to prevent discharge to the receiving networks when the receiving network is at capacity is to be maintained. It has been agreed with UÉ that the existing on-site storage of 1ML is to be utilised in the event if an inhibit signal.

The request is for changes to be made to the Industrial Emissions Licence (IEL), specifically to Schedule B.3.

It is requested to amend the IEL specifically to Scheule B.3 Emissions to Sewer to reflect the UÉ Connection Offer limits in relation to flow (l/s) for the discharges to sewer (Emission ref. SE1) set out in Table 2.2 below. There is no change to the discharge quality parameters (mg/l) proposed. The emission values for SE2 are to remain unchanged.

Further, it is requested to amend Note 1 of the Schedule B.3 emission point SE2 to the following:

*Note 1: In the event that the 9C Sewer is offline, and trade effluent discharge is required to be held on site **within the 1,000 cubic meter on site storage**, then the discharge for the following 48hrs is*

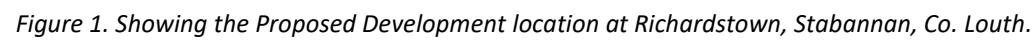
allowable up to the maximum loadings. For discharge outside of this event, the average loadings are the relevant Emission Limit Values

Table 2 Proposed Amendment to flow limit values

Emission Point Reference no:	SE1
Emission to (Sewer description):	UE sewer at R156
Location	703818 (E), 741332 (N)
Maximum in any one day	-
Maximum rate per hour	-
Yearly Average Flows	13.84 l/s
Peak Flow:	31.55 l/s

The outfall into the offsite mains foul sewer network is at two locations, emission point SE1 and SE2. The domestic wastewater and process wastewater networks and emission points locations are shown on Drawing Ref: 21_123A-CSE-00-XX-DR-C-1200, 1201, 1202, and 1203 as submitted with the Licence Application.

Figure 1 shows the Proposed Development location and Figure 2 shows a detailed view of the Proposed Development boundary on recent aerial photography. Figure 3 shows the layout of the Proposed Development.



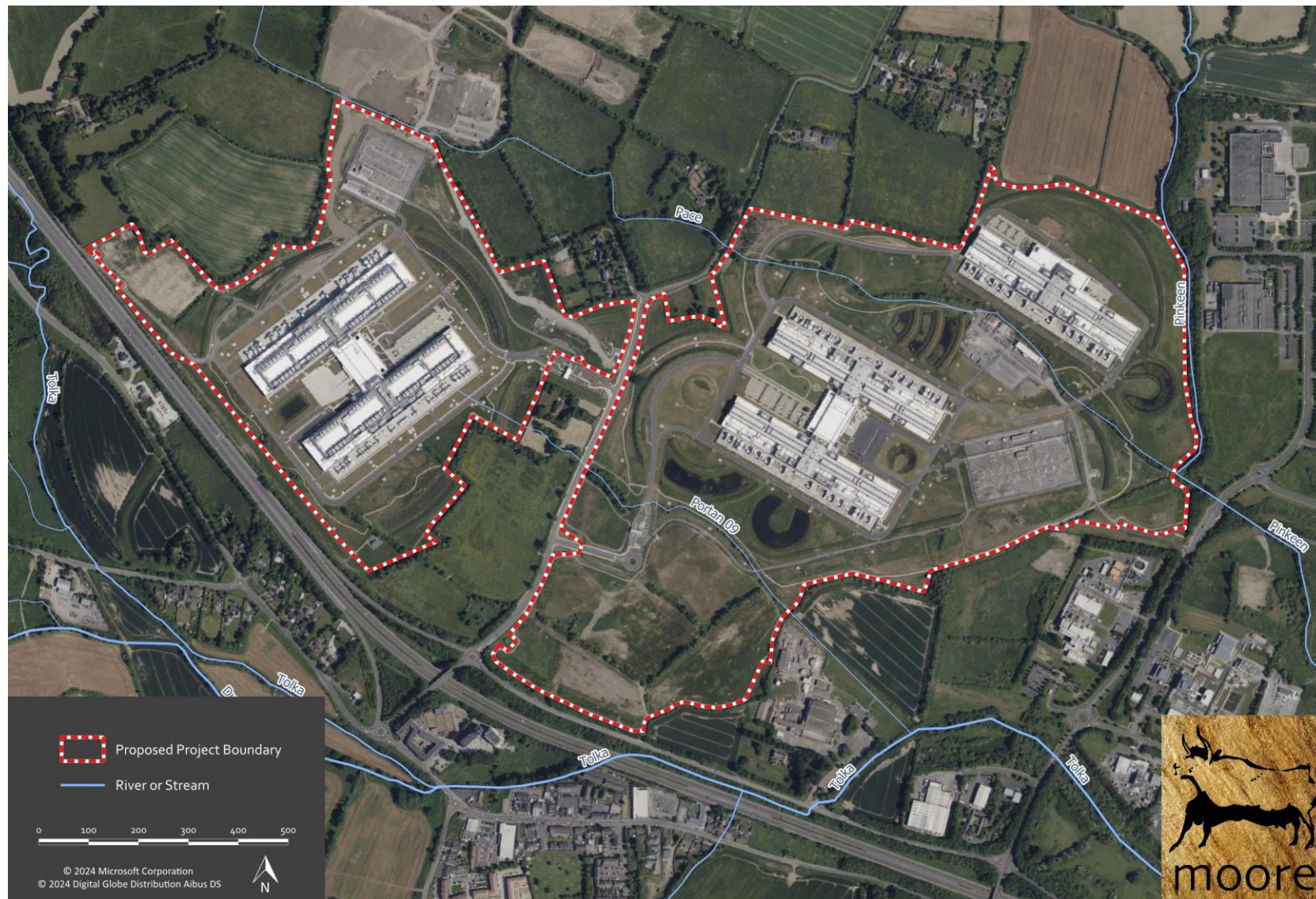


Figure 2. Showing the Proposed Development boundary on recent aerial photography.

