

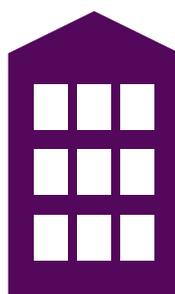


# Proposed Variation No. 3

## Appendices

January 2020

Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023













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# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Background

The Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023 was adopted in March 2017. The making of the adopted Fingal Development Plan was subject to a full Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), and an Environmental Report and SEA Statement was prepared, and to full Appropriate Assessment (AA), and a Natura Impact Report (NIR) was prepared.

Fingal County Council is now preparing the **proposed Draft Variation No. 3** to the Fingal Development Plan (the '*Draft Variation*') in accordance with Section 13 ("*Variation of development plan*") of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended.

The Draft Variation seeks removal of the Indicative Road Proposal "N3-N4 Barnhill to Leixlip Interchange", as shown on Sheet 13, Blanchardstown South. This is in response to "*enhancing Motorway Operations Services, M50 Resilience between M50 J6 and J7, Scoping Study*" published by Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) in May 2019.

Good planning practise dictates that Planning Authorities and their Development Plans are consistent with the objectives of other statutory bodies, where relevant. TII published a report, in May, in response to the need for a comprehensive diversion route network for the M50 motorway.

Therefore the proposed Draft Variation No. 3 will result in the following change to the Fingal Development Plan:

- Amendments to Sheet 13, Blanchardstown South. Removal of the indicative line for the Road Proposal linking Barnwell Roundabout to the N4/M4 Leixlip Interchange.

The proposed Draft Variation is also subject to screening for the requirement for Appropriate Assessment (AA).

It is noted that Fingal County Council is also preparing proposed Draft Variation No. 2 to the Fingal Development Plan which seeks to respond to recent changes in both National and Regional Planning policy, namely the National Planning Framework (NPF) in 2018 and the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) in 2019. Proposed Draft Variation No. 2, which runs concurrent with the proposed Draft Variation, is subject to separate screening for requirement for SEA and AA.

This SEA Screening Report is prepared on behalf of Fingal County Council (FCC) by Brady Shipman Martin, Environmental, Landscape and Planning Consultants.

## 2 Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

### 2.1 Introduction

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is a process for evaluating, at the earliest possible stage, the likely environmental effects of implementing a Plan, in order to ensure that environmental considerations are addressed in an appropriate manner as part of the decision-making process, during the preparation of the plan and prior to its adoption.

SEA derives from European Directive 2001/42/EC (the SEA Directive) on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment<sup>1</sup>. This provides for the assessment of strategic environmental considerations at an early stage in the decision-making process.

Article 1 of the SEA Directive states that:

*“The objective of this directive is to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development, by ensuring that, in accordance with this directive, an environmental assessment is carried out of certain plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment.”*

This Directive was transposed into Irish law through:

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

The former regulations, (S.I. No. 435 of 2004 as amended by S.I. No. 200 of 2011 ), relate to SEA as it applies to plans or programmes prepared for *“agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism and town and country planning or land use”*.<sup>2</sup>

The latter regulations (S.I. No. 436 of 2004 as amended by S.I. No. 201 of 2011) relate to SEA as it applies to plans or programmes where the context requires, *“a development plan, a variation of a development plan, a local area plan (or an amendment thereto), regional planning guidelines or a planning scheme in respect of a Strategic Development Zone”*<sup>3</sup> and as such, these regulations apply to the proposed Draft Variation. (emphasis added).

The transposing Regulations (the SEA Regulations) require that SEA is mandatory for certain plans and programmes that are above specified thresholds (e.g. preparation of a new County Development Plan with a population or target population greater than 10,000 persons or a Local Area Plan (LAP) with a population or target population greater than 5,000 persons).

Where plans or programmes fall below or outside of the specified thresholds, as is the case for a proposed variation to a development plan, ‘screening’ is required to determine whether the making and implementation of a particular plan or programme will, or will not, lead to significant environmental consequences for the area of the plan or programme.

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<sup>1</sup> SEA DIRECTIVE 2001/42/EC: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32001L0042&from=EN>

<sup>2</sup> See Section 9(1)(a)

<sup>3</sup> Section 5(c)

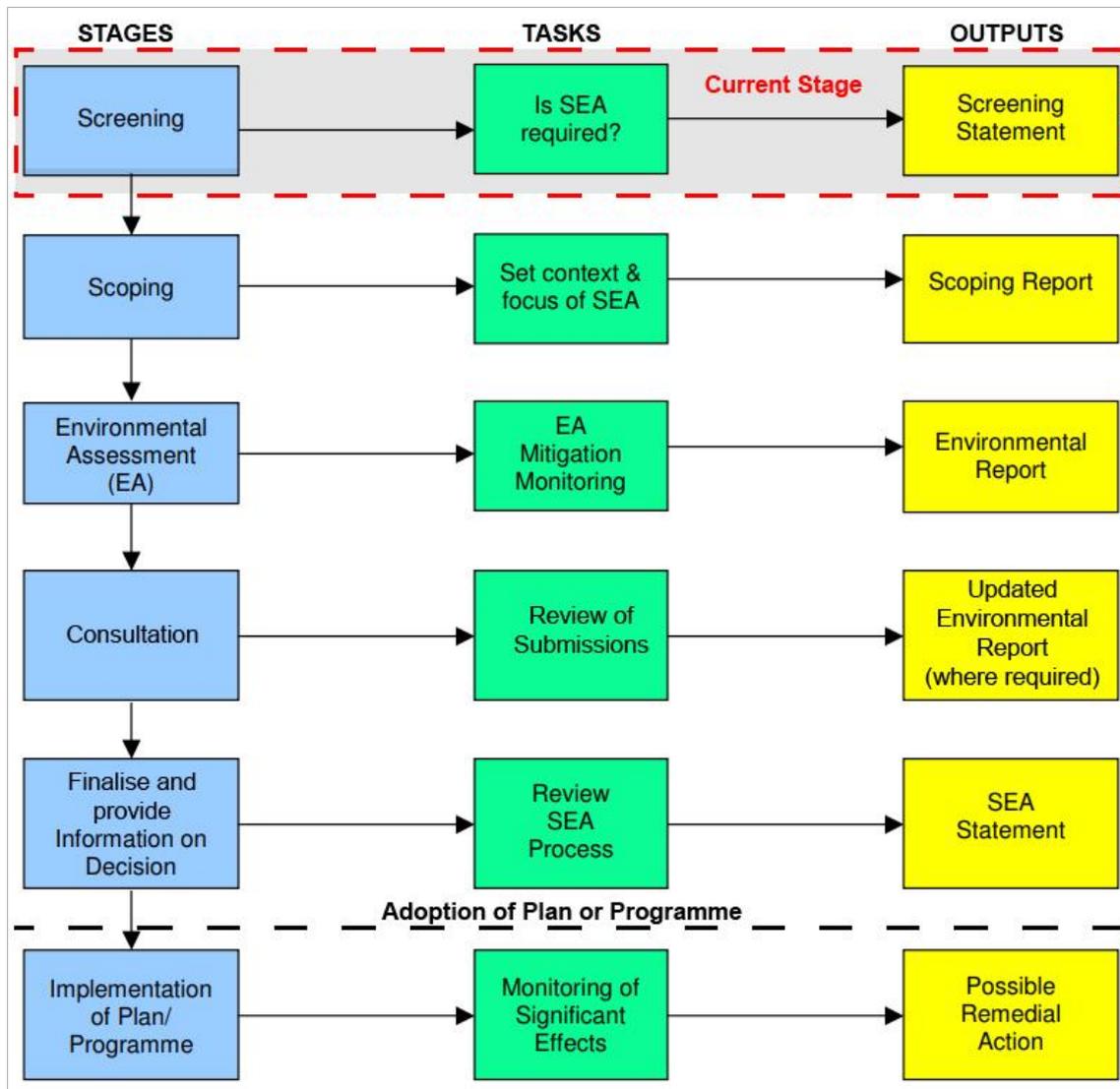
Screening for the purposes of Strategic Environmental Assessment is defined as “[t]he determination of whether implementation of a P/P [Plan or Programme] would be likely to have significant environmental effects on the environment. The process of deciding whether a P/P [requires SEA.” (SEA Park, EPA 2018).<sup>4</sup>

The screening process is carried out with regard to the “Criteria for determining whether a plan or programme is likely to have significant effects on the environment”, as set out in Schedule 1 of the SEA Regulations and Schedule 2A of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001-2019, (PDR 2001-2019).

Where screening determines that implementation of the plan or programme would be likely to have significant environmental effects on the environment, then the plan or programme must be subject to full strategic environmental assessment.

Full SEA follows a sequential step by step process as set out in Figure 1.1 below. However, the process stops where the first step (Screening) determines that the implementation of the plan would not be likely to have significant effects on the environment.

Figure 1.1: Overview of SEA Process (adapted from EPA SEA Process Checklist<sup>5</sup>)



<sup>4</sup> EPA, SEA PACK 2018: <http://www.epa.ie/pubs/advice/ea/SEA%20Pack%202018.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> EPA, SEA Process Checklist 2008: <http://www.epa.ie/pubs/advice/ea/SEA%20Process%20Checklist.pdf>

## 2.2 Screening for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

### 2.2.1 Requirement for Strategic Environmental Assessment

Article 13K of the PDR 2001-2019, determines the need for environmental assessment (*i.e.* SEA) of a variation of a Development Plan. Specifically, Article 13K(1) requires screening for SEA:

*“[w]here a planning authority proposes to make a variation of a development plan under section 13 of the Act, it shall, before giving notice under section 13(2) of the Act, consider whether or not the proposed variation would be likely to have significant effects on the environment, taking into account of relevant criteria set out in Schedule 2A.”*

Therefore, SEA is not mandatory for a variation of the development plan, however, the proposed Draft Variation No. 2 of the Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023 must be subject to screening for SEA taking account of the criteria set out in Schedule 2A of the PDR 2001-2019 (or as in Schedule 1 of the SEA Regulations, as amended).

Article 13K(2) of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, requires that where the planning authority has determined that the proposed variation would be likely to have significant effects on the environment, full strategic environment assessment (SEA) is required.

Article 13K(3)(a) of the PDR 2001-2019, requires that where the planning authority has not made a determination that the proposed variation would be likely to have significant effects on the environment, notice shall be given *“to the environmental authorities specified in article 13A(4), as appropriate”* and any submissions or observations shall be considered prior to making a final determination under Article 13K(4). This is discussed further in Section 2.2.3 of this Report.

### 2.2.2 Appropriate Assessment (AA) & Relationship to Screening for SEA

The EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) requires an ‘Appropriate Assessment’ (AA) be carried out where a plan or project is likely to have a significant impact on a Natura 2000 site. Natura 2000 sites include Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs).

The first step is to establish whether AA is required for the particular plan or project. This is referred to as Screening for AA and the purpose is to determine, on the basis of a preliminary assessment and objective criteria, whether a plan or project, alone and in combination with other plans or projects, could have significant effects on a Natura 2000 site in view of the site’s conservation objectives.

As set out in Department Circular Letter SEA 1/08 & NPWS 1/08<sup>6</sup> (15 February 2008), Screening for AA is of relevance to Screening for SEA, in that *“where following screening, it is found that the draft plan or amendment may have an impact on the conservation status of a Nature 2000 site or that such an impact cannot be ruled out, adopting the precautionary approach:*

- *an appropriate assessment of the plan must be carried out, and*
- *in any case where a strategic environmental assessment (SEA) would not otherwise be required, it must also be carried out.”*

Hence, where the proposed Draft Variation requires appropriate assessment (AA) it will also require a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).

