SCREENING STATEMENT

IN SUPPORT OF THE

APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

FOR PROPOSED

SOCIAL HOUSING INFILL AT ROEBUCK ROAD, CLONSKEAGH, CO. DUBLIN

for: **Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council**

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1st April 2021

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1. Introduction

1.1. Background

CAAS has been appointed by Dun Laoghaire County Council to prepare this Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening Report (also known as *Stage One* AA) to support AA procedures to determine whether or not a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) (*Stage Two* AA) is required for the proposed social housing infill at Roebuck road, Clonskeagh, Co. Dublin, in accordance with the requirements of Article 6(3) of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (as amended) (hereafter referred to as the "Habitats Directive").

1.2. Report Structure

This section sets out the legislative context for the assessment process with reference to relevant guidelines and highlight the experience and qualifications of the author. It then details the proposed scheme and the works associated with this which are then interrogated to identify any possible effects which may be ecologically relevant. Following this, the metrics for the assessment of 'significance' of these effects are explained and applied to each of the European sites identified to be ecologically connected to the proposed scheme area. The assessment is undertaken in view of the conservation objectives and known sensitivities of the qualifying interests and special conservation interests for each European site. Other plans and projects are then considered to identify any likely in combination effects which may result in significant adverse effects to the ecological integrity of the European sites.

1.3. Legislative Context

The Habitats Directive provides legal protection for habitats and species of European importance. The overall aim of the Habitats Directive is to maintain or restore the "favourable conservation status" of habitats and species of European Community Interest. These habitats and species are listed in the Habitats and Birds Directives (Habitats Directive as above and Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds) with Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) designated to afford protection to the most vulnerable of them. These two designations are collectively known as European sites. Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive set out the decision-making tests for plans and projects likely to affect such sites. Article 6(3) establishes the requirement for AA. These requirements are implemented in the Republic of Ireland by the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (as amended) and the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive States:

> *'Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives. In the light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implications for the site and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, the competent national authorities shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public'.*

The AA process relates to the protection of species listed in Annex I and Annex II of the Habitats Directive which form the Natura 2000 network (Article 3(1)). Species breeding and resting places of species listed in Annex IV of the Habitats Directive are nationally protected in Ireland as per Articles 15 and 16 of the Habitats Directive. The species listed in Annex IV do not form part of the Natura 2000 network as they are not mentioned in Article 3(1) of the Directive which defines the Natura 2000 network.

Article 3(1) of the Habitats Directive States:

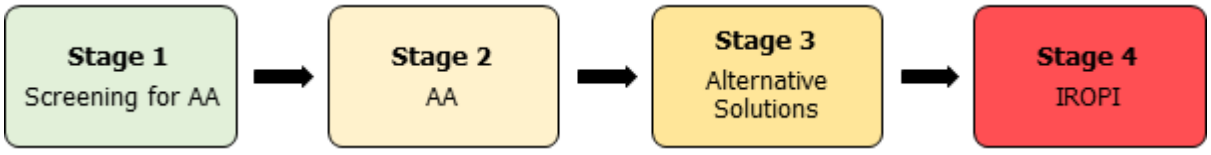
> *'A coherent European ecological network of special areas of conservation shall be set up under the title Natura 2000. This network, composed of sites hosting the natural habitat types listed in Annex I and habitats of the species listed in Annex II, shall enable the natural habitat types and the species' habitats concerned to be maintained or, where appropriate, restored at a favourable conservation status in their natural range'.*

AA is an assessment of the likely significant effects arising from a plan or project, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, to assess if the plan or project will adversely affect the integrity of the European site concerned including implications in view of the European site's conservation objectives. These sites consist of SACs and SPAs and provide for the protection and long-term survival of Europe's most valuable and threatened species and habitats. The AA process is concluded by the relevant competent authority in the formation of a determination in accordance with article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive.

1.4. Overview of the Habitats Directive and Appropriate Assessment Process

The Habitats Directive itself promotes a hierarchy of avoidance, mitigation and compensatory measures. This approach aims to avoid any effects on European sites by identifying possible effects early in the plan or project making process and avoiding such effects. Second, the approach involves the application of mitigation measures, if necessary, during the AA process to the point where no adverse impacts on the site(s) remain. If potential significant effects on the integrity of European sites remain, and no further practicable mitigation is possible, the approach requires the consideration of alternative solutions. If no alternative solutions are identified and the plan or project is required for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, then compensation measures are required for any remaining adverse effects.

There are four main stages in the AA process:



Stage One: Screening

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

Stage Two: Appropriate Assessment
The consideration of the impact on the integrity of the European site of the project or plan, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, with respect to the site's structure and function and its conservation objectives. Additionally, where there are adverse effects mitigation measures are required to avoid or minimise potential effects. The details of these mitigation measures are then assessed in the context of the ecological integrity of the plan/project characteristics to ensure no significant adverse effects on European sites. If this assessment process shows there are no residual significant effect then the process may end at this stage, stage two, of the AA process which are formalised in Natura Impact Statements (NIS) reports which support the overall AA process. 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 European site.

Stage Four: Assessment where no alternative solutions exist and where adverse impacts remain
An assessment of compensatory measures where, in the light of an assessment of imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI), it is deemed that the project or plan should proceed.

1.5. Approach

This AA screening is based on best scientific knowledge and has utilised ecological and hydrological expertise. In addition, a detailed online review of published scientific literature and 'grey' literature was conducted. This included a detailed review of the National Parks and Wildlife Website including mapping and available reports for relevant sites and in particular sensitive qualifying interests/special conservation interests described and their conservation objectives. The EPA Envision map viewer (www.epa.ie) and available reports were also reviewed, as was the NPWS (2019) publication "The Status of Protected EU Habitats and Species in Ireland".

The ecological desktop study that has been completed for the AA screening of the proposed project, comprised the following elements:

- Identification of European sites within 15km[1] of the subject lands;
- Identification of European sites within 15km of the site with identification of potential pathways to specific sites (if relevant) greater than 15km from the subject lands;
- Review of the NPWS site synopses and conservation objectives for European sites within 15km and for which potential pathways from the proposed site have been identified; and
- Examination of available information on protected species.

Source-Pathway Receptor Model
Ecological impact assessment of potential effects on European sites is conducted following a standard source-pathway-receptor model, where, in order for an effect to be established all three elements of this mechanism must be in place. The absence or removal of one of the elements of the

[1] While the actual zone of impact is likely to be much smaller, the default 15km zone extent has been applied on a precautionary basis

mechanism is sufficient to conclude that a potential effect is not of any relevance or significance.

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

For the purpose of this report, receptors are the ecological features that are known to be utilised by the qualifying interests or special conservation interests of a European site. A source is any identifiable element of the proposed Roebuck road housing developmnet that is known to interact with ecological processes. The pathways are any connections or links between the source and the receptor. This report provides information on whether direct, indirect and cumulative adverse effects could arise from the proposed development.

Guidance

The AA screening has been prepared taking into account legislation including the aforementioned legislation and guidance including the following:

- *Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland. Guidance for Planning Authorities, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2009;*
- *Commission Notice: Managing Natura 2000 sites - The provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC", European Commission 2018;*
- *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; and*
- *Managing Natura 2000 sites: The Provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC", European Commission, 2000.*

1.6. Author Details

Andrew Torsney is a Senior Ecologist with 8 years' experience working on major national and local scale projects. Andrew graduated from University College Dublin in 2011 with a B.Sc. degree in Zoology and obtained Master's degree in Biodiversity and Conservation from the University of Leeds in 2012. He has a range of ecological skills which include habitat mapping, ecological surveying, data interpretation and report writing. Andrew is a vegetative plant specialist, who has a wealth of experience classifying riparian habitats and identifying rare floral species. Andrew has a vast knowledge of riparian and freshwater ecosystems and undertakes freshwater surveys regularly. Andrew holds 4 national protected species licenses and has a lot of experience optioning surveying licenses for aquatic species such as the white clawed crayfish. He is also a Bat specialist with a wealth of experience, in acoustic surveying and monitoring of bats. Throughout Andrews's career he has worked on a number of large-scale multifaceted projects such as the Killaloe to Dublin water supply project NIS. For this work, Andrew designed and oversaw all ecological field work relating to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and AA.

2. Description of proposed development

2.1. Overview of the proposed development

The site is located on Roebuck road in an urban environment behind UCD. The site is heavily developed surrounded primarily by residential areas. The site itself is a brownfield site which is covered by Build Infrastructure/Artificial surfaces (BL3) habitat. This is compacted cobble which has been colonised by disturbed ground species that have penetrated the cobble. There are some hedging features at the end, and some trees to the back of the site.

Notably, the site has stands of Himalayan Knotweed (*Persicaria wallichii*) which is an invasive species under Regulation (EU) 1143/2014 on invasive alien species (the IAS Regulation); specifically, Regulation 49[2]. Hill et al. (2009)[3] have rated the dispersal potential of *P. wallichii* as 'high risk'. The species is highly fecund, can easily disperse by active or passive means over distances of more than 1 km per year and can initiate new populations. Means of dispersal include wind, water, animal movements, translocation by humans or accidental transport by human agency.

2.2. Details of Proposal

The proposal involves the development of residential units and associated parking and landscaping, on a site approx. 0.07ha in area. The proposal is for 4 no housing units within a 3-storey development on the site.

The proposed development includes:

- Construction of 2 no. 4-bed/7 person 2-storey houses, with approx. floor area of 120 m^2.
- Construction of 2 no. 1-bed/ 2 person apartments with approx. floor area of 55 m^2.
- Provision of 6 no. new on street car parking spaces along White Oaks Road.
- Development of a small landscaped area to the front of the development.
- Strengthening of existing site boundary hedgerows were appropriate.
- Associated ancillary works

[2] Prohibition on introduction and dispersal of certain species; listed in Schedule 3.

