

exact timings and characteristics will vary there is generally potential for eel activity in the vicinity of the study area from April through to January.

*Avifauna*

5.3.55 It was within this habitat that the majority of the avifauna was noted. Table 5.3.1 provides count data for species noted during the 7<sup>th</sup> October site visit. As can be seen the avifaunal composition was dominated by the black-headed gull (*Larus ridibundus*) which was noted foraging and resting within the study area. This species is very common, especially within Dublin City.

Species	No. Counted	Comment
Herring gull ( <i>Larus argentatus</i> )	2	Juveniles resting within the site
Common gull ( <i>L. canus</i> )	1	Resting within the site
Black headed gull ( <i>L. ridibundus</i> )	31	Foraging and resting within the site
Cormorant ( <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> )	1	Flying past the site towards the sea
Mallard ( <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> )	3	Flying across the site
Grey Heron ( <i>Ardea cinerea</i> )	1	Flying across site at dusk
Mute swan ( <i>Cygnus olor</i> )	1	Situated under bridge on River Dodder.

5.3.56 This stretch of the River Liffey does not provide suitable habitat for those species of conservation importance which frequent Dublin Bay.

*Sea Walls, Piers and Jetties (CC1)*

5.3.57 As can be seen in Figure 5.3.1, this habitat bounds the tidal river. It is comprised of a built granite sea wall to the east and west of the proposed crossing and rock boulders adjacent to the amenity grassland habitat. This habitat contains an extremely high degree of litter.

5.3.58 Vegetation on the walls was principally represented by pellitory of the wall which is a plant particular to old walls, especially on coastlands. Overall terrestrial vegetation of the pier walls was very low, with remaining species being classified as opportunistic species such as buddleja, ragwort, sorrel (*R. acetosa*), pineappleweed and dandelion.

- 5.3.59 There was greater terrestrial vegetation coverage along the rocks bordering the north of the amenity grassland area. Common mallow, bramble (*Rubus fruticosus agg.*), ribwort plantain, black medick (*Medicago lupulina*), hairy bittercress (*Cardamine hirsuta*), ragwort, creeping thistle, and curled dock (*R. crispus*).

#### *Littoral Flora and Fauna*

- 5.3.60 The zonation of the littoral zone commenced with the lower layer at the low water mark which was vegetated with sea lettuce (*Ulva lactua*), horned wrack (*Fucus ceranoides*), and red algae (*Rhodothamniella floribunda*). The barnacle, *Balanus balanoides* was recorded within this zone along with *B. perforatus* on more raised surfaces. Mussel (*Mytilus edulis*) shells were encountered within this zone but none of them were alive or attached to the substrate.
- 5.3.61 Within the next zone there was an absence of the red algae, *R. Floribunda*, however overall seaweed cover had increased with the introduction of gutweed (*Enteromorpha intestinalis*) on flat surfaces. The only molluscs noted were comprised of the barnacles *B. perforatus* and *Elminius modestus*. Two dead shore crabs (*Carcinus maenas*) were identified.
- 5.3.62 There was no sea lettuce in the next zone, and the red algae *R. Floribunda* was present in less abundance than the first zone. Horned wrack dominated the vertical portions of this zone, while gutweed dominated the flat, horizontal portions. The barnacles were dominated by the species *Chthamalus stellatus*.
- 5.3.63 Some yellow lichen (*Xanthoria parietina*) was recorded within the spray zone at the top of the rock walls.
- 5.3.64 The species recorded during this survey correlate directly with those recorded in both the Macken Street Bridge and the Stack A Bridge EISs. All off these species are common and frequently found around the coastline of Ireland.

#### *Mammals*

- 5.3.65 A number of rats were noted during the survey. This habitat is not suitable for use by either the mink or the otter.

#### *Avifauna*

- 5.3.66 No birds were specifically recorded using this habitat, however it would be expected to find such species as feral pigeon (*Columba livia*).

common gull (*Larus canus*), rook (*Corvus frugilegus*) and hooded crow (*C. corone*). The physical structure of this habitat does not provide for any avi-faunal nesting opportunities.

#### *Invertebrates*

- 5.3.67 Invertebrate usage within the littoral zone was not evident. The Stack A Bridge EIS did however note an unidentified isopod within this habitat.