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<sup>6</sup> AA of Land Use Plans, Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2008:  
<https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/general/circular-sea-01-08.pdf>

### 2.2.3 Consultation with Environmental Authorities

Prior to determining that implementation of the proposed Draft Variation would not be likely to have significant effects on the environment, Fingal County Council gave notice (as per Article 14A(3)) to the following environmental authorities (as specified in Article 13A(4)):

- i. the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA);
- ii. the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government (*now the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government*);
- iii. where it appears that the Plan might have significant effects on fisheries or the marine environment, the Minister for Agriculture, Marine and Food (*now the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine*), and the Minister for Communications, Marine and Natural Resources (*now the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment*);
- iv. where it appears that the Plan might have significant effects in relation to the architectural or archaeological heritage or to nature conservation, the Minister for Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht Affairs (*now the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht*); and
- v. any adjoining planning authority whose area is contiguous to the area of a planning authority which prepared a draft plan, proposed variation, or local area plan (*i.e.* Dublin City Council, South Dublin County Council, Kildare County Council, Meath County Council and Louth County Council).

A copy of the Preliminary Screening for SEA Report was forwarded to the above Environmental Authorities for observation and / or submission prior to finalisation of the Screening Report.

A detailed submission was received from the EPA, highlighting the legislative background, the presence of various SEA guidance documents and sources of information on the environment. A copy of the EPA submission is included at Appendix 1 to this SEA Screening Report.

No other submissions were received from Environmental Authorities.

### 3 Proposed Draft Variation No. 3 to the Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023

#### 3.1 Background to the Proposed Variation No. 3

The proposed Draft Variation No. 3 to the Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023 seeks to remove the indicative line of Road Proposal, “N3-N4 Barnhill to Leixlip Interchange”, as shown on Sheet 13, Blanchardstown South. This is in response to “enhancing Motorway Operations Services, M50 Resilience between M50 J6 and J7, Scoping Study” published by TII in May 2019.

Good planning practise dictates that Planning Authorities and their Development Plans are consistent with the objectives of other statutory bodies, where relevant. TII published a report, in May, in response to the need for a comprehensive diversion route network for the M50 motorway. The report outlines the need for improved alternatives to the M50, discusses the existing alternative orbital routes between Junctions 6 and 7 on the M50 and proposes options that could be considered as part of wider orbital transport network improvements in Dublin. Eleven route options have been identified in the TII study. Having regard to the 11 no. route options which have been identified, and in order to allow effective appraisal and avoid potential for prioritisation of a mapped route, it is considered pertinent to remove the indicative line shown on Sheet 13, Blanchardstown South, Fingal Development Plan, 2017-2023 in order to facilitate final route selection.

#### 3.2 Content of the Proposed Variation No. 3

It is proposed to remove the indicative line for the Road Proposal shown on Sheet 13, Blanchardstown South, linking Barnwell Roundabout to the N4/M4 Leixlip Interchange, as shown below in Figures 3.1 and 3.2. This document should therefore be read in conjunction with the Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023 and Variation No. 1 to be adopted on 9 December 2019.

Figure 3.1: Existing Sheet 13 of the Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023

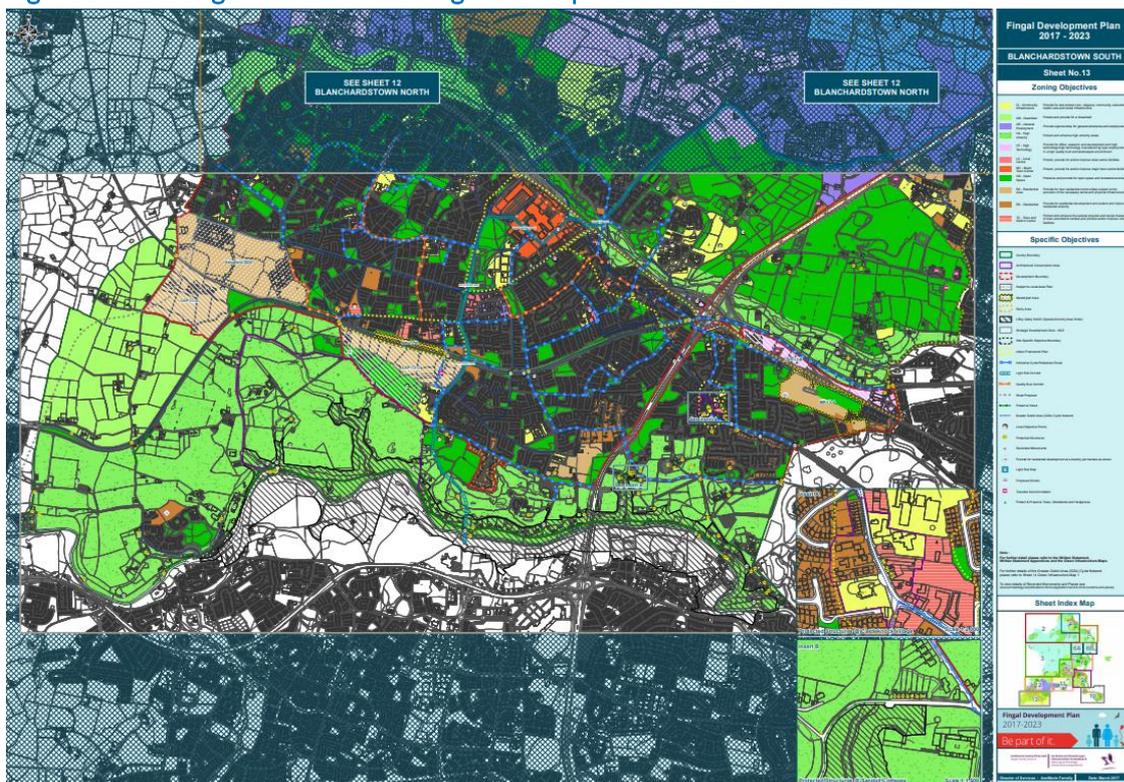
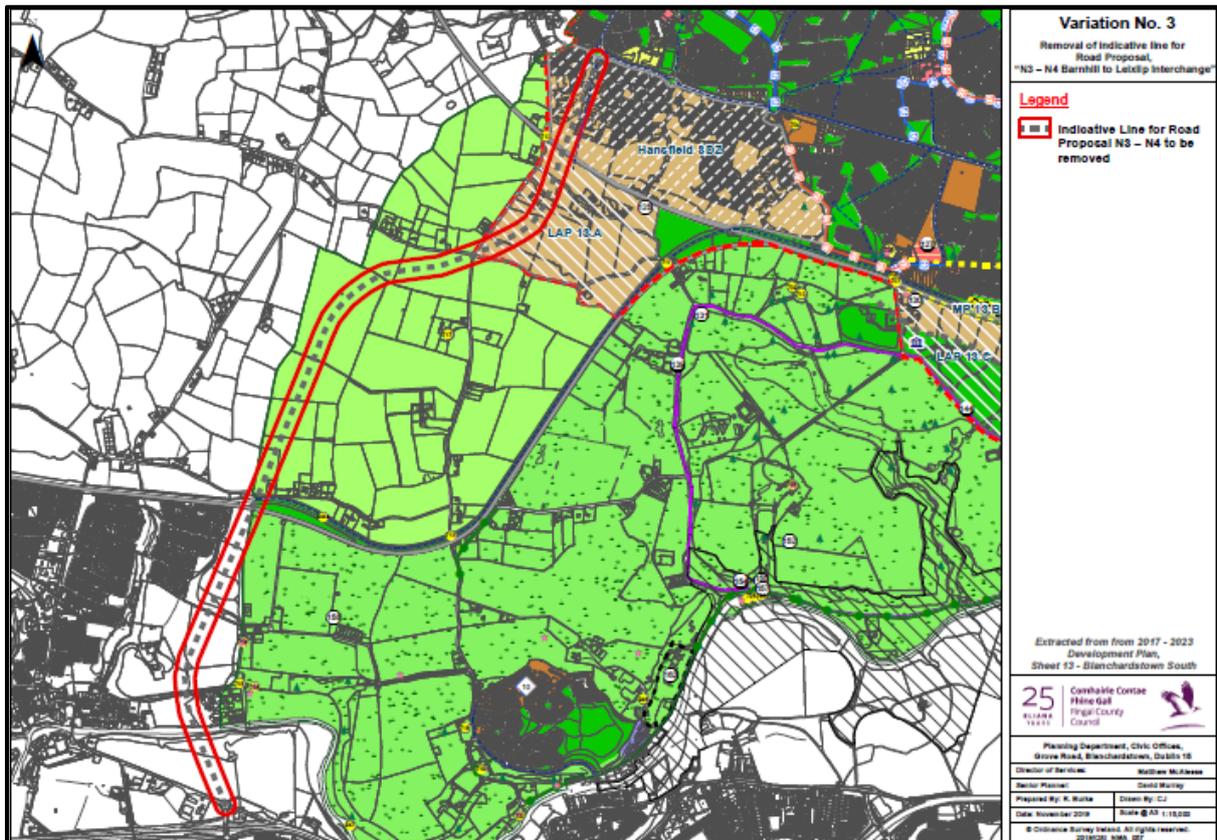


Figure 3.2: Extract from Sheet 13 – Showing the Indicative Line for the Road Proposal



This proposed Variation No. 3 to the Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023 seeks to remove the indicative line of the Road Proposal, "N3-N4 Barnhill to Leixlip Interchange", as shown on Sheet 13, Blanchardstown South.

The road proposal runs from the Barnwell Roundabout, at the Ongar Distributor Road in a southerly direction, through the Hansfield Strategic Development Zone (SDZ) area and the Barnhill LAP lands to the R149 and Passifyoucan, continuing to move south to where the Royal Canal meets the R149, at the boundary of Fingal and County Kildare and from there it moves through County Kildare to the N4/M4 Leixlip Interchange.

TII published "enhancing Motorway Operations Services, M50 Resilience between M50 J6 and J7, Scoping Study" in May 2019. This feasibility study considers 11 no. routes. More detailed analysis will be required before any preferred route emerges. Given the number of routes under consideration, it is considered pertinent to remove the indicative line shown on Sheet 13, Blanchardstown South in the absence of a final route being selected.

Furthermore, it is noted that this indicative line is shown outside of the Fingal Area and remit of the Fingal Development Plan does not extend beyond the Fingal boundary.

## 4 Assessment of Likely Significant Effects

### 4.1 Screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA)

A separate report has been prepared providing Information for Screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA) and as noted at Section 2.2.2 of this report, a relationship exists between the outcome of the Screening for AA and the Screening for SEA.

The finding of the AA Screening is that proposed Draft Variation No. 3 will not require Appropriate Assessment and therefore, SEA is not a mandatory requirement in accordance with the provisions of Department Circular Letter SEA 1/08 & NPWS 1/08<sup>7</sup> (15 February 2008), see Section 2.2.2 of this report.

### 4.2 Screening for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

A screening assessment for the *likely significant effects* has been carried in accordance with the requirements of the SEA Regulations, as amended. In so doing the Screening of the proposed Draft Variation has taken account of the specified criteria for determining the *likely significant environmental effects* of implementing the proposed Draft Variation as set out in Schedule 2A of the PDR 2001-2019 (or in Schedule 1 of SEA Regulations, as amended).

The key effects of the proposed Draft Variation are:

- Amendments to Sheet 13, Blanchardstown South. Removal of the indicative line for the Road Proposal linking Barnwell Roundabout to the N4/M4 Leixlip Interchange.

