

Report

Dublin Agglomeration Noise Action Plan 2024 -2028

## **Appropriate Assessment Screening**

For Dublin City Council (DCC), Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council (DLRCC), Fingal County Council (FCC), South Dublin County Council (SDCC), Kildare County Council (KCC) and Wicklow County Council (WCC).

19 July 2024

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# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Background

This Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening Report has been prepared by Logika Consultants Ltd. on behalf of Noise Consultants Ltd for the Dublin Agglomeration Action Planning Authorities (APAs)<sup>1</sup> and provides Screening for Appropriate Assessment of the Dublin Agglomeration Noise Action Plan (NAP) 2024-2028.

It provides information relating to the NAP with respect to its potential for Likely Significant Effect (LSE) upon Natura 2000 sites.

The requirement to prepare a NAP is set for members of the European Union under the Environmental Noise Directive (END) (2002/49/EC), a legal instrument for addressing adverse effects of environmental noise which have been transposed into Irish law<sup>2</sup> and require preparation of strategic noise mapping and implementation of NAPs. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is the national competent authority responsible for implementing the END and will ultimately report noise mapping and action planning to the European Commission. Under the Regulations, the APA are responsible for preparing a NAP for the Dublin Agglomeration.

The purpose of the NAPs is to provide a strategic overview of the management of noise issues and effects within the Dublin Agglomeration. The NAPs aim to develop clear priorities based on detailed noise mapping results, with a view to prevent environmental noise where necessary; particularly where exposure to noise levels can induce harmful effects on human health. The NAPs also identify areas to preserve environmental acoustic quality where the baseline is favourable. The temporal framework for the NAP is 5 years<sup>3</sup>, at which time the noise mapping and NAP will be reviewed, and where necessary revised. Further details are set out within **Section 4** of this report.

The AA process includes provisions for screening, scoping, and assessment, where relevant. The process of AA screening is required as part of the proposed NAPs, to determine whether further assessment is required. Therefore, the overall purpose of this report is to establish whether AA should be carried out within the Dublin Agglomeration. The outcome of this screening is to determine whether significant negative environmental effects will arise from implementation of the NAPs.

The report provides:

- The methodology used to define the scope of the assessment and identify potential effects on Natura 2000 sites associated with the NAPs (Stage 1: screening);
- A list of the Natura 2000 sites and their designated features that may be subject to LSE due to the NAPs, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects; and,

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<sup>1</sup> The APA comprises Dublin City Council, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council (DLRCC), Fingal County Council (FCC), South Dublin County Council (SDCC), Kildare County Council (KCC) and Wicklow County Council (WCC).

<sup>2</sup> The END was transposed into Irish Law by the Environmental Noise Regulations 2006<sup>1</sup> (S.I. 140/2006) (the "Regulations"). The Regulations were revised by the European Communities (Environmental Noise) Regulations 2018<sup>2</sup> (S.I. 549/2018) and amended through the European Communities (Environmental Noise) (Amendment) Regulations 2021<sup>3</sup> (S.I. 663/2021).

<sup>3</sup> The European Commission allowed for one additional year for the Round 4 NAPs, reducing the five-year implementation period to four-years (2024-2028).

- An assessment (to inform the competent authority's AA) of which LSE may result in an Adverse Effect On the Integrity (AEOI) of one or more Natura 2000 sites, taking in to account the type, timing and securing mechanisms for proposed mitigation.

This AA Screening Report has been undertaken in accordance with the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DEHLG) guidance (2009)<sup>4</sup>.

## 1.2 Legislative Context

The requirement for AA for plans and projects is outlined in European Directives 92/43/EEC and 2009/147/EC (the 'Habitats directive' and the 'Birds directive', respectively), which are transposed into Irish law by the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats Regulations 2011 (S. I. No. 477 of 2011)), the 'Habitat Regulations'.

The overarching goal of the Habitats and Birds Directives are to uphold or restore the "favourable conservation status" of habitats and species recognised as of European Community Interest. These specific habitats and species are outlined in the Habitats and Birds Directives, with the designation of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) aimed at safeguarding the most vulnerable among them. Together, these designations are commonly referred to as European Sites, also known as Natura 2000 sites.

In Ireland, the habitats and/or species which are the reason(s) for designation of an SAC are referred to as the 'Qualifying Interest(s)' (QI) of that site. In relation to SPAs, the bird species for which a particular site is designated are referred to as the 'Special Conservation Interests' (SCI).

The Natura 2000 network in Ireland is made up of European sites which include:

- Special Areas of Conservation (SAC);
- Special Protection Areas (SPA);
- Candidate Special Areas of Conservation (cSAC); and
- Proposed Special Protection Areas (pSPA).

Under article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive, any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of a Natura 2000 site, but would be likely to have a LSE on such a site, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to an AA. Plans or projects can only be authorised if it can be concluded that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the Natura 2000 site in view of the site's conservation objectives. The exception to this is where there are Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest (IROPI) and there are no other feasible alternatives, which would not affect the integrity of the Natura 2000 site. In this case the Competent Authority must assess all compensatory measures required to ensure the protection of the overall coherence of the Natura 2000 network.

