

**APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS
TO NORTH LOTTS AND GRAND CANAL DOCK PLANNING
SCHEME**

In Accordance With the Requirements Of

ARTICLE 6(3)

Of The

EU HABITATS DIRECTIVE

Screening Report



**Prepared by
Planning and Economic Development Department
Dublin City Council
January 2020**

1.0 Introduction

This report outlines the assessment of the proposed amendments to the North Lotts and Grand Canal Dock planning scheme. The purpose of this report is to assess the impact of the proposed amendments to the plan against the conservation objectives of European designated sites and to ascertain if any significant adverse effects from the amendments will affect the integrity of any of the sites.

This document has been produced by Dublin City Council in accordance with best practice and to meet the statutory requirements under the EU Habitats Directive. This report supplements and should be read in conjunction with the Natura Impact Report of the North Lotts and Grand Canal Dock planning scheme.

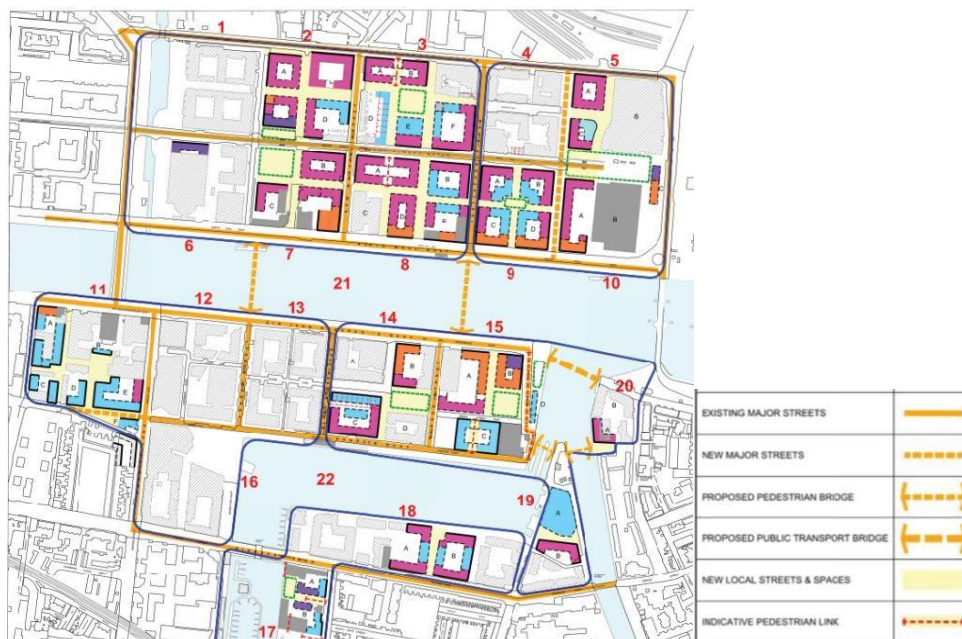
1.2 Background

On 18th December 2012, the Government designated lands at North Lotts and Grand Canal Dock in Dublin's Docklands as a Strategic Development Zone (SDZ). This Order was made in accordance with Part IX of the Planning and Development Act 2000-2011, and Dublin City Council, as Development Agency (S.I.no. 530/2012) subsequently prepared a planning scheme for the lands.

Under S.I.no. 530/2012 the area is set out as an SDZ 'for the provision of residential development, employment services, commercial activities (including financial services and office, hotel, conference, leisure and retail facilities), cultural facilities, embassies, emergency services, childcare services, educational facilities, transport facilities and community facilities referred to in Part III of the First Schedule to the Act of 2000.'

The North Lotts and Grand Canal Dock SDZ Planning Scheme, in its chapter on movement (chapter 4), encourages pedestrian and cyclist movement through the area as part of its sustainable transport aims. Objectives set out in the chapter reflect this.

In relation to new bridges, the scheme illustrates two pedestrian bridges over the Liffey; a western bridge at Forbes Street, and one further east /downriver at Castleforbes Road. Please refer to orangecoloured dashed arrows on the map below (extract from Fig 35 of the SDZ scheme, page 178).



The Forbes St Bridge (westernmost route illustrated above) would accommodate a desire line from Spencer Dock Luas stop and Docklands Road Station to Grand Canal Square.

1.2.1 Proposed amendments to the Planning Scheme

The North Lotts and Grand Canal Dock SDZ Planning Scheme contains an objective to provide a pedestrian/cycle bridge across the River Liffey at Forbes Street. This is represented in figure 35 of the scheme (p178) by the dotted orange-coloured arrow on the left.

