



Appropriate Assessment Screening Statement

Woodbrook - Shanganagh

Local Area Plan 2017 - 2023



SCREENING STATEMENT

IN SUPPORT OF THE
APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT
OF THE
WOODBROOK-SHANGANAGH
LOCAL AREA PLAN
2017 - 2023

FOR THE

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF
ARTICLE 6(3) OF THE EU HABITATS DIRECTIVE

for: Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council

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1 Introduction

1.1 Background

CAAS Ltd. has been appointed by the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council to prepare this Screening Statement in support of the Appropriate Assessment (AA) of the Woodbrook-Shanganagh Local Area Plan 2017 – 2023 in accordance with the requirements of Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive¹.

An Appropriate Assessment is a requirement of Article 6 of the Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (as amended) (hereafter referred to as the "**Habitats Directive**"). The overall aim of the Habitats Directive is to maintain or restore the "**Favourable Conservation Status**" of habitats and species of European Community Interest. These habitats and species are listed in the Habitats and Birds Directives (Council Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds) with Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas designated to afford protection to the most vulnerable of them. These two designations are collectively known as European Sites.

European and national legislation places a collective obligation on Ireland and its citizens to maintain habitats and species in the European Sites at favourable conservation condition. The Government and its agencies are responsible for the implementation and enforcement of regulations (in particular Part XAB of the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2010 and the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011 (S.I. 477) (often referred to as the Habitats Regulations) to ensure the ecological integrity of these sites. Appropriate Assessment is an assessment of whether a plan or project, alone and in combination with other plans or projects, could have significant effects on a European Site in view of **the site's conservation objectives**.

A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) has been undertaken in tandem to assess the impacts of the Plan on a number of environmental considerations including biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between these considerations, whenever applicable.

1.2 Legislative Context

The Appropriate Assessment process is an assessment of the potential for adverse or negative effects of a plan or project, in combination with other plans or projects, on the conservation objectives of a European Site. These sites consist of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and provide for the protection and long-term survival of **Europe's most valuable and threatened** species and habitats.

The Habitats Directive, provides legal protection for habitats and species of European importance. Articles 3 to 9 provide the legislative means to protect habitats and species of Community interest through the establishment and conservation of an EU-wide network of sites known as Natura 2000. In Ireland, these are candidate Special Areas of Conservation (cSACs) designated under the Habitats Directive and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) designated under the Conservation of Wild Birds Directive (79/409/ECC), hereafter referred to as European Sites.

Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive set out the decision-making tests for plans and projects likely to affect European Sites. Article 6(3) establishes the requirement for AA:

"Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the [Natura 2000] site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually

¹ Directive 92/43/EEC

or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subjected to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives. In light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implications for the site and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, the competent national authorities shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public.

If, in spite of a negative assessment of the implications for the [Natura 2000] site and in the absence of alternative solutions, a plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature, Member States shall take all compensatory measures necessary to ensure that the overall coherence of Natura 2000 is protected. It shall inform the Commission of the compensatory measures adopted.

Where the site concerned hosts a priority natural habitat type and/or a priority species the only considerations which may be raised are those relating to human health or public safety, to beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment or, further to an opinion from the Commission, to other imperative reasons of overriding public interest."

These requirements are implemented in the Republic of Ireland by the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011. These regulations consolidate the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1997 to 2005 and the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) (Control of Recreational Activities) Regulations 2010, as well as addressing transposition failures identified in judgements of the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU).

If, in spite of a negative assessment of the implications for the site and in the absence of alternative solutions, a plan or project may nevertheless be carried out for **"Imperative Reasons Of Overriding Public Interest"**, including those of a social or economic nature, the Member State shall take all compensatory measures necessary to ensure that the overall coherence of European Site is protected. It shall inform the Commission of the compensatory measures adopted. Where the site concerned hosts a priority natural habitat type and/or a priority species, the only considerations which may be raised are those relating to human health or public safety, to beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment or, further to an opinion from the Commission, to other imperative reasons of overriding public interest.

Appropriate Assessment should be based on best scientific knowledge and Planning Authorities should ensure that scientific data (ecological and hydrological expertise) is utilised. This report details a Screening Statement to inform the AA process which is finalised by the statutory authority.

1.3 Guidance

This Screening Statement has been prepared in accordance with the following guidance:

- *Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland. Guidance for Planning Authorities. Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2010.*
- *Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites: Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, European Commission Environment DG, 2002.*
- *Managing Natura 2000 sites: The Provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC: European Commission, 2000.*
- *Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly Affecting Natura 2000 Sites: Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Luxembourg (EC 2001);*

- *Guidance document on Article 6(4) of the 'Habitats Directive' 92/43/EEC – Clarification of the concepts of: alternative solutions, imperative reasons of overriding public interest, compensatory measures, overall coherence, opinion of the commission. Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Luxembourg (EC 2007).*
- *Flora (Protection) Order, 1999 (As amended 2015)*

In addition, a detailed online review of published scientific literature and 'grey' literature^{2,3} was conducted. This included a detailed review of the National Parks and Wildlife Website including mapping⁴ and available reports for relevant sites and in particular sensitive qualifying interests/special conservation interests described and their conservation objectives⁵. The EPA Envision Map-viewer (www.epa.ie) and available reports were also reviewed.

Definitions of conservation status, integrity and significance used in this assessment are defined in accordance with 'Managing Natura 2000 sites: The provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC' (EC, 2000).

- The conservation status of a natural habitat is defined as the sum of the influences acting on a natural habitat and its typical species that may affect its long-term natural distribution, structure and functions as well as the long-term survival of its typical species;
- The conservation status of a species is defined as the sum of the influences acting on the species concerned that may affect the long-term distribution and abundance of its population;
- The integrity of a European Site **is defined as the coherence of the site's ecological structure** and function, across its whole area, or the habitats, complex of habitats and/or populations of species for which the site is or will be classified;
- Significant effect should be determined in relation to the specific features and environmental conditions of the protected site concerned by the plan or project, taking particular account of **the site's conservation objectives.**

1.4 Approach

There are four main stages in the AA process; the requirements for each depending on likely impacts to European Sites (SAC/SPA).

Stage One: Screening

The process which identifies the likely impacts upon a European Site of a project or plan, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, and considers whether these impacts are likely to be significant.

Stage Two: Appropriate Assessment

The consideration of the impact on the integrity of the European Site of the project or plan, **either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, with respect to the site's structure** and function and its conservation objectives. Additionally, where there are adverse impacts, an assessment of the potential mitigation of those impacts. If adequate mitigation is proposed to ensure no significant adverse impacts on European Sites, then the process may end at this stage. However, if the likelihood of significant impacts remains, then the process must proceed to Stage 3.

Stage Three: Assessment of Alternative Solutions

² Romao, C., 2013. Interpretation manual of European Union habitats.

³ NPWS (2013). The Status of Protected EU Habitats and Species in Ireland. Overview Volume 1. Unpublished Report, National Parks & Wildlife Services. Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Dublin, Ireland. Editor: Deirdre Lynn

⁴ <http://webgis.npws.ie/npwsviewer/>

⁵ Site specific details presented per European Site within the protected sites portal on the NPWS website; last accessed 20th Feb 2017 - <https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites>

The process which examines alternative ways of achieving the objectives of the project or plan that avoids adverse impacts on the integrity of the European Site.

Stage Four: Assessment where no alternative solutions exist and where adverse impacts remain

An assessment of compensatory measures where, in the light of an assessment of imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI), it is deemed that the project or plan should proceed.

The Habitats Directive promotes a hierarchy of avoidance, mitigation and compensatory measures. First, the plan should aim to avoid any impacts on European Sites by identifying possible impacts early in the plan-making process and writing the plan in order to avoid such impacts. Second, mitigation measures should be applied, if necessary, during the AA process to the point where no adverse impacts on the site(s) remain. If the plan is still likely to result in impacts on European Sites, and no further practicable mitigation is possible, then it must be rejected. If no alternative solutions are identified and the plan is required for imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI test) under Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, then compensation measures are required for any remaining adverse effect.

