

Draft Donabate Framework Plan

Appropriate Assessment Screening Report

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**Brady Shipman
Martin**

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Assessment
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Environment**

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1 Introduction

1.1 Background

Fingal County Council (FCC) has prepared a Draft Donabate Framework Plan to guide careful urban improvement and to plan for appropriate future growth in the Donabate town centre area. The Draft Framework Plan will guide future development within the Donabate town centre area to create a vibrant and sustainable town core which will support and encourage economic, social and cultural development and provide an attractive, high-quality environment for existing and future residents.

Brady Shipman Martin has been appointed by FCC to undertake a screening exercise for Appropriate Assessment (AA). This will determine the effects, if any, on European sites, of the implementation of the Draft Donabate Framework Plan (hereafter referred to as 'Draft Plan').

This document constitutes an Appropriate Assessment Screening Report prepared for this purpose. European sites are also known as Natura 2000 Sites (Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA)), and are designated for nature conservation. The requirements for an Appropriate Assessment are set out under *Article 6 of the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC)*, transposed into Irish law through the *European Union (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (as amended)* and the *Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended)*.

A comprehensive study has been undertaken and the potential impacts on European sites, both as a result of the implementation of the Draft Plan and in-combination with other plans and projects, are appraised in this report.

This AA Screening Report should be read in conjunction with the Draft Donabate Framework Plan and the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening Report (prepared by Brady Shipman Martin, 2024).

1.2 Expertise and Qualifications

This report has been prepared by Namrata Kaile, Ecologist and Environmental Consultant at Brady Shipman Martin. She holds a Bachelor's Degree (BSc) in Life Sciences from University of Delhi and a Master's Degree (MSc) with distinction in Environmental Sciences from Trinity College Dublin. She is an associate member of Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (ACIEEM) and has been working professionally in the field of environmental consultancy for the last four years. Namrata is experienced in drafting and reviewing AA Screening Reports, Natura Impact Statements, EIA Screening Report as well as in coordination of EIARs. She is also experienced in undertaking baseline ecological surveys and preparing Ecological Impact Assessments Reports (EcIA).

This report has been technically reviewed by Ecologist Matthew Hague BSc MSc Adv. Dip. Plan. & Env. Law CEnv MCIEEM. Matthew is an Associate with Brady Shipman Martin and is a highly experienced and qualified ecologist, with a master's degree in Ecosystem Conservation and Landscape Management. He has over 20 years of experience in ecological and environmental consultancy, across a wide range of sectors. He has prepared numerous reports for AA Screening as well as Natura Impact Statements, for projects of all scales, from small residential developments to nationally important infrastructure projects. Matthew is a Chartered Environmentalist (CEnv) and a full member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (MCIEEM). Matthew has also completed an Advanced Diploma in Planning and Environmental Law, at King's Inns and is a member of the Irish Environmental Law Association (IELA).

1.3 Legal requirement for Appropriate Assessment

European sites make up a network of sites designated for nature conservation under Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (the “Habitats Directive”) and Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds (the “Birds Directive”). The requirements for Appropriate Assessment are set out under *Article 6 of the Habitats Directive*, transposed into Irish law by the *European Union (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (as amended)*¹ (the “Birds and Natural Habitats Regulations”) and the *Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended)* (the “Planning Acts”).

European sites are also known as Natura 2000 Sites (Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA)). As defined in section 177R of the Planning Acts “European site” means:

- (a) a candidate site of Community importance,
- (b) a site of Community importance,
- (ba) a candidate special area of conservation,
- (c) a special area of conservation,
- (d) a candidate special protection area and
- (e) a special protection area.

Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive states that:

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

The first test is to establish whether, in relation to a particular plan or project, appropriate assessment is required. Sections 177U of the Planning Acts requires that the AA screening test must be applied to the Draft Plan, as follows:

- To assess, in view of best scientific knowledge, if the development, individually or in combination with another plan or project is likely to have a significant effect on the European site;
- An appropriate assessment is required if it cannot be excluded, on the basis of objective information, that the development (plan or project), individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will have a significant effect on a European site.

This AA Screening Report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Birds Directive, the Habitats Directive, the Planning Acts and the Birds and Natural Habitats Regulations.

¹ SI No. 477 of 2011, SI No. 293 of 2021

2 Methodology

2.1 Baseline data collection

This assessment focused on habitats and species that are listed as Qualifying Interests (QI) (in the case of SACs) and Special Conservation Interests (SCI) (in the case of SPAs) in the designations for European sites. During the assessment the potential for *ex-situ* effects on European sites was also appraised.

This report takes the following guidance documents into account:

- 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 & PSSP 2/10;
- Assessment of plans and projects in relation to Natura 2000 sites- Methodological guidance on Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (European Commission, 2021);
- Managing Natura 2000 sites: The Provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. Guidance issued by the European Commission (21st November 2018);
- Guidance document on the strict protection of animal species of Community Interest under the Habitats Directive (Directorate – General for Environment (European Commission, 2021);
- Practice Note PN01 Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management (Office of the Planning Regulator, March 2021);
- Guidance for Public authorities on the Application of Articles 12 and 16 of the EU Habitats Directive to development/works undertaken by or on behalf of a Public authority (National Parks and Wildlife Services (NPWS) (2021)).

Information was collated from the organisations and websites listed below:

- Data on European sites and rare and protected plant and animal species contained in the following databases:
 - The National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) of the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (www.NPWS.ie);
 - The National Biodiversity Data Centre (NDBC) (www.biodiversityireland.ie);
 - BirdWatch Ireland (www.birdwatchireland.ie);
 - Bat Conservation Ireland (www.batconservationireland.org).
- Information on land-use zoning from the online mapping of the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government (<http://www.myplan.ie/en/index.html>);
- Recent and historical OSi mapping and aerial photography, including www.geohive.ie;
- Information on local watercourses from www.catchments.ie;
- Information on water quality in the area (www.epa.ie);
- Information on soils, geology and hydrogeology in the area (www.gsi.ie);
- Information on the Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland (Article 17 report) (NPWS, August 2019);
- Third National Biodiversity Plan 2017-2021 (Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, 2017);
- Ireland's 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan, Draft for Public Consultation (Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, 2022);
- Fingal Development Plan 2023-2029 and the accompanying reports.

The report has regard to the following legislative instruments:

- Planning and Development, Act 2000, as amended;
- Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended;
- European Commission (EC) Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC;
- European Commission (EC) Birds Directive 2009/147/EC;
- European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (as amended).

The report takes full account of the details of the Draft Plan and a detailed examination of all relevant elements was undertaken. The Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Report (Brady Shipman Martin, 2024) was also reviewed in the preparation of this report.

3 Screening for Appropriate Assessment

3.1 Background

The first part of the Appropriate Assessment process is the Screening phase. Screening identifies the likely effects of the implementation of the Draft Plan on European sites that could arise, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, and considers whether these impacts are likely to have a significant effect on the European site in view of the site's conservation objectives.

In accordance with sections 177U and 177V of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, the AA screening must be carried out:

- To assess, in view of best scientific knowledge, if the Draft Plan, individually or in combination with another plan or project is likely to have a significant effect on the European site;
- An appropriate assessment is required if it cannot be excluded, on the basis of objective information, that the Draft Plan, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will have a significant effect on a European site.

Screening must be undertaken without the inclusion of mitigation and it is in this context that this AA Screening Report is prepared.

Following screening therefore, if there is a possibility of there being a significant effect on a European site, this will generate the need for an appropriate assessment for the purposes of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive. This means that if the conclusions at the end of the screening exercise are that significant effects on any European sites, as a result of the implementation of the Draft Plan, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects, are likely, uncertain or unknown, then an Appropriate Assessment must be carried out. This is in accordance with established precedent and case law.

3.2 Potential zone of influence

This assessment is based on the source-pathway-receptor model, which dictates that, for an effect to occur, there must be a 'source' (such as a construction site); a 'receptor' (such as a designated site for nature conservation); and a 'pathway' between the two (such as a watercourse that links the construction site to the designated site). A construction site or completed development may also create a barrier to movement, for example, by preventing the migration of fauna along a river corridor, or by obstructing the migration of birds.

Identification of a potential effect means that there is a possibility of ecological or environmental damage occurring, with the level and significance of the impact depending upon the nature and exposure to the potential effect and the characteristics of the receptor. Although there may be a risk of an impact, it may not necessarily occur, and if it does occur, it may not be significant.

There are no set recommended distances for projects to consider European sites as being relevant for assessment. In 2010, DoEHLG stated that (pp. 31 – 32):

“The approach to screening is likely to differ somewhat for plans and projects, depending on scale and on the likely effects, but the following should be included:

- 1. Any Natura 2000 sites within or adjacent to the plan or project area*
- 2. Any Natura 2000 sites within the likely zone of impact of the plan or project. 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*
- 3. Natura 2000 sites that are more than 15km from the plan or project area depending on the likely impacts of the plan or project, and the sensitivities of the ecological receptors, bearing in mind the precautionary principle. In the cases of sites with water dependent habitats or species, and a plan or project that could affect water quality or quantity, for example, it may be necessary to consider the full extent of the upstream and/or downstream catchment.”*

The 2021 Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR) guidelines, *Practice Note PNO1: Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management*, state that the Zone of Influence “*should be established on a case-by-case basis using the Source-Pathway-Receptor framework and not by arbitrary distances (such as 15 km)*” (p. 8).

Therefore, considering the nature of the Draft Plan and in accordance with the source-pathway-receptor model, the potential Zone of Influence (Zol) for the Plan has been defined as follows:

- Any site to which there is a pathway from the Draft Plan area, regardless of distance, upon which significant effects could arise, resulting from the implementation of any element of the Draft Plan. See Section 4.2.

Throughout the preparation of the Plan the strategic objectives and actions were reviewed in the context of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive, in order to ensure that no elements of the Plan would have a significant impact on any European site.

4 Description of the Draft Donabate Framework Plan

4.1 Overview

The Framework Plan will guide future development within the Donabate town centre area to create a vibrant and sustainable town core which will support and encourage economic, social and cultural development and provide an attractive, high-quality environment for existing and future residents.

Building on this overall approach, the **primary aims** of the Donabate Framework Plan are to:

- repair and improve the townscape;
- provide for new civic and social activities; and
- improve accessibility and permeability within the area.

These aims are underpinned by a series of **strategic objectives** which support the sustainable principles set out as follows:

Draft Donabate Framework Plan

Appropriate Assessment Screening Report

- encourage the creation of a vibrant core town centre area, attractive for both the new and existing local community and visitors to the area.
- develop a framework for providing a high standard of architecture and urban design which will introduce a dynamic/vibrancy to the character and attractiveness of the area.
- encourage sustainable transport with safe and direct routes for pedestrians and cyclists to and from residential areas to the village core, the train station, schools, community centre, Newbridge Demesne, sports clubs and the beaches.
- maximise the potential of the unique natural, cultural, built and coastal heritage of the area.
- be substantially achievable in a 15 to 20 year time frame.

Having regard to these aims and objectives, the Draft Framework Plan identifies specific public realm works, identifies potential opportunity sites for new commercial or community development and addresses accessibility and connectivity throughout the Plan area.

The Draft Framework Plan also identifies a number of projects which may be suitable for funding applications under different programmes, such as the Town and Village Renewal Scheme and other capital grants programmes.

