



**Appropriate Assessment Screening Report for a Proposed  
Large-scale Residential Development (LRD), Rathborne,  
Ashtown-Pelletstown, Ashtown, Dublin 15**

prepared for Ruirside Developments

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## Document Control

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## Table of Contents

1	Introduction .....	1
2	Methodology .....	1
2.1	Guidance .....	1
2.2	Assessment Methodology.....	2
2.3	Desktop Data Review .....	3
3	Provision of Information for Screening for Appropriate Assessment .....	4
3.1	Description of the Proposed Development.....	4
3.2	Overview of the Receiving Environment.....	5
3.3	Assessment of Effects on European Sites .....	7
4	Conclusions of Screening Assessment Process.....	11

### Appendix I

The Qualifying Interests (QIs) and Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) of the European sites in the vicinity of the proposed development site (see Figure 1)

### Appendix II

Planning policies/objectives relating to the protection of European sites and water quality

## 1 Introduction

- 1 This report, which contains information required for the competent authority (in this instance Dublin City Council) to undertake a screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA), has been prepared by Scott Cawley Ltd. on behalf of the applicant. It provides information on, and assesses the potential for, the proposed development to impact on the Natura 2000 network (hereafter referred to as European sites)<sup>1</sup>. In brief, the proposed development consists of minor alterations to a permitted development (ABP-307656-20 as amended by ABP-312262-21 and LRD6029/23-S3) at an overall site of c. 3.07ha, at Ashtown-Pelletstown, Ashtown, Dublin 15.
- 2 An AA is required if significant effects on European sites arising from a proposed development cannot be ruled out at the screening stage, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. It is the responsibility of the competent authority to make a decision as to whether or not the proposed development is likely to have significant effects on European sites, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects.

For the reasons set out in detail in this AA Screening Report, an **Appropriate Assessment of the proposed development is not required in this instance** as it can be concluded, on the basis of objective information, that the proposed development, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will not have a significant effect on any European sites.

## 2 Methodology

### 2.1 Guidance

This Appropriate Assessment Screening Report has been prepared with regard to the following guidance documents, as relevant:

- *OPR Practice Note PN01. Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management* (Office of the Planning Regulator, 2021)
- *Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland - Guidance for Planning Authorities*. (Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2010 revision)
- *Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive: Guidance for Planning Authorities*. Circular NPW 1/10 & PSSP 2/10
- *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* (European Commission, 2021)
- *Communication from the Commission on the precautionary principle* (European Commission, 2000), and
- *Managing Natura 2000 Sites: The Provisions of Article 6 of the Habitat's Directive 92/43/EEC* (European Commission, 2019)

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<sup>1</sup> The Natura 2000 network is a European network of important ecological sites, as defined under Article 3 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, which comprises both special areas of conservation and special protection areas. Special conservation areas are sites hosting the natural habitat types listed in Annex I, and habitats of the species listed in Annex II, of the Habitats Directive, and are established under the Habitats Directive itself. Special protection areas are established under Article 4 of the Birds Directive 2009/147/EC for the protection of endangered species of wild birds. The aim of the network is to aid the long-term survival of Europe's most valuable and threatened species and habitats.

In Ireland these sites are designed as *European sites* - defined under the Planning Acts and/or the Birds and Habitats Regulations as (a) a candidate site of Community importance, (b) a site of Community importance, (c) a candidate special area of conservation, (d) a special area of conservation, (e) a candidate special protection area, or (f) a special protection area. They are commonly referred to in Ireland as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs).

**2.2 Assessment Methodology**

- 3 The above referenced guidance sets out a staged process for carrying out Appropriate Assessment. To determine if an Appropriate Assessment is required, documented screening is required. Screening identifies the potential for effects on the conservation objectives of European sites, if any, which would arise from a proposed plan or project, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects (i.e. likely significant effects).
- 4 Significant effects on a European site are those that would undermine the conservation objectives supporting the favourable conservation condition of the Qualifying Interest (QI) habitats and/or the QI/Special Conservation Interest (SCI) species of a European site(s).
- 5 Screening for Appropriate Assessment involves the following steps:



- 6 If the conclusions at the end of screening are that there is no likelihood of significant effects occurring on any European sites as a result of the proposed plan or project, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects, then there is no requirement to undertake an Appropriate Assessment.

- 7 In establishing which European sites are potentially at risk (in the absence of mitigation) from the proposed development, a source-pathway-receptor approach was applied. In order for an impact to occur, there must be a risk enabled by having a source (e.g. water abstraction or construction works), a receptor (e.g. a European site or its QI(s) or SCI(s)<sup>2</sup>), and a pathway between the source and the receptor (e.g. pathway by air for airborne pollution, or a pathway by a watercourse for mobilisation of pollution). For an impact to occur, all three elements must exist; the absence or removal of one of the elements means there is no possibility for the impact to occur.
- 8 The identification of source-pathway-receptor connection(s) between the proposed development and European sites essentially is the process of identifying which European sites are within the Zone of Influence (Zoi) of the proposed development, and therefore potentially at risk of significant effects. The Zoi is the area over which the proposed development could affect the receiving environment such that it could potentially have significant effects on the QI habitats or QI/SCI species of a European site, or on the achievement of their conservation objectives<sup>3</sup>.
- 9 The identification of a source-pathway-receptor link does not automatically mean that significant effects will arise. The likelihood for significant effects will depend upon the characteristics of the source (e.g. extent and duration of construction works), the characteristics of the pathway (e.g. direction and strength of prevailing winds for airborne pollution) and the characteristics of the receptor (e.g. the sensitivities of the European site and its QIs/SCIs).
- 10 The 'likely significant effects' test is based on the precautionary principle<sup>4</sup>. The precautionary principle means that, based on the most reliable available information, where there is uncertainty or doubt as to the absence of significant effects, the project cannot be screened out and an appropriate assessment must be carried out.

### 2.3 Desktop Data Review

- 11 The desktop data sources used to inform the assessment presented in this report are as follows (accessed in July 2023):
  - Online data available on European sites and protected habitats/species as held by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) from [www.npws.ie](http://www.npws.ie)<sup>5</sup>, including conservation objectives documents
  - Data provided by the NPWS sites designation unit in relation to the North-West Irish Sea cSPA, specifically boundary data in relation to the designated site (004236\_cSPA\_ITM\_v300.zip) provided by email on 21<sup>st</sup> July 2023;
  - Online data available on protected species as held by the National Biodiversity Data Centre (NBDC) from [www.biodiversityireland.ie](http://www.biodiversityireland.ie)

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<sup>2</sup> The term qualifying interest is used when referring to the habitats or species for which an SAC is designated; the term special conservation interest is used when referring to the bird species (or wetland habitats) for which an SPA is designated.

<sup>3</sup> As defined in the *Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland* (CIEEM, 2018)

<sup>4</sup> The precautionary principle is a guiding principle that derives from Article 191 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and has been developed in the case law of the European Court of Justice (e.g. ECJ case C-127/02 – Waddenzee, Netherlands).

The guidance document *Communication from the Commission on the Precautionary Principle* (European Commission, 2000) notes that the precautionary principle “covers those specific circumstances where scientific evidence is insufficient, inconclusive or uncertain and there are indications through preliminary objective scientific evaluation that there are reasonable grounds for concern that the potentially dangerous effects on the environment, human, animal or plant health may be inconsistent with the chosen level of protection”.

<sup>5</sup> The following SAC and SPA GIS boundary datasets are the most recently available at the time of writing: SAC\_ITM\_2023\_07 and SPA\_ITM\_2023\_07.

- Information on the surface water network and surface water quality in the area available from [www.epa.ie](http://www.epa.ie)
- Information on groundwater resources and groundwater quality in the area available from [www.epa.ie](http://www.epa.ie) and [www.gsi.ie](http://www.gsi.ie)
- Ordnance Survey of Ireland mapping and aerial photography available from [www.osi.ie](http://www.osi.ie)
- Information on the location, nature and design of the proposed development supplied by the applicant's design team

### 3 Provision of Information for Screening for Appropriate Assessment

- 12 The following sections provide information to facilitate the Appropriate Assessment screening of the proposed development to be undertaken by the competent authority.
- 13 A description of the proposed development and the receiving environment is provided to identify the potential ecological impacts. The environmental baseline conditions are discussed, as relevant to the assessment of ecological impacts where they may highlight potential pathways for impacts associated with the proposed development to affect the receiving ecological environment (e.g. geological, hydrogeological and hydrological data).
- 14 The potential impacts are examined in order to define the potential zone of influence of the proposed development on the receiving environment. This then informs the assessment of whether the proposed development will result in significant effects on any European sites; i.e. affect the conservation objectives supporting the favourable conservation condition of the European site's QIs or SCIs.

