

Proposed Traveller-Specific Group  
Housing, Stockhole Lane, Co. Dublin  
Information for Screening for Appropriate  
Assessment

**BSM**

Est.  
1968

**Brady Shipman  
Martin**

**Built.  
Environment.**

Environmental  
Assessment  
**Built  
Environment**

Client:

**Fingal County Council**

Date:

**03 October 2019**

## DOCUMENT CONTROL SHEET

### 6469\_SL-AA01\_Information for Screening for Appropriate Assessment

Project No. 6469  
Client: Fingal County Council  
Project Name: Proposed Traveller-Specific Group Housing, Stockhole Lane, Co. Dublin  
Report Name: Information for Screening for Appropriate Assessment  
Document No. SL-AA01  
Issue No. 05  
Date: 03/10/2019

This document has been issued and amended as follows:

Issue	Status	Date	Prepared	Checked
01	Draft	27 Nov 2018	MH	TB
02	Final Draft	11 Dec 2018	MH	TB
03	Final report	13 Dec 2018	MH	TB
04	Final report – updated	26 Aug 2019	MH	TB
05	Final report – updated and finalised	03 Oct 2019	MH	TB



## Contents

1	Introduction and background .....	1
2	Methodology .....	1
2.1	Baseline data collection and field visits .....	1
3	Screening for Appropriate Assessment .....	2
3.1	Background.....	2
3.2	Potential zone of influence.....	3
3.3	Study area and surrounding environment.....	3
3.3.1	Site location and European sites .....	3
3.3.2	Other designated areas (other than European sites).....	6
4	Description of the proposed development .....	6
5	Links to European sites, including cumulative effects.....	6
5.1	European sites and habitats with links to European sites .....	6
5.1.1	Potential impacts during construction .....	7
5.1.2	Potential impacts during operation.....	7
6	Other issues.....	16
7	Mitigation specific to European sites .....	16
8	In-combination effects .....	16
9	Screening conclusion .....	16
	Appendix I: Background .....	17
	Stages in the assessment.....	17
	Conservation Objectives of European sites .....	18



# 1 Introduction and background

This document constitutes an Appropriate Assessment Screening Report. The purpose of the report is to provide the information required to assist Fingal County Council, the competent authority, to undertake a screening exercise for Appropriate Assessment (AA). This will determine the effects, if any, on European sites, also known as Natura 2000 Sites (Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA), designated for nature conservation), of the proposed development of seven dwellings and associated works, on a site at Stockhole Lane, Co. Dublin.

A desk study review and site visit were undertaken and the potential impacts on European sites, both as a result of the proposed development and in-combination with other plans and projects, are appraised in this report.

The requirements for an Appropriate Assessment are set out under *Article 6 of the EU Habitats Directive (92/34/EEC)*, transposed into Irish law through the *European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011-2015* and the *Planning and Development Act, 2000* (as amended). These requirements have been clarified by decisions of the Irish Superior Courts and the Court of Justice of the European Union.

Brady Shipman Martin was commissioned to prepare this report. The work was carried out by consultant ecologist Matthew Hague BSc MSc Adv. Dip. Plan. & Env. Law CEnv MCIEEM. Matthew is a highly experienced and qualified ecologist, with a master's degree in Ecosystem Conservation and Landscape Management. He has over 17 years of experience in ecological and environmental consultancy, across a wide range of sectors. He is a Chartered Environmentalist (CEnv) and a full member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (MCIEEM). Matthew recently completed an Advanced Diploma in Planning and Environmental Law, at King's Inns.

## 2 Methodology

### 2.1 Baseline data collection and field visits

A desk-based assessment was undertaken of the site at Stockhole Lane and the wider area. This 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. An ecological survey was undertaken at the site, including a habitat, large mammal and day-time bat survey, carried out by the author on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2018. Birds present on the site were recorded during the survey and an assessment of habitat suitability for European protected species and species with links to European sites was undertaken, in order to appraise the potential for *ex-situ* effects on European sites.

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 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);
- *Managing Natura 2000 sites: The Provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC*. Guidance issued by the European Commission (21<sup>st</sup> November 2018).

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](http://www.NPWS.ie));
- The National Biodiversity Data Centre (NDBC) ([www.biodiversityireland.ie](http://www.biodiversityireland.ie));
- BirdWatch Ireland ([www.birdwatchireland.ie](http://www.birdwatchireland.ie));
- Bat Conservation Ireland ([www.batconservationireland.org](http://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](http://www.geohive.ie);
- Photographs taken at the site in 2018;
- Information on local watercourses from [www.catchments.ie](http://www.catchments.ie);
- Information on water quality in the area ([www.epa.ie](http://www.epa.ie));
- Information on soils, geology and hydrogeology in the area ([www.gsi.ie](http://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);
- Fingal County Development Plan 2017 – 2023, including the accompanying Natura Impact Report.

The report has regard to the following legislative instruments:

- Planning and Development, Act 2000, 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 2011-2015.

The report takes full account of the design of the proposed development and a detailed examination of all relevant elements of the proposal was undertaken. The following reports are of relevance to this document:

- Civil Engineering Services Report for Proposed Traveller-Specific Group Housing, Stockhole Lane (Hayes Higgins Consulting Engineers Ltd, December 2018).