#### ASSESSMENT IN TERMS OF SCHEDULE 2A OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT (STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT) REGULATIONS 2004-2011 (SEA REGULATIONS 2004, AS AMENDED)

##### 4.2.1 The Characteristics of the Plan or Programme having regard, in particular, to:

<p><b>i. <i>the degree to which the plan sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions, or by allocating resources;</i></b></p>
<p>The proposed Variation seeks to remove the indicative line of Road Proposal, “N3-N4 Barnhill to the N4/M4 Leixlip Interchange”. TII have published a feasibility study which considers 11 no. potential routes. A more detailed analysis will be required before any preferred route emerges and therefore, FCC considers it pertinent to remove the indicative line shown on Sheet 13 in the absence of a final route being selected.</p> <p>The existing stated objective of the Fingal Development Plan (refer Objective MT41 &amp; Table 7.1 Road Schemes) will remain. As the proposed Draft Variation results in small amendments to Sheet 13 of the Plan any future road proposal for the lands will be in a manner which remains consistent with the Development Plan.</p>
<p><b>ii. <i>the degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans, including those in a hierarchy;</i></b></p>
<p>The Fingal Development Plan sits at local Government level, of the Spatial Planning Hierarchy in Ireland, and below the Regional Assembly and Government level. The Plan sits at the top of the local Government level and influences Local Area Plans (LAP).</p> <p>The proposed Draft Variation is compatible and complementary with the relevant strategies, policies and objectives of the Development Plan.</p>

<sup>7</sup> AA of Land Use Plans, Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2008: <https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/general/circular-sea-01-08.pdf>

<b>iii. <i>the relevance of the plan for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development;</i></b>
<p>The Fingal Development Plan sets out the overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of the County and consists of a Written Statement and plans indicating the development objectives for the County (as required under the <i>Planning and Development Act</i>, as amended).</p> <p>The Fingal Development Plan, underwent full SEA and Appropriate Assessment (AA) and integrated environmental considerations into the Plan and concluded that the Plan is based on the principles of sustainable development.</p> <p>The proposed Draft Variation provides for clarity in consideration and assessment of a potential road proposal and is in accordance with sustainable development.</p>
<b>iv. <i>environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme;</i></b>
<p>The content of the Fingal Development Plan has been informed by both SEA and AA.</p> <p>The Development Plan 2017-2023, SEA Environmental Report (Chapter 6), identified the relevant environmental problems / issues relevant to the Plan in relation to Population &amp; Human Health, Soils &amp; Geology, Water, Air &amp; Noise, Climatic Factors, Material Assets, Cultural Heritage and Landscape.</p> <p>The policies and objectives of the Plan set out measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as far as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment.</p> <p>The proposed Draft Variation is compatible with the relevant strategies, policies and objectives of the Development Plan.</p>
<b>v. <i>The relevance of the plan for the implementation of European Union legislation on the environment (e.g. plans linked to waste management or water protection);</i></b>
<p>The Fingal Development Plan is relevant for the implementation of European Union legislation on the environment. The Plan currently sets out a number of objectives which are relevant for European legislation (environment) including but not limited to the <i>EU Habitats Directive</i>, <i>Water Framework Directive</i>, <i>Urban Wastewater Directive</i> and the <i>EU Floods Directive</i>.</p> <p>The proposed Draft Variation provides for no changes for the implementation of any European legislation on the environment.</p>

#### 4.2.2 Characteristics of the Effects and of the Area to be affected having Regard, in Particular to:

<b>i. <i>The probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects;</i></b>
<p>The proposed Draft Variation No. 3 to the Fingal Development Plan seeks to remove the indicative line for the Road Proposal, “N3-N4 Barnhill to the Leixlip Interchange”. A more detailed analysis will be required before any preferred route emerges and FCC considers it pertinent to remove the indicative line shown on Sheet 13 in the absence of a final route being selected.</p> <p>The proposed Draft Variation provides for clarity in consideration and assessment of a potential road proposal and is in accordance with sustainable development. The proposed Draft Variation in itself does not give rise environmental effects.</p>
<b>ii. <i>The cumulative nature of the effects;</i></b>
<p>No cumulative effects are identified for the proposed Draft Variation.</p>

<b>iii. The trans-boundary nature of the effects;</b>	
	The indicative line of the proposed road objective (which is proposed to remove from Sheet 13 of the Development Plan) crosses the between Fingal and County Kildare. However, the proposed Draft Variation in itself does not give rise environmental effects.
<b>iv. The risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents);</b>	
	The Fingal Development Plan contains protective policies and objectives for human health and the environment. The proposed Draft Variation in itself does not give rise to effects on human health and the environment.
<b>v. The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected);</b>	
	The indicative line of the proposed road objective (which is proposed to remove from Sheet 13 of the Development Plan) is circa 5km in length, however, the proposed Draft Variation does not, in itself, give rise environmental effects.
<b>vi. The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to:</b>	
<b>a) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage</b>	
	The proposed Draft Variation in itself does not give rise to effects on the environment.
<b>b) exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values,</b>	
	The proposed Draft Variation in itself does not give rise to effects on the environment.
<b>c) Intensive land-use,</b>	
	The proposed Draft Variation in itself does not give rise to effects on the environment.
<b>vii. The effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, European Union or international protection status</b>	
	<p>The Fingal Development Plan recognises the importance of sites with National and European designations, and sets out policies and objectives for their protection.</p> <p>An AA Screening has been prepared in tandem with the SEA Screening to assess the <i>likely significant effects</i> in relation to the conservation management objectives of European sites and the proposed Draft Variation.</p> <p>The AA Screening has found that <u>no likely significant effects</u> are identified in relation to conservation management objectives of European sites and the proposed Draft Variation No.3 to the Fingal Development Plan.</p> <p>The proposed Draft Variation in itself does not give rise to effects on the environment.</p>

## 5 Conclusion (for basis of determination under Article 13K)

In terms of the provisions of Article 13K of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001-2019, following the appropriate consultation period, the planning authority shall determine whether or not implementation of the proposed Draft Variation No. 3 to the Fingal Development Plan would be likely to have significant effects on the environment, taking account of the relevant criteria set out in Schedule 2A of the Regulations (see Section 4) and any submission or observation received from the Environmental Authorities (see Section 2.2.3). One submission was received from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which provided advice and guidance on the SEA process and sources of information on the environment.

The proposed Draft Variation No. 3 of the Fingal Development Plan seeks to remove the indicative line for the Road Proposal, “*N3-N4 Barnhill to Leixlip Interchange*”. A more detailed analysis will be required before any preferred route emerges and FCC considers it pertinent to remove the indicative line shown on Sheet 13 in the absence of a final route being selected. The amendments are minor in nature and have not been identified as generating strategic environmental effects.

In view of the above it is concluded that Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is not required in respect of the proposed Draft Variation No. 3 to the Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023.

The planning authority shall confirm this conclusion by means of a SEA Screening Determination under Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (SI No. 436 of 2004), as amended by the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (SI No. 201 of 2011).

## Appendix 1: Submission from Environmental Authorities (EPA)

Ms Roisin Burke  
Senior Executive Officer  
Planning and Strategic Infrastructure Department  
Fingal County Council  
County Hall  
Main Street  
Swords  
Co Dublin  
K67 X8Y2

16<sup>th</sup> December 2019

Our Ref: 191105.1

### **Re. SEA Screening for Variation No. 3 to the Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023**

Dear Ms Burke,

We acknowledge your notice, dated 28<sup>th</sup> November 2019, in relation to Variation No. 3 to the Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023 (the 'Variation') and associated Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) screening.

The EPA is one of five statutory environmental authorities under the SEA Regulations. In our role as an SEA environmental authority, we focus on promoting the full and transparent integration of the findings of the Environmental Assessment into the Plan and advocating that the key environmental challenges for Ireland are addressed as relevant and appropriate to the plan. Our functions as an SEA environmental authority do not include approving or enforcing SEAs or plans.

As a priority, we focus our efforts on reviewing and commenting on key sector plans. For land use plans at county and local level, we provide a 'self-service approach' via our guidance document '[SEA of Local Authority Land Use Plans – EPA Recommendations and Resources](#)'. This document is updated regularly and sets out our key recommendations for integrating environmental considerations into Local Authority land use plans. In finalising your SEA screening determination, we suggest that you take this guidance

document into account and incorporate the relevant recommendations as relevant and appropriate to the Variation.

### **Proposed SEA Determination**

We note your Preliminary Screening Determination regarding the need for SEA of the Variation.

Guidance on the SEA process, including an SEA pack and checklist available on our website at [www.epa.ie/monitoringassessment/assessment/sea/](http://www.epa.ie/monitoringassessment/assessment/sea/). We recommend that you take the available guidance into account in finalising your SEA Screening Determination and incorporate the relevant recommendations as relevant and appropriate to the Variation.

### **Sustainable Development**

In proposing and in implementing the Variation, Fingal County Council should ensure that the Variation is consistent with the need for proper planning and sustainable development. Adequate and appropriate critical service infrastructure should be in place, or required to be put in place, to service any development proposed and authorised during the lifetime of the Variation.

In considering the Variation, Fingal County Council should take into account the need to align with national commitments on climate change mitigation and adaptation, as well as incorporating any relevant recommendations in sectoral, regional and local climate adaptation plans.

Fingal County Council should also ensure that the Variation aligns with key relevant higher-level plans and programmes and is consistent with the relevant objectives and policy commitments of the National Planning Framework and the Eastern and Midlands Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy.

### **State of the Environment Report – Ireland’s Environment 2016**

In preparing the Variation, the recommendations, key issues and challenges described in our most recent State of the Environment Report Ireland’s Environment – An Assessment 2016 (EPA, 2016) should be considered, as relevant and appropriate to the Variation.

### **Available Guidance & Resources**

Our website contains various SEA resources and guidance, including:

- SEA process guidance and checklists
- Inventory of spatial datasets relevant to SEA
- topic specific SEA guidance (including *Integrating climatic factors into SEA* (EPA, 2019), *Developing and Assessing Alternatives in SEA* (EPA, 2015), and *Integrated Biodiversity Impact Assessment* (EPA, 2012))

You can access these resources at: [www.epa.ie/monitoringassessment/assessment/sea/](http://www.epa.ie/monitoringassessment/assessment/sea/)

### **Environmental Sensitivity Mapping (ESM) WebTool**

This new tool was launched recently by the EPA. It is a new decision support tool to assist SEA and planning processes in Ireland. It is available at [www.enviromap.ie](http://www.enviromap.ie). The tool brings together over 100 datasets and allows users to create plan-specific

environmental sensitivity maps. These maps can help planners examine environmental considerations, anticipate potential land-use conflicts, and help identify suitable development locations while also protecting the environment.

#### ***EPA SEA WebGIS Tool***

Our SEA WebGIS Tool, available through the EDEN portal ([https://gis.epa.ie/EIS\\_SEA/](https://gis.epa.ie/EIS_SEA/)), allows public authorities to produce an indicative report on key aspects of the environment in a specific geographic area. It is intended to assist in SEA screening and scoping exercises.

#### ***EPA WFD Application***

Our WFD Application provides access to water quality and catchment data from the national WFD monitoring programme. The Application is accessed through EDEN <https://wfd.edenireland.ie/> and is available to public agencies. Publicly available data can be accessed via the [www.catchments.ie](http://www.catchments.ie) website.

#### **Future amendments to the Variation**

Where changes to the Plan are made prior to finalisation, or where modifications to the Plan are proposed following its adoption, these should be screened for potential for likely significant effects in accordance with the criteria set out in Schedule 2A of the SEA Regulations (S.I. No. 436 of 2004).

#### **Appropriate Assessment**

You should ensure that the Variation complies with the requirements of the Habitats Directive where relevant. Where Appropriate Assessment is required, the key findings and recommendations should be incorporated into the SEA and the Variation.

#### ***EPA AA GeoTool***

Our AA GeoTool application has been developed in partnership with the NPWS. It allows users to select a location, specify a search area and gather available information for each European Site within the area. It is available at: <http://www.epa.ie/terminalfour/ApproAssess/index.jsp>

#### **Environmental Authorities**

Under the SEA Regulations, prior to making your SEA determination you should also consult with:

- The Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government
- Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, and the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment, where it appears that the plan or programme, or modification of the plan or programme, might have significant effects on fisheries or the marine environment
- where it appears to the competent authority that the plan or programme, or amendment to a plan or programme, might have significant effects in relation to the architectural or archaeological heritage or to nature conservation, the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, and

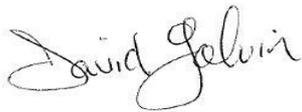
- any adjoining planning authority whose area is contiguous to the area of a planning authority which prepared a draft plan, proposed variation or local area plan.