1.4.1 Source-Pathway-Receptor Model

Ecological impact assessment of potential impacts on European Sites is conducted following a standard source-pathway-receptor model, where, in order for an impact to be established all three elements of this mechanism must be in place. The absence or removal of one of the elements of the mechanism is sufficient to conclude that a potential effect is not of any relevance or significance.

- Source(s) – e.g. pollutant run-off from proposed works.
- Pathway(s) – e.g. groundwater connecting to nearby qualifying wetland habitats.
- Receptor(s) – qualifying aquatic habitats and species of European Sites.

In the interest of this report, receptors are the ecological features which are known to be utilised by the qualifying interests or special conservation interests of a European Site. A source is any identifiable element of the Planning Scheme provision which is known to have interactions with ecological processes. The pathways are any connections or links between the source and the receptor. This report determines if direct, indirect and cumulative adverse effects (however minor) will arise from the proposed development.

1.4.2 Zone of Influence

Following the source-pathway-receptor model, a Zone of Influence (ZOI) will be determined based on the characteristics of the development (detailed in Section 2.2) and the foreseen distribution of likely effects through any pathways identified. Once the ZOI is established, all European Sites within it will be assessed with specific reference to the sensitive receptors of each site and pathways for effect that relate to the ecological integrity of the site.

1.5 Relationship between the Appropriate Assessment process and the Plan

Appropriate Assessment (AA) needs to be fully integrated with the various stages of the development plan process in order to ensure that the ecological implications of the plan do not affect any areas designated as European Sites. As the AA process, has been managed by part of the Forward Planning team, interaction has occurred from the early stages of writing of the plan to impress the importance of protection of European Sites and that the plan should be formulated to avoid adverse impacts on these sites. In addition, the Strategic Environmental Assessment process has been taken into account in the appropriate assessment process. The screening of objectives and the assessment of objectives in the context of mitigation measures and potential impacts of the designated sites, has been an iterative process throughout each stage of the plan-making process.

2 Description of the Woodbrook-Shanganagh Local Area Plan

2.1 Receiving Environment

The Woodbrook-Shanganagh area sits within the township of Shankill in South County Dublin. It is a coastal sub-urban area which is connected to the DART line. There are existing town infrastructures such as commercial units, public transport services and recreational areas. However, the area is predominantly residential. The Plan area is located adjacent to the coastline of The Irish Sea and is on a relatively flat coastal plain, set against the backdrop of the Dublin and Wicklow Mountains. The Local Area Plan area is approximately 2.2km² in area with its boundary extending from, and incorporating, the coastline, Shanganagh Park and Cemetery, Shanganagh Castle, Woodbrook Golf Club and adjoining greenfield development lands, the existing residential settlement at Woodbrook Downs, the Wilford Interchange and Green Belt lands located to the east of the M11 and between Shankill and Bray.

2.2 Woodbrook-Shanganagh Local Area Plan Description

The purpose of a Local Area Plan is to help guide the future development of an area through a series of principles and objectives that will clearly set out a framework for appropriate development. The Woodbrook-Shanganagh Local Area Plan, which covers an area of approximately 2.2km² is located in the south of the County between Shankill and Bray, consists largely of greenfield, undeveloped lands.

Woodbrook-Shanganagh has the potential to deliver a new sustainable residential community with the capacity to provide circa 1,600 - 2,300 housing units which will contribute significantly towards addressing the acute housing shortage both in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County and the wider Dublin Region.

2.2.1 Plan Vision

The vision of this LAP is to create a new compact sustainable residential community at Woodbrook-Shanganagh. The following elements will help deliver this vision:

- To create an attractive residential neighbourhood at Woodbrook-Shanganagh where people will want to live through all stages of life.
- To create a walkable neighbourhood with key facilities within a 5-10min walk from future residential properties
- To improve pedestrian and cycle connections to, and through, Shanganagh Park providing both strategic and local routes through the LAP area and into the wider area
- To create a distinctive and vibrant community offering an attractive place to live and visit underpinned by a high standard of urban design
- To achieve a thriving community with high-quality residential, community, civic and recreational amenities
- To promote a modal shift to more sustainable modes of transportation – with priority afforded to walking and cycling – to include the provision of a new DART Station at Woodbrook
- To facilitate and accelerate the delivery of key infrastructure that will, in turn, enable development
- To enhance the landscape, environmental and architectural heritage within the Plan Area
- To implement the Site Framework Strategies for the two identified residential areas at Shanganagh Castle and Woodbrook and the objectives pertaining to the wider Plan Area.

2.3 Relationship with other Relevant Plans and Programmes

The LAP sits within a hierarchy of strategic actions such as plans and programmes, including those listed below. The LAP must comply with relevant higher level strategic actions and may, in turn, guide lower level strategic actions.

2.3.1 The National Spatial Strategy

The National Spatial Strategy (NSS) sets out the strategic planning framework for the future development of Ireland. The NSS focuses on the physical consolidation of the metropolitan area, which includes the entire functional area of Dún Laoghaire Rathdown. This necessitates the sustainable development of all zoned undeveloped and underused lands including areas of underutilised physical and social infrastructure. The NSS is due to be replaced by the National Planning Framework, however this document is not yet published; therefore, the NSS is still relevant.

2.3.2 Regional Planning Guidelines

The Regional Planning Guidelines for the Greater Dublin Area 2010-2022 translate the national strategy to regional level. The RPG settlement hierarchy seeks to consolidate the metropolitan area by prioritising and focusing investment and growth to achieve integration in services, infrastructure, transport, economic activity and new housing. The Dublin Regional Authority have been replaced by Eastern and Midlands regional assembly with a Regional spatial and economic strategy for the region being published following the publication of the National Planning Framework.

2.3.3 Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Development Plan 2016-2022

The County Development plan aims to continue to facilitate appropriate levels of sustainable development predicated on the delivery of high quality community, employment and recreational environments - allied to the promotion of sustainable transportation and travel patterns - but all the while protecting Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown's unique landscape, natural heritage and physical fabric, to ensure the needs of those living and working in the County can thrive in a socially, economically, environmentally sustainable and equitable manner.

A feature of this plan is the Interim Housing Strategy. The aim of this Strategy is to ensure access by each household in the County to affordable housing or accommodation of good quality, culturally acceptable, suitable to its needs and in the tenure of their choice, as far as possible.

2.3.4 Environmental Protection Objectives

The Plan is subject to a number of high level environmental protection policies and objectives with which it must comply. Examples of Environmental Protection Objectives include the aims of the EU Habitats Directive which is to contribute towards ensuring biodiversity through the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora in the European territory of Member States and the purpose of the Water Framework Directive which is to establish a framework for the protection of inland surface waters, transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater which, among other things, prevents deterioration in the status of all water bodies and protects, enhances and restores all waters with the aim of achieving good status.

3 Screening for Appropriate Assessment

3.1 Introduction to Screening

3.1.1 Background to Screening

This stage of the process identifies any likely significant effects to European Sites from a project or plan, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans. The screening phase was progressed in the following stages. A series of questions are asked during the Screening Stage of the AA process in order to determine:

- Whether a plan or project can be excluded from AA requirements because it is directly connected with or necessary to the management of a European Site.
- Whether the project will have a potentially significant effect on a European Site, either alone **or in combination with other projects or plans, in view of the site's conservation objectives** or if residual uncertainty exists regarding potential impacts.

An important element of the AA process is the identification of the 'conservation objectives', 'Qualifying Interests' and/ or 'Special Conservation Interests' of European Sites requiring assessment. Qualifying Interests (QI's) are the habitat features and species listed in Annex I & II of the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) for which each European Site has been designated and afforded protection. The 'Special Conservation Interests' (SCI's) are wetland habitats and bird species listed within Annex I & II of the Birds Directive. It is also vital that the threats to the ecological / environmental conditions that are required to support QI's and SCI's are considered as part of the assessment.

