

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Biodiversity Action Plan

AA Screening

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Contract

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Purpose

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Abbreviations

| | |
|--------|--|
| AA | Appropriate Assessment |
| BAP | Biodiversity Action Plan |
| CIEEM | Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management |
| CJEU | Court of Justice of the European Union |
| DLRCC | Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council |
| DoEHLG | Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government |
| EA | Environment Agency |
| EC | European Community |
| EPA | Environmental Protection Agency |
| GSI | Geological Survey of Ireland |
| GWB | Groundwater Body |
| IROPI | Imperative Reason of Overriding Public Interest |
| NBDC | National Biodiversity Data Centre |
| NIR | Natura Impact Report |
| NPF | National Planning Framework |
| NPWS | National Parks and Wildlife Service |
| QI | Qualifying Interest |
| SAC | Special Area of Conservation |
| SPA | Special Protection Area |
| WFD | Water Framework Directive |
| ZOI | Zone of Influence |

1 Introduction

1.1 Background

JBA Consulting Ireland Ltd. has been commissioned by Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council (DLR) to undertake an AA Screening of the Draft Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) 2021 – 2025.

The draft BAP sets out themes, objectives, and goals for the protection of biodiversity at the county (local) level over the period of 2021-2025 and will replace the previous BAP when adopted.

The production of a Biodiversity Action Plan for the county is also listed in the:

- Dún Laoghaire- Rathdown (DLR) Development Plan 2016-2022 (DLRCC 2016) (currently in draft stage for 2022-2028),
- DLR Climate Change Action Plan 2019-2024 (DLRCC 2019),
- DLR Heritage Plan, DLR Local Agenda 21 programme (DLRCC 2004)
- DLR Corporate Plan 2020-2024 (DLRCC 2020).

This AA Screening documents the Appropriate Assessment process and results in accordance with Article 42 of the 2011 Bird and Habitats Regulations, which implements the Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora) into Irish Law.

1.2 Legislative Context

The Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/EEC) aims to maintain or restore the favourable conservation status of habitats and species of community interest across Europe. The requirements of Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive have been transposed into Irish legislation by means of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 477 of 2011).

Under the Directive, a network of sites of nature conservation importance have been identified by each Member State as containing specified habitats or species requiring to be maintained or returned to favourable conservation status. In Ireland the network consists of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs), and also candidate sites, which together form the *Natura 2000* network.

Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive requires that, in relation to European designated sites (i.e. SACs and SPAs that form the *Natura 2000* network), "*any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to **appropriate assessment** of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives*".

A competent authority (e.g. Local Authority) can only agree to a plan or project after having determined that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned.

The competent authority is Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council.

1.3 Appropriate Assessment Process

Guidance on the Appropriate Assessment (AA) process was produced by the European Commission in 2002, which was subsequently developed into guidance specifically for Ireland by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DoEHLG 2009 rev 2010) These guidance documents identify a staged approach to conducting an AA, as shown in Figure 1-1.



Figure 1-1: The Appropriate Assessment Process

1.3.1 Stage 1 - Screening for AA

The initial, screening stage of the Appropriate Assessment is to determine:

- whether the proposed plan or project is directly connected with, or necessary for, the management of the European designated site for nature conservation
- if it is likely to have a significant adverse effect on the European designated site, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects

For those sites where potential adverse impacts are identified, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, further assessment is necessary to determine if the proposals will have an adverse impact on the integrity of a European designated site, taking into account the sites conservation objectives (i.e. the process proceeds to Stage 2).

1.3.2 Stage 2 - AA

This stage requires a more in-depth evaluation of the plan or project, and the potential direct and indirect impacts arising from it on the integrity and the interest features of the European designated site(s), alone and in-combination with other plans and projects, taking into account the site's structure, function and conservation objectives. Where required, mitigation or avoidance measures will be suggested.

The competent authority can only agree to the plan or project after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site(s) concerned. If this cannot be determined, and where mitigation cannot be achieved, then alternative solutions will need to be considered (i.e. the process proceeds to Stage 3).

1.3.3 Stage 3 - Alternative Solutions

Where adverse impacts on the integrity of European sites are identified, and mitigation cannot be satisfactorily implemented, alternative ways of achieving the objectives of the plan or project that avoid adverse impacts need to be considered. If none can be found, the process proceeds to Stage 4.

1.3.4 Stage 4 - IROPI

Where adverse impacts of a plan or project on the integrity of European sites are identified and no alternative solutions exist, the plan will only be allowed to progress if 'imperative reasons of overriding public interest' can be demonstrated. In this case compensatory measures will be required.

The process only proceeds through each of the four stages for certain plans or projects. For example, for a plan or project, not connected with management of a site, but where no likely significant impacts are identified, the process stops at stage 1. Throughout the process, the precautionary principle must be applied, so that any uncertainties do not result in adverse impacts on a site.

1.3.5 Recent judgements of the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) and how they are used in this assessment

The CJEU issued a ruling on the consideration of avoidance and reduction measures as a result of the case known as *People over Wind, Peter Sweetman v Coillte Teoranta* (Case C-323/17). This judgement stated that measures intended to reduce or avoid effects on a European site should only be considered within the framework of an AA, and it is not permissible to take into account such measures at the screening stage. In practice, this means that any activities that are not integral to the project (i.e. the project could conceivably take place without them) and have the effect of avoiding or reducing an impact on a European site, cannot be considered at the screening stage.

The CJEU ruling in the case of *Grace & Sweetman* [2018] (C-164/17) clarified the difference between avoidance and reduction (mitigation) measures and compensation. Measures intended to compensate for the negative effects of a project cannot be taken into account in the assessment of the implications of a project, and instead are considered under Article 6(4). This means that any project where an effect on the integrity of a European site remains and can only be offset by compensation, would need to proceed under Article 6(4), demonstrating "imperative reasons of overriding public interest".

The judgements referred to as the Dutch Nitrogen cases [2018] (C-293/17 and C-294/17) have important implications for projects that could potentially impact on sites that are exceeding critical thresholds for input of damaging ammonia (but could also reasonably apply where other nutrients are impacting European sites). The judgements state that the use of thresholds to exclude project

impacts is acceptable in principle, and that strategic plans can be used as mitigation but only with consideration of the certainty (or otherwise) of the outcomes of those strategic plans. It clarifies that where the status of a habitat type is already unfavourable the possibility of authorising activities which increase the problem is necessarily limited.

The CJEU ruling in the case of *Holohan v An Bord Pleanála* (C-462/17) also clarified the importance in AA of taking into account habitat types and species outside the boundary of the European site, where implications of the impacts on those habitat and species may impact the conservation objectives of the European site. In this assessment functionally linked and supporting habitat for species outside of European site boundaries are assessed where they could potentially impact the conservation objectives of any screened in European sites.

1.4 Methodology

This Screening has been prepared having regard to the Birds and Habitats Directives, the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011-15 as amended and relevant jurisprudence of the EU and Irish courts. The following documents have also used to provide guidance during the assessment:

- DoEHLG (2009) *Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland Guidance for Planning Authorities*. Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government. Revised 2010.
- European Commission (2000) *Managing Natura 2000 Sites: the provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC*, Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Luxembourg. European Commission.
- European Commission (et al. 2002) *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. European Commission.
- EC (2013) *Interpretation Manual of European Union Habitats*. Version EUR 28. European Commission.
- Fossitt, J. (2000). *A Guide to Habitats in Ireland*. The Heritage Council, Kilkenny.
- *Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland - Terrestrial, Freshwater and Coastal*, Second Ed. (Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, (CIEEM 2018)
- (DTA 2021) *The Habitats Regulations Assessment Handbook*, UK by Tyldesley, D. and Chapman, C. (accessed online only with login requirements)

1.5 Desktop Survey

A desktop survey was conducted of available published and unpublished information, along with a review of data available on the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and National Biodiversity Data Centre (NBDC) web-based databases, in order to identify key habitats and species (including legally protected and species of conservation concern) that may be present within ecologically relevant distances from the scheme as explained below. The data sources below were consulted for the desktop study:

- NPWS website (www.npws.ie), (<https://www.npws.ie/>), where site synopses, Natura 2000 data forms and conservation objectives were obtained along with Annex I habitat distribution data and status reports.
- (NPWS 2019a) *The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland. Volume 1: Summary Overview*. Unpublished NPWS report.
- (NPWS 2019b) *The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland. Volume 2: Habitat Assessments*. Unpublished NPWS report.
- (NPWS 2019c). *The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland. Volume 3: Species Assessments*. Unpublished NPWS report.
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA 2021) maps website (<https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/>)
- Geological Survey Ireland Spatial Resources (GSI 2021) maps website (dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/)

1.5.1 Limitations and Constraints

The screening assessment necessarily relies on some assumptions and it was inevitably subject to some limitations. These do not affect the conclusion, but the following points are recorded in order to ensure the basis of the assessment is clear:

- The BAP is a higher-level plan. Therefore, this assessment cannot include any detailed assessment of any projects that may arise as a result of implementation of this Plan. Where broad level assessments are required to determine the potential for cumulative or in-combination impacts, the precautionary principle is used.
- Much of the implementation and monitoring of the plan is dependent on collaboration with stakeholders and a range of agencies. The implementation of the Plan will also depend on the economic climate, political support, council funding and availability of funding from other sources. It is not possible to predict with certainty where these can be relied upon or where unpredictable changes will occur. However, the assumption is made that in all instances legislation will be followed and further AA will occur where needed by the Competent Authority.
- Any changes to the BAP will require re-assessment by a suitably qualified Ecologist to determine if further screening and assessment will be required. In all instances of this assessment, the precautionary principle is used.

2 Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Biodiversity Action Plan 2021-2025

2.1 Profile of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown is small urban county with limited space and with many pressures on biodiversity including increased pressure from development. Green space in the urban area include Shanganagh Park, Marlay Park, Deerpark, Cabinteely Park, and a number of other open spaces such as golf courses within. Much of the county is also located in the Wicklow Mountains and include agricultural land, bog and heath and woodlands.

A map of the county's green spaces and wildlife corridors is shown in Figure 2-1.

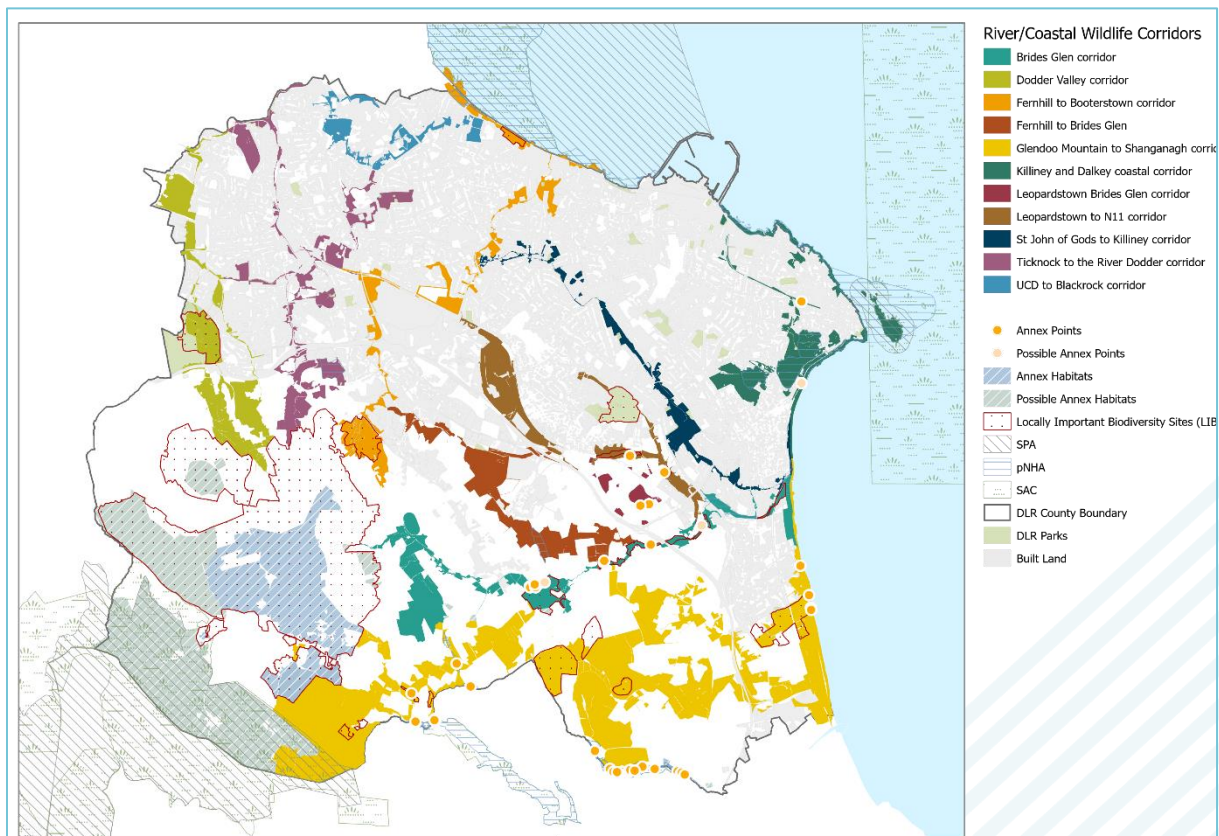


Figure 2-1 Ecological Network Map developed by DLRCC.

2.2 Background of BAP

The BAP recognises there are many challenges for biodiversity, particularly in a county with a large urban environment, and there is a need to expand, improve and connect biodiversity in order to improve the landscape's resilience to climate change, providing natural solutions to reduce carbon and manage flood risk, and to sustain vital ecosystems, such as improved soil health, clean water and clean air.

The creation of the DLR Biodiversity Action Plan has taken into account the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030 and the National Biodiversity Action Plan 2017-2021, along with other plans and policies. This draft Plan is the second BAP written for DLR county, and it builds on the aims of the first Plan.

The BAP is separated in five separate themes and objectives, containing a total of 66 actions for biodiversity. Each action has further details described included the Agencies and Partners who will undertake the action, Indicators that the action is being carried out, the target to reach for each action, and climate change impacts and climate proofing for each action.

the themes and objectives to improve and connect biodiversity within the county includes:

- Theme 1 Reaching a deeper understanding of our county's biodiversity
- Objective 1: Strengthen the knowledge base for conservation, management, and sustainable use of biodiversity
- Theme 2 Making good decisions for biodiversity

- Objective 2: Mainstream biodiversity into decision-making and improve the management of this valuable resource
- Theme 3 Powerful actions to protect biodiversity and us
- Objective 3: Conserve and restore biodiversity and ecosystems, and support ecosystem services in DLR, including coastal and marine.
- Theme 4 Connecting People and Nature and Inspire a Positive Future
- Objective 4: Increase awareness, training and appreciation of biodiversity, ecosystems and ecosystem services
- Theme 5 Strength in Working Together
- Objective 5: Strengthen the effectiveness of collaboration between all stakeholders for the conservation of biodiversity, including with Local Communities, Local Authority Biodiversity Officers, LAWPRO, the National Biodiversity Data Centre, BirdWatch Ireland, NPWS and other State Bodies.
- Finally, there is a separate action to Monitor and Track the plan to 'Undertake an annual review of the implementation and success of the Actions proposed in the Biodiversity Action Plan 2019-2024 and future plans'

The Actions are screened for potential impacts to European Sites in Table 5-2

3 Existing Environment

This section summarises the relevant existing environment within the Plan boundaries and its surroundings. All relevant baseline data is information on the conditions necessary for the maintenance of European sites.

3.1.1 Surface waterbodies

The draft Plan Boundary lies within two Water Framework Directive (WFD) surface water sub-catchment including Dargle_SC_010 and Dodder_SC_010 (EPA, 2020).

The rivers within the Plan Boundary includes the Dodder, The Owendower, Kill-O-The-Grange Stream (also known as Deansgrange Stream), Carrickmines Stream, Shanganagh Stream, and the Glencullen River. These rivers are shown in relation to European Sites and the Plan Boundary in Figure 3-1.

All of these rivers outfall into the Irish Sea in to WFD Coastal Waterbodies: Dublin Bay, Irish Sea Dublin (HA 09), Southwestern Irish Sea - Killiney Bay (HA10).

