

STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL  
ASSESSMENT SCREENING  
REPORT OF THE DÚN  
LAOGHAIRE-RATHDOWN  
INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES  
ACTION PLAN

Prepared under SI 435 of 2004, as amended.

April 2021

## CONTENTS

1	SEA Screening Report.....	1
1.1	Introduction .....	1
1.2	Background and Context to DLR IAS Plan .....	2
1.3	Overview of DLR IAS Plan.....	3
2	Summary of Environmental Baseline.....	4
2.1	Introduction .....	4
2.2	Biodiversity, flora and fauna .....	4
2.3	Population and Human Health.....	5
2.4	Soil.....	5
2.5	Water .....	6
2.6	Air and Climatic Factors .....	7
2.7	Material Assets.....	8
2.8	Cultural Heritage .....	9
2.9	Landscape .....	10
2.10	Key Interactions and inter-relationships.....	10
3	SEA Screening Assessment.....	12
3.1	Introduction .....	12
3.2	SEA Screening Determination .....	16
	ANNEX A SEA commentary of Goals and Actions under DLR IAS Plan .....	1
	A.1 Introduction.....	1

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This report has been prepared by Minogue Environmental Consulting Ltd with all reasonable skill, care and diligence. Information reported herein is based on the interpretation of data collected and has been accepted in good faith as being accurate and valid.

This report is prepared for Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council and we accept no responsibility to third parties to whom this report, or any part thereof, is made known. Any such party relies on the report at their own risk.

Version and date	Prepared by	Reviewed and approved
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# 1 SEA Screening Report

## 1.1 Introduction

The European Union Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive (2001/42/EC) requires an environmental assessment be carried out for all plans that are prepared for certain specified sectors, including landuse of which the proposed **Dún Laoghaire Rathdown (DLR) Invasive Alien Species (IAS) Action Plan 2021** (DLR IAS plan) relates. The following Regulations transpose this Directive into Irish law:

- The European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (S.I. 435 of 2004),
- The Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (S.I. 436 of 2004) and further amended by
- S.I. No. 200 of 2011 (European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) (Amendment) Regulations 2011) and S.I. No. 201 of 2011 (Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) (Amendment) Regulations 2011).

The Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations, 2004 (as amended) state that SEA is mandatory for certain plans while screening for SEA is required for other plans that fall below the specified thresholds. The purpose of this screening report is to determine whether the making and implementation of the plan will or will not, lead to significant environmental effects for the plan area and if it will require a full Strategic Environment Assessment.

In deciding whether a particular plan is likely to have significant environmental effects, regard must be had to the criteria set out in Annex II of the SEA Directive - which is reproduced in the Schedule 2A to the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as inserted by article 12 of the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004.

The approach to this screening assessment is to assess the Overall Aim, Objectives, Goals and Actions contained in the DLR IAS Plan against the criteria contained in Schedule 2a of the Regulations (known as a Screening Table). To ensure this SEA Screening is consistent with the statutory landuse framework for DLR, the assessment has been undertaken against the Strategic Environmental Objectives of the SEA Environmental Report of the draft DLR County Development Plan 2022-2028. Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs) are methodological measures developed from policies which generally govern environmental protection objectives established at International, Community or Member State level and are used as standards against which the provisions of the plan can be evaluated in order to help identify which provisions would be likely to result in significant environmental effects and where such effects would be likely to occur, if - in the case of adverse effects - unmitigated.

Annex A presents this assessment in terms of consistency with these SEOs and a commentary is provided in the SEA Screening Table against each of the Strategic Environmental Objectives to align more closely with the draft DLR CDP 2022-2028.

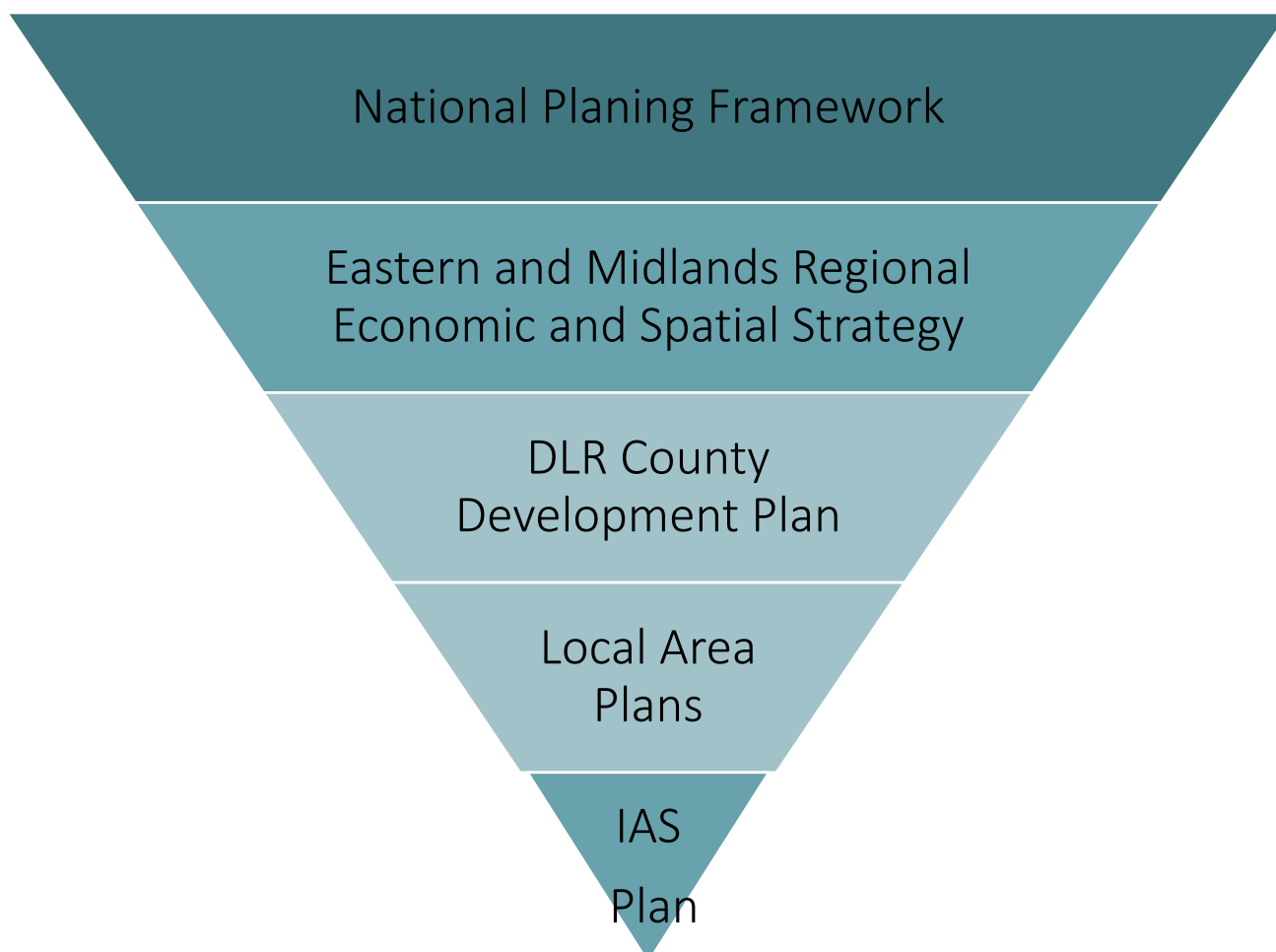
An assessment under Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive has also been undertaken in conjunction with this SEA Screening report and should be read in tandem with this and the DLR IAS Plan.

## 1.2 Background and Context to DLR IAS Plan

DLR is the authority responsible for local government in the local authority of DLR, and is governed by the Local Government Act, 2001. It is responsible for housing and community, roads and transportation, urban planning and development, amenity and culture, and environment.

Figure 1-1 below illustrates where the DLR IAS Plan is situated within the landuse planning hierarchy. Each of these land use strategies have been subject to the SEA process.

FIGURE 1-1 LANDUSE AND PLANNING HIERARCHY



The DLR IAS Plan has been prepared by the Biodiversity Section of DLR under the Actions of the draft DLR Biodiversity Plan 2021-2025. In addition, *Policy Objective GIB28: Invasive Species* of the draft DLR CDP 2022 -2028 provides for the preparation of an 'Invasive Alien Species Action Plan'.