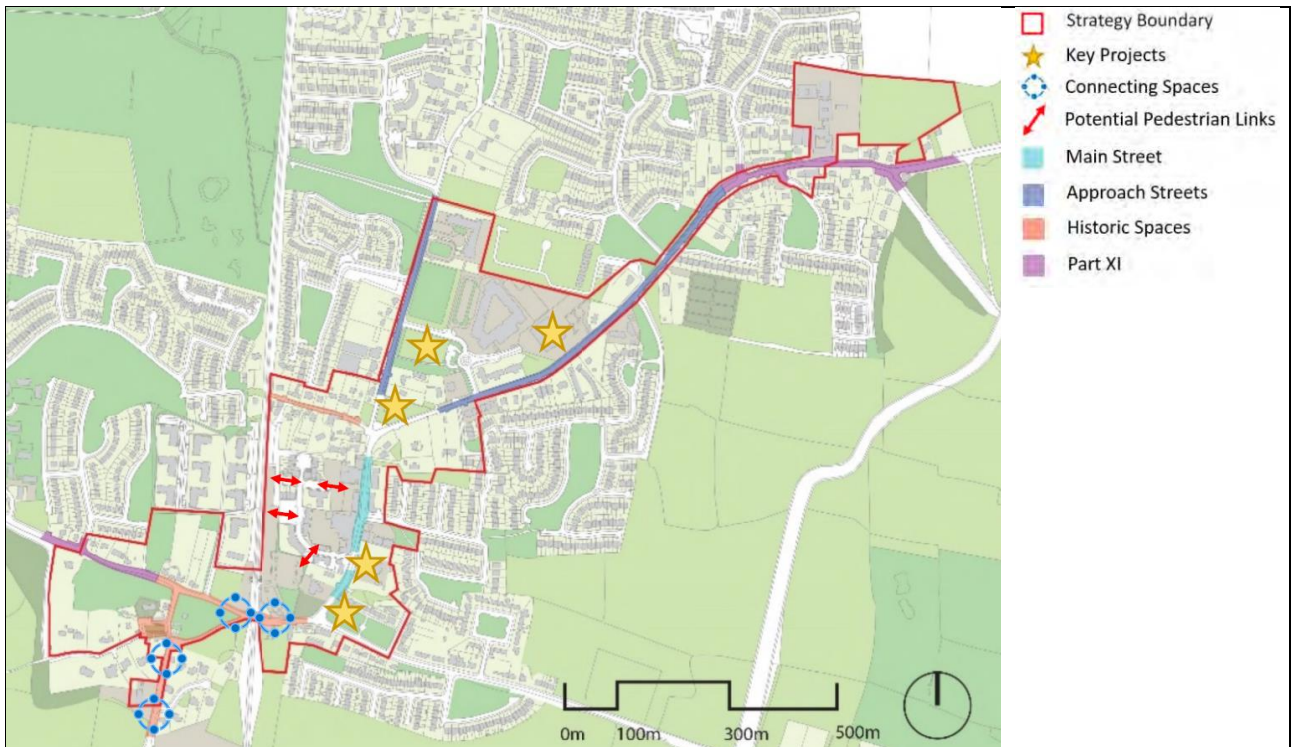
The Framework is intended to act as a general guidance document for the Planning Authority and potential applicants for planning permission in the area and will provide general principles for future development along Donabate Main Street in particular.

4.2 Approach to the Draft Donabate Framework Plan

The core of the Draft Framework Plan has been structured around [Developing a Strategy for Donabate](#), which includes:

- Devising a Public Realm Strategy for Donabate;
- Setting out the Guiding Principles of the Strategy, including:
 - Designing Places for People;
 - Creating a Clear Sense of Place
 - Encouraging Variety and Viability
 - Promoting Environmental Sustainability
 - Enabling Connectivity, Accessibility and Movement
- Identifying Elements of the Strategy (refer to **Figure 4.1**), including:
 - Key Projects
 - Connecting Spaces
 - Potential Pedestrian Links
 - Streets and Spaces
 - Improving the Public Realm

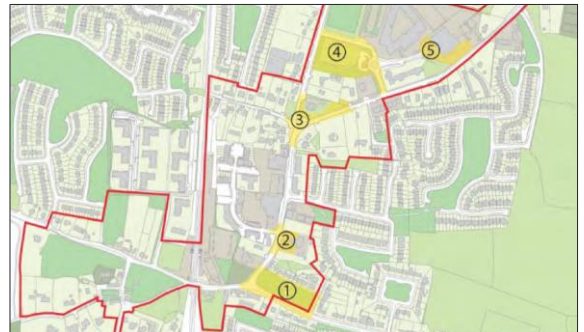
Figure 4.1 Overall Draft Framework Plan Strategy (Extract from Figure 5.2 from Draft Plan)







4.2.1 Key Projects

Five Key Projects are identified:

1. Donabate Village Green;
2. St. Patrick's Square;
3. The Hand Pocket Park;
4. Educate Together Recreational Area; and
5. Donabate Portrane Community Centre Public Space.



Key Project 1 - Donabate Village Green	
Actions	Outline Proposal
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Redefine the edges of the green space with new planting / hedging and trees where appropriate - Provide for a wild meadow area to provide for increased biodiversity in accordance with the principles of the All- Ireland Pollinator Plan - Provide for a small event space with seating to the front of the park facing onto Main Street - Incorporate new signage / artwork to signal Donabate and potential signage/ interpretation of the town - Consider the creation of a raised table crossing Main Street to knit the space with the surrounding area - Consider incorporating utilities to accommodate a market or events - Consider an interactive water feature as well as new paths, places to sit and play within the space 	 <p>Station Court</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boundary Line High Quality Surface Green Area/ Nature based solutions Trees New Hedging Signage/ Interpretation Seating Ramp to Table Top Shared Surface/ Pedestrian Priority Pedestrian Crossing Multigenerational Space eg. Exercise machines Event Space Pollinator Area
Key Project 2 – St. Patrick’s Square	
Actions	Outline Proposal
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Create a new paved space to the front of the church using high quality paving materials having regard to the protected status of the church and its railings - Reorganise existing carparking around the church with no car parking provided to the front of the building line of the church to Main Street - Incorporate bench seating along the existing front boundary wall and rail to the main street - Define the space to the north and south with trees and planting to provide sheltered, green amenity spaces - Consider incorporating utilities to accommodate a market or events within the new space 	 <p>Church (Cath)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boundary Line Shared Surface Green Area/ Landscaping Formal Square New Hedging Trees Carparking Seating Original Wall Ramp to Table Top Traffic Calming Paving

Key Project 3 – The Hand Pocket Park															
Actions	Outline Proposal														
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improve and expand the existing public space at the Hand to allow for greater use by the community - Set back the boundary to the existing Irish Water pump house to create additional space and consider reducing the carriageway width to adjoining roads - Provide a new boundary treatment with the pumping station to include railing, planting and bench seating - Provide additional seating within the space that can also provide an incidental space for play and events - Rationalise or relocate the existing wirescape and lampposts where possible while ensuring the area is well lit at night - Incorporate utilities to accommodate pop up food trucks, or small events - Consider extending the space to the full width of the adjoining streets, by creating a raised table crossing at Beaverstown Road to Ballisk, Main Street, Portrane Road 	  <table border="0" style="width: 100%; font-size: small;"> <tr> <td> Boundary Line</td> <td> Seating</td> </tr> <tr> <td> High Quality Surface</td> <td> Ramp to Table Top</td> </tr> <tr> <td> Green Area/ nature based solutions</td> <td> Shared Surface/ Pedestrian Priority</td> </tr> <tr> <td> Signage</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td> Event Area</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td> New Hedging</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td> Trees</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Boundary Line	Seating	High Quality Surface	Ramp to Table Top	Green Area/ nature based solutions	Shared Surface/ Pedestrian Priority	Signage		Event Area		New Hedging		Trees	
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Signage															
Event Area															
New Hedging															
Trees															
Key Project 4 – Educate Together Site															
Actions	Outline Proposal														
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Create a multi-functional recreational space to provide for a meeting point, sheltered space / pavilion for performance, playing pitches, playground, seating - Allow for paths to cross the park to match desire lines, and connections from Beaverstown Road, Portrane Road - Remove existing roundabout and car parking and provide a link road to create pedestrian priority and a continuous pedestrian route to the community centre - Make use of sustainable urban drainage solutions including appropriate planting to address potential surface water issues 	  <table border="0" style="width: 100%; font-size: small;"> <tr> <td> Boundary Line</td> <td> Playground</td> </tr> <tr> <td> High Quality Surface</td> <td> Library Extension</td> </tr> <tr> <td> Pedestrian Crossing</td> <td> Playing Pitches</td> </tr> <tr> <td> Shared Surface/ Pedestrian Priority</td> <td> Trees</td> </tr> <tr> <td> Multigenerational Space eg.Exercise machines</td> <td> New Hedging</td> </tr> <tr> <td> Event Space</td> <td> Seating</td> </tr> <tr> <td> Green Areas/ Nature based solutions</td> <td> Ramp to Table Top</td> </tr> </table>	Boundary Line	Playground	High Quality Surface	Library Extension	Pedestrian Crossing	Playing Pitches	Shared Surface/ Pedestrian Priority	Trees	Multigenerational Space eg.Exercise machines	New Hedging	Event Space	Seating	Green Areas/ Nature based solutions	Ramp to Table Top
Boundary Line	Playground														
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Shared Surface/ Pedestrian Priority	Trees														
Multigenerational Space eg.Exercise machines	New Hedging														
Event Space	Seating														
Green Areas/ Nature based solutions	Ramp to Table Top														

Key Project 5 – Community Centre Public Plaza	
Actions	Outline Proposal
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Create a welcoming, accessible, safe and well-lit public plaza to the front of the community centre - Incorporate public seating areas, planting, trees and bespoke lighting to define the space - Reorganise the car parking surrounding the building to incorporate pedestrian routes - Carry out landscaping to provide for trees and planting pits throughout the area - Consider the provision of a link road from the Portrane Road to provide an alternative pedestrian and vehicular route to the adjoining schools - Consider the creation of a raised table crossing to extend the space to the full width of the adjoining street 	<p>Proposed permeable access route to 'The Paddock'</p> <p>Proposed bespoke seating at bus stop</p> <p>Donabate Portrane Community and Leisure Centre</p> <p>Bus Stop</p> <p>Boundary Line</p> <p>High Quality Surface</p> <p>Pedestrian Crossing</p> <p>Event Space</p> <p>Green Area / Nature based solutions</p> <p>Pollinator Area</p> <p>Trees</p> <p>New Hedging</p> <p>Seating</p> <p>Ramp to Table Top</p> <p>Shared Surface/ Pedestrian Priority</p>

4.2.2 Connecting Spaces

Four Specific Areas / Sites are identified:

1. New entrance at Semple Wood and Hearse Road;
2. Enhanced public realm at junction of The Square and Hearse Road;
3. Enhanced public realm junction of Turvey Road / Hearse Road and The Bridge; and
4. Enhanced public realm at the Smyth's Pub, the entrance to the railway station, and the entrance to the lands at Corballis, and the reuse and adaptation of existing structures.



Connecting Space 1 – Semple Wood and Hearse Wood	
Actions	Outline Proposal
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Create a new 'entry' to Donabate at Semple Wood / Hearse Road by using high quality paving materials, street furniture and appropriate signage - Provide a pedestrian crossing to include raised tables to allow continuity of pedestrian movement across the street, and connecting to the new footpath on Hearse Road 	

Connecting Space 2 – The Square and Hearse Road	
Actions	Outline Proposal
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New paving and reduced carriageway at the junction between Hearse Road and the entrance to The Square - Removal of existing traffic signage (subject to road safety considerations) and rationalisation of wirescape - Installation of appropriate street furniture including heritage signage and high quality bollards - Provide for appropriate tree and bed planting - Consider the installation of seating and low level lighting 	

Connecting Space 3 – Smyth’s Pub Road Frontage	
Actions	Outline Proposal
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improve the public realm at this location by providing new, high quality paving and road surfaces as well as appropriate signage to mark the entrance to the town - Provide for a new pedestrian crossing subject to road safety and traffic considerations - Integrate the public realm and paving improvements to the proposed improvements on the Bridge - Ensure that all works have regard to, and are integrated with the proposed reuse of warehouse buildings - Provide for improved connections / links as well as public realm improvements from Donabate Train Station to Ballisk Court and onward to Main Street 	

Connecting Space 4 – The Bridge	
Actions	Outline Proposal
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Create a more pedestrian friendly environment on and in the approach to the Bridge - Remove railings on both sides of the road at the Bridge - Resurface the junction from the Bridge to the front of Smyth’s pub with high quality road paving materials - Provide for additional pedestrian crossings and provide for reductions the carriageway widths where appropriate 	

Potential Connections

Consideration will be given to how to provide direct access from Main Street to Ballisk Court and from locations along Ballisk Court to the train station.





Potential Pedestrian Locations	
Actions	Study Area
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Actively consider the removal of barriers to pedestrian access from Main Street to Ballisk Court and from Ballisk Court to Donabate Train Station - Consult with Iarnród Éireann and local land/property owners in relation to the creation of new pedestrian links including additional pedestrian routes from the entrance at Smyth’s pub to Main Street via Ballisk Court - Consider limited vehicular access to from Ballisk Court to Donabate Train Station via the potential access directly to the west of Supervalu 	

4.2.3 Streets and Spaces

The Draft Plan includes high level guidance for improvements to specific streets and spaces that form the spine of Donabate, namely:

- Main Street;
- Donabate’s Approach Streets; and
- Key Historic Spaces at Ballisk and the Square.