Under the Water Framework Directive (WFD), the Status of the River from 2013 - 2018 is shown in Table 3-1 below.

Table 3-1 WFD Waterbodies and Status

| Waterbody Name (EPA code) | WFD Surface Waterbody Status (2013 -2018) |
|---|---|
| Kill of the Grange Stream_010 | Poor |
| Carrickmines Stream_010 | Moderate |
| Dargle_030 | Moderate |
| Dodder_050 | Moderate |
| Shanganagh_010 | Moderate |
| Owenadoher_010 | Good |
| Glencullen_010 | High |
| Glencullen_020 | Good |
| Dublin Bay | Good |
| Irish Sea Dublin (HA 09) | Good |
| Southwestern Irish Sea Killiney Bay (HA10) | High |

3.1.2 Groundwater bodies

The Plan boundary lies over three large groundwater bodies including Wicklow EA_G_076, Kilcullen IE_EA_G_003, and Dublin IE_EA_G_008, and two smaller GWB to the south of the Plan Enniskerry gravels IE_EA_G_038 and Industrial Facility (P0019-02) IE_EA_G_091 (GSI 2021).

Under the WFD Status 2013 - 2018, all groundwater bodies within the Plan boundary have been assigned a "Good" status, except Industrial Facility which has a status of "Poor" (EPA 2021). The location of these groundwater bodies in relation to the plan boundary is shown in Figure 3-2.

The GWB in the plan area are all noted as 'Poorly Productive' aquifer.

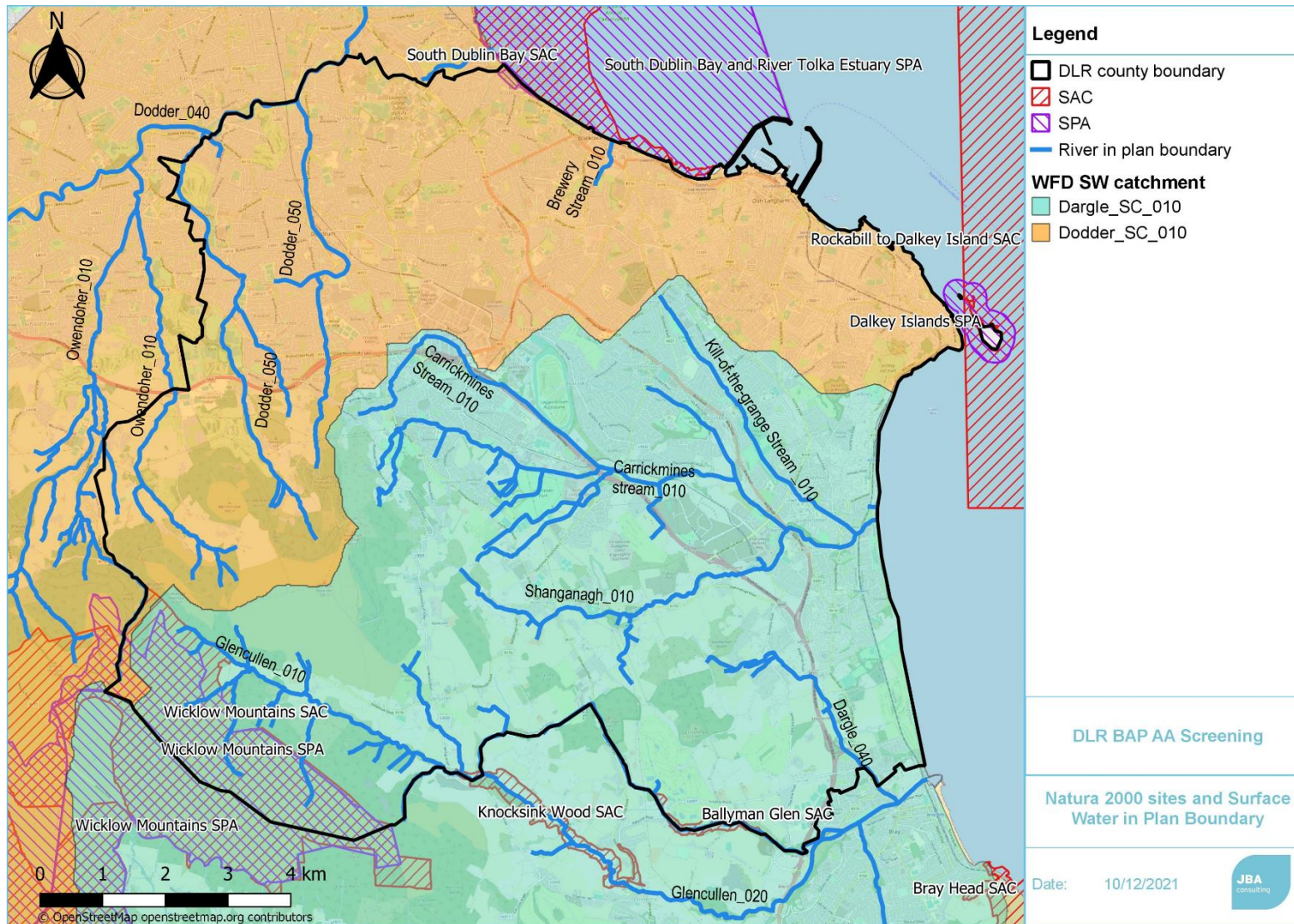


Figure 3-1 Surface water bodies and catchments connected to Plan boundary in relation to European Sites

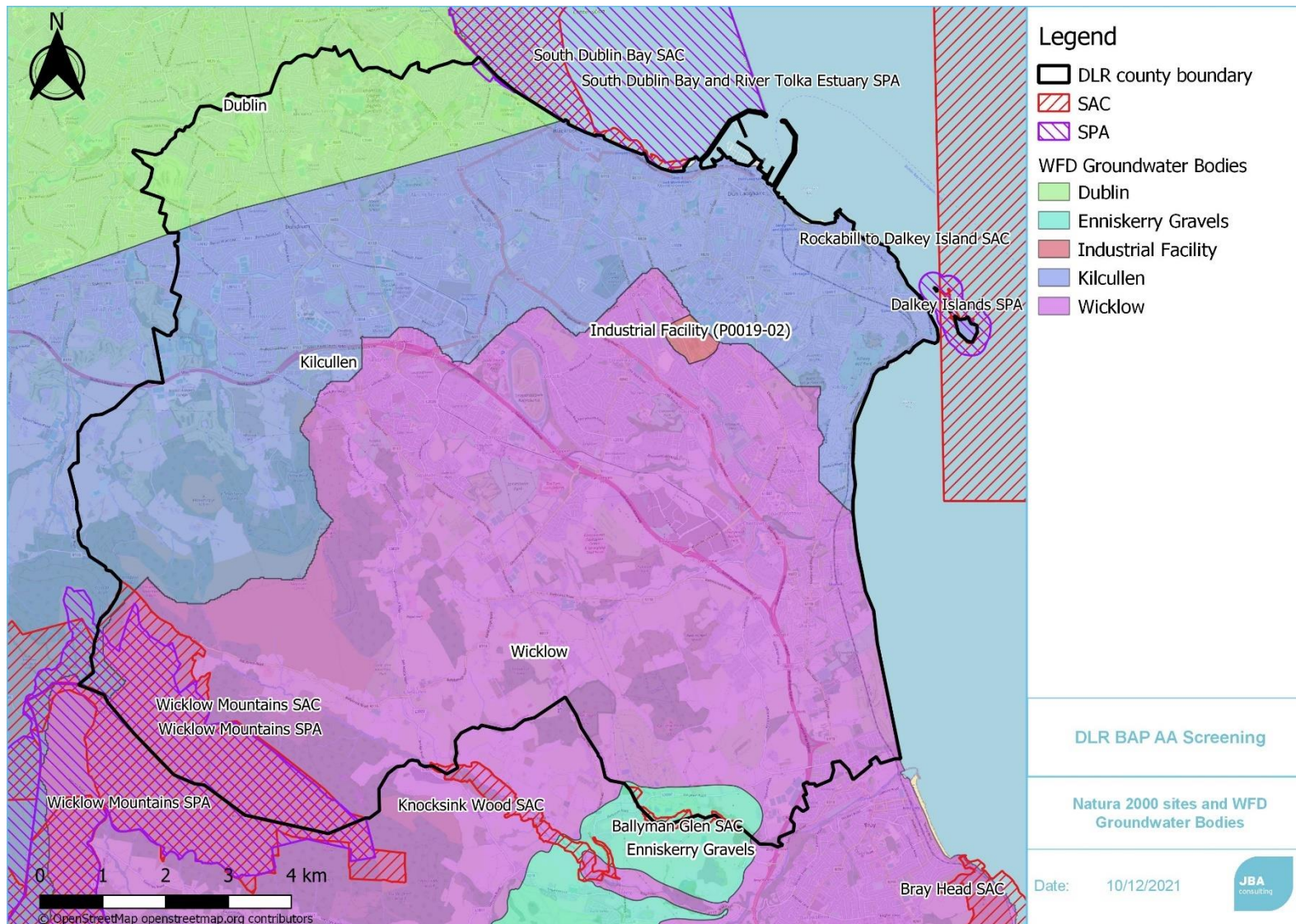


Figure 3-2 Groundwater bodies connected to Plan Boundary in relation to European Sites

