



KI655-619 PARKGATE AVENUE, BELFAST

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1. Introduction

1.1 Terms of reference

AtkinsRéalis have been commissioned by Northern Ireland Water to carry out a Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) Stage 1 Screening for the construction of a new pipe and associated outfall to convey surface water drainage from a residential development on Parkgate Avenue, Belfast, to the Connswater river. The new pipeline will be adjacent to the residential development, to the north of Mersey Street, and intersects Sydenham Greenway. See Appendix A for the proposed design.

The sections in this report are as follows:

- Section 2 outlines the methodology used for this HRA screening;
- Section 3-5 contains the HRA Screening Matrices;
- Section 6 outlines the proposed works and potential effects;
- Section 7 provides the conclusions of the HRA screening; and
- Associated appendices.

1.2 Background to the Habitat Regulation Assessment

In Northern Ireland, the European Habitats Directive (Directive 92/42/EEC) has been transposed into national legislation through the Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 (as amended) (referred to hereafter as the Habitats Regulations). Under this legislation, assessment is required to meet the requirements of Article 6.3 of the Directive for Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) of a plan or project. Such an assessment is required where a plan or project under consideration could have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 (N2K) sites. N2K sites are those identified as sites of community importance designated under the Habitats Directive (Special Area of Conservation (SACs)) or the Birds Directive (Special Protection Area (SPAs)). According to Planning Policy Statement 2: Planning and Nature Conservation (PPS2), in such assessments, consideration is also given to sites designated as Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar sites) and Sites of Community Importance (candidate SACs). Collectively, within this report, these are referred to as 'International Sites'.

The stages of the HRA process are:

- Stage 1 – Screening: To test whether a plan or project either alone or in combination with other plans and projects is likely to have a significant effect on an International Site;
- Stage 2 – Appropriate Assessment: To determine whether, in view of an International Site's conservation objectives, the project or plan (either alone or in combination with other projects and plans) would have an adverse effect (or risk of this) on the integrity of the site with respect to the conservation objectives. If adverse impacts are anticipated, potential mitigation measures to alleviate impacts should be proposed and assessed;
- Stage 3 – Assessment of alternative solutions: Where a project or plan is assessed as having an adverse impact (or risk of this) on the integrity of an International Site, there should be an examination of alternatives (e.g. alternative locations and designs of development); and,
- Stage 4 – Assessment where no alternative solutions remain and where adverse impacts remain: In exceptional circumstance (e.g. where there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest), compensatory measures should be put in place to offset negative impacts.



This report comprises Stage 1 – Screening Assessment of the project

A H A must complete the Competent Authority (in this case, I Water). This report comprises the information required by I Water, the Competent Authority, to determine whether the proposed scheme, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects, is likely to have a significant effect on the International Sites.

This H A is being carried out due to the proximity and connection of the International Site. It is considered that the nature of the proposed scheme has the potential to negatively affect the identified International Site, during the construction and operation phases. It is important to note that during the operation phase, the effluent discharge of surface water only from the proposed culvert.

1.3 Description of the project

The scope of the project is the construction of a surface water sewer or a new residential development on Parkgate Avenue, Belfast. These works will include the excavation, laying and reinstatement of 15m or 160mm diameter uPVC outfall pipe constructed on the river bed at Conn's Water, north of Mersey Street Bridge. It will discharge 0.9 l/s. The proposed outfall pipe will include 100mm of concrete surround for protection and anchoring. The proposed headwall will be a precast concrete structure. The pipe will be installed beneath the existing CA piled flood wall between adjacent piles; the flood wall will be reinstated to existing condition if damaged.

1.3.1 Is the proposal directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site for conservation of the N2K features?

No. These proposed works are in order to facilitate surface water drainage from a new residential development at Parkgate Avenue, Belfast.



2. Methodology

2.1 Determination of the International Sites included in the HRA

An initial review of the proposed works, in light of the Habitat Regulations has been undertaken as part of the HRA process. This initial review looked at the geographic extent or zone of influence of any impacts which could arise as a result of the works. In order to ensure that all potential impacts on International Sites were captured, such sites within 10km of the Scheme were identified.

The distance / geographical relationship between the Scheme and International Sites is as follows:

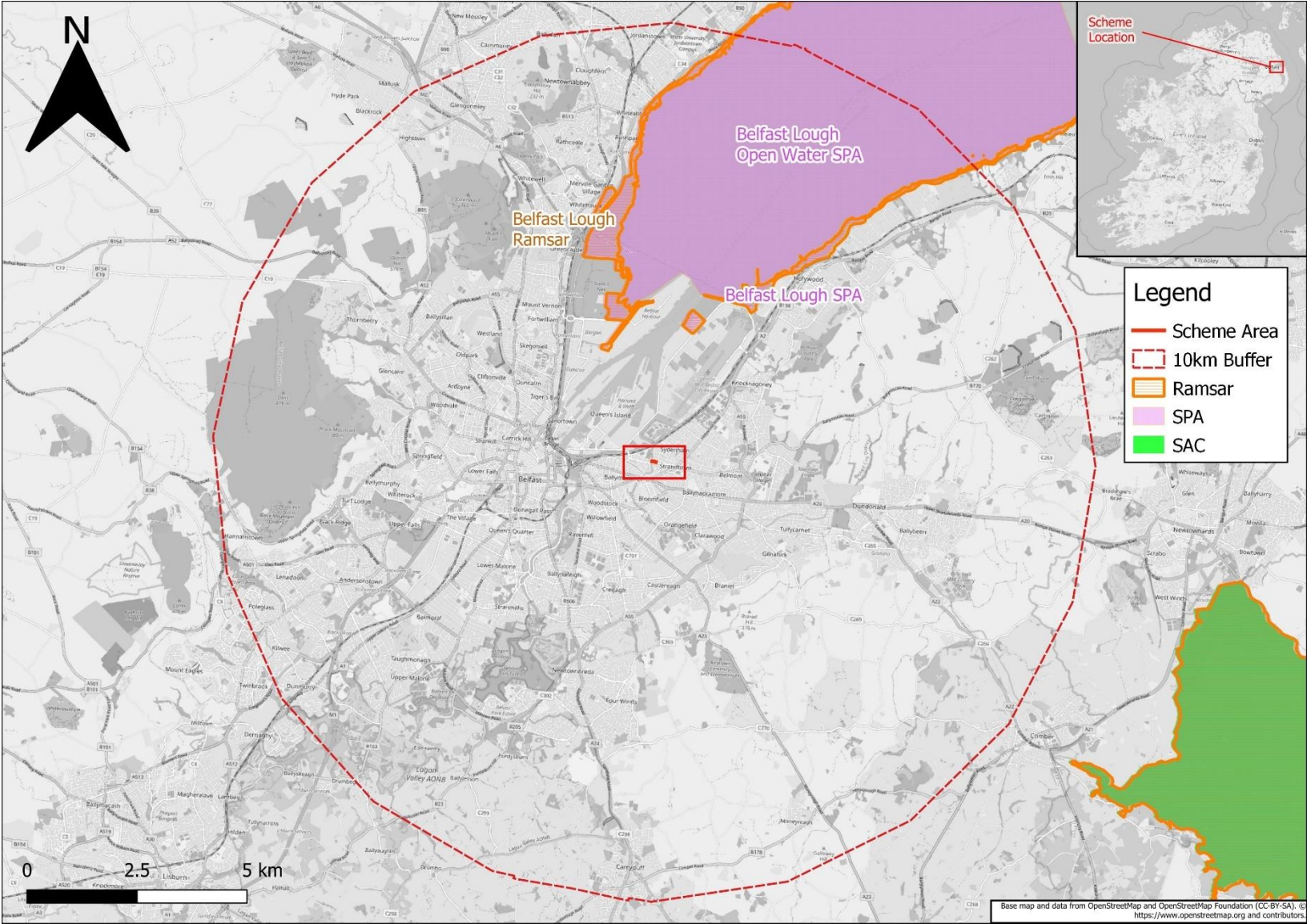
There are three International Sites within 10km of the Scheme:

- Belfast Lough Ramsar (UK12002) - approximately 2.7km north and hydrologically connected;
- Belfast Lough SPA (UK9020101) - approximately 2.7km north and hydrologically connected; and
- Belfast Lough Open Water SPA (UK9020290) - approximately 3.5km north and hydrologically connected.

See Figure 2-1 for the location of these sites.



Figure 2-1 –International Sites within 10km



2.2 Obtaining information on the International Sites with the potential to be affected

Gathering the information on the International Sites to be included in the HRA involved a desk based review of the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) data sheets¹, Northern Ireland Environmental Agency (NIEA) Natural Environment Map Viewer² as well as a review of information available on the DAERA website³.

2.3 Assessing the impacts of the proposed scheme

The assessment of likely significant effects is based on the conservation objectives of the International Site. If any plan or project causes the qualifying features of an International Site to fall into unfavourable condition, they can be considered to have had significant adverse effect upon the International Site.

Plans or projects can adversely affect an International Site by:

- Causing delays in progress towards achieving the conservation objectives of the site;
- Interrupting progress towards achieving the conservation objectives of the site;
- Disrupting those factors that help to maintain the favourable conditions of the site; and/or
- Interfering with the balance, distribution and density of key species that are the indicators of the favourable condition of the site.

2.3.1 Stage 1 Screening

Stage 1 (Screening) of this HRA comprises the following components:

- Information on the reasons for designation, the conservation objectives and the sensitivities of the International Sites;
- Identifying the elements of the scheme that could give rise to impacts on the International Sites, or result in changes to the sites;
- Information on other projects and plans in the area that could give rise to cumulative effects – information about any other plan or project that had also undergone assessment under the Habitat Regulations for potential impacts on the same International Sites is requested. Whereupon receiving this information, an assessment of likely in-combination effects is made by virtue of distance, timing, severity etc.; and
- Determines whether the proposed works will lead to likely significant effects on the International Sites, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.

¹ <https://jncc.gov.uk/>

² <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/services/natural-environment-map-viewer>

³ <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/topics/protected-areas>



3. Belfast Lough Ramsar (UK12002)

Site Designation Status	Belfast Lough Ramsar (UK12002)⁴
Location of Site	Belfast Lough is a large intertidal sea lough situated at the mouth of the River Lagan on the east coast of Northern Ireland. Geographic coordinates: 54 38 00 N 05 54 00 W
Brief description	The inner part of the lough comprises areas of intertidal foreshore, comprising of mudflats and lagoons, and land, both land-claimed and being land-claimed, which form important feeding/roosting sites for significant numbers of wintering waders and wildfowl. The outer lough is restricted to mainly rocky shores with some small sandy bays and beach-head saltmarsh.
Qualifying features and conservation objectives	The qualifying features of the site: <u>Ramsar criterion 6 – species/populations occurring at levels of international importance.</u> Qualifying Species/populations (as identified at designation): ▪ Species with peak counts in spring/autumn: ▫ Common redshank, <i>Tringa totanus tetanus</i> - 1897 individuals, representing an average of 1.4% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3) Species/populations identified subsequent to designation for possible future consideration under criterion 6. ▪ Species with peak counts in spring/autumn: ▫ Black-tailed godwit, <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i>, Iceland/W Europe - 521 individuals, representing an average of 1.4% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9 2002/3) Conservation Objectives: Ramsar sites do not have conservation objectives therefore the objectives for the Belfast SPA have been referenced: ▪ To maintain each feature in favourable condition. <i>Further detail on component objectives are included in Appendix B.</i>
Sensitivities of the Site	No factors reported.
Describe the individual elements if the project is likely to give rise to impacts on the Site	The overall conservation objective for the site is to maintain each feature in favourable condition. The following elements have been considered and are discussed in detail below: During proposed Construction works ▫ Disturbance to habitat There will be no operational impacts and no decommissioning is proposed.
Describe any likely direct, indirect or secondary impacts of the Project on	Size and scale The size and scale of the project does not give rise to impacts on the Ramsar.