[3] Hill MO; Beckmann BC; Bishop JDD; Fletcher MR; Lear DB; Marchant JH; Maskell LC; Noble DG; Rehfisch MM; Roy HE; Roy S; Sewell J, 2009. Developing an indicator of the abundance, extent and impact of invasive non-native species (Final report). London, UK: DEFRA, 49 pp. http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Default.aspx?Menu=Menu&Module=More&Location=None&Completed=0&ProjectID=16063

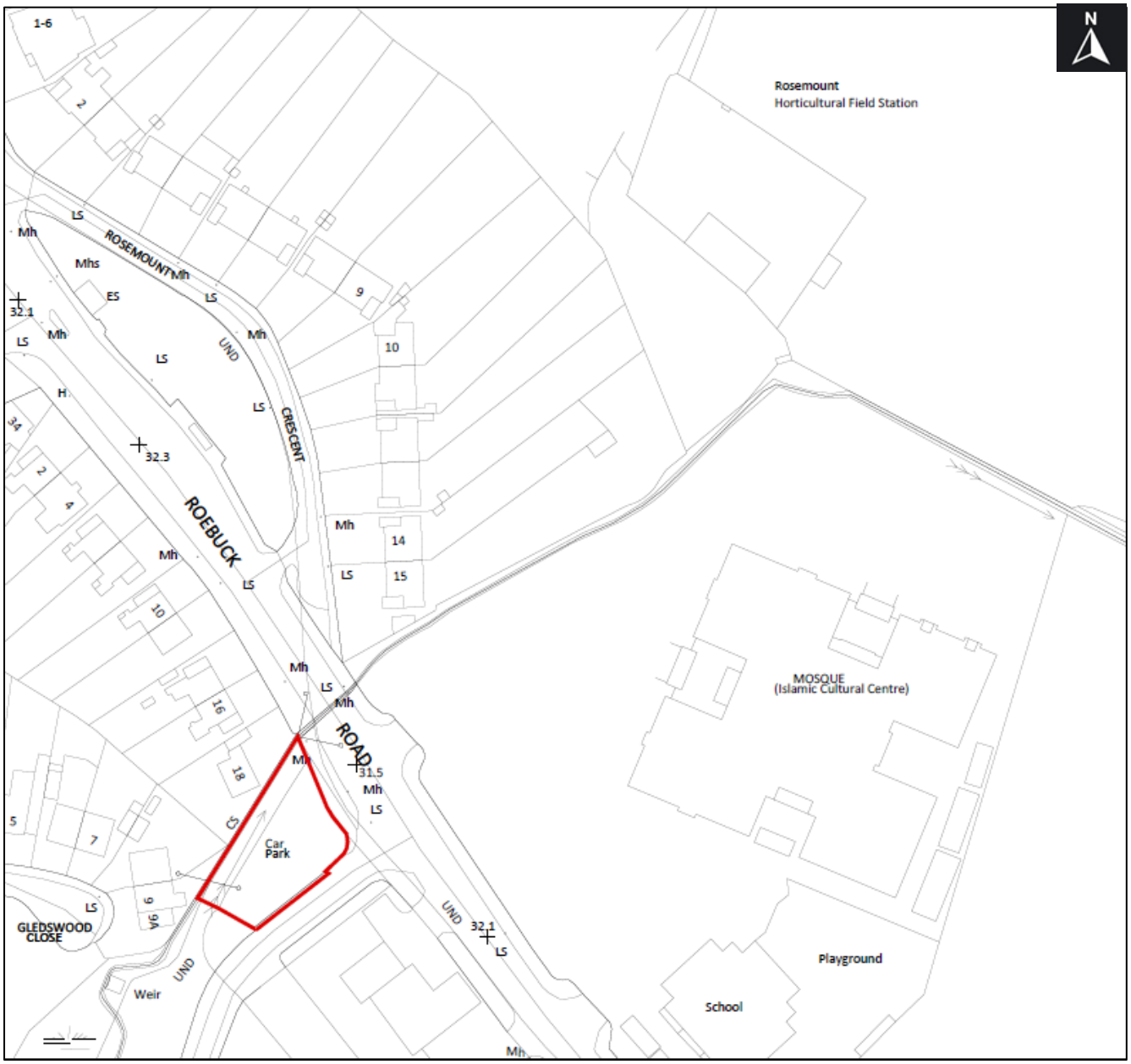
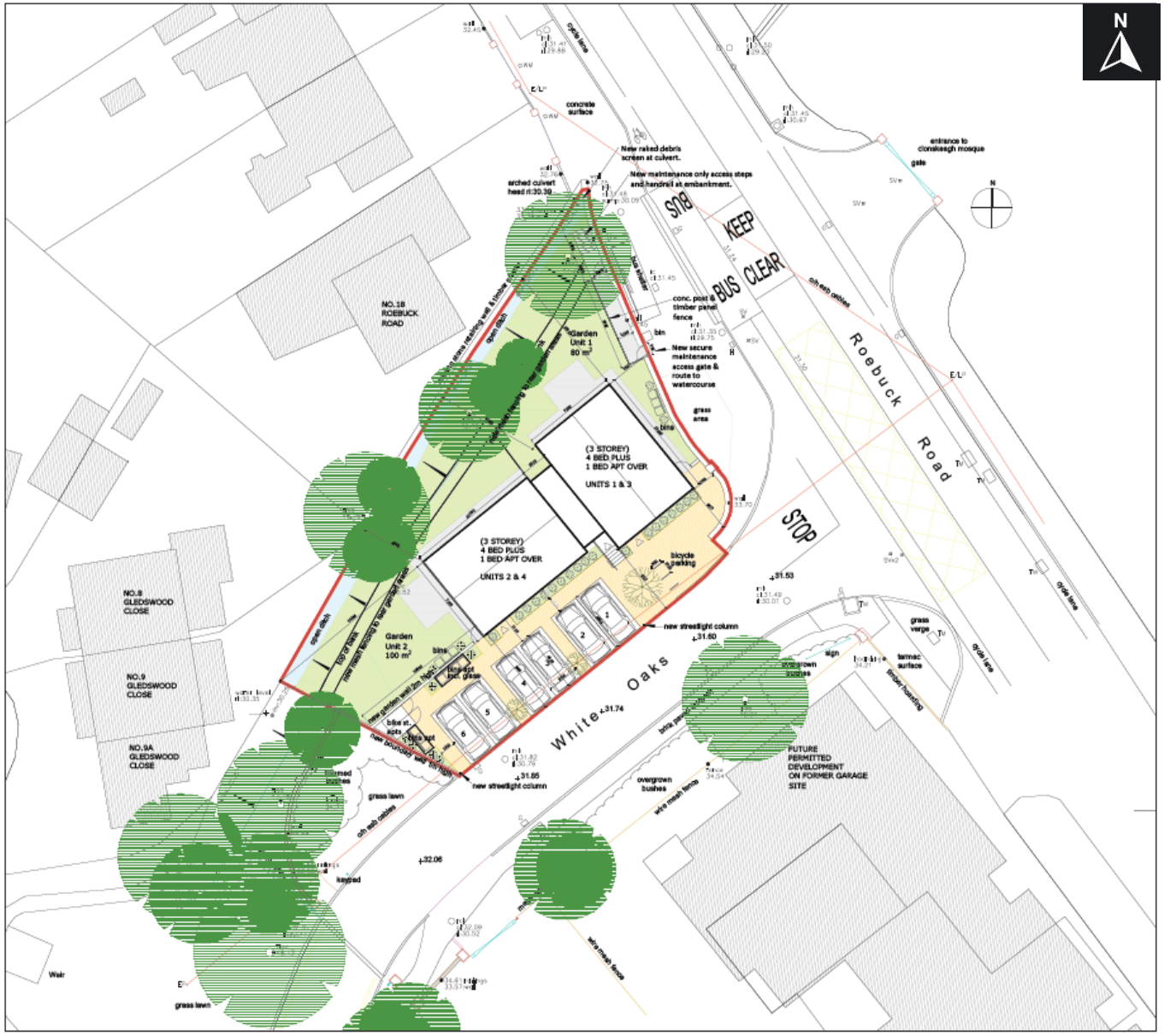
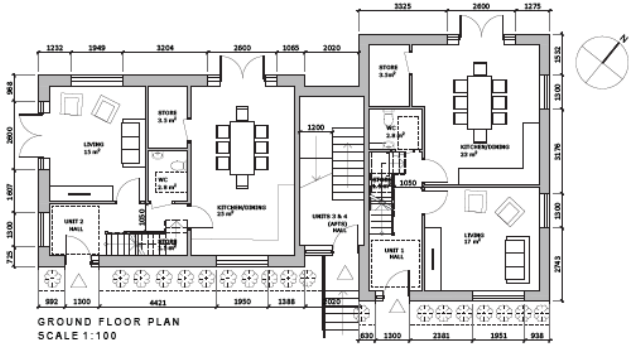
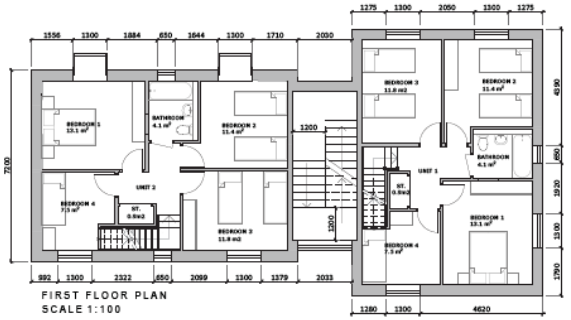