### **SEA Determination**

As soon as practicable after making your determination as to whether SEA is required or not, you should make a copy of your decision, including, as appropriate, the reasons for not requiring an environmental assessment, available for public inspection in your offices and on your website. You should also send a copy of your determination to the relevant environmental authorities consulted.

If you have any queries or need further information in relation to this submission, please contact me directly. I would be grateful if you could send an email confirming receipt of this submission to: [sea@epa.ie](mailto:sea@epa.ie).

Yours sincerely,



---

David Galvin  
*SEA Section*  
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# SEA Determination

**Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening Determination under:**

**Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (SI No. 436 of 2004), as amended by the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (SI No. 201 of 2011)**

**for:**

**for Proposed Variation No. 3 to the Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023**

An SEA Screening determination as to whether Proposed Variation No. 3 to the Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023 is/is not likely to have significant effects on the environment is being made under the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (SI No. 436 of 2004), as amended by the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (SI No. 201 of 2011).

In making the determination, the information contained in the accompanying SEA Screening Report (including information provided by environmental authorities and an examination of the need to undertake SEA against relevant criteria set out in Schedule 2A *'Criteria for determining whether a plan is likely to have significant effects on the environment'* of the above Regulations) is being taken into account. That information has been carefully considered and its reasoning and conclusion agreed with and adopted – allowing a determination to be made that Proposed Variation No. 1 would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects.

The Proposed Variation No. 3 of the Fingal Development Plan seeks to remove the indicative line for the Road Proposal, "N3-N4 Barnhill to Leixlip Interchange". A more detailed analysis will be required before any preferred route emerges and Fingal County Council considers it pertinent to remove the indicative line shown on Sheet 13 in the absence of a final route being selected. The amendments are minor in nature and have not been identified as generating strategic environmental effects.

Taking into account all of the above, SEA is not required to be undertaken on the Proposed Variation.

**Signatory:**



**A/Senior Planner**

**Date: 8<sup>th</sup> January 2020**







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## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background

Fingal County Council has prepared Variation No.3 to the adopted Fingal County Development Plan 2017-2023 (hereafter referred to as the “Fingal CDP”). This proposed Variation No. 3 seeks to remove the indicative line of the “N3 – N4 Barnhill to Leixlip Interchange” Road Proposal, as shown on Sheet 13, Blanchardstown South. This is in response to “*enhancing Motorway Operations Services, M50 Resilience between M50 J6 and J7, Scoping Study*” published by Transport Infrastructure Ireland in May 2019.

Proposed land use plans, and proposed variations to same, must undergo a formal “test” or “screening” to ascertain whether they are likely to result in any significant effects on specific sites designated for their nature conservation importance. These sites are those designated under the European Commission’s Natura 2000 network of sites (hereafter “European sites”<sup>1</sup>). These sites are designated on the basis of the presence of certain habitats and species that are deemed to be of international importance. The Irish Government and local planning authorities have a legal obligation to protect these sites.

The EC Habitats and Birds Directives are the framework for the designation of these sites. The EC Habitats Directive requires the “screening” of plans and projects under Article 6(3). If the screening process results in a judgement that likely significant effects may occur or cannot be ruled out, then a more detailed ‘appropriate assessment’ (AA) is required. Whilst the structure of this assessment process is not laid down in law, there are guidance documents that are used to provide an indication of how this assessment may be carried out.

In order to ensure that proposed Variation No.3 to the Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023 complies fully with the requirements of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive and all relevant Irish transposing legislation (Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended), Fingal County Council appointed Scott Cawley Ltd. to prepare an AA Screening Report in relation to proposed Variation No.3, to inform the Council’s own AA Screening Determination.

### 1.2 Aim of this Report

The aims of this report are:

- To identify the Natura 2000 network within the “zone of influence” of the proposed Variation;
- To identify the linkages between the sensitivities of the individual European sites and the implications of the proposed Variation;
- To determine if the implementation of the proposed Variation could result in likely significant effects on the European sites.

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<sup>1</sup> The Natura 2000 network is a European network of important ecological sites, as defined under Article 3 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, which comprises both special areas of conservation and special protection areas. Special conservation areas are sites hosting the natural habitat types listed in Annex I, and habitats of the species listed in Annex II, of the Habitats Directive, and are established under the Habitats Directive itself. Special protection areas are established under Article 4 of the Birds Directive 2009/147/EC for the protection of endangered species of wild birds. The aim of the network is to aid the long-term survival of Europe’s most valuable and threatened species and habitats.

In Ireland these sites are designed as European sites - defined under the Planning Acts and/or the Birds and Habitats Regulations as (a) a candidate site of Community importance, (b) a site of Community importance, (c) a candidate special area of conservation, (d) a special area of conservation, (e) a candidate special protection area, or (f) a special protection area. They are commonly referred to in Ireland as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs).

## 2 METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 Formal Guidance

The AA Screening process has taken account of guidance contained in the following documents:

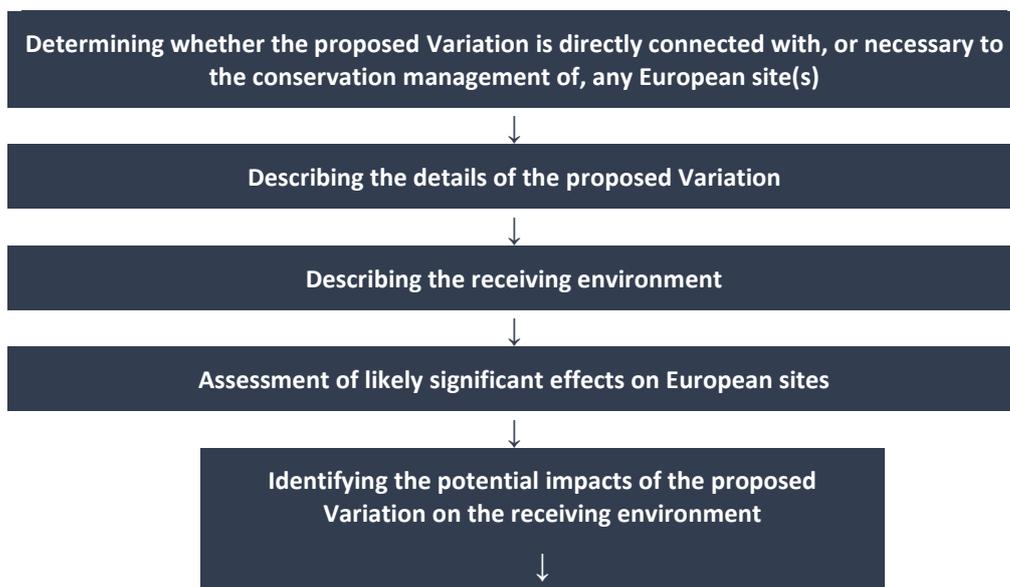
- *Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland - Guidance for Planning Authorities.* (Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2010 revision).
- *Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive: Guidance for Planning Authorities.* Circular NPWS 1/10 and PSSP 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 Directorate-General, 2001);
- *Managing Natura 2000 Sites: The Provisions of Article 6 of the Habitat's Directive 92/43/EEC* (European Commission, 2019);
- *Guidance Document on Article 6(4) of the 'Habitats Directive' 92/43/EEC. Clarification of the Concepts of Alternative Solutions, Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest, Compensatory Measures, Overall Coherence.* Opinion of the European Commission (European Commission, January 2007).
- *Guidelines for Good Practice Appropriate Assessment of Plans Under Article 6(3) Habitats Directive* (International Workshop on Assessment of Plans under the Habitats Directive, 2011);
- *Communication from the Commission on the precautionary principle.* European Commission (2000).

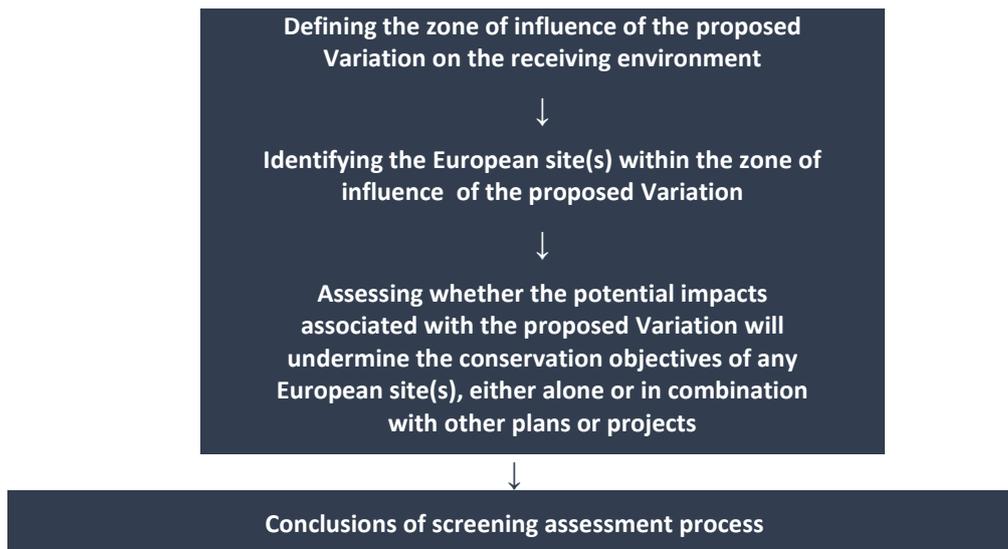
### 2.2 Assessment Methodology

The above referenced guidance sets out a staged process for carrying out Appropriate Assessment. To determine if an Appropriate Assessment is required, documented screening is required. Screening identifies the potential for effects on the conservation objectives of European sites, if any, which would arise from a proposed plan or project, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects (i.e. likely significant effects).

Significant effects on a European site are those that would undermine the conservation objectives supporting the favourable conservation condition of the Qualifying Interest (QI) habitats and/or the QI/Special Conservation Interest (SCI) species of a European site(s).

Screening for Appropriate Assessment involves the following steps:





If the conclusions at the end of screening are that there is no likelihood of significant effects occurring on any European sites as a result of the proposed Variation either alone or in combination with other plans and projects, then there is no requirement to undertake an Appropriate Assessment.

In establishing which European sites are potentially at risk (in the absence of mitigation) from the proposed Variation, a source-pathway-receptor approach was applied. In order for an impact to occur, there must be a risk enabled by having a source (e.g. water abstraction or construction works), a receptor (e.g. a European site or its QI(s) or SCI(s)<sup>2</sup>), and a pathway between the source and the receptor (e.g. pathway by air for airborne pollution, or a pathway by a watercourse for mobilisation of pollution). For an impact to occur, all three elements must exist; the absence or removal of one of the elements means there is no possibility for the impact to occur.

The identification of source-pathway-receptor connection(s) between the proposed Variation and European sites essentially is the process of identifying which European sites are within the Zone of Influence (Zoi) of the proposed Variation, and therefore potentially at risk of significant effects. The Zoi is the area over which the proposed Variation could affect the receiving environment such that it could potentially have significant effects on the QI habitats or QI/SCI species of a European site, or on the achievement of their conservation objectives<sup>3</sup>.

The identification of a source-pathway-receptor link does not automatically mean that significant effects will arise. The likelihood for significant effects will depend upon the characteristics of the source (e.g. extent and duration of construction works), the characteristics of the pathway (e.g. direction and strength of prevailing winds for airborne pollution) and the characteristics of the receptor (e.g. the sensitivities of the European site and its QIs/SCIs). Where uncertainty exists, the precautionary principle<sup>4</sup> is applied.

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<sup>2</sup> The term qualifying interest is used when referring to the habitats or species for which an SAC is designated; the term special conservation interest is used when referring to the bird species (or wetland habitats) for which an SPA is designated.

<sup>3</sup> As defined in the *Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland* (CIEEM, 2018)

<sup>4</sup> The precautionary principle is a guiding principle that derives from Article 191 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and has been developed in the case law of the European Court of Justice (e.g. ECJ case C-127/02 – Waddenzee, Netherlands).

