

The status given is that of the habitat at a national level and not necessarily that within the Great Island Channel SAC.

No other Natura 2000 sites are considered to be within the potential zone of influence of the proposed project. The sites listed above are identified in Figure 1 below relative to the proposed development site.

Is the project directly connected with or necessary to the management of the sites listed above?
No.

There is no hydrological or other ecological connection linking the development area to any EU site. Given the sites distance from designated sites, no interventions are proposed within any European site. The site is located sufficiently distant from designated sites to be satisfied that there is no risk of activities associated with the project causing disturbance to species which are qualifying interests of the Natura 2000 sites listed.

Therefore, I am satisfied that the project does not pose a risk of significant adverse effects to the integrity of any Natura 2000 site, alone or in combination with other plans or projects.

Overall Conclusion

In accordance with Section 177S of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) it is concluded that the proposed project does not pose a risk of causing significant negative any Natura 2000 site for the following reasons:

- All sites are either located downstream of a European site or there is no hydrological connection or other ecological connection linking the development area to any EU site;
- No interventions are proposed within any European site; and
- The site is located sufficiently distant from designated sites to be satisfied that there is no risk of activities associated with the project causing disturbance to qualifying interests of European sites.

It is therefore determined that a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment under Section 177V of the Planning and Development Act 2000 is not required.