Given the amount of information available, including from the developer, NPWS and other sources, it has been possible to gather adequate information on the site and the adjacent area (in particular, the European sites), in order to make an informed, sound judgement as to the potential impacts of the proposed development on the qualifying interests of the European sites.

## 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 proposed development 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.

The threshold test in Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive and s.177U (1) of the Planning and Development 2000 (as amended) is that an appropriate assessment will be required if the proposed development is "*likely*

to have a significant effect” on the protected site (i.e. a “European site” under part XAB of the 2000 Act), either individually or in combination with other plans or protects.

Under s177U(4) of the 2000 Act an appropriate assessment will be required if, on the basis of objective information, a “significant effect” on a European site “cannot be excluded”.

Under s177U(5) of the 2000 Act an appropriate assessment will not be required if, on the basis of objective information, a “significant effect” on a European site “can be excluded”.

In addition, plans or projects or applications for developments which have “no appreciable effect” on the protected site are excluded from the requirement to proceed to appropriate assessment<sup>1</sup> (Opinion of Advocate General Sharpston in *Sweetman*, para. 48).

In other words, if, following Screening, 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 proposed development, 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

For the risk of an adverse 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 source and the receptor, such as a watercourse that links the construction site to the designated site. Although there may be a risk of an impact it may not necessarily occur, and if it does occur, it may not be significant.

Identification of a risk 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 risk and the characteristics of the receptor.

There are no set recommended distances for projects to consider European sites as being relevant for assessment. Rather, NPWS (2010) recommends that ‘the distance should 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’. As a general rule of thumb, it is often considered appropriate to include all European sites within 15km.

However, in some instances where there are hydrological connections a whole river catchment or a groundwater aquifer may need to be included. Similarly where bird flight paths are involved the impact may be on an SPA more than 15 km away. Taking this into account, as a starting point a search was carried out for all European sites within 15km of the site at Stockhole Lane. This search was then extended in order to ensure that all European sites with any potential links to the proposed development were accounted for in the study.

## 3.3 Study area and surrounding environment

### 3.3.1 Site location and European sites

The proposed development site, 1.3ha in area, (see **Figure 1**) is located to the east of Stockhole Lane. An existing residential development (Baskin Court and Baskin Park) is situated to the north, and agricultural fields are present to the east and south. The site is bounded by a palisade fence and sections of gappy hawthorn, bramble and ash

<sup>1</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A62011CC0258>

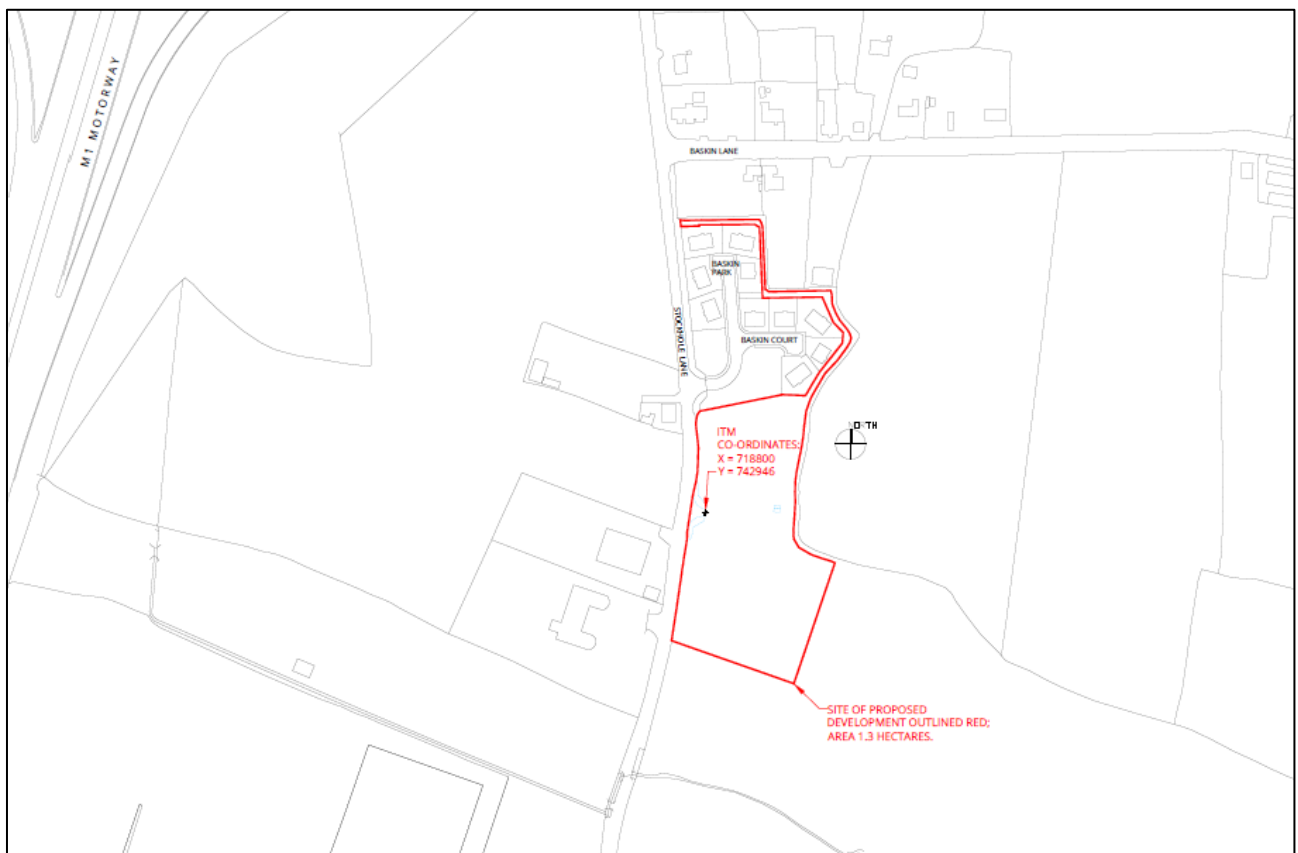
## Proposed Traveller-Specific Group Housing, Stockhole Lane, Co. Dublin

