



NATURA IMPACT REPORT

DÚN LAOGHAIRE-RATHDOWN
COUNTY COUNCIL

DRAFT CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN

2019-2024

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council

Climate Change Action Plan 2019 - 2024

Natura Impact Report

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

DEC Ltd have been appointed by Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council to undertake a Natura Impact Report (NIR) of their proposed Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) 2019 - 2024. This NIR has been completed with respect to the requirements outlined in Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive and Section 177U of the Planning and Development Act and has been prepared in order to facilitate Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council's requirement for completing an Appropriate Assessment of the Plan.

The proposed CCAP is not directly connected with or necessary for the management of any European Site and hence the requirements of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive and Part XAB of the Planning and Development Act 2000, apply. Section 177U(1) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 requires that a screening for appropriate assessment of, inter alia, a land use plan be carried out by a competent authority to assess, in light of best scientific knowledge, whether the proposed Plan, individually or in combination with another plan or project is likely to have a significant effect on a European site. A Statement in support of Screening for Appropriate Assessment has been completed and assessed the potential for the CCAP to result in likely significant effects to European Sites. A summary of the screening is provided in the following sub-section.

1.1 STATEMENT OF AUTHORITY

This NIR has been prepared by Mr Pat Doherty, BSc, MSc, MCIEEM, of DEC Ltd. Mr Doherty has 19 years professional practice as an ecologist and during this time has contributed to Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna elements of SEA and has acted as lead author of Habitat Directive Assessments including county and local area plans, recreational and tourism strategies, greenways, planning schemes and wind and renewable energy strategies.

Mr Doherty has an MSc in Applied Environmental Science (Ecology), University College Dublin, 2003 and BSc (Honours) in Environmental Earth Science, University of Wales, Aberystwyth, 2000. As a consulting ecologist Mr Doherty regularly undertakes continuing professional development in the field of ecology, natural sciences, environmental practice and legislation.

2.0 SUMMARY OF THE SCREENING FOR APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

A Statement in support of Screening for Appropriate Assessment has been completed for the proposed CCAP. This Screening Statement is provided as Appendix 1 to this NIR. This Screening was completed in line with the requirements of Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive, as transposed into Irish law in Part XAB of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) in relation to land use planning.

The Screening represents the first stage of the Article 6(3) Habitats Directive assessment process and was undertaken to identify whether the plan has the potential to result in likely significant effects to European Sites. The first step of the Screening was to assess all actions proposed by the CCAP for their potential to result in likely significant effects to European Sites. A total of 6 actions were identified as having the potential to result in likely significant effects to European Sites. These actions are listed in full in Table 6.1 of this NIR.

The next step was to identify all European Sites occurring within and surrounding the footprint of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council's administrative area. All lands occurring within the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council's administrative area represent the Plan area and all European Sites occurring within this area and within a 15km buffer distance of the Plan area were screened for likely significant effects (the extent of the Plan area and the location of these sites with respect to the Plan area are shown on Figure 1.1 to Figure 1.3). No European Sites at a distance greater than 15km were considered during the screening as no source-pathway-receptor relationship occurs between lands subject to the Plan and European Sites at such distance from the Plan area. The European Sites occurring within 15km of the Plan area represented a preliminary list of European Sites to be screened for likely significant effects. A total of 25 European Sites were identified in this preliminary list. The next step in the screening was to identify which European Sites occur within the zone of influence of the plan and could be at risk of likely significant effects by the 6 actions listed in Table 6.1. A total of 8 European Sites, which are as follows:

Dalkey Island SPA;

Ballyman Glen SAC;

Knocksink Woods SAC;

South Dublin Bay SAC (Site Code: 000210);

South Dublin Bay River Tolka Estuary SPA (Site Code: 4024);

Wicklow Mountains SAC;

Wicklow Mountains SPA; and

Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC

were identified as occurring within the zone of influence of the Plan and were potentially at risk of likely significant effects due the potential for negative land use effects to result from some or all of the 6 actions listed in Table 6.1 of this report.

Accordingly, this NIR has been prepared to inform the Appropriate Assessment of the Plan's potential to result in likely significant effects to these 8 European Sites and their qualifying features of interest occurring within the zone of influence of the plan.

The remainder of this NIR is structured as follows:

Section 3: Assessment Method

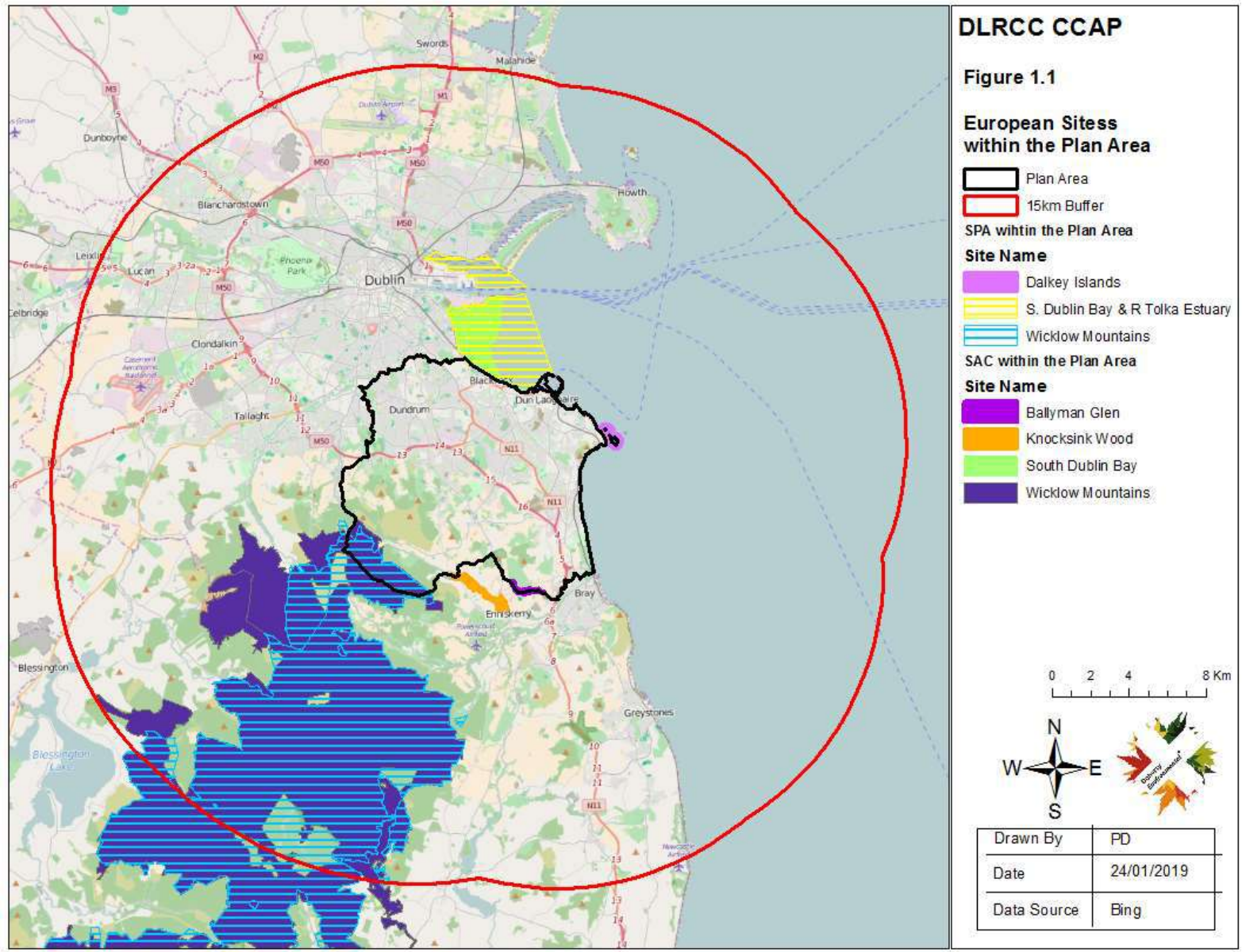
Section 4: Overview of the Plan

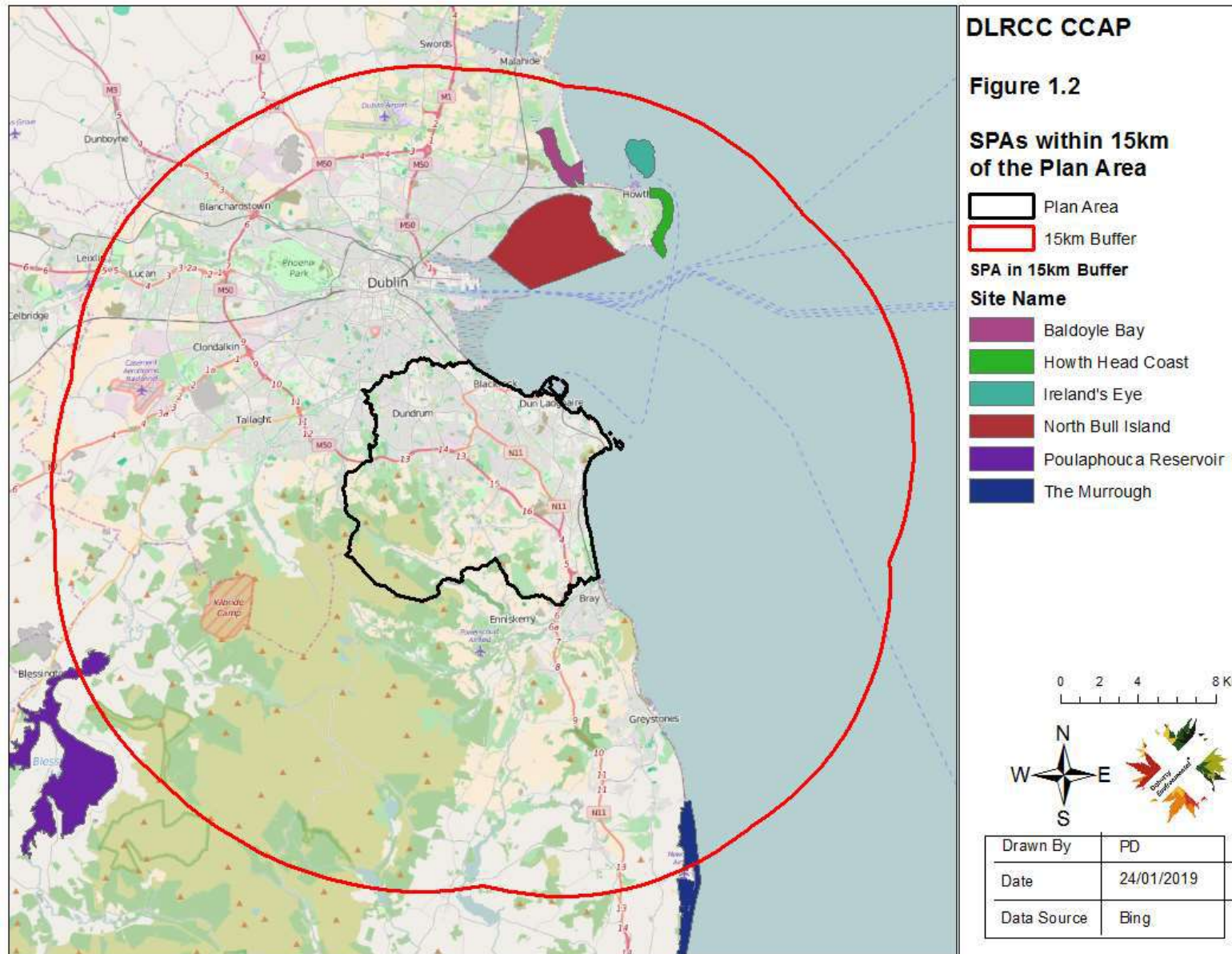
Section 5: Assessment of the Plan

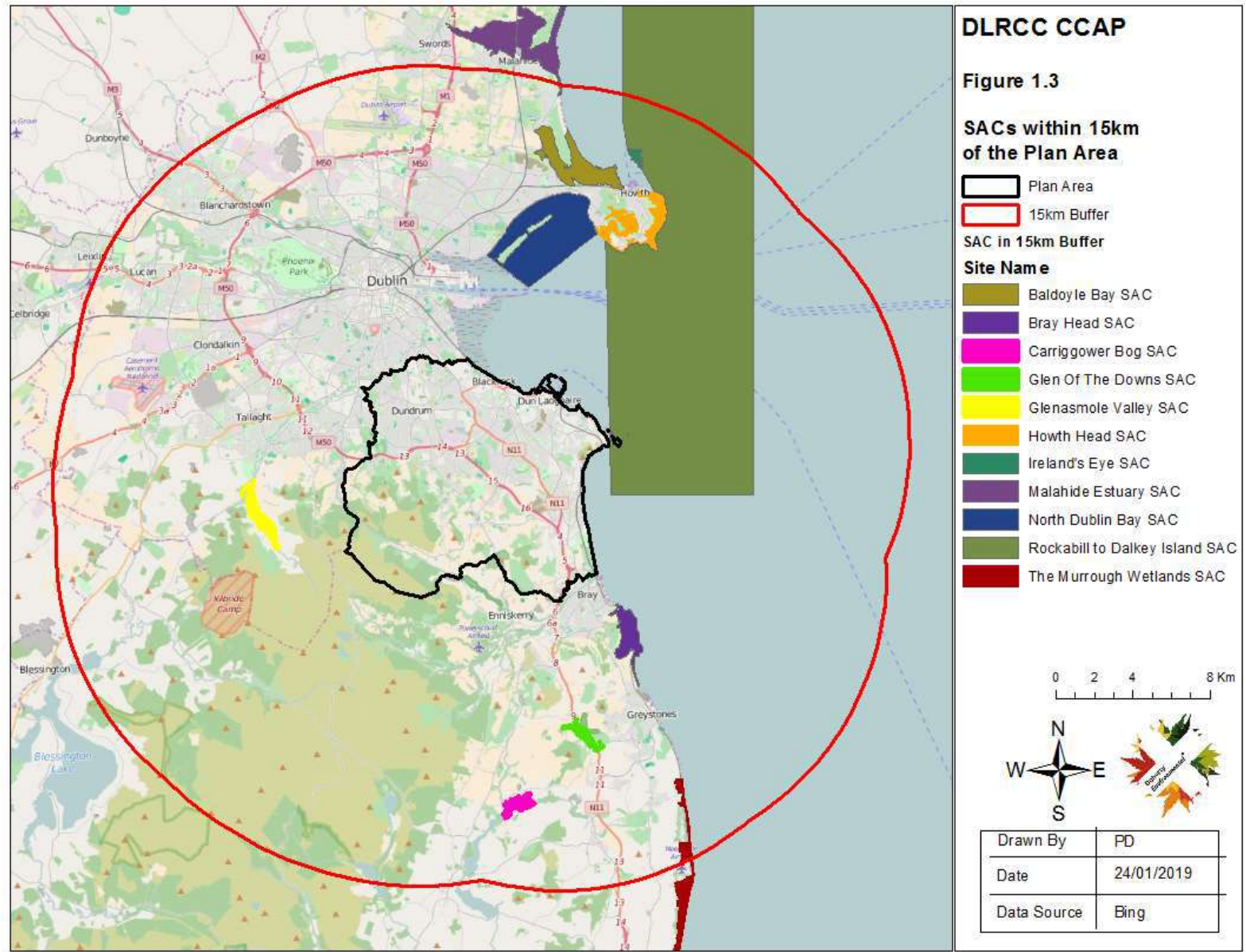
Section 6: Conservation Objectives

Section 7: Mitigation

Section 8: Conclusions







3.0 ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

3.1 GUIDANCE

This NIR has been undertaken in accordance with National and European guidance documents: *Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland: Guidance for Planning Authorities* (DEHLG 2010) and *Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly Affecting Natura 2000 sites – Methodological Guidance of the Provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats directive 92/43/EEC*. The following guidance documents were also of relevance during this the preparation of this NIR:

- A guide for competent authorities. Environment and Heritage Service, Sept 2002. *Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland – Guidance for Planning Authorities* (2010). DEHLG.
- *Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly Affecting Natura 2000 Sites – Methodological Guidance of the Provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/42/EED*. European Commission (2001).
- *Managing Natura 2000 Sites – The provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats directive 92/43/EEC*. European commission (2018).
- *Communication from the Commission on the precautionary principle*. European Commission (2000).

3.2 BACKGROUND TO HABITATS DIRECTIVE ARTICLE 6 ASSESSMENTS

The EC (2001) guidelines outline the stages involved in undertaking an assessment of a project under Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive. The assessment process comprises the four stages outlined below. Stage 1 to 3 form part of the Article 6(3) process, while Stage 4 forms part of the Article 6(4) process. This NIR presents the findings of an assessment for Stage 2 of this assessment process.

- **Stage 1 – Screening:** This stage defines the proposed plan, establishes whether the proposed plan is necessary for the conservation management of the Natura 2000 site

and assesses the likelihood of the plan to have a significant effect, alone or in combination with other plans or projects, upon a Natura 2000 site.

- Stage 2 – Appropriate Assessment: If a plan or project is likely to have a significant affect an Appropriate Assessment must be undertaken. In this stage the impact of the plan or project to the Conservation Objectives of the Natura 2000 site is assessed. The outcome of this assessment will establish whether the plan will have an adverse effect upon the integrity of the Natura 2000 site.
- Stage 3 – Assessment of Alternative Solutions: If it is concluded that, subsequent to the implementation of mitigation measures, a plan has an adverse impact upon the integrity of a Natura 2000 site it must be objectively concluded that no alternative solutions exist before the plan can proceed.
- Stage 4 – Where no alternative solutions exist and where adverse impacts remain but imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI) exist for the implementation of a plan or project an assessment of compensatory measures that will effectively offset the damage to the Natura site 2000 will be necessary.

3.3 STAGE 2: APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT STEPS

The EC Guidance Assessment Criteria for Appropriate Assessment seeks the following information:

1. A description of the elements of the project that are likely to give rise to significant effects to European Sites;
2. The Setting out the Conservation Objectives of the Site;
3. A description of how the project will affect key species and key habitats;
4. A description of how the integrity of the site (determined by structure and function and conservation objectives) is likely to be affected by the project (e.g. loss of habitat, disturbance, disruption, chemical changes, hydrological changes etc.);
5. A description of the mitigation measures that are to be introduced to avoid, reduce or remedy the adverse effects on the integrity of European Sites.

3.4 INFLUENCE OF THE APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT PROCESS ON THE PLAN

The purpose of the Appropriate Assessment of the Plan is not only to assess the implications of this Plan on European Sites and their qualifying features of interest occurring within its zone of influence, but also to provide safeguards that aim to minimise the ecological implications of the Plan and avoid likely significant effects to European Sites. This was completed by identifying any elements of the Plan and the current Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown CDP that aim to protect the natural environment.

4.0 OVERVIEW OF THE CCAP & RELATED EUROPEAN SITES

For the first time, Dublin's four local authorities have joined together to develop Climate Change Action Plans as a collaborative response to the impact that climate change is having, and will continue to have, on the Dublin Region and its citizens. While each plan is unique to its functional area, they are unified in their approach to climate change adaptation and mitigation, and their commitment to lead by example in tackling this global issue.

This CCAP has been prepared in line with Policy CC1 of the CDP and follows on from the publication of A Strategy for Climate Change Action Plans for the Dublin Local Authorities (DLAs), which was published in January 2017. The strategy used a structured approach that focused on seven key areas (Citizen Engagement, Planning, Energy, Transport, Water, Waste, and Ecosystems & Biodiversity), and set out how the DLAs would develop the four climate change action plans. The action plans will be unique to each local authority area but synchronised in their methodology.

This Plan concentrates on the two approaches required to tackle climate change. The first, mitigation, consists of actions that will reduce current and future GHG emissions; examples of these include reductions in energy use, switching to renewable energy sources and carbon sinks. The second approach, adaptation, consists of actions that will reduce the impacts that are already happening now from our changing climate and those that are projected to happen in the future.

The actions in this draft CCAP for Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council will be continually monitored and updated by a dedicated climate action team working across all Council departments. They will be assisted by the newly established Dublin Metropolitan Climate Action Regional Office, which will ensure that the overall plan is fully updated every five years to reflect latest policy, technology and climate-related impacts. The new office will work with Codema, as technical support and research partner, to ensure that the plans continue to be informed by national and international best practice.

The actions in the CCAP are presented around a number of themes as follows:

- Energy and Buildings

- Transport
- Flood Resilience
- Nature Based Solutions
- Resource Management.

Collectively, these collectively address the four targets of this plan, which are:

- A 33% improvement in the Council's energy efficiency by 2020
- A 40% reduction in the Council's greenhouse gas emissions by 2030
- To make Dublin a climate resilient region, by reducing the impacts of future climate change -related events
- To actively engage and inform citizens on climate change.

As such, this CCAP encompasses the functional area of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council. This area is referred to throughout this report as the "Plan area". The administrative area of the County Council for which the Plan has been prepared comprises 126 km².

4.1 EUROPEAN SITES OCCURRING WITHIN THE ZONE OF INFLUENCE OF THE VARIATON

The following sub-sections provide an overview of the five European Sites occurring within the zone of influence of the Plan. The threats and pressures reported for the individual European Sites listed in the following sub-sections are sourced from the Natura 2000 Data Forms or where available from Site Specific Conservation Objectives (SSCOs) supporting information. Where available the conservation status of features of interest at the site level has been sourced from SSCO. The conservation status of qualifying habitats and qualifying species at the national level has been sourced from the Habitat Directive Article 17 Reports

(NPWS, 2013a & 2013b) or from other sources as referenced below. The conservation status of bird species at the national level has been sourced from Colhoun & Cummins (2013).

4.1.1 Dalkey Island SPA

Special conservation interests for which this site has been designated as an SPA are listed in Table 4.1 below. The threats and pressures to this SPA have been documented in the Standard Natura 2000 Data Form for the site (NPWS, 2017). The documented threats and pressures to this SPA are as follows:

- Urbanised areas, human habitation
- Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles
- Grazing
- Nautical sports

Table 4.1: Dalkey Island SPA Special Conservation Interests & Conservation Status

Qualifying Annex Feature	Conservation Status (Site-Level)	Conservation Status (National-Level)
Roseate Tern (<i>Sterna dougallii</i>) [A192]	Not Reported	Amber listed species- Species of medium conservation concern
Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193]	Not Reported	Amber listed species- Species of medium conservation concern
Arctic Tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) [A194]	Not Reported	Amber listed species- Species of medium conservation concern

4.1.2 *Ballyman Glen SAC*

Qualifying features for which this site has been designated as a SAC are listed in Table 4.2 below. The distribution of the habitats associated with this SAC are outlined in the Conservation Objectives for this SAC (see NPWS, 2013).