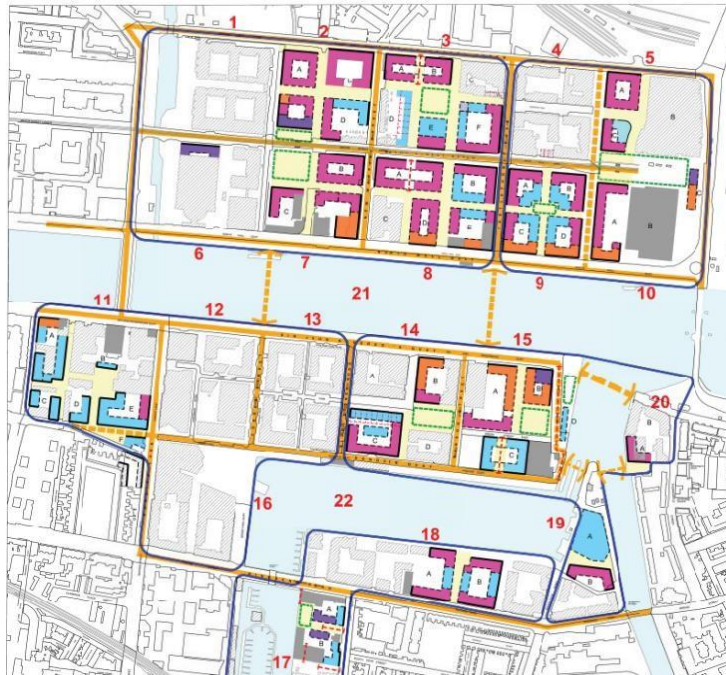


Figure 35 of the original Planning scheme.

The proposed amendment now seeks to omit this, replacing it with a bridge at New Wapping Street/Blood Stoney Road.

For clarity, the new location is illustrated in the graphic below by a pink dashed arrow. Note that the bridge would be designed to open, to allow boats/vessels to pass through, and would be proximate to the new Central Bank Building on the North Quays.

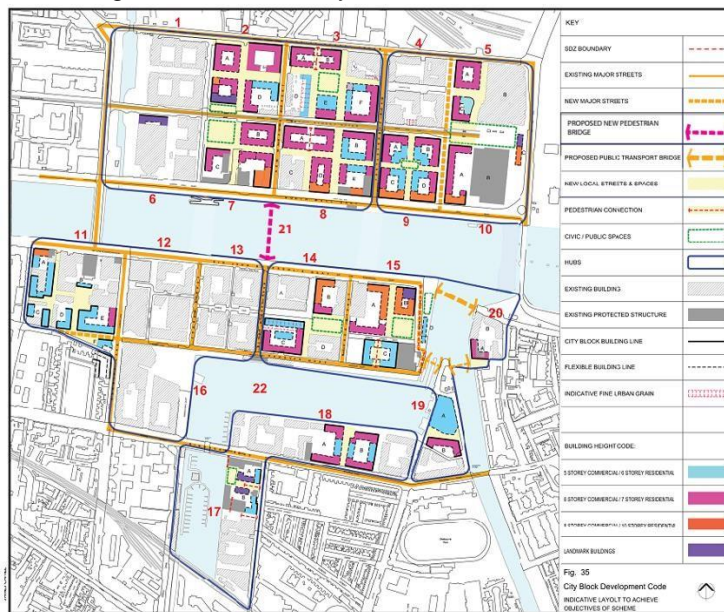
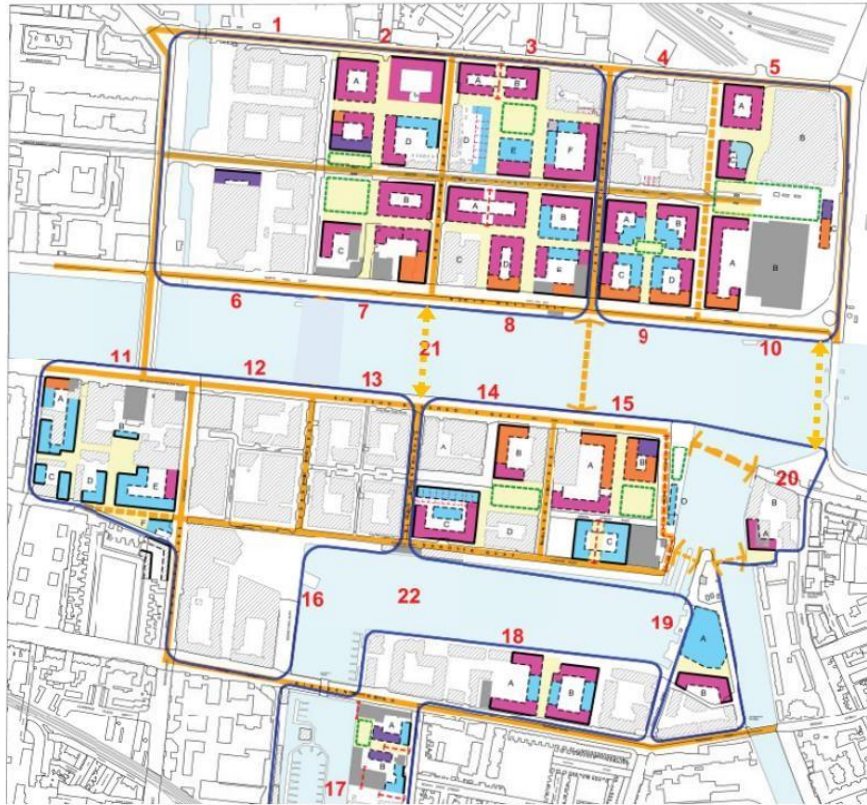