### Information for Screening for Appropriate Assessment

hedgerow. The site comprises a single field, formerly in agricultural use. The field was subject to extensive disturbance in the past, particularly when the adjoining site was developed in 2009. A series of earth mounds are present on the land. The field is subject to no management and extensive bramble scrub dominates much of the site, in particular the earth mounds and around the boundaries. The site is also used for grazing of horses.

The site contains a waste water treatment plant and percolation area which service 10no existing dwellings at Baskin Court and Baskin Park.

A surface water drain outfall from Baskin Court and Park is aligned inside the west site boundary (parallel to Stockhole Lane) for the full length of the site and proceeds via a 10m wide, 87m long wayleave across third party lands, discharging to an existing stream in the south. This minor stream, which is not included in the EPA water features database<sup>2</sup>, in turn discharges to the Sluice River at a point north of Baskin Lane (the L2055), to the west of the Malahide Road (the R107).



**Figure 1:** Location of proposed development site at Stockhole Lane, Co. Dublin

There are 17 European sites located within a 15km radius of the proposed development (see **Figure 2**). These are:

- **Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)**
  - Malahide Estuary SAC (site code 000205), c.4.1km to the north;
  - Baldoye Bay SAC (site code 000199), c.4.6km to the east;
  - North Dublin Bay SAC (site code 000206), c.6.2km to the south;
  - Rogerstown Estuary SAC (site code 000208), c.8.4km to the north;
  - Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC (site code 003000), c.9.2km to the east;

<sup>2</sup> <https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/AAGeoTool>



## Proposed Traveller-Specific Group Housing, Stockhole Lane, Co. Dublin

### Information for Screening for Appropriate Assessment

- South Dublin Bay SAC (site code 000210), c.9.4km to the south;
- Howth Head SAC (site code 000202), c.9.5km to the south east;
- Ireland's Eye SAC (site code 002193), c.9.6km to the east;
- Lambay Island SAC (site code 000204), c.13.8km to the north east;
- **Special Protection Areas (SPA)**
  - Broadmeadow/Swords Estuary (Malahide Estuary) SPA (site code 004025), c.4.1km to the north;
  - Baldoyle Bay SPA (site code 004016), c.4.16km to the east;
  - North Bull Island SPA (site code 004006), c.6.8km to the south east;
  - South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA (site code 004024), c.4.1km to the south;
  - Rogerstown Estuary SPA (site code 004015), c.8.6km to the north;
  - Ireland's Eye SPA (site code 004117), c.9.4km to the east;
  - Howth Head Coast SPA (site code 004113), c.11.0km to the south east;
  - Lambay Island SPA (site code 004069), c.13.8km to the north east.

Beyond the 15km zone there are a number of additional European sites, including Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC (site code 001398, 19.5km to the west) and Dalkey Islands SPA (site code 004172, 17.8km to the south east).