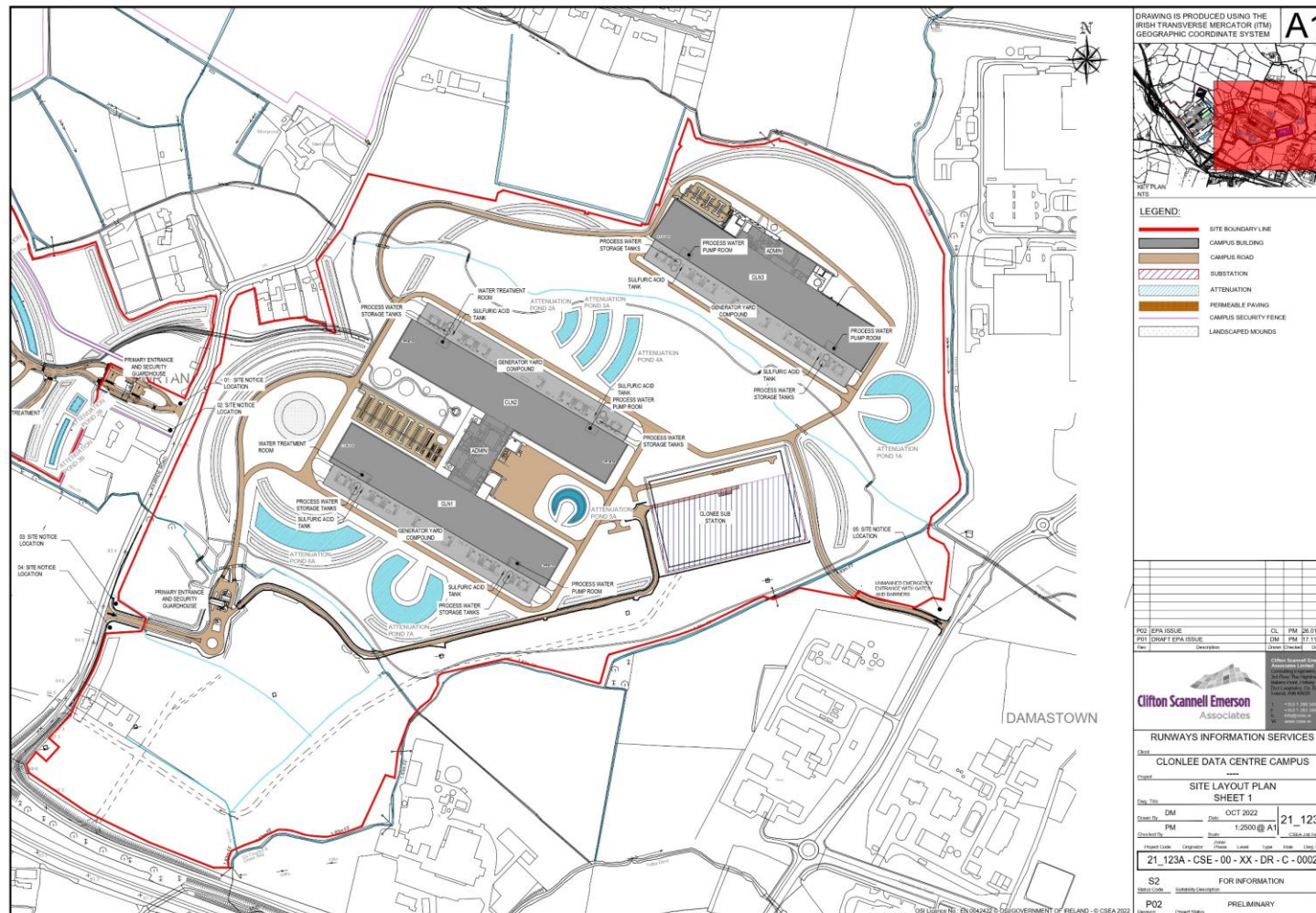


Figure 3. Plan showing redline boundary of the facility sheet 1 of 2

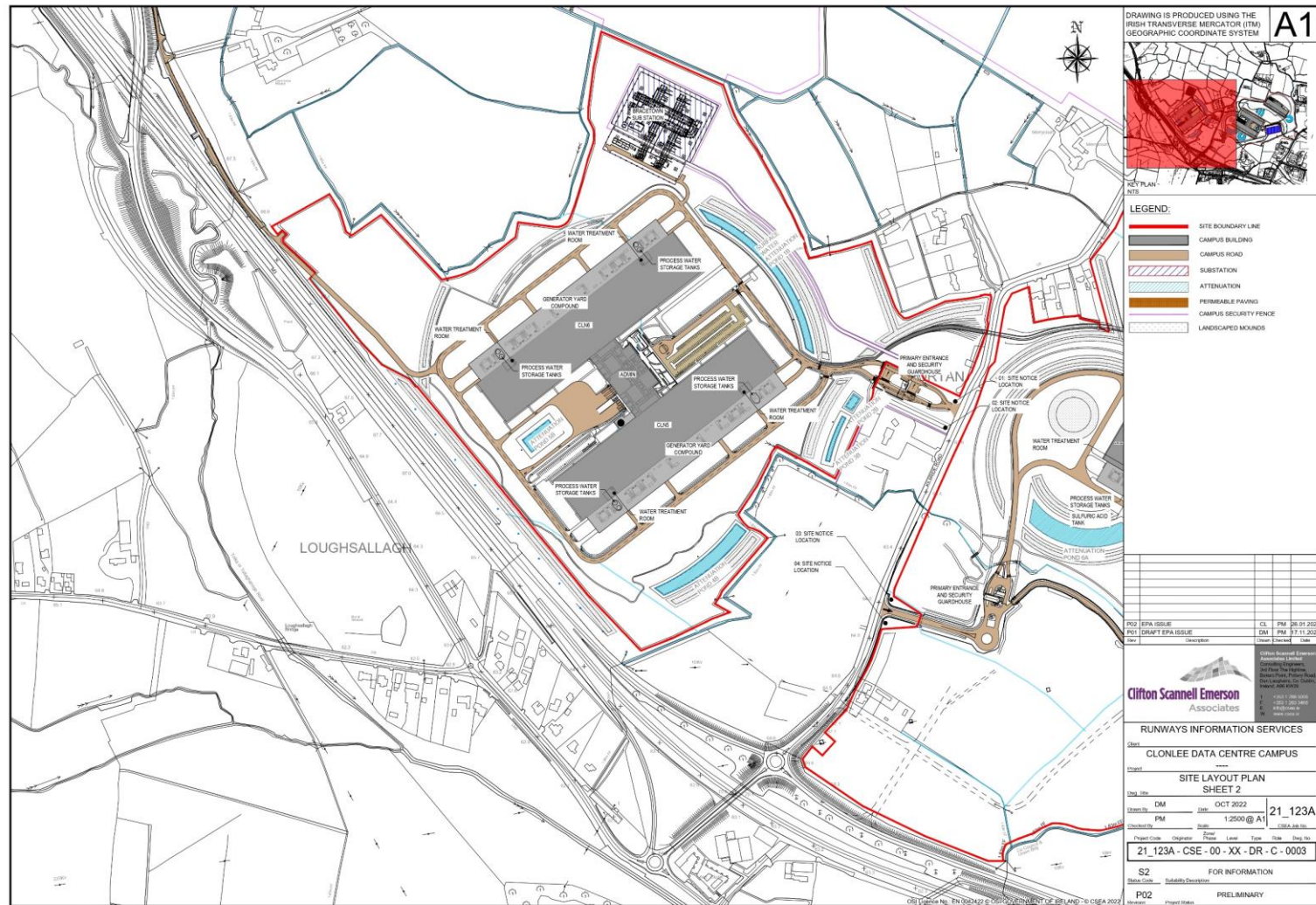


Figure 4. Plan showing redline boundary of the facility sheet 2 of 2.

4. Identification of Natura 2000 Sites

4.1. Description of Natura Sites Potentially Significantly Affected

A Zone of Influence (ZoI) of a proposed development is the geographical area over which it could affect the receiving environment in a way that could have significant effects on the Qualifying Interests of a European site. In accordance with the OPR Practice Note (2021), PN01, the ZoI should be established on a case-by-case basis using the Source- Pathway-Receptor framework.

The European Commission's "Assessment of plans and projects in relation to Natura 2000 sites guidance on Article 6(3) and (4) of the Methodological Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC" published 28 September 2021 states at section 3.1.3, that:

"Identifying the Natura 2000 sites that may be affected should be done by taking into consideration all aspects of the plan or project that could have potential effects on any Natura 2000 sites located within the zone of influence of the plan or project. This should take into account all of the designating features (species, habitat types) that are significantly present on the sites and their conservation objectives. In particular, it should identify:

- *any Natura 2000 sites geographically overlapping with any of the actions or aspects of the plan or project in any of its phases, or adjacent to them;*