Figure 1 - Site boundary showing environs







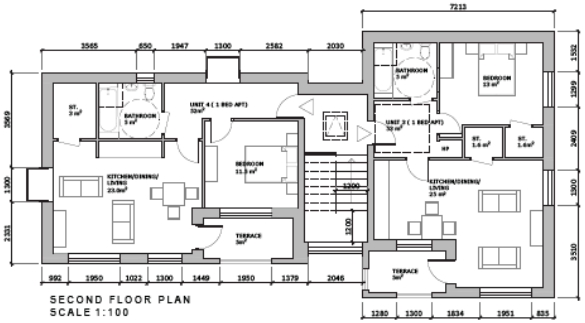


Figure 2 – Proposed site layout

Figure 3 – North-west elevations of proposed housing

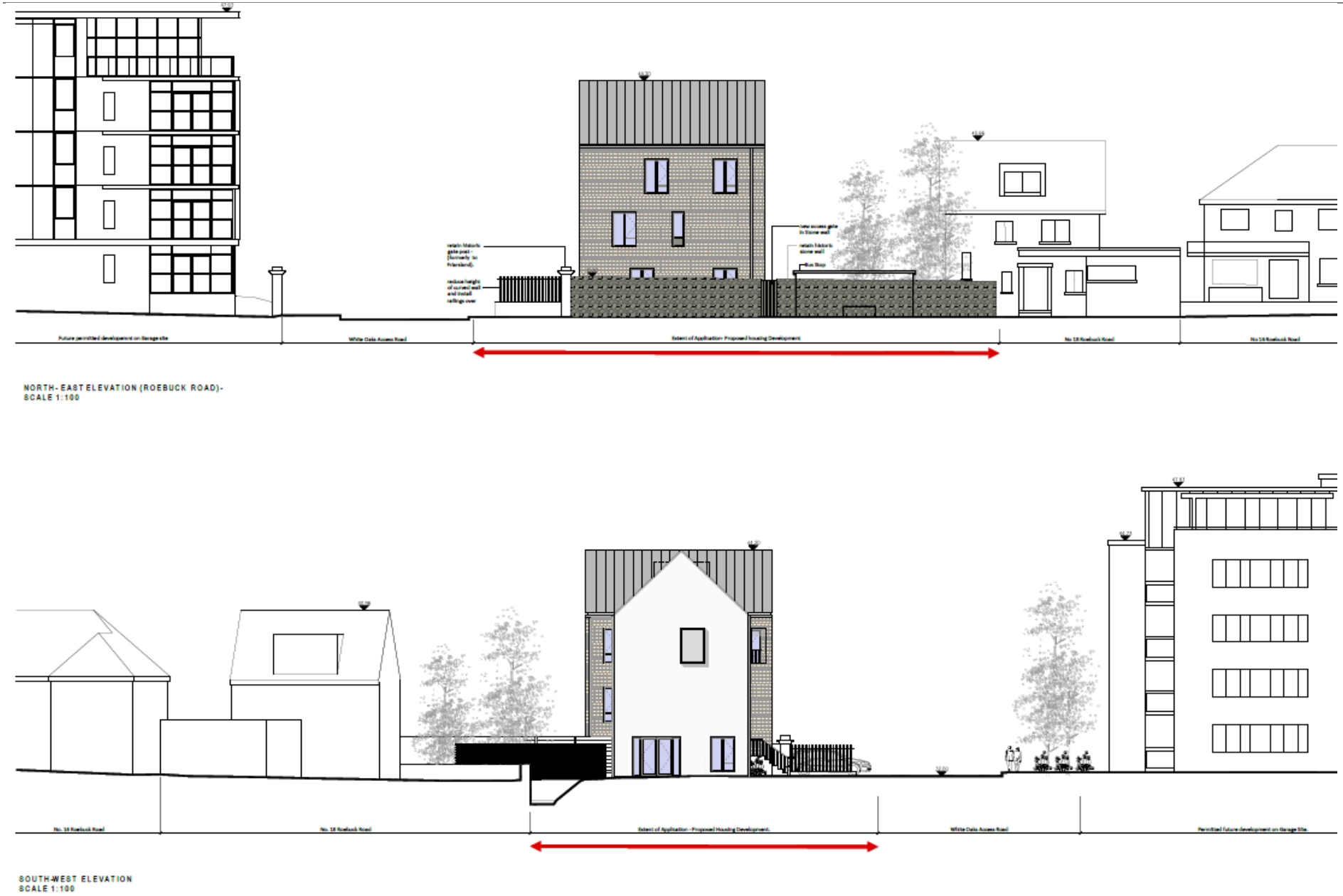


Figure 4 – South-west elevations of proposed development

3. Screening for Appropriate Assessment

3.1. Introduction

This stage of the process identifies any likely significant effects on European sites from the project, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans. A series of questions are asked in order to determine:

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

An important element of the AA process is the identification of the "'conservation objectives", "Qualifying Interests" (QIs) and/ or "Special Conservation Interests" (SCIs) of European sites requiring assessment. QIs are the habitat features and species listed in Annexes I and II of the Habitats Directive for which each European site has been designated and afforded protection. SCIs are wetland habitats and bird species listed within Annexes I and II of the Birds Directive. It is also vital that the threats to the ecological / environmental conditions that are required to support QIs and SCIs are considered as part of the assessment.

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

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

Favourable conservation status of a habitat is achieved when:

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

The favourable conservation status of a species is achieved when:

- Population dynamics data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself on a long-term basis as a viable component of its natural habitats;
- The natural range of the species is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future; and
- There is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis of the Appropriate Assessment where they were deemed relevant to the European sites and their QIs/SCIs.

3.2. Identification of relevant European sites

This section of the screening process describes the European sites which exist within the Zone of Influence (ZOI) of the site. The Department of the Environment (2009) Guidance on AA recommends

a 15km zone to be considered. On a precautionary basis this radius has been adopted for this AA. A review of all sites within the ZOI has identified that in the absence of significant hydrological links, the characteristics of the proposed development will not impose effects beyond 15km.

European sites that occur within 15km of the proposed development are listed in Table 1 and illustrated in the Figure below. Details on the specific QIs and SCIs of each European site are also identified in Appendix I as well as site-specific threats and vulnerabilities of each of the sites.

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

- Ireland's Article 17 Report to the European Commission *"Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland"* (NPWS, 2019);
- Site Synopses[4]; and
- NATURA 2000 Standard Data Forms[5].

The assessment takes consideration of the SSCOs of each of the sites within the ZOI. Since the conservation objectives for the European sites focus on maintaining the favourable conservation condition of the QIs/SCIs of each site, the screening process has concentrated on assessing the potential effects of the proposed development against the QIs/SCIs of each site. The conservation objectives for each site have been consulted throughout the assessment process.

[4] NPWS (2019); NPWS Database of protected site data and associated documents for each European site; available at https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites: last accessed 11th March 2021

[5] NPWS (2019); NPWS Database of protected site data and associated documents for each European site; available at https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites: last accessed 11th March 2021

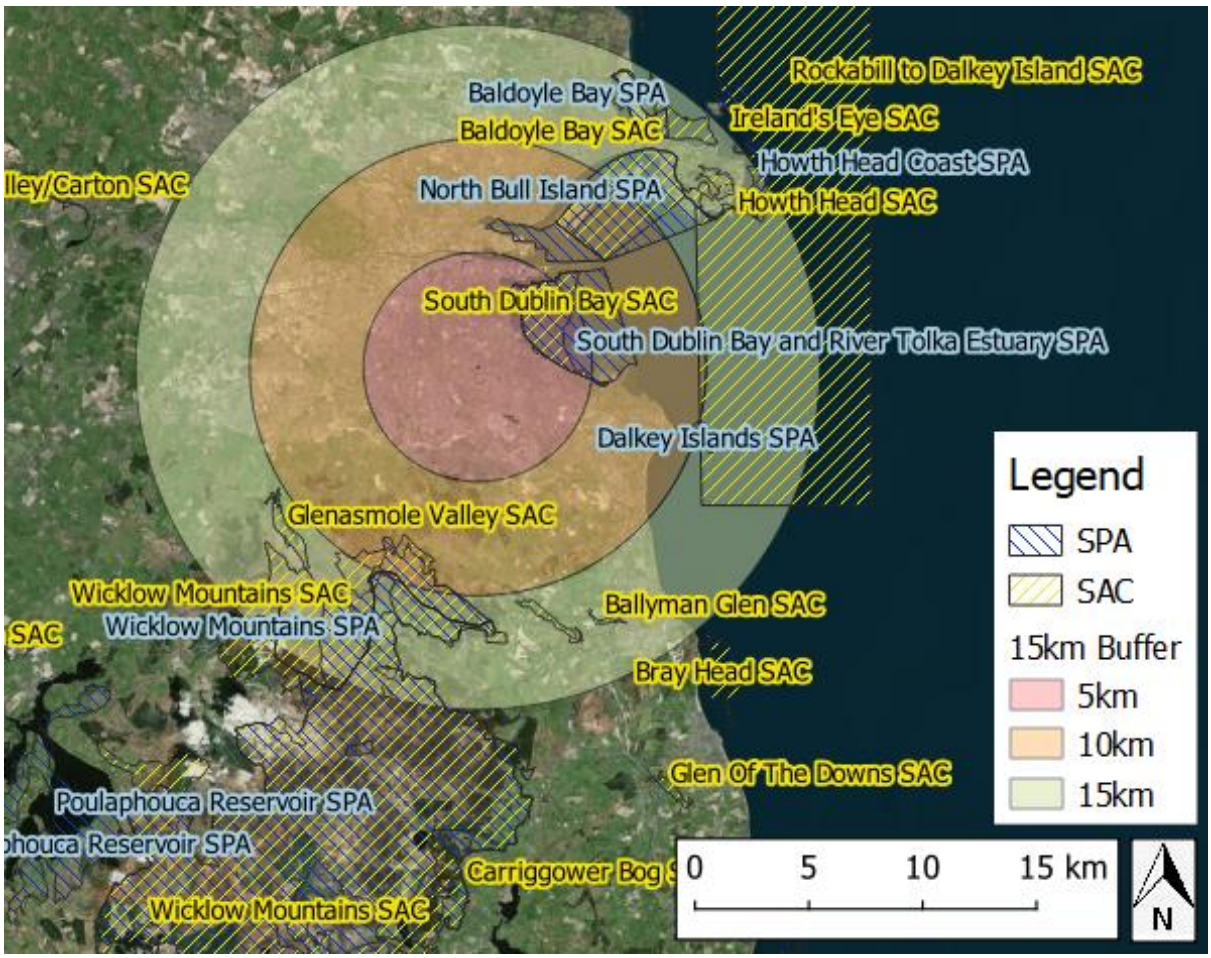


Figure 5 - European sites within 15km of the proposed development boundary[6]

Figure 6 - Map showing connectivity of adjacent stream to Dublin Bay[7]

[6] Source: NPWS (datasets downloaded 11th March 2021)

[7] Most of this stream is culverted

3.3. Assessment criteria

3.3.1. Is the development necessary to the management of European sites?

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

The primary purpose of the proposed development is not the nature conservation management of the sites, but generally to provide for the development of new residential housing units along Roebuck road. Therefore, the proposed development would not be considered by the Habitats Directive to be directly connected with or necessary to the management of European designated sites.