In fulfilling its role as Competent Authority, the APAs of the Dublin Agglomeration are required to apply the precautionary principle to Natura 2000 sites and can only grant adoption once it has been ascertained that the proposed NAPs will not adversely affect the integrity of any Natura 2000 site. The word 'likely' is regarded as a description of a risk (or possibility) rather than in a sense an expression of probability.

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<sup>4</sup> Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DEHLG) guidance (2009) Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland. Guidance for Planning Authorities.

## 2 Appropriate Assessment (AA)

AA is a systematic process designed to assess potential LSE of implementing plans or projects before they are formally adopted or consented.

The AA process can involve up to four stages:

- **Stage One: Screening:** The process that identifies the likely impacts upon a Natura 2000 site of a project or plan, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans and considers whether these impacts are likely to be significant.
- **Stage Two: Appropriate Assessment:** The consideration of the impact on the integrity of the Natura 2000 site of the project or plan, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, with respect to the site's structure and function and its conservation objectives. Additionally, where there are adverse impacts, an assessment of the potential mitigation of those impacts. If adequate mitigation is proposed to ensure no significant adverse impacts on the integrity of Natura 2000 sites, then the process may end at this stage. However, if the likelihood of significant impacts remains, then the process must proceed to Stage Three.
- **Stage Three: Assessment of Alternative Solutions:** The process that examines alternative ways of achieving the objectives of the project or plan that avoids adverse impacts on the integrity of the Natura 2000 site.
- **Stage Four:** Assessment where no alternative solutions exist and where adverse impacts remain: An assessment of compensatory measures where, in the light of an assessment of imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI), it is deemed that the project or plan should proceed.

Regulation 42 of the Habitats Regulations requires the competent authority to undertake Stage 1 Screening for AA and where necessary Stage 2 AA of any plan or project. Stage 3 and 4 are included under Regulations 43 and 45 respectively.

A LSE is, in this context, any appreciable effect that may reasonably be predicted as a consequence of a plan or project that may affect the conservation objectives of the features for which the site was designated, but excluding trivial or inconsequential effects.

### 2.1 Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) screening assessment is being undertaken concurrently with the AA process to determine whether the European Union (EU) Directive 2001/42/EC<sup>5</sup> (the 'SEA Directive') and European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations S.I.435/2004<sup>5</sup> as amended in 2011, apply to the NAP, and if further SEA beyond formal screening is required.

This AA Screening report has informed the SEA Screening process as this AA Screening does not indicate that there are likely impacts upon a Natura 2000 site of the NAP, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans. On this basis there is no automatic trigger for the requirement of SEA for the plan.

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<sup>5</sup> [S.I. No. 435/2004 - European Communities \(Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes\) Regulations 2004 \(irishstatutebook.ie\)](#)

## 3 AA Screening Methodology

### 3.1 Overview

Guidance on the screening stage has been provided by the Government<sup>6</sup>, who describe it as a simple assessment to check if a proposal:

- is directly connected with or necessary for the conservation management of a Natura 2000 site;
- risks having a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site on its own or in combination with other proposals.

The screening process has two potential conclusions, namely that a project or plan, alone or in combination with other plans or projects, could result in:

- No LSE on any of the QI/SCI of the Natura 2000 site; or
- LSE identified, or cannot be ruled out, on one or more of the QI/SCI of the Natura 2000 site.

Only the second of these outcomes will trigger an AA. If one or more LSE are identified, or cannot be ruled out, it is then necessary to proceed to Stage 2 and undertake an AA.

This AA Screening Report has been prepared taking into account aforementioned legislation and guidance including the following:

#### Legislation

- Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora;
- Council Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds, codified version;
- European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011, as amended;
- Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended; and,
- Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended.

#### Guidance

- Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland. Guidance for Planning Authorities, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2010, including Appendix 5; AA Checklist);
- Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive: Guidance for Planning Authorities. Circular NPW 1/10 & PSSP 2/10;
- Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites: Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC", European Commission Environment DG, 2002;
- Commission Notice: Managing Natura 2000 sites - The provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC", European Commission 2018;

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<sup>6</sup> [Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland \(npws.ie\)](https://www.npws.ie)

- Draft Guidance Note for Noise Action Planning for the European Communities (Environmental Noise) Regulations 2018. Draft Version 2, January 2024;
- Guidelines for Good Practice Appropriate Assessment of Plans under Article 6(3) Habitats Directive. Findings of an international workshop on Appropriate Assessment in Oxford, December 2009; and,
- Managing Natura 2000 sites: The Provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC", European Commission, 2000.

### Other Sources

- Environmental Protection Agency ENVision maps and water data — [www.epa.ie](http://www.epa.ie);
- Format for a Prioritised Action Framework (PAF) for Natura 2000 (DAHG, 2014) [www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/general/PAF-IE-2014.pdf](http://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/general/PAF-IE-2014.pdf);
- Ireland's Article 1.2 submission to the EU Commission on the Status and Trends of Bird Species (2008-2012);
- National Biodiversity Action Plan 2017-2021 (DAHG, 2017);
- National Parks and Wildlife Service — Article 17 Status of EU protected habitats in Ireland reporting (NPWS 2013a & 2013b);
- National Parks and Wildlife Service online European Site information — [www.npws.ie](http://www.npws.ie); and,
- The state of nature in the European Union Report on the status and trends in 2013 - 2018 of species and habitat types protected by the Birds and Habitats Directives.