Fig 35- Development Code for City Blocks

The above, when taken with the previously approved amendments to bridges under recent decision ref 29N.ZE.0006, would result in an amended figure 35 within the planning scheme, and this is shown below

Proposed amended SDZ scheme Fig. 35.



The North Lotts and Grand Canal Dock SDZ Planning Scheme contains a number of associated references, which will also be amended to accommodate the change.

1.3 How to Read this Document

The proposed amendments to the North Lotts and Grand Canal Dock Planning Scheme 2014 are set out in **Section 1.4** of this document.

Proposed amendments to the planning scheme are text changes and their location in the plan is referenced where applicable (references to page numbers are to the planning scheme page number).

- Deletions as shown as ~~red and strikethrough~~ text,
- Amendments / additions are shown as **green and bold text**

See example below.

CR7

From

To explore established and emerging artists connection to docklands as a place in which they live and work and to consider ways to develop their relationship with local residents, nurturing a community of artists as part of the creativity of the Docklands Cultural Quarter.

To

To explore ~~established and emerging artists connection to docklands as a place in which they live and work and to consider ways to develop their relationship with local residents, nurturing a community of artists as part of the creativity of the Docklands Cultural Quarter.~~ **a variety of mechanisms to support a structured form of engagement with professional artists living and working in the wider docklands area** nurturing a community of artists as part of the creativity of Docklands

Note: This Report MUST BE READ IN CONJUNCTION with the Natura Impact Report of the North Lotts and Grand Canal Dock Planning Scheme.

1.4 Proposed Amendments to North Lotts and Grand Canal Dock Planning Scheme

Text Changes

Page 66. Section 4.4.4.1, start 2nd para, and “The ~~two~~ proposed pedestrian/cyclist bridges across the Liffey are crucial to improving”.... etc.

Page 127. Section 4.10 4.1.4; Omit final sentence in 2nd para, i.e. “ ~~A bridge link is also proposed ...Spencer Dock Square~~”.

P 127, third column, 3 lines down, delete text , ~~the creation of a new pedestrian bridge connection linking Spencer Dock with Grand Canal Square...~~

Page 191. Last sentence in second bullet point to be amended “Also provides links to new pedestrian bridge across to ~~Forbes Street~~ Blood Stoney Road”

Page 193. New bullet point to be added to be added to end of section 3 (public realm) as follows; **New pedestrian/cycle bridge across the River Liffey connecting New Wapping Street to Blood Stoney Road.**

Graphics

Figure number	Page no. of document	Amendment to be made Please note; map key also to be changed, where relevant.
Fig 30A,	167	Amend illustrated bridge locations as required; Omit Forbes Street Bridge and insert Blood Stoney bridge (& previously approved bridge at Tom Clarke Bridge – approved by ABP)
Fig 31,	168	As above
Fig 33	172	As above.
Fig 34	176	As above
Fig 35	178	As above

Also; amend graphics relating to individual city blocks on the following pages 181, 182, 184, 186, 187, 189, 190, 192, 194, 196, 198, 200,202, 204, 206, 208, 215, and 216.

Also amend three graphics in Appendix 6, shadow analyses, p272-274 inclusive.

The proposed amendments to the plan are “Text” & “Graphic” alterations to the North Lotts and Grand Canal Dock planning scheme. The ‘text’ changes proposed to the plan have undergone an Appropriate Assessment Screening process (Appendix A) and it is considered that the text/graphic changes proposed will not have a significant adverse impact on the integrity of any European designated sites within the Natura 2000 sites network.