- *any Natura 2000 sites within the likely zone of influence of the plan or project Natura 2000 sites located in the surroundings of the plan or project (or at some distance) that could still be indirectly affected by aspects of the project, including as regards the use of natural resources (e.g. water) and various types of waste, discharge or emissions of substances or energy;*
- *Natura 2000 sites in the surroundings of the plan or project (or at some distance) which host fauna that can move to the project area and then suffer mortality or other impacts (e.g. loss of feeding areas, reduction of home range);*
- *Natura 2000 sites whose connectivity or ecological continuity can be affected by the plan or project".*

The range of Natura 2000 sites to be assessed, i.e. the zone in which impacts from the plan or project may arise, will depend on the nature of the plan or project and the distance at which effects may occur. For Natura 2000 sites located downstream along rivers or wetlands fed by aquifers, it may be that a plan or project can affect water flows, fish migration and so forth, even at a great distance. Emissions of pollutants may also have effects over a long distance. Some projects or plans that do not directly affect Natura 2000 sites may still have a significant impact on them if they cause a barrier effect or prevent ecological linkages. This may happen, for example, when plans affect features of the landscape that connect Natura 2000 sites or that may obstruct the

movements of species or disrupt the continuity of a fluvial or woodland ecosystem. To determine the possible effects of the plan or project on Natura 2000 sites, it is necessary to identify not only the relevant sites but also the habitats and species that are significantly present within them, as well as the site objectives.