The guidance document *Communication from the Commission on the Precautionary Principle* (European Commission, 2000) notes that the precautionary principle “covers those specific circumstances where scientific evidence is insufficient, inconclusive or uncertain and there are indications through preliminary objective scientific evaluation that there are reasonable grounds for concern that the potentially dangerous effects on the environment, human, animal or plant health may be inconsistent with the chosen level of protection”.

## 2.3 Sources of Information Used

Information relied upon included the following information sources, which included maps, ecological and water quality data:

- Online data available on European sites as held by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) from [www.npws.ie](http://www.npws.ie);
- Information on water quality in the area available from [www.epa.ie](http://www.epa.ie);
- Information on soils, geology and hydrogeology in the area available from [www.gsi.ie](http://www.gsi.ie); and
- Information on the proposed Variation provided by Fingal County Council.

## 2.4 How Variation No.3 to the Fingal CDP 2017-2023 was assessed

In assessing Variation No.3's potential to give rise to likely significant effects on European sites, the Variation was reviewed in its entirety. The amendments proposed under Variation No.3 are displayed in Appendix A. The particular area to which the Variation relates (i.e. the location of the indicative line of the "N3 – N4 Barnhill to Leixlip Interchange" Road Proposal) was examined, analysed and evaluated to determine whether the Variation would result in likely significant effects on any European sites.

## 3 PROVISION OF INFORMATION FOR SCREENING FOR APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

The following sections provide information to facilitate the Appropriate Assessment screening of the proposed Variation, to be undertaken by the competent authority.

A brief description of the proposed Variation No.3 and how it relates to the Fingal CDP is presented. The receiving environment is then discussed, in the context of European sites and hydrological and hydrogeological features in the vicinity of the area to which the proposed Variation will affect. An assessment of any potential impacts of the proposed Variation is provided, including a cumulative or in-combination assessment.

### 3.1 Overview of Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023

The Fingal CDP was adopted in 2017 and was implemented within the planning hierarchy beneath the National Spatial Strategy and Regional Planning Guidelines. It was subject to an AA in accordance with the EC Habitats Directive. The Fingal CDP sets out Fingal County Council's policies, objectives and land use zonings for the development of the County over the CDP period. The CDP seeks to develop and improve, in a sustainable manner, the social, economic, environmental and cultural assets of the County.

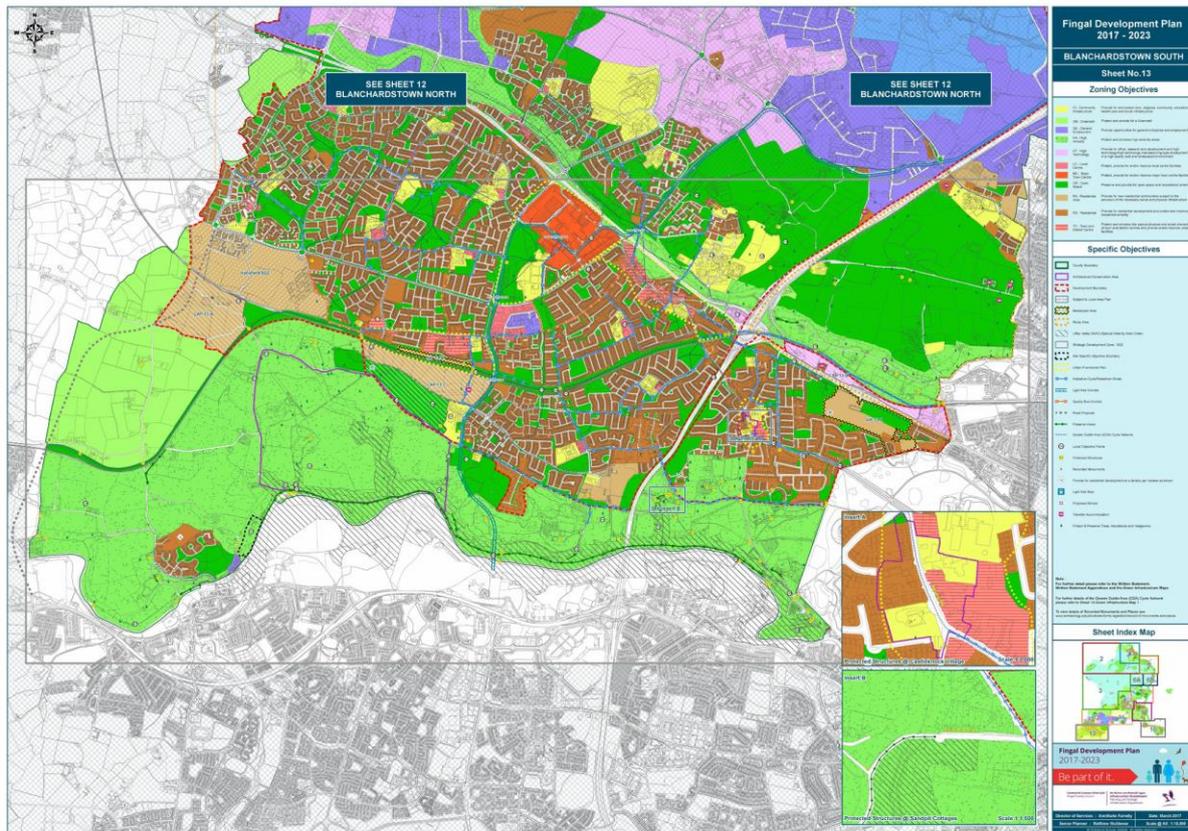
### 3.2 Brief Description of the Proposed Variation No.3 to Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023

The proposed Variation No.3 seeks to remove the indicative line of the "N3 – N4 Barnhill to Leixlip Interchange" Road Proposal, as shown on Sheet 13, Blanchardstown South. This is in response to a recent publication by Transport Infrastructure Ireland which outlines the need for improved alternatives to the M50 motorway. This report proposes options that could be considered as part of the wider orbital transport network improvements in Dublin, including 11 proposed route options. In order to ensure effective appraisal of these route options in the future, and to avoid the potential for prioritisation of a mapped route, it is considered pertinent to remove the indicative line of the "N3 – N4 Barnhill to Leixlip Interchange" Road Proposal shown on Sheet 13, Blanchardstown South of the Fingal CDP.

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Applying the precautionary principle in the context of screening for appropriate assessment requires that where there is uncertainty or doubt about the risk of significant effects on a European site(s), it should be assumed that significant effects are possible and AA must be carried out.

Existing Sheet 13



The indicative line of the road proposal shown on Sheet 13, Blanchardstown South, runs from Barnwell Roundabout, at the Ongar Distributor Road in a southerly direction, through the Hansfield SDZ area and the Barnhill LAP lands to the R149 and Passifyoucan. It then continues to move south to where the Royal Canal meets the R149, at the boundary of Fingal and County Kildare and from there it moves through County Kildare to the N4/ M4 Leixlip Interchange. It is considered appropriate to remove the proposal. Furthermore, it is noted that this indicative line is shown outside of the Fingal Area and remit of the Fingal CDP does not extend beyond the Fingal boundary.

**3.3 Relationship between proposed Variation No.3 and the CDP**

The Fingal CDP sets out the Council’s proposed policies and objectives for the development of the County over the Plan period. Maps which accompany the Written Statement of the CDP provide a graphic representation of the Council’s proposals indicating land use zonings and other objectives of the Council. The indicative line of the “N3 – N4 Barnhill to Leixlip Interchange” Road Proposal, to which this Variation refers, is contained on Sheet 13: Blanchardstown South of the Fingal CDP. As the Council now wish to remove this indicative line of the road proposal from this map a Variation is now required to do so.

**3.4 Overview of the Receiving Environment**

**3.4.1 European sites**

Figure 1 below shows the locations of European Sites within 15km of the CDP boundary, the administrative area within which the Fingal CDP and any Variations to same will be implemented. Current guidance on the zone of influence to be considered during the AA process states the following:

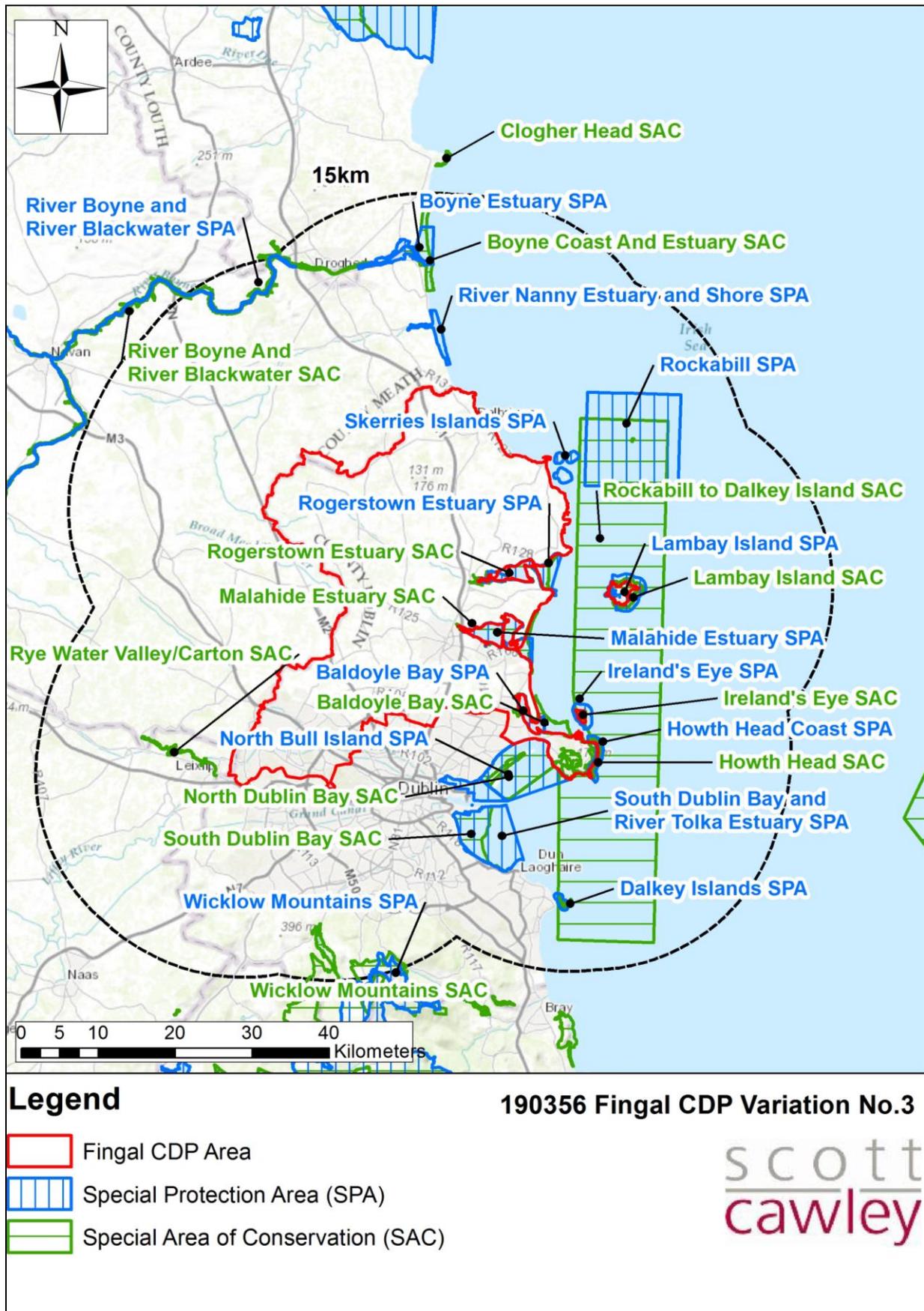
*“A distance of 15km is currently recommended in the case of plans, and derives from UK guidance (Scott Wilson et al., 2006). For projects, the distance could be much less than 15km, and in some cases less than*

*100m, but this must be evaluated on a case-by-case basis with reference to the nature, size and location of the project, and the sensitivities of the ecological receptors, and the potential for in combination effects”.*

This distance has also been recommended in guidance provided by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government guidance (DoEHLG, 2010). In accordance with such guidance, an initial distance of 15km from the County boundary was selected for consideration of European sites. This distance was deemed to be sufficient to cover all likely significant effects which may arise from the implementation of the Plan on European sites. It is noted that Government guidance also mentions the possible need for a longer distance or catchment basis in the case of rivers.