#### 3.1 Description of the Proposed Development

- 15 The applicant intends to apply for a Permission for a Large-Scale Residential Development comprising amendments to the permitted Strategic Housing Development (An Bord Pleanála Ref. ABP-307656-20) and subsequently altered by ABP-312262-21 and Reg. Ref. LRD6029/23-S3, at an overall site of c. 3.07ha, at Ashtown-Pelletstown, Ashtown, Dublin 15.
- 16 The site is bounded generally by Rathborne Avenue to the North, the Royal Canal to the South, Rathborne Avenue and The Village Centre, Rathborne to the West and existing residential development adjoining Rathborne Drive and Royal Canal Way to the East, at Ashtown-Pelletstown, Ashtown, Dublin 15.
- 17 In summary, the proposed amendments to the permitted scheme will result in a reduction in the number of studio apartment units, the introduction and inclusion of Universally Designed apartment units as well as an increase in the provision of cycle parking. The total number of units will remain at 725no. as previously permitted.
- 18 The proposed development comprising of amendments to the permitted Strategic Housing Development (An Bord Pleanála Ref. ABP-307656-20 and subsequently altered by ABP-312262-21 and Reg. Ref. LRD6029/23-S3) consists of the following:-
  - Block 2 – Conversion of 18no. permitted studio units to 9no. 2-bedroom apartment units and 8no. permitted 2-bedroom apartment units to 12no. 1-bedroom apartment units. Consequential adjustments to the size of 18no. 2-bedroom apartment units and 1no. 3-bedroom apartments unit and also ancillary adjustments to the size of stair cores, including associated minor adjustments to elevations, including window and balcony positions.
  - Block 3 – Conversion of 7no. permitted studio units to 7no. 1-bedroom apartment units, conversion of 2no. permitted studio units and permitted 1no. 2-bedroom apartment unit to 3no. 1-bedroom apartment units, and conversion of 10no. permitted 2-bedroom apartment units to 15no. 1-bedroom apartment units. Consequential adjustments to the size of 5no. 2-bedroom units and 1no. 3-bedroom unit and also ancillary adjustments to the size of stair cores, including associated minor adjustments to elevations, including window and balcony positions.

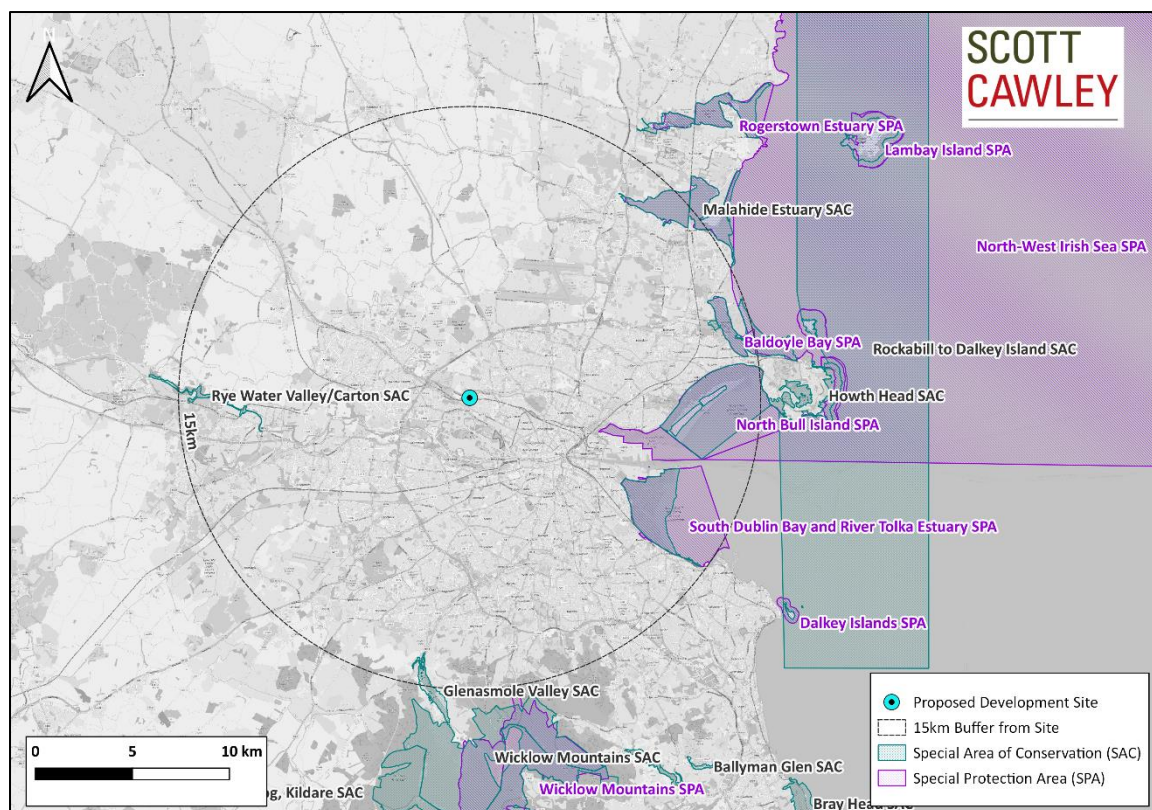
- Block 4 - Conversion of 7no. permitted studio units to 7no. 1-bedroom apartment units, conversion of 2no. permitted studio units and permitted 1no. 2-bedroom apartment unit to 3no. 1-bedroom apartment units and conversion of 10no. permitted 2-bedroom apartment units to 15no. 1-bedroom apartment units. Consequential adjustments to the size of 5no. 2-bedroom units and 1no. 3-bedroom unit and also ancillary adjustments to the size of stair cores, including associated minor adjustments to elevations, including window and balcony positions.
  - Block 5 - Conversion of 18no. permitted studio units to 9no. 2-bedroom apartment units and 8no. permitted 2-bedroom apartment units to 12no. 1-bedroom apartment units. Consequential adjustments to the size of 18no. 2-bedroom apartment units and 1no. 3-bedroom apartments unit and also ancillary minor adjustments to the size of stair cores, including associated adjustments to elevations, including window and balcony positions.
  - In total, it is proposed to convert 14no. permitted studio units to 14no. 1-bedroom apartment units, 36no. permitted studio units to 18no. 2-bedroom apartment units, 36no. permitted 2-bedroom apartment units to 54no. 1-bedroom apartment units as well as the conversion of 4no. permitted studio units and 2no. permitted 2-bedroom apartment units to 6no. 1-bedroom apartment units. Minor adjustments are proposed to 46no. 2 bedroom units and 4no. 3-bedroom units. (142 no. units in total are impacted by this proposal).
  - Addition of 18no. long term and 46no. short stay cycle spaces to provide 744no. long term and 121no. short stay cycles spaces, a total of 865no. cycle spaces.
- 19 The permitted overall unit mix consists of the following: 84no. studio units, 251no. 1-bedroom apartment units, 375no. 2-bedroom apartment units and 15no. 3-bedroom apartment units.
- 20 The overall mix is being amended to now comprise of 30no. studio units, 325 no. 1-bedroom apartment units, 355 no. 2- bedroom apartment units and 15 no. 3-bedroom apartment units. The overall number of dwellings remains at 725 no units as already permitted here.
- 21 The already consented Strategic Housing Development Strategic Housing Development (An Bord Pleanála Ref. ABP-307656-20) and subsequently altered by ABP-312262-21 and Reg. Ref. LRD6029/23-S3, in summary continues to comprise 725no. apartments, a licenced discount foodstore (c. 2,468 sq.m ), a café/ restaurant unit (c.150 sq. m) and a creche facility (c. 724 sq.m), ancillary residents amenity space (c. 394 sq. m) all accommodated in 6no. blocks ranging in height from 2 to 14 storeys (when viewed from Rathborne Avenue) (1 to 13 storeys at the Canal side) and incorporating an undercroft level beneath all blocks.
- 22 This application for the proposed amendments to the consented Strategic Housing Development (An Bord Pleanála Ref. ABP-307656-20) and subsequently altered by ABP-312262-21 and Reg. Ref. LRD6029/23-S3, is a Large-scale Residential Development as defined under Section 2 of the Planning & Development Act 2000, as amended.
- 23 Foul waters for the development will outfall to the existing foul network and will ultimately be treated at Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant. Surface waters generated on the proposed development site will pass through a range of SuDS measures before outfall to the River Tolka. These include permeable paving, green roofs, blue roofs, bioretention systems, an on-site attenuation tank and a Downstream Defender.