Site specific conservation objectives have been designed to define favourable conservation status for a particular habitat or species at that site. According to the European Commission interpretation document 'Managing Natura 2000 sites: The provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC', paragraph 4.6(3) states:

"The integrity of a site involves its ecological functions. The decision as to whether it is adversely affected should focus on and be limited to the site's conservation objectives."

Favourable conservation status of a habitat is achieved when:

- its natural range, and area it covers within that range, are stable or increasing,
- the specific structure and functions which are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future, and
- the conservation status of its typical species is favourable.

The favourable conservation status of a species is achieved when:

- population dynamics data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself on a long-term basis as a viable component of its natural habitats,
- the natural range of the species is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future, and
- there is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis.

The screening stage of the Appropriate Assessment takes account of the elements detailed above with regard to the details and characteristics of the project or plan to determine if potential for effects to the integrity of the European Site are likely. The characteristics of the plan were constructed through an iterative process, as a result the European Sites which are screened below may differ from those of high level plans, due to refinements in the methods/project details available.

3.1.2 Desktop Studies

The ecological desktop study was completed by Andrew Torsney (Senior Ecologist) for the Appropriate Assessment of the LAP comprised the following elements:

- Identification of European Sites within 15km with identification of potential pathways links for specific sites (if relevant) greater than 15km from the proposed development study area;
- Review of the NPWS site synopsis and conservation objectives for European Sites with identification of potential pathways from the proposed development; and
- A series of ecological desk studies were undertaken between February – July 2017. This included but is not limited to the collation of information on protected species including Bats, Otters, Bird species (including Annex I species), Annex II habitat types, protected and Red Data Book Flora species, invertebrates and amphibians. The results of these studies are included as part of the Appropriate Assessment where they were deemed relevant to the European Sites **and their QI's/SCI's**.

3.2 Identification of Relevant European Sites

This section of the screening process describes the European Sites which exist within the Zone of Influence of the site. The DoEHLG (2009) Guidance on Appropriate Assessment recommends a 15km buffer zone be considered around the site. It is foreseen that in the absence of significant hydrological links the characteristics of this plan (detailed in section 2) will not impose impacts beyond this 15km Zone of Influence.

European Sites that occur within 15km of the Plan Area or that were identified to have hydrological linkages to the LAP are listed in Table 3-1 and illustrated in Figure 1 below. Details on the specific qualifying **interests (QI's)** and special conservation interests (**SCI's**) of each European Site are also identified in Table 3-2.

In order to determine the potential for effects from the Plan, information on the qualifying features, known vulnerabilities and threats to site integrity pertaining to any potentially affected European Sites was reviewed. Background information on threats to individual sites and vulnerability of habitats and species that was used during this assessment included the following:

- *Ireland's Article 17 Report to the European Commission "Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland" (NPWS, 2013).*
- *Site Synopses.*
- *NATURA 2000 Standard Data Forms.*

Since the conservation objectives for the European Sites focus on maintaining the favourable **conservation condition of the QI's/SCI's of each site**, the screening process concentrated on assessing the potential effects of the LAP **against the QI's/SCI's of each site**.

Table 3-1 European Sites which occur within 15 km of the Local Area Plan or with hydrological links to the site (list in accordance to proximity to the LAP boundary)

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Site Synopsis and Existing Threats or Sensitivities
000713	Ballyman Glen SAC	1.69	Ballyman Glen contains a small strip of alkaline fen which is associated with petrifying spring/seepage areas that have given rise to thick deposits of marl. There is an area of broadleaved woodland on the steeper southern slopes of the glen. This is under threat from invasion of species such as Sycamore (<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>). An area of land that slopes towards the fen has been used as a landfill site for domestic refuse. The site is also used for a clay pigeon shoot and shattered clay pigeons are scattered throughout the area. These activities pose a threat to the integrity site due to potential water quality issues.
000714	Bray Head SAC	1.98	Dry heath is the principal habitat over much of Bray Head. The heath communities which occur on the dry slopes above the sea cliffs, especially those south-facing, are more open in character and dominated by grasses rather than dwarf shrubs. Calcareous dry grassland, typically species-rich, occurs on deposits of glacial till. Rocky sea cliffs, another Annex I habitat, form most of the seaward boundary at this site and extend for approximately 2km. Steep clay cliffs extend southwards for a further 1 km, with a small area of clay cliff also at the northernmost part of site. A stand of mostly native woodland occurs in the northern part of the site. Bray Head has an important seabird colony. Peregrine Falcon, an Annex I species of the E.U. Birds Directive, breeds at the site, as do Raven and Kestrel. The heath and grassland habitats at this site are threatened by reclamation for agriculture and also by frequent burning. The site is a popular recreational area and is especially used by walkers.
000725	Knocksink Wood SAC	3.49	Some of the slopes of Knocksink Wood are dominated by Sessile Oak (<i>Quercus petraea</i>), with a sparse shrub layer of Holly (<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>) and Hazel (<i>Corylus avellana</i>). A notable feature of the wooded slopes are the frequent and extensive springs and seepage areas, and there is tufa formation in several places. Associated with the springs and the river are stands of wet alluvial forest. These areas are dominated by Ash and Alder (<i>Alnus spp.</i>), and are assigned to the group <i>Carici remotae-Fraxinetum</i> . This site has one of the most diverse woodland invertebrate faunas in Ireland, including some wet woodland organisms which are threatened at an international level. No site-specific threats have been identified by the NPWS and the site is run as a nature reserve with an education centre.
004172	Dalkey Islands SPA	4.55	Dalkey Islands SPA is both a breeding and a staging site for Sterna terns. Common Tern is the most common species, usually outnumbering Arctic Tern by at least 3:1. The site, along with other parts of south Dublin Bay, is used by the three-tern species as a major post-breeding/pre-migration autumn roost area. The site also provides nesting areas for other breeding wader species such as Oystercatchers and Shelducks. There are no site-specific threats identified by the NPWS however the special conservation interest species are sensitive to noise pollution as a form of disturbance.
003000	Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC	4.71	Reef habitat is uncommon along the eastern seaboard of Ireland due to prevailing geology and hydrographical conditions. These reefs are subject to strong tidal currents with an abundant supply of suspended matter resulting in good representation of filter feeding fauna such as sponges, anemones and echinoderms. The area selected for designation represents a key habitat for the Annex II species Harbour Porpoise within the Irish Sea. The site also supports Common Seal and Grey Seal, for which terrestrial haul-out sites occur in immediate proximity to the site. Bottlenosed Dolphins has also occasionally been recorded in the area. A number of other marine mammals have been recorded in this area including Minke, Fin and Killer Whales and Risso's and Common Dolphins. The NPWS have not identified site specific threats for this site.
002122	Wicklow Mountains SAC	6.69	The vegetation over most of Wicklow Mountains SAC is a mosaic of heath, blanket bog and upland grassland, stands of dense Bracken (<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>), and small woodlands mainly along the rivers. The two dominant vegetation communities in the area are heath and blanket bog. Due to the underlying rock strata, the water of the rivers and streams is acid rather than alkaline. The water is generally oligotrophic and free from enrichment. Alpine vegetation occurs on some of the mountain tops, notably in the Lugnaquilla area, and also on exposed cliffs and scree slopes elsewhere in