⁴ <https://jncc.gov.uk/jncc-assets/RIS/UK12002.pdf>



the International Site by virtue of: ▪ Size and scale; ▪ Land take; ▪ Resource requirements; ▪ Emissions (disposal to land, water or air); ▪ Excavation requirements; and ▪ Duration of construction, operation, decommissioning etc.	Land take No land-take or disturbance is required within the International Site. Resource requirements No resources required. Emissions During the proposed construction, there is potential for an increase in localised suspended sediments for short intermittent durations. Plant exhaust emissions will also likely be observed. Excavation No excavations will be undertaken within the International Site. Duration It is not considered that the Scheme will have any impact on qualifying features of the Ramsar.
Describe any likely changes to the International Site arising as a result of: ▪ Reduction of habitat area; ▪ Disturbance to key species; ▪ Habitat or species fragmentation; ▪ Reduction in species density; ▪ Changes in key indicators of conservation value (e.g. water quality); and ▪ Climate Change.	Reduction of habitat area There will be no land take or loss of habitat within the Ramsar. Disturbance to key species There will be no disturbance to key species within the Ramsar due to the very localised nature of the work. Habitat or species fragmentation It is not predicted to cause any habitat or species fragmentation with respect to the Ramsar. Reduction in species density A reduction in density of the qualifying species is not anticipated as a result of the proposed works, due to distance and very localised nature of works in an area already disturbed by road and residential development. Changes in key indicators of conservation value No likely significant effects for water quality due to very localised nature of the works and its proximity to the site. Climate change The Scheme may produce very localised emissions during construction, though these will be negligible in relation to a changing climate. The Scheme is intended to allow for more effective site drainage.

4. Belfast Lough SPA (UK9020101)

Site Designation Status	Belfast Lough SPA (UK9020101)⁵
Location of site	Belfast Lough is a large intertidal sea lough situated at the mouth of the River Lagan on the east coast of Northern Ireland. Geographic coordinates: 54 38 00 N 05 54 00 W

⁵ [Belfast Lough SPA citation documents and map](#)



Brief description	The inner part of the lough comprises a series of mudflats, shell dominated banks and artificial lagoons. The outer lough is mainly rocky shores with a number of sandy bays on the southern shore with more extensive mixed sediment intertidal areas on the northern side. The Special Protection Area boundary is entirely coincident with that of the Belfast Lough Ramsar Site. The principal interests are the breeding colony of Common and Arctic Tern and the wintering populations of Redshanks, Bar-tailed Godwit and Black-tailed Godwit.
Qualifying features and Conservation Objectives	The qualifying features of the site: The site qualifies under Article 4.1 of the Directive (2009/147/EC) by regularly supporting internationally important populations of the following species: ▪ Common Tern, <i>Sterna Hirundo</i> ▫ 243 pairs Breeding ▫ 5 year mean (2010 - 2014) ▫ 5.8 % of the all Ireland population ▪ Arctic Tern, <i>Sterna paradisaea</i> ▫ 53 pairs Breeding ▫ 5 year mean (2010 - 2014) ▫ 1.5% of the all Ireland population ▪ Bar-tailed Godwit, <i>Limosa lapponica</i> ▫ 192 individuals Non-breeding ▫ 5 year mean (2010/11 2014/15) ▫ 1.2% of the all Ireland population The site also qualifies under Article 4.2 of the Directive (2009/147/EC) by regularly supporting internationally important populations of the following species: ▪ Redshank <i>Tringa tetanus</i> ▫ 2466 individuals Wintering ▫ 5 year mean (1991/92 1995/96) ▫ 1.6% of the international biogeographical population ▪ Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa</i> ▫ 1328 individuals Non-breeding ▫ 5 year mean (2010/11 2014/15) ▫ 2.2% of the international biogeographical population. ▫ 9.6% of the all Ireland population. The Conservation Objective for this site is:⁶ To maintain each feature in favourable condition. <i>Further detail on component objectives are included in Appendix B.</i>
Sensitivities of the site	The most important impacts and activities with high negative effects on the site ⁷ :

⁶ [Belfast Lough SPA conservation objectives 2015](#)

⁷ [UK9020101.pdf](#)

	▪ Marine water pollution (H03) ▪ Changes in biotic conditions (M02) ▪ Changes in abiotic conditions (M01) ▪ Shipping lanes, ports, marine constructions (D03)
Describe the individual elements of the project likely to give rise to impacts on the site	The overall conservation objective for the site is to maintain each feature in favourable condition. The following elements have been considered and are discussed in detail below: During proposed Construction works ▫ Disturbance to habitat There will be no operational impacts and no decommissioning is proposed.
Describe any likely direct, indirect or secondary impacts of the Project on the International Site by virtue of: ▪ Size and scale; ▪ Land take; ▪ Resource requirements; ▪ Emissions (disposal to land, water or air); ▪ Excavation requirements; and ▪ Duration of construction, operation, decommissioning etc.	Size and scale The size and scale of the project does not give rise to impacts on the SPA. Land take No land-take or disturbance is required within the International Site. Resource requirements No resources required. Emissions During the proposed construction, there is potential for increase in localised suspended sediments for short intermittent durations. Plant exhaust emissions will also likely be observed. Excavation No excavations will be undertaken within the International Site. Duration It is not considered that the Scheme will have any impact on qualifying features of the SPA.
Describe any likely changes to the International Site arising as a result of: ▪ Reduction of habitat area; ▪ Disturbance to key species; ▪ Habitat or species fragmentation; ▪ Reduction in species density; ▪ Changes in key indicators of conservation value (e.g. water quality); and ▪ Climate Change.	Reduction of habitat area There will be no land take or loss of habitat within the SPA. Disturbance to key species There will be no disturbance to key species within the SPA due to the very localised nature of the work. Habitat or species fragmentation It is not predicted to cause any habitat or species fragmentation with respect to the Ramsar. Reduction in species density A reduction in density of the qualifying species is not anticipated as a result of the proposed works, due to distance and very localised nature of works in an area already disturbed by road and residential development. Changes in key indicators of conservation value No likely significant effects for water quality due to very localised nature of the works and its proximity to the site. Climate change The Scheme may produce very localised emissions during construction, though these will be negligible in relation to a changing climate. The Scheme is intended to allow for more effective site drainage.

