

Screening for Appropriate Assessment

Determination

under

Section 177U of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended,

for the

Emerging Draft Fingal County Development Plan 2023-2029

In order to comply with the requirements of Section 177U of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, this determination has been made by Fingal County Council relating to the potential for the emerging Draft Dublin City Development Plan 2023-2029 to have significant effects on European sites.

In making the determination that Appropriate Assessment (AA) is required, the information on the likely significant effects on European sites arising from the emerging Draft Plan has been taken into account). The process of screening for AA began at an early stage in the drafting of the Plan. The screening processes assessed whether the emerging Draft Plan had the potential to have significant effects on any European sites, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects.

The screening process concluded that an AA of the emerging Draft Plan would be required, as the Plan: is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of European sites; and may, on the basis of objective information, individually, or in combination with other plans or projects, if unmitigated have adverse effects on the integrity of 27 no. European sites, 13 Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and 14 Special Protection Areas (SPAs), namely

Special Areas of Conservation	Special Protection Areas
Malahide Estuary [000205]	Malahide Estuary [004025]
Rogerstown Estuary [000208]	Rogerstown Estuary [004015]
Baldoyle Bay [000199]	Baldoyle Bay [004016]
Lambay Island [000204]	Lambay Island [004069]
Ireland's Eye [002193]	Ireland's Eye [004117]
Howth Head [000202]	Howth Head Coast [004113]
Rockabill to Dalkey Island [003000]	Dalkey Islands [004172]
North Dublin Bay [000206]	Skerries Islands [004122]
South Dublin Bay [000210]	North Bull Island [004006]
Boyne Coast and Estuary [001957]	South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary [004024]
River Boyne and Blackwater [002299]	River Nanny Estuary and Shore [004158]
Wicklow Mountains [002122]	Boyne Estuary [004172]
Codling Fault Zone [001957]	River Boyne and River Blackwater [004232]
	Wicklow Mountains [004040]

Plan elements / factors that could potentially adversely affect the integrity of these European sites include:

- Settlement and Housing;
- Economic development;
- Provisions of infrastructure and transport;
- Cultural, Built Heritage and Landscape;
- Provision for Energy;
- Green Infrastructure;
- Climate Action; and
- Proposed Rezoning

The Draft Plan includes objectives which are aimed at delivering new development, in particular the development of strategic housing and linear infrastructure such as transport corridors (roads, public transport, cycleways etc), greenways and blueways. The Draft Plan also seeks to include for the consolidation, modification or reuse of developed lands within existing development / infrastructure in the broader context (e.g. commercial and industrial development sites), as well as the provision of recreational and other green infrastructure. The Draft Plan also includes measures, such as improvements to water and wastewater services, which in themselves seek, to improve the overall environmental condition of the County. Implementation of objectives arising from these high-level strategies could result in a number of potential impacts, either within a European site(s) or in an important *ex-situ* habitat area outside of European site(s) boundary including:

- Habitat loss, where there could potentially be either complete removal or partial loss / fragmentation of a qualifying interest (QI) habitat type or of a habitat type supporting QI species or Special Conservation Interest (SCI) bird species. Habitat loss could negatively affect QI or SCI species through a loss of resource and /or displacement of a species or population outside of their local , natural range.
- Habitat degradation, where pressures associated with increased development and population increases could negatively affect a QI habitat type or habitat type supporting QI / SCI species. Habitat degradation can arise as result of negative effects on water quality and hydrological processes, from effects on groundwater quality and flows or by accidentally introducing non-native invasive species.
- Disturbance and displacement of species, where pressures associated with increased development and population increases negatively affect the use of important supporting habitat by QI / SCI species that can result in population level abundance and distribution effects. Disturbance can arise as a result of such sources as increased noise, artificial light or recreational pressures and can result in displacement of a species or population outside of their local, natural range.
- As for the above potential impacts, proposed rezoning of lands in support of potential policy and objective needs such as additional land for strategic housing needs, linear transport requirements or coastal infrastructure / recreation and river flood protection could also result in habitat loss, fragmentation and degradation as well as resulting in disturbance and /or displacement of QI / SCI species

Therefore, and adopting the precautionary principle, a Stage 2 AA (including the preparation of a Natura Impact Report) is required for the emerging Draft Plan.

The undersigned, having carefully considered the information referred to above agrees with, and adopts, the reasoning and conclusions presented above. The undersigned hereby determines

pursuant to Section 177U of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, and for the purposes of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive that it could not be excluded, on the basis of objective information, that the emerging Draft Plan, individually or in combination with other plans or projects would have a likely significant effect on a European site and therefore an AA is required.

Signatory:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R. Burke". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Róisín Burke, Senior Planner

Date:

24th February 2022