			the site. Old lead mine workings at Glendasan support an estimated 3.6 hectares of Calaminarian Grassland. Small areas of old oakwood (<i>Blechno-Quercetum petraeae</i> type) occur on the slopes of Glendalough and Glenmalure, near Lough Tay and Lough Dan, with native Sessile Oak (<i>Quercus petraea</i>) trees, many of which are 100-120 years old. Large areas of the site are owned by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and are managed for nature conservation based on traditional land uses of upland areas. The most common land use is traditional sheep grazing, but others include turf cutting, mostly hand-cutting but some machine-cutting also occurs. These land uses pose potential threats to the integrity of the site.
004040	Wicklow Mountains SPA	6.98	Traditionally a ground-nesting species, Merlin in the Wicklow Mountains are usually found nesting in old crows nests in conifer plantations. The open peatlands provide excellent foraging habitat for Merlin with small birds such as Meadow Pipit being their main prey. The cliffs and crags within the site also provide ideal breeding locations for Peregrine. Disturbance from recreational use is thought to be the greatest threat to the special qualifying interest species.
000719	Glen Of The Downs SAC	7.44	Much of the site comprises Sessile Oak (<i>Quercus petraea</i>) woodland referable to the <i>Blechno-Quercetum petraeae</i> association. Sessile Oak is especially dominant on the mid to upper slopes. The quality of the Oak-dominated areas is variable - the association is well developed and especially pure on the western side, while in some places it occurs as coppice scrub. The site includes some areas of mixed woodland, in which Beech (<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>), Sycamore (<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>), Scots Pine (<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>) and other non-native species occur. A narrow band of alluvium associated with a small stream occurs on the valley floor. Invasive pressures are a threat to the integrity of the site.
000210	South Dublin Bay SAC	7.92	Several small, sandy beaches with incipient dune formation occur in the northern and western sectors of the site, notably at Poolbeg, Irishtown and Merrion/ Booterstown. The formation at Booterstown is very recent. Drift line vegetation occurs in association with the embryonic and incipient fore dunes. The bed of Dwarf Eelgrass (<i>Zostera noltii</i>) found below Merrion Gates is the largest stand on the east coast. South Dublin Bay is an important site for waterfowl. Although birds regularly commute between the south bay and the north bay, recent studies have shown that certain populations which occur in the south bay spend most of their time there. Water quality concerns for the Wetland habitats and recreational uses are the main threats to the site. At low tide the inner parts of the south bay are used for amenity purposes. Baitdigging is a regular activity on the sandy flats. At high tide some areas have windsurfing and jet-skiing.
004024	South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA	7.92	In the south bay, the intertidal flats extend for almost 3km at their widest. The sediments are predominantly well-aerated sands. Several permanent channels exist, the largest being Cockle Lake. A small sandy beach occurs at Merrion Gates, while some bedrock shore occurs near Dún Laoghaire. The landward boundary is now almost entirely artificially embanked. There is a bed of Dwarf Eelgrass (<i>Zostera noltii</i>) below Merrion Gates which is the largest stand on the east coast. The site is an important site for wintering waterfowl, being an integral part of the internationally important Dublin Bay complex. The site is of ornithological importance as it supports an internationally important population of Light-bellied Brent Goose and nationally important populations of a further nine wintering species. The site is sensitive to alterations to sediment quality and disturbances such as noise pollution to avian species.
002249	The Murrough Wetlands SAC	11.46	On the seaward side of the shingle bank which runs along The Murrough Wetlands SAC site drift line vegetation includes species such as Sea Rocket (<i>Cakile maritima</i>), Sea Sandwort (<i>Honkenya peploides</i>), Sea-holly (<i>Eryngium maritimum</i>) and Yellow Horned-poppy (<i>Glaucium flavum</i>). Low sand hills occur at Kilcoole, with Marram (<i>Ammophila arenaria</i>) and Lyme-grass (<i>Leymus arenarius</i>). In other areas and further inland a rich grassy sward, which is most extensive at the south of the site, has developed. Saltmarsh is present within the site in two distinct areas. Fen vegetation is well developed in the Murrough wetlands, with both alkaline and calcareous fen with Great Fen-sedge (<i>Cladium mariscus</i>) represented. The fens occur mostly between Five Mile Point and Six Mile Point, especially in the townland of Blackditch and also in the Leamore and Grange areas. A wide range of freshwater and brackish marsh habitats occur within the site. The Murrough

			is an important site for wintering waterfowl and breeding birds. The main threats identified are though farming, drainage practices and afforestation practices which have greatly reduced the area and quality of the wetlands habitats.
000716	Carriggower Bog SAC	11.49	The bog was exploited for peat extraction until 100 years ago, and the peat cuttings are now flooded. The remaining bog vegetation is characterised by bog moss (<i>Sphagnum spp.</i>) hummocks. Threats of encroachment from Downy Birch (<i>Betula pubescens</i>) and willow (<i>Salix spp.</i>) which dominate an area of scrub at the centre of the site. Towards the northern side of the site there are rock outcrops of quartzite which form low knolls. This site is of conservation importance because it shows a good transition between fen and bog vegetation. Water table dynamics and water quality are key concerns for this site.
004006	North Bull Island SPA	12.54	Saltmarsh extends along the length of the landward side of the island and provides the main roost site for wintering birds in Dublin Bay. The island shelters two intertidal lagoons which are divided by a solid causeway. These lagoons provide the main feeding grounds for the wintering waterfowl. The sediments of the lagoons are mainly sands with a small and varying mixture of silt and clay. The North Bull Island SPA is an excellent example of an estuarine complex and is one of the top sites in Ireland for wintering waterfowl. It is of international importance on account of both the total number of waterfowl and the individual populations of Light-bellied Brent Goose, Black-tailed Godwit and Bar-tailed Godwit that use it. Sediment and disturbance are the main threats identified by the NPWS for the site.
000206	North Dublin Bay SAC	13.27	North Bull Island is a sandy spit which formed after the building of the South Wall and Bull Wall in the 18th and 19th centuries. It now extends for about 5 km in length and is up to 1 km wide in places. A well-developed and dynamic dune system stretches along the seaward side of the island. Various types of dunes occur, from fixed dune grassland to pioneer communities on foredunes. About 1 km from the tip of the island, a large dune slack with a rich flora occurs, usually referred to as the 'Alder Marsh' because of the presence of Alder trees (<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>). The water table is very near the surface and is only slightly brackish. Saltmarsh extends along the length of the landward side of the island. The edge of the marsh is marked by an eroding edge which varies from 20 cm to 60 cm high. The island shelters two intertidal lagoons which are divided by a solid causeway. The sediments of the lagoons are mainly sands with a small and varying mixture of silt and clay. Three rare plant species which are legally protected under the Flora (Protection) Order, 1999 have been recorded on the North Bull Island. The main land uses of this site are amenity activities and nature conservation. Sediment quality and disturbance through recreational activities are the main threats to this site.
004186	The Murrough SPA	13.27	The Murrough SPA comprises a coastal wetland complex. A shingle ridge runs along the length of the site and carries the Dublin-Wexford railway line. Beside the shingle shore is a stony ridge supporting perennial vegetation. At the southern end of the site, Broad Lough, a brackish, partly tidal lake, has a well-developed saltmarsh community. The shingle ridge at Kilcoole is a traditional nesting area for Little Tern, and the site now supports one of the largest colonies in the country. During the winter this site is important for a number of Waterbirds. Short-eared Owl is recorded here during the winter. Little Egret has bred locally in recent years and this site is a main feeding area, with several birds present regularly. No site specific threats have been identified by the NPWS.