The threats and pressures to this SAC have been documented in the Standard Natura 2000 Data Form for the site (NPWS, 2017). The documented threats and pressures to this SAC are as follows:

- continuous urbanisation
- roads, motorways Industrial or commercial areas
- Agricultural activity in the form of fertilisation, grazing and cultivation
- Pollution to groundwater and surface water

Table 4.2: Ballyman Glen SAC Qualifying Features of Interest & Conservation Status

Qualifying Annex Feature	Conservation Status (Site-Level)	Conservation Status (National-Level)
Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220]	Not Reported	Unfavourable-Inadequate ¹
Alkaline fens [7230]	Not Reported	Unfavourable-Bad

¹ Lyons, M.D. & Kelly, D.L. (2016) Monitoring guidelines for the assessment of petrifying springs in Ireland. Irish Wildlife Manuals, No. 94. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, Ireland.

4.1.3 *Knocksink Woods SAC*

Qualifying features for which this site has been designated as a SAC are listed in Table 4.3 below. The distribution of the habitats associated with this SAC are outlined in the Conservation Objectives for this SAC (see NPWS, 2013).

The threats and pressures to this SAC have been documented in the Standard Natura 2000 Data Form for the site (NPWS, 2017). The documented threats and pressures that are resulting in moderate to high impacts to this SAC are as follows:

- Artificial planting
- Wrongly directed conservation measures
- Vandalism
- Cave closures
- Tree surgery
- Paths, tracks and cycle ways
- Roads
- roads, motorways
- improved site access

Table 4.3: Knocksink Woods SAC Qualifying Features of Interest & Conservation Status

Qualifying Annex Feature	Conservation Status (Site-Level)	Conservation Status (National-Level)

Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220]	Not Reported	Unfavourable-Inadequate ²
Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae)	Not Reported	Bad

4.1.4 South Dublin Bay SAC

Qualifying features for which this site has been designated as a SAC are listed in Table 4.4 below. The distribution of the habitats associated with this SAC are outlined in the Conservation Objectives for this SAC (see NPWS, 2013).

The threats and pressures to this SAC have been documented in the Standard Natura 2000 Data Form for the site (NPWS, 2017). The documented threats and pressures to this SAC are as follows:

- Urbanised areas, human habitation
- Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles
- Golf course
- Industrial or commercial areas
- Discharges

² Lyons, M.D. & Kelly, D.L. (2016) Monitoring guidelines for the assessment of petrifying springs in Ireland. Irish Wildlife Manuals, No. 94. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, Ireland.

Table 4.4: South Dublin Bay SAC Qualifying Features of Interest & Conservation Status

Qualifying Annex Feature	Conservation Status (Site-Level)	Conservation Status (National-Level)
Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide	Not Reported	Poor
Annual vegetation of drift lines	Not Reported	Poor
Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [Not Reported	Poor
Embryonic shifting dunes	Not Reported	Poor

4.1.5 South Dublin Bay River Tolka Estuary SPA

The South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA comprises a substantial part of Dublin Bay. It includes the intertidal area between the River Liffey and Dun Laoghaire, and the estuary of the River Tolka to the north of the River Liffey, as well as Booterstown Marsh. A portion of the shallow marine waters of the bay is also included.

The qualifying features for which this site has been designated as a SPA are listed in Table 4.5 below. The threats and pressures to this SAC have been documented in the Standard Natura 2000 Data Form for the site (NPWS, 2017). The documented threats and pressures to this SPA are as follows:

- Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles
- Reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh
- Discharges
- Roads, motorways
- Industrial or commercial areas

Table 4.4: South Dublin Bay River Tolka Estuary SPA Special Conservation Interests & Conservation Status

SCIs	Conservation Status
Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>)	Amber listed species- Species of medium conservation concern
Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>)	Amber listed species- Species of medium conservation concern
Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>)	Amber listed species- Species of medium conservation concern
Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>)	Amber listed species- Species of medium conservation concern
Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>)	Red listed species – Species of high conservation concern [†]
Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>)	Green listed species – Species not threatened
Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>)	Amber listed species- Species of medium conservation concern
Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>)	Amber listed species- Species of medium conservation concern
Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>)	Red listed species – Species of high conservation concern
Black-headed Gull (<i>Croicocephalus ridibundus</i>)	Red listed species – Species of high conservation concern
Roseate Tern (<i>Sterna dougallii</i>)	Green listed species – Species not threatened
Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>)	Amber listed species- Species of medium conservation concern
Arctic Tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>)	Amber listed species- Species of medium conservation concern
Wetlands & Waterbirds	

4.1.6 Wicklow Mountains SAC

Qualifying features for which this site has been designated as a SAC are listed in Table 4.6 below. The distribution of the habitats associated with this SAC are outlined in the Conservation Objectives for this SAC (see NPWS, 2013).

The threats and pressures to this SAC have been documented in the Standard Natura 2000 Data Form for the site (NPWS, 2017). The documented threats and pressures to this SAC are as follows:

- Off-road motorized driving
- Disposal of household / recreational facility waste
- Damage by herbivores (including game species)
- Grazing in forests/ woodland
- Mountaineering, rock climbing, speleology
- Missing or wrongly directed conservation measures
- Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles
- Invasive non-native species
- Erosion
- Grazing
- Wildlife watching
- Trampling, overuse,
- Stock feeding
- Urbanised areas, human habitation
- Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial)
- Collapse of terrain, landslide
- Collection (fungi, lichen, berries etc.)
- Vandalism
- Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities
- Tree surgery, felling for public safety, removal of roadside trees
- Military manoeuvres

- Burning down
- Paths, tracks, cycling tracks
- Peat extraction
- Taking from nest (falcons)

Table 4.5: Wicklow Mountains SAC Qualifying Features of Interest & Conservation Status

Qualifying Annex Feature	Conservation Status (Site-Level)	Conservation Status (National-Level)
Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>)	Not Reported	Bad
Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds	Not Reported	unfavourable inadequate
Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i>	Not Reported	Bad
European dry heaths	Not Reported	Bad
Alpine and Boreal heaths	Not Reported	Bad
Calaminarian grasslands of the <i>Violetalia calaminariae</i>	Not Reported	unfavourable inadequate
Species-rich <i>Nardus</i> grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe)	Not Reported	Bad
Blanket bogs (* if active bog)	Not Reported	Bad
Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (<i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsietalia</i>)	Not Reported	Inadequate

ladani)		
Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation	Not Reported	Inadequate
Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation	Not Reported	Inadequate
Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles	Not Reported	Bad
Lutra lutra (Otter)	Not Reported	Good

4.1.7 Wicklow Mountains SPA

Special conservation interests for which this site has been designated as a SPA are listed in Table 4.7 below. The distribution of the habitats associated with this SPA are outlined in the Conservation Objectives for this SAC (see NPWS, 2013).

The threats and pressures to this SPA have been documented in the Standard Natura 2000 Data Form for the site (NPWS, 2017). The documented threats and pressures to this SPA are as follows:

- Paths, track and cycle ways
- Improved access to site
- Grazing
- Disposal of household and industrial waste
- Tree surgery
- Camping and caravanning
- Wrongly directed conservation measures
- Discharges

Table 4.6: Wicklow Mountains SPA Special Conservation Interests & Conservation Status

Qualifying Annex Feature	Conservation Status (Site-Level)	Conservation Status (National-Level)
Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>)	Not Reported	Amber listed species- Species of medium conservation concern
Peregrine (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>)	Not Reported	Green listed species- Species of low conservation concern

4.1.8 Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC

Qualifying features for which this site has been designated as a SAC are listed in Table 4.8 below. The distribution of the habitats associated with this SAC are outlined in the Conservation Objectives for this SAC (see NPWS, 2013).

The threats and pressures to this SAC have been documented in the Standard Natura 2000 Data Form for the site (NPWS, 2017). The documented threats and pressures to this SAC are as follows:

- Urbanised areas, human habitation
- Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles
- Golf course
- Industrial or commercial areas
- Discharges

Table 4.7: Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC Qualifying Features of Interest & Conservation Status

Qualifying Annex Feature	Conservation Status (Site-Level)	Conservation Status (National-Level)
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Reefs	Not Reported	Bad
Phocoena phocoena (Harbour Porpoise)	Not Reported	Favourable

5.0 CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES

The function of this NIR in support of Appropriate Assessment is to determine whether the Plan could have significant effects on the European Sites occurring within its zone of influence, in view of the Conservation Objectives for the qualifying features of interest/special conservation interests of these European Sites that also occur within the zone of influence of the project. Generic Conservation Objectives have been published for all European Sites occurring in Ireland. The generic Conservation Objectives for SAC and their qualifying habitats and qualifying species are:

- To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the SAC has been selected at favourable conservation status;
- To maintain the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected at favourable conservation status;
- To maintain the extent, species richness and biodiversity of the entire site; and
- To establish effective liaison and co-operation with landowners, legal users and relevant authorities.

The generic Conservation Objectives for SPAs and their special conservation interests are:

To maintain the bird species of special conservation interest, for which the SPA has been designated, at favourable conservation status.

Favourable Conservation status of a habitat is achieved when:

- Its natural range, and 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; and

The conservation status of its typical species is “favourable”. Favourable Conservation status of a species is achieved 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; and
- There is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long term basis.

In addition to the published generic Conservation Objectives for all European Sites, Site Specific Conservation Objectives (SSCOs) have been published for a number of individual European Sites. These SSCO's identify the attributes that underpin the conservation status of qualifying features of interest/special conservation interests and provide targets for ensuring that their favourable status is maintained and/or restored. SSCO's have been published for the five European Sites occurring within the zone of influence of the CCAP and are available from the NPWS at the following website: <https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/conservation-management-planning/conservation-objectives>.

6.0 ASSESSMENT OF THE PLAN

As outlined in Section 3.3 above, the recommended steps for an Appropriate Assessment are as follows:

1. A description of the elements of the project that are likely to give rise to significant effects to European Sites;
2. The Setting out the Conservation Objectives of the Site;
3. A description of how the project will affect key species and key habitats;
4. A description of how the integrity of the site (determined by structure and function and conservation objectives) is likely to be affected by the project (e.g. loss of habitat, disturbance, disruption, chemical changes, hydrological changes etc.);
5. A description of the mitigation measures that are to be introduced to avoid, reduce or remedy the adverse effects on the integrity of European Sites.

6.1 ELEMENTS OF THE PLAN THAT HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO RESULT IN SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS

The elements of the Plan that have the potential to give rise to likely significant effects to the five European Sites occurring within the zone of influence of the Plan are the 6 Actions identified during the Screening stage. These Actions are listed in Table 6.1 below.