## 3.2 Overview of the Receiving Environment

### 3.2.1 European sites

- 24 There are no European sites within the proposed development boundary. Surface and foul waters from the proposed development will ultimately drain to Dublin Bay, which contains the following European sites: North Dublin Bay SAC, North Bull Island SPA, South Dublin Bay SAC, South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA, Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC, Dalkey Island SPA, Howth Head Coast SPA, and Howth Head SAC.





**Figure 1** European sites in the vicinity of the proposed development

### 3.2.2 Habitats

- 25 The proposed development site remains partially vegetated, although construction and vegetation removal has altered habitats since surveys were originally conducted in 2019 and 2020. The proposed development site now comprises a mix of soil and bare ground, recolonising bare ground, artificial surfaces, and dry meadows located along the Royal Canal Greenway. It is largely comprised of dry meadows and grassy verges/wet grassland mosaic with areas of hedgerow, scrub, drainage ditches, artificial surfaces, and recolonising bare ground.
- 26 The proposed development site is located within an area of high-density housing, however there are extensive areas of green space in the vicinity including Tolka Valley Park, the Royal Canal and associated buffer space, and Elmgreen golf course.

### 3.2.3 Hydrology

- 27 There are no surface water features located within the proposed development site. The nearest watercourse is the Royal Canal which is located c. 5m south of the proposed development site, but to which it is not connected by the drainage network. The proposed development site is within the catchment of the Tolka River which is located c. 110m to the north.
- 28 The River Tolka flows in a south-easterly direction and enters Dublin Bay via the Tolka Estuary approximately 6.7km south-east of the proposed development site. The water quality status of the River Tolka in this area is 'poor' and it has a Water Framework Directive (WFD) risk status of 'at risk'. The Tolka Estuary has a water quality status of 'eutrophic' and a WFD status of 'at risk'. Dublin Bay however, has a water quality status of 'unpolluted' and a WFD status of 'not at risk'.

### 3.2.4 Hydrogeology

- 29 Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI) data indicates that the site is underlain by a Locally Important Bedrock Aquifer (LI), which is described by the GSI as 'moderately productive only in local zones.'

- 30 The proposed development site is within the Dublin groundwater body which is currently classified by the EPA as having ‘good Status’, and being ‘not at risk’ of not achieving good status under the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC).

### 3.3 Assessment of Effects on European Sites

- 31 This section identifies all the potential impacts associated with the proposed development, examines whether there are any European sites within the ZoI of effects from the proposed development, and assesses whether there is any risk of the proposed development resulting in a significant effect on any European site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.
- 32 In assessing the potential for the proposed development to result in a significant effect on any European sites, any measures intended to avoid or reduce the harmful effects of the project on European sites are not taken into account.

#### 3.3.1 Habitat loss and fragmentation

- 33 The proposed development comprises minor alterations to the proposal that was consented under ABP-307656-20 as altered by ABP-312262-21 an LRD6029/23-S3. The alterations primarily consists of changes to the interior configuration of the proposed development, with external works relating only to the provision of additional cycle parking spaces. As the proposed development does not traverse any European sites there is no potential for habitat loss or fragmentation to occur.
- 34 As the proposed development will not result in habitat loss or fragmentation within any European site, there is no potential for in combination effects to occur in association with any other plans or projects.

#### 3.3.2 Habitat degradation as a result of hydrological impacts

- 35 The proposed development does not include any alterations to the surface or foul water proposals as consented under ABP-307656-20 (as altered by ABP-312262-21 an LRD6029/23-S3), and therefore, there is no possibility of the proposed development undermining the conservation objectives of any of the qualifying interests or special conservation interests of the European sites in, or associated with, Dublin Bay as a result of surface or foul water run-off or discharges.

#### *In Combination*

- 36 There is potential for “*in-combination*” effects on water quality in Dublin Bay from any other projects carried out within the functional areas of the *Dublin City Development Plan 2022-2028* (Dublin City Council, 2016), the *Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Development Plan 2022-2028* (Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, 2022), the *Fingal Development Plan 2013-2023* (Fingal County Council, 2017), *South Dublin County Development Plan 2022-2028* (South Dublin County Council, 2022), or any other land use plans which could influence conditions in Dublin Bay via rivers and other surface water features.
- 37 The *Eastern & Midland Regional Assembly, Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy 2019-2031*<sup>6</sup> (Eastern & Midland Regional Assembly, 2019) includes a range of policy objectives relevant to the protection of European sites and the protection of water quality in Dublin Bay, to which the relevant planning authorities must have regard to in the preparation and adoption of their development plans (included in Appendix II).
- 38 The planning authority for the proposed development is Dublin City Council (DCC). Plans and developments within Dublin City County must comply with the following policy objectives of the *Dublin City Development Plan 2022 – 2028* relevant to the protection of European sites and the protection of water quality in Dublin Bay:
- **SI1:** To support and facilitate Irish Water to ensure the upgrading of wastewater infrastructure, in particular the upgrading of the Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant, and to support the

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<sup>6</sup> Eastern & Midland Regional Assembly (2019) *Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy 2019-2030*

development of the Greater Dublin Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant, the North Docklands Sewage Scheme, the Marine Outfall and orbital sewer to be located in the northern part of the Greater Dublin Area to serve the Dublin region as part of the Greater Dublin Strategic Drainage Strategy.

- **SI2:** To ensure that development is permitted in tandem with available water supply and wastewater treatment and to manage development, so that new schemes are permitted only where adequate capacity or resources exists or will become available within the life of a planning permission.
- **SI7:** To promote and maintain the achievement of at least good status in all water bodies in the City.
- **SI18:** To put in place adequate measures to protect the integrity of flood alleviation infrastructure in Dublin City and to ensure new developments or temporary removal of any flood alleviation asset does not increase flood risk, while ensuring that new flood alleviation infrastructure has due regard to nature conservation, natural assets, open space and amenity values, as well as potential climate change impacts.
- **SI18:** To minimise flood risk arising from pluvial (surface water) flooding in the City by promoting the use of natural or nature-based flood risk management measures as a priority, by requiring the use of sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) to minimise and limit the extent of hard surfacing and paving, and requiring the use of sustainable drainage techniques, where appropriate, for new development or for extensions to existing developments, in order to reduce the potential impact of existing and predicted flooding risk and to deliver wider environmental and biodiversity benefits, and climate adaption
- **GI9:** To conserve, manage, protect and restore the favourable conservation condition of all qualifying interest/special conservation interests of all European sites designated, or proposed to be designated, under the EU Birds and Habitats Directives, as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) (European / Natura 2000 sites).
- **GI10:** To adequately protect flora and fauna (under the EU Habitats and Birds Directives), the Wildlife Acts 1976 (as amended), the Fisheries Acts 1959 (as amended) and the Flora (Protection) Order 2022 S.I No. 235 of 2022, wherever they occur within Dublin City, or have been identified as supporting the favourable conservation condition of any European sites.
- **GI13:** To ensure the protection, conservation and enhancement of all areas of ecological importance for protected species, and especially those listed in the EU Birds and Habitats Directives, including those identified as supporting the favourable conservation condition of any European sites, in accordance with development standards set out in this plan.

39 Plans and developments within the other local authority areas which could influence conditions in Dublin Bay via rivers and other surface water features, also must comply with the policies and objectives relevant to the protection of European sites and water quality. These include the *Dublin City Development Plan 2022-2028*, *Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Development Plan 2022-2028*, the *Fingal Development Plan 2023-2029*, the *South Dublin County Council Development Plan 2022-2028*, and the *Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2023* (Kildare County Council, 2023). The relevant policies and objectives in those plans for the protection of European sites and water quality are included in Appendix II.

40 As noted above, Dublin Bay is currently unpolluted and the proposed development will not result in any measurable effect on water quality in Dublin Bay. There are also protective policies and objectives in place at a strategic planning level to protect water quality in Dublin Bay.

41 Therefore, and having regard to the policies and objectives referred to under the relevant development plans, it is concluded that the possibility of any other plans or projects acting in combination with the proposed development to give rise to significant effects on any European site in, or associated with, Dublin Bay can be excluded.

### 3.3.3 *Habitat degradation as a result of hydrogeological impacts*

- 42 The proposed development does not include any alterations to proposals as consented under ABP-307656-20 (as altered by ABP-312262-21 an LRD6029/23-S3) which could interact with groundwaters or local hydrogeology. Therefore there will be no groundwater impacts on European sites as a result of the proposed development.
- 43 As the proposed development will not result in habitat degradation as a result of hydrogeological impacts on any European sites on its own, there is no potential for in combination effects to occur in association with any other plans or projects.

### 3.3.4 *Habitat degradation as a result of introducing/spreading non-native invasive species*

- 44 The proposed development site does not support any non-native invasive species which could be accidentally spread or introduced to habitats within any European sites, and therefore there is no possibility of impacts on any European sites arising from introducing/spreading non-native invasive species arising from the proposed development on its own.
- 45 As the proposed development will not result in habitat degradation as a result of hydrogeological impacts on any European sites on its own, there is no potential for in combination effects to occur in association with any other plans or projects.