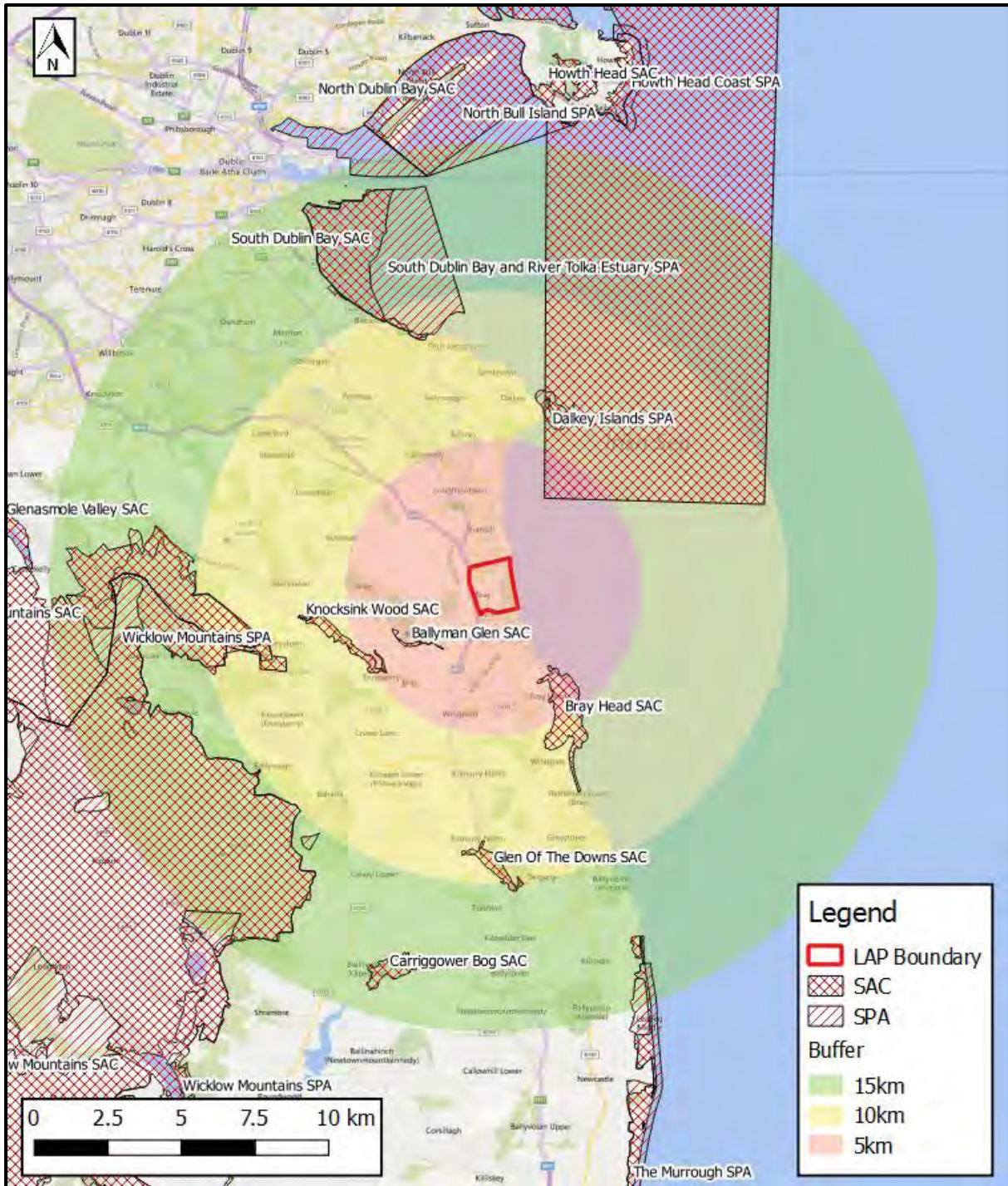


Figure 1 European Sites with hydrological links or within 15 km of the Plan Area

Source: NPWS (datasets downloaded January 2017; verified July 2017)

3.3 Assessment Criteria

3.3.1 Is the Plan Necessary to the Management of European Sites?

Under the Habitats Directive, Plans that are directly connected with or necessary to the management of a European Site do not require AA. For this exception to apply, management is required to be interpreted narrowly as nature conservation management in the sense of Article 6(1) of the Habitats Directive. This refers to specific measures to address the ecological requirements of annexed habitats and species (and their habitats) present on a site(s). The relationship should be shown to be direct and not a by-product of the plan, even if this might result in positive or beneficial effects for a site(s).

The primary purpose of the LAP is not the nature conservation management of the sites, but to provide for development and maintenance of transport facilities and services within the Plan area. Therefore, the LAP is not considered by the Habitats Directive to be directly connected with or necessary to the management of European designated sites.

3.3.2 Elements of the Plan with Potential to Give Rise to Effects

The Woodbrook-Shanganagh Local Area Plan contains policies and objectives which have the potential to give rise to effects on European Sites. The Plan contains provisions for residential development in Section 3.1, as well as the development of community facilities such as schools in Section 3.2. In addition to these, further community facilities are detailed in Section 3.7. Section 3.4 also contains provisions to support the development of a DART Station at Woodbrook as set out in the **National Transport Authority's (NTA) 'Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area 2016-2035' and the County Development Plan 2016-2022 Objective (SLO 127)**, as well as associated construction works such as a temporary surface carpark. Other facilities provided for within this section include Cycleway Routes.

These four sections pertain to construction works that are foreseen to have potential to affect the integrity of European Sites. Therefore, further assessment is required with specific reference to the conservation objectives and sensitivities of the European Sites with identified pathways for effects. The construction phase of the plan is thought to have the greatest level of associated effects as the operational phase of the plan is thought to only have localised effects.

Elements of the Plan, such as those detailed in the objectives of Section 3.3 are thought to have a positive ecological effect on the area. Such provisions include objective SI4 - To achieve best-practice and innovations in SuDS design as part of the Local Area Plan, including the successful co-ordination of surface water management with ecology and the amenity functions of open space and landscaped areas. All planning applications shall be accompanied by a surface water drainage plan which will include proposals for the management of surface water within sites and the protection of the water quality of existing water bodies and groundwater sources. The SuDS design will consider the most suitable and appropriate measures to accommodate groundwater recharge if required where groundwater supports any water features noted for conservation value. All planning applications shall be accompanied by a surface water drainage plan which will include proposals for the management of surface water within sites and the protection of the water quality of existing water bodies and groundwater sources.

3.3.3 Identification of Potential Likely Significant Effects

This section documents the final stage of the screening process. It has used the information collected on the sensitivity of each European Site and describes any likely significant effects resulting from the LAP. This assumes the absence of any controls, conditions, or mitigation measures. In determining the potential for significant effects, a number of factors have been taken into account. Firstly, the sensitivity and reported threats to the European Site. Secondly, the individual elements of the LAP and the potential effect they may cause to the site were considered. The elements of the LAP with potential to cause effect to European Sites are presented in Table 3-2 below.

Sites are screened out based on one or a combination of the following criteria:

- where it can be shown that there are no hydrological links between activities of the LAP, and the European Site being screened;
- where the site is located at a distance from LAP such that effects are not foreseen;
- where known threats or vulnerabilities at a site cannot be linked to potential effects that may arise from the LAP.

The following parameters are described when characterising impacts (following CIEEM (2016), EPA (2002) and NRA (2009)):

Direct and Indirect Impacts - An impact can be caused either as a direct or as an indirect consequence of a proposed development.

Magnitude - Magnitude measures the size of an impact, which is described as high, medium, low, very low or negligible.

Extent - The area over which the impact occurs – this should be predicted in a quantified manner.

Duration - The time for which the effect is expected to last prior to recovery or replacement of the resource or feature.

- Temporary: Up to 1 Year;
- Short Term: The effects would take 1-7 years to be mitigated;
- Medium Term: The effects would take 7-15 years to be mitigated;
- Long Term: The effects would take 15-60 years to be mitigated;
- Permanent: The effects would take 60+ years to be mitigated.

Likelihood – The probability of the effect occurring taking into account all available information.

- Certain/Near Certain: >95% chance of occurring as predicted;
- Probable: 50-95% chance as occurring as predicted;
- Unlikely: 5-50% chance as occurring as predicted;
- Extremely Unlikely: <5% chance as occurring as predicted.

The Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) guidelines for ecological impact assessment (CIEEM 2016) define an ecologically significant impact as an impact (negative or positive) on the integrity of a defined site or ecosystem and/or the conservation status of habitats or species within a given geographic area. The integrity of a site is the coherence of its ecological structure and function, across its whole area, which enables it to sustain the habitat, complex of habitats and/or the levels of populations of the species for which it was classified (CIEEM, 2016).