3.3.2. Elements of the proposed development with potential to give rise to effects

This screening assessment process identifies whether the changes brought about by the proposal are likely to cause any direct, indirect or secondary effects (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) on the European sites. During this assessment a number of factors have been taken into account including the sites' conservation objectives and known threats. The overall aim of the assessment is to attempt to predict the consequences that can be reasonably foreseen by implementation of the proposed development.

For the purposes of this assessment the proposed development is identified to have potential to have both construction and operational phase effects. The operational phase of the project will be conistent with the existing urban context of the site; the site is identified as a brownfield site which is predominantly hard surfaced, therefore is not forseen to interact with European sites. The construction phase elements of the project also introduce potential sources for effects to ecological processes such as:

- Disturbance effects through noise;
- Earthworks (removal of vegetation etc.);
- Dust; and
- Surface water run-off.

The Construction phase will be small scale and temporary. The construction phase effects identified are considered in the context of European sites identified above, their sensitivities and conservation objectives.

3.3.3. Identification of potential effects and screening of sites

This section documents the final stage of the screening process. It has used the information collected on the sensitivity of each European site and describes any potential effects on the integrity of European sites resulting from the proposed development. This assumes the absence of any controls, conditions, or mitigation measures. In determining the potential for effects, a number of factors have been taken into account. Firstly, the sensitivity and reported threats to European sites.

Secondly, the individual elements of the proposed development and the potential effects they may cause on the sites were considered. The elements of the proposed development with potential to affect the integrity of European sites are presented in Table 3.1.

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

- where it can be shown that there are no significant pathways such as hydrological links between activities of the proposed development and a site;
- where a site is located at such a distance from proposed development area that effects are not foreseen; and
- where known threats or vulnerabilities of a site cannot be linked to potential impacts that may arise from the proposed development.

3.4. Characterising potential significant effects

This section of the report explains the metrics used when assessing if the potential effects (previously identified) will have significant implications for European sites. The following parameters are described when characterising impacts (following guidance from the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Environmental Protection Agency and National Roads Authority):

- **Direct and Indirect Impacts** - An impact can be caused either as a direct or as an indirect consequence of a Plan/Project.
- **Magnitude** - Magnitude measures the size of an impact, which is described as high, medium, low, very low or negligible.
- **Extent** - The area over that the impact occurs – this should be predicted in a quantified manner.
- **Duration** - The time that the effect is expected to last prior to recovery or replacement of the resource or feature.
  - Temporary: Up to 1 Year;
  - Short Term: The effects would take 1-7 years to be mitigated;
  - Medium Term: The effects would take 7-15 years to be mitigated;
  - Long Term: The effects would take 15-60 years to be mitigated; and
  - Permanent: The effects would take 60+ years to be mitigated.
- **Likelihood** – The probability of the effect occurring taking into account all available information.
  - Certain/Near Certain: >95% chance of occurring as predicted;
  - Probable: 50-95% chance as occurring as predicted;
  - Unlikely: 5-50% chance as occurring as predicted; and
  - Extremely Unlikely: <5% chance as occurring as predicted.

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

The Habitats Directive requires the focus of the assessment at this stage to be on the integrity of the

site as indicated by its Conservation Objectives. It is an aim of NPWS to draw up conservation management plans for all areas designated for nature conservation. These plans will, among other things, set clear objectives for the conservation of the features of interest within a site.

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

> **Favourable conservation status** of a **species** can be described as being achieved when: '*population data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself, and the natural range of the species is neither being reduced or likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future, and there is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis.*'
>
> **Favourable conservation status** of a **habitat** can be described as being achieved when: '*its natural range, and area it covers within that range, is stable or increasing, and the ecological factors that are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future, and the conservation status of its typical species is favourable*'.

A Generic Conservation Objective for a cSAC is provided below:

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

A Generic Conservation Objective for a SPA is provided below:

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

3.4.1. Types of potential Effects

EC guidance[8] outlines the types of effects that may affect European sites. These include effects from the following activities:

- Land take
- Resource requirements (drinking water abstraction etc.)
- Emissions (disposal to land, water or air)
- Excavation requirements
- Transportation requirements
- Duration of construction, operation, decommissioning

The 2001 European Commission AA guidance outlines the following potential changes that may occur at a designated site, which may result in effects on the integrity and function of that site:

- Reduction of habitat area

[8] 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, 2001

- Disturbance to key species
- Habitat or species fragmentation
- Reduction in species density
- Changes in key indicators of conservation value (water quality etc.)
- Climate change

The elements detailed above were considered with specific reference to each of the European sites identified below.

Loss/reduction of habitat area
There are no European sites present within the redline boundary and the closest European site is 2.44 km away. Similarly, there were no Annex I habitats or supporting habitat for Annex II species identified on site. Therefore, there will be no effects posed to European sites in this respect.

Habitat or species fragmentation
The site is already a hard surface site in an urban context, therefore there are no ecological corridors connecting any of the European sites identified above. Similarly, there were no Annex I habitats or supporting habitat for Annex II species identified on site. Therefore, there will be no effects posed to European sites in this respect.

Disturbance to key species
None of the species and/or habitats identified in Table 3.1 were recorded on site. The nearest European site is 2.44 km away from the proposed site and therefore disturbance effects due to noise or lighting etc. are not present.

Reduction in species density
There are no ecological corridors between the site and any European site. Similarly, there are no habitats identified on site of any ecological significance. As there is no supporting habitat and/or connectivity between the site and any European site, there will be no reduction in species density of any of the QI or SCI species.

Changes of indicators of conservation value
The site is 2.44 km from the closest European site. Given the characteristics of the proposed work which are identified as small scale, localised and temporary potential effects and the indirect pathways beyond 2km, the effects are identified to be negligible in the context of European sites. There are no direct hydrological linkages identified between the site and any European site. However, there are indirect links through the adjacent stream which runs for more than 2.5km before entering Dublin Bay. The works relate to the proposed development provide for the construction of new residential housing units along Roebuck road and therefore there are pathways for potential effects to the European sites downstream. However, the works are identified to be small scale with a temporary construction phase. Given the urban context of the site and the dilution effect introduced by the indirect pathway, it is not identified to be likely to cause significant effects to the European sites. Therefore, there it is identified that proposed development will not affect any conservation indicators related to European sites.

Climate change

The proposed works will not result in any greenhouse gas emissions to air during the operational phase. The construction phase works will have increased temporary emissions which will be localised, however, given the distance to the nearest European site these are determined to be negligible. Such effects upon greenhouse gas emissions will not affect changes projected to arise from climate change to the degree that it would affect the QIs or SCIs of the European sites considered.

Table 1 Screening assessment of the potential effects arising from the proposed development

Site Code	Site Name	Distance	Qualifying Feature	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
000210	South Dublin Bay SAC	2.44	Shifting dunes *(Embryonic shifting dunes)* [2110], Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210], Salicornia and other annuals colonizing mud and sand [1310], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]	This site is designated for terrestrial habitats. The only pathway for effects identified to this site were indirect hydrological pathways. Given the size and characteristics of the proposed development, the temporary construction phase and the dilution effect introduced by distance. There are no effects identified that may arise due to the implementation of the proposed project.	No	No
004024	South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA	2.45	Mediterranean gull *(Larus melanocephalus)* [A176], Eurasian curlew *(Numenius arquata)* [A160], Red knot *(Calidris canutus)* [A143], Great cormorant *(Phalacrocorax carbo)* [A017], Eurasian oystercatcher *(Haematopus ostralegus)* [A130], Sanderling *(Calidris alba)* [A144], Red-breasted merganser *(Mergus serrator)* [A069], Roseate tern *(Sterna dougallii)* [A192], Ruddy turnstone *(Arenaria interpres)* [A169], Common redshank *(Tringa totanus)* [A162], Grey plover *(Pluvialis squatarola)* [A141], Great crested grebe *(Podiceps cristatus)* [A005], Arctic tern *(Sterna paradisaea)* [A194], Ringed plover *(Charadrius hiaticula)* [A137], Bar-tailed godwit *(Limosa lapponica)* [A157], Mew gull *(Larus canus)* [A182], Common tern *(Sterna hirundo)* [A193], Black-headed gull *(Larus ridibundus)* [A179]	The SCIs of the SPA are sensitive to disturbance effects and on-site land management practices. As well as interactions with the trophic structure with regard to prey/resource availability. There are indirect hydrological pathways identified between the sites however due to the characteristics of the proposed works and the dilution and distance effects introduced by the indirect pathway; there are no significant effects identified to be likely.	No	No
004006	North Bull Island SPA	7.07	Red-breasted merganser *(Mergus serrator)* [A069], Bar-tailed godwit *(Limosa lapponica)* [A157], Northern pintail *(Anas acuta)* [A054], Eurasian wigeon *(Anas penelope)* [A050], Common greenshank *(Tringa nebularia)* [A164], Mallard *(Anas platyrhynchos)* [A053], Ringed plover *(Charadrius hiaticula)* [A137], Eurasian teal *(Anas crecca)* [A052], Common shelduck *(Tadorna tadorna)* [A048], Ruff *(Philomachus pugnax)* [A151], Black-headed gull *(Larus ridibundus)* [A179], Eurasian curlew *(Numenius arquata)* [A160], Ruddy turnstone *(Arenaria interpres)* [A169], Northern shoveler *(Anas clypeata)* [A056], Common redshank *(Tringa totanus)* [A162], Sanderling *(Calidris alba)* [A144], Red knot *(Calidris canutus)*	The SCIs of the SPA are sensitive to disturbance effects and on-site land management practices. As well as interactions with the trophic structure with regard to prey/resource availability. There are indirect hydrological pathways identified between the site and Dublin bay which enters the marine environment. Due to the characteristics of the proposed works and the dilution and distance effects	No	No