### ***Policy Objective GIB28: Invasive Species***

*It is a Policy Objective to prepare an 'Invasive Alien Species Action Plan' for the County which will include actions in relation to invasive alien species (IAS) surveys, management and treatment and to also ensure that proposals for development do not lead to the spread or introduction of invasive species. If developments are proposed on sites where invasive species are or were previously present, the applicants will be required to submit a control and management program for the particular invasive species as part of the*

*planning process and to comply with the provisions of the European Communities Birds and Habitats Regulations 2011 (S.I. 477/2011).*

An overview of the DLR IAS Plan is provided below.

### 1.3 Overview of DLR IAS Plan

The overall aim of this Action Plan is as follows:

*“To provide a roadmap for invasive species to be eradicated from Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown when possible; controlled when eradication is not possible; for new introductions to be prevented; and for damaged habitats to be restored”.*

Eight Objectives are identified and form the basis of this plan, these are as follows:

- Objective 1: To develop a record of invasive species within the county;
- Objective 2: To prevent new introductions of IAS into Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown;
- Objective 3: To prevent further spread of IAS within the county;
- Objective 4: To effectively treat IAS currently present in the county;
- Objective 5: To create awareness of IAS and the threats they pose, and to provide training and education for the public;
- Objective 6: To minimise the impacts of IAS and restore damaged ecosystems to their previous state;
- Objective 7: To create ties and cooperative relationships with other counties and agencies in order to effectively tackle IAS, and
- Objective 8: To consider the impact of Climate Change in relation to IAS.

A set of goals and key actions are grouped around the Objectives above. These are detailed in Annex A along with the main aim and objectives to this report and are accompanied by a commentary in relation to consistency with the SEOs outlined in Section 1.1.

## 2 Summary of Environmental Baseline

### 2.1 Introduction

This section provides a short summary of key environmental topics relevant to the DLR IAS Plan as reflected in the draft DLR CDP 2022-2028 Non-Technical Summary of the SEA Environmental report<sup>1</sup>.

### 2.2 Biodiversity, flora and fauna

The biodiversity of the county includes a variety of habitats such as saltmarsh, semi-natural grasslands, native woodlands, hedgerows, wetlands such as fens, bog, heath, rivers, streams and springs. All of these habitats add to the diversity of nature across our county along with our pollinator areas and trees in our parks and other green spaces. These habitats are home to our important, protected, native species such as red squirrel in Killiney Hill, otter found in our streams and river systems, badgers that occur in various areas across the county, hedgehogs, bat species, birds, amphibians, reptiles, invertebrates and flora species. The County's coastline, including areas such as South Dublin Bay and Dalkey, provides a number of habitats for a variety of species. Dalkey Islands contain important ecological, archaeological, architectural, and cultural heritage. The Islands are a designated SPA (Dalkey Islands SPA) and SAC (Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC) and form part of the Dalkey Coastal Zone and Killiney Hill pNHA. Red grouse, an upland bird species occur in upland areas around Three Rock and Two Rock Mountains.

Eight European sites overlap with the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown area. These sites are listed here:

South Dublin Bay SAC	[000210]
Ballyman Glen SAC	[000713]
Knocksink Wood SAC	[000725]
Wicklow Mountains SAC	[002122]
Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC	[003000]
South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA	[004024]
Dalkey Islands SPA	[004172]
Wicklow Mountains SPA	[004040]

In addition to the Natura 2000 designations (European sites), there are nine sites listed as proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs) under the Wildlife Act 1976 (as amended).. Three of the pNHAs (South Dublin Bay, Ballyman Glen and Knocksink Wood) have been designated as SACs, and so are also included above. The pNHAs that are within or overlap with the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown area are listed here:

South Dublin Bay pNHA	[000210]
Ballyman Glen pNHA	[000713]
Knocksink Wood pNHA	[000725]
Ballybetagh Bog pNHA	[001202]

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<sup>1</sup> To access the Non -Technical Summary and the full Strategic Environmental Assessment Environmental Report of the draft DLR CDP 2022-2028 please see the following link: [Draft County Development Plan 2022-2028 | Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council \(dlrcoco.ie\)](https://www.dlrco.ie/Draft-County-Development-Plan-2022-2028)

Boosterstown Marsh pNHA	[001205]
Dalkey Coastal Zone and Killiney Hill pNHA	[001206]
Dingle Glen pNHA	[001207]
Loughlinstown Woods pNHA	[001211]
Fitzsimon's Wood pNHA	[001753]

Dún Laoghaire Rathdown are also one of the partners of the Dublin Bay Biosphere Reserve, an internationally important UNESCO Site. Biosphere reserves are areas comprising terrestrial, marine and coastal ecosystems. Each reserve promotes solutions reconciling the conservation of biodiversity with its sustainable use.

Man-made habitats within the Plan area are also important biodiversity areas. Gardens provide habitats for a range of wildlife including various bird species, invertebrates, such as bees and butterflies and mammals, such as hedgehogs, mice, rats and foxes.

Boosterstown Marsh in the north-east of the Plan area is the only remaining area of saltmarsh in Dún-Laoghaire-Rathdown. The marsh is an important habitat for a range of species including birds, fish, invertebrates and rare plants It is also of international importance as a roosting and feeding area for waders and wildfowl.

## 2.3 Population and Human Health

In the 2016 Census the total population of DLR plan area was 218,018 persons, an increase in total population in the County by c. 11% (c. 24,000 persons) over a 10-year period from 2006.

The new population provided for in the draft DLR DCP 2022-2028 will interact with various environmental components. Potential interactions include:

- Increase in demand for wastewater treatment at the municipal level;
- Recreational and development pressure on habitats and landscapes;
- Increase in demand for water supply and associated potential impact of water abstraction from the rivers;
- Potential interactions in flood-sensitive areas; and
- Potential effects on water quality

## 2.4 Soil

The county is dominated by urban soils and lithosol soils. Other types include Alluvial soils, brown podzols, luvisols, and brown earths. The ombrotrophic (rain-fed) peat soils in the south-west of the Plan area are also a subject to ecological designations. The audit of County Geological Sites in DLR was completed in 2014 and identified 12 County Geological Sites. Given the urban nature and land use activities the soil has been contaminated in the past which can potentially affect water quality, biodiversity and flora and fauna and human health.



## 2.5 Water

Most of the Plan area is located within the catchment of the Liffey and Dublin Bay and partially drained by the Avoca-Vartry catchment. The main rivers within the Plan area are the Loughlinstown River, the Glencullen River, the Little Dargle River and the River Dodder. The quality status as measured under the Water Framework Directive of most of waterbodies within the County is classified as moderate, good and high, as shown in Table 3-1, however a section of the Kill of the Grange Stream is identified as poor due to unsatisfactory ecological/biological and/or physio-chemical status.

Coastal water bodies the Irish Sea and Dublin Bay, adjacent to the north-east of the County, are currently identified as being of good status while the Southwestern Irish Sea - Killiney Bay water body, adjacent to the coastline, is of high status. The WFD status (2013-2018) of groundwater underlying the County is mostly identified as being of good status.

TABLE 2-1 WFD RIVER AND COASTAL WATERBODIES STATUS<sup>2</sup>

Waterbody Name (EPA Identification Code)	Waterbody Type	WFD Surface Waterbody Status (2013 -2018)
Kill of the Grange Stream_010	River	<b>Poor</b> - due to poor ecological/biological status. This waterbody is identified to be under pressure from <b>hydromorphological/anthropogenic, urban run-off and urban wastewater sources</b>
Carrickmines Stream_010	River	<b>Moderate</b> . This waterbody is identified to be under pressure from <b>urban run-off sources</b> .
Dargle_030	River	<b>Moderate</b> . This waterbody is identified to be under pressure from <b>urban wastewater sources</b> .
Dodder_050	River	<b>Moderate</b> . This waterbody is identified to be under pressure from <b>hydromorphological, urban run-off and urban wastewater sources</b> .
Shanganagh_010	River	<b>Moderate</b> . <b>No pressures identified</b> .
Dargle_040	River	<b>Good</b> . <b>No pressures identified</b> .
Owenadoher_010	River	<b>Good</b> . This waterbody is identified to be under pressure from <b>urban run-off sources</b> .
Dublin Bay Coastal	Coastal	<b>Good</b> . <b>No pressures identified</b> .
Irish Sea Dublin (HA 09)	Coastal	<b>Good</b> . <b>No pressures identified</b> .
Glencullen_010	River	<b>High</b> . <b>No pressures identified</b> .
Southwestern Irish Sea - Killiney Bay (HA10)	Coastal	<b>High</b> . <b>No pressures identified</b> .