Streets and Spaces – Main Street	
Principles for Improvement	Study Area
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide high quality stone paved carriageway and footways, making use of visual contrasting colour or texture to define use and priority - Provide additional pedestrian crossings on Main Street subject to traffic and road safety considerations - Provide additional seating with low level lighting at different locations along Main Street - Provide additional street planting including trees in integrated constructed tree pits - Provide additional cycle parking where appropriate along Main Street using high quality materials - Rationalise and standardise existing street furniture, particularly existing bollards, lampposts and cycle stands - Consider level surface across the street with shallow kerbs to enhance pedestrian movement between both sides of the street and to facilitate the potential use of the main street for gatherings - In the longer term, consider the use of a 'shared space' Main Street with a view to developing a safe and walkable street with pedestrian and cycle priority - Investigate the possibility of making Main Street a one way street for private vehicular access 	

Streets and Spaces – Approach Streets	
Principles for Improvement	Study Area
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rebalance pedestrian and vehicular space, with maintenance of verges, hedgerows and historic boundaries where practical and appropriate - Provide for additional planting, including tree planting along Portrane Road where appropriate - Provide additional pedestrian crossings where appropriate to include raised tables to allow continuity of pedestrian movement / level crossings at road junctions - Provide consistent lighting along both streets - Consider visually contrasting paved paths and crossings - Incorporate cycling infrastructure where possible - Continue to progress the Part XI projects on Turvey Avenue and at St. Patrick’s national school 	<p>Fig. 8-10: Indicative, Current Views of Beaverstown Rd</p>  <p>Fig. 8-11: Indicative, Current Views of Portrane Road</p> 

Streets and Spaces – Historic Spaces	
Principles for Improvement	Study Area
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maintain and restore historic paving and kerbs where they survive - Retain or reinstate edges, cobbles and grass verges where possible in the Square - Investigate the repositioning of car parking to the front of St. Patricks Church (COI) - Require the input of a conservation professional with relevant conservation expertise and experience for any works to or in proximity to a protected structure 	<p>Fig. 8-12: Current Views of Ballisk Laneway</p>  <p>Fig. 8-13: Current View of The Square</p>  <p>Fig. 8-14: View of Parking at the Square</p> 

4.2.4 Improving the Public Realm

Improvements to the public realm can lead to improved vitality and vibrancy along Main Street and in the wider Draft Plan area, including the provision of new seating areas, paving and footpath improvements, shopfront painting and improved signage and planting and landscaping. These measures relate to:

- Road Surfaces, Footpaths and Paving;
- Street Furniture;
- Planting;
- Street Lighting and Wirescape; and
- Shopfronts and Signage.

Improving the Public Realm	
Road surfaces, Footpaths and Paving: Principles for Improvement	Street Furniture: Principles for Improvement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Address existing deficiencies in footpath continuity and design in the Framework Plan area where feasible - Ensure that any improvements to road surfaces, footpaths and paving are carried out according to a unified design approach within the Framework Plan area - Use high-quality Irish paving materials which are appropriate in terms of cleaning and maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adopt a consistent and integrated approach to the provision of street furniture across the entire Framework Plan area or have regard to any guidance on public realm produced by Fingal County Council - Ensure any additional seating is of high quality and has regard to accessibility and the needs of all users - Ensure that litter bins/recycling are located so as not to obstruct pedestrian movement or building entrances - Minimise the use of bollards in the study area to reduce street colour, adopt a standardised design for new bollards and retail historic bollards where possible - Provide additional cycle parking capacity in the study area as part of the delivery of the projects and improvements set out in previous chapters - Maintain and protect street furniture which has historic character and interest including the town's traditional water pumps
Planting: Principles for Improvement	Lighting and Wirescape: Principles for Improvement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase the overall level and quality of planting in the Framework Plan area, where appropriate - Planted beds should have complementary designs and materials that are continuously maintained - Identify opportunities for long-term street trees or landmark tree planting and add integrated constructed tree pits and rain gardens to paved areas where feasible 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adopt a unified approach for the provision of lampposts and lampstands in the Framework Plan area - Ensure that all public realm projects and works have regard to the need to provide place-appropriate lighting - Consider the rationalisation and removal where feasible of overhead wiring on the approach to the town and on Main Street
Signage and Shopfronts: Principles for Improvement	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Encourage improvements to existing shopfronts in Donabate having regard to the principles set out in Chapter 14 of the County Development Plan - Ensure that all public signage is provided in accordance with the FCC's Draft Heritage Signage Guidance 	

4.2.5 Implementation and Monitoring

The Draft Plan includes an outline schedule of the main actions arising from the Draft Framework Plan (Refer to Table 4.1 (on page over). The schedule includes details as to the ownership of each action, bodies which are expected to provide project support, sources of potential funding as well as indicative timelines.

It is also noted that as many of the actions identified as part of this Framework Plan are likely to be subject to additional detailed design and permitting / environmental assessment the overall timeframe for the completion of all actions could take 5 to 10 years or more.

Monitoring will take account of baseline data prepared at the pre-plan and the plan preparation stages in order to establish sufficient indicators against which progress can be measured at the review stage. Monitoring will be undertaken on an annual basis and take account of indicators such as:

- the main physical, economic, social and environmental characteristics of the town centre;
- the actions completed;
- funding opportunities identified and applied for.

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Table 4.1 Schedule of Actions in the Draft Framework Plan (Extract from Table 10.1 of the Draft Plan)

Project	Actions	Owner(s)	Project Support	Potential Funding Sources	Indicative Timelines
Donabate Village Green	Prepare detailed drawings	FCC	Church of Ireland, Local Residents, Local Community	TVRS, URDF	Medium Term
	Seek consent through Part XI (or other appropriate process)	FCC			
	Submit funding application	FCC			
St. Patrick's Square	Prepare detailed drawings	FCC	St. Patrick's Church, Local Businesses	TVRS, URDF	Medium to Long Term
	Seek consent through Part XI (or other appropriate process)	FCC			
	Submit funding application	FCC			
The Hand Pocket Park	Prepare detailed drawings	FCC	Irish Water, Local Community	TVRS, URDF	Medium Term
	Seek consent through Part XI (or other appropriate process)	FCC			
	Submit funding application	FCC			
Educate Together Community Multi-Functional Space	Prepare detailed drawings	FCC	Educate Together, Gaelscoil na Mara, Sea Scouts, Local Community	TVRS, URDF	Medium Term
	Seek consent through Part XI (or other appropriate process)	FCC			
	Submit funding application	FCC			
Community Centre Public Space	Prepare detailed drawings	FCC	Donabate Portrane Community Centre, Educate Together, Local Community	TVRS, URDF	Medium Term
	Seek consent through Part XI (or other appropriate process)	FCC			
	Submit funding application	FCC			
Semple Wood and Hearse Road	Undertake a Transport Appraisal for the Main Street and adjoining streets. This should include a Baseline Assessment and an Area Based Transport Assessment and will indicate extent of works for projects.	FCC	NTA	Active Travel Investment Grant	Short to Medium Term
	Seek consent through Part XI (or other appropriate process)	FCC			
The Square and Hearse Road	Undertake a Transport Appraisal	FCC	NTA	Active Travel Investment Grant	Short to Medium Term
	Seek consent through Part XI (or other appropriate process) and Submit funding application	FCC			
Smyth's Pub Frontage	Undertake a Transport Appraisal	FCC	NTA	Active Travel Investment Grant	Short to Medium Term
	Seek consent through Part XI (or other appropriate process) and Submit funding application	FCC			
The Bridge	Undertake a Transport Appraisal	FCC	NTA	Active Travel Investment Grant	Short to Medium Term
	Seek consent through Part XI (or other appropriate process) and Submit funding application	FCC			
Main Street	Undertake a Transport Appraisal	FCC	NTA, Local Businesses, St. Patrick's Church, Local Community	Active Travel Investment Grant	Medium Term
	Seek consent through Part XI (or other appropriate process) and Submit funding application	FCC			
Approach Streets	Undertake a Transport Appraisal	FCC	NTA	Active Travel Investment Grant	Short to Medium Term
	Seek consent through Part XI (or other appropriate process)	FCC			
	Submit funding application	FCC			
Pedestrian Connections	Undertake a Transport Appraisal	FCC	Iarnród Éireann, Local Landowners	Active Travel Investment Grant	Short to Medium Term
Historic Spaces	Continue to support conservation and protection of these areas	FCC	Church of Ireland, Newbridge Demesne, NTA	Heritage Council Grants Scheme	Long Term
		FCC			
Public Realm	Prepare detailed drawings	FCC			
Monitoring	Ongoing	FCC	Local Community		

4.3 Description of the receiving environment

The Draft Donabate Framework Plan has been prepared in response to the specific policy and objective of the *Fingal Development Plan 2023-2029* to prepare framework plan for certain areas throughout the County, including Donabate.

Objective CSO45 states – *‘Prepare and implement a Framework Plan over the life of the Plan to guide and inform future development and to include measures to improve and promoted the public realm of the village.’*

Donabate is located approximately 25km from Dublin City Centre and is approximately 11km north of Dublin Airport. The Dublin-Belfast railway line runs through Donabate and road access is from the M1 (via Hearse Road and Turvey Avenue). Donabate peninsula is surrounded by Rogerstown Estuary to the north, Malahide Estuary to the south and the North-west Irish Sea to the east.

The Draft Plan Area is also in close proximity to Portrane Beach (c.1.6km to the north-east – Excellent water quality) and Donabate beach (c. 2.2km to the south-east – Excellent water quality). The extensive Newbridge Demesne is an important regional park located immediately adjacent to the south-west of the Plan area. Turvey Nature Reserve is further to the west.

There are a number of existing and proposed walkways on the Donabate Peninsula that are proximate to and interconnect with the village centre, including the Fingal Coastal Way, the Rahillion / Windmill / St Ita’s trail and Coastal Way, the Newbridge/Turvey Trail as well as the Broadmeadow Way. There are two formal green spaces including The Square and Chapel View (St. Patrick’s) Town Park within Donabate town centre.

The lands in the centre of Donabate are generally included within zoning objective ‘TC’ Town Centre which seeks to: *‘Protect and enhance the special physical and social character of town and district centres and provide and/or improve urban facilities.’* There are also areas of land zoned ‘CI’ Community Infrastructure in the Draft Plan Area, the objective for which is to *‘provide for and protect civic, religious, community, education, health care and social infrastructure’*. Refer to **Figure 5.2**.

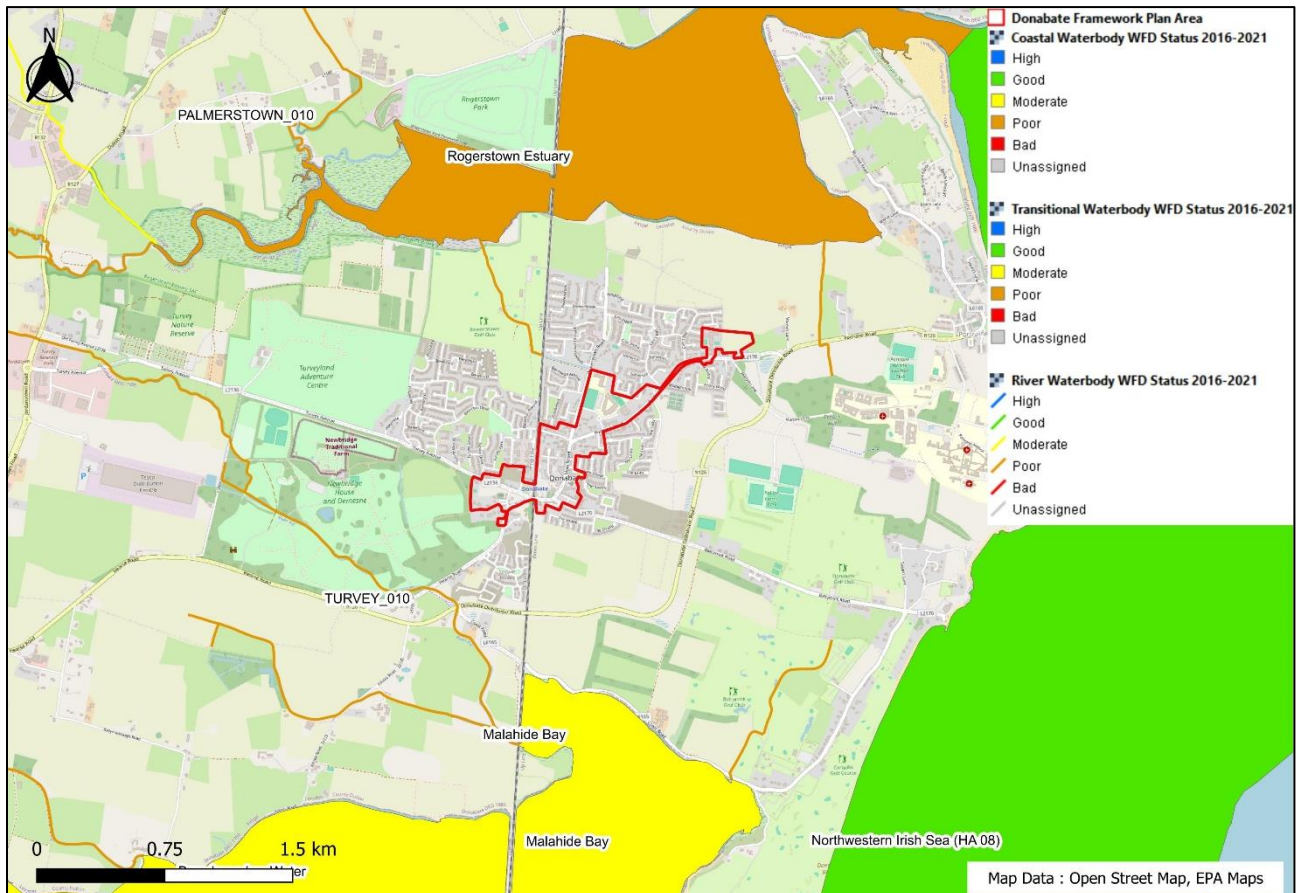
The Draft Plan Area is located within the Nanny-Delvin catchment (08), the Ballough [Stream]_SC_010 sub-catchment and the Turvey_010 river sub basin. The Water Framework Directive (WFD) status of the rivers, transitional & coastal waterbodies in the vicinity of the Plan area ranges from ‘poor’ to ‘good’ during the 2016-2021 monitoring period. The waterbodies are (refer to **Figure 4.1**):