Site Code	Site Name	Distance	Qualifying Feature	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
			[A143], European golden plover *(Pluvialis apricaria)* [A140], Grey plover *(Pluvialis squatarola)* [A141], Eurasian oystercatcher *(Haematopus ostralegus)* [A130], Short-eared owl *(Asio flammeus)* [A222], Mew gull *(Larus canus)* [A182]	introduced by the indirect pathway; there are no significant effects identified to be likely.		
000206	North Dublin Bay SAC	7.09	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Shifting dunes *(Embryonic shifting dunes)* [2110], Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation *("grey dunes")* [2130], Salicornia and other annuals colonizing mud and sand [1310], Atlantic salt meadows *(Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae)*) [1330], Humid dune slacks [2190], Petalwort *(Petalophyllum ralfsii)* [1395], Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria *("white dunes")* [2120], Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210]	This site is designated for terrestrial habitats. The only pathway for effects identified to this site were indirect hydrological pathways. Given the size and characteristics of the proposed development, the temporary construction phase and the dilution effect introduced by distance. There are no effects identified that may arise due to the implementation of the proposed project.	No	No
002122	Wicklow Mountains SAC	7.99	Blanket bogs *(* if active bog)* [7130], Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060], Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220], Western acidic oak woodland *(Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles)* [91A0], Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160], Calaminarian grasslands of the Violetalia calaminariae [6130], Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels *(Androsacetalia alpinae and Galeopsietalia ladani)* [8110], Otter *(Lutra lutra)* [1355], Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix [4010], European dry heaths [4030], Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on silicious substrates in mountain areas *(and submountain areas in Continental Europe)* [6230], Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8210], Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains *(Littorelletalia uniflorae)* [3110]	This site is designated for terrestrial habitats and species. There are no pathways for effects to this SAC, therefore there are no effects identified.	No	No
004040	Wicklow Mountains SPA	8.24	Peregrine falcon *(Falco peregrinus)* [A103], Wood warbler *(Phylloscopus sibilatrix)* [A314], Merlin *(Falco columbarius)* [A098]	The SCIs of the SPA are sensitive to disturbance effects and on-site land management practices. As well as interactions with the trophic structure with regard to prey/resource availability. There are no pathways identified between the sites. Therefore, no further considerations	No	No

Site Code	Site Name	Distance	Qualifying Feature	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
				are required.		
003000	Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC	9.68	Harbour porpoise *(Phocoena phocoena)* [1351], Reefs [1170]	The QIs of the SAC are sensitive to disturbance effects as well as interactions with the trophic structure with regard to prey/resource availability. There are indirect hydrological pathways identified between the site and Dublin bay which enters the marine environment. Due to the characteristics of the proposed works and the dilution and distance effects introduced by the indirect pathway; there are no significant effects identified to be likely.	No	No
004172	Dalkey Islands SPA	9.77	Arctic tern *(Sterna paradisaea)* [A194], Roseate tern *(Sterna dougallii)* [A192], Common tern *(Sterna hirundo)* [A193]	The SCIs of the SPA are sensitive to disturbance effects and on-site land management practices. As well as interactions with the trophic structure with regard to prey/resource availability. There are indirect hydrological pathways identified between the site and Dublin bay which enters the marine environment. Due to the characteristics of the proposed works and the dilution and distance effects introduced by the indirect pathway; there are no significant effects identified to be likely.	No	No
001209	Glenasmole Valley SAC	10.11	Petrifying springs with tufa formation *(Cratoneurion)* [7220], Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates *(Festuco-Brometalia) (* important orchid sites)* [6210], Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils *(Molinion caeruleae)* [6410]	This site is designated for terrestrial habitats sensitive to groundwater interactions and on-site management practices. There are no sources with pathways for effect from the proposed project to interact with this SAC. Therefore, there are no further assessments required.	No	No
000725	Knocksink Wood	10.32	Petrifying springs with tufa formation *(Cratoneurion)* [7220]	This site is designated for terrestrial habitats	No	No

Site Code	Site Name	Distance	Qualifying Feature	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
	SAC			sensitive to groundwater interactions and on-site management practices. There are no sources with pathways for effect from the proposed project to interact with this SAC. Therefore, there are no further assessments required.		
000713	Ballyman Glen SAC	11.63	Alkaline fens [7230], Petrifying springs with tufa formation *(Cratoneurion)* [7220]	This site is designated for terrestrial habitats sensitive to groundwater interactions and on-site management practices. There are no sources with pathways for effect from the proposed project to interact with this SAC. Therefore, there are no further assessments required.	No	No
000202	Howth Head SAC	11.72	Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic Coasts [1230], European dry heaths [4030]	This site is designated for terrestrial habitats sensitive to on-site management practices. There are no sources with pathways for effect from the proposed project to interact with this SAC. Therefore, there are no further assessments required.	No	No
000199	Baldoyle Bay SAC	12.51	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Atlantic salt meadows *(Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae)*) [1330], Salicornia and other annuals colonizing mud and sand [1310]	This site is designated for terrestrial habitats sensitive to on-site management practices. There are no sources with pathways for effect from the proposed project to interact with this SAC. Therefore, there are no further assessments required.	No	No
004016	Baldoyle Bay SPA	12.51	Sanderling *(Calidris alba)* [A144], Eurasian curlew *(Numenius arquata)* [A160], Northern lapwing *(Vanellus vanellus)* [A142], Eurasian teal *(Anas crecca)* [A052], Bar-tailed godwit *(Limosa lapponica)* [A157], Ruddy turnstone *(Arenaria interpres)* [A169], Ringed plover *(Charadrius hiaticula)* [A137], Eurasian oystercatcher *(Haematopus ostralegus)* [A130], Great crested grebe *(Podiceps cristatus)* [A005], Mallard *(Anas platyrhynchos)* [A053], Grey plover *(Pluvialis squatarola)* [A141], Red knot *(Calidris canutus)* [A143], Common greenshank *(Tringa nebularia)*	The SCIs of the SPA are sensitive to disturbance effects and on-site land management practices. As well as interactions with the trophic structure with regard to prey/resource availability. There are indirect hydrological pathways identified between the site and Dublin bay which enters the marine environment. Due	No	No

Site Code	Site Name	Distance	Qualifying Feature	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
			[A164], Red-breasted merganser *(Mergus serrator)* [A069], Northern pintail *(Anas acuta)* [A054], Common shelduck *(Tadorna tadorna)* [A048], Common redshank *(Tringa totanus)* [A162], European golden plover *(Pluvialis apricaria)* [A140]	to the characteristics of the proposed works and the dilution and distance effects introduced by the indirect pathway; there are no significant effects identified to be likely.		
004113	Howth Head Coast SPA	13.75	Common guillemot *(Uria aalge)* [A199], Peregrine falcon *(Falco peregrinus)* [A103], Razorbill *(Alca torda)* [A200], Northern fulmar *(Fulmarus glacialis)* [A009], Black-legged kittiwake *(Rissa tridactyla)* [A188]	The SCIs of the SPA are sensitive to disturbance effects and on-site land management practices. As well as interactions with the trophic structure with regard to prey/resource availability. There are indirect hydrological pathways identified between the site and Dublin bay which enters the marine environment. Due to the characteristics of the proposed works and the dilution and distance effects introduced by the indirect pathway; there are no significant effects identified to be likely.	No	No

3.5. Other plans and projects

Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive requires an assessment of a plan or project to consider other plans or projects that might, in combination with the plan or project, have the potential to adversely affect European sites.

As part of this assessment each plan or project is considered within a radius of the red line boundary of the proposed area as defined by the ecologist. The distance of this radius works from a standard 200m, but can be extended if the ecologist deems it necessary depending on whether certain characteristics are present, such as:

- Direct or indirect connectivity to a European site;
- In close proximity to a European site;
- The proposal is of a substantial scale relative to the conditions and/or current works taking place in the surrounding landscape.

These factors are considered particular to each proposal for each particular location and specification. Considering the characteristics of the proposed development with respect to the scale and nature of the works, the 200m search for in-combination effects was deemed to be sufficient.

Plans of relevance in the context of this proposal include:

- Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Development Plan 2016 -2022;
- Goatstown Local Area Plan (within 1km of subject lands); and
- Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area 2016-2035.

Considering that the proposed development has a small-scale temporary construction phase and the operational phase is consistent with the existing land use, it is not foreseen that proposed development will have any significant in-combination effects with the above plans.

Projects of relevance to this development:
To identify projects for consideration for the in-combination effects section, the National Planning and Housing development database was used[9]. A review of all planning applications within the identified zone was conducted focusing on all application within the past 5 years.

The largest of these projects was identified to be D18A/0148, D19A/0619 and D17A/0684 which are developments consisting of change of use applications and modifiction to existing infrastructures, or upgrades to pitch facilities. The other projects identified relate predominantly to change of use or facade changes applications as well as small scale extension works and related projects (see table below). As the proposed development is not directly connected to any European site, taking into account the characteristics and scale, it is not foreseen that it will have any significant adverse effects on European sites in-combination effects with the aforementioned projects.