5. Belfast Lough Open Water SPA (UK9020290)

Site Designation Status	Belfast Lough Open Water SPA (UK9020290)⁸
Location of site	Belfast Lough is a large intertidal sea lough situated at the mouth of the River Lagan on the east coast of Northern Ireland. The inner part of the lough comprises a series of mudflats and lagoons. The outer lough is restricted to mainly rocky shores with some small sandy bays. Geographic coordinates: 05° 49' 00" W 54° 41' 00" N
Brief description	The Belfast Lough open water area comprises the marine area below the mean low water mark. Seawards it extends to a notional boundary between the eastern limits on the north and south shores of the Outer Belfast Lough Area of Special Scientific Interest at Kilroot and Horse Rock respectively. The boundary towards the head of the lough is a notional line between Greencastle on northern shore and Holywood Bank on the southern shore. Water depths within the site are generally between 1m and 10m. Shallow waters, less than 5m in depth, dominate the area with deeper waters confined to the central area of the lough, east of a line between Greenisland and Cultra.
Qualifying features and Conservation Objectives	The qualifying features of the site: The site qualifies under Article 4.2 of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting internationally important populations of the following species: ▪ Great Crested Grebe <i>Podiceps cristatus</i> ▫ 1677 individuals – wintering ▫ 5 year peak mean for 1996/97 – 2000/01 ▫ 0.35% NW Europe population <u>Non-qualifying species of interest</u> In addition, the site supports nationally important numbers of (all data are 5 year averages of individuals for period 1996/97 -2000/01) Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> (407, 8.7 % of the Irish wintering population), Shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> (405, 5.8%), Scaup <i>Aythya marila</i> (233, 7.8%), Eider <i>Somateria mollissima</i> (1116, 55.8%), Goldeneye <i>Bucephala clangula</i> (287, 14.4%) and Red-breasted Merganser <i>Mergus serrator</i> (170, 8.5%). The Conservation Objectives for this site are: To maintain each feature in favourable condition. <i>Further detail on component objectives are included in Appendix B.</i>
Sensitivities of the site	The most important impacts and activities with high negative effects on the site⁹: ▪ Marine water pollution (H03) ▪ Changes in abiotic conditions (M01) ▪ Shipping lanes, ports, marine constructions (D03)

⁸ [Belfast Lough Open Water SPA Citation document and map.pdf](#)

⁹ [UK9020101.pdf](#)



Describe the individual elements of the project likely to give rise to impacts on the site	The overall conservation objective for the site is to maintain each feature in favourable condition. The following elements have been considered and are discussed in detail below: During proposed Construction works ▫ Disturbance to habitat There will be no operational impacts and no decommissioning is proposed.
Describe any likely direct, indirect or secondary impacts of the Project on the International Site by virtue of: ▪ Size and scale; ▪ Land take; ▪ Resource requirements; ▪ Emissions (disposal to land, water or air); ▪ Excavation requirements; and ▪ Duration of construction, operation, decommissioning etc.	Size and scale The size and scale of the project does not give rise to impacts on the SPA. Land take No land-take or disturbance is required within the International Site. Resource requirements No resources required. Emissions During the proposed construction, there is potential for increase in localised suspended sediments for short intermittent durations. Plant exhaust emissions will also likely be observed. Excavation No excavations will be undertaken within the International Site. Duration It is not considered that the Scheme will have any impact on qualifying features of the SPA.
Describe any likely changes to the International Site arising as a result of: ▪ Reduction of habitat area; ▪ Disturbance to key species; ▪ Habitat or species fragmentation; ▪ Reduction in species density; ▪ Changes in key indicators of conservation value (e.g. water quality); and ▪ Climate Change.	Reduction of habitat area There will be no land take or loss of habitat within the SPA. Disturbance to key species There will be no disturbance to key species within the SPA due to the very localised nature of the work. Habitat or species fragmentation It is not predicted to cause any habitat or species fragmentation with respect to the Ramsar. Reduction in species density A reduction in density of the qualifying species is not anticipated as a result of the proposed works, due to distance and very localised nature of works in an area already disturbed by road and residential development. Changes in key indicators of conservation value No likely significant effects for water quality due to very localised nature of the works and its proximity to the site. Climate change The Scheme may produce very localised emissions during construction, though these will be negligible in relation to a changing climate. The Scheme is intended to allow for more effective site drainage.

6. Details of the proposed works

Describe the individual elements of the project (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) likely to give rise to impacts on the Natura 2000 site.

The methodology of the proposed scheme comprises of:

- Protection of pedestrians.
- Installation of PVC Pipe
- Installation of Precast Headwall

Plant and equipment are expected to include:

- 13 T Excavator
- 8 Wheel lorries/ Concrete lorries
- Traffic Control / Signs & Barriers
- Concrete pump
- Heras fencing
- Floating silt screen

The methodology sets out the details of sequence/methods of work:

- Site Induction/Training
 - All employees involved with works provided with an induction/tool box talk. Made aware of potential hazards and risks associated with operations, such as pollution prevention
 - Health Declaration completed by all operatives on site.
 - Site Supervisors shall ensure that all delivery drivers are issued with Driver Site Induction.
- Site Access & Parking Arrangements:
 - Access/egress to work area controlled by Heras fencing placed around perimeter area.
 - Closed Gate Policy in operation to ensure safety of public.
 - Parking in designated car park area only.
- Mobilisation / Traffic Management
 - Traffic Management set up in accordance with TMP
- Environmental Considerations
 - All plant used on site is well maintained with noise and exhaust levels kept to specified limits.
 - During rest periods all machinery is turned off to stop emissions and save fuel.
 - When possible, materials will be recycled.
 - All fuel is stored in appropriate containers. All other containers of potential sources of contamination to be stored in a suitable bunded area
 - The bowser used to fuel the machines is bunded.
 - Machines to be fuelled and maintenance checks to be carried out in a specified area
 - Suitable emergency spill kits to be on hand near all potential sources of contamination
 - Any concrete delivery lorries shall wash out into a designated skip which shall be disposed of in accordance with the contractors Environmental Policy.
 - Wastes on site are controlled and appropriate disposal methods are employed.
 - No burning of waste on site.
 - Environmental Monthly Site Check List is completed and returned to the contractors Environmental Policy Manager.