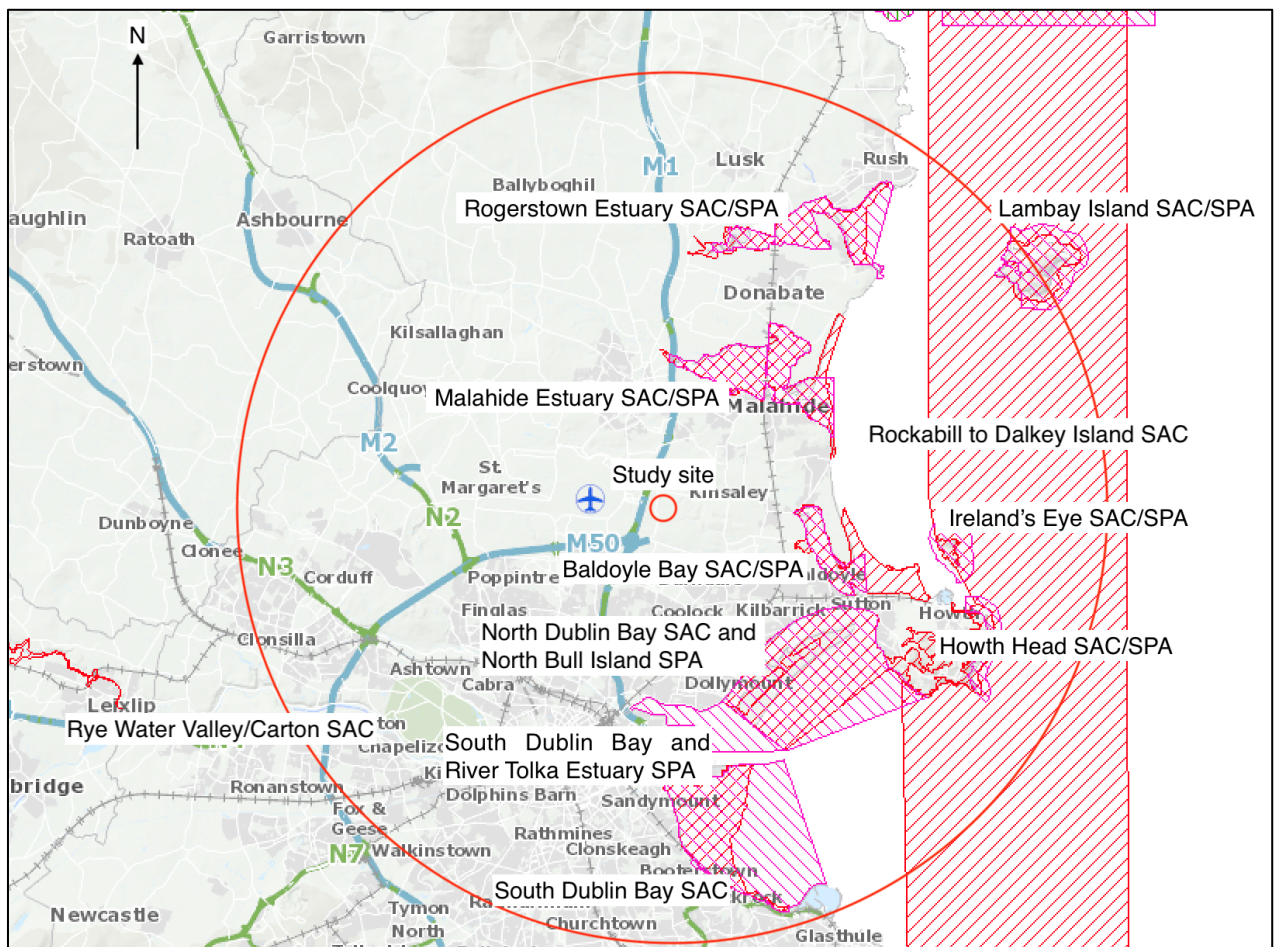


Figure 2: Study site at Stockhole Lane showing European sites (with 15km radius from the site)



### 3.3.2 Other designated areas (other than European sites)

The nearest sites designated for nature conservation, not otherwise designated as European sites, are Feltrim Hill proposed Natural Heritage Area (pNHA site code 001208, 1.75km to the north east) and Santry Demesne pNHA (site code 000178, 2.8km to the south west). In addition, Sluice River Marsh (site code 001763) is 4km to the west.

## 4 Description of the proposed development

The proposed development will comprise of 7no. dwellings as Traveller-Specific Group Housing, and associated site works at Stockhole Lane, Cloghran, Co Dublin. The dwellings will back onto the east boundary and face the proposed public open space and Stockhole Lane to the west.

As part of the development the existing waste water treatment plant, which serves the Baskin Park/Baskin Court housing and which is in poor operating condition, will be decommissioned. All waste water from the proposed development and 10no existing dwellings at Baskin Court and Baskin Park, will be directed to sewerage infrastructure that runs along Stockhole Lane to the west (the Cloghran Sewer).

## 5 Links to European sites, including cumulative effects

### 5.1 European sites and habitats with links to European sites

The proposed development site is not under any wildlife or conservation designation. Furthermore, no rare, threatened or legally protected plant species, as listed in the *Irish Red Data Book 1 – Vascular Plants (Curtis & McGough, 1988)*, the *Flora Protection Order, 2015* or the *EU Habitats Directive*, are known to occur within the site.

No features of ecological significance are present on the proposed development site. There are no features potentially suitable for use by roosting bats and the hedgerow/tree line along the eastern boundary is of no more than minor importance for commuting/foraging bat species. In addition no evidence of any protected species such as badger, or rare or protected plants, was recorded during the survey carried out. Overall the site is of no ecological value as defined by the ecological resource valuations presented in the National Roads Authority Guidelines for Assessment of Ecological Impacts of National Road Schemes (NRA, 2009 (Rev. 2)).

No evidence of any habitats or species with links to European sites was recorded during either the field survey or desk study undertaken and no 'reservoir' type habitats are present. There will be no loss of any habitat or species listed as a Qualifying Interest or Special Conservation Interest of any designated site as a consequence of the works. There is, therefore, no potential for the cumulative effects of habitat loss or fragmentation to occur. There will be no significant effects on the European sites as a result of:

- Impacts to habitat structure;
- Mortality to species (such as roadkill);
- Noise pollution/vibration impacts;
- Light pollution;
- Air pollution.