### 3.3.5 *Disturbance and displacement impacts*

- 46 Construction-related disturbance and displacement of fauna species could potentially occur within the vicinity of the proposed development. For mammal species such as otter, disturbance effects would not be expected to extend beyond 150m<sup>7</sup>. For birds, disturbance effects would not be expected to extend beyond a distance of c.300m, as noise levels associated with general construction activities would attenuate to close to background levels at that distance<sup>8</sup>. There are no European sites within the disturbance Zol; the next nearest European site to the proposed development is c. 6.7km away. There are also no habitat areas within the disturbance Zol of the proposed development that support populations of qualifying/special conservation interest species of any European site<sup>9</sup>.
- 47 As the proposed development will not result in the disturbance/displacement of the qualifying/special conservation interest species of any European site, there is no potential for any in combination effects to occur in that regard.

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<sup>7</sup> This is consistent with Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) guidance (Guidelines for the Treatment of Otters prior to the Construction of National Road Schemes and Guidelines for the Treatment of Badgers prior to the Construction of National Road Schemes) documents. This is a precautionary distance, and likely to be moderated by the screening effect provided by surrounding vegetation and buildings, with the actual Zol of construction related disturbance likely to be much less in reality.

<sup>8</sup> The disturbance zone of influence for waterbirds is based on the relationship between the noise levels generated by general construction traffic/works (BS 5228:2009 Code of Practice for Noise and Vibration Control on Construction and Open Sites – Part 1 Noise) and the proximity of those noise levels to birds – as assessed in Cutts, N. Phelps, A. & Burdon, D. (2009) Construction and Waterfowl: Defining Sensitivity, Response, Impacts and Guidance, and Wright, M., Goodman, P & Cameron, T. (2010) Exploring Behavioural Responses of Shorebirds to Impulsive Noise. *Wildfowl* (2010) 60: 150–167. At 300m, noise levels are below 60dB or, in most cases, are approaching the 50dB threshold below which no disturbance or displacement effects would arise.

<sup>9</sup> There is a need to consider use of habitat areas outside of an SPA by SCI bird species where they support the SCI populations and the site's conservation objectives. These habitat areas can comprise alternative roosting sites, foraging areas, staging grounds or migration routes and can, but not necessarily exclusively, be situated within the immediate hinterland of the SPA, or in areas ecologically connected to it.

3.3.6 Summary

- 48 The potential impacts associated with the proposed development do not have the potential to affect the receiving environment and, consequently, do not have the potential to affect the conservation objectives supporting the qualifying interest/special conservation interests of any European sites. Therefore, the proposed development is not likely to have significant effects on any European sites.
- 49 As the proposed development itself will not have any effects on the QIs/SCIs or conservation objectives of any European sites, and taking into account the policies and objectives of the statutory plans referred to above, it is concluded that there is no potential for any other plan or project to act in combination with it to result in significant effects on any European sites.
- 50 The potential impacts of the proposed development on the receiving environment, their ZOI, and the European sites at risk of likely significant effects are summarised in Table 1 below. In assessing the potential for the proposed development to result in a significant effect on any European sites, any measures intended to avoid or reduce the harmful effects of the project on European sites are not taken into account.

**Table 1 Summary of Analysis of Likely Significant Effects on European sites**

<b>Potential Direct, Indirect In Combination Effects and the ZOI of the Potential Effects</b>	<b>Are there any European sites within the ZOI of the proposed development?</b>
Habitat loss and Fragmentation Habitat loss will be confined to the lands within the proposed development boundary.	No There are no European sites within the proposed development boundary
Habitat degradation as a result of hydrological impacts Habitats and species downstream of the proposed development site and the associated surface water drainage discharge points, and downstream of offsite wastewater treatment plants.	No There are no European sites at risk of hydrological effects associated with the proposed development
Habitat degradation as a result of hydrogeological impacts Groundwater-dependant habitats, and the species those habitats support, in the local area that lie downgradient of the proposed development site.	No There are no European sites at risk of hydrogeological effects associated with the proposed development
Habitat degradation as a result of introducing/spreading non-native invasive species Habitat areas within, adjacent to, and potentially downstream of the proposed development site.	No There are no non-native invasive species present on the proposed development site and, therefore, no risk associated with the proposed development to any European sites from the spread/introduction of non-native invasive species
Disturbance and displacement impacts Potentially up to several hundred metres from the proposed development boundary, dependent upon the predicted levels of noise, vibration and visual disturbance associated with the proposed development, taking into account the sensitivity of the qualifying interest species to disturbance effects	No There are no European sites within the potential zone of influence of disturbance effects associated with the construction or operation of the proposed development

#### **4 Conclusions of Screening Assessment Process**

- 51 Following an examination, analysis and evaluation of the best available information, and applying the precautionary principle, it can be concluded that the possibility of any significant effects on any European sites, whether arising from the project alone or in combination with other plans and projects, can be excluded, for the reasons set out in Section 3.3 above. In reaching this conclusion, the nature of the project and its potential relationship with all European sites within the zone of influence, and their conservation objectives, have been fully considered.
- 52 Therefore, it is the professional opinion of the authors of this report that the application for consent for the proposed development does not require an Appropriate Assessment or the preparation of a Natura Impact Statement (NIS).

## Appendix I

The Qualifying Interests (QIs) and Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) of the European sites in the vicinity of the proposed development site (see Figure 1)

European Site Name [Code] and its Qualifying interest(s) / Special Conservation Interest(s) (*Priority Annex I Habitats)	Location Relative to the Proposed Development Site
<b>Special Area of Conservation (SAC)</b>	
<p><b>South Dublin Bay SAC [000210]</b>            1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide            1210 Annual vegetation of drift lines            1310 <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand            2110 Embryonic shifting dunes</p> <p><i>S.I. No. 525/2019 - European Union Habitats (South Dublin Bay Special Area of Conservation 000210) Regulations 2019</i>            NPWS (2013) <i>Conservation Objectives: South Dublin Bay SAC 000210</i>. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.</p>	<p>Located c. 8.8km from the proposed development. Hydrologically connected to the proposed development via the surface and foul water networks.</p>
<p><b>North Dublin Bay SAC [000206]</b>            1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide            1210 Annual vegetation of drift lines            1310 <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand            1330 Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>)            1395 Petalwort <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i>            1410 Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>)            2110 Embryonic shifting dunes            2120 Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes)            2130 Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes)            2190 Humid dune slacks</p> <p><i>S.I. No. 524/2019 - European Union Habitats (North Dublin Bay Special Area of Conservation 000206) Regulations 2019</i>            NPWS (2013) <i>Conservation Objectives: North Dublin Bay SAC 000206</i>. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.</p>	<p>Located c.9.7km from the proposed development. Hydrologically connected to the proposed development via the surface and foul water networks.</p>
<p><b>Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC [001398]</b>            7220 Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>)*            1014 Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail <i>Vertigo angustior</i>            1016 Desmoulin's Whorl Snail <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i></p> <p><i>S.I. No. 494/2018 - European Union Habitats (Conservation of Wild Birds (Rye Water Valley/Carton Special Area of Conservation 001398)) Regulations 2018</i>.</p>	<p>Located c.10.6km from the proposed development</p>

European Site Name [Code] and its Qualifying interest(s) / Special Conservation Interest(s) (*Priority Annex I Habitats)	Location Relative to the Proposed Development Site
<p>NPWS (2021) <i>Conservation Objectives: Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC 001398. Version 1.</i> National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.<sup>10</sup></p>	
<p><b>Baldoyle Bay SAC [000199]</b>            1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide            1310 <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonizing mud and sand            1330 Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glaucopuccinellietalia maritimae</i>)            1410 Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>)</p> <p><i>S.I. No. 472/2021 - European Union Habitats (Baldoyle Bay Special Area of Conservation 000199) Regulations 2021</i>            NPWS (2012) <i>Conservation Objectives: Baldoyle Bay SAC 000199. Version 1.0.</i> National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht</p>	<p>Located c.12.7km from the proposed development</p>
<p><b>Malahide Estuary SAC [000205]</b>            1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide            1310 <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand            1330 Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glaucopuccinellietalia maritimae</i>)            1410 Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>)            2120 Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes)            2130 Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes)*</p> <p><i>S.I. No. 91/2019 - European Union Habitats (Malahide Estuary Special Area Of Conservation 000205) Regulations 2019</i>            NPWS (2013) <i>Conservation Objectives: Malahide Estuary SAC 000205. Version 1.</i> National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.</p>	<p>Located c.12.7km from the proposed development</p>
<p><b>Glenasmole Valley SAC [001209]</b>            6210 Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) (* important orchid sites)            6410 <i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>)            7220 Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>)*</p> <p><i>S.I. No. 345/2021 - European Union Habitats (Glenasmole Valley Special Area of Conservation 001209) Regulations 2021</i>            NPWS (2021) <i>Conservation Objectives: Glenasmole Valley SAC 001209. Version 1.</i> National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.</p>	<p>Located c.13.3km from the proposed development</p>