<sup>2</sup>Source: <https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/> and <https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/Water>.

### *Bathing waters*

The most recent available data from the EPA for 2019<sup>3</sup> shows that locations of designated bathing waters within the Plan area are either classified as excellent (at Sea Point; White Rock Beach; and Forty Foot) or good (at Killiney and Sandycove Beach). The bathing water quality at Merrion Strand, which adjoins the County boundary, is currently of poor status.

### *Flooding*

Certain areas across the County are at risk from groundwater, pluvial, fluvial, estuarial, and coastal flooding. DLR is located on the east coast of Ireland, and much of the Plan boundary is subject to flood risk from the Irish Sea.

## 2.6 Air and Climatic Factors

The Climate Change Advisory Council's Annual Review 2019 identifies that the most recent projections demonstrate that, under different assumptions, Ireland will not meet its emissions reduction targets, even with the additional policies and measures included in the National Development Plan. The projections also show that progress on reducing emissions is sensitive to the future path of fuel prices. A significant and sustained rate of emissions reduction of approximately -2.5% per year is required to meet our objectives for 2050. However, it must be noted that additional measures within the recent Climate Action Plan are not included in the analysis to date.

### 2.6.1 DLR Climate Change Action Plan 2019-2024

The Climate Change Action Plan for DLR (2019-2024) sets out the following four targets:

- A 33% improvement in the Council's energy efficiency by 2020;
- A 40% reduction in the Council's greenhouse gas emissions by 2030;
- To make Dublin a climate resilient region, by reducing the impacts of future climate change-related events, and
- To actively engage and inform citizens on climate change

The plan has identified that extreme weather events pose a threat to biodiversity as it leads to increased prevalence of invasive species. Therefore, the adaptation approach of this plan highlights the need to remove invasive species in order to tackle climate change and make the county more climate resilient.

### 2.6.2 Air Quality

The EPA's (2020) Air Quality in Ireland 2019 identifies that:

- Air quality in Ireland is generally good however there are localised issues;
- There was one exceedance of the EU annual average legal limit values in 2019 at one urban traffic station in Dublin due to pollution from transport;
- Ireland was above World Health Organization (WHO) air quality guideline value levels at 33 monitoring sites – mostly due to the burning of solid fuel in cities, towns and villages; and

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<sup>3</sup> EPA Report (2020) on Bathing Water Quality in Ireland for the year 2019

- There was one exceedance of the EU annual average legal limit values in 2019 at one urban traffic station in Dublin due to pollution from transport.

## 2.7 Material Assets

### *Green Infrastructure*

Parks and open space promote health and well-being, provide recreational facilities and range of habitats for various species. Green infrastructure is also a crucial component in building resilient communities capable of adapting to the consequences of climate change with trees, woodlands and wetlands providing carbon capture and slowing water flows while improving air quality. DLR's intention is to review and update the existing Green Infrastructure Strategy for DLR during the lifetime of the draft DLR CDP 2022-2028.

### *Land*

The Plan seeks to assist with the reuse and regeneration of brownfield sites within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint of the County thereby contributing towards sustainable mobility and reducing the need to develop greenfield lands and associated potential adverse environmental effects.

### *Forestry*

Coillte forests within the Plan area include Ticknock Forest and the upland areas around Three Rock and Two Rock Mountains. These are a valuable resource in terms of biodiversity, recreation and tourism.

### *Coastline*

The 17 km long coastline of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown is amongst the most sensitive and valuable resources in the County, in terms of natural and cultural heritage, scenic beauty and recreation.

### *Renewable Energy Potential*

There is potential for renewable energy development in the County and the Plan seeks to facilitate such development in a sustainable manner.

### *Minerals and Aggregates*

Minerals such as iron and copper and aggregates such as sand and gravel can occur throughout the country. Minerals and aggregates are essential to manufacturing and construction.

### *Transport*

Transport infrastructure in the County has the potential to support reductions in energy demand from the transport sector, including through electrification of modes. The Plan area is well served by public transport, road links and cycle network. Two major road networks – the M50 and the M11/N11 traverse the Plan area.

### *Water Services*

The Plan area is served by two Wastewater Treatment Plants (WWTPs) providing secondary treatment: Ringsend WWTP (D0034-01), with a design capacity of 1.64 million population equivalent (PE) located in the north-west part of the Dublin City; and Shanganagh-Bray WWTP (D0038-01), with a design capacity of 186,000 PE, located within the south-east of the Plan area.

DLR falls within the Water Supply Zone for the Greater Dublin Area and supply in the area is currently constrained. The Roundwood Water Supply is listed on the most recent EPA RAL (Q2 of 2020) due to elevated levels of Trihalomethanes<sup>4</sup> above the standard in the Drinking Water Regulations and treatment and management issues. The proposed plan of action to remedy this issue is to improve operations at the water treatment plant and to upgrade the Vartry Water Treatment Plant by June 2021.

### *Waste Management*

The Eastern and Midland Waste Region comprises 12 local authority areas of Dublin City, Fingal, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown, Kildare, Laois, Longford, Louth, Offaly, Meath, Wicklow, Westmeath and South Dublin. The Eastern-Midlands Waste Management Plan 2015-2021 provides the framework for solid waste management in the region.

## 2.8 Cultural Heritage

### 2.8.1 Archaeological Heritage

There are hundreds of Recorded Monuments and associated SMR and RMP Zones of Notification within the Plan area. Clusters of monuments are concentrated within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint of the County and in the rural areas. Enclosures, fulacht fias, castles, churches and graveyards are amongst the most common recorded monuments in the Plan area.

### 2.8.2 Architectural Heritage

There are close to 2,100 entries to the Record of Protected Structures within the County, which include many notable buildings in the County such as: the Martello Tower in Sandycove; the Blue Church in Kiltiernan and Shanganagh Castle; Marlay House; Cabinteely House; Martello Towers and Carnegie Libraries; and the Dún Laoghaire Baths Pavilion.

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<sup>4</sup> THMs are chemicals which may be found in water treated with chlorine. The concentration of THMs in drinking water varies according to the level of organic material in the water, the amount of chlorine required to treat the water, and the temperature of the water that is being treated. Some water supplies have reported levels of THMs which are higher than the recommended levels. Irish Water is developing a National THM plan, in order to deal with this issue.

## 2.9 Landscape

The east boundary of the Plan area runs along the coastline which includes beaches cliffs and marshes. To the south and west of the Plan area gives a way to agricultural lands and then rises into the upland scenic area of the Dublin Mountains. The Plan identifies 14 Landscape Character Areas, comprising:

LCA 01 - Kilmashogue Valley;

LCA 02 - Western Half of Kellystown Road;

LCA 03 - Ticknock Road;

LCA 04 - Marlay Park;

LCA 05 - Kiltiernan Plain;

LCA 06 - Ballycorus;

LCA 07 - Glencullen Valley;

LCA 08 - Glendoo Valley;

LCA 09 - Barnacullia;

LCA 10 - Rathmichael;

LCA 11 - Ballyman;

LCA 12 - Shanganagh;

LCA 13 - Carrickmines; and

LCA 14 - Cherrywood Rathmichael.

The Plan area also contains important prospects i.e., prominent landscapes or areas of special amenity value or special interest which are visible from the surrounding area. The Plan also identifies High Amenity Areas. They include the Glencullen Valley, Glendoo Valley and Kilmashogue Valley.

## 2.10 Key Interactions and inter-relationships

An environmental sensitivity map was prepared as part of the SEA ER of the draft DLR CDP 2022-2028, this overlaid and ranked different SEA parameters including biodiversity, water quality data and vulnerability, soil and geology, cultural heritage and landscape datasets. A summary of the finding of this exercise is presented below:

*“The overlay mapping shows that environmental sensitivities are not evenly distributed throughout the County. Most of the County is identified as having low to moderate levels of sensitivity. The most sensitive areas in the County include:*

*Parts of the rural areas in the south west of the County, on account of the High Amenity Area designation, archaeological heritage sensitives, areas of extreme and high groundwater vulnerability and European Site ecological designations along the borders with South Dublin and Wicklow County Councils;*

*• Parts of the coastline and adjacent coastal areas, on account of European Site and proposed Natural Heritage Area ecological designations, Protected Views and Prospects, extreme groundwater vulnerability and coastal flood risk;*

- *Certain locations and areas within the existing built-up footprint of the County, on account of cultural heritage designations, including entries to the Record of Monuments and Places, Entries to the Record of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas; and*
- *Certain areas that are adjacent to streams and rivers, on account of flood risk<sup>5</sup>.*

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<sup>5</sup> SEA ER of DLR draft County Development Plan 2022-2028,pg 66.