The Zone of Influence may be determined by considering the Proposed Development's potential connectivity with European sites, in terms of:

- Nature, scale, timing and duration of all aspects of the proposed works and possible impacts, including the nature and size of excavations, storage of materials, flat/sloping sites;
- Distance and nature of potential pathways (dilution and dispersion; intervening 'buffer' lands, roads etc.); and
- Location of ecological features and their sensitivity to the possible impacts.

The potential for source pathway receptor connectivity is firstly identified through GIS interrogation and detailed information is then provided on sites with connectivity. European sites that are located within a potential Zone of Influence of the Proposed Development are listed in Table 1 and presented in Figures 4 and 5, below. Spatial boundary data on the Natura 2000 network was extracted from the NPWS website (www.npws.ie) on 21 March 2024. This data was interrogated using GIS analysis to provide mapping, distances, locations and pathways to all sites of conservation concern including pNHAs, NHA and European sites.

Table 3 European Sites located within the potential Zone of Influence¹ of the Proposed Development.

Site Code	Site name	Distance (km) ²
000206	North Dublin Bay SAC	17.07
000210	South Dublin Bay SAC	16.51
001398	Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC	5.79
004006	North Bull Island SPA	17.06
004024	South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA	14.26

The wastewater licence technical amendment application relates to the existing Meta Data Centre, which is located immediately to the north of the M3 at Clonee. The nearest European site to the Proposed Development is the Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC (Site Code 001398), 5.8km to the southwest. However, there is no connectivity to this site and it is screened out of the assessment.

The Portan and Pace Streams pass through the Data Centre site, while the Pinkeen River runs along the northeastern boundary. These streams are all tributaries of the River Tolka, which discharges to the sea at the East Point Business Park in North Dublin Bay c. 17 river km downstream of the site.

¹ All European sites potentially connected irrespective of the nature or scale of the Proposed Development.

² Distances indicated are the closest geographical distance between the Proposed Development and the European site boundary, as made available by the NPWS.

Even in the absence of avoidance measures the possibility of a pollution event, such as elevated suspended solids or a chemical spill, the possibility of a significant effect on North Dublin Bay over 16km (river distance) downstream is highly unlikely and the possibility of significant effect on other hydrologically connected sites such as the South Dublin Bay SAC, and South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA are highly unlikely.

Wastewater will continue to be ultimately directed to Ringsend WWTP.

The European sites listed in Table 1 are screened out of the assessment at this preliminary screening stage. There is no potential for connectivity to any other European sites.