- Rahillion stream (IE_EA_08B012200) (Poor and ‘at risk of not achieving good status’);
- Turvey river(IE_EA_08T020700) (Poor and ‘at risk of not achieving good status’);
- Ballalease stream (IE_EA_08T020700) (Poor and ‘at risk of not achieving good status’);
- Rogerstown Estuary (Poor and ‘at risk of not achieving good status’);
- Broadmeadow Estuary (Moderate and ‘at risk of not achieving good status’);
- Malahide Bay (Moderate and ‘at risk of not achieving good status’);
- North-western Irish Sea (Good and ‘at risk of not achieving good status’).

Broadmeadow Estuary [Inner]/Malahide estuary is identified as a nutrient sensitive estuary under the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive Sensitive Area.

The Malahide Shellfish Waters are c. 4.8km to the east of the Plan area. The Rogerstown Nature Reserve and the Ramsar Sites of Rogerstown Estuary (site no. 412) and Broadmeadow Estuary (site no. 833) are in close proximity. Fingal County Council has also identified lands around Malahide/Broadmeadow and Rogerstown estuaries as ecological buffer zones.

Figure 4.2 WFD waterbody status within the Draft Plan Area



4.3.1 European sites

There are no European (Natura 2000) sites within the framework plan area. The nearest sites are listed below (and shown in Figure 4.3):

■ Special Areas of Conservation (SAC):

- Rogerstown Estuary SAC (site code 000208), c. 550m to the north;
- Malahide Estuary SAC (site code 000205), c. 900m to the south;
- Lambay Island SAC (site code 000204), c. 6.4km to the east;
- Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC (site code 003000), c. 4.1km to the east;
- Baldoyle Bay SAC (site code 000199), c. 7.2km to the south;
- Ireland's Eye SAC (site code 002193), c. 10km to the south-east;
- Howth Head SAC (site code 000202), c. 12.5km to the south-east;
- North Dublin Bay SAC (site code 000206), c. 11.1km to the south;
- South Dublin Bay SAC (site code 000210), c. 16km to the south.

■ Special Protection Areas (SPA):

- Rogerstown Estuary SPA (site code 004015), c. 550m to the north;
- Malahide Estuary SPA (site code 004025), c. 900m to the south;
- Lambay Island SPA (site code 004069), c. 6.4km to the east;
- Baldoyle Bay SPA (site code 004016), c. 7.2km to the south;

- Ireland's Eye SPA (site code 004117), c. 9.5km to the south-east;
- Howth Head Coast SPA (site code 004113), c. 12.1km to the south-east;
- North-west Irish Sea SPA (site code 004236), c. 2.2km to the east;
- North Bull Island SPA (site code 004006), c. 11.1km to the south;
- South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA (site code 004024), c. 16km to the south;
- Skerries Islands SPA (site code 004122), c. 8.8km to the north-east;
- Rockabill SPA (site code 004006), c. 9.5km to the north-east;
- River Nanny Estuary and Shore SPA (site code 004158), c. 18.2km to the north-west.

4.3.2 Other designated areas (other than European sites)

Designated sites (i.e. proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHA) and designated Natural Heritage Areas (NHA)) within the potential Zone of Influence have been included in this assessment in order to address their potential to act as supporting sites for European sites. There are no pNHA or NHA sites within the framework plan area. The nearest sites are listed below (and shown in [Figure 4.4](#)):

■ Natural Heritage Area (NHA):

- Skerries Island NHA (site code 001218), c. 8.8km to the north-east;

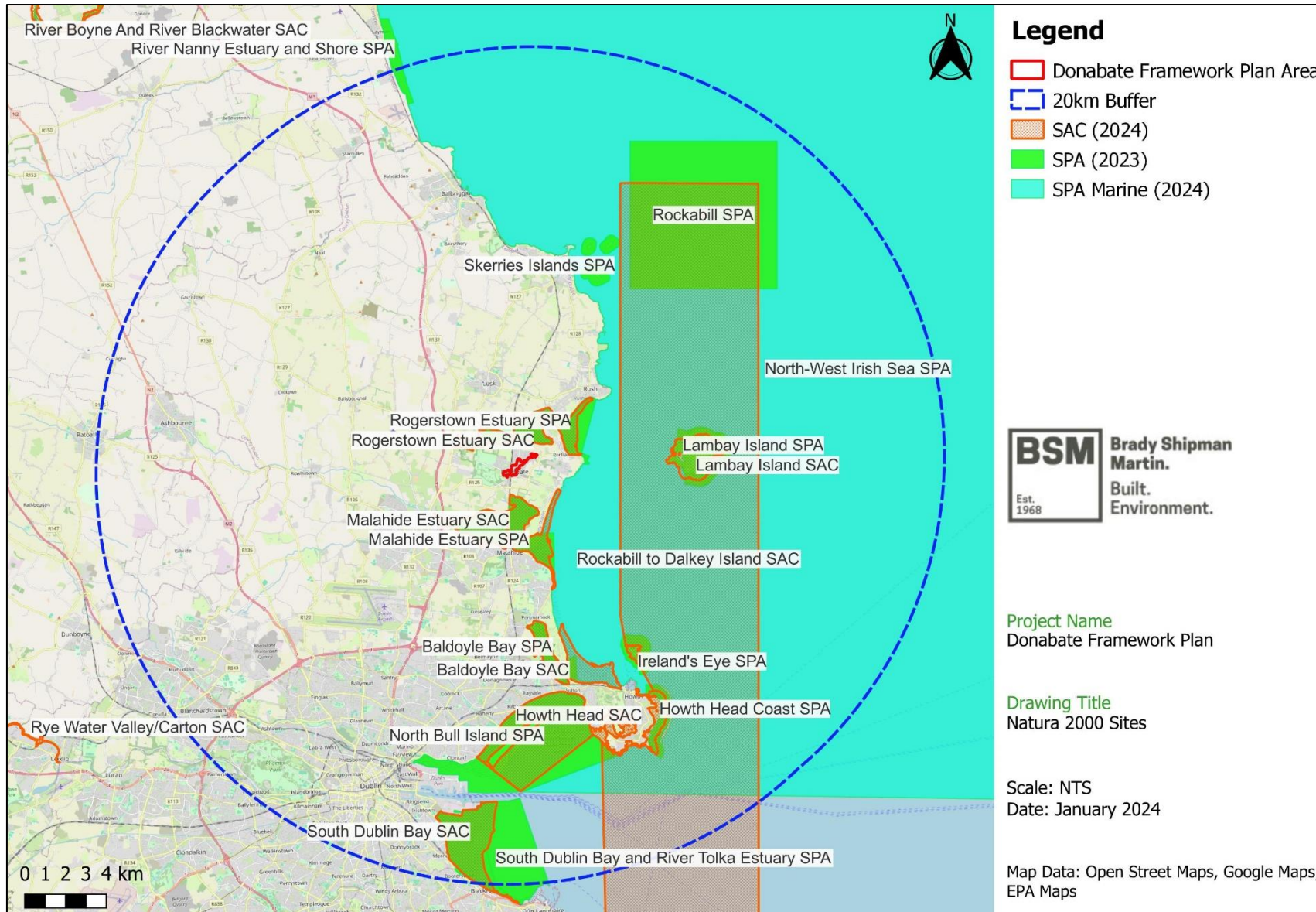
■ Proposed Natural Heritage Area (pNHA):

- Rogerstown Estuary pNHA (site code 000208), c. 550m to the north;
- Malahide Estuary pNHA (site code 000205), c. 900m to the south;
- Portraine Shore pNHA (site code 001215), c. 2.3km to the east;
- Lambay Island pNHA (site code 000204), c. 6.4km to the east;
- Knock Lake pNHA (site code 001203), c. 10.8km to the north-west;
- Bog of the Ring pNHA (site code 001204), c. 10.3km to the north-west;
- Loughshinny Coast pNHA (site code 002000), c. 7.8km to the north-east;
- Rockabill Island pNHA (site code 000207), c. 14km to the north-east;
- Feltrim Hill pNHA (site code 001208), c. 5.6km to the south-west;
- Sluice River Marsh pNHA (site code 001763), c. 6.4km to the south;
- Santry Demesne pNHA (site code 000178), c. 10.8km to the south-west;
- Baldoyle Bay pNHA (site code 000199), c. 7.2km to the south;
- Ireland's Eye pNHA (site code 000203), c. 9.5km to the south-east;
- Howth Head pNHA (site code 000202), c. 12.1km to the south-east;
- Royal Canal pNHA (site code 002103), c. 15.3km to the south-west;
- Grand Canal pNHA (site code 002104), c. 16.5km to the south-west;
- Liffey Valley pNHA (site code 000128), c. 19.5km to the south-west;
- Cromwell's Bush Fen pNHA (site code 001576), c. 19km to the north-west;
- Laytown Dunnes/Nanny Estuary pNHA (site code 000554), c. 20.1 km to the north-west;
- North Dublin Bay pNHA (site code 000206), c. 11.1km to the south;
- Dolphins Dublin Docks pNHA (site code 000201), c. 16km to the south;
- South Dublin Bay pNHA (site code 000210), c. 16km to the south;
- Booterstown Marsh pNHA (site code 001205), c. 19.4km to the south.