Spatial boundary data for the European site network used was the most up-to-date available at the time of writing. All European sites which were deemed to be within the zone of influence of the Fingal CDP and any Variations to same are listed in Table B1 in Appendix B and presented in Figure 1. The Qualifying Interests/ Special Conservation Interests for which European sites located within the zone of influence are designated are detailed in Table B2 of Appendix B.

Figure 1: European sites within the 15km of the Fingal CDP boundary.



### 3.4.2 Hydrology

According to the EPA's online mapviewer, the lands to which the proposed Variation relates contain one watercourse- the River Rusk, a tributary of the River Liffey. The River Rusk discharges to the River Liffey c. 3.5km to the south-east of the Indicative Road Proposal location. There is no available data regarding the water quality of the River Rusk or any of its upstream tributaries. The waters of the River Liffey are deemed to be of "Good (Q4)" quality at the EPA's "Lucan Bridge" monitoring station, c. 2.6km upstream of its confluence with the River Rusk. Approximately 6.6km downstream of this confluence the River Liffey is regarded to be of "Poor (Q3)" water quality.

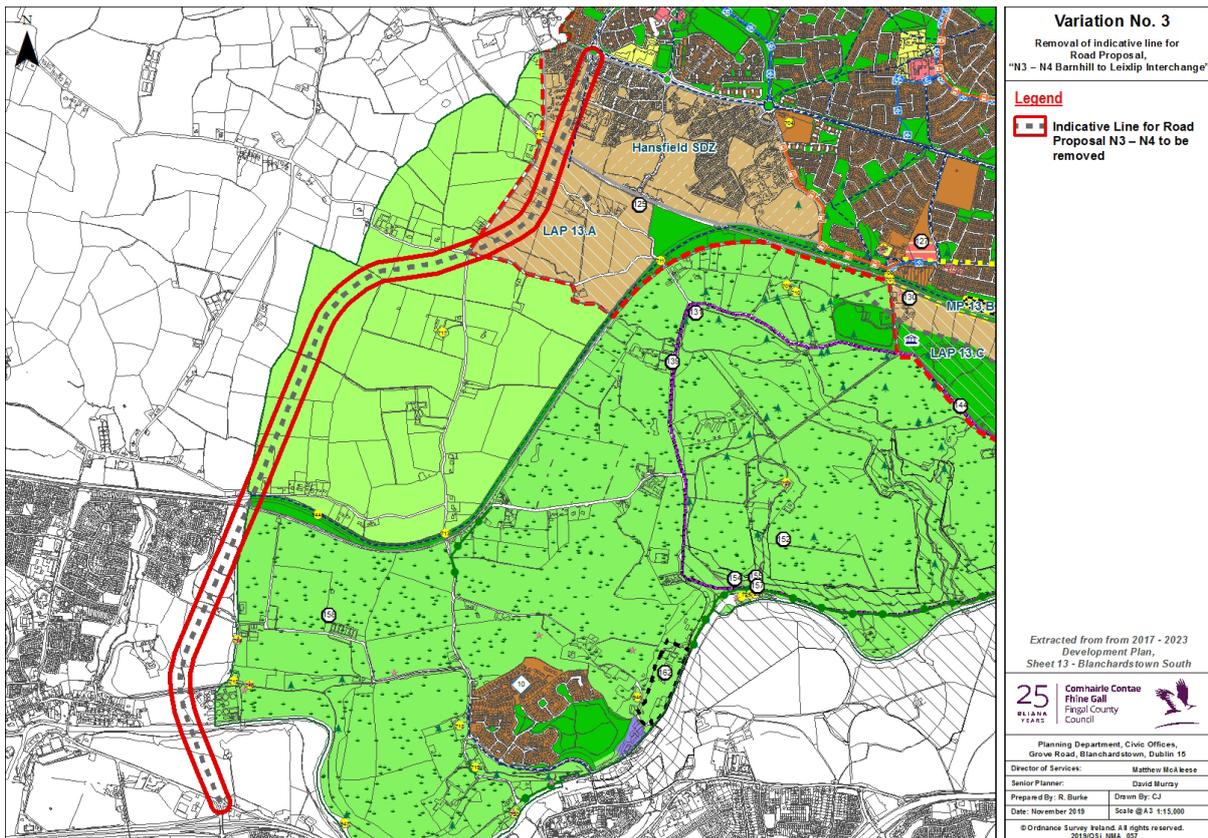
The lands to which the proposed Variation relates are located within the Liffey and Dublin Bay catchment. The River Liffey provides connectivity to a number of European sites contained within the Dublin Bay area, including; South Dublin Bay SAC; South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA; North Dublin Bay SAC and North Bull Island SPA. In this way, the lands to which the proposed Variation relates are connected to European sites contained in Dublin Bay via the surface water network.

### 3.4.3 Hydrogeology

According to the EPA's online mapviewer, the lands affected by the proposed Variation lie above the "Dublin" groundwater body. This is described as "poorly productive bedrock", with "moderate vulnerability" to impacts from human activities. The Dublin groundwater body is "not at risk" of failing to meet its targets under the Water Framework Directive (WFD). A number of European sites lie within the same groundwater body as the lands affected by the proposed Variation, including, the Rye Water Valley/ Carton SAC, South Dublin Bay SAC, South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA, Baldoyle Bay SAC, Baldoyle Bay SPA, North Dublin Bay SAC and North Bull Island SPA. The Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC is designated for groundwater dependent habitats and species.

## 3.5 Assessment of Likely Significant Effects on European Sites

This section identifies any potential impacts associated with the proposed Variation, examines whether there are any European sites within the Zol of effects from the proposed Variation, and assesses whether there is any risk of the proposed Variation resulting in a likely significant effect on any European site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.



The proposed Variation relates to the removal of an indicative line of a Road Proposal (as illustrated with a dotted line in the figure above) from a map which accompanies the Written Statement of the Fingal CDP. From an ecological point of view this will result in a neutral impact on the land which could be affected by the Variation in that it simply removes the implication that these lands will be developed over the CDP period. Therefore, this proposed Variation will not result in any changes to baseline conditions on these lands, nor does it propose alternative options that could result in changes into the future. Consequently, no plausible source-pathway-receptor link, by which significant effects on European sites could arise, exists. Therefore, there is no possibility of the proposed Variation undermining the conservation objectives of any of the qualifying interests or special conservation interests of the European sites and likely significant effects can be excluded.

### 3.6 In-combination likely significant effects

The E.C. Habitats Directive and the EC (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 as amended require that the impacts on European sites as a result of the plan/project be assessed in-combination with other plans and projects that could affect the same European sites.

This section outlines the in-combination assessment of the proposed Variation (i.e. are there likely significant effects predicted as a result of the proposed Variation that could act in combination with other Plans or projects to result in likely significant effects).

A number of plans have been considered below, that could act in-combination with Variation No. 3 to the Fingal CDP to result in likely significant effects. However, as the proposed Variation itself will not have any likely significant effects on the QIs/SCIs or conservation objectives of any European sites, there is no potential for any other plan or project to act in combination with it to result in likely significant effects on any European sites.

- *National Planning Framework*

- The National Planning Framework has undergone an AA which found that the majority of measures proposed in the draft NPF did not give rise to direct effects on European Sites and that, in the main, the effects identified were indirect in nature and could be mitigated. As a result, appropriate mitigation measures have been proposed in the Natura Impact Statement which accompanies the National Planning Framework.
- No in-combination impacts with the proposed Variation No.3 are predicted as a result of implementation.
- *Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES)*
  - The EMRA's Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy has undergone an AA which concluded that subject to mitigation, there would be no adverse effects on the integrity of any European sites as a result of implementation of the RSES.
  - No in-combination impacts with the proposed Variation No.3 are predicted as a result of implementation.
- *Fingal County Development Plan 2017-2023*
  - The Fingal County Development Plan 2017-2023 has undergone an AA which concluded that mitigatory measures identified in the stage 2 Appropriate Assessment are adequate to ensure the integrity of the European Sites which will not be significantly affected as a result of the potential impacts of the objectives contained within the Fingal Development Plan.
  - No in-combination impacts with the proposed Variation No.3 are predicted as a result of implementation.
- *Dublin City Development Plan 2016-2022*
  - The Dublin City Development Plan 2016-2022 has undergone an Appropriate Assessment. The Natura Impact Report for the Dublin City Development Plan 2016-2022 concludes by stating that assuming the successful implementation of the mitigatory objectives contained within the plan, there will be no adverse effects on the integrity of European sites arising from the development plan in isolation or in combination with other plans and projects.
  - No in-combination impacts with the proposed Variation No.3 are predicted as a result of implementation.
- *South Dublin Development Plan 2010-2016*
  - The South Dublin County Development Plan 2016-2022 has undergone a Screening for Appropriate Assessment which concluded that there are no likely significant direct, indirect or secondary impacts of the project (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) on any Natura 2000 site.
  - No in-combination impacts with the proposed Variation No.3 are predicted as a result of implementation.
- *Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Development Plan 2016-2022*
  - The Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Development Plan 2016-2022 has undergone an Appropriate Assessment, which concluded that, provided that the mitigation measures which have been prescribed are implemented, the Dun-Laoghaire – Rathdown County Development Plan will not have a significant adverse effect on European sites.
  - No in-combination impacts with the proposed Variation No.3 are predicted as a result of implementation.
- *Meath County Development Plan 2013-2019*
  - The Meath County Development Plan 2013-2019 has undergone an Appropriate Assessment which concluded that, assuming the successful implementation of the Policies and Objectives, there will be no likely significant effects on Natura 2000 sites in County Meath and its environs by the adopted Plan in isolation or in combination with other Plans and Projects acting in the same area.

- No in-combination impacts with the proposed Variation No.3 are predicted as a result of implementation.
- *Greater Dublin Area Transport Strategy 2016- 2035*
  - The Greater Dublin Area Transport Strategy 2016-2035 has undergone an Appropriate Assessment which concluded that provided that the mitigation prescribed is implemented, there will be no significant adverse effects on European sites.
  - No in-combination impacts with the proposed Variation No.3 are predicted as a result of implementation.
- *Greater Dublin Drainage Project*
  - The Greater Dublin Drainage Project has undergone an Appropriate Assessment. The Natura Impact Statement concluded that the proposed project, with the implementation of the prescribed mitigation measures will not give rise to significant impacts, either individually or in combination with other plans and projects, in a manner which adversely affects the integrity of any designated site within the Natura 2000 network.
  - No in-combination impacts with the proposed Variation No.3 are predicted as a result of implementation.
- *River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021*
  - The Appropriate Assessment process for the River Basin Management Plan found that the main potential ecological impacts which could arise from the implementation of the RBMP included; habitat loss, destruction, fragmentation or degradation; alterations to water quality and/or water movement; disturbance to habitats/ species and in-combination impacts. Through the process of impact prediction, the main ecological impacts associated with the RBMP included; construction, upgrade and operation of new WWTPs and associated infrastructure; failure to achieve planned water quality outcomes and failure to ensure co-ordinated and integrated implementation of measures.
  - A number of mitigation measures have been proposed to further improve actions contained within the RBMP and to address potential negative effects identified during the assessment of the RBMP.
  - The Natura Impact Report concludes that based on the adoption of the various mitigation measures proposed, there will be no adverse effects on the integrity of any European sites as a result of implementing the RBMP.

#### **4 CONCLUSION**

Following an examination, analysis and evaluation of the relevant information, including in particular, the nature of the proposed Variation No. 3 and its potential relationship with European sites and their conservation objectives, as well as considering other plans and projects, and applying the precautionary principle, it is the professional opinion of the authors of this report that there is no potential for likely significant effects on any European sites, for the reasons set out in Section 3.5 and 3.6 above.