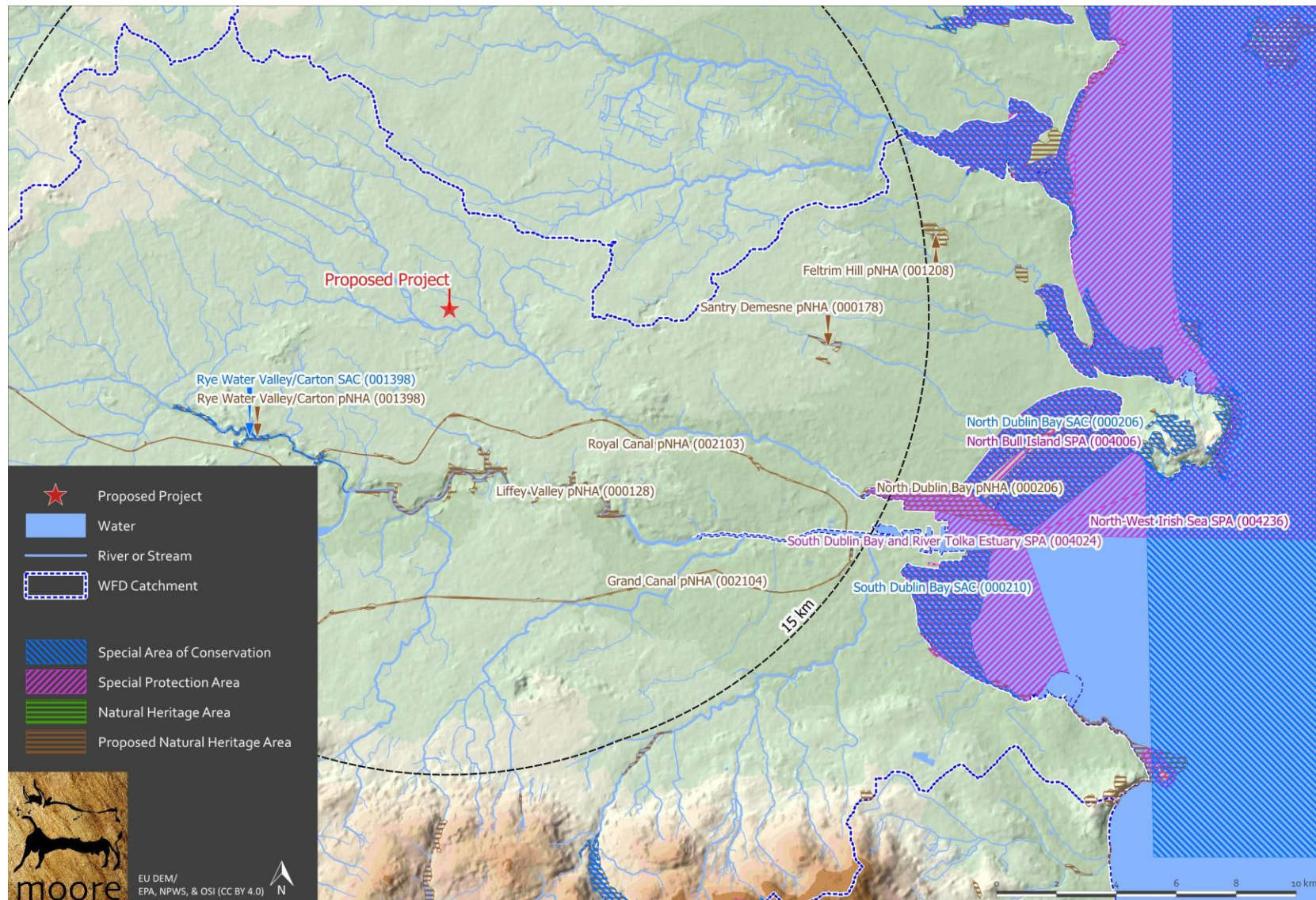


Figure 5. Showing European sites and NHAs/pNHAs within the wider Potential Zone of Influence of the Proposed Development.

4.2. Ecological Network Supporting Natura 2000 Sites

A concurrent GIS analysis of the proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHA) and designated Natural Heritage Areas (NHA) in terms of their role in supporting the species using Natura 2000 sites was undertaken along with GIS investigation of European sites. These supporting roles mainly relate to mobile fauna such as mammals and birds which may use pNHAs and NHAs as ecological corridors or “stepping stones” between Natura 2000 sites.

Article 10 of the Habitats Directive and the Habitats Regulations 2011 place a high degree of importance on such non-Natura 2000 areas as features that connect the Natura 2000 network. Features such as ponds, woodlands and important hedgerows were taken into account in the decision process and during the preparation of this AA Screening report.

There are no Natural Heritage Area or proposed Natural Heritage Areas that will be affected by the Proposed Development

5. Identification of Potential Impacts & Assessment of Significance

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

5.1. Assessment of Likely Significant Effects

The consideration of all potential direct and indirect impacts that may result in significant effects on the conservation objectives of a European site, taking into account the size and scale of the Proposed Development are presented in Table 2.

Table 2. Assessment of Likely Significant Effects.

Identification of all potential direct and indirect impacts that may result in significant effects on the conservation objectives of a European site, taking into account the size and scale of the project.	
Impacts:	Significance of Impacts:
Construction phase e.g. Vegetation clearance Demolition Surface water runoff from soil excavation/infill/landscaping (including borrow pits)	None The application relates to a technical amendment to an existing wastewater treatment licence.

Dust, noise, vibration Lighting disturbance Impact on groundwater/dewatering Storage of excavated/construction materials Access to site Pests	
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)	All foul and surface water runoff, once the facility is operational, will continue to be contained on site and discharged to urban drainage systems. There is no real likelihood of any significant effects on European Sites in the wider catchment area. The facility is located at a distance of removal such that there will be no disturbance to qualifying interest species in any European sites.
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 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 Climate change	None. The Proposed Development site is not located adjacent or within a European site, therefore there is no risk of habitat loss or fragmentation or any effects on QI habitats or species directly or ex-situ.

5.2. Assessment of Potential In-Combination Effects

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

As part of the Screening for an Appropriate Assessment, in addition to the Proposed Development, other relevant plans and projects in the area must also be considered at this stage. This step aims to identify at this early stage any possible significant in-combination effects of the Proposed Development with other such plans and projects on European sites.

A review of the National Planning Application Database was undertaken. The database was then queried for developments granted planning permission within 500m of the Proposed Development within the last three years, these are presented in Table 3 below.

Table 3. Planning applications granted permission in the vicinity of the Proposed Development.

Planning Ref.	Description of development	Comments
211390	the proposed development involves the demolition of existing structures on the construction of part 4 storey and part 6 storey mixed use retail + residential development. The development will provide 3 no. retail units and 4 no. on-street car parking at the ground floor. The upper floors will contain 45 no. Apartments comprising of 5 no. one-bed, 32 no. two-bed and eight no. three-bed units, 54 no. car parking spaces located undercroft at ground level are provided use. A landscaped podium is provided at first-floor level providing the required amenity open space. A bike store, bin store and additional storage areas for retail are provided in the ground floor level all with associated landscaping and site works	No potential for in-combination effects given the Proposed Development will have no effect on any European site.
21687	permission to construct a single storey dwelling house, detached garden shed, new wastewater treatment system and percolation area, and all associated site development works	No potential for in-combination effects given the Proposed Development will have no effect on any European site.
221425	the development will consist of modifications to the ground floor layout and shop façade and will include for: (a) The extension of the existing store with a total increased area of 89.91 sqm, (b) The removal of the existing entrance pod, (c) The removal of the existing trolley bay, (d) Proposed free-standing trolley bay, (e) Proposed accommodation works to store elevation, (f) Accommodation works to car park area, (g) All ancillary works required to complete to the required Building Regulations standards	No potential for in-combination effects given the Proposed Development will have no effect on any European site.
221436	the installation of a 1.806m x 1.42m x 0.51m (h x w x d) gas pressure reduction unit and 3.25m (h) vent stack, with all ancillary services and associated site works on the lands adjacent the carpark. Significant further information/revised plans submitted on this application	No potential for in-combination effects given the Proposed Development will have no effect on any European site.