The AA has been undertaken in consideration of European Union (CJEU) judgment on Case C323/17 (People over Wind, Peter Sweetman v Coillte Teoranta); "it is not appropriate, at the screening stage, to take account of the measures intended to avoid or reduce the harmful effects [mitigation] of the plan or project on that site."

Other caselaw relevant to Screening are Waddenzee (C127/02), Holohan and Others v An Bord Pleanála (C461/17) and Court of Appeal case C1/2009/0041/QBACF Citation No [2009] EWCA Civ. 1061.



## 4 Stage 1: Screening

Screening is presented in the following Section and includes the following Stages:

- 1) Description of the Plan;
- 2) Identification of relevant Natura 2000 sites;
- 3) Assessment of LSE; and
- 4) Screening Statement.

### 4.1 Description of the Plan: Dublin Agglomeration Noise Action Plan 2024-2028

#### 4.1.1 Background of the Plan/Overview

The Dublin Agglomeration NAP will replace the current NAP 2018-2023. As required by the END, the NAP seeks to provide a framework for long-term management of environmental noise from transport systems referring to the results of the strategic noise maps to inform assessments of population exposure and harmful effects of noise. As part of this management, the protection of quiet areas within the Agglomeration is also set out within the NAP.

As there is no provision in legislation upon which the actions outlined in the NAP can be enforced, as set out in the NAP's Noise Policy Statement and Responsible Aims reliance will be made on various other plans and policies such as the such as the Dublin City Development Plan 2022-2028 and other Development Plans within the Agglomeration, the National Planning Framework 2040, and the Planning Acts, for their implementation. The NAP also provides the basis for feedback and input from statutory authorities and the public to help inform the NAP in relation to the assessment and management of environmental noise.

A stand-alone NAP will be produced for aviation activities associated with Dublin Airport, and is not considered within this AA Screening Report.

#### 4.1.2 Scope of the NAP

The scope of the NAPs include the identification of existing noise emissions, priority important areas based on an assessment of harmful effects and details of noise management measures for consideration and evaluation at implementation stage. The NAP also includes the identification of Candidate Quiet Areas for consideration as Quiet Areas at the implementation stage.

The prevention, protection and mitigation measures included in the NAP, which are applied to areas subject to noise management activities, is also relevant to this assessment. The management of noise within the Agglomeration focusses on the following approaches:

- **“Prevention** – *manage the risk of additional members of the community being exposed to undesirable noise levels where it is likely conditions. In the Agglomeration, preventative measures consist of planning policy in respect of not locating residential developments and other noise sensitive buildings in potentially noisy environments and in particular adjacent to transportation infrastructure.*
- **Protection** – *relates to the preservation of environmental noise quality through the identification of Candidate Quiet Areas, and the processes of investigating the Candidate Quiet Areas for delimitation as Quiet Areas; and*

- **Mitigation Measures** – *identify and prioritise appropriate mitigation measures to reduce and/or mitigate noise levels in areas where they are potentially harmful to human health.*"

Prevention measures, as set out in the NAP, could include the implementation of planning guidance to implement the need for acoustic design statements for new residential applications if adverse noise impacts are identified. It could also include the consideration of noise levels within areas of public realm.

Protection measures as set out in the NAP includes the identification of candidate quiet areas to which protection measures may be required to manage activities in these areas which would impact the acoustic environment. Implemented quiet areas should be considered within City or County Development Plans as well as Local Area Plans.

Mitigation measures as set out in the NAP include the identification and implementation of priority important areas. Noise mitigation measures within these areas should be evaluated of their effectiveness through the following steps as set out in the NAP:

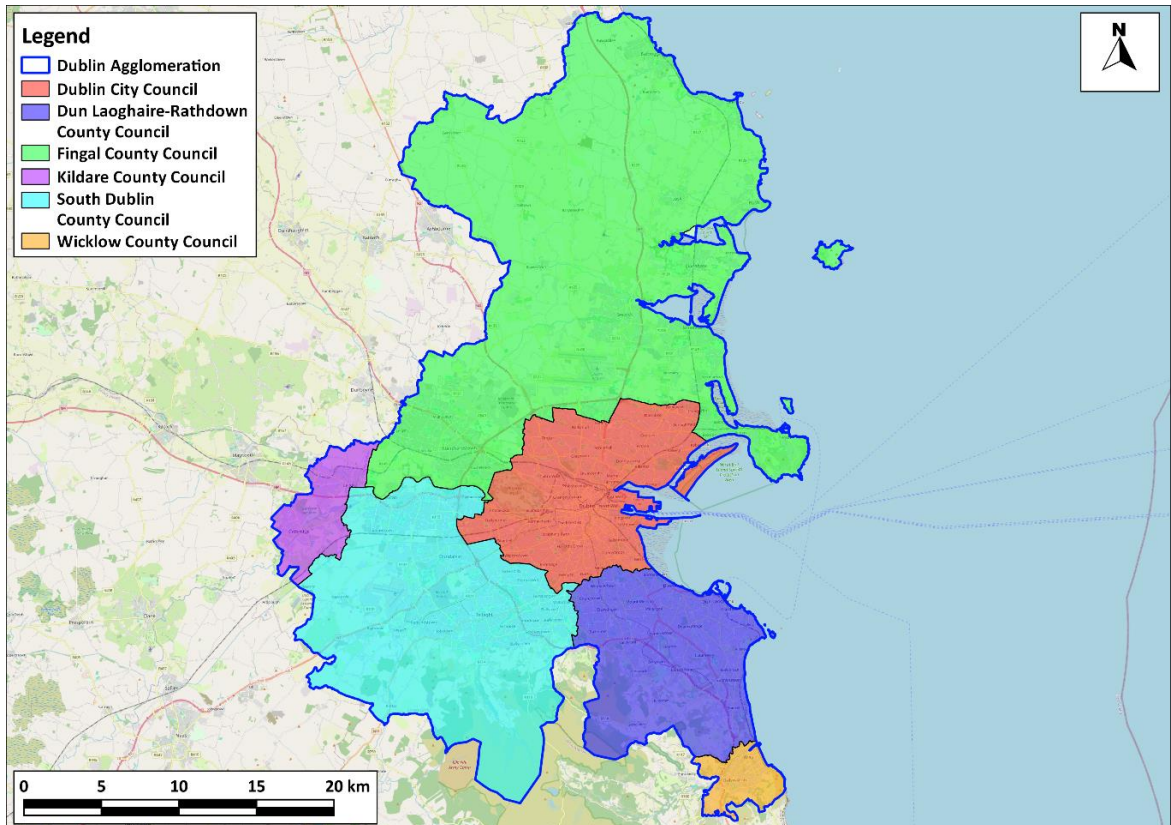
- Noise measurements at Priority Important Areas;
- Review of the assumptions used to identify the Priority Important Areas;
- Re-evaluation of Priority Important Areas;
- Identification of practical noise mitigation measures;
- Appraisal of noise mitigation options monetised benefits to health;
- Financial assessment of noise mitigation measures;
- Cost-benefit analysis; and
- Recommendation of noise mitigation measure(s).

How the NAP identifies areas to be preserved for environmental noise quality, is also relevant to this assessment.

### 4.1.3 Description of the Dublin Agglomeration

The Dublin Agglomeration is defined in the Regulations and covers an area of 959.9km<sup>2</sup> with a population of 1,355,968 and is shown in **Figure 4-1**.

**Figure 4-1 Agglomeration and County Boundaries**



As detailed in the NAP, the total population of the Dublin Agglomeration is approximately 1,355,968. In terms of noise sources, there are 67 industry sites and approximately 5,566 kilometres of road (including major roads), and 365 kilometres of rail (including major rail) in the Agglomeration. There are also a total of 1158 noise sensitive buildings (schools and hospitals) located within the Agglomeration.

## 4.2 Identification of Relevant Natura 2000 sites

### 4.2.1 Natura 2000 sites

A total of 13 SPAs and 15 SACs have been identified, as shown on **Figure 4.2** and **Figure 4.3** within or adjacent to the Dublin Agglomeration, or within the likely zone of impact which have been considered within this AA. In this instance the likely zone of impact is 15km from the Dublin Agglomeration boundary in accordance with Government guidance.

Further details on Natura 2000 sites identified are provided in **Table 4.1**, including the Site Code, location (County) and QI/SCI.