- All operatives are informed of the dangers associated with Leptospirosis and encouraged to wash their hands prior to eating.
 - Sites will periodically be audited by both internal and external officers to ensure that the contractors Environmental Policy is being upheld.
- Site Protection along works
 - Access/egress to work area controlled by Heras fencing placed around perimeter.
 - Perimeter of work area secured and signs posted warning all personnel and public of dangers.
 - Earth-moving equipment segregated from construction workers where possible.
- Construction and installation PVC Pipe
- Working in water
 - Permit to work system in place, permit in place before any works to be carried out.
 - No operative is to work in water alone, banksman must be present at all time.
 - Operatives to wear waist high waders and life vests at all times.
- Excavator working in water
 - Permit to work in water issued before works.
 - Bio Diesel will be used as a greener alternative to White Diesel and a Boi Hydraulic Oil will be used instead of the standard Hydraulic Oil. A 4.5m Sheet of white terram will be rolled out on the beach. All equipment will be tracked onto terram and left for a several hours to check for any leaks. If leaks appear the equipment will be taken off site to be repaired. This process will be repeated until we are confident that there are no leaks.
 - All machinery will be tracked to compound at end of shift so that they will not be in the water for long periods of time.
- Storage of Materials
 - All deliveries inspected by authorised persons and offloaded during off peak times within compound area.

Describe any potential effects on the Natura 2000 site(s) as a whole in terms of: interference with the key relationships that define the structure or function of the site(s).

As detailed in Section 2 there will be no direct impact on any of the above noted designated areas or any of the feature interests. All proposed work activities associated with undertaking the construction works will take place outside the boundary of the designated areas. Therefore there will be no reduction / loss of habitat in the designated areas or other 'on-site' factors that may lead to a decline in habitat or species numbers. There will also be no habitat or species fragmentation or reduction in species density in these areas. It is also anticipated that there will be no changes in key indicators of conservation value and the proposed work activities will not increase the vulnerability of the sites.

It is noted that potential effects from works upstream of Belfast Lough Ramsar Site and SPA and Belfast Lough Open Water SPA cannot be ruled out, however any disturbance to and effects on the designated sites are anticipated to be minor. Due to the distance, nature of the area surrounding the site and the nature of the feature interests at the designated sites, it is considered that the potential impact on the feature interests of the SACs and Ramsar site are not likely to be impacted by any potential pollution incident or any disturbance.

No mitigation measures are identified as being required to protect the International sites, though an Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan has been produced and includes mitigation measures to ensure protection of water quality in the immediate vicinity of the works, for example, while the precise location of the site compound is not known at present, it will be a requirement of the oCEMP that this will be as far as possible from any watercourse, or pollution pathway. The oCEMP will be adopted by the contractor and updated as detailed design emerges ahead of construction. Additionally, it is the intention that a series of Method Statements and associated procedures will be enacted by the appointed contractor to address any potential issues such as a



pollution incident. These will be based upon appropriate guidelines such as Guidance for Pollution Prevention produced by relevant statutory authorities. It is also worth noting that as the scheme is on behalf of NI Water (NIW), it will therefore fall under the auspices of the NIW Environmental Management System as a matter of course. Therefore, this proposed scheme has a series of mitigation measures which are 'designed into' the scheme and which are designed to prevent any accidental pollution incidents occurring. As with any construction activity, the risk of pollution can never be fully eradicated and as such the Contractor will ensure procedures to follow in the event of an incident occurring are fully understood by all concerned on the project. These procedures include informing the relevant authorities when applicable, as well as if necessary, dealing with the incident in a prompt, efficient and robust manner.

It will be a requirement of any contract that periodic inspection of the works by NIW officers will take place.

It is considered therefore that there will be no detrimental impact on the Main Conservation Objective for these noted designated sites "To maintain each feature in favourable condition", or any of their Component Objectives. It is considered that the effects on the International sites will be Non-Significant.

Provide details of any other projects or plans that together with the project or plan being assessed could (directly or indirectly) affect the site.

An examination of the following website <https://planningregister.planningsystemni.gov.uk> which details planning applications in the area has identified a range of Planning Applications in the general area of Parkgate Avenue/Mersey Street, Belfast over the last 3 years. None were identified as having particular implications for interaction with this proposed scheme and potential effects on designated sites. The following are the most recent planning applications in the general area of the proposed scheme:

Table 6-1 - Planning applications in proximity to the proposed scheme

Planning Ref.	Application decision / date	Details of application	Any risk to the proposed works?
LA04/2026/0420/DC	Condition Not Discharged 22/04/2026	Discharge Condition 13 of LA04/2022/0118/F - Waste Management Plan	None identified
LA04/2025/1559/DC	Condition Not Discharged 26/02/2026	Discharge Condition 10 of LA04/2022/0118/F- Tree protection.	None identified
LA04/2025/0567/NMC	Not available 02/04/2025	NMC to LA04/2022/0118/F - NIE substation incorporated into layout to south of site. Section of footpath extended from entrance area to wheelchair apartment 2. Door at end of corridor changed to automatic opening vent (Samson building 'North Gable Elevation'). Secure drying area incorporated into area at end of Samson building. Minor bin storage area added to area at end of Goliath building.	None identified
LA04/2022/0118/F	Granted 07/03/2024	Erection of 46No.apartment units over three storeys, with associated car parking site and landscaping works and the alteration of an existing vehicular access. (amended plans received 21-9-23)	None identified



Is the potential scale or magnitude of any effect likely to be significant?

Alone? No

In combination with other plans or projects? No.

List of Agencies / Organisations consulted:

No consultation has taken place, as of yet. This HRA is part of an application for a Marine Licence and as such consultation will take place during that process.



7. Habitats Regulation Assessment Summary

It is considered that the activities required in order to undertake construction of a Surface Water Sewer and associated outfall will not have an impact on any of the noted designated sites for the following reasons:

- Construction activities will not be carried out within the boundary of any of the designated sites. Therefore there will be no reduction / loss in habitat in the designated areas or other 'on-site' factors that may lead to a decline in habitat or species numbers. There will also be no habitat or species fragmentation or reduction in species density in these areas. It is also anticipated that there will be no changes in key indicators of conservation value and the proposed work activities will not increase the vulnerability of the sites;
- The nearest designated site (Belfast Lough Ramsar and SPA) is c.2.7km from the proposed scheme at its closest point;
- The proposed scheme is located in the urban area of Belfast and any additional disturbance will be minimal in this context;
- Pollution prevention / remediation measures have been 'built into' the scheme and there will be a periodic inspection by NIW officers;
- There will be no detrimental impact on any Conservation Objective or component objectives of any of the designated sites; and
- No other project or plan has been identified that will have a cumulative impact on any of the identified International sites in conjunction with this proposed scheme.