The Habitats Directive requires the focus of the assessment at this stage to be on the integrity of the site as indicated by its Conservation Objectives. It is an aim of NPWS to draw up conservation management plans for all areas designated for nature conservation. These plans will, among other things, set clear objectives for the conservation of the features of interest within a site.

Site-specific conservation objectives (SSCOs) have been prepared for a number of European Sites. These detailed SSCO's aim to define favourable conservation condition for the qualifying habitats and species at that site by setting targets for appropriate attributes which define the character habitat. The maintenance of the favourable condition for these habitats and species at the site level will contribute to the overall maintenance of favourable conservation status of those habitats and species at a national level.

Favourable conservation status of a species can be described as being achieved when: 'population data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself, and the natural range of the species is neither being reduced or likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future, and there is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis.'

Favourable conservation status of a habitat can be described as being achieved when: 'its natural range, and area it covers within that range, is stable or increasing, and the ecological factors that are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future, and the conservation status of its typical species is favourable'.

Generic Conservation Objectives for cSACs have been provided as follows:

- *To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected.*

One generic Conservation Objective has been provided for SPAs as follows:

- *To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA.*

The European Commission Environment DG document "**Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites: Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC**" **outlines the types of effects that may affect European sites. These include effects from the following activities:**

- Land take
- Resource Requirements (Drinking Water Abstraction Etc.)
- Emissions (Disposal to Land, Water or Air)
- Excavation Requirements
- Transportation Requirements
- Duration of Construction, Operation, Decommissioning

In addition, the guidance document outlines the following likely changes that may occur at a designated site, which may result in effects on the integrity and function of that site:

- Reduction of Habitat Area
- Disturbance to Key Species
- Habitat or Species Fragmentation
- Reduction in Species Density
- Changes in Key Indicators of Conservation Value (Water Quality Etc.)
- Climate Change

The elements detailed above were considered with specific reference to each of the European Sites identified in Section 3.2.

Table 3-2 Screening assessment of European Sites within 15km or with significant hydrological links to the LAP boundary

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Interests & Special Conservation Interests (Sensitive Receptors)	Potential effects (Sources of effects with regard to the qualifying interests, special conservation interests and/or conservation objectives of the European Site)	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
000713	Ballyman Glen SAC	1.69	Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>) [7220] Alkaline fens [7230]	The QI's of the site are sensitive to water quality and alterations in the water table/chemistry. There is no hydrological link to the site as the SAC resides upstream of the LAP. There are no pathways or hydrological links between the LAP and this SAC. There are no likely effects foreseen as a result of the implementation of the Plan.	No	No
000714	Bray Head SAC	1.98	Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230] European dry heaths [4030]	There are no pathways for effects to the qualifying interests listed for this SAC. There is no hydrological link to the QI's of the site.	No	No
000725	Knocksink Wood SAC	3.49	Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>) [7220] Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i>) [91E0]	There are no pathways or hydrological links between the LAP and this SAC. There are no likely effects foreseen as a result of the implementation of the Plan.	No	No
004172	Dalkey Islands SPA	4.55	Roseate Tern (<i>Sterna dougallii</i>) [A192] Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193] Arctic Tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) [A194]	The SCI species listed as qualifying features of this SPA are most sensitive to direct disturbance due to noise and/or increased activity on site. Disturbance to these species is thought to be negligible due to the distance. The attenuation of sound would not facilitate noise associated with any element of the plan to travel this distance. Therefore, there is no pathway for effects.	No	No
003000	Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC	4.71	Reefs [1170] <i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]	Disturbance to Harbour Porpoise is not foreseen to be likely due to the implementation of the LAP. There are no works proposed directly adjacent to the coast and the site is on clifftop. The site is 4.71km from the SAC and the attenuation of sound in salt water would not facilitate noise associated with any element of the plan to travel this distance. Therefore, no pathway for effect is foreseen. Objective SI4 of the LAP ensures best practice sediment control measures will be used for all developments. Similarly, all developments within the Plan that may give rise to significant effects to European Sites will be subject to a Site Specific Appropriate Assessment that will have fine scale detail to ensure no effects to any European Site occurs (Objective OR11).	No	No
002122	Wicklow Mountains SAC	6.69	Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>) [3110]	The SAC is upstream of the LAP. Therefore, there are no pathways or hydrological links between the LAP	No	No

			<p>Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160] Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010] European dry heaths [4030] Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060] Calaminarian grasslands of the <i>Violetalia calaminariae</i> [6130] Species-rich <i>Nardus</i> grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe) [6230] Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130] Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (<i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsietalia ladani</i>) [8110] Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8210] Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220] Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0] <i>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter) [1355]</p>	and this SAC. There are no likely effects foreseen as a result of the implementation of the Plan.		
004040	Wicklow Mountains SPA	6.98	<p>Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>) [A098] Peregrine (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>) [A103]</p>	The SCI species listed as qualifying features of this SPA are most sensitive to direct disturbance due to noise and/or increased activity on site. Disturbance to these species is thought to be negligible due to the distance. The attenuation of sound would not facilitate noise associated with any element of the plan to travel this distance. Therefore, there are no pathways for effects foreseen to be likely.	No	No
000719	Glen Of The Downs SAC	7.44	<p>Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0]</p>	There are no pathways or hydrological links between the LAP and this SAC. There are no likely effects foreseen as a result of the implementation of the Plan.	No	No
000210	South Dublin Bay SAC	7.92	<p>Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210] Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] Embryonic shifting dunes [2110]</p>	The SCI species listed as qualifying features of this SPA are most sensitive to direct disturbance due to noise and/or increased activity on site. Objective S14 of the LAP ensures best practice sediment control measures will be used for all developments. Disturbance to these species is thought to be negligible due to the distance. The attenuation of sound would not facilitate noise associated with any element of the plan to travel this distance. Therefore, there are no pathways for disturbance effects foreseen to be likely.	No	No
004024	South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA	7.92	<p>Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046] Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130] Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137]</p>	There is a hydrological link between the LAP and this SAC. However, the large distance between these sites and the dilution factor of the Irish Sea is thought to significantly reduce any effects as a result of the	No	No

			<p>Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143] Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144] Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149] Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa LAPponica</i>) [A157] Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162] Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179] Roseate Tern (<i>Sterna dougallii</i>) [A192] Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193] Arctic Tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) [A194] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]</p>	<p>implantation of the LAP. Objective SI4 of the LAP ensures best practice sediment control measures will be used for all developments. Similarly, all developments within the Plan that may give rise to significant effects to European Sites will be subject to a Site Specific Appropriate Assessment that will have fine scale detail to ensure no effects to any European Site occurs (Objective OR11).</p>		
002249	The Murrrough Wetlands SAC	11.46	<p>Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210] Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220] Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) [1330] Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410] Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i> [7210] Alkaline fens [7230]</p>	<p>There is a hydrological link between the LAP and this SAC. However, the large distance between these sites and the dilution factor of the Irish Sea is thought to significantly reduce any effects as a result of the implantation of the LAP. Objective SI4 of the LAP ensures best practice sediment control measures will be used for all developments. Similarly, all developments within the Plan that may give rise to significant effects to European Sites will be subject to a Site Specific Appropriate Assessment that will have fine scale detail to ensure no effects to any European Site occurs (Objective OR11).</p>	No	No
000716	Carriggower Bog SAC	11.49	<p>Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140]</p>	<p>There are no pathways or hydrological links between the LAP and this SAC. There are no likely effects foreseen as a result of the implementation of the Plan.</p>	No	No
004006	North Bull Island SPA	12.54	<p>Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046] Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048] Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052] Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) [A054] Shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>) [A056] Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130] Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140] Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143] Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144] Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149] Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156] Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa LAPponica</i>) [A157] Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160] Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162] Turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>) [A169] Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]</p>	<p>The SCI species listed as qualifying features of this SPA are most sensitive to direct disturbance due to noise and/or increased activity on site. Disturbance to these species is thought to be negligible due to the distance. The attenuation of sound would not facilitate noise associated with any element of the plan to travel this distance. Therefore, there are no pathways for effect identified.</p>	No	No