A potential surface water pathway exists between the proposed development site and **Baldoyle Bay SAC/SPA**, approximately 4.6km distant from the proposed development boundary. This pathway is via the local network of minor drainage ditches and streams. The minor ditch to which surface water from the site currently discharges, via an existing 225mm gravity surface water drain, is located approximately 80m to the south. As noted in Section 3.3.1 it is not recorded on the EPA database, however it is shown on the Draft FEMFRAMS Flood Mapping viewer

(Fingal County Development Plan 2017-2023)<sup>3</sup> as being a minor tributary of the River Sluice, which flows into Baldoyle Estuary at Portmarnock. The ditch joins the Sluice River at a point north of Baskin Lane (the L2055), to the west of the Malahide Road (the R107).

### 5.1.1 Potential impacts during construction

All **site clearance and construction activities** pose a potential risk to watercourses as surface water arising at a site may contain contaminants. The main contaminants arising from construction activities may include suspended solids, hydrocarbons and concrete/cement products. If not properly managed, such pollutants could pose a temporary risk to surface water quality in local watercourses during construction. The proposed development will involve the removal of material, in the form of soil mounds which were placed on the site between 2008 and 2009.

While theoretically there are potential links between the proposed development site and Baldoyle Bay SAC/SPA via surface water, no significant impacts on water quality are predicted during the construction phase.

Given the limited nature and small scale of the proposed development the risk of contamination of any watercourses is extremely low, and even in the event of a pollution incident significant enough to impact upon surface water quality locally, it is reasonable to assume that **this would not be perceptible in the offshore European sites** due to the significant distance to the European sites – Baldoyle Bay SAC/SPA is (4.6km straight line distance) from the site at Stockhole Lane.

No construction-related impacts, on European sites or otherwise, are envisaged as a result of the proposed development.

### 5.1.2 Potential impacts during operation

Operational **Surface water drainage** will consist of an on-site Sustainable Urban Drainage Treatment (SuDS) approach, designed in accordance with BS EN 752, Code of Practice for Drainage Outside Buildings and the requirements of Fingal County Council.

According to the flood risk assessment and engineering services report and the surface water drainage design for the proposed development the site has not been subjected to flooding during previously reported flooding events. As such it is reasonable to assume there is no risk to the proposed development resulting from flooding off-site. It is intended that all surface water run off generated by the 1in100 year storm will be dealt with via the attenuation tank. An allowance has been made for a 20% increase in runoff due to global warming, as per the “Greater Dublin Strategic Drainage Study” recommendations. Discharge from the site will be to the existing watercourse to the south via the existing 225mm storm outfall serving Baskin Court and Park, as is currently the case.

No operational impacts related to surface water management, on European sites or otherwise, are envisaged as a result of the proposed development.

There is an existing 225mm diameter **foul sewer** located to the west of the site, on Stockhole Lane (the Cloghran Sewer). Foul sewage from the development will be connected to this foul sewer via new pipe infrastructure and will eventually discharge to the Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant (WwTP) for treatment and ultimate disposal. Fingal County Council Water Services Planning and Strategic Infrastructure Department has confirmed that the Cloghran Sewer discharges to the Ringsend WWTP and that the loadings produced by the proposed development, in addition to the loading from the existing 10 dwellings at Baskin Court and Baskin Park, can be accommodated in Ringsend WwTP. The foul volumes that will discharge from the site are insignificant in the context of the volumes accommodated by Ringsend WwTP. Foul sewers have been designed in accordance with BS 8301:1985, Code of Practice for Building Drainage and the current Building Regulations.

<sup>3</sup> <http://fingalcoco.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=6760b3c720eb4b3bb0f126892a0e3302>

## Proposed Traveller-Specific Group Housing, Stockhole Lane, Co. Dublin

### Information for Screening for Appropriate Assessment

There will be no operational phase impacts related to foul water management, on European sites or otherwise, as a result of the proposed development. Overall there will be an improvement compared to the existing situation, due to the removal of the existing on-site wastewater treatment facility, which is in poor condition.

Full details of the potential impacts of the proposed development on European sites are presented in **Table 1**.