Table 6.1: Land Use Actions Identified as having the Potential to Result in Likely Significant Effects to European Sites

Action Theme	Action Theme No.	Action
Active Travel and Behaviour Change	4	Develop and expand the County walking network

Active Travel and Behaviour Change	7	Develop and extend cycle network
Active Travel and Behaviour Change	12	Road maintenance improvements
Active Travel and Behaviour Change	13	Expand Bus network in the county
Public Transport	14	Expand rail network in the County
Flood Risk Management	3	Implement Coastal Zone Management Plan

The potential ecological effects of such activities relate to:

- Habitat loss and fragmentation: the direct loss of habitat occurring within European Sites as a result of land use activities facilitated by the Plan.
- Habitat degradation resulting from emissions to surface water: the construction phase of projects resulting from the land use actions identified in Table 6.1 above could result in the discharge of contaminated surface water to receiving watercourses.
- Habitat degradation resulting from emissions to groundwater: as above, the development of projects can result in the discharge of polluted waters to groundwaters during the construction phase and operation phase of project.
- Habitat degradation resulting from emissions to air: the construction phase and operation phase of project can result in the emission of pollutants, such as dust, particulate matter, SO_x and NO_x to the atmosphere.
- Habitat degradation resulting from the spread of non-native invasive species during works facilitated by the land use actions listed in Table 6.1: If present on site development projects can result in the spread of these species; and
- Disturbance and/or displacement of qualifying species/special conservation interest bird species from within or outside European Sites: where project works facilitated by the actions listed in Table 6.1 above are located in close proximity to habitats upon

which qualifying species/special conservation interest bird species of European Sites rely, then they could result in disturbance to these species and where disturbance stimuli persist they could result in displacement of these species from habitats.

Table 6.2 below lists the qualifying feature of interest/special conservation interests of the five European Sites occurring within the zone of influence of the Plan and assesses whether each of these features are risk from the ecological effects listed above.

Table 6.2: Potential for Ecological Effects to result in adverse effects to the Qualifying Features/special conservation interests of European Sites

European Sites & Qualifying Features	Habitat Loss & Fragmentation	Habitat Degradation				Disturbance/Displacement
		Surface Water	Groundwater	Air	Non-native invasive species	
Dalkey Island SPA						
Breeding Terns	Yes. Rationale: Works associated with coastal zone management represent the most land use activities most likely to result in negative effects to this SPA. Works associated with this action could have the potential to result in negative effects to the conservation status of habitats (particularly nesting habitat) upon which these species rely.	No. Rationale. Works associated with coastal zone management are not likely to result in negative effects to the foraging waters of these species.	No. Rationale. These species are not reliant on groundwaters.	No. Rationale: The land use activities associated with coastal zone management works are not predicted to have the potential to result in emissions to atmosphere that could result in negative effects to breeding tern colonies.	Yes. Rationale: There is potential for construction works associated with coastal zone management to result in the spread of non-native invasive species that could undermine the status of tern breeding colonies.	Yes. Rationale: There is potential for works associated with coastal zone management within or adjacent to the SPA to result in disturbance and displacement of breeding terns from their colonies within this SPA.

European Sites & Qualifying Features	Habitat Loss & Fragmentation	Habitat Degradation				Disturbance/Displacement
		Surface Water	Groundwater	Air	Non-native invasive species	
Ballyman Glen SAC						
Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion)	Yes. Rationale: Works associated with the expansion of walking and cycling trails and their subsequent use and road maintenance works represent the land use activities of the Plan most likely to result in negative effects to this qualifying habitat. Works and operations associated with these actions within or in the vicinity of this qualifying habitat could have the potential to result in negative effects to its conservation status.	Yes. Rationale: Any works associated with the expansion of the walking and cycling network and their subsequent use and road maintenance works adjacent to or upstream of this qualifying habitat could result in perturbations to surface water quality with negative consequences for the conservation status of this habitat.	Yes. Rationale: Any works associated with the expansion of the walking and cycling network and their subsequent use and road maintenance works adjacent to or upstream of this qualifying habitat could result in perturbations to ground water quality with negative consequences for the conservation status of this habitat.	No. Rationale: The land use activities associated with the expansion of the walking and cycling network and road maintenance works are not predicted to have the potential to result in emissions to atmosphere that could result in negative effects to the status of this habitat.	Yes. Rationale: There is potential for works associated with the expansion of the walking and cycling network and their subsequent use and road maintenance works adjacent to or upstream of this habitat to result in the spread of non-native invasive species that could undermine the status of this habitat.	Yes. Rationale: Any works adjacent to or upstream of examples of this habitat within the SAC could result in disturbance to this habitat.

European Sites & Qualifying Features	Habitat Loss & Fragmentation	Habitat Degradation				Disturbance/Displacement
		Surface Water	Groundwater	Air	Non-native invasive species	
Alkaline fens	Yes. Rationale: Works associated with the expansion of walking and cycling trails and their subsequent use and road maintenance works represent the land use activities of the Plan most likely to result in negative effects to this qualifying habitat. Works and operations associated with these actions within or in the vicinity of this qualifying habitat could have the potential to result in negative effects to its conservation status.	Yes. Rationale: Any works associated with the expansion of the walking and cycling network and their subsequent use and road maintenance works adjacent to or upstream of this qualifying habitat could result in perturbations to surface water quality with negative consequences for the conservation status of this habitat.	Yes. Rationale: Any works associated with the expansion of the walking and cycling network and their subsequent use and road maintenance works adjacent to or upstream of this qualifying habitat could result in perturbations to ground water quality with negative consequences for the conservation status of this habitat.	No. Rationale: The land use activities associated with the expansion of the walking and cycling network and road maintenance works are not predicted to have the potential to result in emissions to atmosphere that could result in negative effects to the status of this habitat.	Yes. Rationale: There is potential for works associated with the expansion of the walking and cycling network and their subsequent use and road maintenance works adjacent to or upstream of this habitat to result in the spread of non-native invasive species that could undermine the status of this habitat.	Yes. Rationale: Any works adjacent to or upstream of examples of this habitat within the SAC could result in disturbance to this habitat.
Knocksink Woods SAC						

European Sites & Qualifying Features	Habitat Loss & Fragmentation	Habitat Degradation				Disturbance/Displacement
		Surface Water	Groundwater	Air	Non-native invasive species	
Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion)	Yes. Rationale: Works associated with the expansion of walking and cycling trails and their subsequent use and road maintenance works represent the land use activities of the Plan most likely to result in negative effects to this qualifying habitat. Works and operations associated with these actions within or in the vicinity of this qualifying habitat could have the potential to result in negative effects to its conservation status.	Yes. Rationale: Any works associated with the expansion of the walking and cycling network and their subsequent use and road maintenance works adjacent to or upstream of this qualifying habitat could result in perturbations to surface water quality with negative consequences for the conservation status of this habitat.	Yes. Rationale: Any works associated with the expansion of the walking and cycling network and their subsequent use and road maintenance works adjacent to or upstream of this qualifying habitat could result in perturbations to ground water quality with negative consequences for the conservation status of this habitat.	No. Rationale: The land use activities associated with the expansion of the walking and cycling network and road maintenance works are not predicted to have the potential to result in emissions to atmosphere that could result in negative effects to the status of this habitat.	Yes. Rationale: There is potential for works associated with the expansion of the walking and cycling network and their subsequent use and road maintenance works adjacent to or upstream of this habitat to result in the spread of non-native invasive species that could undermine the status of this habitat.	Yes. Rationale: Any works adjacent to or upstream of examples of this habitat within the SAC could result in disturbance to this habitat.
Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i>)	Yes. Rationale: Works associated with the expansion of walking and cycling trails and their subsequent use and road maintenance works represent the land use activities of the Plan	Yes. Rationale: Any works associated with the expansion of the walking and cycling network and their subsequent use and road maintenance works adjacent to or	Yes. Rationale: Any works associated with the expansion of the walking and cycling network and their subsequent use and road maintenance works	No. Rationale: The land use activities associated with the expansion of the walking and cycling network and road maintenance works	Yes. Rationale: There is potential for works associated with the expansion of the walking and cycling network and their subsequent use and road maintenance	Yes. Rationale: Any works adjacent to or upstream of examples of this habitat within the SAC could result in disturbance to this habitat.

European Sites & Qualifying Features	Habitat Loss & Fragmentation	Habitat Degradation				Disturbance/Displacement
		Surface Water	Groundwater	Air	Non-native invasive species	
	most likely to result in negative effects to this qualifying habitat. Works and operations associated with these actions within or in the vicinity of this qualifying habitat could have the potential to result in negative effects to its conservation status.	upstream of this qualifying habitat could result in perturbations to surface water quality with negative consequences for the conservation status of this habitat.	adjacent to or upstream of this qualifying habitat could result in perturbations to ground water quality with negative consequences for the conservation status of this habitat.	are not predicted to have the potential to result in emissions to atmosphere that could result in negative effects to the status of this habitat.	works adjacent to or upstream of this habitat to result in the spread of non-native invasive species that could undermine the status of this habitat.	
South Dublin Bay SAC						
Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]	Yes. Rationale: Any works associated with coastal zone management; the expansion of the walking, cycling, bus and rail networks or road maintenance within or adjacent to this SAC could have the potential to result in negative effects to the conservation status of this habitat.	Yes. Rationale: At least one un-named stream discharges to mudflat habitats of this SAC. Any perturbations to water quality within this watercourse as a result of land use activities completed for the Actions identified in Table 6.1 above will have the potential to result in downstream impacts to this habitat.	Yes. Rationale: The potential for effects to groundwater that drain to this habitat cannot be ruled out at this stage.	No. Rationale: The land use activities associated with the actions listed in Table 6.1 above are not predicted to have the potential to result in emissions to atmosphere that could result in negative effects to the conservation status of this habitat.	Yes. Rationale: There is potential for construction works associated with coastal zone management; the expansion of the walking, cycling, bus and rail networks or road maintenance to result in the spread of non-native invasive species that could	Yes. Rationale: Any works associated with coastal zone management; the expansion of the walking, cycling, bus and rail networks or road maintenance actions within or adjacent to this SAC could result in disturbance to this habitat.