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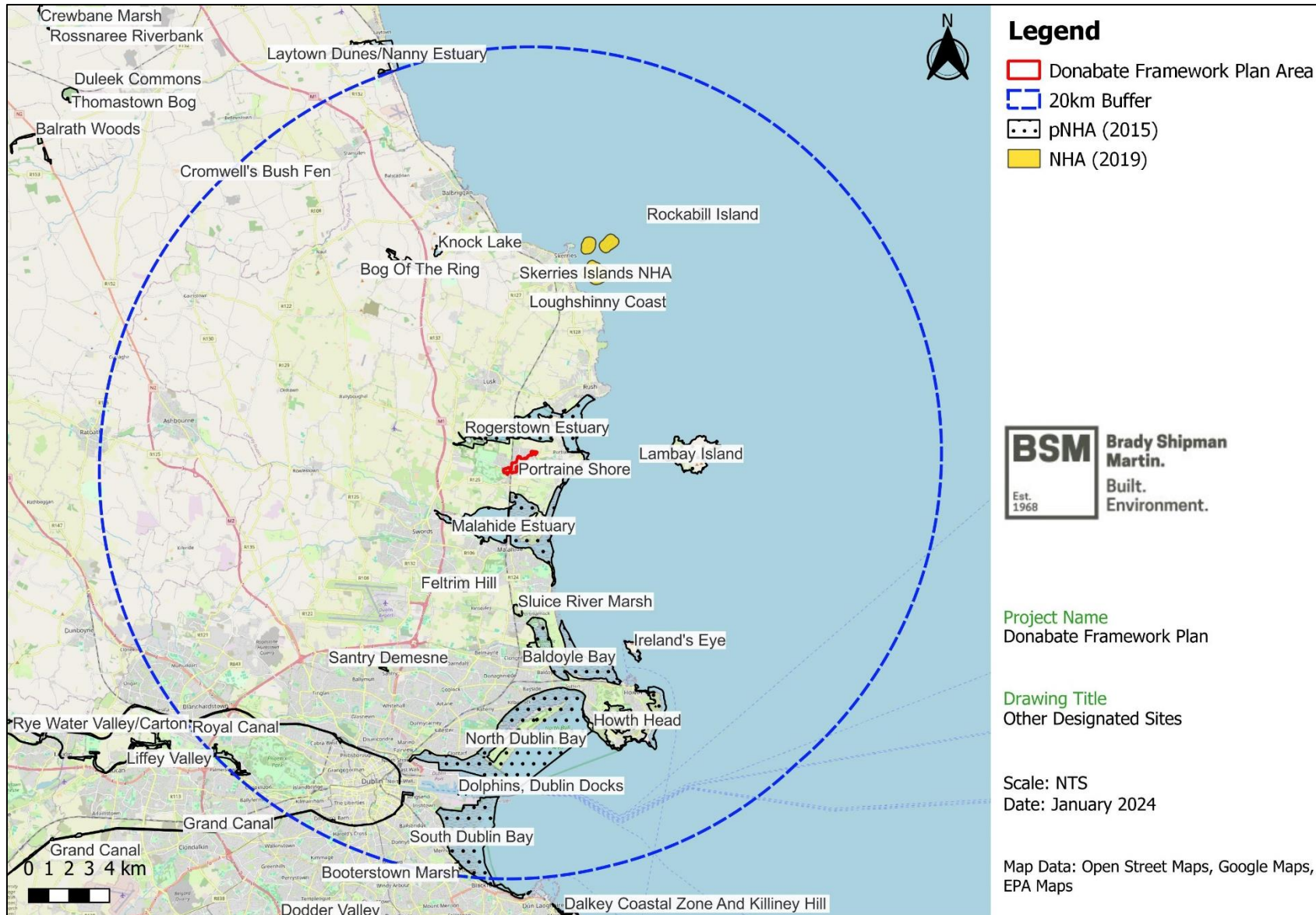
Figure 4.3 European sites within zone of influence of the Draft Plan. A 20 km radius is shown for scale.



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Figure 4.4 NHA and pNHA sites within zone of influence of the Draft Plan. A 20 km radius is shown for scale.



5 Potential impacts from the Draft Donabate Framework Plan, including in-combination effects

5.1 Description of any likely direct, indirect or secondary impacts of the Plan on European sites by virtue of:

5.1.1 Size and Scale

The Draft Donabate Framework Plan area is located within the Donabate development boundary, shown in **Figure 5.1** below. Development in Donabate is set against the policies and objectives of the Fingal Development Plan 2023-29 (**Figure 5.2**) and the Donabate Local Area Plan 2016 (extended to 2026).

It is not a statutory land use plan and does not set a framework for future development consents. It is a Local Authority Plan, as required under the Fingal Development Plan 2023-2029 (refer to *Table 2.19 : List of proposed Framework Plans – Donabate (FP 7.A)*). The Fingal Development Plan 2023-2029 sets policies and objective for the preparation and implementation of the Framework Plan and states-

Policy CSP9 – Framework Plans : Prepare Framework Plans as required for identified areas to facilitate a co-ordinated approach to development.

Policy CSP10 – Implementation of Framework Plans : Prepare Framework Plans for areas designated on Development Plan maps in co-operation with relevant stakeholders, and actively secure the implementation of these plans and the achievement of the specific objectives indicated therein.

Objective CSO45 – LAPs and Framework Plans for Donabate : [...] Prepare and implement a Framework Plan over the life of the Plan to guide and inform future development and to include measures to improve and promoted the public realm of the village. [...].

The Draft Plan sets strategy and actions under 4no. topics - key projects, connecting spaces, streets and spaces and improving the public realm. The implementation of the Draft Plan is considered likely to have positive effects for Donabate town centre and will support and encourage economic, social and cultural development and provide an attractive, high-quality environment for existing and future residents.

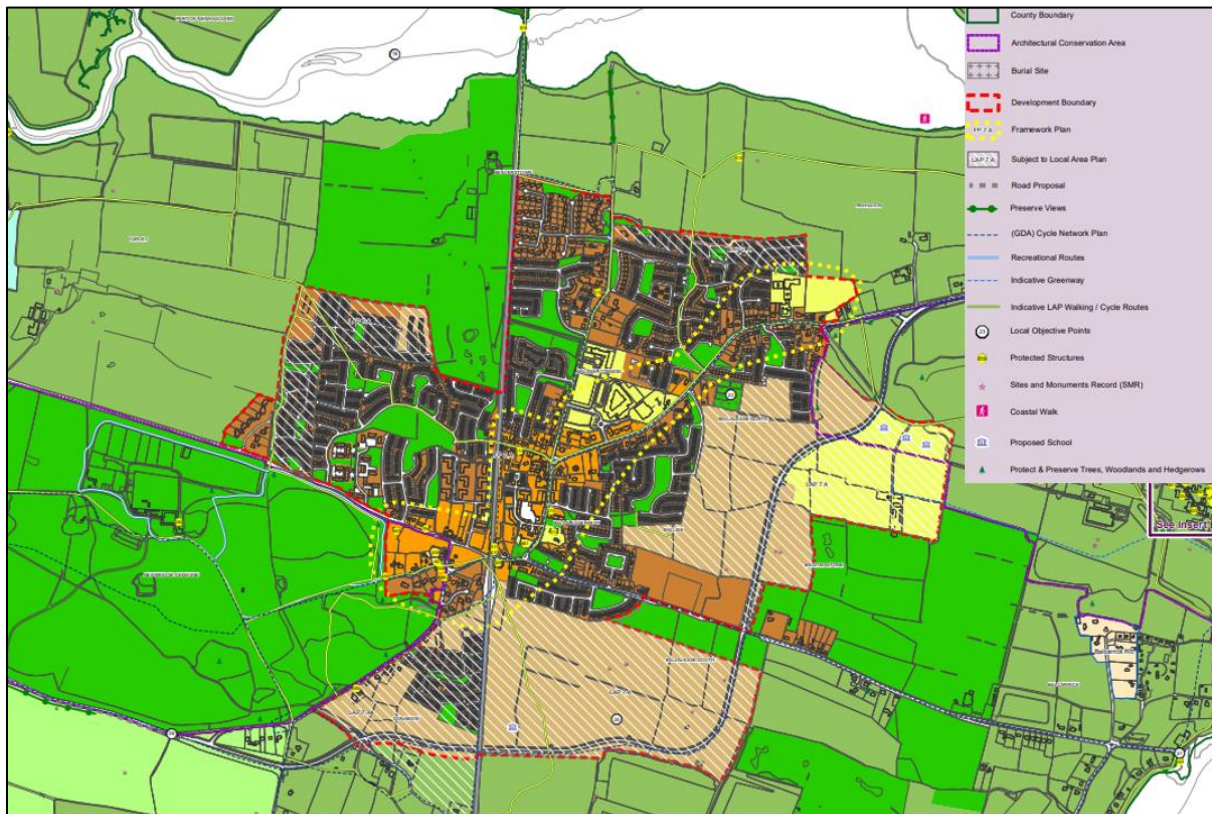
The size and scale of the Draft Plan will not result in any impacts that have the potential, alone or in-combination with other plans or projects, to result in likely significant effects to European Sites.

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Figure 5.1 Draft Donabate Framework Plan Area



Figure 5.2 Extract from the Fingal Development Plan 2023-2029 (Sheet No. 7 Donabate/Portrane)



5.1.2 Land take

There is no requirement for land take from any European site under any of the actions stated in the Draft Plan.

5.1.3 Distance from European Site

There are no European (Natura 2000) sites within the framework plan area. The nearest sites (all sites within the potential zone of influence) are described in Section 4.3. A total of 9no. SACs and 12no. SPAs are located within 20km of the Draft Plan area. The closest Natura 2000 sites to the Draft Plan area are the Rogerstown Estuary SAC & SPA c. 500m to the north, Malahide Estuary SAC & SPA c. 900m to the south and North-West Irish Sea SPA c. 2.2km to the east.

The Draft Plan strategies and actions have been designed with the intention of protecting and enhancing the Donabate's heritage including built, cultural, landscape and natural heritage features. The guiding principle for the Draft Plan states –

Promoting Environmental Sustainability - The strategy promotes consolidation of the existing built environment, and recommends that any new development within the urban framework area respects biodiversity, harnesses natural resources/assets and reduces unnecessary infrastructure and the overuse of resources.

Given this intention, it is expected that any potential impacts on European sites would be avoided in the first instance.

5.1.4 Resource requirement

There are no resource requirements from any European site as a result of any of the actions contained within the Draft Plan.

5.1.5 Emissions (to land, water or air)

There are no emissions of any kind that would result in significant effects on any European site as a result of any of the actions contained within the Draft Plan.

5.1.6 Excavation requirements

There are no excavation requirements from any European site as a result of any of the actions contained within the Draft Plan.

5.1.7 Transport requirements

There are no transport requirements related to any European site as a result of any of the actions contained within the Draft Plan.

5.2 Description of any likely changes arising as a result of:

5.2.1 Reduction in habitat area

The Draft Plan proposes no reductions in habitat area in any European site.

5.2.2 Disturbance to key species

The actions described within the Draft Plan will not result in any disturbance to key species, in designated sites and elsewhere. No habitat or species disturbance will arise.

5.2.3 Habitat or species fragmentation

The actions within the Draft Plan will not result in habitat or species fragmentation.

There will be no loss, fragmentation, disruption, disturbance or other change to any element of any European site as a result of the implementation of the Draft Plan, and no interference with the key relationships that define the structure or function of any European site.

5.2.4 Reduction in species density

The Draft Plan will not result in any effects that have the potential to result in reduction in the extent of the qualifying habitats of European Sites, disturb qualifying species of European Sites in the wider surrounding area or affect species population.

5.2.5 Changes in key indicators of conservation value

The actions within the Draft Plan will not result in any changes to key indicators of conservation value. The Plan will not result in any interference with the key relationships that define the structure or function of any European site.

5.2.6 Climate change

The actions contained in the Draft Plan all align with the National Climate Action Plan 2023, the Fingal Development Plan 2023-2029 and the Fingal County Council Climate Change Action Plan 2019-2024. It is core strategy of the Fingal Development Plan 2023-2029 to continue to build mixed use communities at approximate locations across the County that can sustain and grow a low carbon society.

5.3 Description of any likely impacts on European sites in terms of:

5.3.1 Interference with the key relationships that define the structure of the site

The Draft Plan will result in no interference with the key relationships that define the structure of any European site.

5.3.2 Interference with the key relationships that define the function of the site

The Draft Plan will result in no interference with the key relationships that define the function of any European site.

Potential pathways for impacts to European sites are presented in [Table 5.1](#).