4 European Sites, Pathways and Potential Impacts

4.1.1 Zone of Influence

The Zone of Influence (Zol) within which potential impacts from any proposed project or plan must be considered for significance depends on a variety of factors. This includes the nature, location and extent of the proposed works, the ecological receptors present within the European sites within the area and the potential for in-combination impacts (DoEHLG 2009). The DoEHLG (2009) guidance identifies that Screening for AA of a plan or project should consider the following European sites:

- Any European sites within or adjacent to the plan or project area.
- Any European sites within the likely Zol of the plan or project. This is dependent on the nature and scale of the plan, with 15km generally recommended for plans, but potentially much less for projects.
- Any European sites that are more than 15km from the plan or project area, but may potentially be impacted upon, for example, through a hydrological connection.

When determining the Zol for this Plan, the nature and scale of the proposed policies and objectives are considered in relation to the conservation objectives of the European sites that may be connected to the Plan. For an impact to occur, a Source (potential impacts from the Plan), Pathway (e.g. surface water, groundwater, land or air connectivity) and Receptor (Qualifying Interests (QIs) of the European sites) must be present.

4.2 European sites in Zol

There are eight European Site located within or adjacent to the Plan area and a further fifteen SACs and SPAs within 15km of the plan area. The European sites within the range are listed in Table 4-1 below.

These 23 European Sites are shown in Figure 4-1 in relation to the Plan Boundary, and are further described below in Table 4-2 with their Qualifying Interests and distances from the Plan Boundary.

Table 4-1: European sites located within the 15km (plus hydrological connectivity extension) Zone of Influence (Zol) of the proposed development.

| European site | Site Code | Approximate direct distance from site |
|--|-----------|---------------------------------------|
| Wicklow Mountains SAC | 002122 | 0km |
| Wicklow Mountains SPA | 004040 | 0km |
| Knocksink Wood SAC | 000725 | 0km |
| Ballyman Glen SAC | 000713 | 0km |
| Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC | 003000 | 0km |
| Dalkey Islands SPA | 004172 | 0km |
| South Dublin Bay SAC | 000210 | 0km |
| South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA | 004024 | 0km |
| Bray Head SAC | 000714 | 1.8km |
| Glenasmole Valley SAC | 001209 | 3.4km |
| North Bull Island SPA | 004006 | 4.6km |
| North Dublin Bay SAC | 000206 | 4.6km |
| Glen Of The Downs SAC | 000719 | 6.1km |
| Howth Head SAC | 000202 | 7.1km |
| Howth Head Coast SPA | 004113 | 8.6km |
| Baldoyle Bay SPA | 004016 | 9.8km |
| Baldoyle Bay SAC | 000199 | 9.8km |
| Carriggower Bog SAC | 000716 | 10km |
| The Murrrough Wetlands SAC | 002249 | 10km |

| | | |
|---------------------------|--------|------|
| Ireland's Eye SPA | 004117 | 11km |
| The Murrough SPA | 004186 | 12km |
| Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA | 004063 | 13km |
| Malahide Estuary SAC | 000205 | 14km |