European Sites & Qualifying Features	Habitat Loss & Fragmentation	Habitat Degradation				Disturbance/Displacement
		Surface Water	Groundwater	Air	Non-native invasive species	
					undermine the status of this habitat.	
Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210]	Yes. Rationale: Any works associated with coastal zone management; the expansion of the walking, cycling, bus and rail networks or road maintenance within or adjacent to this SAC could have the potential to result in negative effects to the conservation status of this habitat.	No. Rationale: This is a terrestrial coastal habitat and its status is not influenced by lotic or estuarine water quality. Any perturbations to watercourses draining to the South Dublin Bay SAC will not have the potential to undermine the status of this habitat.	No. Rationale: This is a terrestrial coastal habitat and its status is not influenced by groundwater water quality.	No. Rationale: The land use activities associated with the actions listed in Table 6.1 above are not predicted to have the potential to result in emissions to atmosphere that could result in negative effects to the conservation status of this habitat.	Yes. Rationale: There is potential for construction works associated with coastal zone management; the expansion of the walking, cycling, bus and rail networks or road maintenance to result in the spread of non-native invasive species that could undermine the status of this habitat.	Yes. Rationale: Any works associated with coastal zone management; the expansion of the walking, cycling, bus and rail networks or road maintenance actions within or adjacent to this SAC could result in disturbance to this habitat.
Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310]	Yes. Rationale: Any works associated with coastal zone management; the expansion of the walking, cycling, bus and rail networks or road maintenance	Yes. Rationale: At least one un-named stream discharges to mudflat habitats of this SAC. Any perturbations to water quality within this watercourse as a	Yes. Rationale: The potential for effects to groundwater that drain to this habitat cannot be ruled out at this stage.	No. Rationale: The land use activities associated with the actions listed in Table 6.1 above are not predicted to have the potential	Yes. Rationale: There is potential for construction works associated with coastal zone management; the expansion of the	Yes. Rationale: Any works associated with coastal zone management; the expansion of the walking, cycling, bus and rail networks or road maintenance actions within or adjacent to this SAC could

European Sites & Qualifying Features	Habitat Loss & Fragmentation	Habitat Degradation				Disturbance/Displacement
		Surface Water	Groundwater	Air	Non-native invasive species	
	within or adjacent to this SAC could have the potential to result in negative effects to the conservation status of this habitat.	result of land use activities completed for the Actions identified in Table 6.1 above will have the potential to result in downstream impacts to this habitat.		to result in emissions to atmosphere that could result in negative effects to the conservation status of this habitat.	walking, cycling, bus and rail networks or road maintenance to result in the spread of non-native invasive species that could undermine the status of this habitat.	result in disturbance to this habitat.
Embryonic shifting dunes [2110]	Yes. Rationale: Any works associated with coastal zone management; the expansion of the walking, cycling, bus and rail networks or road maintenance within or adjacent to this SAC could have the potential to result in negative effects to the conservation status of this habitat.	No. Rationale: This is a terrestrial coastal habitat and its status is not influenced by lotic or estuarine water quality. Any perturbations to watercourses draining to the South Dublin Bay SAC will not have the potential to undermine the status of this habitat.	No. Rationale: This is a terrestrial coastal habitat and its status is not influenced by groundwater water quality.	No. Rationale: The land use activities associated with the actions listed in Table 6.1 above are not predicted to have the potential to result in emissions to atmosphere that could result in negative effects to the conservation status of this habitat.	Yes. Rationale: There is potential for construction works associated with coastal zone management; the expansion of the walking, cycling, bus and rail networks or road maintenance to result in the spread of non-native invasive species that could undermine the status of this habitat.	Yes. Rationale: Any works associated with coastal zone management; the expansion of the walking, cycling, bus and rail networks or road maintenance actions within or adjacent to this SAC could result in disturbance to this habitat.

European Sites & Qualifying Features	Habitat Loss & Fragmentation	Habitat Degradation				Disturbance/Displacement
		Surface Water	Groundwater	Air	Non-native invasive species	
South Dublin Bay & Tolka Estuary SPA						
Wintering Waterbirds	Yes. Rationale: Any works associated with coastal zone management, flood schemes or road maintenance within or adjacent to this SPA could have the potential to result in negative effects to the conservation status of wetland habitats upon which these species rely.	Yes. Rationale. Watercourses flowing through the Plan area discharge to this SPA. Perturbations to these watercourses from any works associated with coastal zone management, flood schemes or road maintenance could result in negative downstream effects to the status of wetland habitats that support wintering waterbirds.	Yes. Rationale. Perturbations to groundwaters from any works associated with coastal zone management, flood schemes or road maintenance could result in negative effects to the status of wetland habitats that support wintering waterbirds	No. Rationale: The land use activities associated with coastal zone management, flood schemes or road maintenance are not predicted to have the potential to result in emissions to atmosphere that could result in negative effects to foraging or roosting wintering waterbirds.	Yes. Rationale: There is potential for construction works associated with coastal zone management, flood schemes or road maintenance to result in the spread of non-native invasive species that could undermine the status of wetland habitats upon which wintering waterbirds rely.	Yes. Rationale: There is potential for construction works associated with coastal zone management, flood schemes or road maintenance within or adjacent to the SPA to result in disturbance and displacement of wintering waterbirds from foraging and/or roosting grounds within the SPA
Breeding Terns	Yes. Rationale: Any works associated with coastal zone management, flood schemes or road maintenance within or adjacent to this SPA could have the potential to result in negative effects to the	Yes. Rationale. Watercourses flowing through the Plan area discharge to this SPA. Perturbations to these watercourses from any works associated with coastal zone management, flood	Yes. Rationale. Perturbations to groundwaters from any works associated with coastal zone management, flood schemes or road maintenance could,	No. Rationale: The land use activities associated with coastal zone management, flood schemes or road maintenance are not predicted to have the potential	Yes. Rationale: There is potential for construction works associated with coastal zone management, flood schemes or road maintenance to result in the spread	Yes. Rationale: There is potential for construction works associated with coastal zone management, flood schemes or road maintenance within or adjacent to the SPA to result in disturbance and displacement of breeding terns from their colonies within this SPA.

European Sites & Qualifying Features	Habitat Loss & Fragmentation	Habitat Degradation				Disturbance/Displacement
		Surface Water	Groundwater	Air	Non-native invasive species	
	conservation status of habitats (particularly nesting habitat) upon which these species rely.	schemes or road maintenance could, in theory, result in negative downstream at coastal foraging ground for tern species.	in theory, result in negative downstream at coastal foraging ground for tern species.	to result in emissions to atmosphere that could result in negative effects to breeding tern colonies.	of non-native invasive species that could undermine the status of tern breeding colonies.	
Wicklow Mountains SAC						
Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>)	Yes. Rationale: Works associated with the expansion of walking and cycling trails and their subsequent use represent the land use activities of the Plan most likely to result in negative effects to this qualifying habitat. Works associated with this action and the subsequent use of trails in the vicinity of this qualifying habitat could have the potential to result in negative effects to its conservation status.	Yes. Rationale: Any works associated with the expansion of the walking and cycling network and their subsequent use adjacent to or upstream of this qualifying habitat could result in perturbations to surface water quality with negative consequences for the conservation status of this habitat.	Yes. Rationale: Any works associated with the expansion of the walking and cycling network and their subsequent use adjacent to or upstream of this qualifying habitat could result in perturbations to ground water quality with negative consequences for the conservation status of this habitat.	No. Rationale: The land use activities associated with the expansion of the walking and cycling network are not predicted to have the potential to result in emissions to atmosphere that could result in negative effects to the status of this habitat.	Yes. Rationale: There is potential for works associated with the expansion of the walking and cycling network and their subsequent use adjacent to or upstream of this habitat to result in the spread of non-native invasive species that could undermine the status of this habitat.	Yes. Rationale: Any works adjacent to or upstream of this SAC could result in disturbance to this habitat.

European Sites & Qualifying Features	Habitat Loss & Fragmentation	Habitat Degradation				Disturbance/Displacement
		Surface Water	Groundwater	Air	Non-native invasive species	
Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds	Yes. Rationale: Works associated with the expansion of walking and cycling trails and their subsequent use represent the land use activities of the Plan most likely to result in negative effects to this qualifying habitat. Works associated with this action and the subsequent use of trails in the vicinity of this qualifying habitat could have the potential to result in negative effects to its conservation status.	Yes. Rationale: Any works associated with the expansion of the walking and cycling network and their subsequent use adjacent to or upstream of this qualifying habitat could result in perturbations to surface water quality with negative consequences for the conservation status of this habitat.	Yes. Rationale: Any works associated with the expansion of the walking and cycling network and their subsequent use adjacent to or upstream of this qualifying habitat could result in perturbations to ground water quality with negative consequences for the conservation status of this habitat.	No. Rationale: The land use activities associated with the expansion of the walking and cycling network are not predicted to have the potential to result in emissions to atmosphere that could result in negative effects to the status of this habitat.	Yes. Rationale: There is potential for works associated with the expansion of the walking and cycling network and their subsequent use adjacent to or upstream of this habitat to result in the spread of non-native invasive species that could undermine the status of this habitat.	Yes. Rationale: Any works adjacent to or upstream of this SAC could result in disturbance to this habitat.
Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i>	Yes. Rationale: Works associated with the expansion of walking and cycling trails and their subsequent use represent the land use activities of the Plan most likely to result in negative effects to this	No. Rationale: This habitat is not reliant on surface water habitats and will not be negatively affected by any perturbations to surface waters that could arise during the expansion of the	No. Rationale: This habitat is not reliant on surface water habitats and will not be negatively affected by any perturbations to surface waters that could arise during	No. Rationale: The land use activities associated with the expansion of the walking and cycling network are not predicted to have the potential to result in	Yes. Rationale: There is potential for works associated with the expansion of the walking and cycling network and their subsequent use within or adjacent to this habitat to	Yes. Rationale: Any works within or adjacent to examples of this habitat within the SAC could result in habitat disturbance.

European Sites & Qualifying Features	Habitat Loss & Fragmentation	Habitat Degradation				Disturbance/Displacement
		Surface Water	Groundwater	Air	Non-native invasive species	
	qualifying habitat. Works associated with this action and the subsequent use of trails within or in the vicinity of this qualifying habitat could have the potential to result in negative effects to its conservation status.	walking and cycling network in the Plan area.	the expansion of the walking and cycling network in the Plan area.	emissions to atmosphere that could result in negative effects to the status of this habitat.	result in the spread of non-native invasive species that could undermine the status of this habitat.	
European dry heaths	Yes. Rationale: Works associated with the expansion of walking and cycling trails and their subsequent use represent the land use activities of the Plan most likely to result in negative effects to this qualifying habitat. Works associated with this action and the subsequent use of trails within or in the vicinity of this qualifying habitat could have the potential to result in negative effects to its conservation status.	No. Rationale: This habitat is not reliant on surface water habitats and will not be negatively affected by any perturbations to surface waters that could arise during the expansion of the walking and cycling network in the Plan area.	No. Rationale: This habitat is not reliant on surface water habitats and will not be negatively affected by any perturbations to surface waters that could arise during the expansion of the walking and cycling network in the Plan area.	No. Rationale: The land use activities associated with the expansion of the walking and cycling network are not predicted to have the potential to result in emissions to atmosphere that could result in negative effects to the status of this habitat.	Yes. Rationale: There is potential for works associated with the expansion of the walking and cycling network and their subsequent use within or adjacent to this habitat to result in the spread of non-native invasive species that could undermine the status of this habitat.	Yes. Rationale: Any works within or adjacent to examples of this habitat within the SAC could result in habitat disturbance.