#### **Habitats in the Surrounding Area**

- 5.3.68 As stated previously, the lands surrounding the site are characterised by urban and industrial development, with the River Liffey running directly to the north of the site and Dublin Bay being just 5 km to the east.
- 5.3.69 Excepting of course Dublin Bay, the surrounding lands are of a similar low ecological value to those contained within the subject lands. While this section of the River Liffey does not carry any environmental designation, the ecological value of the river with respect to its connectivity to Dublin Bay's designated areas nearby is considered to be of significance.

#### **Evaluation of Habitats**

- 5.3.70 None of the habitats within the study area are of regional, national or international ecological importance.
- 5.3.71 All habitats within the site are anthropogenically influenced and of low conservation value. Dublin Bay 5 km downstream to the east of the site however is of high ecological value.

#### **5.3.4 CHARACTERISTICS OF THIS PROPOSAL**

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- 5.3.72 It is proposed to construct a public transport bridge to connect York Road to Britain Quay. This bridge will comprise two single lanes for public transport, and also contains segregated walkways for pedestrians and cycle paths for cyclists. The central section of the bridge will lift up to facilitate navigational access to the Grand Canal docks.
- 5.3.73 The bridge will be constructed upon three small piers, and one larger pier upon which the control station will be located. Each of the three smaller piers will be supported upon five tubular piles which will be driven into the riverbed and subsequently filled with concrete. The

larger pier will be supported by 36 steel H piles which will also be driven into the river bed. The total land-take on the river bed for these four structures amounts to approximately 7% of the total river bed within the study area.

- 5.3.74 The proposed development is not a suspension bridge, and as such it does not pose a significant obstruction to avi-fauna. The railings on the side of the bridge will extend approximately 1.5m above the surface of the bridge while the control tower has a proposed height of approximately 6.5m.
- 5.3.75 There will be minor associated works each side of the bridge with laying of a suitable surface for pedestrian, vehicular, and cycle traffic. This will most likely entail the removal of the derelict building on Britain Quay.

### 5.3.5 **POTENTIAL IMPACT OF THE PROPOSAL**

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#### **Construction Phase**

- 5.3.76 The potential negative impacts associated with the construction phase of this proposed development will involve the physical and direct disturbance of all the habitats on site, as well as the River Liffey.

#### *Direct Impact*

- 5.3.77 The direct impact to the disturbed ground habitat will result in the permanent loss of much of this habitat, while the majority of the amenity grassland habitat will also be lost. The impact due to the loss of these areas will be of no ecological significance.
- 5.3.78 There will also be a direct impact to a small section of each of the quay walls where the bridge will abut them. This will also be of low ecological significance as it currently supports little flora and fauna.
- 5.3.79 There will be a direct impact to approximately 7%, or 0.023 hectares of river bed due to the placement of piles. The permanent loss of this particular habitat is of no ecological significance due to its lack of any flora and fauna.

#### *Indirect Impact*

- 5.3.80 Often times it is the indirect and secondary impacts associated with a proposed development that can be of greatest environmental concern. In this instance many of the potential indirect impacts such as disturbance of the River Liffey and Dublin Bay downstream through;

spoil and materials storage, diesel spills, and re-suspension of the river bed causing increased siltation and releasing contaminated soils, are of direct concern.

- 5.3.81 The potential impacts associated with the disturbance of the river bed have already been identified by the project team. The sediments of the river bed are not only highly anoxic but have also become contaminated through the many uncontrolled releases to the River Liffey over the past few hundred years. While the potential for re-introduction of these contaminated sediments back into the water column is of ecological concern, aquatic life is also particularly sensitive to heightened levels of siltation within the water column whether or not it is contaminated. Partly due to the already high levels of siltation within this portion of the River Liffey, there is not a huge abundance of aquatic life, with perhaps the most important being the salmon, trout and eel which pass by the site. These species will be affected by excess siltation greater than 80mg/L for an extended period of time. The emplacement of the steel piles has been designed so that there will be a small cloud of displaced sediment for approximately 30 seconds associated with each pile. Such minimal siltation will not affect any migratory fish species.
- 5.3.82 The driving of piles however can introduce additional noise and vibration into the aquatic environment. Sound pressure waves can be greatly amplified attenuated underneath water, producing a more deleterious effect than they normally would above ground. Section 5.6.3 of the EIS states that the driving of the piles will take 6-8 weeks for twelve hours each day, and that the aquatic vibration arising from these works will not be significant. In view of the temporary and short term nature of this activity, and the low vibration impact; it should not pose any significant ecological impact to aquatic life, especially migratory fish within the River.
- 5.3.83 Unless construction within the site is carefully controlled there is potential for a moderately significant environmental impact to the river and Dublin Bay. As mentioned previously, Dublin Bay is an internationally important wetland containing habitats listed within Annex I of the Habitats Directive and areas within it are offered SAC, SPA and NHA designation.
- 5.3.84 Benthic biomass within estuaries is the primary source of food for the estuarine ecological web, and as such the removal of this ecological base can produce many knock-on effects within the food chain. In this regard however, the absence of any significant benthic life within the study area means that the loss of the river bed will not bring about any indirect impacts within higher trophic levels.