<sup>10</sup> The versions of the conservation objectives documents referenced in this table are the most recent published versions at the time of writing



European Site Name [Code] and its Qualifying interest(s) / Special Conservation Interest(s) (*Priority Annex I Habitats)	Location Relative to the Proposed Development Site
<p><b>Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC [003000]</b>            1170 Reefs            1351 Harbour porpoise <i>Phocoena phocaena</i></p> <p><i>S.I. No. 94/2019 - European Union Habitats (Rockabill To Dalkey Island Special Area Of Conservation 003000) Regulations 2019</i>            NPWS (2013) <i>Conservation Objectives: Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC 003000</i>. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.</p>	<p>Located c.15.8km from the proposed development</p>
<p><b>Howth Head SAC [000202]</b>            1230 Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts            4030 European dry heaths</p> <p><i>S.I. No. 524/2021 - European Union Habitats (Howth Head Special Area of Conservation 000202) Regulations 2021</i>            NPWS (2016) <i>Conservation Objectives: Howth Head SAC 000202</i>. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.</p>	<p>Located c.15.2km from the proposed development</p>
<p><b>Wicklow Mountains SAC [002122]</b>            3110 Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>)            3160 Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds            4010 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i>            4030 European dry heaths            4060 Alpine and Boreal heaths            6130 <i>Calaminarian</i> grasslands of the <i>Violetalia calaminariae</i>            6230 Species-rich <i>Nardus</i> grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe)            7130 Blanket bogs (* if active bog)            8110 Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (<i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsietalia ladani</i>)            8210 Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation            8220 Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation            91A0 Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles            1355 <i>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter)</p> <p>NPWS (2017) <i>Conservation Objectives: Wicklow Mountains SAC 002122</i>. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.</p>	<p>Located c.15.5km from the proposed development</p>
<p><b>Rogerstown Estuary SAC [000208]</b>            1130 Estuaries            1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide            1310 <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand</p>	<p>Located c.16.2km from the proposed development</p>

European Site Name [Code] and its Qualifying interest(s) / Special Conservation Interest(s) (*Priority Annex I Habitats)	Location Relative to the Proposed Development Site
<p>1330 Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>)            1410 Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>)            2120 Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes)            2130 Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes)*</p> <p><i>S.I. No. 286/2018 - European Union Habitats (Rogerstown Estuary Special Area of Conservation 000208) Regulations 2018</i>            NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives: <i>Rogerstown Estuary SAC 000208</i>. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.</p>	
<p><b>Ireland's Eye SAC [002193]</b>            1220 Perennial vegetation of stony banks            1230 Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts</p> <p><i>S.I. No. 501/2017 - European Union Habitats (Ireland's Eye Special Area of Conservation 002193) Regulations 2017</i>            NPWS (2017) Conservation Objectives: <i>Ireland's Eye SAC 002193</i>. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.</p>	<p>Located c.17.4km from the proposed development</p>
<p><b>Knocksink Wood SAC [000725]</b>            7220 Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>)*            91A0 Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles            91E0 Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i>, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>)*</p> <p><i>S.I. No. 93/2019 - European Union Habitats (Knocksink Wood Special Area Of Conservation 000725) Regulations 2019</i>            NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives: <i>Knocksink Wood SAC 000725</i>. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.</p>	<p>Located c.20km from the proposed development</p>
<p><b>Ballyman Glen SAC [000713]</b>            7220 Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>)*            7230 Alkaline fens</p> <p><i>S.I. No. 92/2019 - European Union Habitats (Ballyman Glen Special Area Of Conservation 000713) Regulations 2019</i>            NPWS (2019) Conservation Objectives: <i>Ballyman Glen SAC 000713</i>. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.</p>	<p>Located c.21.5km from the proposed development</p>
<p><b>Lambay Island SAC [000204]</b>            1170 Reefs            1230 Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts            1364 Grey seal <i>Halichoerus grypus</i>            1365 Harbour seal <i>Phoca vitulina</i></p>	<p>Located c.23km from the proposed development</p>

European Site Name [Code] and its Qualifying interest(s) / Special Conservation Interest(s) (*Priority Annex I Habitats)	Location Relative to the Proposed Development Site
<p>NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives: Lambay Island SAC 000204. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.</p>	
<p><b>Bray Head SAC [000714]</b>            1230 Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts            4030 European dry heaths</p> <p><i>S.I. No. 620/2017 - European Union Habitats (Bray Head Special Area of Conservation 000714) Regulations 2017</i></p> <p>NPWS (2017) Conservation Objectives: Bray Head SAC 000714. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.</p>	<p>Located c.25.5km from the proposed development</p>
<b>Special Protection Area (SPA)</b>	
<p><b>South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA [004024]</b>            A046 Light-bellied Brent Goose <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>            A130 Oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>            A137 Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>            A141 Grey Plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>            A143 Knot <i>Calidris canutus</i>            A144 Sanderling <i>Calidris alba</i>            A149 Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina</i>            A157 Bar-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa lapponica</i>            A162 Redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i>            A179 Black-headed Gull <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>            A192 Roseate Tern <i>Sterna dougallii</i>            A193 Common Tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i>            A194 Arctic Tern <i>Sterna paradisaea</i>            A999 Wetland and Waterbirds</p> <p><i>S.I. No. 212/2010 - European Communities (Conservation of Wild Birds (South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary Special Protection Area 004024)) Regulations 2010.</i></p> <p>NPWS (2015) Conservation Objectives: South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA 004024. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.</p>	<p>Located c.6.7km from the proposed development</p>
<p><b>North Bull Island SPA [004006]</b>            A046 Light-bellied Brent Goose <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>            A048 Shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i>            A052 Teal <i>Anas crecca</i>            A054 Pintail <i>Anas acuta</i>            A056 Shoveler <i>Anas clypeata</i>            A130 Oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>            A140 Golden Plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>            A141 Grey Plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>            A143 Knot <i>Calidris canutus</i></p>	<p>Located c.9.7km from the proposed development</p>

European Site Name [Code] and its Qualifying interest(s) / Special Conservation Interest(s) (*Priority Annex I Habitats)	Location Relative to the Proposed Development Site
<p>A144 Sanderling <i>Calidris alba</i>  A149 Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina</i>  A156 Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa</i>  A157 Bar-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa lapponica</i>  A160 Curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i>  A162 Redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i>  A169 Turnstone <i>Arenaria interpres</i>  A179 Black-headed Gull <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>  A999 Wetlands &amp; Waterbirds</p> <p><i>S.I. No. 211/2010 - European Communities (Conservation of Wild Birds (North Bull Island Special Protection Area 004006)) Regulations 2010.</i>  NPWS (2015) <i>Conservation Objectives: North Bull Island SPA 004006</i>. Version 1.  National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.</p>	
<p><b>North-West Irish Sea cSPA [004236]</b>  A065 Common Scoter <i>Melanitta nigra</i>  A001 Red-throated Diver <i>Gavia stellata</i>  A003 Great Northern Diver <i>Gavia immer</i>  A009 Fulmar <i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>  A013 Manx Shearwater <i>Puffinus puffinus</i>  A018 Shag <i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>  A017 Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>  A177 Little Gull <i>Larus minutus</i>  A188 Kittiwake <i>Rissa tridactyla</i>  A179 Black-headed Gull <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>  A182 Common Gull <i>Larus canus</i>  A183 Lesser Black-backed Gull <i>Larus fuscus</i>  A184 Herring Gull <i>Larus argentatus</i>  A187 Great Black-backed Gull <i>Larus marinus</i>  A195 Little Tern <i>Sterna albifrons</i>  A192 Roseate Tern <i>Sterna dougallii</i>  A193 Common Tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i>  A194 Arctic Tern <i>Sterna paradisaea</i>  A204 Puffin <i>Fratercula arctica</i>  A200 Razorbill <i>Alca torda</i>  A199 Guillemot <i>Uria aalge</i></p> <p>The North-West Irish Sea cSPA was subject to a Regulation 15 notification on 13 July 2023. No conservation objectives have been published for the site at the time of publication of this report. According to information provided by the NPWS Site Designations Unit to Scott Cawley on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2023, "...The earliest possible date for the publication of the Regulation 16 notification is therefore 14<sup>th</sup> October 2023. The detailed Site Specific Conservation Objectives for the new site will be published in advance of the Regulation 16 notification..."</p>	<p>Located c.12.5km from the proposed development</p>

