

## **Screening for Appropriate Assessment**

### **Determination**

under the

European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011

(as amended)

for the

### **Draft Sustainable Swords Strategy**

In order to comply with the requirements of Regulation 42 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011 (S.I. No. 477), as amended, this determination has been made by Fingal County Council relating to the potential for the Draft Sustainable Swords Strategy to have effects on European sites.

In making the determination that further, Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment (AA) is not required, the information on the potential effects on the integrity of European Sites presented in the "AA Screening Report for Draft Sustainable Swords Strategy" has been taken into account. That report concludes as follows:

"This Stage One Screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA) of the Draft Sustainable Swords Strategy for Swords, Fingal, County Dublin, demonstrates that the Draft Strategy is not likely to have significant effects on any European site.

The Draft Strategy is adjacent to the Malahide Estuary SAC and SPA. The AA screening process has considered potential effects which may arise during the construction and operational phases as a result of the implementation of the Draft Strategy. The Draft Strategy provides further detail and guidance regarding sustainable development, including public realm and sustainable mobility developments and activities that are already provided for, in general terms, by the existing land use planning and transport framework, that has already been subject to appropriate levels of environmental assessment. Therefore, the Strategy does not introduce any additional sources for effects that were not already considered by the existing Fingal Development Plan and Greater Dublin Area Transport Strategy and associated AA processes.

Given the nature of the detail and guidance regarding sustainable development provided for in the Draft Strategy and the lack of additional sources for effects identified, mitigation measures are not required to avoid and/or minimise potential effects to European sites which were not already captured by existing AA processes. Therefore, the proposed project will not lead to any significant effects in-combination with effects arising from any other plans or projects.

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

The undersigned, having carefully considered the information referred to above agrees with and adopts the reasoning and conclusion presented above and in the "AA Screening Report for Draft Sustainable Swords Strategy". The undersigned hereby determines pursuant to Regulation 42 of S.I. No. 477 of 2011, as amended, and for the purposes of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive that the Draft Strategy is not foreseen to give rise to any significant adverse effects on any designated European sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects. Consequently, it is determined that a Stage Two AA (NIS) is not required.

#### **Signatory:**



**Róisín Burke, Senior Planner**

**Date:**

*5<sup>th</sup> September 2022*