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Table 5.1 Potential impacts on designated sites in the potential Zone of Influence

Site	Reasons for designation (information correct as of January 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link	Likely Significant Effect?
Rogerstown Estuary SAC (site code 000208), c. 550m to the north;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 1130 Estuaries ■ 1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide ■ 1310 Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand ■ 1330 Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>) ■ 1410 Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) ■ 2120 Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) ■ 2130 Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes)* <p>*indicates a priority habitat under the Habitats Directive</p> <p>According to this SAC's site Conservation Objectives document (Version 1, dated 14 August 2013), for each of the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected.</p>	<p>There is a hydrological pathway between the Draft Plan Area and this SAC, and there is the potential for habitat loss or degradation.</p> <p>However, there will be no impacts on water quality or any other emissions and no loss of habitat or species, fragmentation or disturbance to the qualifying interests of this site as a result of the implementation of the strategies or actions proposed in the Draft Plan.</p>	No
Rogerstown Estuary SPA (site code 004015), c. 550m to the north;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A043 Greylag Goose (<i>Anser anser</i>) ■ A046 Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) ■ A048 Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) ■ A056 Shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>) 	<p>There is a hydrological pathway between the Draft Plan Area and this SPA, and there is the potential for habitat loss or degradation.</p> <p>However, there will be no impacts on water quality or any other emissions and no loss of habitat or species, fragmentation or disturbance to the special conservation interests of this site as a result of the implementation of the strategies or actions proposed in the Draft Plan.</p>	No

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Site	Reasons for designation (information correct as of January 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link	Likely Significant Effect?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A130 Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) ■ A137 Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) ■ A141 Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) ■ A143 Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) ■ A149 Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina alpina</i>) ■ A156 Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) ■ A162 Redshank (<i>Tringa tetanus</i>) ■ A999 Wetlands <p>According to this SPA's site Conservation Objectives document (Version 1, dated 20 May 2013), for each of the listed SCIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain the favourable conservation condition of the species and wetland habitat for which the SPA has been selected.</p>		
<p>Malahide Estuary SAC (site code 000205), c. 900m to the south;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide ■ 1310 Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand ■ 1320 Spartina swards (<i>Spartinion maritimae</i>) ■ 1330 Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) ■ 1410 Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) ■ 2120 Shifting dunnes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) 	<p>There is a hydrological pathway between the Draft Plan Area and this SAC, and there is the potential for habitat loss or degradation.</p> <p>However, there will be no impacts on water quality or any other emissions and no loss of habitat or species, fragmentation or disturbance to the qualifying interests of this site as a result of the implementation of the strategies or actions proposed in the Draft Plan.</p>	<p>No</p>

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Site	Reasons for designation (information correct as of January 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link	Likely Significant Effect?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 2130 Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes)* <p>*indicates a priority habitat under the Habitats Directive</p> <p>According to this SAC's site Conservation Objectives document (Version 1, dated 27 May 2013), for each of the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected.</p>		
<p>Malahide Estuary SPA (site code 004025), c. 900m to the south;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A005 Great Crested Grebe (<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>) ■ A046 Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) ■ A048 Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) ■ A054 Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) ■ A067 Goldeneye (<i>Bucephala clangula</i>) ■ A069 Red-breasted (<i>Merganser Mergus serrator</i>) ■ A130 Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) ■ A140 Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) ■ A141 Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) ■ A143 Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) ■ A149 Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina alpina</i>) 	<p>There is a hydrological pathway between the Draft Plan Area and this SPA, and there is the potential for habitat loss or degradation.</p> <p>However, there will be no impacts on water quality or any other emissions and no loss of habitat or species, fragmentation or disturbance to the special conservation interests of this site as a result of the implementation of the strategies or actions proposed in the Draft Plan.</p>	<p>No</p>

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Site	Reasons for designation (information correct as of January 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link	Likely Significant Effect?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A156 Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) ■ A157 Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) ■ A162 Redshank (<i>Tringa tetanus</i>) ■ A999 Wetlands <p>According to this SPA's site Conservation Objectives document (Version 1, dated 16 August 2013), for each of the listed SCIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain the favourable conservation condition of the species and wetland habitat for which the SPA has been selected.</p>		
Lambay Island SAC (site code 000204), c. 6.4km to the east;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 1170 Reefs ■ 1230 Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts ■ 1364 Grey seal (<i>Halichoerus grypus</i>) ■ 1365 Harbour seal (<i>Phoca vitulina</i>) <p>According to this SAC's site Conservation Objectives document (Version 1, dated 22 July 2013), for each of the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected.</p>	<p>There is a hydrological pathway between the Draft Plan Area and this SAC, and there is the potential for habitat loss or degradation.</p> <p>However, there will be no impacts on water quality or any other emissions and no loss of habitat or species, fragmentation or disturbance to the qualifying interests of this site as a result of the implementation of the strategies or actions proposed in the Draft Plan.</p>	No
Lambay Island SPA (site code 004069), c. 6.4km to the east;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A043 Greylag Goose (<i>Anser anser</i>) ■ A200 Razorbill (<i>Alca torda</i>) ■ A184 Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) ■ A009 Fulmar (<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>) ■ A204 Puffin (<i>Fratercula arctica</i>) 	<p>There is a hydrological pathway between the Draft Plan Area and this SPA, and there is the potential for habitat loss or degradation.</p> <p>However, there will be no impacts on water quality or any other emissions and no loss of habitat or species, fragmentation or disturbance to the special conservation</p>	No

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Site	Reasons for designation (information correct as of January 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link	Likely Significant Effect?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A183 Lesser Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>) ■ A188 Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) ■ A199 Guillemot (<i>Uria aalge</i>) ■ A018 Shag (<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>) ■ A017 Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) <p>According to this SPA's First Order Site-specific Conservation Objectives document (Version 1, dated 12 October 2022), for each of the listed SCIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA.</p>	<p>interests of this site as a result of the implementation of the strategies or actions proposed in the Draft Plan.</p>	
<p>Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC (site code 003000), c. 4.1km to the east</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 1170 Reefs ■ 1351 Harbour Porpoise (<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>) <p>According to this SAC's site Conservation Objectives document (Version 1, dated 07 May 2013), for each of the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected.</p>	<p>There is a hydrological pathway between the Draft Plan Area and this SAC, and there is the potential for habitat loss or degradation.</p> <p>However, there will be no impacts on water quality or any other emissions and no loss of habitat or species, fragmentation or disturbance to the qualifying interests of this site as a result of the implementation of the strategies or actions proposed in the Draft Plan.</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Rockabill SPA (site code 004006), c. 9.5km to the north-east</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A148 Purple sandpiper (<i>Calidris maritima</i>) ■ A192 Roseate tern (<i>Sterna dougalii</i>) ■ A193 Common tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) 	<p>There is a hydrological pathway between the Draft Plan Area and this SPA, and there is the potential for habitat loss or degradation.</p>	<p>No</p>

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Site	Reasons for designation (information correct as of January 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link	Likely Significant Effect?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A194 Arctic tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) <p>According to this SPA's site Conservation Objectives document (Version 1, dated 8 May 2013), for each of the listed SCIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain the favourable conservation condition of the species for which the SPA has been selected.</p>	<p>However, there will be no impacts on water quality or any other emissions and no loss of habitat or species, fragmentation or disturbance to the special conservation interests of this site as a result of the implementation of the strategies or actions proposed in the Draft Plan.</p>	
<p>Baldoyle Bay SAC (site code 000199), c. 7.2km to the south;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide ■ 1310 Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand ■ 1330 Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glaucopuccinellietalia maritima</i>) ■ 1410 Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) <p>According to this SAC's site Conservation Objectives document (Version 1, dated 19 November 2012), for each of the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected.</p>	<p>There is a hydrological pathway between the Draft Plan Area and this SAC, and there is the potential for habitat loss or degradation.</p> <p>However, there will be no impacts on water quality or any other emissions and no loss of habitat or species, fragmentation or disturbance to the qualifying interests of this site as a result of the implementation of the strategies or actions proposed in the Draft Plan.</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Baldoyle Bay SPA (site code 004016), c. 7.2km to the south;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A046 Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) ■ A048 Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) ■ A137 Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) ■ A140 Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) 	<p>There is a hydrological pathway between the Draft Plan Area and this SPA, and there is the potential for habitat loss or degradation.</p> <p>However, there will be no impacts on water quality or any other emissions and no loss of habitat or species, fragmentation or disturbance to the special conservation interests of this site as a result of the implementation of the strategies or actions proposed in the Draft Plan.</p>	<p>No</p>

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Site	Reasons for designation (information correct as of January 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link	Likely Significant Effect?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A141 Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) ■ A157 Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) ■ A999 Wetlands <p>According to this SPA's site Conservation Objectives document (Version 1, dated 27 February 2013), for each of the listed SCIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain the favourable conservation condition of the species and wetland habitat for which the SPA has been selected.</p>		
Ireland's Eye SAC (site code 002193), c. 10km to the south-east	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 1220 Perennial vegetation of stony banks ■ 1230 Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts <p>According to this SAC's site Conservation Objectives document (Version 1, dated 27 January 2017), for each of the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) for which the SAC has been selected.</p>	<p>There is a hydrological pathway between the Draft Plan Area and this SAC, and there is the potential for habitat loss or degradation.</p> <p>However, there will be no impacts on water quality or any other emissions and no loss of habitat or species, fragmentation or disturbance to the qualifying interests of this site as a result of the implementation of the strategies or actions proposed in the Draft Plan.</p>	No
Ireland's Eye SPA (site code 004117), c. 9.5km to the south-east	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A017 Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) ■ A184 Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) ■ A188 Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) ■ A199 Guillemot (<i>Uria aalge</i>) ■ A200 Razorbill (<i>Alca torda</i>) <p>According to this SPA's First Order Site-specific Conservation Objectives</p>	<p>There is a hydrological pathway between the Draft Plan Area and this SPA, and there is the potential for habitat loss or degradation.</p> <p>However, there will be no impacts on water quality or any other emissions and no loss of habitat or species, fragmentation or disturbance to the special conservation interests of this site as a result of the implementation of the strategies or actions proposed in the Draft Plan.</p>	No

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Site	Reasons for designation (information correct as of January 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link	Likely Significant Effect?
	<p>document (Version 1, dated 12 October 2022), for each of the listed SCIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA.</p>		
<p>Howth Head SAC (site code 000202), c. 12.5km to the south-east;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 1230 Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts ■ 4030 European dry heaths <p>According to this SAC's site Conservation Objectives document (Version 1, dated 06 December 2016), for each of the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitats for which the SAC has been selected.</p>	<p>There is a hydrological pathway between the Draft Plan Area and this SAC, and there is the potential for habitat loss or degradation.</p> <p>However, there will be no impacts on water quality or any other emissions and no loss of habitat or species, fragmentation or disturbance to the qualifying interests of this site as a result of the implementation of the strategies or actions proposed in the Draft Plan.</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Howth Head Coast SPA (site code 004113), c. 12.1km to the south-east;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A188 Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) <p>According to this SPA's First Order Site-specific Conservation Objectives document (Version 1, dated 12 October 2022), for the listed SCI, the Conservation Objective is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA.</p>	<p>There is a hydrological pathway between the Draft Plan Area and this SPA, and there is the potential for habitat loss or degradation.</p> <p>However, there will be no impacts on water quality or any other emissions and no loss of habitat or species, fragmentation or disturbance to the special conservation interests of this site as a result of the implementation of the strategies or actions proposed in the Draft Plan.</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>North Dublin Bay SAC (site code 000206), c. 11.1km to the south</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide ■ 1210 Annual vegetation of drift lines 	<p>There is no hydrological pathway between the Draft Plan Area and this SAC, and there is no potential for habitat loss or degradation.</p> <p>There will be no impacts on water quality or any other emissions and no loss of habitat or species, fragmentation or disturbance to the qualifying interests of this site</p>	<p>No</p>

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Site	Reasons for designation (information correct as of January 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link	Likely Significant Effect?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 1310 Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand ■ 1330 Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>) ■ 1395 Petalwort (<i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i>) ■ 1410 Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) ■ 2110 Embryonic shifting dunes ■ 2120 Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) ■ 2130 Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes)* ■ 2190 Humid dune slacks <p>According to this SAC's site Conservation Objectives document (Version 1, dated 06 November 2013), for each of the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected.</p>	<p>as a result of the implementation of the strategies or actions proposed in the Draft Plan.</p>	
<p>North Bull Island SPA (site code 004006), c. 11.1km to the south</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A046 Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) ■ A048 Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) ■ A052 Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) ■ A054 Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) ■ A056 Shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>) ■ A130 Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) 	<p>There is no hydrological pathway between the Draft Plan Area and this SPA, and there is no potential for habitat loss or degradation.</p> <p>There will be no impacts on water quality or any other emissions and no loss of habitat or species, fragmentation or disturbance to the special conservation interests of this site as a result of the implementation of the strategies or actions proposed in the Draft Plan.</p>	<p>No</p>

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Site	Reasons for designation (information correct as of January 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link	Likely Significant Effect?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A140 Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) ■ A141 Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) ■ A143 Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) ■ A144 Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) ■ A149 Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) ■ A156 Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) ■ A157 Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) ■ A160 Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) ■ A162 Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) ■ A169 Turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>) ■ A179 Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) ■ A999] Wetland <p>According to this SPA's site Conservation Objectives document (Version 1, dated 9 March 2015), for each of the listed SCIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain the favourable conservation condition of the species and wetland habitat for which the SPA has been selected.</p>		
North-West Irish Sea SPA (site code 004236), c. 2.2km to the east	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A065 Common Scoter (<i>Melanitta nigra</i>) ■ A001 Red-throated Diver (<i>Gavia stellata</i>) ■ A003 Great Northern Diver (<i>Gavia immer</i>) ■ A009 Fulmar (<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>) 	<p>There is a hydrological pathway between the Draft Plan Area and this SPA, and there is the potential for habitat loss or degradation.</p> <p>However, there will be no impacts on water quality or any other emissions and no loss of habitat or species, fragmentation or disturbance to the special conservation interests of this site as a result of the implementation of the strategies or actions proposed in the Draft Plan.</p>	No