## **Operational Phase**

### *Direct Impact*

- 5.3.85 Once operational the surface run-off from the bridge will be passed through siltation traps and a hydrocarbon interceptor before being discharged to the river, and as such will not present any ecological impact.

### *Indirect Impact*

- 5.3.86 There will be a positive indirect ecological impact arising from the operation of the bridge, whereby the newly placed support piers will provide a new substrate for the creation of a littoral zone habitat. This habitat will naturally establish itself within one to two years and will most likely be of a similar composition to the *sea walls, piers and jetties (CC1)* habitat described in section 5.3.3.

### **“Do-Nothing” Scenario**

- 5.3.87 Should the proposed development not proceed the lands would remain in their current disused state. The waste yard would not be cleaned up, and the additional littoral zone habitat would not be created. The newly planted sycamore would be left to mature.

## **AVOIDANCE, REMEDIAL OR REDUCTIVE MEASURES**

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### **Mitigation by Avoidance**

- 5.3.88 The adequate treatment of all surface water will mean that there will be no ecological impact on the River Liffey or Dublin Bay from the operation of the development.

### **Mitigation by Reduction**

- 5.3.89 Taking measures to limit the working area during the construction phase will reduce the impacts of the development on the amenity grassland on the ground and the river bed within the river. The construction area should be clearly delimited and machinery should operate only within the allocated area.
- 5.3.90 All construction-related fuel should be contained within specially constructed bunds to ensure that fuel spillages whether accidental or otherwise are fully contained. Such bund areas shall be roofed to exclude rainwater.

- 5.3.91 The contractor should maintain an accessible supply of absorbent material to be used in the instance of any accidental spillages. Once used, this material must be disposed of to a licensed facility.
- 5.3.92 The use of chemicals on site, including concrete must adhere to Regional Fisheries Guidelines.

### **PREDICTED IMPACT**

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#### **Construction Phase**

- 5.3.93 With the incorporation of the use of fuel bunding, material storage control, and construction exclusion zones the potential indirect effects from the construction phase to the River Liffey will be minimised to the extent that they will form a non-significant impact.

#### **Operational Phase**

- 5.3.94 The introduction of additional littoral habitat will have a positive ecological impact to the area.

### **MONITORING**

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- 5.3.95 There is no requirement for any ecological monitoring.

### **REINSTATEMENT**

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- 5.3.96 Not Applicable.

### **FORECASTING METHODS**

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- 5.3.97 See paragraph 5.3.4 to 5.3.11 which outlines the methodology for this Environmental Impact Assessment.

### **DIFFICULTIES IN COMPILING SPECIFIED INFORMATION**

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- 5.3.98 Ideally ecology surveys should cover a full year in order to account for all seasonal species. In this instance however the highly influenced nature of the habitats within the study area would indicate that this is

not necessary. The ecological characteristics and significance of the study area has been adequately described within this report.

### **INTER-ACTIONS**

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- 5.3.99 Any interactions with other effects on the environment have already been dealt with within this section. In brief they have included the impact of noise and vibrations upon the aquatic ecology of the study area and environs, the possibility for water contamination arising from displacement of the sediments within the river bed, poor materials storage practices during construction and proper treatment of run-off when operational.

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## APPENDIX A: Floral Species lists

### GA2 Amenity Grassland

<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore
<i>Anagallis arvensis</i>	Scarlet pimpernel
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Daisy
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Creeping thistle
<i>Coronopus didymus</i>	Lesser swinecress
<i>Festuca rubra</i>	Creeping fescue
<i>Lolium multiflorum</i>	Italian ryegrass
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	Perennial ryegrass
<i>Malva sylvestris</i>	Common mallow
<i>Medicago lupulina</i>	Trefoil medick
<i>Parietaria judaica</i>	Pellitory of the wall
<i>Poa annua</i>	Annual meadow grass
<i>Polygonum aviculare</i>	Knotgrass
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping buttercup
<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	Ragwort
<i>Taraxacum spp.</i>	Dandelion
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red clover
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White clover
<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>	Germander speedwell.