## 3 SEA Screening Assessment

### 3.1 Introduction

The following section and table below present the SEA Screening assessment of the DLR IAS Plan against the criteria provided in Schedule 1 of the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2001-2011. These provide the basis for determining whether a plan or programme is likely to have significant effects on the environment. More detailed commentary on the plan is provided in Annex A to this report.

The Screening assessment should be read in conjunction with the DLR IAS Plan, supporting baseline documentation available on the DLR website, and the accompanying Habitats Directive Screening report.

TABLE 3-1 SEA SCREENING TABLE

<b>Criteria for determining whether the proposed DLR IAS Plan is likely to have significant effects on the environment</b>
<b>1. <i>The characteristics of the Plan having regard, in particular, to:</i></b>
<b><i>the degree to which the Plan sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources,</i></b>
<p>The DLR IAS Plan is supported by a set of objectives, goals, and actions. The characteristics of the Plan does not set a framework for projects with a land use effect such as location, nature, size or operating conditions. The plan is non statutory and does not provide consent, establish a framework for granting consent or contribute towards a framework for granting consent.</p> <p>Actions arising from the Plan will comply, as relevant, with various legislation, policies, plans and programmes (including requirements for lower-tier Appropriate Assessment, Environmental Impact Assessment, and other licencing requirements as appropriate) that form the statutory decision-making and consent granting framework, of which the DLR IAS Plan is not part and does not contribute towards.</p>
<b><i>the degree to which the Plan influences other plans, including those in a hierarchy,</i></b>
<p>The DLR IAS Plan is published in response to the threats posed by invasive alien species at county and local level. It seeks to utilise a structured and coordinated approach to minimise their impact and to prevent further introductions and spread by setting out the key objectives, goals and actions.</p> <p>The DLR IAS Plan forms one of the Actions of the draft County Biodiversity Action Plan 2021-2025 and aims to minimise impacts of invasive alien species present, prevent new introductions and aim to control or eradicate IAS. These contribute towards positively towards biodiversity, flora and fauna SEOS in particular.</p>
<b><i>the relevance of the Plan in the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development,</i></b>

The overall aim of this Action Plan is to provide a roadmap for invasive species to be eradicated from Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown when possible; controlled when eradication is not possible; for new introductions to be prevented; and for damaged habitats to be restored.

Key objectives and underlying goals and actions in the DLR IAS Plan are positive in relation to Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Water Resources and Climate Change SEOS. Objectives, goals and actions related to tackling invasive alien species are all positive in relation to these SEA parameters. Therefore, the plan is relevant in relation to contributing to and promoting sustainable development.

#### ***Environmental problems relevant to the Plan***

Key threats related to the spread of invasive alien species are identified in the DLR IAS Plan. These key threats are as follows:

- Unintentional introduction of IAS through imported plants and plant products
- Unintentional importation of alien tree species
- Inappropriate disposal of plants or growth medium
- Escape from fish farms, transfer of alien parasites
- Use of live bait and intentional introduction of sport fish
- Escapes and dumping of pets
- Introduction of alien species for restocking
- Escapes and hybridisation with native species

DLR's ultimate goal is to respond to these threats and eradicate IAS where possible within the county, and to successfully control those species that is not practical to eradicate. This aligns with the Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Water Resources and Climate Change SEOS of the draft DLR CDP 2022-2028 and the draft DLR County Biodiversity Action Plan 2021-2025.

#### ***the relevance of the Plan in the implementation of European Union legislation on the environment (e.g. plans linked to waste-management or water protection).***

The plan's primary remit is to eradicate, control, prevent the spread of invasive species and restore habitats, therefore, the plan is particularly relevant to the following EU legislation:

- EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC), European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations 2003, Statutory Instrument 722 of 2003.
- EU Invasive Alien Species Regulation 1143/2014 EU and Statutory Instrument 354/2018 - European Union (Invasive Alien Species) (Freshwater Crayfish) Regulations 2018.

DLR implements a range of European Union legislation and associated national regulations. The DLR IAS Plan will have to comply, as relevant, with various legislation, policies, plans and programmes (including requirements for lower-tier Appropriate Assessment, Environmental Impact Assessment and other licencing requirements as appropriate) that form the statutory decision-making and consent granting framework, of which the IAS Plan is not part and does not contribute towards.



2. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to:

***the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects,***

The following positive effects were highlighted in the DLR IAS Plan if the objectives are achieved:

*“Removal of invasive species will result in a wide range of benefits. Recreation areas, such as riversides and woodlands, will benefit from improved safety from threats from species such as Giant Hogweed, which can cause severe skin burns. [Giant Hogweed sap contains a chemical that sensitises the skin, which leads to severe blistering when exposed to sunlight, and may recur for several years after initial exposure. The intensity of the reaction varies with individual sensitivity].*

*Fishing will improve due to enhanced water quality and increased prevalence of native aquatic species. There will be a greater variety of species populating our woodlands, leading to more engaging walks and nature encounters with our native species such as Red Squirrel, which will have a chance to recover from the competition from Grey Squirrel (an invasive alien species). The already significant negative economic impacts from species such as Japanese Knotweed will be decreased. The likelihood of new introductions becoming established will be vastly reduced, curtailing the potential economic threat from new IAS entering Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown.”<sup>6</sup>*

The DLR IAS Plan sets out specific objectives, and underlying goals and actions for controlling the spread of invasive species. No specific land use effects are identified through the objectives, with all of them generating positive, long term and synergistic effects across a range of SEA parameters in particular Biodiversity, Soil, Water, and indirectly Human health (please see Annex A). Should projects arise from the DLR IAS Plan, these will be subject to full planning and environmental assessment consent and consistent with environmental protective objectives in the current DLR CDP 2015-2021 and forthcoming DLR CDP 2022-2028.

***the cumulative nature of the effects,***

At this point the action measures are not spatially specific and direct land use effects are not identified. Should projects arise from the DLR IAS Plan they will be subject to more detailed project level assessment and in compliance with the statutory planning and environmental consenting regime. At this strategic, county scale no potential for adverse cumulative effects is identified as a result.

***the trans boundary nature of the effects***

Management relating to IAS on river catchments such as the Dodder catchment, may cross county boundaries with adjacent local authorities (South Dublin County Council and Dublin City Council), however the aim in this regard is to reduce IAS at catchment level.

Given the non-statutory nature of this plan, and provision for planning consent and environmental assessment should lower-level projects arise, no negative transboundary effects are identified at this juncture, and positive potential transboundary effects for shared catchments are identified for the DLR IAS Plan.

<sup>6</sup> DLR CC IAS Plan 2021 pg 4

**the risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents),**

No such risks are identified as arising from the plan. Objectives relating to public (HOL 5) are positive in relation to human health and wellbeing as it aims to create public awareness regarding IAS and the threats they pose, whilst achieving other objectives around biodiversity would benefit population and human health more broadly.

***the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected).***

The DLR IAS is at county scale but is non statutory and does not set the framework for lower levels plans or projects. Should projects arise from the plan these would be subject to planning and environmental consent as appropriate.

Implementation and achievement of the actions in the DLR IAS Plan are identified to create positive, in combination effects across a number of SEOS in particular water, biodiversity, population and human health, soil and landscape.

***the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to:***

a) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage

As part of this plan, DLR aims to minimise the impacts of IAS in Natura 2000 sites, pNHAS, locally important biodiversity sites and other important areas, such as rivers, streams and wildlife corridors, along with infrastructure, in order to protect biodiversity, services and communities from damage caused by IAS.

Archaeological or built heritage sites may also be associated with the rivers, lakes and coastal waters and are afforded protection for cultural heritage namely through the record of protected structures or sites and monuments record. All of these sites are protected under the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Development Plan 2022-2028.

A screening statement in support of Appropriate Assessment<sup>7</sup> has also been prepared for this plan in line with Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC). A finding of no likely significant effects has been concluded as part of this screening statement in support of Appropriate Assessment.

(b) exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values,

The DLR IAS Plan does not provide consent, establish a framework for granting consent or contribute towards a framework for granting consent.