Therefore, it is the professional opinion of the authors of this report that the proposed Variation No. 3 does not require an Appropriate Assessment or the preparation of a Natura Impact Report (NIR).



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## 5 REFERENCES

- CAAS (2015).** *Greater Dublin Area Transport Strategy 2016- 2035- Appropriate Assessment*
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- European Commission (2019)** *Managing Natura 2000 sites: The Provisions of Article 6 of the Habitat's Directive 92/43/EEC;*
- Meath County Council (2013).** *Meath County Development Plan 2013-2019. Volume 4. Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) & Natura Impact Report.*
- NPWS Circular NPW 1/10 & PSSP 2/10** *Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive: Guidance for Planning Authorities.* (Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, March 2010);
- RPS (2016).** *Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Development Plan 2016-2022 – Natura Impact Report*
- RPS (2017).** *National Planning Framework- Natura Impact Statement*
- RPS (2017).** *Fingal County Development Plan 2017-2023 – Natura Impact Report*
- RPS (2018).** *Greater Dublin Drainage Project – Natura Impact Statement*
- RPS (2018).** *River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021 – Natura Impact Statement*
- RPS (2019).** *Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES)- Natura Impact Report*
- South Dublin County Council (2016).** *South Dublin County Council Development Plan 2016-2022- Screening for Appropriate Assessment.*

## Appendix A: Amendments proposed in Variation No.3 to the Fingal CDP 2017-2023

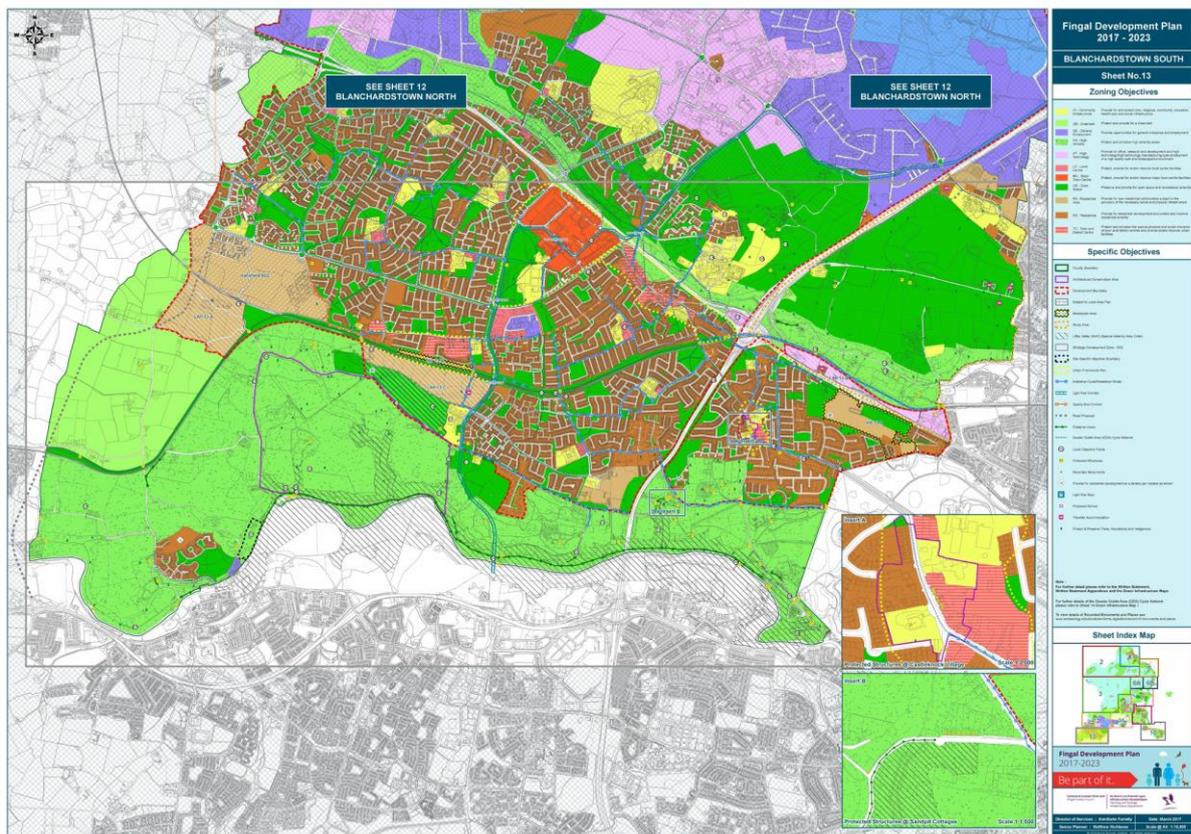
Proposed amendments to the Fingal CDP 2017-2023 which will be implemented through Variation No.3 are set out in this Appendix. Where appropriate, headings and extracts of text before and after the amendments are included in order to present the amendments within their context.

The nature and extent of each of the Proposed Variations are identified as follows:

- Proposed Amendments involving additional text are shown in **green**.
- Proposed Amendments involving deletion of text are shown in **red strikethrough**.
- Proposed Amendments that involve changes to a map/figure are highlighted on the relevant figure in terms of the area affected. This is accompanied by the text of the Proposed Variation.
- Existing unedited text remain in black.

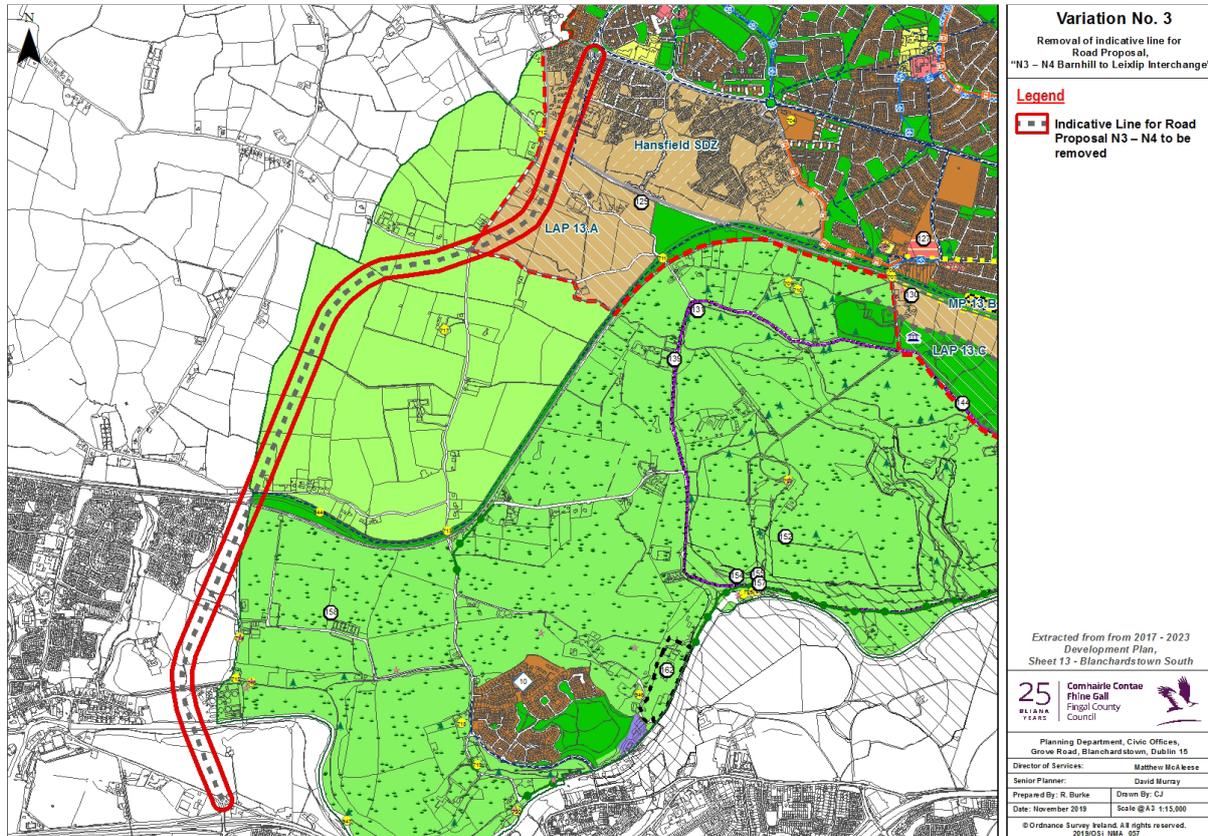
It is proposed to remove the indicative line of the “N3-N4 Barnhill to Leixlip Interchange” Road Proposal shown on Sheet 13, Blanchardstown South, linking Barnwell Roundabout to the N4/ M4 Leixlip Interchange, as shown below.

Existing Sheet 13



Extract from Sheet 13 Blanchardstown South: showing indicative line of proposed road (to be removed)

Detail of the same:



This proposed Variation No. 3 to the Fingal Development Plan 2017 – 2023 seeks to remove the indicative line of Road Proposal, "N3 – N4 Barnhill to Leixlip Interchange", as shown on Sheet 13, Blanchardstown South.

This road proposal runs from the Barnwell Roundabout at the Ongar Distributor Road in a southerly direction, through the Hansfield SDZ area and the Barnhill LAP lands to the R149 and Passifyoucan, continuing to move south to where the Royal Canal meets the R149, at the boundary of Fingal and County Kildare and from there it moves through County Kildare to the N4/M4 Leixlip Interchange.

TII published "enhancing Motorway Operations Services, M50 Resilience between M50 J6 and J7, Scoping Study" in May 2019. This feasibility study considers 11 routes. More detailed analysis will be required before any preferred route emerges. Given the number of routes under consideration, it is considered pertinent to remove the indicative line shown on Sheet 13, Blanchardstown South in the absence of a final route being selected.

Furthermore, it is noted that this indicative line is shown outside of the Fingal Area and the remit of the Fingal Development Plan does not extend beyond the Fingal boundary.

## Appendix B

**Table B1: European sites within 15km of the boundary of Fingal CDP**

Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)	Special Protection Areas (SPAs)
Site Name & Code	Site Name & Code
Boyne Coast & Estuary SAC (001957)	Boyne Estuary SPA (004080)
River Boyne & River Blackwater SAC (002299)	River Boyne & River Blackwater SPA (004232)
Rye Water Valley/ Carton SAC (001398)	River Nanny Estuary & Shore SPA (004158)
Glenasmole Valley SAC (001209)	Rockabill SPA (004014)
Wicklow Mountains SAC (002122)	Skerries Islands SPA (004122)
Rogerstown Estuary SAC (000208)	Wicklow Mountains SPA (004040)
Malahide Estuary SAC (000205)	Lambay Island SPA (004069)
Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC (003000)	Rogerstown Estuary SPA (004015)
Lambay Island SAC (000204)	Malahide Estuary SPA (004025) <sup>5</sup>
Irelands Eye SAC (002193)	Baldoyle Bay SPA (004016)
Baldoyle Bay SAC (000199)	Irelands Eye SPA (004117)
North Dublin Bay SAC (000206)	Howth Head Coast SPA (004113)
Howth Head SAC (000202)	North Bull Island SPA (004006)
South Dublin Bay SAC (000210)	South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA (004024)

<sup>5</sup> (also known as Broadmeadow/ Swords SPA)

Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)	Special Protection Areas (SPAs)
Site Name & Code	Site Name & Code
	Dalkey Islands SPA (004172)