European Site Name [Code] and its Qualifying interest(s) / Special Conservation Interest(s) (*Priority Annex I Habitats)	Location Relative to the Proposed Development Site
<p><b>Malahide Estuary SPA [004025]</b></p> <p>A005 Great Crested Grebe <i>Podiceps cristatus</i>  A046 Light-bellied Brent Goose <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>  A048 Shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i>  A054 Pintail <i>Anas acuta</i>  A067 Goldeneye <i>Bucephala clangula</i>  A069 Red-breasted Merganser <i>Mergus serrator</i>  A130 Oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>  A140 Golden Plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>  A141 Grey Plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>  A143 Knot <i>Calidris canutus</i>  A149 Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina</i>  A156 Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa</i>  A157 Bar-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa lapponica</i>  A162 Redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i>  A999 Wetland and Waterbirds</p> <p><i>S.I. No. 285/2011 - European Communities (Conservation of Wild Birds (Malahide Estuary Special Protection Area 004025)) Regulations 2011.</i>  NPWS (2013) <i>Conservation Objectives: Malahide Estuary SPA 004025. Version 1.</i> National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.</p>	<p>Located c.12.7km from the proposed development</p>
<p><b>Baldoyle Bay SPA [004016]</b></p> <p>A046 Light-bellied Brent Goose <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>  A048 Shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i>  A137 Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>  A140 Golden Plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>  A141 Grey Plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>  A157 Bar-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa lapponica</i>  A999 Wetland and Waterbirds</p> <p><i>S.I. No. 275/2010 - European Communities (Conservation of Wild Birds (Baldoyle Bay Special Protection Area 004016)) Regulations 2010.</i>  NPWS (2013) <i>Conservation Objectives: Baldoyle Bay SPA 004016. Version 1.</i> National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.</p>	<p>Located c.13km from the proposed development</p>
<p><b>Wicklow Mountains SPA [004040]</b></p> <p>A098 Merlin <i>Falco columbarius</i>  A103 Peregrine <i>Falco peregrinus</i></p> <p><i>S.I. No. 586/2012 - European Communities (Conservation of Wild Birds (Wicklow Mountains Special Protection Area 004040)) Regulations 2012.</i>  NPWS (2022) <i>Conservation objectives for Wicklow Mountains SPA [004040]. Generic Version 9.0.</i> Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.</p>	<p>Located c.15km from the proposed development</p>

European Site Name [Code] and its Qualifying interest(s) / Special Conservation Interest(s) (*Priority Annex I Habitats)	Location Relative to the Proposed Development Site
<p><b>Rogerstown Estuary SPA [004015]</b>  A043 Greylag Goose <i>Anser anser</i>  A046 Light-bellied Brent Goose <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>  A048 Shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i>  A056 Shoveler <i>Anas clypeata</i>  A130 Oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>  A137 Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>  A141 Grey Plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>  A143 Knot <i>Calidris canutus</i>  A149 Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i>  A156 Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa</i>  A162 Redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i>  A999 Wetlands</p> <p><i>S.I. No. 271/2010 - European Communities (Conservation of Wild Birds (Rogerstown Estuary Special Protection Area 004015)) Regulations 2010.</i>  NPWS (2013) <i>Conservation Objectives: Rogerstown Estuary SPA 004015</i>. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.</p>	<p>Located c.16.7km from the proposed development</p>
<p><b>Ireland's Eye SPA [004117]</b>  A017 Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>  A184 Herring Gull <i>Larus argentatus</i>  A188 Kittiwake <i>Rissa tridactyla</i>  A199 Guillemot <i>Uria aalge</i>  A200 Razorbill <i>Alca torda</i></p> <p><i>S.I. No. 240/2010 - European Communities (Conservation of Wild Birds (Ireland's Eye Special Protection Area 004117)) Regulations 2010.</i>  NPWS (2022) <i>Conservation objectives for Ireland's Eye SPA [004117]</i>. First-order Site-specific Conservation Objectives Version 1.0. 9.0. Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.</p>	<p>Located c.17.2km from the proposed development</p>
<p><b>Howth Head Coast SPA [004113]</b>  A188 Kittiwake <i>Rissa tridactyla</i></p> <p><i>S.I. No. 185/2012 - European Communities (Conservation of Wild Birds (Howth Head Coast Special Protection Area 004113)) Regulations 2012.</i>  NPWS (2022). <i>Conservation objectives for Howth Head Coast SPA [004113]</i>. First Order Site-specific Conservation Objectives Version 1.0. Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.</p>	<p>Located c.18km from the proposed development</p>

European Site Name [Code] and its Qualifying interest(s) / Special Conservation Interest(s) (*Priority Annex I Habitats)	Location Relative to the Proposed Development Site
<p><b>Dalkey Islands SPA [004172]</b>  A192 Roseate Tern <i>Sterna dougallii</i>  A193 Common Tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i>  A194 Arctic Tern <i>Sterna paradisaea</i></p> <p><i>S.I. No. 238/2010 - European Communities (Conservation of Wild Birds (Dalkey Islands Special Protection Area 004172)) Regulations 2010.</i>  NPWS (2022) <i>Conservation objectives for Dalkey Islands SPA [004172]. First Order Site-specific Conservation Objectives Version 1.0. Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.</i></p>	<p>Located c.18.8km from the proposed development</p>
<p><b>Lambay Island SPA [004069]</b>  A009 Fulmar <i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>  A017 Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>  A018 Shag <i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>  A043 Greylag Goose <i>Anser anser</i>  A183 Lesser Black-backed Gull <i>Larus fuscus</i>  A184 Herring Gull <i>Larus argentatus</i>  A188 Kittiwake <i>Rissa tridactyla</i>  A199 Guillemot <i>Uria aalge</i>  A200 Razorbill <i>Alca torda</i>  A204 Puffin <i>Fratercula arctica</i></p> <p><i>S.I. No. 242/2010 - European Communities (Conservation of Wild Birds (Lambay Island Special Protection Area 004069)) Regulations 2010.</i>  NPWS (2022) <i>Conservation objectives for Lambay Island SPA [004069]. First Order Site-specific Conservation Objectives Version 1.0. Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.</i></p>	<p>Located c.23km from the proposed development</p>

## Appendix II

### Planning polices/objectives relating to the protection of European sites and water quality

#### Eastern & Midland Regional Assembly, Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy 2019-2031

##### **Regional Policy Objective 3.4**

Ensure that all plans, projects and activities requiring consent arising from the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy are subject to the relevant environmental assessment requirements including SEA, EIA and AA as appropriate. In addition the future strategic development of settlements throughout the Region will have full cognisance of the legal requirements pertaining to sites of International Nature Conservation Interest.

##### **Regional Policy Objective 7.2**

To achieve and maintain 'Good Environmental Status' for marine waters and to ensure the sustainable use of shared marine resources in the Region, and to promote the development of a cross-boundary and cross-border strategic management and stakeholder engagement framework to protect the marine environment.

##### **Regional Policy Objective 7.10**

Support the implementation of the Water Framework Directive in achieving and maintaining at least good environmental status for all water bodies in the Region and to ensure alignment between the core objectives of the Water Framework Directive and other relevant Directives, River Basin Management plans and local authority land use plans.

##### **Regional Policy Objective 7.11**

For water bodies with 'high ecological status' objectives in the Region, local authorities shall incorporate measures for both their continued protection and to restore those water bodies that have fallen below high ecological status and areas 'At Risk' into the development of local planning policy and decision making any measures for the continued protection of areas with high ecological status in the Region and for mitigation of threats to waterbodies identified as 'At Risk' as part of a catchment based approach in consultation with the relevant agencies. This shall include recognition of the need to deliver efficient wastewater facilities with sufficient capacity and thus contribute to improved water quality in the Region.

##### **Regional Policy Objective 7.12**

Future statutory land use plans shall include Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) and seek to avoid inappropriate land use zonings and development in areas at risk of flooding and to integrate sustainable water management solutions (such as SuDS, nonporous surfacing and green roofs) to create safe places in accordance with the Planning System and Flood Risk Assessment Guidelines for Local Authorities.

##### **Regional Policy Objective 7.15**

Local authorities shall take opportunities to enhance biodiversity and amenities and to ensure the protection of environmentally sensitive sites and habitats, including where flood risk management measures are planned.

##### **Regional Policy Objective 7.16**

Support the implementation of the Habitats Directives in achieving an improvement in the conservation status of protected species and habitats in the Region and to ensure alignment between the core objectives of the EU Birds and Habitats Directives and local authority development plans.