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

## Proposed Traveller-Specific Group Housing, Stockhole Lane, Co. Dublin

### Information for Screening for Appropriate Assessment

**Table 1** lists relevant European sites and outlines their reasons for designation

European Site	Reasons for designation (information correct as of 22 <sup>nd</sup> August 2019) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Source – Pathway – Receptor link
Malahide Estuary SAC (site code 000205), c.4.1km to the north	<p>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> <p>According to this SAC's site Conservation Objectives document (Version 1, dated 27<sup>th</sup> 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>No.</p> <p>There is no hydrological link or any other pathway between the proposed development site at Stockhole Lane and this SAC. Furthermore there will be no loss of, or disturbance to, the qualifying interests of this site as a result of the proposed development.</p>
Baldoyle Bay SAC (site code 000199), c.4.6km to the east	<p>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>)</p> <p>According to this SAC's site Conservation Objectives document (Version 1, dated 19<sup>th</sup> 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>No.</p> <p>No significant effects on water quality, and therefore on the site's QIs, are predicted. Surface water arising during the site clearance, construction and operation of the proposed development at Stockhole Lane could contain pollutants (foul water, silt, hydrocarbons and other chemicals). Such contaminated water could potentially discharge to the surface water drainage network and from there, eventually, via the stream to the south, to Baldoyle Estuary.</p> <p>However, there would be no significant effects on the conservation objectives of the European site should this occur, given the nature, scale, and location of the proposed development. Even in the event of a pollution incident significant enough to impact upon surface water quality locally, it is reasonable to assume that this would not be perceptible at Baldoyle Bay SAC. This is due to the separation between the proposed development site and the European site (4.6km straight line distance between the site on Stockhole Lane and the SAC)) and the fact that dilution and mixing of surface and sea water would occur.</p> <p>Furthermore there will be no loss of habitat or species, or disturbance to the qualifying interests of this site as a result of the proposed development.</p>
North Dublin Bay SAC (site code 000206), c.6.2km to the south	<p>1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide  1210 Annual vegetation of drift lines  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>)</p>	<p>No.</p> <p>There is no direct hydrological link or any other pathway between the proposed development site at Stockhole Lane and this SAC. Furthermore there will be no loss</p>

## Proposed Traveller-Specific Group Housing, Stockhole Lane, Co. Dublin

### Information for Screening for Appropriate Assessment

European Site	Reasons for designation (information correct as of 22 <sup>nd</sup> August 2019) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Source – Pathway – Receptor link
	<p>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  1395 Petalwort (<i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i>)</p> <p>According to this SAC's site Conservation Objectives document (Version 1, dated 06<sup>th</sup> 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>of, or disturbance to, the qualifying interests of this site as a result of the proposed development.</p> <p>In addition, no operational impacts on this European site related to foul water management are envisaged as a result of the proposed development. Foul water arising at the site will be directed to the existing sewer on Stockhole Lane (the Cloghran Sewer, which has been designed to accommodate local needs) and from there to Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant, which can accommodate the foul discharge from the proposed development.</p>
Rogerstown Estuary SAC (site code 000208), c.8.4km to the north	<p>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 maritimae</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> <p>According to this SAC's site Conservation Objectives document (Version 1, dated 14<sup>th</sup> August 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>No.</p> <p>There is no hydrological link or any other pathway between the proposed development site at Stockhole Lane and this SAC. Furthermore there will be no loss of, or disturbance to, the qualifying interests of this site as a result of the proposed development.</p>
Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC (site code 003000), c.9.2km to the east;	<p>1170 Reefs  1351 Harbour Porpoise (<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>)</p> <p>According to this SAC's site Conservation Objectives document (Version 1, dated 7<sup>th</sup> 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>No.</p> <p>There is no hydrological link or any other pathway between the proposed development site at Stockhole Lane and this SAC. Furthermore there will be no loss of, or disturbance to, the qualifying interests of this site as a result of the proposed development.</p>
South Dublin Bay SAC (site code 000210), c.9.4km to the south	<p>1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide</p> <p>The following habitats are listed as Qualifying Interests on the NPWS website, but are not included in the Conservation Objectives document:</p>	<p>No.</p> <p>There is no direct hydrological link or any other pathway between the proposed development site at Stockhole Lane and this SAC. Furthermore there will be no loss</p>

## Proposed Traveller-Specific Group Housing, Stockhole Lane, Co. Dublin

### Information for Screening for Appropriate Assessment

European Site	Reasons for designation (information correct as of 22 <sup>nd</sup> August 2019) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Source – Pathway – Receptor link
	<p>(1210 Annual vegetation of drift lines 1310 Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand 2110 Embryonic shifting dunes)</p> <p>According to this SAC's site Conservation Objectives document (Version 1, dated 22<sup>nd</sup> 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>of, or disturbance to, the qualifying interests of this site as a result of the proposed development.</p> <p>In addition, no operational impacts on this European site related to foul water management are envisaged as a result of the proposed development. Foul water arising at the site will be directed to the existing sewer on Stockhole Lane (the Cloghran Sewer, which has been designed to accommodate local needs) and from there to Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant, which can accommodate the foul discharge from the proposed development.</p>
Howth Head SAC (site code 000202), c.9.5km to the south east	<p>1230 Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts 4030 European dry heaths</p> <p>According to this SAC's site Conservation Objectives document (Version 1, dated 6<sup>th</sup> December 2016), 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>No.</p> <p>There is no hydrological link or any other pathway between the proposed development site at Stockhole Lane and this SAC. Furthermore there will be no loss of, or disturbance to, the qualifying interests of this site as a result of the proposed development.</p>
Ireland's Eye SAC (site code 002193), c.9.6km to the east	<p>1220 Perennial vegetation of stony banks 1230 Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts</p> <p>According to this SAC's site Conservation Objectives document (Version 1, dated 27<sup>th</sup> 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>No.</p> <p>There is no hydrological link or any other pathway between the proposed development site at Stockhole Lane and this SAC. Furthermore there will be no loss of, or disturbance to, the qualifying interests of this site as a result of the proposed development.</p>
Lambay Island SAC (site code 000204), c.13.8km to the north east	<p>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> <p>According to this SAC's site Conservation Objectives document (Version 1, dated 2<sup>nd</sup> January 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 species for which the SAC has been selected.</p>	<p>No.</p> <p>There is no hydrological link or any other pathway between the proposed development site at Stockhole Lane and this SAC. Furthermore there will be no loss of, or disturbance to, the qualifying interests of this site as a result of the proposed development.</p>