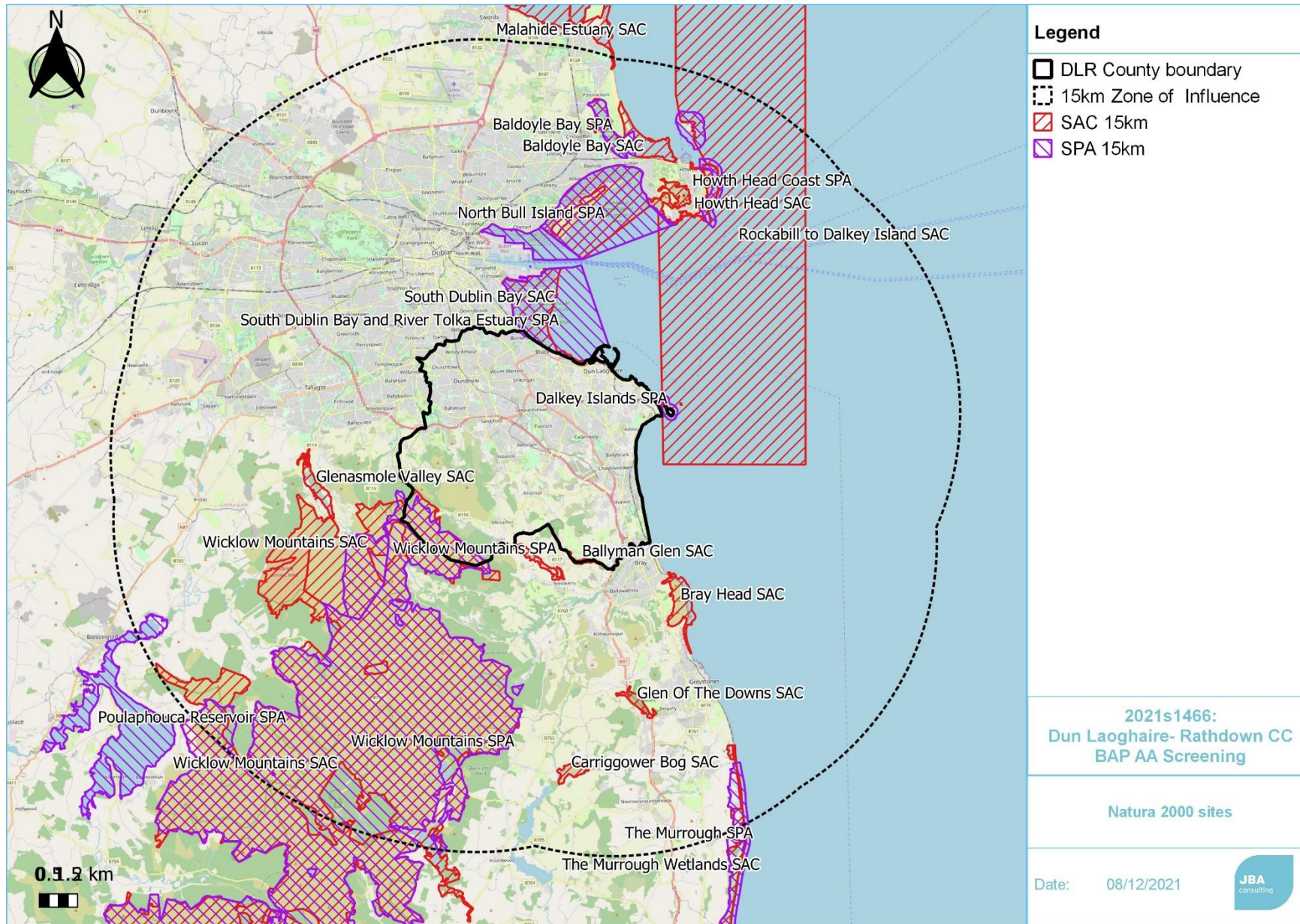


Figure 4-1 European Sites within 15km of the Plan Boundary

Table 4-2 European Sites within 15km of the Plan Area

| Sites within 15km of Plan area | Distance from Plan | Qualifying Interests |
|---|--------------------|--|
| Wicklow Mountains SAC 002122 | Within or adjacent | Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010], European dry heaths [4030], Western acidic oak woodland (Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles) [91A0], Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8210], Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220], Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>) [3110], Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (<i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsietalia ladani</i>) [8110], Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130], Calaminarian grasslands of the <i>Violetalia calaminariae</i> [6130], Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160], Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060], Species-rich <i>Nardus</i> grasslands on silicious substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas in Continental Europe) [6230], Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) [1355] |
| Wicklow Mountains SPA 004040 | Within or adjacent | Peregrine falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>) [A103], Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>) [A098], Wood warbler (<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>) [A314] |
| Knocksink Wood SAC 000725 | Within or adjacent | Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>) [7220] |
| Ballyman Glen SAC 000713 | Within or adjacent | Alkaline fens [7230], Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>)[7220] |
| Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC 003000 | Within or adjacent | Reefs [1170], Harbour porpoise (<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>) [1351] |
| Dalkey Islands SPA 004172 | Within or adjacent | Common tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193], Roseate tern (<i>Sterna dougallii</i>)[A192], Arctic tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) [A194] |
| South Dublin Bay SAC 000210 | Within or adjacent | Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210], <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonizing mud and sand [1310], Shifting dunes (Embryonic shifting dunes) [2110] |
| South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA 004024 | Within or adjacent | Eurasian oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130], Great crested grebe (<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>) [A005], Great cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017], Bar-tailed godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157], Arctic tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) [A194], Roseate tern (<i>Sterna dougallii</i>) [A192], Ringed plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137], Mew gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) [A182], Ruddy turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>) [A169], Common tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193], Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144], Mediterranean gull (<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>) [A176], Common redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162], Grey plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141], Red knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143], Eurasian curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160], Red-breasted merganser(<i>Mergus serrator</i>) [A069], Black-headed gull (<i>Larus ridibundus</i>) [A179] |
| Bray Head SAC | 1.8km | Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic Coasts [1230], European dry heaths [4030] |

| Sites within 15km of Plan area | Distance from Plan | Qualifying Interests |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|---|
| 000714 | | |
| Glenasmole Valley SAC 001209 | 3.4km | Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (* important orchid sites) [6210], Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae) [6410], Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220] |
| North Bull Island SPA 004006 | 4.6km | Ruff (Philomachus pugnax) [A151], Eurasian oystercatcher (Haematopus ostralegus) [A130], Ringed plover (Charadrius hiaticula) [A137], Sanderling (Calidris alba) [A144], Eurasian teal (Anas crecca) [A052], Red knot (Calidris canutus) [A143], European golden plover (Pluvialis apricaria) [A140], Eurasian curlew (Numenius arquata) [A160], Eurasian wigeon (Anas penelope) [A050], Mallard (Anas platyrhynchos) [A053], Grey plover (Pluvialis squatarola) [A141], Red-breasted merganser (Mergus serrator) [A069], Common shelduck (Tadorna tadorna) [A048], Northern shoveler (Anas clypeata) [A056], Northern pintail (Anas acuta) [A054], Ruddy turnstone (Arenaria interpres) [A169], Mew gull (Larus canus) [A182], Common greenshank (Tringa nebularia) [A164], Short-eared owl (Asio flammeus) [A222], Common redshank (Tringa totanus) [A162], Bar-tailed godwit (Limosa lapponica) [A157], Black-headed gull (Larus ridibundus)[A179] |
| North Dublin Bay SAC 000206 | 4.6km | Petalwort (Petalophyllum ralfsii) [1395], Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("grey dunes") [2130], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Atlantic salt meadows (Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae)) [1330], Salicornia and other annuals colonizing mud and sand [1310], Shifting dunes (Embryonic shifting dunes) [2110], Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210], Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria ("white dunes") [2120], Humid dune slacks [2190] |
| Glen Of The Downs SAC 000719 | 6.1km | Western acidic oak woodland (Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles) [91A0] |
| Howth Head SAC 000202 | 7.1km | European dry heaths [4030], Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic Coasts [1230] |
| Howth Head Coast SPA 004113 | 8.6km | Black-legged kittiwake (Rissa tridactyla) [A188], Common guillemot (Uria aalge) [A199], Peregrine falcon (Falco peregrinus) [A103], Northern fulmar (Fulmarus glacialis) [A009], Razorbill (Alca torda) [A200] |
| Baldoyle Bay SPA 004016 | 9.8km | Northern lapwing (Vanellus vanellus) [A142], Mallard (Anas platyrhynchos) [A053], Red-breasted merganser (Mergus serrator) [A069], Ringed plover (Charadrius hiaticula) [A137], Eurasian oystercatcher (Haematopus ostralegus) [A130], Sanderling (Calidris alba) [A144], Eurasian teal (Anas crecca) [A052], Red knot (Calidris canutus) [A143], Bar-tailed godwit (Limosa lapponica) [A157], Common redshank (Tringa totanus) [A162], Northern pintail (Anas acuta) [A054], Ruddy turnstone (Arenaria interpres) [A169], Grey plover (Pluvialis squatarola) [A141], Common shelduck (Tadorna |

| Sites within 15km of Plan area | Distance from Plan | Qualifying Interests |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|--|
| | | tadorna) [A048], European golden plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140], Eurasian curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160], Great crested grebe (<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>) [A005], Common greenshank (<i>Tringa nebularia</i>) [A164] |
| Baldoyle Bay SAC 000199 | 9.8km | Atlantic salt meadows (Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>)) [1330], <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonizing mud and sand [1310], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] |
| Carriggower Bog SAC 000716 | 10km | Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140] |
| The Murrrough Wetlands SAC 002249 | 10km | Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i> [7210], Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210], Alkaline fens [7230], Atlantic salt meadows (Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>)) [1330], Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220] |
| Ireland's Eye SPA 004117 | 11km | Great cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017], Northern fulmar (<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>) [A009], Atlantic puffin (<i>Fratercula arctica</i>) [A204], Razorbill (<i>Alca torda</i>) [A200], Black-legged kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) [A188], Northern gannet (<i>Morus bassanus</i>) [A016], Common guillemot (<i>Uria aalge</i>) [A199], Peregrine falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>) [A103] |
| Ireland's Eye SAC | 11.5km | Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic Coasts [1230], Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220] |
| The Murrrough SPA 004186 | 12km | Common redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162], Black-headed gull (<i>Larus ridibundus</i>) [A179], Northern lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142], Mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>) [A053], Short-eared owl (<i>Asio flammeus</i>) [A222], Common greenshank (<i>Tringa nebularia</i>) [A164], Herring gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) [A184], Greylag goose (<i>Anser anser</i>) [A043], Little tern (<i>Sterna albifrons</i>) [A195], Eurasian wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050], Eurasian curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160], Ringed plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137], Whooper swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>) [A038], Ruddy turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>) [A169], Sandwich tern (<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>) [A191], Greylag goose (<i>Anser anser</i>) [A043], European golden plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140], Little egret (<i>Egretta garzetta</i>) [A026], Ruff (<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>) [A151], Great cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017], Greenland white-fronted goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>) [A395], Northern shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>) [A056], Red-throated diver (<i>Gavia stellata</i>) [A001], Gadwall (<i>Anas strepera</i>) [A051], Eurasian teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052], Common shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048] |
| Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA 004063 | 13km | Great crested grebe (<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>) [A005], Eurasian teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052], Greylag goose (<i>Anser anser</i>) [A043], Mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>) [A053], Greylag goose (<i>Anser anser</i>) [A043], Mew gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) [A182], Common goldeneye (<i>Bucephala clangula</i>) [A067], Whooper swan |

| Sites within 15km of Plan area | Distance from Plan | Qualifying Interests |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|--|
| | | (Cygnus cygnus) [A038], Lesser black-backed gull (Larus fuscus) [A183], Eurasian curlew (Numenius arquata) [A160], Eurasian wigeon (Anas penelope) [A050], Great cormorant (Phalacrocorax carbo) [A017], Black-headed gull (Larus ridibundus) [A179] |
| Malahide Estuary SAC 000205 | 14km | Cord-grass swards (Spartina swards (Spartinion maritimae)) [1320], Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria ("white dunes") [2120], Salicornia and other annuals colonizing mud and sand [1310], Atlantic salt meadows (Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae)) [1330], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("grey dunes") [2130] |

4.3 An initial scoping of European sites within 15km of the proposed works

Twenty-six European sites are located within 15km of the Plan boundary. No further sites are hydrologically linked up to 20km.