## ED5 Refuse and Other Waste

<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	Creeping bent
<i>Anagallis arvensis</i>	Scarlet pimpernel
<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	Sweet vernal grass
<i>Borago officinalis</i>	Borage
<i>Buddleja davidii</i>	Butterfly bush
<i>Cardamine hirsuta</i>	Hairy bittercress
<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	Common mouse ear
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Creeping thistle
<i>Crepis spp.</i>	Hawksbeard
<i>Cymbalaria muralis</i>	Ivy leaved toadflax
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Cock'sfoot
<i>Epilobium angustifolium</i>	Rosebay willowherb
<i>Epilobium montanum</i>	Broad leaved willowherb
<i>Fuschia spp.</i>	Fuschia
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Cleavers
<i>Hordeum murinum</i>	Wall Barley
<i>Juncus effuses</i>	Soft rush
<i>Lolium multiflorum</i>	Italian ryegrass
<i>Matricaria discoidea</i>	Pineappleweed
<i>Medicago lupulina</i>	Trefoil medick
<i>Melilotus altissimus</i>	Meliot
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort plantain
<i>Plantago major</i>	Greater plantain
<i>Polygonum aviculare</i>	Knotgrass
<i>Rubus fruticosus agg.</i>	Bramble
<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	Dock
<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	Ragwort
<i>Senecio squalidus</i>	Oxford ragwort
<i>Sinapsis arvensis</i>	Charlock
<i>Solidago Canadensis</i>	Canadian fleabane
<i>Stellaria media</i>	Chickweed
<i>Taraxacum spp.</i>	Dandelion
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red clover
<i>Triolium repens</i>	White clover

## CC1 Sea Walls, Piers and Jetties

<i>Anagallis arvensis</i>	Scarlet pimpernel
<i>Buddleja davidii</i>	Butterfly bush
<i>Buddleja davidii</i>	Butterfly bush
<i>Capsella bursa pastoris</i>	Shepherd's purse
<i>Cardamine hirsuta</i>	Hairy bittercress
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Creeping thistle
<i>Enteromorpha intestinalis</i>	Gutweed
<i>Fucus ceranoides</i>	Horned wrack
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	Perennial ryegrass
<i>Malva sylvestris</i>	Common mallow
<i>Matricaria discoidea</i>	Pineappleweed
<i>Medicago lupulina</i>	Trefoil medick
<i>Parietaria judaica</i>	Pellitory of the wall
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort plantain
<i>Plantago major</i>	Greater plantain
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping buttercup
<i>Rhodothamniella floribunda</i>	Red algae
<i>Rubus fruticosus agg</i>	Bramble
<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	Sorrel
<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	Dock
<i>Rumex crispus</i>	Crispy dock
<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	Ragwort
<i>Sinapsis arvensis</i>	Charlock
<i>Taraxacum spp.</i>	Dandelion
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red clover
<i>Ulva lactua</i>	Sea lettuce
<i>Xanthoria parietina</i>	Yellow algae

EAST LINK BRIDGE

YORK ROAD



**LEGEND**

- CW2 Tidal Rivers
- CC1 Sea Walls, Piers and Jetties
- GA2 Amenity grassland
- ED5 Refuse and Other Waste

Client	Royceaton Ltd.	Date	17/10/03
Project	South Link Bridge	Scale	Not to scale
Drawing No.	Figure 5.3.1	Source	
Description	Ecological Habitat Map	Prepared By	SR
		Revision No.	1