Figure 4-2: SPA Sites within the Agglomeration

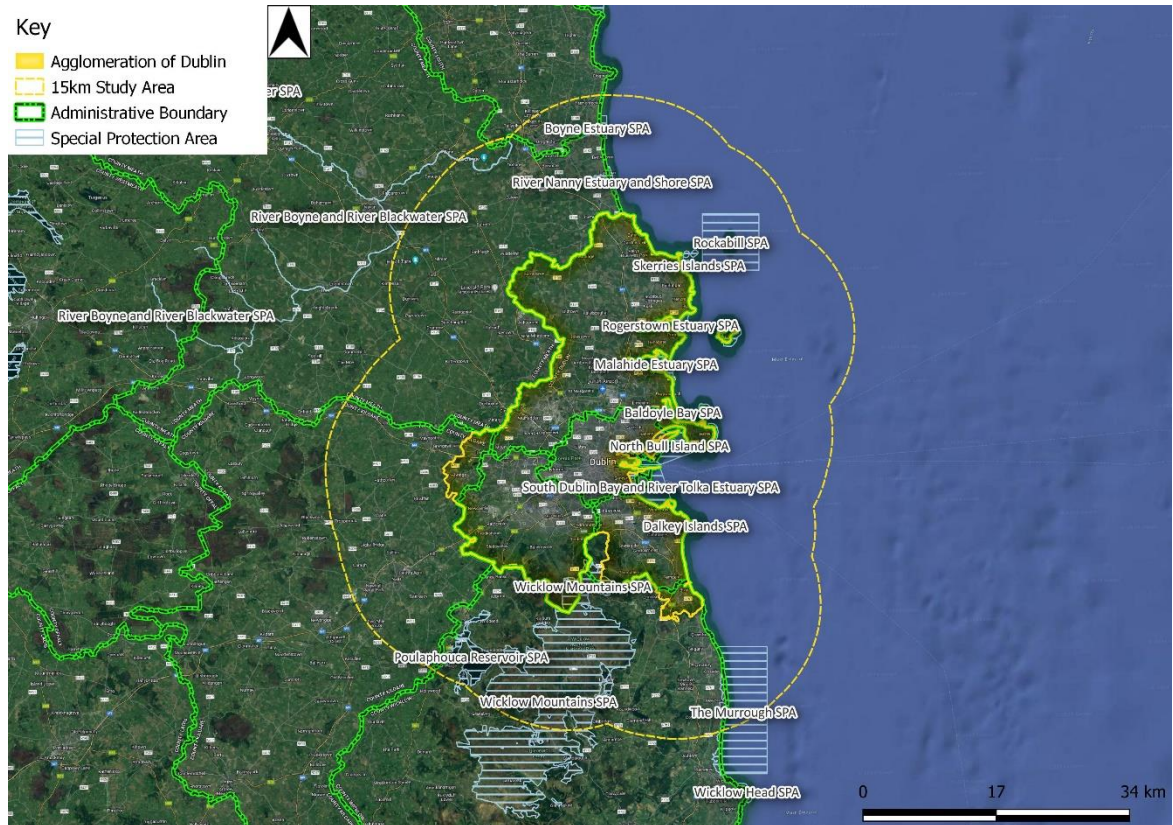
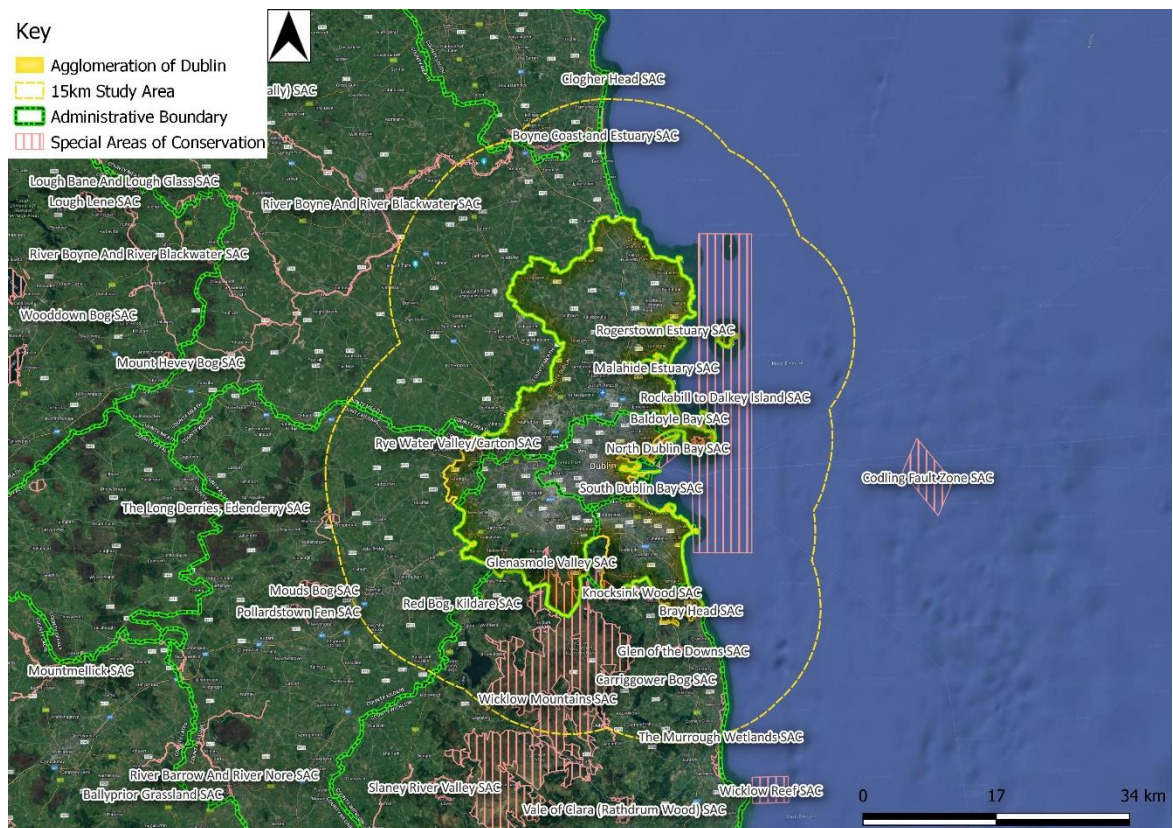