Some of these European Sites can be further screened out based on pathways from the plan. In Table 4-3 below, these sites are further screened for pathways including surface water, groundwater, and air pathways, as well as disturbance to species if applicable. European sites are screened-in if they determined to be within at least one pathway in the ZOI.

Table 4-3: European Sites Pre-Screening based on ZI and potential pathways.

| European Sites within 15km of Plan area | | Distance from Plan | Surface water pathway | Groundwater pathway | Air Pathway | Disturbance pathway | Pathway? |
|--|--------|--------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|----------|
| Wicklow Mountains SAC | 002122 | 0km | Yes- SW dependant QIs | Yes - GW dependant QIs | Yes - in plan area | Yes- Otter | Yes |
| Wicklow Mountains SPA | 004040 | 0km | No | No | Yes - in plan area | Yes- Bird QI are mobile | Yes |
| Knocksink Wood SAC | 000725 | 0km | Yes- SW dependant QIs | Yes - GW dependant QIs | Yes - in plan area | No | Yes |
| Ballyman Glen SAC | 000713 | 0km | Yes- SW dependant QIs | Yes - GW dependant QIs | Yes - in plan area | No | Yes |
| Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC | 003000 | 0km | Yes (marine link) | No | No | Yes- Harbour Porpoise | Yes |
| Dalkey Islands SPA | 004172 | 0km | Yes (marine link) | No | Yes - in plan area | Yes- Bird QI are mobile | Yes |
| South Dublin Bay SAC | 000210 | 0km | Yes | No | Yes - in plan area | No | Yes |
| South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA | 004024 | 0km | Yes | No | Yes - in plan area | Yes- Bird QI are mobile | Yes |
| Bray Head SAC | 000714 | 1.8km | No | No | No | No | No |
| Glenasmole Valley SAC | 001209 | 3.4km | Yes | Yes - GW dependant QIs | No | No | Yes |
| North Bull Island SPA | 004006 | 4.6km | Yes (marine link) | No | No | Yes- Bird QI are mobile | Yes |
| North Dublin Bay SAC | 000206 | 4.6km | Yes (marine link) | No | No | No | Yes |
| Glen Of The Downs SAC | 000719 | 6.1km | No | No | No | No | No |
| Howth Head SAC | 000202 | 7.1km | No | No | No | No | No |
| Howth Head Coast SPA | 004113 | 8.6km | Yes (marine link) | No | No | Yes- Bird QI are mobile | Yes |
| Baldoyle Bay SPA | 004016 | 9.8km | Yes (marine link) | No | No | Yes- Bird QI are mobile | Yes |
| Baldoyle Bay SAC | 000199 | 9.8km | Yes (marine link) | No | No | No | Yes |

| European Sites within 15km of Plan area | | Distance from Plan | Surface water pathway | Groundwater pathway | Air Pathway | Disturbance pathway | Pathway? |
|---|--------|--------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------|-------------------------|----------|
| Carriggower Bog SAC | 000716 | 10km | No | No | No | No | No |
| The Murrough Wetlands SAC | 002249 | 10km | Yes (marine link) | No | No | No | Yes |
| Ireland's Eye SPA | 004117 | 11km | Yes (marine link) | No | No | Yes- Bird QI are mobile | Yes |
| Ireland's Eye SAC | | 11.5km | Marine link but QI not linked to SW | No | No | No | No |
| The Murrough SPA | 004186 | 12km | Yes (marine link) | No | No | Yes- Bird QI are mobile | Yes |
| Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA | 004063 | 13km | No | No | No | Yes- Bird QI are mobile | Yes |
| Malahide Estuary SAC | 000205 | 14km | Yes (marine link) | No | No | No | Yes |

4.4 Summary of Pre-Screening

Due to lack of pathways based on preliminary screening on Sites within the Zol of 15km, the following European Sites will not be further assessed for potential impacts:

- Bray Head SAC
- Glen Of The Downs SAC
- Howth Head SAC
- Carriggower Bog SAC
- Ireland's Eye SAC

The European sites that were identified which have pathway-receptors for potential likely significant effects arising from the implementation of the Plan are:

- Wicklow Mountains SAC
- Wicklow Mountains SPA
- Knocksink Wood SAC
- Ballyman Glen SAC
- Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC
- Dalkey Islands SPA
- South Dublin Bay SAC
- South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA
- Glenasmole Valley SAC
- North Bull Island SPA
- North Dublin Bay SAC
- Howth Head Coast SPA
- Baldoyle Bay SPA
- Baldoyle Bay SAC
- The Murrrough Wetlands SAC
- Ireland's Eye SPA
- The Murrrough SPA
- Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA
- Malahide Estuary SAC

5 Screening Assessment

This section considers the actions of the Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County BAP and identifies whether or not they are likely to have significant effects on European sites, either alone or in-combination with other plans.

Section 4 identified that the following European Sites within a 15km radius have a pathway with the plan boundary:

- Wicklow Mountains SAC
- Wicklow Mountains SPA
- Knocksink Wood SAC
- Ballyman Glen SAC
- Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC
- Dalkey Islands SPA
- South Dublin Bay SAC
- South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA
- Glenasmole Valley SAC
- North Bull Island SPA
- North Dublin Bay SAC
- Howth Head Coast SPA
- Baldoyle Bay SPA
- Baldoyle Bay SAC
- The Murrrough Wetlands SAC
- Ireland's Eye SPA
- The Murrrough SPA
- Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA
- Malahide Estuary SAC

5.1 Introduction

Assessment of the potential impacts of draft Plan actions is required under regulation 42 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 477 of 2011).

This section aims to identify whether the proposed Plan actions are likely to have a significant effect, either alone, or in-combination with other projects and plans, on the European Sites within the Zol.

The 'screening' process addresses and records the reasoning and conclusions in relation to the first two tests of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive:

- Is the plan or programme directly connected to or necessary for the management of the site; and
- Will the plan or programme, alone or in-combination with other plans and projects, have a significant effect on a European site in view of its conservation objectives.

If the effects are deemed to be significant, potentially significant or uncertain, then the plan or programme that is under assessment is subject to a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment, reported in the form of a NIR.

The actions of the draft Plan are not directly connected to the management of any European Sites; however, they could have potential to cause significant effects on European Sites.

5.2 Screening methodology

In accordance with DEHLG guidance, the key to determining if an AA is required for a Plan, is in the assessment of whether the plan and its policies and objectives are likely to have a significant effect on a European site.

For this process, the screening of this plan has been broken down into 4 steps.

1. Description of the programme (Section 2);
2. Screening of European sites within the ZoI of the plan dependent on the presence of potential pathways and nature of the qualifying interests. (Section 4))
3. Assessing the measures to identify potential impacts. Determining the significance of these potential impacts and the requirement for follow up assessments.
4. Screening Statement with conclusions. This is presented in Section 5.4.

5.2.1 The Precautionary Principle

If there is uncertainty, and it is not possible, based on the information available, to confidently determine no likely significant effects on a site then the precautionary principle will be applied, and the plan will be subject to an AA.

5.3 Actions of the draft BAP

The BAP actions have initially been screened following the methodology set out in DTA Publications Habitats Regulations Assessment Handbook (DTA 2021). Each policy is allocated one or more screening categories, shown in Table 5-1 below. The results of the initial screening are shown in Table 5-2. Where a number of categories to screen out a policy are applicable, the most relevant categories are listed in the table. The screening outcome includes any relevant in-combination assessment outcomes.