## Proposed Traveller-Specific Group Housing, Stockhole Lane, Co. Dublin

### Information for Screening for Appropriate Assessment

European Site	Reasons for designation (information correct as of 22 <sup>nd</sup> August 2019) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Source – Pathway – Receptor link
Broadmeadow/Swords Estuary (Malahide Estuary) SPA (site code 004025), c.4.1km to the north	<p>A048 Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>)  A054 Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>)  A067 Goldeneye (<i>Bucephala clangula</i>)  A130 Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>)  A162 Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>)  A143 Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>)  A157 Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>)  A156 Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>)  A140 Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>)  A046 Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>)  A149 Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>)  A141 Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>)  A069 Red-breasted Merganser (<i>Mergus serrator</i>)  A005 Great Crested Grebe (<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>)  Wetlands</p> <p>According to this SPA's site Conservation Objectives document (Version 1, dated 16<sup>th</sup> 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>	<p>No.</p> <p>The species for which the SPA is designated are potentially sensitive to direct disturbance due to noise and anthropogenic activity.</p> <p>However, such disturbance is not considered to be remotely likely as a result of the proposed development, which is over 4km from the European site, and completely unconnected to it.</p>
Baldoyle Bay SPA (site code 004016 ), c.4.6km to the east	<p>A137 Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>)  A048 Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>)  A140 Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>)  A157 Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>)  A141 Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>)  A046 Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>)  Wetlands</p> <p>According this SPA's site Conservation Objectives document (Version 1, dated 27<sup>th</sup> 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>	<p>No.</p> <p>No significant effects on water quality, and therefore on the site's SCIs, are predicted. Surface water arising during the site clearance, construction and operation of the proposed development at Stockhole Lane could contain pollutants (foul water, silt, hydrocarbons and other chemicals). Such contaminated water could potentially discharge to the surface water drainage network and from there, eventually, via the stream to the south, to Baldoyle Estuary.</p> <p>However, there would be no significant effects on the conservation objectives of the European site should this occur, given the nature, scale, and location of the proposed development. Even in the event of a pollution incident significant enough to impact upon surface water quality locally, it is reasonable to assume that this would not be perceptible at Baldoyle Bay SAC. This is due to the separation between the proposed development site and the European site (4.6km straight line distance between the site on Stockhole Lane and the SAC)) and the fact that dilution and mixing of surface and sea water would occur.</p>



## Proposed Traveller-Specific Group Housing, Stockhole Lane, Co. Dublin

### Information for Screening for Appropriate Assessment

European Site	Reasons for designation (information correct as of 22 <sup>nd</sup> August 2019) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Source – Pathway – Receptor link
		Furthermore there will be no loss of wetland habitat or species, or disturbance to the special conservation interests of this site as a result of the proposed development.
North Bull Island SPA (site code 004006), c.6.8km to the south east	<p>A160 Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>)  A149 Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>)  A157 Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>)  A162 Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>)  A179 Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>)  A144 Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>)  A156 Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>)  A143 Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>)  A169 Turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>)  A054 Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>)  A046 Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>)  A048 Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>)  A052 Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>)  A141 Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>)  A056 Shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>)  A130 Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>)  A140 Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>)  Wetlands</p> <p>According to this SPA's site Conservation Objectives document (Version 1, dated 9<sup>th</sup> 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>No.</p> <p>There is no direct hydrological link or any other pathway between the proposed development site at Stockhole Lane and this SPA. Furthermore there will be no loss of, or disturbance to, the special conservation interests of this site as a result of the proposed development.</p> <p>In addition, no operational impacts on this European site related to foul water management are envisaged as a result of the proposed development. Foul water arising at the site will be directed to the existing sewer on Stockhole Lane (the Cloghran Sewer, which has been designed to accommodate local needs) and from there to Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant, which can accommodate the foul discharge from the proposed development.</p>
South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA (site code 004024), c.4.1km to the south	<p>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>)</p>	<p>No.</p> <p>There is no direct hydrological link or any other pathway between the proposed development site at Stockhole Lane and this SPA. Furthermore there will be no loss of, or disturbance to, the special conservation interests of this site as a result of the proposed development.</p> <p>In addition, no operational impacts on this European site related to foul water management are envisaged as a result of the proposed development. Foul water arising at the site will be directed to the existing sewer on Stockhole Lane (the</p>