Planning Ref.	Description of development	Comments
221504	the construction of a public park to include a playground (c.1,024 sqm) comprising 12 no. pieces of play equipment and safety surfacing, 5 no. car parking spaces, bicycle parking, public lighting, footpath and cyclepath, bins, benches, signage, boundary treatments, landscaping and all associated site development works. All on a site area of 1.6 ha. Access to the proposed development will be from the existing public road (Old Kilbride Road). The proposed development includes a modification to the boundary permitted under Reg Ref RA/191603	No potential for in-combination effects given the Proposed Development will have no effect on any European site.
22424	permission for the development of part change of use to include provision of off-licence (7.55sqm) subsidiary to the main retail use at	No potential for in-combination effects given the Proposed Development will have no effect on any European site.
22577	the development will consist of: Demolition of existing single storey conservatory to the south east elevation and demolition of the single storey shower room and boiler to the north-west elevation, all at ground floor level; Removal of the water tank, chimney and existing services to the north west elevation; Refurbishment and minor changes to all elevations as well as refurbishment and internal amendments to the existing house at ground and first floor level; Construction of new single storey extension with 2no. roof-lights comprising of entrance hall, utility and shower room to north west elevation; Construction of new single-storey glazed garden room with 1no. roof-light to south east elevation; Conversion of part of the existing two storey house to a connecting granny duplex unit with new door at ground floor level and new window at first floor level, both to north-east elevation; Construction of a single-storey plant room to south-west elevation; Widening of vehicular entrance to inner courtyard; All associated conservation and repair work, landscaping to front, rear and side gardens, drainage and site development works which is a Protected Structure	No potential for in-combination effects given the Proposed Development will have no effect on any European site.
2360148	permission to convert existing garage to playroom/gym and showerroom, with minor alterations to doors and windows. At ground floor, proposed corridor connecting garage to main house. At first floor, to include an attic conversion incorporating 2 bedrooms, showerroom, landing, and store. With connection to existing services and all associated site works	No potential for in-combination effects given the Proposed Development will have no effect on any European site.
23799	attic conversion comprising 2 new office rooms with projecting dormer window to rear, 2 no. velux windows to front elevation roof, and all associated site works	No potential for in-combination effects given the Proposed Development will have no effect on any European site.
23836	the proposed development will consist of a retention application for a building already in existence on the datacentre campus. The applicant is applying for retention permission to retain the building for storage of landscaping materials and maintenance equipment. The building is two tiered with different heights. The building measures approximately 12.5 metres in length and has a height of 2.9 metres on the lower side of the tier and a height of 4.27 metres on the higher tier. The building has a width of 5.3 metres at both ends. The building being retained has an area of 69.5sq.m.	No potential for in-combination effects given the Proposed Development will have no effect on any European site.

Planning Ref.	Description of development	Comments
23849	for a 10-year permission for a Large-Scale Residential Development at this site in the Townlands of Castle Farm, Ruskin and Clonee, Dunboyne, County Meath. Alterations to two no. roundabouts on the R147 (Old Navan Road) is also proposed and these are located on lands in the townlands of Loughsallagh and Clonee, Dunboyne, County Meath. The proposed development is on a site of approximately 16.92Ha overall and consists of 716no. dwellings in a mixture of terraced, semi-detached and detached houses, duplexes and apartments as follows: 517no. apartment units are accommodated in 8no. buildings of 4-7 storeys in height comprising: 10no. 1-bed apartments, 202no. 2-bed apartments and 24no. 3-bed apartments accommodated in 4no. 4-6 storey apartment blocks (Blocks A1, A2, A3 and A4); 55no. 1-bed apartments, 80no. 2-bed apartments and 12no. 3-bed apartments accommodated in 2no. 6-7 storey apartment blocks (Blocks B1 and B2); 36no. 1-bed apartments, 78no. 2-bed apartments and 20no. 3-bed apartments accommodated in 2no. 4-5 storey apartment blocks (Blocks C1 and C2 An Environmental Impact Assessment Report and Natura Impact Statement have been prepared in respect of the proposed development and accompany this application.	No potential for in-combination effects given the Proposed Development will have no effect on any European site.
FW21A/0086	Permission for the provision of 360 sq/metres of Photovoltaic (PV) Solar Panels at ground level to the existing landscaped area north of the existing part 2 storey, part 3 storey building, and associated works.	No potential for in-combination effects given the Proposed Development will have no effect on any European site.
FW21A/0059	Retention and permanent continuation of use single storey prefabricated structure (with a gross floor area of 1,585 sq.m) for use as office units together with ancillary site works, including generator and power unit, and 26 no. car parking spaces, at a location north of Building 1, within the IBM Technology Campus.	No potential for in-combination effects given the Proposed Development will have no effect on any European site.
FW21A/0185	The development will consist of the construction of: 1) Process/Dryer Building extension 2) Reactor hall building extension 3) Warehouse Building extension . 4) Utilities/Maintenance Workshop Building extension. 5) Electrical Transformer Room and Switchgear Room extension to the north side of the existing Utilities/Maintenance Workshop Building. 6) Expansion of the existing WWTP comprising of 3No aerated anoxic reactor tanks, 3No balance tanks, 2No clarifier tanks, associated bunded structures, pipe racks, and supporting plant/equipment. 7) Upgrade works to the existing fire water retention pond including the provision of a new fire water retention pond to supplement the existing storage capacity. 8) 1,289m2 extension of the existing contractor carpark to the west side of the WWTP. 9) A permanent contractors construction compound including a fenced and hard-cored area of 20,569m2. 10) Alterations to the existing site access, internal access roads and staff/visitors carpark to facilitate the construction of the new contractors construction compound. 11) And all associated works including alterations and additions to the existing external tanks, vessels, plant, equipment, external pipe bridge, underground services, internal access roads, footpaths, laydown/ hardstanding areas, external lighting, etc. The development will be carried out within the 12.221 Hectares of lands containing the Guerbet Ireland ULC facility at	No potential for in-combination effects given the Proposed Development will have no effect on any European site.