[9] https://data-housinggovie.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/planning-application-sites-2010-onwards; 11th March 2021

Table 2 Planning applications within the receiving environment of the proposed development

Project Code	Status	Project Area (sq m)	Possible significant effects from plan or project	Is there a risk of in-combination effects	Possible Significant in-combination effects
D18A/0148	Grant Permission	47,705	There are indirect pathways for effects from the site. Both developments are small scale with temporary construction phase effects. Given the distances between the receiving environment and the nearest European site there are no in-combination effects identified that are likely to have significant effects.	No	No
D19A/0619	Grant Permission	47,631	There are indirect pathways for effects from the site. Both developments are small scale with temporary construction phase effects. Given the distances between the receiving environment and the nearest European site there are no in-combination effects identified that are likely to have significant effects.	No	No
D17A/0684	Grant Permission	13,430	There are indirect pathways for effects from the site. Both developments are small scale with temporary construction phase effects. Given the distances between the receiving environment and the nearest European site there are no in-combination effects identified that are likely to have significant effects.	No	No
D18A/0527	Grant Permission	7,256	There are indirect pathways for effects from the site. Both developments are small scale with temporary construction phase effects. Given the distances between the receiving environment and the nearest European site there are no in-combination effects identified that are likely to have significant effects.	No	No
D19A/0162	Grant Permission	5,266	There are indirect pathways for effects from the site. Both developments are small scale with temporary construction phase effects. Given the distances between the receiving environment and the nearest European site there are no in-combination effects identified that are likely to have significant effects.	No	No
D15A/0828	Grant Permission	3,904	There are indirect pathways for effects from the site. Both developments are small scale with temporary construction phase effects. Given the distances between the receiving environment and the nearest European site there are no in-combination effects identified that are likely to have significant effects.	No	No
D18A/1103	Grant Permission	2,379	There are indirect pathways for effects from the site. Both developments are small scale with temporary construction phase effects. Given the distances between the receiving environment and the nearest European site there are no in-combination effects identified that are likely to have significant effects.	No	No
D19B/0262	Grant Permission	2,296	There are indirect pathways for effects from the site. Both developments are small scale with temporary construction phase effects. Given the distances between the receiving environment and the nearest European site there are no in-combination effects identified that are likely to have significant effects.	No	No

Project Code	Status	Project Area (sq m)	Possible significant effects from plan or project	Is there a risk of in-combination effects	Possible Significant in-combination effects
D20A/0103	Grant Permission	1,810	There are indirect pathways for effects from the site. Both developments are small scale with temporary construction phase effects. Given the distances between the receiving environment and the nearest European site there are no in-combination effects identified that are likely to have significant effects.	No	No
D16B/0320	Grant Permission	1,604	There are indirect pathways for effects from the site. Both developments are small scale with temporary construction phase effects. Given the distances between the receiving environment and the nearest European site there are no in-combination effects identified that are likely to have significant effects.	No	No
D16B/0246	Grant Permission	1,247	There are indirect pathways for effects from the site. Both developments are small scale with temporary construction phase effects. Given the distances between the receiving environment and the nearest European site there are no in-combination effects identified that are likely to have significant effects.	No	No
D18B/0151	Grant Permission	1,210	There are indirect pathways for effects from the site. Both developments are small scale with temporary construction phase effects. Given the distances between the receiving environment and the nearest European site there are no in-combination effects identified that are likely to have significant effects.	No	No
D16B/0512	Grant Permission	1,209	There are indirect pathways for effects from the site. Both developments are small scale with temporary construction phase effects. Given the distances between the receiving environment and the nearest European site there are no in-combination effects identified that are likely to have significant effects.	No	No
D16B/0187	Grant Permission	1,183	There are indirect pathways for effects from the site. Both developments are small scale with temporary construction phase effects. Given the distances between the receiving environment and the nearest European site there are no in-combination effects identified that are likely to have significant effects.	No	No
D20B/0096	Grant Permission	1,164	There are indirect pathways for effects from the site. Both developments are small scale with temporary construction phase effects. Given the distances between the receiving environment and the nearest European site there are no in-combination effects identified that are likely to have significant effects.	No	No
D16B/0118	Grant Permission	1,123	There are indirect pathways for effects from the site. Both developments are small scale with temporary construction phase effects. Given the distances between the receiving environment and the nearest European site there are no in-combination effects identified that are likely to have significant effects.	No	No
D20A/0438	Grant Permission For Retention	1,110	There are indirect pathways for effects from the site. Both developments are small scale with temporary construction phase effects. Given the distances between the receiving environment and the nearest European site there are no in-combination effects identified that are likely to have significant effects.	No	No

Project Code	Status	Project Area (sq m)	Possible significant effects from plan or project	Is there a risk of in-combination effects	Possible Significant in-combination effects
D18A/0612	Grant Permission	1,110	There are indirect pathways for effects from the site. Both developments are small scale with temporary construction phase effects. Given the distances between the receiving environment and the nearest European site there are no in-combination effects identified that are likely to have significant effects.	No	No
D17A/0600	Grant Permission	1,013	There are indirect pathways for effects from the site. Both developments are small scale with temporary construction phase effects. Given the distances between the receiving environment and the nearest European site there are no in-combination effects identified that are likely to have significant effects.	No	No
D20B/0038	Grant Permission	903	There are indirect pathways for effects from the site. Both developments are small scale with temporary construction phase effects. Given the distances between the receiving environment and the nearest European site there are no in-combination effects identified that are likely to have significant effects.	No	No
D17B/0310	Grant Permission	847	There are indirect pathways for effects from the site. Both developments are small scale with temporary construction phase effects. Given the distances between the receiving environment and the nearest European site there are no in-combination effects identified that are likely to have significant effects.	No	No
D19B/0288	Grant Permission	839	There are indirect pathways for effects from the site. Both developments are small scale with temporary construction phase effects. Given the distances between the receiving environment and the nearest European site there are no in-combination effects identified that are likely to have significant effects.	No	No
D20B/0043	Grant Permission For Retention	838	There are indirect pathways for effects from the site. Both developments are small scale with temporary construction phase effects. Given the distances between the receiving environment and the nearest European site there are no in-combination effects identified that are likely to have significant effects.	No	No
D16A/0243	Grant Permission	834	There are indirect pathways for effects from the site. Both developments are small scale with temporary construction phase effects. Given the distances between the receiving environment and the nearest European site there are no in-combination effects identified that are likely to have significant effects.	No	No
D20A/0423	Grant Permission	819	There are indirect pathways for effects from the site. Both developments are small scale with temporary construction phase effects. Given the distances between the receiving environment and the nearest European site there are no in-combination effects identified that are likely to have significant effects.	No	No
D17A/0308	Grant Permission	643	There are indirect pathways for effects from the site. Both developments are small scale with temporary construction phase effects. Given the distances between the receiving environment and the nearest European site there are no in-combination effects identified that are likely to have significant effects.	No	No

Project Code	Status	Project Area (sq m)	Possible significant effects from plan or project	Is there a risk of in-combination effects	Possible Significant in-combination effects
D16A/0365	Grant Permission	641	There are indirect pathways for effects from the site. Both developments are small scale with temporary construction phase effects. Given the distances between the receiving environment and the nearest European site there are no in-combination effects identified that are likely to have significant effects.	No	No
D16A/0016	Grant Permission	301	There are indirect pathways for effects from the site. Both developments are small scale with temporary construction phase effects. Given the distances between the receiving environment and the nearest European site there are no in-combination effects identified that are likely to have significant effects.	No	No

4. Conclusion

This stage one screening for AA of the proposed social housing infill at Roebuck road, Clongskeagh, Co. Dublin demonstrates that the proposed development is not likely to have significant effects on any European site.

The AA screening process has considered potential effects which may arise during the construction and operational phases as a result of the implementation of the project. Through an assessment of the pathways for effects and an evaluation of the project characteristics, taking account of the processes involved and the distance of separation from European sites, it has been evaluated that there are no likely significant adverse effects on the qualifying interests, special conservation interest or the conservation objectives of any designated European site.

The proposed development is 2.44 km away from the closest SAC and 2.45 km away from the closest SPA. Given the nature of the proposed work, the scale and the localised and temporary nature of the potential effects, the proposed project will not lead to any significant effects in-combination with effects arising from any other plans or projects.

It is concluded that the proposed development is not foreseen to give rise to any significant adverse effects on any designated European sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects. This evaluation is made in view of the conservation objectives of the habitats or species for which these sites have been designated. Consequently, a Stage Two AA (NIS) is not required.

Appendix I Background information on European sites

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature	Pressures Codes	Known threats and pressures
000199	Baldoyle Bay SAC	Salicornia and other annuals colonizing mud and sand [1310], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Atlantic salt meadows *(Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae)*) [1330]	G02.01, G01.01.02, E03, F03.01, E01, F02.03.01, G01.02, K02.03, K03.06, I01, D01.02, J02.01.02	Golf course, non-motorized nautical sports, discharges, hunting, urbanised areas, human habitation, bait digging or collection, walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, eutrophication (natural), antagonism with domestic animals, invasive non-native species, roads, motorways, reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh
000202	Howth Head SAC	European dry heaths [4030], Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic Coasts [1230]	C01.01.01, D01.01, J01.01, G01.02, I01, G05.04, E01, C01, A04.03	Sand and gravel quarries, paths, tracks, cycling tracks, burning down, walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, invasive non-native species, vandalism, urbanised areas, human habitation, mining and quarrying, abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing
000206	North Dublin Bay SAC	Atlantic salt meadows *(Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae)*) [1330], Humid dune slacks [2190], Shifting dunes *(Embryonic shifting dunes)* [2110], Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210], Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation *("grey dunes")* [2130], Petalwort *(Petalophyllum ralfsii)* [1395], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Salicornia and other annuals colonizing mud and sand [1310], Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria *("white dunes")* [2120]	G02.01, E03, G05.05, A04, F02.03.01, E02, J01.01, H01.03, H01.09, G01.01, G01.02, E01, K03.06, I01, F02.03	Golf course, discharges, intensive maintenance of public parcs or cleaning of beaches, grazing, bait digging or collection, industrial or commercial areas, burning down, other point source pollution to surface water, diffuse pollution to surface waters due to other sources not listed, nautical sports, walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, urbanised areas, human habitation, antagonism with domestic animals, invasive non-native species, leisure fishing
000210	South Dublin Bay SAC	Shifting dunes *(Embryonic shifting dunes)* [2110], Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210], Salicornia and other annuals colonizing mud and sand [1310], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]	J02.01.02, G01.02, D01.02, E02, E03, D01.01, H03, F02.03.01, M01, G01.01.02, K02, K02.02, E01, G01.01	Reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh, walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, roads, motorways, industrial or commercial areas, discharges, paths, tracks, cycling tracks, marine water pollution, bait digging or collection, changes in abiotic conditions, non-motorized nautical sports, biocenotic evolution, succession, accumulation of organic material, urbanised areas, human habitation, nautical sports
000713	Ballyman Glen SAC	Petrifying springs with tufa formation *(Cratoneurion)* [7220], Alkaline fens [7230]	A01, A08, A04, E01.01, E03.01, E01.02, A10.01, D01.02, H02.01, H01.03, B01, C01.01	Cultivation, fertilisation, grazing, continuous urbanisation, disposal of household or recreational facility waste, discontinuous urbanisation, removal of hedges and copses or scrub, roads, motorways, groundwater pollution by leakages from contaminated sites, other point source pollution to surface water, forest planting on open ground, sand and gravel extraction