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Site	Reasons for designation (information correct as of January 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link	Likely Significant Effect?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A013 Manx Shearwater (<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>) ■ A018 Shag (<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>) ■ A017 Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) ■ A177 Little Gull (<i>Larus minutus</i>) ■ A188 Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) ■ A179 Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) ■ A182 Common Gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) ■ A183 Lesser Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>) ■ A184 Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) ■ A187 Great Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus marinus</i>) ■ A195 Little Tern (<i>Sterna albifrons</i>) ■ A192 Roseate Tern (<i>Sterna dougallii</i>) ■ A193 Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) ■ A194 Arctic Tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) ■ A204 Puffin (<i>Fratercula arctica</i>) ■ A200 Razorbill (<i>Alca torda</i>) ■ A199 Guillemot (<i>Uria aalge</i>) <p>According to this SPA’s site Conservation Objectives document (Version 1 - dated 19 September 2023), for each of the listed SCIs, the Conservation Objective maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the species for which the SPA has been selected.</p>		

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Site	Reasons for designation (information correct as of January 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link	Likely Significant Effect?
<p>South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA (site code 004024), c. 16km to the south</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A144 Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) ■ A157 Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) ■ A149 Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) ■ A162 Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) ■ A179 Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) ■ A143 Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) ■ A192 Roseate Tern (<i>Sterna dougallii</i>) ■ A046 Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) ■ A141 Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) ■ A130 Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) ■ A194 Arctic Tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) ■ A193 Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) ■ A137 Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) ■ A999 Wetlands <p>According to this SPA's site Conservation Objectives document (Version 1, dated 9 March 2015), for each of the listed SCIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain the favourable conservation condition of the species and wetland habitat for which the SPA has been selected.</p>	<p>There is no hydrological pathway between the Draft Plan Area and this SPA, and there is no potential for habitat loss or degradation.</p> <p>There will be no impacts on water quality or any other emissions and no loss of habitat or species, fragmentation or disturbance to the special conservation interests of this site as a result of the implementation of the strategies or actions proposed in the Draft Plan.</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>South Dublin Bay SAC (site code 000210), c. 16km to the south</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide <p>The following habitats are listed as Qualifying Interests on the NPWS website,</p>	<p>There is no hydrological pathway between the Draft Plan Area and this SAC, and there is no potential for habitat loss or degradation.</p> <p>There will be no impacts on water quality or any other emissions and no loss of habitat or species, fragmentation or disturbance to the qualifying interests of this site</p>	<p>No</p>

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Site	Reasons for designation (information correct as of January 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link	Likely Significant Effect?
	<p>but are not included in the Conservation Objectives document:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 1210 Annual vegetation of drift lines ■ 1310 Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand ■ 2110 Embryonic shifting dunes <p>According to this SAC's site Conservation Objectives document (Version 1, dated 22 August 2013), for the listed QI, the Conservation Objective is to maintain the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat for which the SAC has been selected.</p>	<p>as a result of the implementation of the strategies or actions proposed in the Draft Plan.</p>	
<p>Skerries Island SPA (site code 004122), c. 8.8km to the north-east</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A017 Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) ■ A018 Shag (<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>) ■ A046 Light-bellied Brent goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) ■ A148 Purple sandpiper (<i>Calidris maritima</i>) ■ A169 Turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>) ■ A184 Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) <p>According to this SPA's First Order Site-Specific Conservation Objectives document (Version 1.0, dated 12 October 2022), for each of the listed SCIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA.</p>	<p>There is a hydrological pathway between the Draft Plan Area and this SPA, and there is the potential for habitat loss or degradation.</p> <p>However, there will be no impacts on water quality or any other emissions and no loss of habitat or species, fragmentation or disturbance to the special conservation interests of this site as a result of the implementation of the strategies or actions proposed in the Draft Plan.</p>	<p>No</p>

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Site	Reasons for designation (information correct as of January 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link	Likely Significant Effect?
<p>River Nanny Estuary and Shore SPA (site code 004158), c. 18.2km to the north-west</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A130 Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) wintering ■ A137 Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) wintering ■ A140 Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) wintering ■ A143 Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) wintering ■ A144 Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) wintering ■ A184 Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) wintering ■ A999 Wetlands <p>According to this SPA's site Conservation Objectives document (Version 1, dated 21 September 2012), for each of the listed SCIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain the favourable conservation condition of the species and wetland habitat for which the SPA has been selected.</p>	<p>There is no hydrological pathway between the Draft Plan Area and this SPA, and there is no potential for habitat loss or degradation.</p> <p>There will be no impacts on water quality or any other emissions and no loss of habitat or species, fragmentation or disturbance to the special conservation interests of this site as a result of the implementation of the strategies or actions proposed in the Draft Plan.</p>	<p>No</p>

Table 5.2 Assessment of potential impact of the Draft Plan on the European sites within the potential Zone of Influence

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Project	Actions	Potential to impact Natura 2000 sites	Mitigation Required?
KEY PROJECTS			
Key Project 1 - Donabate Village Green	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Redefine the edges of the green space with new planting / hedging and trees where appropriate ■ Provide for a wild meadow area to provide for increased biodiversity in accordance with the principles of the All- Ireland Pollinator Plan ■ Provide for a small event space with seating to the front of the park facing onto Main Street ■ Incorporate new signage / artwork to signal Donabate and potential signage/ interpretation of the town ■ Consider the creation of a raised table crossing Main Street to knit the space with the surrounding area ■ Consider incorporating utilities to accommodate a market or events ■ Consider an interactive water feature as well as new paths, places to sit and play within the space 	No significant effects on any Natura 2000 sites are envisaged.	No
Key Project 2 – St. Patrick’s Square	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Create a new paved space to the front of the church using high quality paving materials having regard to the protected status of the church and its railings ■ Reorganise existing carparking around the church with no car parking provided to the front of the building line of the church to Main Street ■ Incorporate bench seating along the existing front boundary wall and rail to the main street ■ Define the space to the north and south with trees and planting to provide sheltered, green amenity spaces ■ Consider incorporating utilities to accommodate a market or events within the new space 	No significant effects on any Natura 2000 sites are envisaged.	No
Key Project 3 – The Hand Pocket Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Improve and expand the existing public space at the Hand to allow for greater use by the community ■ Set back the boundary to the existing Irish Water pump house to create additional space and consider reducing the carriageway width to adjoining roads ■ Provide a new boundary treatment with the pumping station to include railing, planting and bench seating ■ Provide additional seating within the space that can also provide an incidental space for play and events ■ Rationalise or relocate the existing wirescape and lampposts where possible while ensuring the area is well lit at night ■ Incorporate utilities to accommodate pop up food trucks, or small events ■ Consider extending the space to the full width of the adjoining streets, by creating a raised table crossing at Beaverstown Road to Ballisk, Main Street, Portrane Road 	No significant effects on any Natura 2000 sites are envisaged.	No

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Project	Actions	Potential to impact Natura 2000 sites	Mitigation Required?
Key Project 4 – Educate Together Site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Create a multi-functional recreational space to provide for a meeting point, sheltered space / pavilion for performance, playing pitches, playground, seating ■ Allow for paths to cross the park to match desire lines, and connections from Beaverstown Road, Portrane Road ■ Remove existing roundabout and car parking and provide a link road to create pedestrian priority and a continuous pedestrian route to the community centre ■ Make use of sustainable urban drainage solutions including appropriate planting to address potential surface water issues 	No significant effects on any Natura 2000 sites are envisaged.	No
Key Project 5 – Community Centre Public Plaza	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Create a welcoming, accessible, safe and well-lit public plaza to the front of the community centre ■ Incorporate public seating areas, planting, trees and bespoke lighting to define the space ■ Reorganise the car parking surrounding the building to incorporate pedestrian routes ■ Carry out landscaping to provide for trees and planting pits throughout the area ■ Consider the provision of a link road from the Portrane Road to provide an alternative pedestrian and vehicular route to the adjoining schools ■ Consider the creation of a raised table crossing to extend the space to the full width of the adjoining street 	No significant effects on any Natura 2000 sites are envisaged.	No
CONNECTING SPACES			
Project 1 – Semple Wood and Hearse Wood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Create a new ‘entry’ to Donabate at Semple Wood / Hearse Road by using high quality paving materials, street furniture and appropriate signage ■ Provide a pedestrian crossing to include raised tables to allow continuity of pedestrian movement across the street, and connecting to the new footpath on Hearse Road 	No significant effects on any Natura 2000 sites are envisaged.	No
Project 2 – The Square and Hearse Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ New paving and reduced carriageway at the junction between Hearse Road and the entrance to The Square ■ Removal of existing traffic signage (subject to road safety considerations) and rationalisation of wirescape ■ Installation of appropriate street furniture including heritage signage and high quality bollards ■ Provide for appropriate tree and bed planting ■ Consider the installation of seating and low level lighting 	No significant effects on any Natura 2000 sites are envisaged.	No

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Project	Actions	Potential to impact Natura 2000 sites	Mitigation Required?
Project 3 – Smyth’s Pub Road Frontage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Improve the public realm at this location by providing new, high quality paving and road surfaces as well as appropriate signage to mark the entrance to the town ■ Provide for a new pedestrian crossing subject to road safety and traffic considerations ■ Integrate the public realm and paving improvements to the proposed improvements on the Bridge ■ Ensure that all works have regard to, and are integrated with the proposed reuse of warehouse buildings ■ Provide for improved connections / links as well as public realm improvements from Donabate Train Station to Ballisk Court and onward to Main Street 	No significant effects on any Natura 2000 sites are envisaged.	No
Project 4 – The Bridge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Create a more pedestrian friendly environment on and in the approach to the Bridge ■ Remove railings on both sides of the road at the Bridge ■ Resurface the junction from the Bridge to the front of Smyth’s pub with high quality road paving materials ■ Provide for additional pedestrian crossings and provide for reductions the carriageway widths where appropriate 	No significant effects on any Natura 2000 sites are envisaged.	No
Potential New Connections - To the Train Station	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Actively consider the removal of barriers to pedestrian access from Main Street to Ballisk Court and from Ballisk Court to Donabate Train Station ■ Consult with Iarnród Éireann and local land/property owners in relation to the creation of new pedestrian links including additional pedestrian routes from the entrance at Smyth’s pub to Main Street via Ballisk Court ■ Consider limited vehicular access to from Ballisk Court to Donabate Train Station via the potential access directly to the west of Supervalu 	No significant effects on any Natura 2000 sites are envisaged.	No
STREET AND SPACES			

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Project	Actions	Potential to impact Natura 2000 sites	Mitigation Required?
Main Street	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Provide high quality stone paved carriageway and footways, making use of visual contrasting colour or texture to define use and priority ■ Provide additional pedestrian crossings on Main Street subject to traffic and road safety considerations ■ Provide additional seating with low level lighting at different locations along Main Street ■ Provide additional street planting including trees in integrated constructed tree pits ■ Provide additional cycle parking where appropriate along Main Street using high quality materials ■ Rationalise and standardise existing street furniture, particularly existing bollards, lampposts and cycle stands ■ Consider level surface across the street with shallow kerbs to enhance pedestrian movement between both sides of the street and to facilitate the potential use of the main street for gatherings ■ In the longer term, consider the use of a 'shared space 'Main Street with a view to developing a safe and walkable street with pedestrian and cycle priority ■ Investigate the possibility of making Main Street a one way street for private vehicular access 	No significant effects on any Natura 2000 sites are envisaged.	No
Approach Streets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Rebalance pedestrian and vehicular space, with maintenance of verges, hedgerows and historic boundaries where practical and appropriate ■ Provide for additional planting, including tree planting along Portrane Road where appropriate ■ Provide additional pedestrian crossings where appropriate to include raised tables to allow continuity of pedestrian movement / level crossings at road junctions ■ Provide consistent lighting along both streets ■ Consider visually contrasting paved paths and crossings ■ Incorporate cycling infrastructure where possible ■ Continue to progress the Part XI projects on Turvey Avenue and at St. Patrick's national school 	No significant effects on any Natura 2000 sites are envisaged.	No
Historic Spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Maintain and restore historic paving and kerbs where they survive ■ Retain or reinstate edges, cobbles and grass verges where possible in the Square ■ Investigate the repositioning of car parking to the front of St. Patricks Church (COI) ■ Require the input of a conservation professional with relevant conservation expertise and experience for any works to or in proximity to a protected structure 	No significant effects on any Natura 2000 sites are envisaged.	No
IMPROVING THE PUBLIC REALM			