##### **Regional Policy Objective 7.22**

Local authority development plan and local area plans, shall identify, protect, enhance, provide and manage Green Infrastructure in an integrated and coherent manner and should also have regard to the required targets in relation to the conservation of European sites, other nature conservation sites, ecological networks and protected species.

##### **Regional Policy Objective 10.6**

Delivery and phasing of services shall be subject to the required appraisal, planning and environmental assessment processes and shall avoid adverse impacts on the integrity of the Natura 2000 network.

##### **Regional Policy Objective 10.7**

Local authority core strategies shall demonstrate compliance with DHPLG Water Services Guidelines for local authorities and demonstrate phased infrastructure – led growth that is commensurate with the carrying



capacity of water services and prevent adverse impacts on the integrity of water dependent habitats and species within the Natura 2000 network.

**Regional Policy Objective 10.10**

Support Irish Water and the relevant local authorities in the Region to eliminate untreated discharges from settlements in the short term, while planning strategically for long term growth in tandem with Project Ireland 2040 and in increasing compliance with the requirements of the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive from 39% today to 90% by the end of 2021, to 99% by 2027 and to 100% by 2040.

**Regional Policy Objective 10.11**

EMRA supports the delivery of the waste water infrastructure set out in Table 10.2, subject to appropriate environmental assessment and the planning process.<sup>11</sup>

**Regional Policy Objective 10.12**

Development plans shall support strategic wastewater treatment infrastructure investment and provide for the separation of foul and surface water networks to accommodate the future growth of the Region.

**Regional Policy Objective 10.15**

Support the relevant local authorities (and Irish Water where relevant) in the Region to improve storm water infrastructure to improve sustainable drainage and reduce the risk of flooding in the urban environment and in the development and provision at a local level of Sustainable Urban Drainage solutions.

**Regional Policy Objective 10.16**

Implement policies contained in the Greater Dublin Strategic Drainage Study (GSDSDS), including SuDS.

**Regional Policy Objective 10.18**

Local authorities shall ensure adequate surface water drainage systems are in place which meet the requirements of the Water Framework Directive and the associated River Basin Management Plans.

**Dublin City Development Plan 2022-2028**

**S11:**

To support and facilitate Irish Water to ensure the upgrading of wastewater infrastructure, in particular the upgrading of the Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant, and to support the development of the Greater Dublin Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant, the North Docklands Sewage Scheme, the Marine Outfall and orbital sewer to be located in the northern part of the Greater Dublin Area to serve the Dublin region as part of the Greater Dublin Strategic Drainage Strategy.

**S12:**

To ensure that development is permitted in tandem with available water supply and wastewater treatment and to manage development, so that new schemes are permitted only where adequate capacity or resources exists or will become available within the life of a planning permission.

**S17:**

To promote and maintain the achievement of at least good status in all water bodies in the City.

**S118:**

To put in place adequate measures to protect the integrity of flood alleviation infrastructure in Dublin City and to ensure new developments or temporary removal of any flood alleviation asset does not increase flood risk, while ensuring that new flood alleviation infrastructure has due regard to nature conservation, natural assets, open space and amenity values, as well as potential climate change impacts.

**S118:**

To minimise flood risk arising from pluvial (surface water) flooding in the City by promoting the use of natural or nature-based flood risk management measures as a priority, by requiring the use of sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) to minimise and limit the extent of hard surfacing and paving, and requiring the use of sustainable drainage techniques, where appropriate, for new development or for extensions to existing

<sup>11</sup> The Greater Dublin Drainage Project, the Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant Project, the Athlone Main Drainage Project and the Upper Liffey Valley Sewerage Scheme

developments, in order to reduce the potential impact of existing and predicted flooding risk and to deliver wider environmental and biodiversity benefits, and climate adaptation

**GI9:**

To conserve, manage, protect and restore the favourable conservation condition of all qualifying interest/special conservation interests of all European sites designated, or proposed to be designated, under the EU Birds and Habitats Directives, as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) (European / Natura 2000 sites).

**GI10:**

To adequately protect flora and fauna (under the EU Habitats and Birds Directives), the Wildlife Acts 1976 (as amended), the Fisheries Acts 1959 (as amended) and the Flora (Protection) Order 2022 S.I No. 235 of 2022, wherever they occur within Dublin City, or have been identified as supporting the favourable conservation condition of any European sites.

**GI13:**

To ensure the protection, conservation and enhancement of all areas of ecological importance for protected species, and especially those listed in the EU Birds and Habitats Directives, including those identified as supporting the favourable conservation condition of any European sites, in accordance with development standards set out in this plan.

### Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Development Plan 2022-2028

#### **Policy Objective GIB18: Protection of Natural Heritage and the Environment**

It is a Policy Objective to protect and conserve the environment including, in particular, the natural heritage of the County and to conserve and manage Nationally and Internationally important and EU designated sites - such as Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Special Areas of Conservations (SACs), proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs) and Ramsar sites (wetlands) - as well as non-designated areas of high nature conservation value known as locally important areas which also serve as 'Stepping Stones' for the purposes of Article 10 of the Habitats Directive

#### **Policy Objective GIB19: Habitats Directive**

It is a Policy Objective to ensure the protection of natural heritage and biodiversity, including European Sites that form part of the Natura 2000 network, in accordance with relevant EU Environmental Directives and applicable National Legislation, Policies, Plans and Guidelines.

#### **Policy Objective GIB21: Designated Sites**

It is a Policy Objective to protect and preserve areas designated as proposed Natural Heritage Areas, Special Areas of Conservation, and Special Protection Areas. It is Council policy to promote the maintenance and as appropriate, delivery of 'favourable' conservation status of habitats and species within these areas.

#### **Policy Objective GIB22: Non-Designated Areas of Biodiversity Importance**

It is a Policy Objective to protect and promote the conservation of biodiversity in areas of natural heritage importance outside Designated Areas and to ensure that notable sites, habitats and features of biodiversity importance - including species protected under the Wildlife Acts 1976 and 2000, the Birds Directive 1979, the Habitats Directive 1992, Flora (Protection) Order, 2015, Annex I habitats, local important areas, wildlife corridors and rare species - are adequately protected. Ecological assessments will be carried out for all developments in areas that support, or have potential to support, features of biodiversity importance or rare and protected species and appropriate mitigation/ avoidance measures will be implemented. In implementing this policy, regard shall be had to the Ecological Network, including the forthcoming DLR Wildlife Corridor Plan, and the recommendations and objectives of the Green City Guidelines (2008) and 'Ecological Guidance Notes for Local Authorities and Developers' (Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Version 2014)

#### **Policy Objective GIB23: County-Wide Ecological Network**

It is a Policy Objective to protect the Ecological Network which will be integrated into the updated Green Infrastructure Strategy and will align with the DLR County Biodiversity Action Plan. Creating this network throughout the County will also improve the ecological coherence of the Natura 2000 network in accordance with Article 10 of the Habitats Directive. The network will also include non-designated sites.

#### **Policy Objective EI7: Water Supply and Wastewater treatment and Appropriate Assessment**

It is a Policy Objective to require that all developments relating to water supply and wastewater treatment are subject to screening for Appropriate Assessment to ensure there are no likely significant effects on the integrity, defined by the structure and function, of any European sites and that the requirements of Article 6 of the EU Habitats Directive are met. (Consistent with RPO 10.7 of the RSES).

**Policy Objective EI8: Groundwater Protection and Appropriate Assessment**

It is a Policy Objective to ensure the protection of the groundwater resources in and around the County and associated habitats and species in accordance with the Groundwater Directive 2006/118/EC and the European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations, 2010. In this regard, the Council will support the implementation of Irish Water's Water Safety Plans to protect sources of public water supply and their contributing catchment.

**Policy Objective EI2: Irish Water Enabling Policies Irish Water's Plans and Programmes**

It is a Policy Objective - in conjunction with the Eastern and Midland Regional Authority, where appropriate - to work with and support Irish Water in the delivery of the strategic objectives and strategic water and wastewater projects and infrastructure as set out in the 'Water Services Strategic Plan' (2015), any subsequent plan, Irish Water's Capital Investment Plan 2020 – 2024, any subsequent Capital Investment Plans and the forthcoming National Water Resources Plan, so as to ensure provision of infrastructure to service settlements in accordance with the Core Strategy of this Plan, and the settlement strategy of the RSES. (Consistent with RPO 10.2, 10.3, 10.11, 10.16 of the RSES).

**Policy Objective EI5: River Basin Management Plans (RMBPs)**

It is a Policy Objective: To ensure the delivery of the relevant policies and objectives of the River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018 – 2021 and any subsequent plan, including those relating to protection of water status, improvement of water status, prevention of deterioration and meeting objectives for designated protected sites. To support Irish Water in its implementation of Water Quality Management Plans for ground, surface, coastal and estuarine waters as part of the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive. To support Irish Water in the development of Drinking Water Protection Plans.