Conclusion: Is the proposal likely to have a significant impact on a Natura 2000 site?

No.

Who carried out the assessment?

[REDACTED]

Associate Director

AtkinsRéalis Limited

Consultant for Northern Ireland Water

Sources of data

- Northern Ireland Environment Agency website <http://www.doeni.gov.uk/niea/> and consultation with appropriate section within this organisation.
- Planning website <https://planningregister.planningsystemni.gov.uk>
- Proposed construction methodology information

Level of assessment completed

Screening

Summary of Response

N/A



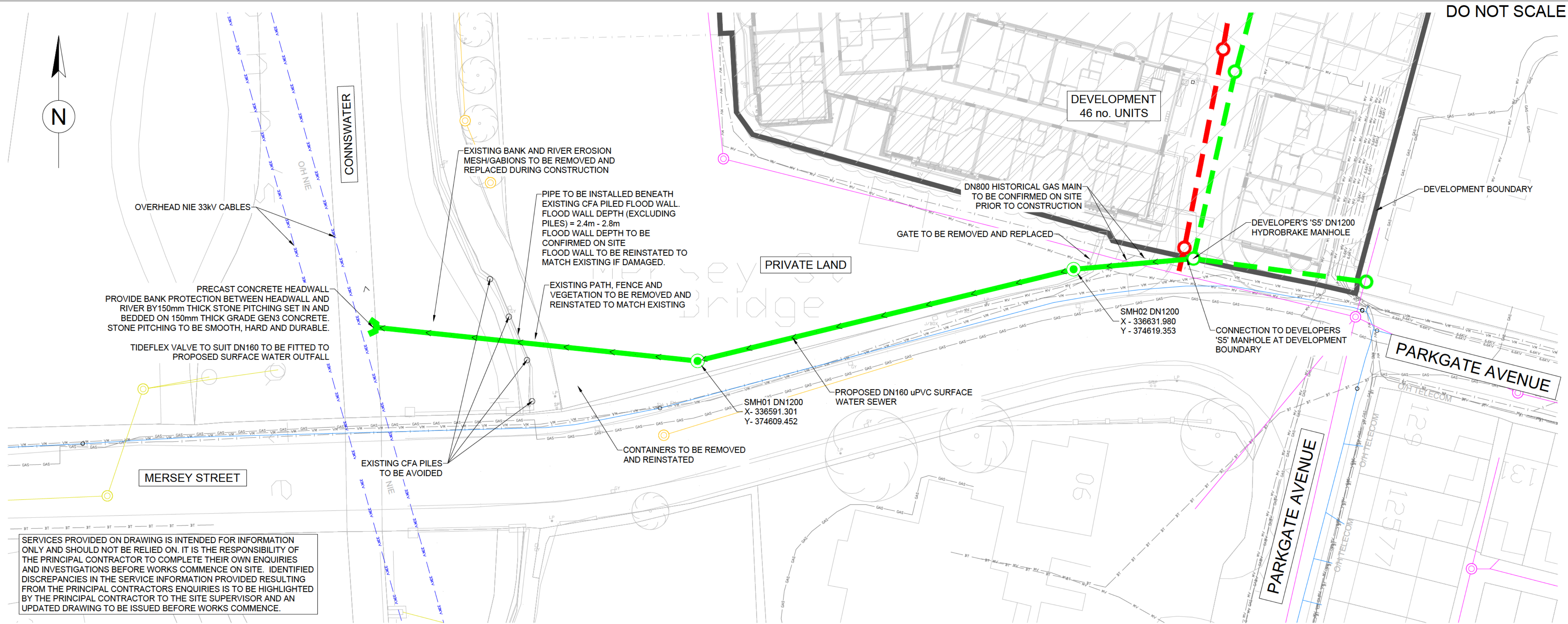
APPENDICES

Appendix A. Proposed Site Design



100
Millimetres
0 10

CLASSIFICATION - Baseline (Low Risk)