European Sites & Qualifying Features	Habitat Loss & Fragmentation	Habitat Degradation				Disturbance/Displacement
		Surface Water	Groundwater	Air	Non-native invasive species	
Alpine and Boreal heaths	Yes. Rationale: Works associated with the expansion of walking and cycling trails and their subsequent use represent the land use activities of the Plan most likely to result in negative effects to this qualifying habitat. Works associated with this action and the subsequent use of trails within or in the vicinity of this qualifying habitat could have the potential to result in negative effects to its conservation status.	No. Rationale: This habitat is not reliant on surface water habitats and will not be negatively affected by any perturbations to surface waters that could arise during the expansion of the walking and cycling network in the Plan area.	No. Rationale: This habitat is not reliant on surface water habitats and will not be negatively affected by any perturbations to surface waters that could arise during the expansion of the walking and cycling network in the Plan area.	No. Rationale: The land use activities associated with the expansion of the walking and cycling network are not predicted to have the potential to result in emissions to atmosphere that could result in negative effects to the status of this habitat.	Yes. Rationale: There is potential for works associated with the expansion of the walking and cycling network and their subsequent use within or adjacent to this habitat to result in the spread of non-native invasive species that could undermine the status of this habitat.	Yes. Rationale: Any works within or adjacent to examples of this habitat within the SAC could result in habitat disturbance.
Calaminarian grasslands of the <i>Violetalia calaminariae</i>	Yes. Rationale: Works associated with the expansion of walking and cycling trails and their subsequent use represent the land use activities of the Plan most likely to result in negative effects to this	No. Rationale: This habitat is not reliant on surface water habitats and will not be negatively affected by any perturbations to surface waters that could arise during the expansion of the	No. Rationale: This habitat is not reliant on surface water habitats and will not be negatively affected by any perturbations to surface waters that could arise during	No. Rationale: The land use activities associated with the expansion of the walking and cycling network are not predicted to have the potential to result in	Yes. Rationale: There is potential for works associated with the expansion of the walking and cycling network and their subsequent use within or adjacent to this habitat to	Yes. Rationale: Any works within or adjacent to examples of this habitat within the SAC could result in habitat disturbance.

European Sites & Qualifying Features	Habitat Loss & Fragmentation	Habitat Degradation				Disturbance/Displacement
		Surface Water	Groundwater	Air	Non-native invasive species	
	qualifying habitat. Works associated with this action and the subsequent use of trails within or in the vicinity of this qualifying habitat could have the potential to result in negative effects to its conservation status.	walking and cycling network in the Plan area.	the expansion of the walking and cycling network in the Plan area.	emissions to atmosphere that could result in negative effects to the status of this habitat.	result in the spread of non-native invasive species that could undermine the status of this habitat.	
Species-rich <i>Nardus</i> grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe)	Yes. Rationale: Works associated with the expansion of walking and cycling trails and their subsequent use represent the land use activities of the Plan most likely to result in negative effects to this qualifying habitat. Works associated with this action and the subsequent use of trails within or in the vicinity of this qualifying habitat could have the potential to result in negative effects to its conservation status.	No. Rationale: This habitat is not reliant on surface water habitats and will not be negatively affected by any perturbations to surface waters that could arise during the expansion of the walking and cycling network in the Plan area.	No. Rationale: This habitat is not reliant on surface water habitats and will not be negatively affected by any perturbations to surface waters that could arise during the expansion of the walking and cycling network in the Plan area.	No. Rationale: The land use activities associated with the expansion of the walking and cycling network are not predicted to have the potential to result in emissions to atmosphere that could result in negative effects to the status of this habitat.	Yes. Rationale: There is potential for works associated with the expansion of the walking and cycling network and their subsequent use within or adjacent to this habitat to result in the spread of non-native invasive species that could undermine the status of this habitat.	Yes. Rationale: Any works within or adjacent to examples of this habitat within the SAC could result in habitat disturbance.

European Sites & Qualifying Features	Habitat Loss & Fragmentation	Habitat Degradation				Disturbance/Displacement
		Surface Water	Groundwater	Air	Non-native invasive species	
Blanket bogs (* if active bog)	Yes. Rationale: Works associated with the expansion of walking and cycling trails and their subsequent use represent the land use activities of the Plan most likely to result in negative effects to this qualifying habitat. Works associated with this action and the subsequent use of trails within or in the vicinity of this qualifying habitat could have the potential to result in negative effects to its conservation status.	No. Rationale: This habitat is not reliant on surface water habitats and will not be negatively affected by any perturbations to surface waters that could arise during the expansion of the walking and cycling network in the Plan area.	No. Rationale: This habitat is not reliant on surface water habitats and will not be negatively affected by any perturbations to surface waters that could arise during the expansion of the walking and cycling network in the Plan area.	No. Rationale: The land use activities associated with the expansion of the walking and cycling network are not predicted to have the potential to result in emissions to atmosphere that could result in negative effects to the status of this habitat.	Yes. Rationale: There is potential for works associated with the expansion of the walking and cycling network and their subsequent use within or adjacent to this habitat to result in the spread of non-native invasive species that could undermine the status of this habitat.	Yes. Rationale: Any works within or adjacent to examples of this habitat within the SAC could result in habitat disturbance.
Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (Androsacetalia alpinae and Galeopsietalia ladani)	Yes. Rationale: Works associated with the expansion of walking and cycling trails and their subsequent use represent the land use activities of the Plan most likely to result in negative effects to this	No. Rationale: This habitat is not reliant on surface water habitats and will not be negatively affected by any perturbations to surface waters that could arise during the expansion of the	No. Rationale: This habitat is not reliant on surface water habitats and will not be negatively affected by any perturbations to surface waters that could arise during	No. Rationale: The land use activities associated with the expansion of the walking and cycling network are not predicted to have the potential to result in	Yes. Rationale: There is potential for works associated with the expansion of the walking and cycling network and their subsequent use within or adjacent to this habitat to	Yes. Rationale: Any works within or adjacent to examples of this habitat within the SAC could result in habitat disturbance.

European Sites & Qualifying Features	Habitat Loss & Fragmentation	Habitat Degradation				Disturbance/Displacement
		Surface Water	Groundwater	Air	Non-native invasive species	
	qualifying habitat. Works associated with this action and the subsequent use of trails within or in the vicinity of this qualifying habitat could have the potential to result in negative effects to its conservation status.	walking and cycling network in the Plan area.	the expansion of the walking and cycling network in the Plan area.	emissions to atmosphere that could result in negative effects to the status of this habitat.	result in the spread of non-native invasive species that could undermine the status of this habitat.	
Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation	Yes. Rationale: Works associated with the expansion of walking and cycling trails and their subsequent use represent the land use activities of the Plan most likely to result in negative effects to this qualifying habitat. Works associated with this action and the subsequent use of trails within or in the vicinity of this qualifying habitat could have the potential to result in negative effects to its conservation status.	No. Rationale: This habitat is not reliant on surface water habitats and will not be negatively affected by any perturbations to surface waters that could arise during the expansion of the walking and cycling network in the Plan area.	No. Rationale: This habitat is not reliant on surface water habitats and will not be negatively affected by any perturbations to surface waters that could arise during the expansion of the walking and cycling network in the Plan area.	No. Rationale: The land use activities associated with the expansion of the walking and cycling network are not predicted to have the potential to result in emissions to atmosphere that could result in negative effects to the status of this habitat.	Yes. Rationale: There is potential for works associated with the expansion of the walking and cycling network and their subsequent use within or adjacent to this habitat to result in the spread of non-native invasive species that could undermine the status of this habitat.	Yes. Rationale: Any works within or adjacent to examples of this habitat within the SAC could result in habitat disturbance.

European Sites & Qualifying Features	Habitat Loss & Fragmentation	Habitat Degradation				Disturbance/Displacement
		Surface Water	Groundwater	Air	Non-native invasive species	
Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation	Yes. Rationale: Works associated with the expansion of walking and cycling trails and their subsequent use represent the land use activities of the Plan most likely to result in negative effects to this qualifying habitat. Works associated with this action and the subsequent use of trails within or in the vicinity of this qualifying habitat could have the potential to result in negative effects to its conservation status.	No. Rationale: This habitat is not reliant on surface water habitats and will not be negatively affected by any perturbations to surface waters that could arise during the expansion of the walking and cycling network in the Plan area.	No. Rationale: This habitat is not reliant on surface water habitats and will not be negatively affected by any perturbations to surface waters that could arise during the expansion of the walking and cycling network in the Plan area.	No. Rationale: The land use activities associated with the expansion of the walking and cycling network are not predicted to have the potential to result in emissions to atmosphere that could result in negative effects to the status of this habitat.	Yes. Rationale: There is potential for works associated with the expansion of the walking and cycling network and their subsequent use within or adjacent to this habitat to result in the spread of non-native invasive species that could undermine the status of this habitat.	Yes. Rationale: Any works within or adjacent to examples of this habitat within the SAC could result in habitat disturbance.
Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles	Yes. Rationale: Works associated with the expansion of walking and cycling trails and their subsequent use represent the land use activities of the Plan most likely to result in negative effects to this	No. Rationale: This habitat is not reliant on surface water habitats and will not be negatively affected by any perturbations to surface waters that could arise during the expansion of the	No. Rationale: This habitat is not reliant on surface water habitats and will not be negatively affected by any perturbations to surface waters that could arise during	No. Rationale: The land use activities associated with the expansion of the walking and cycling network are not predicted to have the potential to result in	Yes. Rationale: There is potential for works associated with the expansion of the walking and cycling network and their subsequent use within or adjacent to this habitat to	Yes. Rationale: Any works within or adjacent to examples of this habitat within the SAC could result in habitat disturbance.

European Sites & Qualifying Features	Habitat Loss & Fragmentation	Habitat Degradation				Disturbance/Displacement
		Surface Water	Groundwater	Air	Non-native invasive species	
	qualifying habitat. Works associated with this action and the subsequent use of trails within or in the vicinity of this qualifying habitat could have the potential to result in negative effects to its conservation status.	walking and cycling network in the Plan area.	the expansion of the walking and cycling network in the Plan area.	emissions to atmosphere that could result in negative effects to the status of this habitat.	result in the spread of non-native invasive species that could undermine the status of this habitat.	
Lutra lutra (Otter)	Yes. Rationale: Works associated with the expansion of walking and cycling trails and their subsequent use represent the land use activities of the Plan most likely to result in negative effects to this qualifying species. Works associated with this action and the subsequent use of trails in the vicinity of watercourses supporting this species could result in the loss of habitat for this species	Yes. Rationale: Any works associated with the expansion of the walking and cycling network and their subsequent use adjacent to or upstream of watercourses within the SAC could result in perturbations to surface water quality with negative consequences for the conservation status of this species.	Yes. Rationale: Any works associated with the expansion of the walking and cycling network and their subsequent use adjacent to or upstream of watercourses within the SAC could result in perturbations to ground water quality with negative consequences for the conservation status of this habitat.	No. Rationale: The land use activities associated with the expansion of the walking and cycling network are not predicted to have the potential to result in emissions to atmosphere that could result in negative effects to the status of this species.	Yes. Rationale: There is potential for works associated with the expansion of the walking and cycling network and their subsequent use adjacent to or upstream of watercourses within the SAC to result in the spread of non-native invasive species that could undermine the status of habitats supporting this species.	Yes. Rationale: Any works adjacent to or upstream watercourses within the SAC could result in disturbance and displacement of this species.