000206	North Dublin Bay SAC	13.27	<p>Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210] Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) [1330] Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410] Embryonic shifting dunes [2110] Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120] Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130] Humid dune slacks [2190] <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> (Petalwort) [1395]</p>	The SCI species listed as qualifying features of this SPA are most sensitive to direct disturbance due to noise and/or increased activity on site. Disturbance to these species is thought to be negligible due to the distance. The attenuation of sound would not facilitate noise associated with any element of the plan to travel this distance.	No	No
004186	The Murrrough SPA	13.27	<p>Red-throated Diver (<i>Gavia stellata</i>) [A001] Greylag Goose (<i>Anser anser</i>) [A043] Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046] Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050] Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052] Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179] Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) [A184] Little Tern (<i>Sterna albifrons</i>) [A195] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]</p>	There is a hydrological link between the LAP and this SAC. However, the large distance between these sites and the dilution factor of the Irish Sea is thought to significantly reduce any effects as a result of the implantation of the LAP. Objective S14 of the LAP ensures best practice sediment control measures will be used for all developments. Similarly, all developments within the Plan that may give rise to significant effects to European Sites will be subject to a Site Specific Appropriate Assessment that will have fine scale detail to ensure no effects to any European Site occurs (Objective OR11).	No	No

3.4 Other Plans and Programs

Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive requires an assessment of a plan or project to consider other plans or programmes that might, in combinations with the plan or project, have the potential to adversely impact upon European Sites. The characteristics of the LAP are foreseen to have very low effects to any European Sites. Therefore, the in-combination effects do not need to be considered, as per the CIEEM 2016 guidelines. It is thought that the proposed LAP in-combination with the project listed above are not likely to have significant effects on any European Site. However, following a precautionary approach relevant plans and projects have been assessed. A list of the plans and projects considered are as follows:

- Dún Laoghaire – Rathdown County Development Plan 2016 -2022
- Dublin City Development Plan 2016-2022;
- Wicklow County Development Plan 2016-2022;
- South Dublin County Development Plan 2016-2022;
- Cherrywood SDZ Planning Scheme, April 2014;
- Greater Dublin Area Transport Strategy, 2011 – 2030;
- Smarter Travel: A Sustainable Transport Future, A new Transport policy for Ireland, 2009 – 2020;
- Greater Dublin Strategic Drainage Study, 2002-2031;
- Dún Laoghaire Harbour Masterplan (2011);
- Eastern RBD Management Plan 2009-2015;
- Sandyford Urban Framework Plan 2016-2022
- Deansgrange Local Area Plan 2010-2020
- Goatstown Local Area Plan 2012-2018
- Kiltiernan/Glenamuck Local Area Plan 2013 - 2019
- Glencullen Local Area Plan 2008 – 2018
- Water Supply Project Eastern and Midland Region

Table 3-3 outlines plans or projects that were considered which may interact with the LAP to cause in-combination effects to European Sites.

Table 3-3 Plans and projects likely to cause in-combination effects

Plan or project	Status	Overview	Possible significant effects from plan or project	Possible significant in-combination effects	Risk of significant in-combination effects with the Woodbrook-Shanganagh Local Area Plan
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Development Plan 2016 -2022	Published	The Plan sets out Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council's policies for the sustainable development of the County to 2016 and beyond.	No Appropriate Assessment carried out	No Potential impacts are to be avoided through mitigatory policies in the Development Plan.	Mitigation Measures proposed within both the Plan and the Planning Scheme are robust. Development proposals which arise as a result of the Development Plan are subject to Appropriate Assessment. This will provide specific project level detail to ensure no adverse significant effects to European Sites.
Dublin City Development Plan 2016-2022;	Published	The Dublin City Development Plan sets out policies and objectives for Dublin City. This plan guides how and where development will take place in the city over the next 6 years. This includes SDRA sites including the Poolbeg Peninsula.	Yes Appropriate Assessment carried out	No Potential impacts are to be avoided through mitigatory policies in the Development Plan.	Major projects within the Dublin City Development Plan will be subject to an Environmental Impact Assessment and all statutory requirements, including a public consultation process, by the relevant authorities. An Appropriate Assessment of the proposed project is also required in accordance with the Habitats Directive.
Wicklow County Development Plan 2016-2022;	Published	For County Wicklow to be a cohesive community of people enjoying distinct but interrelated urban and rural environments; where natural surroundings and important resources are protected; where opportunities abound to live and work in a safe atmosphere, allowing people to enjoy the benefits of well paid jobs, a variety of housing choices, excellent public services, ample cultural and leisure opportunities, and a healthy environment.	Yes Appropriate Assessment carried out	No Potential impacts are to be avoided through mitigatory policies in the Development Plan.	Mitigation Measures proposed within both the Plan and the Planning Scheme are robust. Development proposals which arise as a result of the Development Plan are subject to Appropriate Assessment. This will provide specific project level detail to ensure no adverse significant effects to European Sites.

South Dublin County Development Plan 2016-2022;	Published	The Development Plan sets out South Dublin County Council's policies and objectives for the continued development of the County from 2016 to 2022. The Plan seeks to develop and improve in a sustainable manner the social, economic, cultural and environmental assets of the County.	No Stage 1 Appropriate Assessment carried out	No Potential effects are to be avoided through avoidance policies in the Development Plan.	South Dublin County Development Plan has generally been formulated to ensure that uses, developments, and effects arising from permissions based upon the Plan (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects) shall not give rise to significant adverse impacts on the ecological integrity of any European sites.
Cherrywood SDZ Planning Scheme, April 2014;	Published	Strategic framework for residential development and the provision of schools and other educational facilities, commercial activities, including office, hotel, leisure and retail facilities, rail infrastructure, emergency services and the provision of community facilities as referred to in Part III of the First Schedule to the Act, including health and childcare services	Yes However, iterative AA and SEA processes were conducted as part of the process. Robust mitigation measures were put in place.	Yes However, iterative AA and SEA processes were conducted as part of the process. Robust mitigation measures were put in place.	The mitigation measures proposed within the AA limit the potential of the Planning Scheme on the integrity of European Sites. The potential likely effects from the LAP are thought to be very-low (as detailed above). Therefore, it is not likely that significant in combination effects to the integrity of any European Site will arise.
Greater Dublin Area Transport Strategy, 2011 – 2030;	Published	The Transport Strategy provides a framework for the planning and delivery of transport infrastructure and services in the Greater Dublin Area (GDA) for the next two decades. It also provides a transport planning policy around which other agencies involved in land use planning, environmental protection, and delivery of other infrastructure such as housing, water and power, can align their investment priorities. It is, therefore, an essential component, along with investment programmes in other sectors, for the orderly development of the GDA over the next 20 years.	No Stage 1 Appropriate Assessment carried out	No Potential effects are to be avoided through avoidance policies in the Strategy.	The potential effects of the Strategy were assessed to be negligible by the AA Screening report. Therefore, no in-combination effects are foreseen.
Smarter Travel: A Sustainable Transport	Published	A framework for actions aimed at ensuring that alternatives to the	No	No	The overall aim of this strategy is to reduce the use of cars to move