In order to be realised, potential projects or proposals arising from the DLR IAS Plan will have to comply, as relevant, with various legislation, policies, plans and programmes (including requirements for lower-tier Appropriate Assessment, Environmental Impact Assessment and other licencing requirements as appropriate) that form the statutory decision-making and consent granting framework, of which the DLR IAS Plan is not part and does not contribute towards

<sup>7</sup> Screening Statement in Support of Appropriate Assessment for DLR IAS Plan, prepared by Doherty Environmental Ltd 2021

(c) intensive land-use,

No specific areas are identified for landuse effects or development activities in the plan. A number of actions in the IAS aim to prevent, record and manage IAS in plan areas such as biosecurity cleaning facilities (B2) and B4:

*“Establish new planning standard that means that new developments, plans and projects must submit an IAS survey as part of their planning application and a management plan where relevant.”*

Such actions are positive in relation to planning and controlling IAS and generate positive interactions with SEOs including biodiversity, water, soil.

(a) the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, European Union or international protection status.

The conclusion to the screening statement is support of Appropriate Assessment is provided below:

*“The Screening of the DLR IAS Plan as set out above shows that the plan will not result in land use activities that have the potential to result in negative impacts to the qualifying features of interest of European Sites occurring within or surrounding the plan area and will not have the potential to compromise the achievement of the conservation objective of these European Sites. The examination of the plan has found that the plan will have the potential to contribute to the conservation management of European Sites within and surrounding the plan area and will thus have positive implications for the conservation objectives of these European Site.*

*In light of the findings of this report it is the considered view of the authors of this Screening Report for Appropriate Assessment that it can be concluded by Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council that the Plan is not likely, alone or in-combination with other plans or projects, to have a significant effect on any European Sites in view of their Conservation Objectives and on the basis of best scientific evidence and there is no reasonable scientific doubt as to that conclusion.”*

## 3.2 SEA Screening Determination

Section 9 (1) of the (2004) Regulations (S.I. No. 435) (as amended) states *“subject to sub-article (2), an environmental assessment shall be carried out for all plans and programmes*

(a) *which are prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism and town and country planning or land use, and which set the framework for future development consent of projects listed in Annexes I and II to the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive, or ”*

(b) *which are not directly connected with or necessary to the management of a European site but, either individually or in combination with other plans, are likely to have a significant effect on any such site.”.*

**The DLR IAS Plan** aims to provide a roadmap for invasive species to be eradicated from Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown when possible; controlled when eradication is not possible; for new introductions to be prevented; and for damaged habitats to be restored.

The DLR IAS Plan is a commitment to leadership in the successful management of Invasive Species across the county. The Objectives, Goals and Actions are set out to ensure that IAS are considered in all areas of work in DLR. Some of these actions are already implemented, some are ongoing actions or have

commenced recently. The actions will be reviewed and updated annually to ensure that they continue to be relevant.

The plan does not provide consent, establish a framework for granting consent or contribute towards a framework for granting consent. In order to be realised, potential projects or proposals arising from the DLR IAS Plan will have to comply, as relevant, with various legislation, policies, plans and programmes (including requirements for lower-tier Appropriate Assessment, Environmental Impact Assessment and other licencing requirements as appropriate) that form the statutory decision-making and consent granting framework, of which the plan is not part and does not contribute towards.

Should projects arise from the Plan, the application of the DLR IAS Plan (see main document and Annex A to this SEA Screening Report) will apply as well as relevant measures of the DLR CDP 2015-2021 and forthcoming DLR CPD 2022-2028.

In relation to Section 9 (1) of the (2004) Regulations (S.I. No. 435) (b) which relates to the findings of the Screening Statement in support of Appropriate Assessment, a finding of no likely significant effects on the conservation management objectives of European Sites has been determined.

Therefore, DLR is informed by the above conclusions in relation to their overall SEA Screening Determination.

### 3.2.1 Consultation with specified environmental authorities

In line with SI 435 of 2011, the plan and accompanying SEA Screening reports were issued to the statutory consultees for a four-week period and Table 3.2 below summarises the submissions and response to same.

These submissions have noted the SEA Screening Determination and in summary a final determination has been made following consultation that full SEA is not required. This is the final determination of the SEA Screening of the DLR IAS Plan.

**TABLE 3-2 CONSULTATION ON DLR IAS PLAN AND SEA SCREENING**

CONSULTEE	COMMENTS	SEA response
EPA	<p>We acknowledge Table 3.1 in the Draft Screening Report and note that a final Screening Determination has yet to be made. Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council should determine whether the implementation of the proposed Plan would be likely to have significant effects on the environment. The criteria to consider are set out in Annex II of Directive 2001/ 42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (The SEA Directive) and in <i>Schedule 1 of the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (S.I No. 435 of 2004)</i>.</p> <p>Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council is obliged to take the relevant criteria set out in <i>Schedule 1</i> into account in making its determination as to whether the Plan would be likely to have significant effects on the environment.</p> <p>Guidance on the SEA process, including an SEA pack and checklist available on our website at <a href="http://www.epa.ie/monitoringassessment/assessment/sea/">www.epa.ie/monitoringassessment/assessment/sea/</a>. We recommend that you take the available guidance into account in</p>	<p>Agreed. The Screening Assessment was undertaken in line with Schedule 1 of SI 435 of 2004.</p>

	making your SEA Screening Determination and incorporate the relevant recommendations as relevant and appropriate to the Plan.	
	<p><b>Sustainable Development</b> In considering the Plan, Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council should ensure that the Plan is consistent with other key relevant higher-level plans and programmes. Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council should also recognise the need to align with national commitments on climate change mitigation and adaptation, as well as incorporating any relevant recommendations in sectoral, regional and local climate adaptation plans.</p>	Noted. The plan will be delivered in compliance and consistent with these plans.
	<p><b>Environmental Sensitivity Mapping (ESM) WebTool</b> This new tool was launched recently by the EPA. It is a new decision support tool to assist SEA and planning processes in Ireland. It is available at <a href="http://www.enviromap.ie">www.enviromap.ie</a>. The tool brings together over 100 datasets and allows users to create plan-specific environmental sensitivity maps. These maps can help planners examine environmental considerations, anticipate potential land-use conflicts, and help identify suitable development locations while also protecting the environment.</p>	Noted, will be applied in future planning and SEA as appropriate
	<p><b>State of the Environment Report – Ireland’s Environmental 2020</b> In preparing the Plan, the recommendations, key issues and challenges described in our State of the Environment Report Ireland’s Environment – An Integrated Assessment 2020 (<i>EPA, 2020</i>) should be considered, as relevant and appropriate to the Plan. This should also be taken into account, in preparing the Plan.</p>	Noted
	<p><b>Available Guidance and Resources</b> Our website contains various SEA resources and guidance, including: - SEA process guidance and checklists - Inventory of spatial datasets relevant to SEA - topic specific SEA guidance (including <i>Good practice note on Cumulative Effects Assessment</i> (EPA, 2020), <i>Guidance on SEA Statements and Monitoring</i> (EPA, 2020), <i>Integrating climatic factors into SEA</i> (EPA, 2019), <i>Developing and Assessing Alternatives in SEA</i> (EPA, 2015), and <i>Integrated Biodiversity Impact Assessment</i> (EPA, 2012)) You can access these resources at: <a href="http://www.epa.ie/monitoringassessment/assessment/sea/">www.epa.ie/monitoringassessment/assessment/sea/</a></p>	Noted
	<p><b>EPA SEA WebGIS Tool</b> Our SEA WebGIS Tool has been updated recently and is now publicly available at <a href="https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/SEA">https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/SEA</a>. It allows public authorities to produce an indicative report on key aspects of the environment in a specific geographic area. It is intended to assist public authorities in SEA screening and scoping exercises.</p>	Noted
	<p><b>EPA WFD Application</b> Our WFD Application provides access to water quality and catchment data from the national WFD monitoring programme and is available through EPA Maps. It is also publicly available data can be accessed via the <a href="http://www.catchments.ie">www.catchments.ie</a> website.</p>	Noted
	<b>EPA AA GeoTool</b>	Noted

	<p>Our AA GeoTool application has been developed in partnership with the NPWS. It allows users to select a location, specify a search area and gather available information for each European Site within the area. It is available at: <a href="https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/AAGeoTool">https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/AAGeoTool</a></p>	
	<p><b>Future Amendments to the Plan</b>  Where changes to the Plan are made prior to finalisation, or where modifications to the Plan are proposed following its adoption, these should be screened for potential for likely significant effects in accordance with the criteria set out in Schedule 1 of the SEA Regulations (S.I. No. 435 of 2004).</p>	Noted
	<p><b>Environmental Authorities</b>  Under the SEA Regulations (SI 435, as amended), prior to making your SEA determination you should consult with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental Protection Agency;</li> <li>• Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage</li> <li>• Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and</li> <li>• Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications; and</li> <li>• Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine.</li> </ul>	Noted
	<p><b>SEA Determination</b>  As soon as practicable after making your determination as to whether SEA is required or not, you should make a copy of your decision, including, as appropriate, the reasons for not requiring an environmental assessment, available for public inspection in your offices and on your website. You should also send a copy of your determination to the relevant environmental authorities consulted.</p>	Agreed. Now SEA Determination finalised this shall be completed and issued.