Figure 4-3: SAC Sites within the Agglomeration



**Table 4-1: Natura 2000 sites**

Natura 2000 Site	Site Code	County	Qualifying Interests / Species of Conservation Importance
Baldoyle Bay SAC	IE0000199	Dublin	1140 - Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide 1310 - Salicornia and other annuals colonizing mud and sand 1330 - Atlantic salt meadows ( <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i> ) 1410 - Mediterranean salt meadows ( <i>Juncetalia maritimi</i> )
Baldoyle Bay SPA	IE0004016	Dublin	A046 - Brent Goose <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> A048 - Shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> A137 - Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> A140 - Golden Plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> A141 - Grey Plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> A157 - Bar-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa lapponica</i> A999 - Wetlands
Ballyman Glen SAC	IE0000713	Dublin Wicklow	7220 - Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) 7230 - Alkaline fens
Bray Head SAC	IE0000714	Wicklow	1230 - Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts 4030 - European dry heaths
Dalkey Islands SPA	IE0004172	Dublin	A192 Roseate Tern <i>Sterna dougallii</i> A193 Common Tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i> A194 Arctic Tern <i>Sterna paradisaea</i>
Glenasmole Valley SAC	IE0001209	Dublin	6210 - Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates ( <i>Festuco-Brometalia</i> ) (* important orchid sites) 6410 - Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils ( <i>Molinion caeruleae</i> ) 7220 - Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion)
Howth Head Coast SPA	IE0004113	Dublin	A188 Kittiwake <i>Rissa tridactyla</i>
Howth Head SAC	IE0000202	Dublin	1230 - Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts 4030 European dry heaths
Ireland's Eye SPA	IE0004117	Dublin	A017 Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> A184 Herring Gull <i>Larus argentatus</i> A188 Kittiwake <i>Rissa tridactyla</i> A199 Guillemot <i>Uria aalge</i> A200 Razorbill <i>Alca torda</i>
Ireland's Eye SAC	IE0002193	Dublin	1220 - Perennial vegetation of stony banks 1230 - Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts

Natura 2000 Site	Site Code	County	Qualifying Interests / Species of Conservation Importance
Knocksink Wood SAC	IE0000725	Dublin Wicklow	7220 - Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion)* 91A0 - Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles 91E0 - Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> ( <i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i> )*
Lambay Island SAC	IE0000204	Dublin	1170 - Reefs 1230 - Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts 1364 - Grey seal <i>Halichoerus grypus</i> 1365 - Harbour seal <i>Phoca vitulina</i>
Lambay Island SPA	IE0004069	Dublin	A009 Fulmar <i>Fulmarus glacialis</i> A017 Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> A018 Shag <i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i> A043 Greylag Goose <i>Anser anser</i> A183 Lesser Black-backed Gull <i>Larus fuscus</i> A184 Herring Gull <i>Larus argentatus</i> A188 Kittiwake <i>Rissa tridactyla</i> A199 Guillemot <i>Uria aalge</i> A200 Razorbill <i>Alca torda</i> A204 Puffin <i>Fratercula arctica</i>
Malahide Estuary SPA	IE0004025	Dublin	A005 - Great Crested Grebe <i>Podiceps cristatus</i> A046 - Brent Goose <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> A048 - Shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> A054 - Pintail <i>Anas acuta</i> A067 - Goldeneye <i>Bucephala clangula</i> A069 - Red-breasted Merganser <i>Mergus serrator</i> A130 - Oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> A140 - Golden Plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> A141 - Grey Plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> A143 - Knot <i>Calidris canutus</i> A149 - Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i> A156 - Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa</i> A157 - Bar-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa lapponica</i> A162 - Redshank <i>Tringa tetanus</i> A999 - Wetlands
Malahide Estuary SAC	IE0000205	Dublin	1140 - Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide 1310 - Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand 1320 - Spartina swards ( <i>Spartinion maritimae</i> ) 1330 - Atlantic salt meadows ( <i>Glaucopuccinellietalia maritimae</i> ) 1410 - Mediterranean salt meadows ( <i>Juncetalia maritimi</i> ) 2120 - Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) 2130 - Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes)*

Natura 2000 Site	Site Code	County	Qualifying Interests / Species of Conservation Importance
North Bull Island SPA	IE0004006	Dublin	A046 - Light-bellied Brent Goose <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> A048 - Shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> A052 - Teal <i>Anas crecca</i> A054 - Pintail <i>Anas acuta</i> A056 - Shoveler <i>Anas clypeata</i> A130 Oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> A140 - Golden Plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> A141 - Grey Plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> A143 - Knot <i>Calidris canutus</i> A144 - Sanderling <i>Calidris alba</i> A149 - Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i> A156 - Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa</i> A157 - Bar-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa lapponica</i> A160 - Curlew <i>Numenius Arquata</i> A162 - Redshank <i>Tringa tetanus</i> A169 - Turnstone <i>Arenaria interpres</i> A179 - Black-headed Gull <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> A999 - Wetlands
North Dublin Bay SAC	IE0000206	Dublin	1140 - Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide 1210 - Annual vegetation of drift lines 1310 <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand 1330 Atlantic salt meadows ( <i>Glaucopuccinellietalia maritima</i> ) 1395 Petalwort <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> 1410 - Mediterranean salt meadows ( <i>Juncetalia maritimi</i> ) 2110 - Embryonic shifting dunes 2120 - Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) 2130 - Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) 2190 - Humid dune slacks
North-west Irish Sea SPA	IE0004236	Dublin Louth Meath	A001 - Red-throated Diver <i>Gavia stellata</i> A003 - Great Northern Diver <i>Gavia immer</i> A009 - Fulmar <i>Fulmarus glacialis</i> A013 Manx Shearwater <i>Puffinus puffinus</i> A017 - Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> A018 - Shag <i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i> A065 - Common Scoter <i>Melanitta nigra</i> A179 - Black-headed Gull <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> A182 - Common Gull <i>Larus canus</i> A183 - Lesser Black-backed Gull <i>Larus fuscus</i> A184 - Herring Gull <i>Larus argentatus</i> A187 - Great Black-backed Gull <i>Larus marinus</i> A188 - Kittiwake <i>Rissa tridactyla</i> A192 - Roseate Tern <i>Sterna dougallii</i> A193 - Common Tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i> A194 - Arctic Tern <i>Sterna paradisaea</i> A195 - Little Tern <i>Sterna albifrons</i>