European Sites & Qualifying Features	Habitat Loss & Fragmentation	Habitat Degradation				Disturbance/Displacement
		Surface Water	Groundwater	Air	Non-native invasive species	
Wicklow Mountains SPA						
Breeding Raptors	Yes. Rationale: Works associated with the expansion of walking and cycling trails and their subsequent use represent the land use activities most likely to result in negative effects to this SPA. Works associated with this action and the subsequent use of trails within or in the vicinity of habitats upon which these species rely for breeding and foraging could have the potential to result in negative effects to their conservation status.	No. Rationale. These species are not reliant on surface water habitats or prey species and their conservation status is not likely to be undermined by perturbations to water quality that could occur during works associated with the expansion of walking and cycle network in the Plan area.	No. Rationale. These species are not reliant on groundwaters.	No. Rationale: The land use activities associated with the expansion of the walking and cycling network are not predicted to have the potential to result in emissions to atmosphere that could result in negative effects to breeding raptors.	Yes. Rationale: There is potential for construction works associated with the expansion of the walking and cycling network within or in the vicinity of this SPA to result in the spread of non-native invasive species that could undermine the status of raptor breeding habitat.	Yes. Rationale: There is potential for works associated with the expansion of the walking and cycling network within or adjacent to the SPA to result in disturbance and displacement of breeding raptors within this SPA.
Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC						
Reefs	Yes. Rationale: Works associated with coastal zone management	Yes. Rationale: Any works associated with coastal zone management in	No. Rationale: This is a coastal habitat not influenced by	No. Rationale: The land use activities associated coastal	Yes. Rationale: There is potential for construction works	Yes. Rationale: Any works associated with coastal zone management within or

European Sites & Qualifying Features	Habitat Loss & Fragmentation	Habitat Degradation				Disturbance/Displacement
		Surface Water	Groundwater	Air	Non-native invasive species	
	represent the land use activities most likely to result in negative effects to this qualifying habitat. Construction works associated with this action could result in negative effects to the reef habitats of this SAC.	the vicinity of the reef habitats of this SAC could result in the release of pollutants and subsequent settlement on this habitat.	groundwaters.	zone management are not predicted to have the potential to result in emissions to atmosphere that could result in negative effects to the conservation status of this habitat.	associated with coastal zone management to result in the spread of non-native invasive species that could undermine the reef habitats of this SAC.	adjacent to this SAC could result in disturbance to this habitat.
Phocoena phocoena (Harbour Porpoise)	Yes. Rationale: Works associated with coastal zone management represent the land use activities most likely to result in negative effects to this qualifying species. Construction works associated with this action could result in negative effects to the this species and its habitat.	Yes. Rationale: Any works associated with coastal zone management in the vicinity of habitats upon which this species relies could result in the release of pollutants and subsequent perturbation of these habitats	No. Rationale: This species is reliant on marine waters that are not influenced by groundwaters.	No. Rationale: The land use activities associated coastal zone management are not predicted to have the potential to result in emissions to atmosphere that could result in negative effects to the conservation status of this species.	Yes. Rationale: There is potential for construction works associated with coastal zone management to result in the spread of non-native invasive species that could result in disturbance to this species.	Yes. Rationale: Any works associated with coastal zone management within or adjacent to this SAC could result in disturbance to this habitats upon which this species relies.

6.2 IN-COMBINATION EFFECTS

This Section provides an outline of the potential cumulative effects on the European Sites within the zone of influence of the Plan. There is potential for a wide range of plans and project to combine with the CCAP and documented threats and pressures to these European Sites. Table 6.3 below provides a non-exhaustive list of the Plans that represent those most likely to combine with the CCAP to result in potential cumulative effects. An assessment for potential cumulative effects to arise is provided for each of the Plans listed in Table 6.3.

Table 6.3: Assessment For Potential Cumulative Effects With Other Plans & Projects

Plan	Comment	Cumulative effects
Climate change Action Plans 2019-2023 for other Dublin Local Authorities	During the formulation of the CCAPs for the Dublin Region, a suite of common thematic actions have been prepared for each of the local authority areas.	The individual action plan for each Local Authority has undergone Habitats Directive Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment. It has been found that by implementing the mitigation policies and objectives of the relevant CDP as identified in the NIR and SEA ER, effects to the environment and European Sites are not likely to occur
National Planning	The purpose of the NPF is to provide a focal point for spatial plans throughout the planning hierarchy. It will provide a framework for the new Regional	A NIR was prepared for this plan and an Appropriate Assessment

Plan	Comment	Cumulative effects
Framework	Spatial and Economic Strategies (RSESs) by the three Regional Assemblies and the associated enhancement of the economic development focus of local authorities as per the Local Government Reform Act 2014. The draft NPF will co-ordinate the strategic planning of urban and rural areas in a regional development context to secure overall proper planning and development as well as co-ordination of the RSES's and city/ county development plans in addition to local economic and community plans and local area plans and other local development.	was completed. The Appropriate Assessment concluded that, subject to mitigation measures proposed in the NIR, there will be no adverse effects to the integrity of any European Sites as a result of the implementation of this Plan.
Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy	The RSES is a strategic plan which identifies regional assets, opportunities and pressures and provides appropriate policy responses in the form of Regional Policy Objectives. At this strategic level it provides a framework for investment to better manage spatial planning and economic development throughout the Region	A NIR was prepared for this plan and concluded that, subject to mitigation measures proposed in the NIR, there will be no adverse effects to the integrity of any European Sites as a result of the implementation of this Plan.
The Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area, 2016-2035	This Strategy sets out how transport will be developed across the region, covering Dublin, Meath, Wicklow and Kildare, over the period of the strategy and was subject to SEA and AA.	No in combination effects are identified.

Plan	Comment	Cumulative effects
Water Services Strategic Plan	Ireland’s first integrated national plan for the delivery of water services, the Water Services Strategic Plan (WSSP) addresses six key themes and was adopted in 2015. It was subject to full SEA and AA and concluded that overall, the assessment has identified that the implementation of the draft WSSP is likely to have positive effects on the environment and provided adequate environmental assessments and mitigations measures are implemented at lower plan and project levels it will not have the potential to result in likely significant effects to European Sites.	No in-combination impacts were predicted as a result of implementation of the Plans
Neighbouring County Development Plans	These plans were subject to full SEA and AA and concluded that subject to full adherence and implementation of all measures and particularly those that aim to safeguard the environment, there will be no potential for adverse effects to European Sites.	No in-combination impacts were predicted as a result of implementation of the Plans
River Basin District Management Plans.	The National River Basin District Management Plan is now published (2018). The second cycle River Basin Management Plan aims to build on the progress made during the first cycle with a greater emphasis on ensuring the evidence base is available and the administration supports are fully in place to support key measures. The approach to the plan development involves characterisation of Ireland’s water bodies in order to develop a tailored programme of measures to allow for the protection of good status or the restoration of good status for all water bodies. The	No in-combination impacts are predicted as a result of implementation of the Plans

Plan	Comment	Cumulative effects
	outcomes are then monitored in order to feed into further characterisation and measures setting as the cycle moves forward. The plan was subject to SEA and Appropriate Assessment.	
CFRAMS Study	The Eastern CFRAM study has been commissioned in order to meet the requirements of the Floods Directive, as well as to deliver on core components of the 2004 National Flood Policy, in the Eastern district.	No in-combination impacts are predicted as a result of implementation of the Plans.
Greater Dublin Drainage	Irish Water made a planning application for strategic infrastructure development to An Bord Pleanála for the Greater Dublin Drainage Project in June 2018. The GDD project proposes a new regional wastewater treatment facility to be located in the townland of Clonshaugh in north county Dublin, an underground orbital sewer from Blanchardstown to Clonshaugh, a new pumping station at Abbotsown, a partial diversion of the north fringe sewer, and an outfall pipeline to return the treated water to the Irish Sea. The project also includes a regional sludge treatment centre at the new GDD facility and an associated biosolids storage facility at Newtown near Kilshane Cross.	Chapter 23 of the EIAR was reviewed with a focus on the cumulative impacts, No in-combination impacts are predicted as a result of implementation of the Project

Plan	Comment	Cumulative effects
The Greater Dublin Transport Strategy 2016-2035	<p>The Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area, 2016-2035 has been prepared and published by the National Transport Authority. It sets out how transport will be developed across the region, covering Dublin, Meath, Wicklow and Kildare, over the period of the strategy and has been approved by the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport in accordance with the relevant legislation.</p> <p>Luas, heavy rail and orbital bus routes are of particular relevance to the elements of this Plan.</p>	<p>Positive effects in relation to the prioritisation of public transport modes above private transport.</p>

7.0 MITIGATION MEASURES

The Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County CCAP sits within the frameworks of the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Development Plan and has been prepared in line with Objective CC02 of the CDP. The CDP also outlines a range of policies and objectives that aim to safeguard the environment and ensure that low tier plans and project facilitated by the CDP do not have the potential to result in likely significant effects to European Sites. The protection afforded to the environment by these policies and objectives will also apply for all future land use actions facilitated by the CCAP. The key policies and objectives of the CDP that will protect the European Sites occurring within the zone of influence of this Plan from likely significant effects are listed and evaluated in Table 7.1 below. An evaluation of the effectiveness of these policies and objectives to set in place a framework that minimises or eliminates the potential for likely significant effects to European Sites is also provided in Table 7.1. This evaluation examines how each mitigatory policy and objectives of the CDP will provide safeguards for European Sites and also demonstrates how these policies and objectives can be applied to safeguard European Sites from the potential land use effects of the CCAP Actions listed in Table 6.1 above.

In addition to the environmental safeguard measures of the CDP identified in Table 7.1 further mitigation in the form of proposed amendments to specific Actions of the CCAP are outlined in Table 7.2. The amendments to these Actions emphasise the need to ensure protection of the natural environment during the implementation of these actions.

Table 7.1: Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown CDP Environmental Safeguards

CDP Ref.	Mitigation Measure	Evaluation
<p>EI3</p>	<p>Surface Water Drainage and Appropriate Assessment. It is Council policy to require that a Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS) is applied to any development and that site specific solutions to surface water drainage systems are developed, which meet the requirements of the Water Framework Directive and the associated River Basin Management Plans and ‘Water Quality in Ireland 2007-2009’ (EPA 2011) or any updated version of the document</p>	<p>The implementation of this objective will require projects facilitated by the CCAP to be designed in a manner that minimise the potential for impacts to surface water. This will have the potential to result in positive implications for surface water quality within the Plan area and minimise impacts to European Sites that are reliant on good surface water quality.</p> <p>The implementation of this objective for land use projects supported by actions of the CCAP that aim to expand the walking, cycling, bus and rail networks, maintain roads and protect coastal zones, will require such projects to implement measures that provide adequate management and treatment of surface water during their construction phase and operation phases. The implementation of such measures during the design and construction of these projects will minimise or eliminate risks to surface waters and the potential for likely significant effects to European Sites that receive surface water draining from such project locations.</p>
<p>EI4</p>	<p>Groundwater Protection and Appropriate Assessment It is Council policy to ensure the protection of the groundwater resources in and around the County and associated habitats and species in accordance with the Groundwater Directive 2006/118/EC and the European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations, 2010. In this regard, the Council will support the implementation of Irish Water’s Water Safety Plans to protect sources of public water supply and their contributing catchment</p>	<p>The implementation of this objective will require projects facilitated by the CCAP to be designed in a manner that minimise the potential for impacts to groundwater. This will have the potential to result in positive implications for groundwater quality within the Plan area and minimise impacts to European Sites that are reliant on good groundwater quality.</p> <p>The implementation of this objective for land use projects supported by actions of the CCAP that aim to expand the walking, cycling, bus and rail networks, maintain roads and protect coastal zones, will require such projects to implement measures that provide adequate management and</p>