## Proposed Traveller-Specific Group Housing, Stockhole Lane, Co. Dublin

### Information for Screening for Appropriate Assessment

European Site	Reasons for designation (information correct as of 22 <sup>nd</sup> August 2019) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Source – Pathway – Receptor link
	<p>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>)  Wetlands</p> <p>According to this SPA's site Conservation Objectives document (Version 1, dated 9<sup>th</sup> 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>Cloghran Sewer, which has been designed to accommodate local needs) and from there to Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant, which can accommodate the foul discharge from the proposed development.</p>
Rogerstown Estuary SPA (site code 004015), c.8.6km to the north	<p>A046 Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>)  A141 Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>)  A043 Greylag Goose (<i>Anser anser</i>)  A143 Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>)  A137 Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>)  A130 Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>)  A048 Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>)  A056 Shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>)  A149 Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>)  A162 Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>)  A156 Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>)  Wetlands</p> <p>According to this SPA's site Conservation Objectives document (Version 1, dated 20<sup>th</sup> 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>No.</p> <p>The species for which the SPA is designated are potentially sensitive to direct disturbance due to noise and anthropogenic activity.</p> <p>However, such disturbance is not considered to be remotely likely as a result of the proposed development, which is over 8km from the European site, and completely unconnected to it.</p>
Ireland's Eye SPA (site code 004117), c.9.4km to the east	<p>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>	<p>No.</p> <p>The species for which the SPA is designated are potentially sensitive to direct disturbance due to noise and anthropogenic activity.</p> <p>However, such disturbance is not considered to be remotely likely as a result of the proposed development, which is over 9km from the European site, and completely unconnected to it.</p>

## Proposed Traveller-Specific Group Housing, Stockhole Lane, Co. Dublin

### Information for Screening for Appropriate Assessment

European Site	Reasons for designation (information correct as of 22 <sup>nd</sup> August 2019) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Source – Pathway – Receptor link
	According to this SPA's Generic Conservation Objectives document (Version 6, dated 21 <sup>st</sup> February 2018), for each of the listed SCIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the species for which the SPA has been selected.	
Howth Head Coast SPA (site code 004113), c.11.0km to the south east	A188 Kittiwake ( <i>Rissa tridactyla</i> )  According to this SPA's Generic Conservation Objectives document (Version 6, dated 21 <sup>st</sup> February 2018), for each of the listed SCIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the species for which the SPA has been selected.	No.  The species for which the SPA is designated is potentially sensitive to direct disturbance due to noise and anthropogenic activity.  However, such disturbance is not considered to be remotely likely as a result of the proposed development, which is approximately 11km from the European site, and completely unconnected to it.
Lambay Island SPA (site code 004069), c.13.8km to the north east	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> ) 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> )  According to this SPA's Generic Conservation Objectives document (Version 6, dated 21 <sup>st</sup> February 2018), for each of the listed SCIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the species for which the SPA has been selected.	No.  The species for which the SPA is designated are potentially sensitive to direct disturbance due to noise and anthropogenic activity.  However, such disturbance is not considered to be remotely likely as a result of the proposed development, which is almost 14km from the European site, and completely unconnected to it.



## 6 Other issues

No invasive plant species (*i.e.* those species listed on Schedule 3 of the *Birds and Habitats Regulations, 2011-2015*, such as Japanese knotweed or giant hogweed) were identified on site.

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

## 7 Mitigation specific to European sites

In relation to European sites, there will be no impacts as a result of the proposed development. Therefore no mitigation is necessary or proposed for the protection of European sites.

## 8 In-combination effects

It is a requirement of the *Birds and Natural Habitats Regulations, 2011-2015* that when considering whether a plan or project will adversely affect the integrity of a European site the assessment must take into account in-combination effects with other current or reasonably foreseeable plans and projects.

- If it can be clearly demonstrated that the plan or project will not result in any effects at all that are relevant to the integrity of a European site then the plan or project should proceed without considering the in-combination test, further;
- 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.

It is concluded in this report there will be no likelihood of significant effects on any European sites during the construction or operation of the proposed development, in combination with other plans or projects.

The Fingal County Development Plan 2017-2023 has a series of objectives intended to protect and enhance the county's flood plains, to prevent development in flood plains without satisfying the appropriate justification test and to require the use of sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) to minimise and limit the extent of hard surfacing and paving in order to reduce the potential impact of existing and predicted flooding risks. The proposed development is in compliance with these objectives.

## 9 Screening conclusion

This report concludes on the best scientific evidence that it can be clearly demonstrated that no elements of the project will result in any likely significant effect on any relevant European site, either on their own or in-combination with other plans or projects, in light of their conservation objectives. In other words, a significant effect "can be excluded".

As such no mitigation measures are required for the protection of any European sites.

It is considered that this report provides sufficient relevant information to allow the Competent Authority (Fingal County Council) to carry out an AA Screening, and reach a determination that the proposed development will not have any likely significant effects on European sites under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) in light of their conservation objectives.

## Appendix I: Background

The European<sup>4</sup> 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 European is protected. It shall inform the Commission of the compensatory measures adopted.”

The requirements of the Habitats Directive are transposed into Irish law by means of the *European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011* (hereafter referred to as the *Birds and Habitats Regulations*)<sup>5</sup> 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)<sup>6</sup> 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 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

<sup>4</sup> 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”

<sup>5</sup> SI No. 477 of 2011

<sup>6</sup> 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*

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 Commission<sup>7</sup> 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;
4. Assess the likely significance of any effects on European sites.

---

<sup>7</sup> 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](mailto:mail@bradyshipmanmartin.com)  
[www.bradyshipmanmartin.com](http://www.bradyshipmanmartin.com)