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature	Pressures Codes	Known threats and pressures
000725	Knocksink Wood SAC	Petrifying springs with tufa formation *(Cratoneurion)* [7220]	A04, B02.03, D05, D01.01, B01.02, E03.01, G05.07, G03, G01.02, E01.02, D01.02, I01, G05.04, G02.08, B01, G05.06	Grazing, removal of forest undergrowth, improved access to site, paths, tracks, cycling tracks, artificial planting on open ground (non-native trees), disposal of household or recreational facility waste, missing or wrongly directed conservation measures, interpretative centres, walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, discontinuous urbanisation, roads, motorways, invasive non-native species, vandalism, camping and caravans, forest planting on open ground, tree surgery, felling for public safety, removal of roadside trees
001209	Glenasmole Valley SAC	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates *(Festuco-Brometalia) (* important orchid sites)* [6210], Petrifying springs with tufa formation *(Cratoneurion)* [7220], Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils *(Molinion caeruleae)* [6410]	A03, A03.03, A04, B01.01, D01, A08, J02, B02.02, C01.03, A04.02.03, E01.02, H01.05, F02.03, A04.02.02, B02.01.02, H02.07, I01, H01.08, B01.02, A04.02.01, D01.03	Mowing or cutting of grassland, abandonment or lack of mowing , grazing, forest planting on open ground (native trees), roads, paths and railroads, fertilisation, human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, forestry clearance, peat extraction, non-intensive horse grazing, discontinuous urbanisation, diffuse pollution to surface waters due to agricultural and forestry activities, leisure fishing, non-intensive sheep grazing, forest replanting (non-native trees), diffuse groundwater pollution due to non-sewered population, invasive non-native species, diffuse pollution to surface waters due to household sewage and waste waters, artificial planting on open ground (non-native trees), non-intensive cattle grazing, car parcs and parking areas
002122	Wicklow Mountains SAC	Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160], Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220], Western acidic oak woodland *(Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles)* [91A0], Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains *(Littorelletalia uniflorae)* [3110], European dry heaths [4030], Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix [4010], Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060], Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels *(Androsacetalia alpinae and Galeopsietalia ladani)* [8110], Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on silicious substrates in mountain areas *(and submountain areas in Continental Europe)* [6230], Blanket bogs *(* if active bog)* [7130], Calaminarian grasslands of the Violetalia calaminariae [6130], Otter *(Lutra lutra)* [1355], Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8210]	B06, G01.04, L05, G02.09, A04, K04.05, G05.09, A05.02, G01.03.02, F03.02.02, G05.01, E03.01, G01.02, G05.07, G04.01, G01, F03, E01, I01, K01.01, J01.01, D01.01, C01.03, G05.06, B02.05, G05.04, F04.02	Grazing in forests or woodland, mountaineering, rock climbing, speleology, collapse of terrain, landslide, wildlife watching, grazing, damage by herbivores (including game species), fences, fencing, stock feeding, off-road motorized driving, taking from nest (e.g. Falcons), trampling, overuse, disposal of household or recreational facility waste, walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, missing or wrongly directed conservation measures, military manouvres, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), urbanised areas, human habitation, invasive non-native species, erosion, burning down, paths, tracks, cycling tracks, peat extraction, tree surgery, felling for public safety, removal of roadside trees, non-intensive timber production (leaving dead wood or old trees untouched), vandalism, collection (fungi, lichen, berries etc.)

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature	Pressures Codes	Known threats and pressures
003000	Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC	Harbour porpoise *(Phocoena phocoena)* [1351], Reefs [1170]	D03.02, J02.02, J02.11, E03, H06.01, D02, F02.02	Shipping lanes, removal of sediments (mud...), siltation rate changes, dumping, depositing of dredged deposits, discharges, noise nuisance, noise pollution, utility and service lines, professional active fishing
004006	North Bull Island SPA	Mew gull *(Larus canus)* [A182], Eurasian curlew *(Numenius arquata)* [A160], Short-eared owl *(Asio flammeus)* [A222], Sanderling *(Calidris alba)* [A144], Mallard *(Anas platyrhynchos)* [A053], Ruff *(Philomachus pugnax)* [A151], Common shelduck *(Tadorna tadorna)* [A048], Common redshank *(Tringa totanus)* [A162], Northern shoveler *(Anas clypeata)* [A056], European golden plover *(Pluvialis apricaria)* [A140], Eurasian oystercatcher *(Haematopus ostralegus)* [A130], Eurasian wigeon *(Anas penelope)* [A050], Ruddy turnstone *(Arenaria interpres)* [A169], Bar-tailed godwit *(Limosa lapponica)* [A157], Northern pintail *(Anas acuta)* [A054], Red-breasted merganser *(Mergus serrator)* [A069], Black-headed gull *(Larus ridibundus)* [A179], Common greenshank *(Tringa nebularia)* [A164], Grey plover *(Pluvialis squatarola)* [A141], Red knot *(Calidris canutus)* [A143], Ringed plover *(Charadrius hiaticula)* [A137], Eurasian teal *(Anas crecca)* [A052]	D01.05, E01.01, G01.01, G01.02, E02, D03.02, F02.03.01, G03, E03, G02.01, E01.04, D01.02	Bridge, viaduct, continuous urbanisation, nautical sports, walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, industrial or commercial areas, shipping lanes, bait digging or collection, interpretative centres, discharges, golf course, other patterns of habitation, roads, motorways
004016	Baldoyle Bay SPA	Red knot *(Calidris canutus)* [A143], Northern lapwing *(Vanellus vanellus)* [A142], Mallard *(Anas platyrhynchos)* [A053], Ruddy turnstone *(Arenaria interpres)* [A169], Eurasian teal *(Anas crecca)* [A052], Eurasian curlew *(Numenius arquata)* [A160], Bar-tailed godwit *(Limosa lapponica)* [A157], Northern pintail *(Anas acuta)* [A054], Great crested grebe *(Podiceps cristatus)* [A005], Sanderling *(Calidris alba)* [A144], Eurasian oystercatcher *(Haematopus ostralegus)* [A130], Common shelduck *(Tadorna tadorna)* [A048], Red-breasted merganser *(Mergus serrator)* [A069], Grey plover *(Pluvialis squatarola)* [A141], Ringed plover *(Charadrius hiaticula)* [A137], Common greenshank *(Tringa nebularia)* [A164], European golden plover *(Pluvialis apricaria)* [A140], Common redshank *(Tringa totanus)* [A162]	A08, J02.01.02, F02.03.01, G02.01, F03.01, G01.02, I01, D01.02, E01, K02.03	Fertilisation, reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh, bait digging or collection, golf course, hunting, walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, invasive non-native species, roads, motorways, urbanised areas, human habitation, eutrophication (natural)

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature	Pressures Codes	Known threats and pressures
004024	Sandymount Strand/Tolka Estuary SPA	Mediterranean gull *(Larus melanocephalus)* [A176], Sanderling *(Calidris alba)* [A144], Grey plover *(Pluvialis squatarola)* [A141], Ruddy turnstone *(Arenaria interpres)* [A169], Great crested grebe *(Podiceps cristatus)* [A005], Mew gull *(Larus canus)* [A182], Eurasian curlew *(Numenius arquata)* [A160], Arctic tern *(Sterna paradisaea)* [A194], Bar-tailed godwit *(Limosa lapponica)* [A157], Red knot *(Calidris canutus)* [A143], Roseate tern *(Sterna dougallii)* [A192], Common redshank *(Tringa totanus)* [A162], Black-headed gull *(Larus ridibundus)* [A179], Ringed plover *(Charadrius hiaticula)* [A137], Great cormorant *(Phalacrocorax carbo)* [A017], Common tern *(Sterna hirundo)* [A193], Red-breasted merganser *(Mergus serrator)* [A069], Eurasian oystercatcher *(Haematopus ostralegus)* [A130]	F02.03.01, E01, F02.03, G01.02, G01.01, E03, K02.03, E02, J02.01.02, D01.02	Bait digging or collection, urbanised areas, human habitation, leisure fishing, walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, nautical sports, discharges, eutrophication (natural), industrial or commercial areas, reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh, roads, motorways
004040	Wicklow Mountains SPA	Merlin *(Falco columbarius)* [A098], Peregrine falcon *(Falco peregrinus)* [A103], Wood warbler *(Phylloscopus sibilatrix)* [A314]	G03, A04, B, C01.03, G01.02, D01.01	Interpretative centres, grazing, sylviculture, forestry, peat extraction, walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, paths, tracks, cycling tracks
004113	Howth Head Coast SPA	Common guillemot *(Uria aalge)* [A199], Peregrine falcon *(Falco peregrinus)* [A103], Razorbill *(Alca torda)* [A200], Northern fulmar *(Fulmarus glacialis)* [A009], Black-legged kittiwake *(Rissa tridactyla)* [A188]	J01, G01.02	Fire and fire suppression, walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles
004172	Dalkey Islands SPA	Roseate tern *(Sterna dougallii)* [A192], Common tern *(Sterna hirundo)* [A193], Arctic tern *(Sterna paradisaea)* [A194]	G01.01, A04, G01.02, E01	Nautical sports, grazing, walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, urbanised areas, human habitation