**Policy Objective EI6: Sustainable Drainage Systems**

It is a Policy Objective to ensure that all development proposals incorporate Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS).

**Policy Objective EI17: Water Pollution**

It is a Policy Objective to implement the provisions of water pollution abatement measures in accordance with national and EU Directives and other legislative requirements in conjunction with other agencies as appropriate.

**Fingal Development Plan 2023-2029**

**Objective GINHO3 – Biodiversity in Open Space**

Make provision for biodiversity within public open space and include water sensitive design and management measures (including SuDS) as part of a sustainable approach to open space design and management.

**Policy GINHP12 – Protected Sites**

Protect areas designated or proposed to be designated as Natura 2000 sites (i.e. Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs), proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs), Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs), Statutory Nature Reserves, and Refuges for Fauna

**Objective GINHO27 – National Parks and Wildlife Service**

Support the National Parks and Wildlife Service, in the maintenance and achievement of favourable conservation status for the habitats and species in Fingal by taking full account of the requirements of the Habitats and Birds Directives, in the performance of its functions.

**Objective GINHO28 – Protection of Natural Heritage Areas**

Ensure that development does not have a significant adverse impact on proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs), Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs), Statutory Nature Reserves, Refuges for Fauna, Habitat Directive Annex I sites and Annex II species contained therein, and on rare and threatened species including those protected by law and their habitats.

**Policy GINHP17 – Protection of European and National Sites**

Strictly protect areas designated or proposed to be designated as Natura 2000 sites (i.e. Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs); also known as European sites) including any areas that may be proposed for designation or designated during the lifetime of this Plan.

**Objective GINHO33 – Annex I and Annex II**

Ensure that development does not have a significant adverse impact on proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs), Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs), Statutory Nature Reserves, Refuges for Fauna, Habitat Directive Annex I sites and Annex II species contained therein, and on rare and threatened species including those protected by law and their habitats.

**Objective GINHO35 – Appropriate Assessment**

In accordance with Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland, Guidance for Planning Authorities 2010, any plans or projects that are likely to have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, are subject to a screening for Appropriate Assessment unless they are directly connected with or necessary to the management of a Natura 2000 site.

**South Dublin County Development Plan 2022-2028**

**Policy NCBH3 Natura 2000 Sites**

Conserve and protect Natura 2000 sites and achieve and maintain favourable conservation status for habitats and species that are considered to be at risk through the protection of the Natura 2000 network from any plans or projects that are likely to have a significant effect on their coherence or integrity

**NCBH3 Objective 1**

To prevent development and activities that would adversely affect the integrity of any Natura 2000 site located within or adjacent to the County and promote the favourable conservation status of the habitats and species integral to these sites.

**NCBH3 Objective 2**

To ensure that plans, including land use plans, will only be adopted, if they either individually or in combination with existing and / or proposed plans or projects, will not have a significant adverse effect on a European Site, or where such a plan is likely or might have such a significant adverse effect (either alone or in combination), South Dublin County Council will, as required by law, carry out an appropriate assessment as per requirements of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive 92 / 43 / EEC of the 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora, as transposed into Irish legislation. Only after having ascertained that the plan will not adversely affect the integrity of any European site, will South Dublin County Council adopt the plan, incorporating any necessary mitigation measures. A plan which could adversely affect the integrity of a European site may only be adopted in exceptional circumstances, as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive as transposed into Irish legislation.

**NCBH3 Objective 3**

To ensure that planning permission will only be granted for a development proposal that, either individually or in combination with existing and / or proposed plans or projects, will not have a significant adverse effect on a European Site, or where such a development proposal is likely or might have such a significant adverse effect (either alone or in combination), the planning authority will, as required by law, carry out an appropriate assessment as per requirements of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive 92 / 43 / EEC of the 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora, as transposed into Irish legislation. Only after having ascertained that the development proposal will not adversely affect the integrity of any European site, will the planning authority agree to the development and impose appropriate mitigation measures in the form of planning conditions. A development proposal which could adversely affect the integrity of a European site may only be permitted in exceptional circumstances, as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive as transposed into Irish legislation.

**GI1 Objective 3**

To facilitate the development and enhancement of sensitive access to and connectivity between areas of interest for residents, wildlife and biodiversity, and other distinctive landscapes as focal features for linkages between natural, semi natural and formalised green spaces where feasible and ensuring that there is no adverse impact (directly, indirectly or cumulatively) on the conservation objectives of Natura 2000 sites and protected habitats outside of Natura 2000 sites

**IE2 Objective 1**

To work in conjunction with Irish Water to protect existing water and drainage infrastructure and to promote the ongoing upgrade and expansion of water supply and wastewater services to meet the future needs of the County and the Region.

**Policy IE3 Surface Water and Groundwater**

Manage surface water and protect and enhance ground and surface water quality to meet the requirements of the EU Water Framework Directive.

**IE3 Objective 1**

To maintain, improve and enhance the environmental and ecological quality of our surface waters and groundwater by implementing the relevant programme of measures set out in the River Basin Management Plans.

**IE3 Objective 2**

To maintain and enhance existing surface water drainage systems in the County and to require Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) in new development in accordance with objectives set out in section 4.2.2 of this Plan including, where feasible, integrated constructed wetlands, at a local, district and County level, to control surface water outfall and protect water quality.

**Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029**

**BI P2**

Seek to contribute to maintaining or restoring the conservation status of all sites designated for nature conservation or proposed for designation in accordance with European and national legislation and agreements. These include Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs), Ramsar Sites and Statutory Nature Reserves.

**BI O8**

Support the implementation of the National Raised Bog Special Areas of Conservation Management Plan 2017-2022

**BI O10**

Ensure an Appropriate Assessment Screening, in accordance with Article 6(3) and Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, Section 177A of the Planning and Development Act (2001-2022) or any superseding legislation and with DEHLG guidance (2009), is carried out in respect of any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of a Natura 2000 site to determine the likelihood of the plan or project having a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects and to ensure that projects which may give rise to significant cumulative, direct, indirect or secondary impacts on Natura 2000 sites will not be permitted (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects) unless for reasons of overriding public interest.

**BI O11**

Support the establishment of conservation measures and the preparation and implementation of management plans for the conservation of Natura 2000 sites by NPWS, as required by Article 6(1) of the Habitats Directive.

**BI P3**

Ensure that any proposal for development within or adjacent to a Natural Heritage Area (NHA), Ramsar Sites and Nature Reserves is designed and sited to minimise its impact on the biodiversity, ecological, geological and landscape value of the site, particularly plant and animal species listed under the Wildlife Acts and the Habitats and Birds Directive including their habitats.

**BI P4**

Ensure that any new development proposal does not have a significant adverse impact, incapable of satisfactory mitigation on plant, animal or bird species which are protected by law.

**BI O15**

Ensure that any new development proposal does not have a significant adverse impact on rare and threatened species, including those protected under the Wildlife Acts 1976 and 2012, the Birds Directive 1979 the Habitats Directive 1992 and the Flora Protection Order species and any species listed under the national red lists or that could be listed on a national red list.

**BI O20**

Conserve and protect habitats and species listed in the Annexes of the EU Habitats Directive (92/143/EEC) (as amended), the Birds Directive (2009/147/EC), Directive Annex 2, the Wildlife Acts 1976 to 2000, The Wildlife Acts 1976 (as amended) and the Flora Protection Order No 94 of 1999.

**BI O22**

Identify and protect areas of high nature conservation value (including but not limited to SAC/SPA/pNHA) and support the landscape features which act as ecological corridors/networks and stepping-stones, such as river corridors, hedgerows, and road verges so as to minimise the loss of habitats and features of the wider countryside which are of major importance for wild fauna and flora in accordance with Article 10 of the Habitats Directive

**IN P2**

Ensure the protection and enhancement of water quality throughout Kildare in accordance with the EU WFD and facilitate the implementation of the associated programme of measures in the River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021 (and subsequent updates)

**IN O13**

Ensure that adequate wastewater services will be available to service development prior to the granting of planning permission and to require developers to provide evidence of consultation with Irish Water regarding capacity in the network prior to applying for planning permission

**IN P4**

Ensure adequate surface water drainage systems are in place which meet the requirements of the EU Water Framework Directive and the River Basin Management Plan in order to promote the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems.

**IN O21**

Facilitate the development of nature based Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems, including the retrofitting of SuDS in established urban areas. Culverting entire drains and streams will generally be prohibited; interference with natural drainage systems is to be minimised and the Council will explore opportunities to remove culverted drainage systems in favour of open, natural drainage systems.

**IN O22**

Require the implementation of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) and other nature-based surface water drainage as an integral part of all new development proposals.