Planning Ref.	Description of development	Comments
	Damastown Industrial Park. This application is accompanied by an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and an Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening Reports. The proposed development involves the modification of an establishment to which the European Communities (Control of Major Accident Hazards Involving Dangerous Substances) Regulations, 2015 (SI 209 of 2015) apply and is also subject to a granted revised Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (IPPC) licence, Register No. PO050-02, now deemed an Industrial Emissions Licence (IEL).	
FW21A/0245	For retention permission for development at EZ Living furniture collection depot formerly UTI JIN Ireland. The development consists of an existing telecommunications support structure (previously granted permission under Pl. Ref FW11A/0075) together with antennas dish, equipment cabinets security fencing, and all associated site development works. The development will continue to provide high speed wireless broadband and data services.	No potential for in-combination effects given the Proposed Development will have no effect on any European site.
FW22A/0162	The development will consist of alterations to the North and East facades of the existing production building to include the removal of 2 roller shutter doors, the addition of 3 no. windows at ground floor level, the addition of a single storey 12m ² storage area and 4 no. condenser units on the North Elevation and the addition of 3 no. condenser units and 3 no. louvered grilles on the East Elevation	No potential for in-combination effects given the Proposed Development will have no effect on any European site.
FW22A/0135	A 13m ² , detached single-storey, Motor Control Centre (MCC Room).	No potential for in-combination effects given the Proposed Development will have no effect on any European site.
FW22A/0190	Alterations to previously granted planning application ref: FW21A/0185 comprising a new WWTP equalisation storage tank bunded structure (currently under construction) to Guerbet Ireland ULC at Damastown Road, Damastown Industrial Estate, Damastown, Dublin, D15YE36. The alterations involve increasing a single storage tank from 700m ³ to a 1,000m ³ (, increasing a bunded structure from 302.76m ² on plan to 702.25m ² , and the relocation of 2 no balance tanks, 2 no clarifier tanks, associated bunded structures, pipe racks, supporting plant/equipment and all associated site works.	No potential for in-combination effects given the Proposed Development will have no effect on any European site.
FW22A/0177	The development will consist of: 1) Site works comprising of the following; widening of existing site entrance, expansion and alterations of the site road network including relocation and expansion of staff / visitor's car parking; 2) A single storey expansion of the existing Raw Materials warehouse (Goods-in) to the North of the existing warehouse building; 3) A single storey expansion of the existing Finished Goods warehouse (Dispatch) to the west of the existing warehouse building; 4) A two storey R&D Laboratory building to the north of the proposed Finished Goods warehouse; 5) A single storey expansion of existing offices, canteen and locker rooms to the east; 6) A three storey Product Finishing building to the west of the existing production building; 7) A two storey expansion of the existing Engineering Offices and tool room to the south of the existing Building; 8) The additional of a 30m ³ chemical storage tank in the existing tank farm; 9) The provision of a Contractors compound area to include contractor car parking area to the West of the site; 10) And all associated works including alterations and	No potential for in-combination effects given the Proposed Development will have no effect on any European site.