<p>Future, A new Transport policy for Ireland, 2009 – 2020;</p>		<p>car are more widely available, mainly through a radically improved public transport service and through investment in cycling and walking. Actions aimed at improving the fuel efficiency of motorised transport through improved fleet structure, energy efficient driving and alternative technologies, and actions aimed at strengthening institutional arrangements to deliver the targets.</p>	<p>Stage 1 Appropriate Assessment carried out</p>	<p>Potential effects are to be avoided through avoidance policies in the Strategy.</p>	<p>towards a more sustainable ethos. Therefore, in combination effects are not foreseen.</p>
<p>Greater Dublin Strategic Drainage Study, 2002-2031;</p>	<p>Published</p>	<p>The Greater Dublin Drainage (GDD) initiative aims to provide strategic drainage infrastructure required for the Greater Dublin Area (GDA) to continue to develop. It is also required to protect the environment and ensure compliance with EU and national legislative requirements. The project involves the provision of a 26km pipeline, a wastewater treatment plant (WwTP) located at Clonshagh (Clonshaugh) and a marine outfall 6km out to sea from Baldoyle Bay. The project is being led by Fingal County Council, on behalf of Dublin City Council, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, and South Dublin County Council, in partnership with Kildare and Meath County Councils.</p>	<p>Yes However, iterative Ecological Assessments and SEA processes were conducted as part of the process. Robust mitigation measures were put in place.</p>	<p>Yes However, iterative Ecological Assessments and SEA processes were conducted as part of the process. Robust mitigation measures were put in place.</p>	<p>The mitigation measures proposed within the AA limit the potential of the Strategy on the integrity of European Sites. The potential likely effects from the LAP are thought to be very-low (as detailed above). Therefore, it is not likely that significant in combination effects to the integrity of any European Site will arise.</p>
<p>Dún Laoghaire Harbour Masterplan (2011);</p>	<p>Published</p>	<p>The articulation of policies in relation to the management of the harbour, with particular reference to heritage protection, is an important part of this plan. The policies have been developed with regard to the identification and</p>	<p>No SEA Screening Statement and Environmental Reports were prepared. No AA was undertaken.</p>	<p>No SEA Screening Statement and Environmental Reports were prepared. No AA was undertaken.</p>	<p>Minimal development is possible within this area and the plan largely relates to maintenance and progression of socio economic factors. Therefore, no in-combination effects are foreseen.</p>

		retention of character, the enhancement of the public realm, the repair of historic fabric and the addition of new interventions.			
Eastern RBD Management Plan 2009-2015;	Published	The ERBD Management Plan describes the actions that are proposed to ensure the necessary protection of our waters over the coming years. There is a second phase of the management plan due to be created.	No Appropriate Assessment carried out	No Screening for potential effects under Habitats Directive Article 6 process is put in place once details of the implementation of the programme of Measures (POMs) under the ERBD are known.	The actions and objectives in relation to the Water Framework Directive and the ERBD Management plan are to protect and restore Protected Areas.
Sandyford Urban Framework Plan 2016-2022	Published	The overall purpose of this Local Area Plan is to set out a strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of the plan area.	No AA and SEA processes were conducted as part of the process. Robust mitigation measures were put in place.	No AA and SEA processes were conducted as part of the process. Robust mitigation measures were put in place.	Minimal development is possible within this area and the plan largely relates to maintenance and progression of socio economic factors. Therefore, no in-combination effects are foreseen.
Deansgrange Local Area Plan 2010-2020	Published	The overall purpose of this Local Area Plan is to set out a strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of the plan area.	No No AA was undertaken.	No No AA was undertaken.	Minimal development is possible within this area and the plan largely relates to maintenance and progression of socio economic factors. Therefore, no in-combination effects are foreseen.
Goatstown Local Area Plan 2012-2018	Published	There are a very limited number of sites within the Plan area that have any significant or realistic development / redevelopment potential. The principle challenge for the Local Area Plan is therefore, to encourage and guide future development that enhances Goatstown and strengthens the area's overall sense of place whilst at the same time protecting the residential amenity of existing residents.	No No AA was undertaken.	No No AA was undertaken.	Minimal development is possible within this area and the plan largely relates to maintenance and progression of socio economic factors. Therefore, no in-combination effects are foreseen.

Kiltiernan/Glenamuck Local Area Plan 2013 - 2019	Published	The overall purpose of this Local Area Plan is to set out a strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of the plan area.	No AA Screening was undertaken and the effects were deemed to be negligible. An SEA processes was conducted as part of the process. Robust mitigation measures were put in place.	No AA Screening was undertaken and the effects were deemed to be negligible. An SEA processes was conducted as part of the process. robust mitigation measures were put in place.	The potential effects of the LAP were assessed to be negligible by the AA Screening report. Therefore, no in-combination effects are foreseen.
Glencullen Local Area Plan 2008 – 2018	Published	The overall purpose of this Local Area Plan is to set out a strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of the plan area.	No No AA was undertaken.	No No AA was undertaken.	Minimal development is possible within this area and the plan largely relates to maintenance and progression of socio economic factors. Therefore, no in-combination effects are foreseen.
Water Supply Project Eastern and Midland Region	Feasibility; Under Assessment	The project aims to fulfil the growing demand for fresh drinking water within the Dublin Region. The current emerging preferred option is for abstraction from the Parteen Weir Site controlled by the ESB. An underground pipeline would connect the abstraction point to a terminal point in west Dublin.	Yes Appropriate Assessment is currently being carried out	No Mitigation measures will be put in place to minimise effects.	There is no hydrological link between the abstraction point and the zone of influence of Woodbrook-Shanganagh LAP. Therefore, only possible local effects were considered in addition to abstraction volume. Mitigation measures are being formulated within the WSP to ensure that the Water Table remains consistent through interactions with the ESB pumping station at Parteen.

4 Conclusions

Stage 1 Screening for AA of the Woodbrook-Shanganagh Local Area Plan has been carried out. It has been demonstrated that implementation of the Plan is not foreseen to have any likely significant effects on any European Site.

The LAP is not located within or directly adjacent to any European Site. The Appropriate Assessment screening process considered potential effects which may arise during the construction and operational phases as a result of the implementation of the LAP. Through an assessment of the pathways for effects and an evaluation of the LAP characteristics, taking account of the processes involved and the distance of separation between European Sites in the wider area, it has been evaluated that there are no likely significant adverse effects on the qualifying interests, special conservation interest or the conservation objectives of any designated European Site. The characteristics of the LAP are not foreseen to significantly affect the ecological integrity of European Sites.

It is concluded that the LAP is not foreseen to give rise to any significant adverse effects on designated European sites⁶, alone or in combination with other plans or projects. This evaluation is made in view of the conservation objectives of the habitats or species for which these sites have been designated. Consequently, a Stage 2 – Natura Impact Statement is not required for the LAP.

⁶ Except as provided for in Section 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be:

- a) no alternative solution available,
- b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the plan to proceed; and
- c) Adequate compensatory measures in place.

**Appropriate Assessment Determination under:
the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)**

for the:

Woodbrook-Shanganagh Local Area Plan 2017 - 2023

An Appropriate Assessment (AA) determination has been made by for Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council regarding the Woodbrook-Shanganagh Local Area Plan 2017 - 2023.

Section 28 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), requires, inter alia, a determination to be made as to whether Local Area Plans warrant the undertaking of AA. An Appropriate Assessment determination [pursuant to Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive as to whether or not a plan or project would adversely affect the integrity of a European site and the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)] is being made by Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council.

In carrying out this Appropriate Assessment, the Council is taking into account the relevant matters specified under Part XAB of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), including:

- Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Development Plan (and associated NIR and SEA reports);
- The Strategic Environmental Screening Report; and
- The Screening Statement.

It is determined that the risks to the safeguarding and integrity of the qualifying interests, special conservation interests and conservation objectives of all European Sites have been addressed within the Woodbrook-Shanganagh LAP. These prioritise the avoidance of effects in the first place and will reliably mitigate these effects where these cannot be avoided. In addition, any lower level projects arising through the implementation of the Plan will themselves be subject to relevant stages of Appropriate Assessment when further details of design and location are known.

Having incorporated these mitigation commitments; it is considered that the Woodbrook-Shanganagh Local Area Plan 2017 – 2023 is not foreseen to have any likely significant effects on the ecological integrity of any European Site¹.

Signed: 

Signatory
Approved Officer

¹ Except as provided for in Section 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be:

- a) no alternative solution available,
- b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the plan to proceed; and
- c) Adequate compensatory measures in place.