Draft Donabate Framework Plan

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Project	Actions	Potential to impact Natura 2000 sites	Mitigation Required?
Road surfaces, Footpaths and Paving	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Address existing deficiencies in footpath continuity and design in the Framework Plan area where feasible Ensure that any improvements to road surfaces, footpaths and paving are carried out according to a unified design approach within the Framework Plan area Use high-quality Irish paving materials which are appropriate in terms of cleaning and maintenance 	No significant effects on any Natura 2000 sites are envisaged.	No
Street Furniture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adopt a consistent and integrated approach to the provision of street furniture across the entire Framework Plan area or have regard to any guidance on public realm produced by Fingal County Council Ensure any additional seating is of high quality and has regard to accessibility and the needs of all users Ensure that litter bins/recycling are located so as not to obstruct pedestrian movement or building entrances Minimise the use of bollards in the study area to reduce street colour, adopt a standardised design for new bollards and retain historic bollards where possible Provide additional cycle parking capacity in the study area as part of the delivery of the projects and improvements set out in previous chapters Maintain and protect street furniture which has historic character and interest including the town's traditional water pumps 	No significant effects on any Natura 2000 sites are envisaged.	No
Planting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the overall level and quality of planting in the Framework Plan area, where appropriate Planted beds should have complementary designs and materials that are continuously maintained Identify opportunities for long-term street trees or landmark tree planting and add integrated constructed tree pits and rain gardens to paved areas where feasible 	No significant effects on any Natura 2000 sites are envisaged.	No
Lighting and Wirescape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adopt a unified approach for the provision of lampposts and lampstands in the Framework Plan area Ensure that all public realm projects and works have regard to the need to provide place-appropriate lighting Consider the rationalisation and removal where feasible of overhead wiring on the approach to the town and on Main Street 	No significant effects on any Natura 2000 sites are envisaged.	No
Signage and Shopfronts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage improvements to existing shopfronts in Donabate having regard to the principles set out in Chapter 14 of the County Development Plan Ensure that all public signage is provided in accordance with the FCC's Draft Heritage Signage Guidance 	No significant effects on any Natura 2000 sites are envisaged.	No

5.4 Summary of potential impacts of the implementation of the Draft Plan

There will be no loss of any habitat or species listed as a QI or SCI of any designated site as a consequence of the implementation of the Draft Plan. There is, therefore, no potential for the effects of habitat loss or fragmentation to occur.

There will also be no significant effects on any European sites as a result of:

- Habitat loss and/or fragmentation;
- Land-take;
- Resource requirements such as water abstraction;
- Impacts to habitat structure;
- Mortality to species (such as roadkill);
- Noise pollution / vibration impacts;
- Light pollution;
- Emissions to air (including dust);
- Emissions to water.

Additionally, for the reasons outlined in this report for the European sites, no impacts on any other designated sites including proposed Natural Heritage Areas, will occur.

6 Mitigation specific to European sites

This screening assessment is consistent with the judgment of the European Court in Case C-323/17, *People Over Wind & Sweetman v Coillte* (Judgment of the Court (Seventh Chamber) of 12 April 2018) and the recent case-law of the High Court, including *Heather Hill Management Company CLG v An Bord Pleanála* [2019] IEHC 450 and *Sweetman v An Bord Pleanála* [2020] IEHC 39.

It is also consistent with the judgment in *Eco Advocacy CLG v An Bord Pleanála* [2021] IEHC 265. In that case, Humphreys J confirmed the core legal principle, being that regard should not be had to mitigation measures at AA screening stage. Humphreys J decided in that case that clarification was required from the CJEU on the matter (as it related to the consideration of SUDs and whether these represented mitigation measures).

The CJEU, in its ruling on this case dated 15 June 2023 clarified issues defining mitigation in the context of European sites². It confirmed that Article 6(3) of Directive 92/43 *must be interpreted as meaning that, in order to determine whether it is necessary to carry out an appropriate assessment of the implications of a plan or project for a site, account may be taken of the features of that plan or project which involve the removal of contaminants and which therefore may have the effect of reducing the harmful effects of the plan or project on that site, where those features have been incorporated into that plan or project as standard features, inherent in such a plan or project, irrespective of any effect on the site.*

In relation to European sites, there will be no impacts capable of giving rise to any likely significant effects as a result of the Draft Plan.

No mitigation is necessary or proposed for the protection of European sites.

7 In-combination effects

It is a requirement of Section 177U of the Planning Acts that, when considering whether a plan or project will have a significant effect on a European site, the assessment must take into account in-combination effects

²<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:62021CC0721>

with other plans and projects. The assessment should consider plans and projects that are completed, approved but uncompleted, or proposed (but not yet approved)³. If there are identified effects arising from the plan or project, even if they are perceived as minor and not likely to have a significant effect on the integrity of a European site alone, then these effects must be considered in combination with the effects arising from other plans and projects.

Fingal Development Plan 2023-2029 sets out the Council's policies and objectives for the development of the County over the Plan period and has been subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and AA. It seeks to develop and improve, in a sustainable manner the social, economic, environmental and cultural assets of the County. The Draft Plan has had due regard to all relevant policies and objectives set out in the Development Plan.

It is an objective of the Fingal Development Plan 2023-2029 (Objective CSO 45 – LAPs and Framework Plans for Donabate) to prepare and implement Framework Plan for Donabate and it states-

'- Implement the existing Local Area Plan within Donabate.

- Prepare and implement a Framework Plan over the life of the Plan to guide and inform future development and to include measures to improve and promoted the public realm of the village.'

Donabate Local Area Plan 2016-2022 (extended to 2026) proposes to establish a framework for the planned, co-ordinated and sustainable development of undeveloped lands and it states-

Objective 6.16 – 'Prepare an Urban Framework Plan for Donabate (including a Public Realm and Integrated Traffic Management Strategy) to guide and inform future development, to include measures to improve and promote the public realm of the Village.'

On the basis of objective information it can be excluded that the implementation of the Plan, individually or in-combination with other plans or projects, will have a significant effect on a European site.

A number of other plans were considered when assessing in-combination effects, but it was determined that there would be no in-combination effects with these:

- Project Ireland 2040: National Planning Framework (2018);
- Eastern & Midland Regional Assembly Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (2019 – 2031);
- Climate Action Plan 2023 (CAP 23 – Changing Ireland for the Better);
- Fingal County Council's Climate Action plan (2019 – 2024);
- Fingal Biodiversity Action Plan 2022-2030 (Draft);
- Forest of Fingal - A Tree Strategy for Fingal 2023-2032;
- Fingal Tourism Strategy 2023-2029;
- Donabate Local Area Plan 2016 (extended to 2026).

8 Screening conclusion

Following review of the Draft Plan against the Conservation Objectives of the relevant European sites, it is concluded that there is no possibility that the implementation of the Draft Plan could result in any likely significant effects on European sites on its own or in combination with other plans and programmes. This conclusion was reached without considering or taking into account mitigation measures or measures intended to avoid or reduce any impact on European sites.

³ Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly Affecting European 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)

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In view of best scientific knowledge therefore, this report concludes that the Draft Donabate Framework Plan, individually or in combination with another plan or project, is not likely to have a significant effect on European sites under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) in light of their conservation objectives. The Draft Plan does not require an Appropriate Assessment and the preparation of a Natura Impact Report.

9 References

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- OPR (2021). Practice Note PN01 Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management.
- Wyse Jackson, M., FitzPatrick, Ú., Cole, E., Jebb, M., McFerran, D., Sheehy Skeffington, M. & Wright, M. (2016). Ireland Red List No. 10: Vascular Plants. Dublin Ireland: NPWS, Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.

⁴ Now Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII).

Appendix I: Background

The European⁵ network is a Europe-wide network of ecologically important sites (SPAs and cSACs – also known as ‘European Sites’ or ‘Natura 2000 sites’) that have been designated for protection under either the EU Birds Directive (Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the Conservation of Wild Birds) or the EU Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Flora and Fauna).

The main aim of the Habitats Directive is “to contribute towards ensuring biodiversity through the conservation of natural habitats of wild fauna and flora in the European territory of the Member States to which the treaty applies”. Any actions taken must be designed to “maintain or restore, at a favourable conservation status, natural habitats and species of wild fauna and flora of Community interest”. Under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive, an assessment is required where a plan or project may give rise to significant effects upon a European site.

In addition, it is a matter of law that candidate SACs (cSACs) and Sites of Community Importance (SCI) are considered in this process;

Article 6 (paragraphs (3) and (4)) of the Habitats Directive states that:

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

(4) If, in spite of a negative assessment of the implications for the site and in the absence of alternative solutions, a plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of social or economic nature, the Member State shall take all compensatory measures necessary to ensure that the overall coherence of Natura 2000 is protected. It shall inform the Commission of the compensatory measures adopted.

Where the site concerned hosts a priority natural habitat type and/or a priority species, the only considerations which may be raised are those relating to human health or public safety, to beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment or, further to an opinion from the Commission, to other imperative reasons of overriding public interest”

The requirements of the Habitats Directive are transposed into Irish law by means of the *European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (as amended)* (hereafter referred to as the *Birds and Habitats Regulations*) and by the *Planning and Development Act 2000*, as amended.

In Ireland, the statutory agency responsible for the designated areas is NPWS.

Stages in the assessment

European Commission guidance (2001)⁶ sets out the principles on how to undertake decision making in applying the Habitats Directive. The requirements of the Habitats Directive comprise four distinct stages:

Stage 1: Screening is the process which initially identifies the likely significant effects upon a European site of a project or plan, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, and considers whether these impacts may be significant. It is important to note that the burden of evidence is to show, on the basis of objective information, that there will be no significant effect; if the effect may be significant, or is not known, that would trigger the need for an Appropriate Assessment. There is European Court of Justice case law to the effect that

⁵ The EU Habitats Directive, Article 3.1, states “A Coherent European ecological network of Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas pursuant to Directive 79/409/EEC shall be set up under the title European”

⁶ European Commission (2001) *Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly Affecting European Sites: Methodological Guidance on the Provisions of Article 6 (3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC*

unless the likelihood of a significant effect can be ruled out on the basis of objective information, then an Appropriate Assessment must be made.

Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment is the detailed consideration of the impact on the integrity of the European site of the project or plan, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, with respect to the site's conservation objectives and its structure and function. This is to determine with scientific certainty whether or not there will be adverse effects on the integrity of the site in light of its conservation objectives. This stage also includes the development of mitigation measures to avoid or reduce any possible impacts.

Stage 3: Assessment of alternative solutions is the process which examines alternative ways of achieving the objectives of the project or plan that would avoid impacts on the integrity of the European site, should avoidance or mitigation measures be unable to cancel out adverse effects.

Stage 4: Assessment where no alternative solutions exist and where adverse impacts remain. At Stage 4 an assessment is made with regard to whether or not the development is necessary for imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI) and, if so, of the compensatory measures needed to maintain the overall coherence of the European network.

Conservation Objectives of European sites

The conservation objectives for a European Site are intended to represent the aims of the Habitats and Birds Directives in relation to that site. To this end, habitats and species of European Community importance should be maintained or restored to 'favourable conservation status' (FCS), as defined in Article 1 of the Habitats Directive below:

The conservation status of a natural habitat will be taken as 'favourable' when:

- Its natural range and the area it covers within that range are stable or increasing;
- The specific structure and functions which are necessary for its long term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future;
- Conservation status of typical species is favourable as defined in Article 1(i).

The conservation status of a species will be taken as favourable when:

- Population dynamics data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself on a long-term basis as a viable component of its natural habitats;
- The natural range of the species is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future;
- There is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis.

Guidance from the European Commission⁷ indicates that the Habitats Directive intends FCS to be applied at the level of an individual site, as well as to habitats and species across their European range. Therefore, in order to properly express the aims of the Habitats Directive for an individual site, the conservation objectives for a site are essentially to maintain (or restore) the habitats and species of the site at (or to) FCS.

The European Commission guidance recommends that screening should fulfil the following steps:

1. Determine whether the plan (or policy) is directly connected with or necessary for the management of European sites;
2. Describe the plan and describe and characterise any other plans or projects which, in combination, have the potential for having significant effects on European sites;
3. Identify the potential effects on European sites;

Assess the likely significance of any effects on European sites.

⁷ Managing European sites: the provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. (European Commission 2000)

Brady Shipman Martin

DUBLIN

Canal House
Canal Road
Dublin 6
+353 1 208 1900

CORK

Penrose Wharf Business Centre
Penrose Wharf
Cork
+353 21 242 5620

LIMERICK

11 The Crescent
Limerick
+353 61 315 127

mail@bradyshipmanmartin.com
www.bradyshipmanmartin.com