# ANNEX A SEA commentary of Goals and Actions under DLR IAS Plan

## A.1 Introduction

This Annex presents the aim, objectives and actions in the DLR IAS Plan in detail, and provides a commentary from the SEA screening process in terms of potential environmental effects in light of potential consistency or conflict with the SEOs from the SEA ER of the draft DLR CDP 2022-2028. In this manner, this SEA Screening follows the SEA approach undertaken to date for the draft DLR CDP 2022-2028 (as presented in Section 8 of the SEA ER of the draft DLR CDP 2022-2028).

Therefore, Table A1 presents the SEOs from the SEA ER, whilst Table A2 presents the commentary and overall assessment of the DLR IAS Plan.

**TABLE A-1 STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL OBJECTIVES (SEOs) FROM THE SEA ER OF THE DRAFT DLR CDP 2022-2028.**

SEA Topics	Guiding principle	Strategic Environmental Objectives
<b>Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna</b>	No net contribution to biodiversity losses or deterioration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To preserve, protect, maintain and, where appropriate, enhance the terrestrial, aquatic and soil biodiversity, particularly EU designated sites and protected species</li> <li>• Ensure no adverse effects on the integrity of any European site, with regard to its qualifying interests, associated conservation status, structure and function</li> <li>• Safeguard national, regional and local designated sites and supporting features which function as stepping-stones for migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species</li> <li>• Enhance biodiversity in line with the National Biodiversity Strategy and its targets</li> <li>• To protect, maintain and conserve the County’s natural capital</li> </ul>
<b>Population and Human Health</b>	Improve quality of life for all ages and abilities based on high-quality, serviced, well connected and sustainable residential, working, educational and recreational environments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote economic growth to encourage retention of working age population and funding of sustainable development and environmental protection and management</li> <li>• Ensure that existing population and planned growth is matched with the required public infrastructure and the required services</li> </ul>

SEA Topics	Guiding principle	Strategic Environmental Objectives
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safeguard the County's citizens from environment-related pressures and risks to health and well-being</li> </ul>
<b>Soil (and Land)</b>	Ensure the long-term sustainable management of land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect soils against pollution, and prevent degradation of the soil resource</li> <li>• Promote the sustainable use of infill and brownfield sites over the use of greenfield within the County</li> <li>• Safeguard areas of prime agricultural land and designated geological sites</li> </ul>
<b>Water</b>	Protection, improvement and sustainable management of the water resource	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that the status of water bodies is protected, maintained and improved in line with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive and Marine Strategy Framework Directive</li> <li>• Ensure that economic growth of the marine resource and its ecosystems are managed sustainably</li> <li>• Ensure water resources are sustainably managed to deliver proposed regional and County growth targets in the context of existing and projected water supply and wastewater capacity constraints ensuring the protection of receiving environments</li> <li>• Avoid inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding and areas that are vulnerable to current and future erosion, particularly coastal areas</li> <li>• Integrate sustainable water management solutions (such as SuDS, porous surfacing and green roofs) into development proposals</li> </ul>
<b>Material Assets</b>	Sustainable and efficient use of natural resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Optimise existing infrastructure and provide new infrastructure to match population distribution proposals in the County</li> <li>• Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all which encourages a broad energy generation mix to ensure security of supply – wind, wave solar, tidal, biomass, energy from waste and traditional fossil fuels</li> </ul>



SEA Topics	Guiding principle	Strategic Environmental Objectives
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote the circular economy, reduce waste, and increase energy efficiencies</li> <li>• Ensure there is adequate sewerage and drainage infrastructure in place to support new development ☒ Reduce the energy demand from the transport sector and support moves to electrification of road and rail transport modes</li> <li>• Encourage the transition to a zero-carbon economy by facilitating the development of a grid infrastructure to support renewables and international connectivity. Reduce the average energy consumption per capita including promoting energy efficient buildings, retrofitting, smart-buildings, cities and grids</li> </ul>
<b>Air</b>	Support clean air policies that reduce the impact of air pollution on the environment and public health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects on human health and the environment as a whole resulting from emissions to air from all sectors with particular reference to emissions from transport, residential heating, industry and agriculture</li> <li>• Maintain and promote continuing improvement in air quality through the reduction of emissions and promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency</li> <li>• Promote continuing improvement in air quality ☒ Reduction of emissions of sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, volatile organic compounds, ammonia and fine particulate matter which are responsible for acidification, eutrophication and ground-level ozone pollution</li> <li>• Meet Air Quality Directive standards for the protection of human health — Air Quality Directive</li> <li>• Significantly decrease noise pollution by 2020 and move closer to WHO recommended levels</li> </ul>
<b>Climatic factors</b>	Achieving transition to a competitive, low carbon, climate-resilient economy that is cognisant of environmental impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To minimise emissions of greenhouse gasses</li> <li>• Integrate sustainable design solutions into the County’s infrastructure (e.g., energy efficient buildings; green infrastructure).</li> <li>• Contribute towards the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in line with national targets.</li> </ul>

SEA Topics	Guiding principle	Strategic Environmental Objectives
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote development resilient to the effects of climate change</li> <li>• Promote the use of renewable energy, energy efficient development and increased use of public transport</li> </ul>
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>	Safeguard cultural heritage features and their settings through responsible design and positioning of development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect places, features, buildings and landscapes of cultural, archaeological or architectural heritage</li> </ul>
<b>Landscape</b>	Protect and enhance the landscape character	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To implement the Plan's framework for identification, assessment, protection, management and planning of landscapes having regard to the European Landscape Convention</li> </ul>

TABLE A-2 SEA COMMENTARY AND SCREENING MATRIX OF AIM, OBJECTIVES, GOALS AND ACTIONS IN THE DLR IAS PLAN.

Overall Aim, Objectives, Goals and Actions under DLR IAS Plan	Likely to improve status of SEOs	Probable conflict with SEOs- unlikely to be mitigated	Mitigated Conflicts	No likely interactions with status of SEOs
<p><i>Aim: The overall aim of this Action Plan is to provide a roadmap for invasive species to be eradicated from Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown when possible; controlled when eradication is not possible; for new introductions to be prevented; and for damaged habitats to be restored.</i></p>	All SEOs			
<p>Objectives: The following eight objectives are identified in this IAS Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Objective 1: To develop a record of invasive species within the county</li> <li>• Objective 2: To prevent new introductions of IAS into Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown</li> <li>• Objective 3: To prevent further spread of IAS within the county</li> <li>• Objective 4: To effectively treat IAS currently present in the county</li> <li>• Objective 5: To create awareness of IAS and the threats they pose, and to provide training and education for the public</li> <li>• Objective 6: To minimise the impacts of IAS and restore damaged ecosystems to their previous state</li> </ul>	All SEOs			

Overall Aim, Objectives, Goals and Actions under DLR IAS Plan

Likely to improve status of SEOs

Probable conflict with SEOs- unlikely to be mitigated

Mitigated Conflicts

No likely interactions with status of SEOs

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective 7: To create ties and cooperative relationships with other counties and agencies in order to effectively tackle IAS</li> <li>Objective 8: To consider the impact of Climate Change in relation to IAS</li> </ul>				
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*SEA Comment*

*No direct land use implications are associated directly with the main aim or the above-mentioned key objectives of the plan related to eradication, control and prevention of the spread of invasive species. Should land use or physical infrastructural projects arise from this, DLR County Council will undertake the planning and work in line with the Ireland’s Biodiversity Action Plan 2020-2025 and DLR County Development Plan 2022-2028 which have been subject to full SEA and Appropriate Assessment and detailed mitigation measures as relevant will be applied in relation to any potential new facilities.*

*The overall objective of recording and reporting the distribution of IAS is positive across environmental parameters particularly in relation to biodiversity, water quality and human health.*