Planning Ref.	Description of development	Comments
	additions to the existing external plant equipment, underground services, external site works such as internal access roads, footpaths, laydown areas , hardstanding areas, external lighting, etc; 11) Provision of a temporary Construction entrance from the Damastown Road. An Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) will be submitted to the Planning Authority with the application. The proposed development involves the modification of an establishment to which the Chemicals Act (Control of Major Accident Hazards Involving Dangerous Substances) Regulations 2015 (SI 209 of 2015) applies and to an activity requiring an Industrial Emissions Licence (IEL).	
FW22A/0217	The development will consist of an extension and alteration to the existing contractor's compound to include an extended stone and grave contractor's car parking area, the addition of single-storey and two storey site cabins with external stair access and landings, to include site offices, WC's, disabled WC and changing areas, welfare facilities, canteen, workshops, storage and all associated site works.	No potential for in-combination effects given the Proposed Development will have no effect on any European site.
FW23A/0075	Erect 12,082 m2 of photovoltaic panels on a ground mounted system. The development will comprise of a 2.4 MW Solar PV farm on a site at Damastown Road, Damastown Industrial Park, Dublin 15, Dublin. The electricity generated will be used by the Guerbet Pharmaceutical site that currently operates under an Industrial Emissions (IE) License (PO050-02) and Greenhouse Gas Permit (GHG Permit) No.IE-GHG019-10349-02, under Part IV of the Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992. The development will comprise of photovoltaic panels with ground mounted frames together with all ancillary cabling and electrical infrastructure; 1 no. transformer cabin; 1 no. spare parts cabin; using all temporary ways, temporary construction compound / set-down area; boundary security fencing included on the application, Granted under Planning Permission Reference No. FW21A/0185 and underground medium voltage electrical connection from transformer building, also under application FW21A/0185, into the immediately adjoining industrial site; and all associated site development works.	No potential for in-combination effects given the Proposed Development will have no effect on any European site.
FW23A/0211	The developments will consist of : a proposed single storey (1,060 sqm) of warehouse (building A2) divided into 3 No stores for the storage and distribution of materials including chemicals. The height of the proposed building does not exceed 9.7m complete with ancillary site and civil works external ancillary plant to the rear. Complete with security gates and fencing 2.4 m high. All located adjacent to an existing site, to which the Chemicals Act (Control of Major Accident Hazards Involving Dangerous Substances) Regulations 2015 (S.I 209 of 2015) applies. Located on a 2.7 acres site.	No potential for in-combination effects given the Proposed Development will have no effect on any European site.
FW23A/0214	The development consists of a temporary access road and an upgrade to the existing access gate and entry point from the Damastown Road, to the east of the existing main site entrance and includes a temporary security kiosk located within the site. These works were previously granted under planning reference FW20A/0107. The works included the removal of the dished kerb and grass edging in the vicinity of the proposed road entrance to provide a single-lane entry-only access road and the removal of an existing	No potential for in-combination effects given the Proposed Development will have no effect on any European site.

Planning Ref.	Description of development	Comments
	palisade fence and gate to form the new temporary access road. The applicant wishes to seek a continuation of use for a further 3-year period.	
FW23A/0326	The development will consist of Construction of a new 21 sq/m, 13.9m high extension to accommodate a Kardex storage lift, to the North of the existing Production Building, and the construction of a new 50 sq/m, 3.5m high, single storey modular comms room located to the West of the existing Administration Building and associated site works. The application relates to a development on a site which comprises an activity requiring an integrated pollution prevention and control licence.	No potential for in-combination effects given the Proposed Development will have no effect on any European site.
RA201512	part off-license use in the existing retail unit	No potential for in-combination effects given the Proposed Development will have no effect on any European site.
RA201770	a proposed increase in child place numbers in existing creche facility from 60 as originally granted full planning permission under planning reference number RA170268 to 81 child places together with an increase in associated staff numbers in accordance with current TULSA regulations and all ancillary works. Significant Further information/Revised plans submitted on this application	No potential for in-combination effects given the Proposed Development will have no effect on any European site.

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

The listed developments have been granted permission in most cases with conditions relating to sustainable development by the consenting authority in compliance with the relevant Local Authority Development Plan and in compliance with the Local Authority requirement with regard to the Habitats Directive. The development cannot have received planning permission without having met the consenting authority requirement in this regard.

There are no predicted in-combination effects given that it is predicted that the Proposed Development will have no effect on any European site.

Any new applications for the Proposed Development area will be assessed on a case by case basis *initially* by Meath County Council which will determine the requirement for AA Screening as per the requirements of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive.

6. Conclusion

There are no predicted effects on any European sites given:

- The distance between the Proposed Development and any European Sites, approximately 5.8km;
- There are no predicted emissions to air, water or the environment during the construction or operational phases that would result in significant effects.

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

1. The Proposed Development is not directly connected with, or necessary to the conservation management of the European sites considered in this assessment.
2. The Proposed Development is not likely to either directly or indirectly significantly affect the Qualifying interests or Conservation Objectives of the European sites considered in this assessment.
3. The Proposed Development, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, is not likely to have significant effects on a European site.
4. It is possible to conclude that significant effects can be excluded at the screening stage.

It can be excluded, on the basis of objective information, that the Proposed Development, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will have a significant effect on any European site, in the absence of any mitigation.

An appropriate assessment is not, therefore, required.

A final determination will be made by the competent authority in this regard.

7. References

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

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

European Commission (2018) Managing Natura 2000 sites: the provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC.

European Commission (2021) Assessment of plans and projects in relation to Natura 2000 sites - Methodological guidance on Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, Brussels 28.9.21.

European Commission (2021) Guidance document on the strict protection of animal species of Community interest under the Habitats Directive, Brussels 12.10.21.

NPWS (2019) The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Dublin.

NPWS (2024) National Parks and Wildlife Service Metadata available online at <https://www.npws.ie/maps-and-data>

Office-of-the-Planning-Regulator (2021) Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management OPR Practice Note PN01. March 2021