Table 5-1: Screening categories for the development policies (adapted from DTA, 2021)

| Screening Category | Description | Screening Outcome |
|--------------------|---|--|
| A | General statement of policy/ general aspiration. | Out |
| B | Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals. | Out |
| C | Proposal referred to but not proposed by the plan. | Out |
| D | Environmental Protection / site safeguarding policy. | Out |
| E | Policies or proposals that steer change in such a way as to protect European sites from adverse effects. | Out |
| F | Policy that cannot lead to development or other change. | Out |
| G | Policy or proposal that could not have any conceivable effect on a European site. | Out |
| H | Policy or proposal, the actual or theoretical effects of which cannot undermine the conservation objectives (either alone or in combination with other aspects of this or other plans or projects). | Out |
| I | Policy or proposal with a likely significant effect on a site alone. | In |
| J | Policy or proposal with an effect on a site but not likely to be significant alone, so need to check for likely significant effects in combination. | Dependant on in-combination test |
| K | Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in combination. | Screened out after in-combination test |
| L | Policy or proposal likely to have a significant effect in combination. | Screened in after in-combination test. |

Table 5-2: Screening table of DLR BAP actions

| Action number | Description | Screening category | Screening outcome |
|--|--|---|-------------------|
| Theme 1 Reaching a deeper understanding of our county’s biodiversity. | | | |
| Objective 1: Strengthen the knowledge base for conservation, management, and sustainable use of biodiversity | | | |
| Action 1.1 | Gather information and map our biodiversity within DLR | A – General statement policy / general aspiration | Out |
| Action 1.2 | Map all Locally Important Biodiversity Sites (LIBS) within DLR and identify opportunities to increase the number of sites | A – General statement policy / general aspiration D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices | Out |
| Action 1.3 | Identify and map all important species within DLR | A – General statement policy / general aspiration | Out |
| Action 1.4 | Develop DLR Habitat and Species Action Plans of our terrestrial, coastal and marine areas | A – General statement policy / general aspiration D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices | Out |
| Action 1.5 | Map and protect our important hedgerows and promote native hedgerow enhancement and planting | A – General statement policy / general aspiration D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices | Out |
| Action 1.6 | Update our County Ecological Network Map to protect and enhance DLR’S Green Infrastructure | A – General statement policy / general aspiration | Out |
| Action 1.7 | Identify important biodiversity areas most vulnerable to climate change, including terrestrial, watercourses, coastal and marine areas, and establish measures and projects that assist protection of vulnerable areas | A – General statement policy / general aspiration D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices | Out |
| Action 1.8 | Provide a central place for all biodiversity data for decision makers in DLR | A – General statement policy / general aspiration | Out |
| Action 1.9 | Provide a map browser at appropriate scale to provide biodiversity information for the public | A – General statement policy / general aspiration | Out |
| Action 1.10 | Support and encourage the volunteer network and local communities to carry out biological recording and citizen | A – General statement policy / general aspiration | Out |

| Action number | Description | Screening category | Screening outcome |
|--|---|---|-------------------|
| | science projects that contribute to our biodiversity information and protection of biodiversity | | |
| Action 1.11 | Assess the overall state of our biodiversity resource in the county | A – General statement policy / general aspiration | Out |
| Theme 2 Making good decisions for biodiversity | | | |
| Objective 2: Mainstream biodiversity into decision-making and improve the management of this valuable resource | | | |
| Action 2.1 | Develop best management guidelines for important habitats and species within DLR, and communicate these to the public, decision makers, landowners, managers and other land users | A – General statement policy / general aspiration D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices | Out |
| Action 2.2 | Input into the County Development Plan, Local Area Plans, County Tree Strategy, Special Amenity Area Orders and Historic Landscape Character Assessments, all of which offer potential in terms of addressing biodiversity at local level | A – General statement policy / general aspiration D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices | Out |
| Action 2.3 | Undertake an audit of current council policies and plans to improve the mainstreaming of biodiversity | A – General statement policy / general aspiration D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices | Out |
| Action 2.4 | Produce an Invasive Alien Species (IAS) Action Plan and ensure the implementation and monitoring of actions | Some European sites under threat/ pressure from Invasive species and will benefit from control of these species D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices E- Policies or proposals which steer change in such as way as to protect European sites from adverse effects | Out |
| Action 2.5 | Develop biodiversity management plans for open spaces within DLR ownership and update existing plans | A – General statement policy / general aspiration D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices | Out |
| Action 2.6 | Develop our Ecological Network Maps to inform planning and decision making | A – General statement policy / general aspiration D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices | Out |
| Action 2.7 | Produce guidance on net gain for biodiversity, including guidance for strategies, planning, mitigation measures, and investment in green infrastructure | A – General statement policy / general aspiration D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices | Out |
| Action 2.8 | Develop guidance related to Biodiversity, Ecosystem Services and Planning, to help those involved in | A – General statement policy / general aspiration D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site | Out |

| Action number | Description | Screening category | Screening outcome |
|---|--|---|-------------------|
| | Planning to ensure that development within the County protects and enhances its valuable biodiversity | safeguarding/ threshold polices | |
| Action 2.9 | Develop best practice guidance for Biodiversity and Greenway Developments to reduce the impacts of greenways on existing biodiversity, and enhancement of biodiversity and for biodiversity gains. | A – General statement policy / general aspiration D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices | Out |
| Action 2.10 | Incorporate the Inland Fisheries Ireland guidance: Planning for watercourses in the Urban Environment into our plans and policies | A – General statement policy / general aspiration D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices | Out |
| Action 2.11 | Develop guidelines to outline the process to be followed where there is the potential for artificial lighting to affect wildlife and apply these to planning development, new projects, lighting upgrades (retrofitting) and where there is evidence of wildlife being affected by existing artificial light. The aim of the guidelines is that artificial light will be managed so wildlife is not disrupted within, nor displaced from, important habitat; and is able to undertake critical behaviours, such as foraging, reproduction and dispersal. | A – General statement policy / general aspiration D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices | Out |
| Action 2.12 | Develop training and guidance for land managers and local authority staff in relation to hedgerow management | A – General statement policy / general aspiration D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices | Out |
| Theme 3 Powerful actions to protect biodiversity and us. | | | |
| Objective 3: Conserve and restore biodiversity and ecosystems, and support ecosystem services in DLR, including coastal and marine. | | | |
| Action 3.1 | Identify and map habitats, species and supporting features that provide ecosystem services | A – General statement policy / general aspiration D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices | Out |
| Action 3.2 | Work in collaboration with NPWS and others to score ecosystem services for habitats at a local level in DLR | A – General statement policy / general aspiration D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices | Out |
| Action 3.3 | Strengthen our understanding of natural capital and ecosystem services and incorporate into policy and decision-making in DLR | A – General statement policy / general aspiration D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices | Out |
| Action 3.4 | Identify opportunities where ecosystems can be restored and enhanced, including terrestrial, river, coastal and | A – General statement policy / general aspiration D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site | Out |

| Action number | Description | Screening category | Screening outcome |
|---------------|--|--|-------------------|
| | marine ecosystems | safeguarding/ threshold polices | |
| Action 3.5 | Develop and implement appropriate rewilding projects in DLR and extend our local biodiversity areas within DLR | A – General statement policy / general aspiration D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices | Out |
| Action 3.6 | To protect, restore and expand our County Ecological Network and DLR'S Green Infrastructure. Deliver Nature Recovery and Restoration as part of our Ecological Network and promote the use of nature-based solutions where these solutions allow the delivery and expansion of our Ecological Network. | A – General statement policy / general aspiration D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices | Out |
| Action 3.7 | Carry out ecological surveys and assessment of our habitats, including hedgerows, rivers and streams, to provide information regarding areas that require restoration in order to deliver Nature Recovery and Restoration and expansion of our Ecological Network | A – General statement policy / general aspiration D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices | Out |
| Action 3.8 | Continue to implement the biodiversity actions of the Dalkey Island Heritage Plan | Area protected under the Rockalbill to Dalkey Island SAC and Dalkey Island SPA. Action H1.2 of the Dalkey Heritage Plan (DLRCC 2014) is to carry out AA screening on all actions and policies related to the Island. D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices. E - Policies or proposals which steer change in such as way as to protect European sites from adverse effects | Out |
| Action 3.9 | Complete the actions for councils outlined in the All-Ireland Pollinator Plans 2015-2020 and 2021- 2025, and create areas for wildlife and pollinators | A – General statement policy / general aspiration D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices | Out |
| Action 3.10 | Protect existing swift nesting sites where possible; establish new sites in existing public and private properties; and request artificial swift nest boxes as part of new suitable development in DLR | A – General statement policy / general aspiration D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices | Out |
| Action 3.11 | Continue the Red Squirrel Project and extend project to Fernhill | A – General statement policy / general aspiration D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices | Out |
| Action 3.12 | Continue to protect the Calcareous Wetland and Flora at Kingston, Kiltiernan | A – General statement policy / general aspiration D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site | Out |