<p><b>Goal A: Recording and Prioritising Invasive Alien Species</b></p> <p><i>Focus: Establishing the current distribution of IAS within the DLR area in order to best prioritise actions and to provide a baseline from which the success of interventions can be measured.</i></p>	<p>BFF, SG, L, W, PH, MA</p>			<p>Other SEOs</p>
<p><b>A1 Record the known locations of IAS throughout the county on the National Biodiversity Data Centre portal via the desktop invasive recording form or the smartphone ‘Biodiversity’ App</b></p>	<p>BFF, SG,L, W, PH, MA</p>			

Overall Aim, Objectives, Goals and Actions under DLR IAS Plan

Likely to improve status of SEOs

Probable conflict with SEOs- unlikely to be mitigated

Mitigated Conflicts

No interactions with status of SEOs

A2 Encourage use of 'Report Invasive' or 'Biodiversity' applications among Council staff. Staff will input the findings into the app	BFF, SG,L, W, PH, MA			
A3 Establish a link from the DLR website to the National Biodiversity Data Centre Mapping feature for the county IAS records	BFF, SG,L, W, PH, MA			
A4 Prioritise species, sites and infestations for treatment based on a matrix combining the risks they pose in their current environment and the likelihood of achieving eradication or control	All SEOs			
A5 Identify a flagship species that is not yet well established in the DLR area that can be targeted for complete eradication as a means of engaging public and media interest in the IAS action plan, e.g. American Skunk Cabbage or Giant Hogweed	All SEOs			
A6 Climate Proofing our IAS Plan: Record and report species increasing in spread across the county as a result of climate change and also the arrival of new species in collaboration with the National Biodiversity Database Centre	All SEOs			
<i>SEA comment</i>				

*No direct land use implications are associated directly with this Goals or Actions. Should land use or physical infrastructural projects arise from this, DLR County Council will undertake the planning and work in line with the Ireland's Biodiversity Action Plan 2020-2025 and DLR County Development Plan 2022-2028 which have been subject to full SEA and Appropriate Assessment and detailed mitigation measures as relevant will be applied in relation to any potential new facilities.*

*The overall objective of recording and reporting the distribution of IAS is positive across environmental parameters particularly in relation to biodiversity, water quality and population.*

Overall Aim, Objectives, Goals and Actions under DLR IAS Plan

Likely to improve status of SEOs

Probable conflict with SEOs- unlikely to be mitigated

Mitigated Conflicts

No interactions with status of SEOS likely with

<p>Goal B: Preventing our activities causing spread of IAS</p> <p><i>Focus: Implementing practical strategies to ensure that human activities do not cause the spread of IAS within the DLR county area</i></p>	<p>All SEOs</p>			
<p>B1 Provide Biosecurity training for council field staff, amenity managers and other key personnel to provide them with the knowledge to protect the areas in which they work</p>				
<p>B2 Establish Biosecurity cleaning station at DLR Harbour and at DLR water-based events.</p> <p>Promote the use of cleaning stations to other event organisers outside of DLR County Council</p> <p>Provide a Biosecurity Support Pack for event organisers</p>	<p>BFF, W, MA, PHH, MA</p>			<p>Other SEOs</p>
<p>B3 Conduct public awareness campaigns on the impacts of IAS and the importance of biosecurity, e.g., require event organisers to include an IAS awareness campaign as part of their contracts</p>	<p>All SEOs</p>			
<p>B4 Establish new planning standard that means that new developments, plans and projects must submit an IAS survey as part of their planning application and a management plan where relevant</p>	<p>All SEOs</p>			
<p>B5 Produce a best-practice biosecurity document for outdoor staff, field workers and contractors, developers, etc. to follow while on-site, e.g., Construction Industry Invasive Species Good Housekeeping Plan</p>	<p>All SEOs</p>			
<p>SEA comment</p>				

Overall Aim, Objectives, Goals and Actions under DLR IAS Plan

Likely to improve status of SEOs

Probable conflict with SEOs- unlikely to be mitigated

Mitigated Conflicts

No interactions with status of SEOs

*No land use effects and significant positive environmental effects are identified for Goal B and corresponding actions as the activities relate to biosecurity and safety of workforce and prevention of spread of IAS in a working environment. Positive indirect effects are identified in relation to Population and Human Health SEOs as well as positive effects and interactions for Biodiversity, Water, Soil, Material Assets and Landscape SEOs.*

<p><b>GOAL C: Early Detection, Rapid Response for new IAS</b></p> <p><i>Focus: Ensuring that DLR County Council are aware of any new threats from Invasive Alien Species (IAS) in sufficient time to allow the problem to be dealt with before spread occurs</i></p>	<p>All SEOs</p>			
<p>C1 Provide invasive Species Identification training for council field staff, amenity managers and other key personnel. Training to include section on the importance of reporting sightings and details of how to report, treat, dispose of (where relevant) and monitor</p>	<p>All SEOs</p>			
<p>C2 Place an Invasive Species Section on the DLR website to include an Invasive Species Page with ID information and advice on treatment for home owners/landowners, etc.</p>	<p>All SEOs</p>			
<p>C3 Continue involvement in Invasive Species Week – Provide information to the public with list of IAS recorded in DLR County and information on how to report suspected IAS to NBDC. Provide IAS identification training for the public</p>	<p>All SEOs</p>			
<p>C4 Maintain contact with National Biodiversity Data Centre so DLR will be alerted and will take immediate action when alerted on any new invasive species in their area</p>	<p>All SEOs</p>			

Overall Aim, Objectives, Goals and Actions under DLR IAS Plan

Likely to improve status of SEOs

Probable conflict with SEOs- unlikely to be mitigated

Mitigated Conflicts

No likely interactions with status of SEOs

C5 Keep regular check on the National Biodiversity Data Centre Invasive Species Alerts to monitor new invasive species introductions nationally, including any changes as a result of Climate Change

All SEOs

C6 Establish and monitor an Early Warning System through the coordination of Actions C1 to C5

All SEOs

C7 Establish Rapid Response procedures for newly recorded species or infestations. Rapid Response procedures should be based on best-practice biosecurity and control for the species or taxon concerned

All SEOs

**SEA Comment**

*No land use effects and significant positive environmental effects are identified for Goal C and corresponding actions as the activities relate to the Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) systems which are designed to stop the spread of new and emerging invasive species before they become established.*

*These actions are positive overall for biodiversity and water quality as EDRR systems as this is most ecologically sound and effective method to tackle the spread of IAS. Positive indirect effects are identified in relation to Population and Human Health SEOS as well as positive effects and interactions for Biodiversity, Water, Soil, Material Assets and Landscape SEOS*

**GOAL D: Minimising the impacts of IAS**

All SEOS

*Focus: Minimising the impact of IAS within the DLR Natura 2000 network, along roadsides, within amenity areas, the riparian habitat and wildlife corridors*



Overall Aim, Objectives, Goals and Actions under DLR IAS Plan

Likely to improve status of SEOs

Probable conflict with SEOs- unlikely to be mitigated

Mitigated Conflicts

No interactions with status of SEOS

Overall Aim, Objectives, Goals and Actions under DLR IAS Plan	Likely to improve status of SEOs	Probable conflict with SEOs- unlikely to be mitigated	Mitigated Conflicts	No interactions with status of SEOS
D1 Identify the most prevalent invasive species in DLR and the ecosystem types and ecosystem services most at risk from these species	All SEOS			
D1.1 Identify the significant benefits to be gained economically from implementing control measures				
D1.2 Identify the ecosystem service benefits that will be realised and the benefits in turn to the people and county of DLR	All SEOS			
D2 Minimise the impacts of IAS in Natura 2000 sites and other important nature conservation sites within DLR	All SEOS			
D2.1 Identify IAS that occur within the Natura 2000 site network and other important protected nature conservation sites within DLR and assign priority in accordance with Action A4	All SEOS			
D2.2 Engage with the National Parks and Wildlife Service to establish a joint effort policy for tackling IAS within Natura 2000 sites and important nature conservation sites	All SEOS			
D2.3 Carry out treatments of priority infestations on DLR lands				
D2.4 Identify and engage with landowners where priority invasive species are present	All SEOS			
D2.5	All SEOS			