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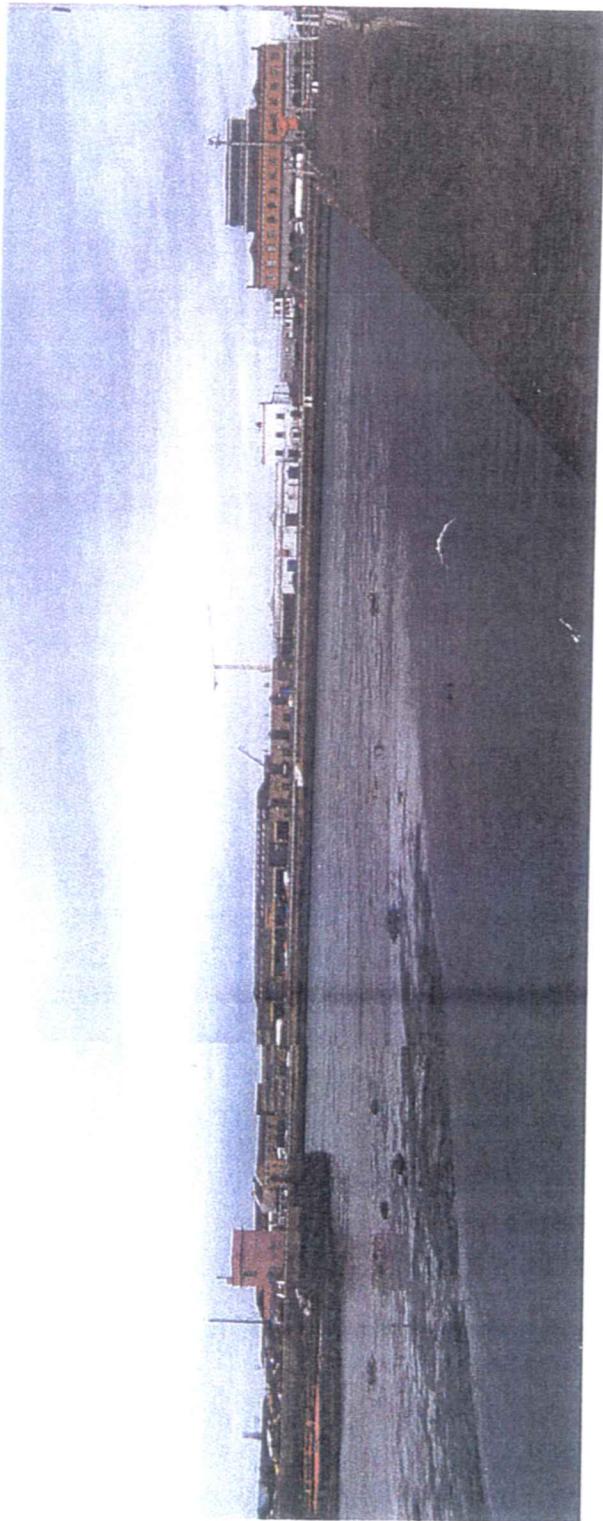
**Plate 5.3.1 CC1**  
Sea walls, piers and  
jetties habitat



**Plate 5.3.2 ED5 Refuse  
and Other Waste Habitat.**  
Note derelict building in  
background.



**Plate 5.3.3 CW2 Tidal  
Rivers  
Habitat.**



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## APPENDIX 8.1

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## **Description of Protected Structures in the Vicinity of the Proposed Development Site**

### **Description of Protected Structures**

The following descriptions of the protected structures in the vicinity of the proposed development site have been adapted from the *Inventory of Architectural and Industrial Heritage* of the Dublin Docklands Area (1996) which was prepared on behalf of the Dublin Docklands Development Authority by the School of Architecture, UCD.

***RPS Ref: 983 (also 3311)***

***Two-storey stone warehouse***

***Britain Quay / Green Street East, Dublin 2***

Corner two-storey warehouse with two-bay façade to Britain Quay and five-bay side elevation to Green Street East. The roof is pitched and covered with clay ridge tiles. It is hipped at the west end with a gable parapet at the east end. The walls are constructed of coursed rubble limestone with limestone ashlar quoins and brick sawtooth eaves course; granite parapet coping to gable. There are brick swept arches and reveals to first floor openings with limestone cills. The opes contain aluminium windows. There are similar bricked-up opes to the ground floor in the east elevation. There are later openings on the ground floor north elevation with rendered surrounds. There are external metal surrounds to all openings.

It has been valued in the *Inventory of Architectural and Industrial Heritage* for its Architectural and Group importance.

***RPS Ref: 984 (also 3310)***

***Hailing Station***

***Britain Quay / Sir John Rogerson's Quay, Dublin 2***

Two-storey, single-bay, flat-roofed tower with single-storey, two-bay extension on the west side. The walls are of brick construction and have been painted red. There is a door at ground floor level on the north side with a window in each of the elevations on the upper floor. There is a single chimney on the south side. The single-storey extension has a pitched roof. There is a door and a blocked-up opening in the north elevation of the extension. On the west side of the north elevation of the extension, the brick wall has been partially demolished and tapers down to ground level.