**Table B2: Qualifying Interests**

Site Name & Code	Qualifying Interests
Boyne Coast & Estuary SAC (001957)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Estuaries [1130]</li> <li>• Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]</li> <li>• Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210]</li> <li>• Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310]</li> <li>• Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>) [1330]</li> <li>• Embryonic shifting dunes [2110]</li> <li>• Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120]</li> <li>• Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130]</li> </ul> <p>Source: NPWS (2012) Conservation Objectives: Boyne Coast and Estuary SAC 001957. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.</p>
River Boyne & River Blackwater SAC (002299)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alkaline fens [7230]</li> <li>• Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i>, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>) [91E0]</li> <li>• <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> (River Lamprey) [1099]</li> <li>• <i>Salmo salar</i> (Salmon) [1106]</li> <li>• <i>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter) [1355]</li> </ul> <p>Source: NPWS (2018) Conservation objectives for River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC [002299]. Generic Version 6.0. Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.</p>
Rye Water Valley/ Carton SAC (001398)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>) [7220]</li> <li>• <i>Vertigo angustior</i> (Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail) [1014]</li> <li>• <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i> (Desmoulin's Whorl Snail) [1016]</li> </ul> <p>Source: NPWS (2018) Conservation objectives for Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC [001398]. Generic Version 6.0. Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.</p>
Glenasmole Valley SAC (001209)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) (* important orchid sites) [6210]</li> <li>• <i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>) [6410]</li> <li>• Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>) [7220]</li> </ul> <p>Source: NPWS (2018) Conservation objectives for Glenasmole Valley SAC [001209]. Generic Version 6.0. Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.</p>

Site Name & Code	Qualifying Interests
Wicklow Mountains SAC (002122)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>) [3110]</li> <li>• Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160]</li> <li>• Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010]</li> <li>• European dry heaths [4030]</li> <li>• Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060]</li> <li>• Calaminarian grasslands of the <i>Violetalia calaminariae</i> [6130]</li> <li>• Species-rich <i>Nardus</i> grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe) [6230]</li> <li>• Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130]</li> <li>• Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (<i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsietalia ladani</i>) [8110]</li> <li>• Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8210]</li> <li>• Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220]</li> <li>• Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0]</li> <li>• <i>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter) [1355]</li> </ul> <p>Source: NPWS (2017) Conservation Objectives: Wicklow Mountains SAC 002122. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.</p>
Rogerstown Estuary SAC (000208)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Estuaries [1130]</li> <li>• Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]</li> <li>• <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonizing mud and sand [1310]</li> <li>• Atlantic salt meadows <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i> [1330]</li> <li>• Mediterranean salt meadows <i>Juncetalia maritimi</i> [1410]</li> <li>• Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120]</li> <li>• *Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130]</li> </ul> <p>Source: NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives: Rogerstown Estuary SAC 000208. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.</p>
Malahide Estuary SAC (000205)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]</li> <li>• <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonizing mud and sand [1310]</li> <li>• <i>Spartina</i> swards <i>Spartinion maritima</i> [1320]</li> <li>• Atlantic salt meadows <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i> [1330]</li> <li>• Mediterranean salt meadows <i>Juncetalia maritimi</i> [1410]</li> <li>• Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120]</li> </ul>

Site Name & Code	Qualifying Interests
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• *Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130]</li> </ul> <p>Source: NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives: Malahide Estuary SAC 000205. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.</p>
Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC (003000)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reefs [1170]</li> <li>• Harbour porpoise <i>Phocaena phocaena</i> [1170]</li> </ul> <p>Source: NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives: Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC 003000. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.</p>
Lambay Island SAC (000204)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reefs [1170]</li> <li>• Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230]</li> <li>• Halichoerus grypus (Grey Seal) [1364]</li> <li>• Phoca vitulina (Harbour Seal) [1365]</li> </ul> <p>Source: NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives: Lambay Island SAC 000204. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.</p>
Irelands Eye SAC (002193)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220]</li> <li>• Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230]</li> </ul> <p>Source: NPWS (2017) Conservation Objectives: Ireland's Eye SAC 002193. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.</p>
Baldoyle Bay SAC (000199)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]</li> <li>• <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonizing mud and sand [1310]</li> <li>• Atlantic salt meadows <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i> [1330]</li> <li>• Mediterranean salt meadows <i>Juncetalia maritimi</i> [1410]</li> </ul> <p>Source: NPWS (2012) Conservation Objectives: Baldoyle Bay SAC 000199. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.</p>
North Dublin Bay SAC (000206)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]</li> <li>• Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210]</li> <li>• <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonizing mud and sand [1310]</li> <li>• Atlantic salt meadows <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i> [1330]</li> <li>• Mediterranean salt meadows <i>Juncetalia maritimi</i> [1410]</li> </ul>

Site Name & Code	Qualifying Interests
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Embryonic shifting dunes [2110]</li> <li>• Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120]</li> <li>• *Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130]</li> <li>• Humid dune slacks [2190]</li> <li>• Petalwort <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> [1395]</li> </ul> <p>Source: NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives: North Dublin Bay SAC 000206. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht</p>
Howth Head SAC (000202)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230]</li> <li>• European dry heaths [4030]</li> </ul> <p>Source: NPWS (2016) Conservation Objectives: Howth Head SAC 000202. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.</p>
South Dublin Bay SAC (000210)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]</li> <li>• Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210]</li> <li>• <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310]</li> <li>• Embryonic shifting dunes [2110]</li> </ul> <p>Source: NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives: South Dublin Bay SAC 000210. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.</p>
Site Name & Code	Qualifying Interests & Code
Boyne Estuary SPA (004080)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048]</li> <li>• Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130]</li> <li>• Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140]</li> <li>• Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141]</li> <li>• Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142]</li> <li>• Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143]</li> <li>• Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144]</li> <li>• Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156]</li> <li>• Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162]</li> <li>• Turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>) [A169]</li> <li>• Little Tern (<i>Sterna albifrons</i>) [A195]</li> <li>• Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]</li> </ul>

Site Name & Code	Qualifying Interests
	<p>Source: NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives: Boyne Estuary SPA 004080. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.</p>
<p>River Boyne &amp; River Blackwater SPA (004232)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kingfisher (<i>Alcedo atthis</i>) [A229]</li> </ul> <p>Source: NPWS (2018) Conservation objectives for River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA [004232]. Generic Version 6.0. Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.</p>
<p>River Nanny Estuary &amp; Shore SPA (004158)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130]</li> <li>• Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137]</li> <li>• Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140]</li> <li>• Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143]</li> <li>• Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144]</li> <li>• Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) [A184]</li> <li>• Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]</li> </ul> <p>Source: NPWS (2012) Conservation Objectives: River Nanny Estuary and Shore SPA 004158. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.</p>
<p>Rockabill SPA (004014)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Purple Sandpiper (<i>Calidris maritima</i>) [A148]</li> <li>• Roseate Tern (<i>Sterna dougallii</i>) [A192]</li> <li>• Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193]</li> <li>• Arctic Tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) [A194]</li> </ul> <p>Source: NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives: Rockabill SPA 004014. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht</p>
<p>Skerries Islands SPA (004122)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017]</li> <li>• Shag (<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>) [A018]</li> <li>• Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046]</li> <li>• Purple Sandpiper (<i>Calidris maritima</i>) [A148]</li> <li>• Turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>) [A169]</li> <li>• Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) [A184]</li> </ul> <p>Source: NPWS (2018) Conservation objectives for Skerries Islands SPA [004122]. Generic Version 6.0. Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.</p>

Site Name & Code	Qualifying Interests
Wicklow Mountains SPA (004040)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>) [A098]</li> <li>• Peregrine (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>) [A103]</li> </ul> <p>Source: NPWS (2018) Conservation objectives for Wicklow Mountains SPA [004040]. Generic Version 6.0. Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.</p>
Lambay Island SPA (004069)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fulmar (<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>) [A009]</li> <li>• Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017]</li> <li>• Shag (<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>) [A018]</li> <li>• Greylag Goose (<i>Anser anser</i>) [A043]</li> <li>• Lesser Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>) [A183]</li> <li>• Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) [A184]</li> <li>• Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) [A188]</li> <li>• Guillemot (<i>Uria aalge</i>) [A199]</li> <li>• Razorbill (<i>Alca torda</i>) [A200]</li> <li>• Puffin (<i>Fratercula arctica</i>) [A204]</li> </ul> <p>Source: NPWS (2018) Conservation objectives for Lambay Island SPA [004069]. Generic Version 6.0. Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.</p>
Rogerstown Estuary SPA (004015)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greylag Goose (<i>Anser anser</i>) [A043]</li> <li>• Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046]</li> <li>• Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048]</li> <li>• Shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>) [A056]</li> <li>• Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130]</li> <li>• Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137]</li> <li>• Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141]</li> <li>• Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143]</li> <li>• Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149]</li> <li>• Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156]</li> <li>• Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162]</li> <li>• Wetlands &amp; waterbirds [A999]</li> </ul> <p>Source: NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives: Rogerstown Estuary SPA 004015. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.</p>

Site Name & Code	Qualifying Interests
<p>Malahide Estuary SPA (004025)</p> <p>(also known as Broadmeadow/ Swords SPA)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Great Crested Grebe (<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>) [A005]</li> <li>• Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046]</li> <li>• Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048]</li> <li>• Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) [A054]</li> <li>• Goldeneye (<i>Bucephala clangula</i>) [A067]</li> <li>• Red-breasted Merganser (<i>Mergus serrator</i>) [A069]</li> <li>• Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130]</li> <li>• Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140]</li> <li>• Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141]</li> <li>• Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143]</li> <li>• Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149]</li> <li>• Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156]</li> <li>• Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157]</li> <li>• Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162]</li> <li>• Wetlands &amp; Waterbirds [A999]</li> </ul> <p>Source: NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives: Malahide Estuary SPA 004025. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.</p>
<p>Baldoyle Bay SPA (004016)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046]</li> <li>• Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048]</li> <li>• Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137]</li> <li>• Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140]</li> <li>• Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141]</li> <li>• Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157]</li> <li>• Wetlands &amp; Waterbirds [A999]</li> </ul> <p>Source: NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives: Baldoyle Bay SPA 004016. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.</p>
<p>Irelands Eye SPA (004117)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017]</li> <li>• Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) [A184]</li> <li>• Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) [A188]</li> <li>• Guillemot (<i>Uria aalge</i>) [A199]</li> </ul>

Site Name & Code	Qualifying Interests
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Razorbill (<i>Alca torda</i>) [A200]</li> </ul> <p>Source: NPWS (2018) Conservation objectives for Ireland's Eye SPA [004117]. Generic Version 6.0. Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.</p>
Howth Head Coast SPA (004113)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>)</li> </ul> <p>Source: NPWS (2018) Conservation objectives for Howth Head Coast SPA [004113]. Generic Version 6.0. Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.</p>
North Bull Island SPA (004006)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130]</li> <li>• Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046]</li> <li>• Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048]</li> <li>• Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052]</li> <li>• Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) [A054]</li> <li>• Shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>) [A056]</li> <li>• Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140]</li> <li>• Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141]</li> <li>• Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143]</li> <li>• Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144]</li> <li>• Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149]</li> <li>• Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156]</li> <li>• Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157]</li> <li>• Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160]</li> <li>• Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162]</li> <li>• Turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>) [A169]</li> <li>• Black-headed Gull (<i>Larus ridibundus</i>) [A179]</li> <li>• Wetlands &amp; Waterbirds [A999]</li> </ul> <p>Source: NPWS (2015) Conservation Objectives: North Bull Island SPA 004006. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.</p>
South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA (004024)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046]</li> <li>• Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130]</li> <li>• Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137]</li> <li>• Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A140]</li> </ul>

Site Name & Code	Qualifying Interests
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143]</li> <li>• Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144]</li> <li>• Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149]</li> <li>• Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157]</li> <li>• Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162]</li> <li>• Black-headed Gull (<i>Larus ridibundus</i>) [A179]</li> <li>• Roseate Tern (<i>Sterna dougallii</i>) [A192]</li> <li>• Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193]</li> <li>• Arctic Tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) [A194]</li> <li>• Wetlands &amp; Waterbirds [A999]</li> </ul> <p>Source: NPWS (2015) Conservation Objectives: South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA 004024. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.</p>
Dalkey Islands SPA (004172)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Roseate Tern (<i>Sterna dougallii</i>) [A192]</li> <li>• Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193]</li> <li>• Arctic Tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) [A194]</li> </ul> <p>Source: NPWS (2018) Conservation objectives for Dalkey Islands SPA [004172]. Generic Version 6.0. Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.</p>