The proposed text changes in the planning scheme do not detract from the vision and objectives of the plan which aims to provide a distinct urban quarter with rich history and heritage. To continue to hold people as the core asset of the SDZ area and recognise that the real value of any neighbourhood is its community.

Potential Impact on the integrity of the Identified Natura 2000 sites?	Screen In / Out	Reason for Screening In / Out
No	Out	No potential Impacts on Natura 2000 sites

1.5 Conclusion

The AA process has informed the proposed amendments to the North Lotts and Grand Canal Dock Planning Scheme so that it can be implemented successfully without having adverse effects on the integrity of Natura 2000 sites. This AA Screening Report has determined that, assuming the successful implementation of the mitigatory objectives contained within the Planning Scheme, there will be no adverse effects on the integrity of Natura 2000 sites arising from the scheme in isolation or in combination with other plans and projects.

Appendix A

APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO NORTH LOTTS AND GRAND CANAL DOCK PLANNING SCHEME

Brief Description of Project or Plan

The Planning Scheme sets out the vision and an overall spatial strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of the Docklands Strategic Development Zone area. The plan contains the objectives that will guide the development of the area in terms of physical growth and renewal, economic, social and cultural activity and environmental protection and enhancement in accordance with the National Development Plan, the Regional Planning Guidelines for the Greater Dublin Area and the Dublin City Council Development Plan.

Appropriate Assessment (AA) has been undertaken for the Planning Scheme in accordance with the Europeans Commissions' Methodological Guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (EC 2001) and the Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland (Guidance for Planning Authorities).

Strategic Environmental Assessment was also carried out for the Planning Scheme in accordance with the SEA Directive (Directive 2001/42/EC).

It is proposed by Dublin City Council to provide text & graphic amendments to support the relocation of a pedestrian/cycle bridge across the River Liffey as follows:

Text Changes

Page 66. Section 4.4.4.1, start 2nd para, and "The ~~two~~ proposed pedestrian/cyclist bridges across the Liffey are crucial to improving".... etc.

Page 127. Section 4.10 4.1.4; Omit final sentence in 2nd para, i.e. "~~A bridge link is also proposed ...Spencer Dock Square~~".

P 127, third column, 3 lines down, delete text "~~,the creation of a new pedestrian bridge connection linking Spencer Dock with Grand Canal Square...~~

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Fig 35	178	As above

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pend three graphics in Appendix 6, shadow analyses, p272-274 inclusive

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Brief Description of the Natura 2000 Sites.

The description of the Natura 2000 sites within the zone of influence is contained in the Natura Impact Report of the North Lotts and Grand Canal Dock Planning Scheme. Sites 1 to 5 below were described in the AA report and it has been found that the Planning Scheme could potentially impact, either directly or indirectly, on the following Natura 2000 sites due to the current deficiencies of the waste water treatment plant at Ringsend, more population resulting in increased recreation activity and potential impacts from construction works on undeveloped sites.

1. South Dublin Bay cSAC
2. South Dublin Bay & River Tolka Valley Estuary SPA
3. North Dublin Bay cSAC
4. North Bull Island SPA
5. Rockabill to Dalkey Islands CSAC.

Assessment Criteria

Describe any likely direct, indirect or secondary impacts of the project (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) on the Natura 2000 site by virtue of:

There are no likely cumulative, direct, or indirect impacts on any Natura 2000 sites as a result of the proposed text/graphic amendments to the planning scheme. An appropriate Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment was carried out for the Plan in order to ensure that its vision and objectives do not result in significant adverse impacts on the integrity of any of the identified Natura 2000 sites.

Size and Scale

Not applicable

Land –Take

Not applicable

Distance from Natura 2000 sites or key features of the Site

No Natura 2000 sites are located in the SDZ area. There are 5 Natura 2000 sites adjacent to the area.

Resource Requirements (water abstraction etc)

Not applicable

Emission (disposal to land, water or air)

Not applicable

Excavation requirements

Not applicable

Transportation Requirements

Not applicable

Duration of construction , operation , decommissioning etc

Not applicable

Other

None

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

Describe any likely impacts on the Natura 2000 sites as a whole in terms of Interference

with the key relationships that define the structure of the site:

No predicated likely impacts on the conservation function of any Natura 2000 sites.

Interference with key relationships that define the function of the site:

No predicted likely impacts on the conservation function of any Natura 2000 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.

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 are not known.

No predicted likely impacts on the conservation function of any Natura 2000 sites.