Natura 2000 Site	Site Code	County	Qualifying Interests / Species of Conservation Importance
			A199 - Guillemot <i>Uria aalge</i> A200 - Razorbill <i>Alca torda</i> A204 - Puffin <i>Fratercula arctica</i> A862 - Little Gull <i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>
Rockabill SPA	IE0004014	Dublin	A148 - Purple Sandpiper <i>Calidris maritima</i> A192 - Roseate Tern <i>Sterna dougallii</i> A193 - Common Tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i> A194 - Arctic Tern <i>Sterna paradisaea</i>
Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC	IE0003000	Dublin	1170 - Reefs 1351 - Harbour porpoise <i>Phocoena phocoena</i>
Rogerstown Estuary SAC	IE0000208	Dublin	1130 - Estuaries 1140 - Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide 1310 - Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand 1330 - Atlantic salt meadows ( <i>Glaucopuccinellietalia maritimae</i> ) 1410 - Mediterranean salt meadows ( <i>Juncetalia maritimi</i> ) 2120 - Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) 2130 - Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes)*
Rogerstown Estuary SPA	IE0004015	Dublin	A043 - Greylag Goose <i>Anser anser</i> A046 - Brent Goose <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> A048 - Shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> A056 - Shoveler <i>Anas clypeata</i> A130 - Oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> A137 - Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> A141 - Grey Plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> A143 - Knot <i>Calidris canutus</i> A149 - Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i> A156 - Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa</i> A162 - Redshank <i>Tringa tetanus</i> A999 - Wetlands
Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC	IE0001398	Kildare Meath	1014 - Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail <i>Vertigo angustior</i> 1016 - Desmoulin's Whorl Snail <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i> 7220 - Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion)*
Skerries Islands SPA	IE0004122	Dublin	A017 Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> A018 Shag <i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i> A046 Light-bellied Brent Goose <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> A148 Purple Sandpiper <i>Calidris maritima</i> A169 Turnstone <i>Arenaria interpres</i> A184 Herring Gull <i>Larus argentatus</i>



Natura 2000 Site	Site Code	County	Qualifying Interests / Species of Conservation Importance
South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA	IE0004024	Dublin	A046 - Light- bellied Brent Goose <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> A130 - Oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> A137 - Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> A141 - Grey Plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> A143 - Knot <i>Calidris canutus</i> A144 - Sanderling <i>Calidris alba</i> A149 - Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i> A157 - Bar-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa lapponica</i> A162 - Redshank <i>Tringa tetanus</i> A179 - Black-headed Gull <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> A192 -Roseate Tern <i>Sterna dougalli</i> A193 - Common Tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i> A194 - Arctic Tern <i>Sterna paradisaea</i> A999 - Wetlands
South Dublin Bay SAC	IE0000210	Dublin	1140 - Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide
Wicklow Mountains SAC	IE0002122	Dublin Wicklow	1355 - Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> 3110 - Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains ( <i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i> ) 3130 - Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the <i>Littorelletea uniflorae</i> and/or <i>Isoeto-Nanojuncetea</i> 3160 - Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds 4010 - Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> 4030 - European dry heaths 4060 - Alpine and Boreal heaths 6130 - Calaminarian grasslands of the <i>Violetalia calaminariae</i> 6230 - Species-rich <i>Nardus</i> grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe) 7130 - Blanket bogs (* if active bog) 8110 - Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels ( <i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsietalia ladani</i> ) 8210 - Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation 8220 - Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation 91A0 - Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles
Wicklow Mountains SPA	IE0004040	Wicklow Dublin	A098 Merlin <i>Falco columbarius</i> A103 Peregrine <i>Falco peregrinus</i>

### 4.3 Assessment of LSE

A Screening Matrix is presented in **Table 4-2** based on the guidance provided in “Assessment of plans and projects in relation to Natura 2000 sites - Methodological guidance on Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC”.