**RPS Ref: 3302**

***Triple sea locks at the river entrance to Grand Canal Docks  
Grand Canal Basin, Dublin 4***

Group of three granite ashlar Georgian canal locks between the Grand Canal Dock and the River Liffey. The walls are constructed of granite ashlar and have bull-nosed ends. The lock gates in each lock are double gates with later replacement walkways (steel walkways to the centre lock and timber to the side locks). The walls of the locks are engraved, from the west to the east side: 'Westmoreland Lock 1796', 'Buckingham Lock 1796', 'Camden Lock 1796'.

They have been valued in the *Inventory of Architectural and Industrial Heritage* for their Group, Design/Aesthetic and Technical Innovation importance.

**RPS Ref: 3313**

***Former lock-keeper's cottage at Britain Quay  
Grand Canal Docks, area including Grand Canal Quay, Dublin 4***

Detached three-bay one-storey hailing station. Now derelict. The roof is pitched and hipped with original slates which have been partially replaced with asbestos cement. The chimney stacks are rendered and the building retains its cast-iron gutters and down-pipes. The walls are rendered with roughcast side walls. The door and all the windows have been boarded up. The stone window cills have been painted and the surrounds to the windows on the north elevation have been rendered.

It has been valued in the *Inventory of Architectural and Industrial Heritage* for its Architectural, Group and Uniqueness/Rarity importance.

**RPS Ref: 3318 (also 3557)**

***Three-gabled warehouses fronting Hanover Quay: brick with limestone  
Sir John Rogerson's Quay, Dublin***

End of terrace triple-gabled, single-storey over semi-basement warehouse, with dormer attic added c. 1975. The roof is triple pitched with gabled to the street, clad with corrugated asbestos cement sheeting and with cast-iron hopper heads and downpipes. Dormer sections added c. 1975. The walls comprise a granite ashlar base and brown semi-vitrified brick Flemish bond façade, with granite string course. Yellow brick raking courses and sawtoothing at gables. Coursed random rubble east wall with red brick string courses. The timber double-leaf boarded doors, which have strap hinges, are surrounded by brick swept arches with inner granite reveals. The right-hand window has been converted to a door with concrete entrance steps. The four-pane timber casement windows, which have been boarded up, are surrounded by brick swept arches with inner yellow brick reveals and granite cills. Openings on plinth have chamfered granite reveals which are now blocked up.

Bullseye openings in gables have yellow and red brick surrounds, two of which have steel balconettes and all with later windows or extractor fans.

It has been valued in the *Inventory of Architectural and Industrial Heritage* for its Architectural, Group and Technical innovation importance.

**RPS Ref: 3558**

**Former Malt House**

**No.20 Hanover Quay, Dublin 2**

Terraced seven-bay two-storey former malthouse which has been extensively refurbished and converted to office use c. 1995. The roof is pitched with concrete tiles c. 1995, and granite gable parapets. The red brick chimney stack is also c. 1995. The walls are of coursed random rubble construction with granite quoins. There is a console with a lion mask over set into the wall, which was probably salvaged from another building. The door openings are surrounded by brick swept arches and granite ashlar reveals. Two large openings have been blocked up and rendered and timber door boarded up c. 1995. On the south elevation, the loading doors have been converted to windows. The windows are surrounded by brick swept arches and reveals and painted stone cills. Metal-framed wire grilles are fixed to the window openings. There is a plaque on the door c. 1995, that reads 'Old Malt House Grand Canal Basin 1796'.

It has been valued by *Inventory of Architectural and Industrial Heritage* for its Architectural, Group and Technical innovation importance.

**RPS Ref: 7710**

**Granite ashlar quay walls, stone setts, mooring rings, steps, bollards, lamp standards and machinery**

**Sir John Rogerson's Quay**

The area of the quay behind the white-painted metal kerb is surfaced with setts and inlaid crane tracks. The quay has recently undergone conservation and refurbishment works which has included the erection of new stainless steel lamp posts and litter bins. There is one metal mooring bollard and three of granite and a number of mooring hooks and rings. There are steps down to the water at the junction with Britain Quay with the facing quay wall stepped back to echo the line of the steps.

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## APPENDIX 8.2

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**Plate 8.1: The Hailing Station (a protected structure), at the corner of Sir John Rogerson's Quay and Britain Quay.**