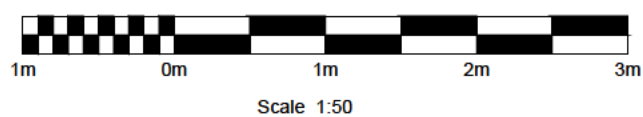
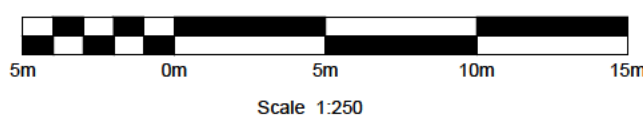
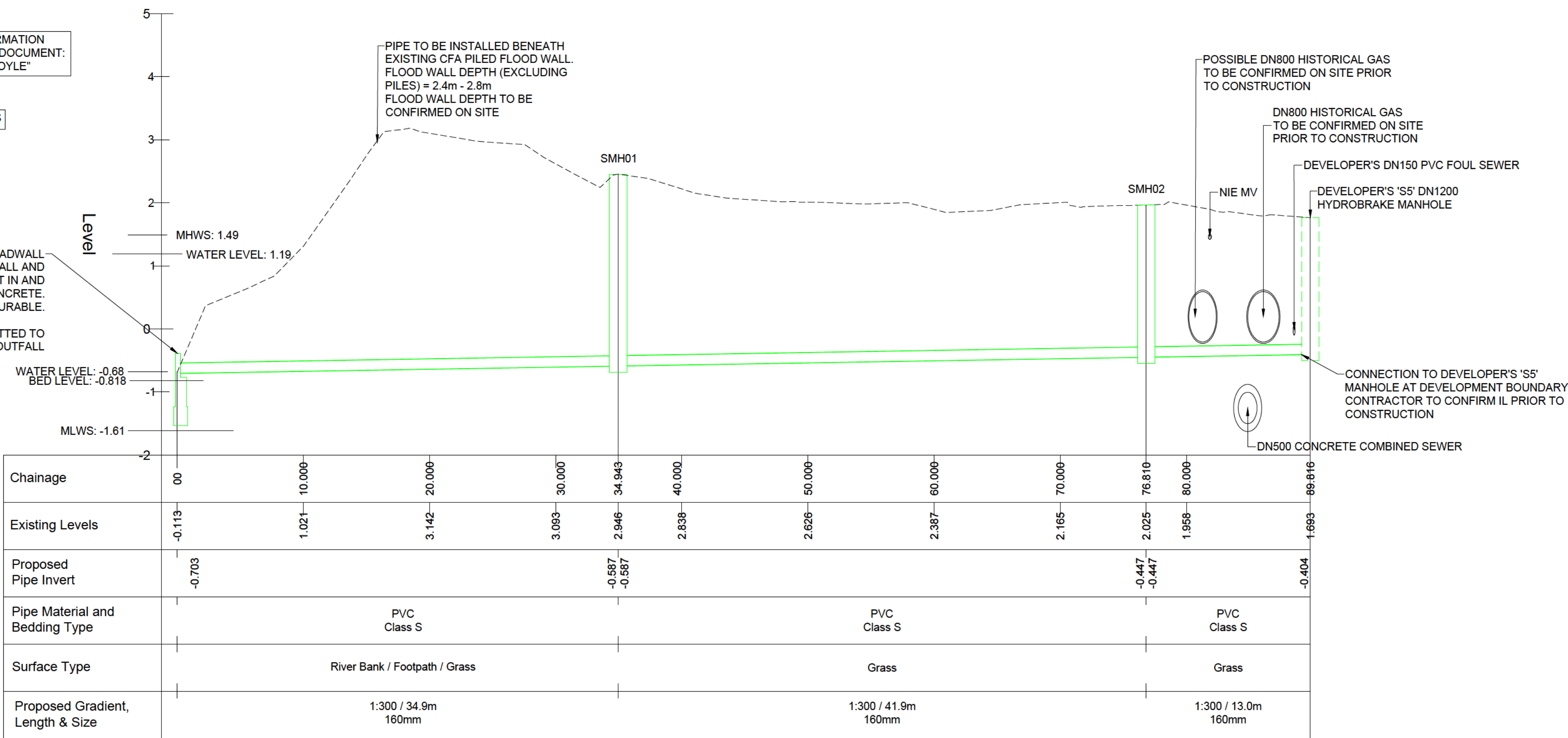
SERVICES PROVIDED ON DRAWING IS INTENDED FOR INFORMATION ONLY AND SHOULD NOT BE RELIED ON. IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PRINCIPAL CONTRACTOR TO COMPLETE THEIR OWN ENQUIRIES AND INVESTIGATIONS BEFORE WORKS COMMENCE ON SITE. IDENTIFIED DISCREPANCIES IN THE SERVICE INFORMATION PROVIDED RESULTING FROM THE PRINCIPAL CONTRACTORS ENQUIRIES IS TO BE HIGHLIGHTED BY THE PRINCIPAL CONTRACTOR TO THE SITE SUPERVISOR AND AN UPDATED DRAWING TO BE ISSUED BEFORE WORKS COMMENCE.

TIDAL LEVELS BASED UPON BELFAST CHART DATUM INFORMATION TAKEN FROM FEBRUARY 2024 UK HYDROGRAPHIC OFFICE DOCUMENT: "NORTHERN IRELAND - CARLINGFORD LOUGH TO LOUGH FOYLE"

WATER LEVELS RECORDED DURING TOPO SURVEYS

PRECAST CONCRETE HEADWALL PROVIDE BANK PROTECTION BETWEEN HEADWALL AND RIVER BY 150mm THICK STONE PITCHING SET IN AND BEDDED ON 150mm THICK GRADE GEN3 CONCRETE. STONE PITCHING TO BE SMOOTH, HARD AND DURABLE.

TIDEFLEX VALVE TO SUIT DN160 TO BE FITTED TO PROPOSED SURFACE WATER OUTFALL



*This is based on Crown Copyright and is reproduced with the permission of Land & Property Services under delegated authority from the Controller of His Majesty's Stationary Office, © Crown copyright and database right 2025 DMOU 208.1".

SAFETY, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION

In addition to the hazards/risks normally associated with the types of work detailed on this drawing, note the following:

CONSTRUCTION

N/A

MAINTENANCE/CLEANING

N/A

DECOMMISSIONING/DEMOLITION

N/A

It is assumed that all works will be carried out by a competent contractor working, where appropriate, to an approved method statement

FLOWS

DEVELOPMENT PEAK FLOW = 3.3 l/s
PIPE FULL CAPACITY (DN160 @ 1:300) = 10.13 l/s

LEGEND

EXISTING SERVICES AND UTILITIES

- COMBINED SEWER
- FOUL SEWER
- SURFACE WATER SEWER
- THIRD PARTY SEWER
- CSO SEWER
- WATER MAIN
- DEVELOPER'S FOUL SEWER
- DEVELOPER'S SURFACE WATER SEWER
- FLOW DIRECTION
- NIE MV
- 33KV
- BT
- GAS
- VIRGIN MEDIA
- HISTORICAL GAS

PROPOSED SERVICES

- PROPOSED SURFACE WATER SEWER

LONGSECTION

- EXISTING SURFACE
- EXISTING SURFACE WATER SEWER
- PROPOSED SURFACE WATER SEWER

Rev.	Date	Description	By	Chk'd	App'd
P2	12/08/26	FOR TENDER			
P1	08/07/26	FOR NI WATER COMMENT			

Drawing Status: **FOR TENDER** Suitability: **D2**

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Client: **niwater**

Westland House
Old Westland Road
Belfast
County Antrim
BT14 6TE

Delivering what matters

Project Title: **KI655-619
PARKGATE AVENUE
BELFAST**

Drawing Title: **PROPOSED SURFACE WATER SEWER
PLAN AND LONGITUDINAL SECTION**

Scale	Designed	Drawn	Checked	Authorised
AS SHOWN				
Original Size	Date	Date	Date	Date
A1	22/01/25	22/01/25	07/07/26	08/07/26
Drawing Number				Revision
5224007-ATK-619-ZZ-DR-C-1001				P2

CLASSIFICATION - Baseline (Low Risk)