**Table 4-2: Screening Matrix**

Description of the Plan	An overview of the NAP, including background and context are provided in Section 4.1 of this document.
Identification of Natura 2000 sites	Natura 2000 sites identified within the Zone of Influence (Zol) of the NAPs are provided in Section 4.2 of this document.
Is the plan directly connected with, or necessary to the management of the Natura 2000 site(s)?	The Plan is not directly connected with, or necessary to, the conservation management objectives of the above listed Natura 2000 sites in Section 4.2 and therefore further consideration of likely significant effects (LSEs) is required.
What are the individual elements of the plan (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) likely to give rise to impacts on the Natura 2000 site?	Noise is a principal source of disturbance for QI and SCI features of Natura 2000 sites. The aim of the NAP is to reduce noise sources within the Dublin Agglomeration and protect 'Quiet Areas', whereby existing baseline noise levels will be maintained, or reduced. Where Candidate Quiet Areas are designated, they will not offset noise elsewhere that might affect Natura 2000 sites, and it is likely that many of the Quiet Areas will also coincide with the Natura 2000 sites. For other identified sites there again there are no policies or requirements that would directly offset noise elsewhere that could give rise to LSE to Natura 2000 sites, or the QI/SCI of that site. Therefore, there is no pathway for potential LSE as the plan does not propose any measures which could increase or negatively affect existing noise levels. The reduction in noise in areas near to, or within Natura 2000 sites will ultimately contribute to a beneficial effect of Natura 2000 sites and their QI/SCI features. The potential noise impacts that arise from future development works will be assessed in their own right through Planning and Licensing processes, including through Environmental Impact Assessments, Strategic Environmental Assessments, Appropriate Assessments and application of relevant Guidance relating to noise.
What are the likely effects on the Natura 2000 sites in view of the specific conservation objectives set out for the designating features?	None – the NAP does not provide a specific framework for development; they provide a strategy to reduce noise emissions and identify quiet areas where either baseline noise emissions will be protected, therefore there is no pathway for potential LSE on Natura 2000 sites in view of their conservation objectives.
Describe how the project or plan (alone or in-combination) is	No LSE effects envisaged. The effects of the NAPs are considered to be beneficial, however no pathway for LSE is identified.

likely to affect the Natura 2000 site(s).	
Explain why these effects are not considered to be significant.	<p>The proposals in the NAP will seek to reduce noise emission levels of road traffic, rail traffic and at industrial activity sites, including ports. The reduction in noise at these locations across the Dublin Agglomeration will ultimately result in the reduction or retention of baseline noise emissions within and adjacent to Natura 2000 sites. Therefore, there is no pathway for adverse effect and so it cannot be significant. The reduction in noise emissions will be indirectly beneficial for species associated with Natura 2000 sites albeit not significantly, as it is well documented that noise can have detrimental effects on a species ability to reproduce (timing, frequency and hatching success) and communicate<sup>7</sup>. It is acknowledged that some species may be habituated to current noise levels and it is considered that their function within the Natura 2000 sites would only be improved by reduced noise levels.</p>
Are there other projects or plans that together with the project or plan being assessed could affect the site?	<p>The following other Plans have been considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Short Guide to Three Dublin City Woodlands;</li> <li>• Dublin Airport Local Area Plan and Fingal County Development Plan 2017-2023;</li> <li>• Dublin City Centre Transport Plan 2023;</li> <li>• Dublin City Development Plan 2022-2028;</li> <li>• Dublin City Parks Strategy 2019-2022;</li> <li>• Dublin City Tree Strategy 2016-2020;</li> <li>• Dublin Region Air Quality Plan 2021;</li> <li>• Eastern &amp; Midland Regional Assembly – Regional Planning Guidance;</li> <li>• Eastern &amp; Midland Regional Assembly – Regional Spatial &amp; Economic Strategy, 2019-2031;</li> <li>• Greater Dublin Area Transport Strategy 2022-2042 (GDATS);</li> <li>• National Planning Framework;</li> <li>• Renewable Electricity Plan; and,</li> <li>• Your City Space Public Realm.</li> </ul> <p>The NAPs present a framework for the identification and reduction of potential noise sources and the identification of</p>

<sup>7</sup> Masayuki., S *et al* (2020) Sensory pollutants alter bird phenology and fitness across a continent. Nature.

	<p>proposed 'Quiet Areas'. There are no additional sources for effects to Natura 2000 sites in combination with other projects or plans.</p>
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## 4.4 Screening Statement

The NAP is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of a Natura 2000 site.

The NAP establishes a framework for identifying and mitigating noise pollution sources within the Dublin Agglomeration. Any project resulting from the NAPs must adhere to relevant levels within the National Planning Framework, such as the Dublin City Development Plan 2022-2028, along with other applicable legislation and policy requirements.

The potential noise impact of development is overseen through the Planning and Licensing processes, encompassing Environmental Impact Assessments, Strategic Environmental Assessments, Appropriate Assessments and adherence to pertinent guidance on noise. The primary trigger for AA would be if the NAP was likely to significantly affect a Natura 2000 site. However, the NAP elements are not identified as having any direct or indirect impacts on Natura 2000 sites.

Stage 1: Screening has concluded that the NAP is not predicted, either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects, to have LSE upon the 28 Natura 2000 sites identified in Section 4.2.

Therefore, in alignment with the Methodological guidance on Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, it is determined that the NAP will generate no potential for LSE. Consequently, a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment is not required.

Should there be changes to the NAPs, which may affect the conclusions presented herein, then a further screening of the potential for LSEs upon Natura 2000 sites will be required.



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