Overall Aim, Objectives, Goals and Actions under DLR IAS Plan

Likely to improve status of SEOS

Probable conflict with SEOs- unlikely to be mitigated

Mitigated Conflicts

No likely interactions with status of SEOS

Overall Aim, Objectives, Goals and Actions under DLR IAS Plan	Likely to improve status of SEOS	Probable conflict with SEOs- unlikely to be mitigated	Mitigated Conflicts	No likely interactions with status of SEOS
Continue public engagement with Invasive Species Week by offering ID workshops and funding information for community initiatives at important nature conservation sites				
D3 Minimise the impacts of IAS along the roadsides	All SEOS			
D3.1 Identify IAS along roadsides using the master IAS county map	All SEOS			
D3.2 Access funding through the Transport Infrastructure Ireland IAPS Framework to treat IAS growing along the National Road network	All SEOS			
D3.3 Develop a plan to treat all Knotweeds, Giant Hogweed and Giant Rhubarb growing along regional and byroads, and tender for contractors to carry out the treatments	All SEOS			
D3.4 Engage with landowners who have IAS growing on their land by roadsides to enable full and effective treatment of infestations	All SEOS			
D4 Minimise the impacts of IAS in DLR's amenity areas	All SEOS			
D4.1 Identify IAS causing problems within amenity areas	All SEOS			
D4.2 Prioritise areas for treatment based on the negative impact on public enjoyment and in accordance with Action A4	All SEOS			
D4.3 Carry out treatment of priority areas and establish a practical maintenance regime to prevent re-establishment	All SEOS			

Overall Aim, Objectives, Goals and Actions under DLR IAS Plan

Likely to improve status of SEOs

Probable conflict with SEOs- unlikely to be mitigated

Mitigated Conflicts

No interactions with status of SEOS

Overall Aim, Objectives, Goals and Actions under DLR IAS Plan	Likely to improve status of SEOs	Probable conflict with SEOs- unlikely to be mitigated	Mitigated Conflicts	No interactions with status of SEOS
<p>D4.4</p> <p>Educate the public on the dangers of introducing aquarium or terrarium contents/garden waste, etc. into public areas through appropriate signage and/or information leaflets at local pet shops and on website</p>	All SEOS			
<p>D5</p> <p>Minimise the impact of IAS on DLR’s river systems</p>	All SEOS			
<p>D5.1</p> <p>Identify IAS growing in riparian habitats and assign priority in accordance with Action A4</p>	All SEOS			
<p>D5.2</p> <p>Carry out treatment of priority areas on DLR land</p>	All SEOS			
<p>D5.3</p> <p>Encourage community and local action group involvement in the control of Himalayan Balsam and other select species</p>	All SEOS			
<p>D6</p> <p>Minimise the impact of IAS on DLR’s marine habitats</p>	All SEOS			
<p>D6.1 Identify IAS growing in DLR’s marine and coastal habitats and assign priority in accordance with Action A4</p>	All SEOS			

Overall Aim, Objectives, Goals and Actions under DLR IAS Plan

Likely to improve status of SEOS

Probable conflict with SEOs- unlikely to be mitigated

Mitigated Conflicts

No likely interactions with status of SEOS

D6.2 Begin treatment of priority IAS where practical on terrestrial areas	All SEOS			
D6.3 Hold public information day when opening DLR Harbour Biosecurity cleaning station (per Action B3) to promote 'Check, Clean, Dry' initiative	All SEOS			
D6.4 Erect signage promoting 'Check, Clean, Dry' at busy recreation areas	All SEOS			
D6.5 Ensure marine biosecurity is planned into the structure of ongoing operations and management at all levels at DLR harbour	All SEOS			

**SEA Comment**

*No land use effects are associated directly with these Goals or Actions. The overall objective of minimising the impact of IAS within the DLR Natura 2000 network, along roadsides, within amenity areas, the riparian habitat and wildlife corridors through these actions is positive across all environmental parameters particularly in relation to biodiversity, water quality, human health, landscape and material assets SEOS.*

*Long term, positive interactions with these SEOS are identified, particularly in relation to freshwater and marine habitats which act as particular vectors for IAS.*

Overall Aim, Objectives, Goals and Actions under DLR IAS Plan

Likely to improve status of SEOS

Probable conflict with SEOs- unlikely to be mitigated

Mitigated Conflicts

No likely interactions with status of SEOS

*Should land use or physical infrastructural projects arise from this, DLR County Council will undertake the planning and work in line with the Ireland's Biodiversity Action Plan 2020-2025 and DLR County Development Plan 2022-2028 which have been subject to full SEA and Appropriate Assessment and detailed mitigation measures as relevant will be applied in relation to any potential new facilities.*

<p>GOAL E: Effective treatment of IAS</p> <p><i>Focus: Ensuring that all treatments of IAS in DLR are carried out effectively and in accordance with best practice</i></p>	<p>All SEOS</p>			
<p>E1</p> <p>Provide training and CPD on best-practice treatments for all staff involved in managing or carrying out IAS treatments, including training updates in response to any changes as a result of Climate Change, e.g. new species. If using contractors, staff to ensure that only approved contractors are used</p>	<p>All SEOS</p>			
<p>E2</p> <p>Create a treatment/management calendar for IAS that details ideal times of year for treatment to occur</p>	<p>All SEOS</p>			
<p>E3</p> <p>Research into non-chemical treatments of IAS</p>	<p>All SEOS</p>			
<p>E4</p> <p>Agree on and establish a DLR county policy on the use of chemical versus non-chemical treatments of IAS</p>	<p>All SEOS</p>			

Overall Aim, Objectives, Goals and Actions under DLR IAS Plan

Likely to improve status of SEOs

Probable conflict with SEOs- unlikely to be mitigated

Mitigated Conflicts

No interactions with status of SEOS

E5	All SEOS			
Continue treatment of Grey Squirrel populations				
<i>SEA Comment</i>				
<i>No land use effects and significant adverse environmental effects are identified for Goal E and corresponding actions as the activities are positive overall in relation to water quality and biodiversity as they aim to treat the existing IAS with the best practice to help with its eradication and control. These actions are overall positive particularly across Biodiversity, flora and fauna, Water and Climate Change SEOS. By increasing awareness and education around IAS, positive effects are also identified in relation to Population and Human health SEOS also.</i>				
GOAL F: Preventing new introductions or re-establishment of IAS	All SEOS			
<i>Focus: Minimise the opportunities for IAS to enter DLR and eliminate opportunities for re-infestation</i>				
F1	All SEOS			
Identify likely pathways for IAS introductions				
F2	All SEOS			
Monitor likely pathways for IAS introductions				
F3	All SEOS			
Identify and implement specific actions that can be taken to minimise the threat posed by each identified pathway				
F4	All SEOS			

Overall Aim, Objectives, Goals and Actions under DLR IAS Plan

Likely to improve status of SEOS

Probable conflict with SEOs- unlikely to be mitigated

Mitigated Conflicts

No likely interactions with status of SEOS

Monitor previously treated areas for signs of re-establishment as an integral part of the standard treatment programme				
F5 Restore habitats wherever possible, following IAS eradication, to minimise invasion by other IAS	All SEOS			
F6 Establish strong working relationships with other partners and agencies to tackle invasive species where their pathways cross administrative boundaries	All SEOS			
F7 Identifying new invasive species occurring as a result of climate change or spread of existing IAS due to climate change and their pathways	All SEOS			
<i>SEA Comment</i>				
<i>No land use effects and significant adverse environmental effects are identified for Goal F and corresponding actions as the activities are positive overall in relation to water quality and biodiversity SEOS as they aim to identify and tackle the entry points of IAS into the county and provide evidence-based responses to key threats including climate change.</i>				
GOAL G: Overall management and implementation of IAS Action Plan	All SEOS			

Overall Aim, Objectives, Goals and Actions under DLR IAS Plan

Likely to improve status of SEOs

Probable conflict with SEOs- unlikely to be mitigated

Mitigated Conflicts

No likely interactions with status of SEOS

<p><i>Focus: Ensure that the IAS Action Plan is implemented in a coordinated fashion and that the effectiveness of the actions taken are monitored</i></p>				
<p><b>G1</b> Elect one member of each Council Section to manage the actions for the section, including invasive surveys and treatment contracts for their section</p>	<p>All SEOS</p>			
<p><b>G2</b> Hold annual meetings between the Council Section Representative to report on progress and results</p>	<p>All SEOS</p>			
<p><b>G3</b> Maintain an ongoing record of actions taken and quantify their effectiveness to inform future management efforts</p>	<p>All SEOS</p>			
<p><b>G4</b> Oversee actions G1 to G3</p>	<p>All SEOS</p>			
<p><i>SEA Comment</i></p>				
<p><i>No land use effects and significant adverse environmental effects are identified for Goal B and corresponding actions as the activities relate to successful implementation of this plan through effective management strategies. These actions are indirectly positive to the environmental parameters of Biodiversity and human health.</i></p>				