USER: GRAT1008 Date: 18/02/26 09:47:17 Filename: P:\0524007\Project\Water\02181541 NIW ITS\6195-619 - Parkgate Avenue, Belfast\03 Design\01\5224007-ATK-619-ZZ-DR-C-1001_P1\PLANS SHORTEST ROUTE.dwg

Internal Project Number: 5224007

Appendix B. Summary of Conservation Objectives



Designated Site	Conservation Objectives	Selection Feature	Component Objectives	Potential impact identified from activities related to proposed scheme?
Belfast Lough Ramsar ¹⁰	To maintain each feature in favourable condition <i>(Ramsar sites do not have conservation objectives therefore the objectives for the Belfast Lough SPA have been referenced.)</i>	Common redshank, <i>Tringa totanus tetanus</i>	To maintain or enhance the population of the qualifying species	No impact has been identified resulting from the proposed activities as the works are not located within the designated area and are within an urban environment. As such, it is not anticipated that the proposed scheme will affect the species population.
			To maintain or enhance the range of habitats utilised by the qualifying species	The range of habitats are not expected to be impacted by the proposed scheme. The works are not located within the designated area and are within an urban environment.
			To ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained	The proposed scheme will not affect the integrity of the site. The works are not located within the designated area and are within an urban environment.
			To ensure there is no significant disturbance of the species	No impact has been identified resulting from the proposed activities as the works are not located within the designated area and are within an urban environment. As such, it is not anticipated that the proposed scheme will cause significant disturbance to the species.
			To ensure that the following are maintained in the long term: - Population of the species as a viable component of the site - Distribution of the species within site - Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species	The proposed scheme is not expected to impact on maintaining the population, their distribution, habitats or supporting processes as the works are not located within the designated area and are within an urban environment.

¹⁰ [Belfast Lough Literature.pdf](#)



	Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species	
Black-tailed godwit , <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i>	To maintain or enhance the population of the qualifying species	No impact has been identified resulting from the proposed activities as the works are not located within the designated area and are within an urban environment. As such, it is not anticipated that the proposed scheme will affect the species population.
	To maintain or enhance the range of habitats utilised by the qualifying species	The range of habitats are not expected to be impacted by the proposed scheme. The works are not located within the designated area and are within an urban environment.
	To ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained	The proposed scheme will not affect the integrity of the site. The works are not located within the designated area and are within an urban environment.
	To ensure there is no significant disturbance of the species	No impact has been identified resulting from the proposed activities as the works are not located within the designated area and are within an urban environment. As such, it is not anticipated that the proposed scheme will cause significant disturbance to the species.
	To ensure that the following are maintained in the long term: - Population of the species as a viable component of the site - Distribution of the species within site - Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species - Structure, function and supporting processes of	The proposed scheme is not expected to impact on maintaining the population, their distribution, habitats or supporting processes as the works are not located within the designated area and are within an urban environment.



			habitats supporting the species	
Belfast Lough SPA ¹¹	To maintain each feature in favourable condition.	Redshank wintering population	To maintain or enhance the population of the qualifying species	No impact has been identified resulting from the proposed activities as the works are not located within the designated area and are within an urban environment. As such, it is not anticipated that the proposed scheme will affect the species population.
			To maintain or enhance the range of habitats utilised by the qualifying species	The range of habitats are not expected to be impacted by the proposed scheme. The works are not located within the designated area and are within an urban environment.
			To ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained	The proposed scheme will not affect the integrity of the site. The works are not located within the designated area and are within an urban environment.
			To ensure there is no significant disturbance of the species	No impact has been identified resulting from the proposed activities as the works are not located within the designated area and are within an urban environment. As such, it is not anticipated that the proposed scheme will cause significant disturbance to the species.
			To ensure that the following are maintained in the long term: - Population of the species as a viable component of the site - Distribution of the species within site - Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species	The proposed scheme is not expected to impact on maintaining the population, their distribution, habitats or supporting processes as the works are not located within the designated area and are within an urban environment.

¹¹ [Belfast Lough SPA conservation objectives 2015](#)



	Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species	
Great Crested Grebe wintering population	To maintain or enhance the population of the qualifying species	No impact has been identified resulting from the proposed activities as the works are not located within the designated area and are within an urban environment. As such, it is not anticipated that the proposed scheme will affect the species population.
	To maintain or enhance the range of habitats utilised by the qualifying species	The range of habitats are not expected to be impacted by the proposed scheme. The works are not located within the designated area and are within an urban environment.
	To ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained	The proposed scheme will not affect the integrity of the site. The works are not located within the designated area and are within an urban environment.
	To ensure there is no significant disturbance of the species	No impact has been identified resulting from the proposed activities as the works are not located within the designated area and are within an urban environment. As such, it is not anticipated that the proposed scheme will cause significant disturbance to the species.
	To ensure that the following are maintained in the long term: - Population of the species as a viable component of the site - Distribution of the species within site - Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species - Structure, function and supporting processes of	The proposed scheme is not expected to impact on maintaining the population, their distribution, habitats or supporting processes as the works are not located within the designated area and are within an urban environment.



		habitats supporting the species		
		Habitat extent	To maintain or enhance the area of natural and semi-natural habitats used or potentially usable by Feature bird species (X ha intertidal area), subject to natural processes	The proposed scheme is not expected to result in loss of habitats as it is not located within the designated area and is within an urban environment.
			Maintain the extent of main habitat components subject to natural processes	The proposed scheme is not expected to result in loss of habitats as it is not located within the designated area and is within an urban environment.
		Roost sites	Maintain or enhance sites utilised as roosts	The proposed scheme is not expected to result in significant loss of roost sites as it is not located within the designated area and is within an urban environment.
	Belfast Lough Open Water SPA ¹²	Great Crested Grebe wintering population	No significant decrease in population against national trends	No impact has been identified resulting from the proposed activities as the works are not located within the designated area and are within an urban environment. As such, it is not anticipated that the proposed scheme will affect the species population.
		Habitat extent	Maintain the extent of main habitat components subject to natural processes	The proposed scheme is not expected to result in loss of habitats as it is not located within the designated area and is within an urban environment.
		Roosting/loafing sites	Maintain all locations of sites.	The proposed scheme is not expected to result in loss of roosting or loafing sites as it is not located within the designated area and is within an urban environment.

¹² [Belfast Lough Open Water SPA Conservation Objectives 2015](#)



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