| Action number | Description | Screening category | Screening outcome |
|---|---|--|-------------------|
| | | safeguarding/ threshold polices | |
| Action 3.13 | Protect and enhance Booterstown Marsh, an important, unique coastal area within DLR and an EU Natura 2000 site | Boooterstown marsh is within South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA and adjacent to South Dublin Bay SAC. E - Policies or proposals which steer change in such as way as to protect European sites from adverse effects | Out |
| Action 3.14 | Protect the sand martin colonies along our coastline which occur in the coastal cliffs | D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices E - Policies or proposals which steer change in such as way as to protect European sites from adverse effects | Out |
| Action 3.15 | Develop a Habitat Management Plan for Shanganagh Coast and cliffs | D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices E - Policies or proposals which steer change in such as way as to protect European sites from adverse effects | Out |
| Action 3.16 | Promote the creation of Nature-Based Solutions (NBS), such as biodiversity roofs (brown roofs), pollinator areas, native hedgerow planting, wetlands and other NBS to promote biodiversity, as part of NBS for new development and other projects | A – General statement policy / general aspiration D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices | Out |
| Action 3.17 | Promote local seed collection by qualified professionals, including for new developments, in order to keep our seed sources local | A – General statement policy / general aspiration D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices | Out |
| Action 3.18 | Continue to support conservation grazing at Fernhill Park and Gardens and to develop other public lands for conservation grazing | A – General statement policy / general aspiration D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices | Out |
| Action 3.19 | Develop habitats for reptiles and amphibians which also provide habitat for other species | A – General statement policy / general aspiration D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices | Out |
| Theme 4 Connecting People and Nature and Inspire a Positive Future. | | | |
| Objective 4: Increase awareness, training and appreciation of biodiversity, ecosystems and ecosystem services | | | |
| Action 4.1 | Provide education and raise awareness of biodiversity and ecosystem services among the public, decision makers and educators | A – General statement policy / general aspiration D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices | Out |
| Action 4.2 | Provide Information on biodiversity and ecosystem | A – General statement policy / general aspiration | Out |

| Action number | Description | Screening category | Screening outcome |
|---|--|---|-------------------|
| | services through the DLR website and publications | D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices | |
| Action 4.3 | Organise activities and events to promote biodiversity, ecosystems and ecosystem services | A – General statement policy / general aspiration D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices | Out |
| Action 4.4 | Establish training and education programmes to promote appreciation of biodiversity, ecosystems and ecosystem services | A – General statement policy / general aspiration D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices | Out |
| Action 4.5 | Establish and promote positive examples of cooperative local community biodiversity projects or demonstration models | A – General statement policy / general aspiration D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices | Out |
| Action 4.6 | Provide education and raise awareness of the impacts of climate change on biodiversity | A – General statement policy / general aspiration D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices | Out |
| Action 4.7 | Raise awareness of the physical and mental health benefits of biodiversity | A – General statement policy / general aspiration D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices | Out |
| Action 4.8 | Provide training to the public in relation to reptile and amphibian surveys with the Herpetological Society of Ireland (HSI) | A – General statement policy / general aspiration D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices | Out |
| Theme 5 Strength in Working Together. | | | |
| Objective 5: Strengthen the effectiveness of collaboration between all stakeholders for the conservation of biodiversity, including with Local Communities, Local Authority Biodiversity Officers, LAWPRO, the National Biodiversity Data Centre, BirdWatch Ireland, NPWS and other State Bodies. | | | |
| Action 5.1 | Engage with local communities and business communities to develop local biodiversity projects | A – General statement policy / general aspiration D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices E - Policies or proposals which steer change in such as way as to protect European sites from adverse effects | Out |
| Action 5.2 | Work with our Dublin Bay Biosphere Partners to promote sustainable use of the DLR Biodiversity Resource in the Biosphere | Dublin Bay Biosphere includes all marine European Sites within ZOI in Dublin Bay. A – General statement policy / general aspiration D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices E - Policies or proposals which steer change in such as | Out |

| Action number | Description | Screening category | Screening outcome |
|---------------|--|---|-------------------|
| | | way as to protect European sites from adverse effects | |
| Action 5.3 | Support implementation of Dublin Bay Biosphere Nature Conservation Strategy, Education & Awareness strategy | Dublin Bay Biosphere includes all marine European Sites within ZOI. A – General statement policy / general aspiration D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices E - Policies or proposals which steer change in such as way as to protect European sites from adverse effects | Out |
| Action 5.4 | Carry out a study of marine ecosystems and develop marine ecosystem restoration projects with our Biosphere Partners | Dublin Bay Biosphere includes all marine European Sites within ZOI. E - Policies or proposals which steer change in such as way as to protect European sites from adverse effects | Out |
| Action 5.5 | Work with government departments and the public in relation to the designation of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) | A – General statement policy / general aspiration D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices E - Policies or proposals which steer change in such as way as to protect European sites from adverse effects | Out |
| Action 5.6 | Work with other local authorities to strengthen our knowledge of important habitats and species | A – General statement policy / general aspiration D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices | Out |
| Action 5.7 | Work with other local authorities to fund satellite-tracking studies of winter birds listed as qualifying features in European sites and other important species | A – General statement policy / general aspiration D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices | Out |
| Action 5.8 | Provide supports to BirdWatch Ireland for the Dalkey Island Tern Project, Swift conservation, and other important bird projects | Roseate Tern (<i>Sterna dougallii</i>) [A192], Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193] and Arctic Tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) [A194] are qualifying interests of the Dalkey Islands SPA. E - Policies or proposals which steer change in such as way as to protect European sites from adverse effects | Out |
| Action 5.9 | Work with LAWPRO to develop ways to protect and enhance our river wildlife corridors and waterway ecosystems | A – General statement policy / general aspiration D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices | Out |
| Action 5.10 | Work with our Climate Action Regional Offices (CARO Partners, NPWS and others to ensure the protection of | A – General statement policy / general aspiration D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site | Out |

| Action number | Description | Screening category | Screening outcome |
|----------------------------------|--|---|-------------------|
| | biodiversity in the face of Climate Change | safeguarding/ threshold polices | |
| Action 5.11 | Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council is a partner in the Dublin Mountains Partnership. The Biodiversity Officer will liaise with this forum to promote the protection and enhancement of biodiversity | A – General statement policy / general aspiration D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices | Out |
| Action 5.12 | Work with Coillte Nature for the protection and enhancement of biodiversity, including Red Squirrel. | A – General statement policy / general aspiration D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices | Out |
| Action 5.13 | Work with our colleagues across our own organisation in DLRCC and collaborate on biodiversity projects, including nature-based solution projects. | A – General statement policy / general aspiration D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices | Out |
| Action 5.14 | Work with NPWS and community groups to develop woodland management plans and the protection of Loughlinstown Woods pNHA and Fitzsimons Woods pNHA. | A – General statement policy / general aspiration D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices | Out |
| Action 5.15 | Engage with third level institutions to support and to develop biodiversity research in DLR | A – General statement policy / general aspiration D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices | Out |
| Monitoring and tracking our plan | | | |
| Action (no number) | Undertake an annual review of the implementation and success of the Actions proposed in the Biodiversity Action Plan 2019-2024 and future plans | A – General statement policy / general aspiration D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices | Out |

5.4 Concluding Statement

All Actions are aimed at conserving biodiversity, and as such, there are no elements of the Draft Plan Actions (either alone or in combination with other plans) likely to give rise to impacts on European Sites.

Following this initial screening it can be concluded that no elements of the DLR Draft Biodiversity Action Plan 2021-2025 will result in any likely significant effect on any European site. If any changes occur in the design of these works, a new Screening for Appropriate Assessment is required.

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