Appendix II Qualifying Interests of SACs that have undergone assessment including summaries of current threats and sensitivities

Characterisation of Potential Effects arising from the subject land area

Qualifying Interests	**EU Code**	**Current threats to Qualifying Interests**	**Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests**
Alkaline fens	[7230]	Land reclamation, peat extraction; afforestation; erosion and landslides triggered by human activity; drainage; burning and infrastructural development.	Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Inappropriate management.
Alpine and Boreal heaths	[4060]	Abandonment; overgrazing; burning; outdoor recreation; quarries; communication networks; and wind farm developments.	Changes in management. Changes in nutrient or base status. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change.
Annual vegetation of drift lines	[1210]	Grazing; sand and gravel extraction; recreational activities; coastal protection works.	Overgrazing and erosion. Changes in management.
Atlantic salt meadows *(Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae)*	[1330]	Overgrazing; erosion; invasive species, particularly common cordgrass (Spartina anglica); infilling and reclamation.	Marine and groundwater dependent. Medium sensitivity to hydrological change. Changes in salinity and tidal regime. Overgrazing, erosion and accretion.
Blanket bogs *(* if active bog)*	[7130]	Land reclamation, peat extraction; afforestation; erosion and landslides triggered by human activity; drainage; burning and infrastructural development.	Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Inappropriate management.
Calaminarian grasslands of the Murawy galmanowa*(Violetalia calaminariae)*	[6130]	Land reclamation, afforestation; drainage; and infrastructural development.	Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Inappropriate management.
Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation	[8210]	Overgrazing; extractive industries; recreational activities and improved access.	Erosion, overgrazing and recreation.
Embryonic shifting dunes	[2110]	Natural erosion processes exacerbated by recreation and sand extraction. Coastal protection interfering with natural processes.	Overgrazing, and erosion. Changes in management.
European dry heaths	[4030]	Afforestation, overburning, over-grazing, under-grazing and bracken invasion.	Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Changes in management. Changes in nutrient status.
Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation *(grey dunes)*	[2130]	Recreation; overgrazing and inappropriate grazing: non-native plant species, particularly sea buckthorn (Hippophae rhamnoides).	Overgrazing, and erosion. Changes in management.

Qualifying Interests	EU Code	Current threats to Qualifying Interests	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
Humid dune slacks	[2190]	Agricultural improvement; overgrazing and inappropriate grazing; forestry; recreational activity.	Overgrazing, and erosion. Changes in management. Sensitive to hydrological change.
Otter *(Lutra lutra)*	[1355]	Decrease in water quality: Use of pesticides; fertilization; vegetation removal; professional fishing (including lobster pots and fyke nets); unting; poisoning; sand and gravel extraction; mechanical removal of peat; urbanised areas; human habitation; continuous urbanization; drainage; management of aquatic and bank vegetation for drainage purposes; and canalization or modifying structures of inland water course.	Surface and marine water dependent. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Sensitivity to pollution.
Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils *(Molinion caeruleae)*	[6410]	Agricultural intensification; drainage; abandonment of pastoral systems.	Surface and groundwater dependent. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Changes in management. Changes in nutrient status.
Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide	[1140]	Aquaculture, fishing, bait digging, removal of fauna, reclamation of land, coastal protection works and invasive species, particularly cord-grass; hard coastal defence structures; sea-level rise.	Surface and marine water dependent. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Moderate sensitivity to pollution. Changes to salinity and tidal regime. Coastal development.
Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds	[3160]	Nutrient alterations; management shifts in the associated peatland habitat, afforestation; waste water; invasive alien species; sport and leisure activities.	Surface and groundwater dependant. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution
Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix	[4010]	Reclamation, afforestation and burning; overstocking; invasion by non-heath species; exposure of peat to severe erosion.	Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Inappropriate management.
Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles	[91A0]	The introduction of alien species; sub-optimal grazing patterns; general forestry management; increases in urbanisation and human habitation adjacent to oak woodlands; and the construction of communication networks through the woodland.	Changes in management. Changes in nutrient or base status. Introduction of alien species.
Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains *(Littorelletalia uniflorae)*	[3110]	Nutrient enrichment; afforestation; waste water; invasive alien species; sport and leisure activities.	Surface and groundwater dependant. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution.
Petalwort*(Petalophyllum ralfsii)*	[1395]	There are no significant impacts affecting this species.	None identified.
Petrifying springs with tufa formation *(Cratoneurion)*	[7220]	Ground water interactions, on site management activities.	Surface and groundwater dependant. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution.
Harbour Porpoise*(Phocoena phocoena)*	[1351]	Pressures acting on the species in Irish waters mainly involve commercial vessel-based activities such as impacts arising from geophysical seismic exploration or from local/regional prey removal from fisheries.	Sensitive to disturbance, prey availability and pollution.

Qualifying Interests	EU Code	Current threats to Qualifying Interests	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
Reefs	[1170]	Professional fishing; taking for fauna; taking for flora; water pollution; climate change; and change in species composition.	Sensitive to disturbance and pollution.
Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand	[1310]	Invasive Species; erosion and accretion.	Marine water dependent. Medium sensitivity to hydrological change. Changes in salinity and tidal regime. Infilling, reclamation, invasive species.
Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates *(Festuco-Brometalia)** important orchid sites	[6210]	Land reclamation, afforestation; drainage; and infrastructural development.	Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Inappropriate management.
Shifting dunes along the shoreline with white dunes*(Ammophila arenaria)*	[2120]	Recreation and coastal defences, which may interfere with local sediment dynamics.	Overgrazing, and erosion. Changes in management.
Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation	[8220]	Pressures associated with the non-native invasive species New Zealand willowherb (Epilobium brunnescens).	Erosion, overgrazing and recreation.
Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels *(Androsacetalia alpinae and Galeopsietalia ladani)*	[8110]	Overgrazing, undergrazing and succession were recorded as medium-importance pressures in this reporting period, and Structure and functions were again assessed as Inadequate, the trend is considered to be stable rather than improving. This change is due to improved knowledge and the habitat is considered to have been stable since before the last assessment.	Erosion, overgrazing and recreation.
Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas *(and submountain areas, in Continental Europe)*	[6230]	Bracken encroachment, succession, inappropriate grazing, afforestation; drainage; and infrastructural development.	Erosion, overgrazing and recreation.
Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts	[1230]	A number of significant pressures were identified, including trampling by walkers, invasive non-native species, gravel extraction, and sea-level and wave exposure changes due to climate change. There have been no significant losses in sea cliff habitat since the Directive came into force.	Land use activities such as tourism and/or agricultural practices. Direct alteration to the habitat or effects such as burning or drainage.

Appendix III Special Conservation Interests of SPAs that have undergone assessment including vulnerabilities of the SCIs

Special Conservation Interest Species identified for the SPAs within connected to theproposed development

Special Conservation Interest *(SCI)* Species
Great crested grebe *(Podiceps cristatus)* [A005]
Northern fulmar *(Fulmarus glacialis)* [A009]
Great cormorant *(Phalacrocorax carbo)* [A017]
Common shelduck *(Tadorna tadorna)* [A048]
Eurasian wigeon *(Anas penelope)* [A050]
Eurasian teal *(Anas crecca)* [A052]
Mallard *(Anas platyrhynchos)* [A053]
Northern pintail *(Anas acuta)* [A054]
Northern shoveler *(Anas clypeata)* [A056]
Red-breasted merganser *(Mergus serrator)* [A069]
Merlin *(Falco columbarius)* [A098]
Peregrine falcon *(Falco peregrinus)* [A103]
Eurasian oystercatcher *(Haematopus ostralegus)* [A130]
Ringed plover *(Charadrius hiaticula)* [A137]
European golden plover *(Pluvialis apricaria)* [A140]
Grey plover *(Pluvialis squatarola)* [A141]
Northern lapwing *(Vanellus vanellus)* [A142]
Red knot *(Calidris canutus)* [A143]
Sanderling *(Calidris alba)* [A144]
Ruff *(Philomachus pugnax)* [A151]
Bar-tailed godwit *(Limosa lapponica)* [A157]
Eurasian curlew *(Numenius arquata)* [A160]
Common redshank *(Tringa totanus)* [A162]
Common greenshank *(Tringa nebularia)* [A164]
Ruddy turnstone *(Arenaria interpres)* [A169]
Mediterranean gull *(Larus melanocephalus)* [A176]
Black-headed gull *(Larus ridibundus)* [A179]
Mew gull *(Larus canus)* [A182]
Black-legged kittiwake *(Rissa tridactyla)* [A188]
Roseate tern *(Sterna dougallii)* [A192]
Common tern *(Sterna hirundo)* [A193]
Arctic tern *(Sterna paradisaea)* [A194]
Common guillemot *(Uria aalge)* [A199]
Razorbill *(Alca torda)* [A200]
Short-eared owl *(Asio flammeus)* [A222]
Wood warbler *(Phylloscopus sibilatrix)* [A314]

Vulnerabilities of Special Conservation Interests

- Bird species are particularly vulnerable to direct disturbance due to noise and/or vibration. These effects are localised, and disturbance effects are foreseen to be low at distances beyond 2km[10].
- Direct habitat loss is a serious concern for bird species, as well as the reduction in habitat quality. Habitat degradation could occur through effects such as local enrichment due to agricultural practices or damage to habitat through activities such as trampling.
- Prey species diversity and availability is a key element of species conservation. Community dynamics and ecosystem functionality are complex concepts and require site specific information. The site synopsis and conservation objectives for the SPAs identified within the ZOI were used to identify any specific prey sensitivities.
- Availability of nesting/roosting habitat. Particularly for the Hen Harrier.
- Vegetation composition, structure and functionality.

Wetland and Waterbirds [A999] Direct land take is a common vulnerability to all sites; as well as significant water quality effects. The conservation objective of all SPAs designated for Wetland and Waterbirds is to maintain the favourable conservation condition of the wetland habitat as a resource for the regularly occurring migratory waterbirds using it.

[10] SNH (2007) A Review of Disturbance Distances in Selected Bird Species: Scottish Natural Heritage; M. Ruddock & D.P. Whitfield