		<p>treatment of groundwater during their construction phase and operation phases. The implementation of such measures during the design and construction of these projects will minimise or eliminate risks to surface waters and the potential for likely significant effects to European Sites that receive groundwater draining from such project locations.</p>
EI7	<p>Water Quality Management Plans It is Council policy to support Irish Water in its implementation of Water Quality Management Plans for ground, surface, coastal and estuarine waters as part of the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive</p>	<p>The successful implementation of this Policy will put in place safeguards that aim to maintain and restore good status in water bodies. Such safeguards will be required to minimise to an insignificant level the potential for land use activities associated with the CCAP to result in adverse effects to the water quality status of water bodies within and surrounding the Plan area.</p> <p>The implementation of this objective for land use projects supported by actions of the CCAP that aim to expand the walking, cycling, bus and rail networks, maintain roads and protect coastal zones, will require such projects to demonstrate how they will be designed and constructed so that they do not undermine this objectives and the objectives of the Water Framework Directive which is to achieve good ecological status in all surface ground and coastal waters.</p>
EI9	<p>Stormwater Impact Assessments* It is Council policy to ensure that all new significant developments prepare a Stormwater Impact Assessment which incorporate Stormwater Audits in accordance with the Council's Stormwater Management Plan Guidance Document and the Council's Development Management Thresholds Information Document.</p>	<p>The implementation of this objective will require projects facilitated by the CCAP to be designed in a manner that minimise the potential for uncontrolled storm water discharges. This will have the potential to result in positive implications for water quality within the Plan area and minimise impacts to European Sites via hydrological pathways.</p> <p>The implementation of this objective for land use projects supported by actions of the CCAP that aim to expand the walking, cycling, bus and rail networks, maintain roads and protect coastal zones, will require such projects to implement measures that provide adequate management and treatment of stormwater during their construction phase and operation phases. The implementation of such measures during the design and</p>

		<p>construction of these projects will minimise or eliminate risks to surface waters. With the incorporation of such measures into the design and construction of projects significant effects to European Sites are not likely to occur.</p>
EI10	<p>Storm Overflows of Sewage to Watercourses* It is Council policy to work alongside Irish Water to minimize the number and frequency of storm overflows of sewage to watercourses and to establish, in co-operation with the adjoining local authorities and Irish Water, a consistent approach to the design, improvement and management of these intermittent discharges to ensure that the needs of the Region's receiving waters are met in a cost effective manner.</p>	<p>The implementation of this objective will require projects facilitated by the CCAP to be designed in a manner that minimise the potential for uncontrolled storm water discharges. This will have the potential to result in positive implications for water quality within the Plan area and minimise impacts to European Sites via hydrological pathways.</p> <p>The implementation of this objective for land use projects supported by actions of the CCAP that aim to expand the walking, cycling, bus and rail networks, maintain roads and protect coastal zones, will require such projects to implement measures that provide adequate management and treatment of stormwater during their construction phase and operation phases. The implementation of such measures during the design and construction of these projects will minimise or eliminate risks to surface waters posed by stormwater discharges. With the incorporation of such measures into the design and construction of projects significant effects to European Sites are not likely to occur.</p>
EI22	<p>Water Pollution It is Council policy to implement the provisions of water pollution abatement measures in accordance with National and EU Directives and other legislative requirements in conjunction with other agencies as appropriate</p>	<p>This objective will require, where necessary, land use activities to put in place measures that minimise or eliminate any risk posed by the activities to groundwater quality.</p> <p>The implementation of this objective for land use projects supported by actions of the CCAP that aim to expand the walking, cycling, bus and rail networks, maintain roads and protect coastal zones, will require such projects to demonstrate how they will be designed and constructed so that they do not present a significant risk of pollution. With the</p>

		incorporation of such measures into the design and construction of projects significant effects to European Sites are not likely to occur.
LHB7	Coastal Zone Management and Dublin Bay* It is Council policy to co-operate with the Coastal Zone Management Division of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine in the preparation of the National stocking exercise and in the preparation and implementation of a National Coastal Zone Management Strategy to ensure the conservation, management and protection of man-made and natural resources of the Coastal Zone.	<p>The implementation of this Policy which aims to ensure the conservation, management and protection of the natural resources, which include the habitats and species of European Sites, within the coastal zone establishes a planning framework that will support coastal zone management projects arising from the CCAP that do not have the potential to result in negative effects to European Sites.</p> <p>The implementation of this objective will require any coastal zone management projects supported by the CCAP to demonstrate how they will be designed and constructed so that they do not present a significant adverse effect to the conservation of the natural resources, which include coastal European Sites, of the coastal zone. With the incorporation of such measures into the design and construction of projects significant effects to European Sites are not likely to occur.</p>
LHB12	Coastal Area Feasibility Study* It is Council policy to undertake a comprehensive feasibility study on the recreational potential along the coastal area of the County which comprehensively addresses recreational impact - including visitor numbers, mapping and surveying of sensitive habitats and species and identification of significant threats on Natura 2000 sites - and which would allow an assessment of any future proposals, alone or in combination, to assess impact on the coastal and marine zone within and adjacent to the County boundary. The Council will explore the possibility of carrying out this study with adjoining and/or coastal Local Authorities and/or other agencies	The implementation of this Policy will inform future CCAP land use actions associated with the expansion of the walking and cycling network in the Plan area. This will have the potential to aid in the identification and avoidance of proposed projects that could result in likely significant effects to coastal European Sites within the Plan area.
LHB19	Protection of Natural Heritage and the Environment* It is Council policy to protect and conserve the environment including, in particular,	The implementation of this policy will establish a planning framework that seeks to facilitate projects arising from CCAP actions that do not

	<p>the natural heritage of the County and to conserve and manage Nationally and Internationally important and EU designated sites - such as Special Protection Areas, candidate Special Areas of Conservation, proposed Natural Heritage Areas and Ramsar sites - as well as non-designated areas of high nature conservation value which serve as 'Stepping Stones' for the purposes of Article 10 of the Habitats Directive. Implementation of this policy will involve, inter</p>	<p>undermine the Council's aim to protect and conserve European Sites.</p> <p>The implementation of this objective will require projects supported by actions of the CCAP that aim to expand the walking, cycling, bus and rail networks, maintain roads and protect coastal zones to demonstrate how they will be designed and constructed so that they do not present a significant adverse effect to the conservation status of European Sites and their qualifying feature of interest/special conservation interests as listed in Table 6.2 above. Where necessary projects will be required to provide assessments, design and construction phase management information that demonstrates how they will not result in likely significant effects to the conservation status of European Sites.</p>
LHB20	<p>Habitats Directive* It is Council policy to ensure the protection of natural heritage and biodiversity, including European sites that form part of the Natura 2000 network, in accordance with relevant EU Environmental Directives and applicable National Legislation, Policies, Plans and Guidelines</p>	<p>The implementation of this policy will ensure that any land use project facilitated by the CCAP, including those that aim to expand the walking, cycling, bus and rail networks, maintain roads and protect coastal zones will be subject to project-level Article 6(3) and where necessary Article 6(4) assessments. The requirement to carry out these assessments will ensure that only those projects that do not result in likely significant effects European Sites or that are of over-riding public interest will be permitted. The implementation of this Policy establishes a strict process of pre-consent for all land use projects facilitated by the CCAP.</p>
LHB22	<p>Designated Sites* It is Council policy to protect and preserve areas designated as proposed Natural Heritage Areas, candidate Special Areas of Conservation, and Special Protection Areas. It is Council policy to promote the maintenance and as appropriate, delivery of 'favourable' conservation status of habitats and species within these areas</p>	<p>The implementation of this policy will ensure that any land use project facilitated by the CCAP, including those that aim to expand the walking, cycling, bus and rail networks, maintain roads and protect coastal zones will be subject to project-level Article 6(3) and where necessary Article 6(4) assessments. The requirement to carry out these assessments will ensure that only those projects that do not result in likely significant effects European Sites or that are of over-riding public interest will be permitted. The implementation of this Policy establishes a strict process of pre-consent for all land use projects facilitated by the CCAP.</p>

<p>LHB23</p>	<p>Non-Designated Areas of Biodiversity Importance* It is Council policy to protect and promote the conservation of biodiversity in areas of natural heritage importance outside Designated Areas and to ensure that notable sites, habitats and features of biodiversity importance - including species protected under the Wildlife Acts 1976 and 2000, the Birds Directive 1979, the Habitats Directive 1992, and rare species - are adequately protected. Ecological assessments will be carried out for all developments in areas that support, or have potential to support, features of biodiversity importance or rare and protected species and appropriate mitigation/ avoidance measures will be implemented. In implementing this policy regard shall be had to the recommendations and objectives of the Green City Guidelines (2008) and 'Ecological Guidance Notes for Local Authorities and Developers' (Dún LaoghaireRathdown Version 2014).</p>	<p>The implementation of this policy will ensure that any land use projects supported by the CCAP that aim to expand the walking, cycling, bus and rail networks, maintain roads and protect coastal zones in areas that support or have the potential to support features of biodiversity importance or rare and protected species will be required to be assessed for their potential to impact such ecological receptors. This requirement for ecological assessment provides a mechanism for identifying in advance of any works projects or elements thereof, that could pose a risk to ecological receptors.</p>
<p>LHB25</p>	<p>Rivers and Waterways* It is Council policy to maintain and protect the natural character and ecological value of the river and stream corridors in the County and where possible to enhance existing channels and to encourage diversity of habitat. It is also policy (subject to the sensitivity of the riverside habitat) to provide public access to riparian corridors to promote improved passive recreational activities</p>	<p>The implementation of this objective will require projects facilitated by the CCAP and particularly those that aim to expand the walking, cycling, bus and rail networks, maintain roads and protect coastal zones to be designed in a manner that minimise the potential for impacts to surface water. This will have the potential to result in positive implications for surface water quality within the Plan area and minimise impacts to European Sites that are reliant on good surface water quality.</p>

Table 7.2: Recommended Rewording of CCAP Actions

Action	Suggested mitigation measures	Included in CCAP
	An integrated approach to decision making in relation to these climate change actions is recommended.	These will be included in the final CCAP
3	Prepare and Implement an Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan that addresses natural and cultural heritage and follows the Marine Spatial Planning Directive/framework	
7	Develop template to capture impacts, response and costs (including ecosystem services/natural capital costs) for all major climate events	
10	Update DLA urban drainage and flooding policies for current knowledge of flood risk and the latest best practice in drainage design promoting natural flood measures as a priority	
	The following flood storage actions will incorporate nature based solutions and biodiversity enhancement measures where possible.(Refers to actions 11 to 18)	
New measures to be consistent with	<i>Communication and awareness campaigns on flood risk management and natural flood management measures</i>	

neighbouring Local Authorities		
	Nature Based Solutions	
11	Incorporate natural play space into existing parks for recreation and as SuDS	

7.1 RESPONSIBILITY FOR IMPLEMENTING MITIGATION MEASURES

The responsibility for implementing land use actions proposed by the CCAP lies with the relevant departments of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council. Departments seeking to implement land use actions proposed by the CCAP are obliged to ensure that the implementation of these actions are consistent with the Objectives and requirements of the environmental safeguards of the CDP as listed in Table 7.1 above. It is a statutory requirement for a competent authority (e.g. Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council) to carry out screening for appropriate assessment for all land use projects and all land use actions implemented under the CCAP will be assessed for their potential to result in likely significant effects. However, such effects are not likely to occur if the Objectives in the CDP as listed in Table 7.1 above are adhered to, where appropriate.

7.2 MONITORING OF MITIGATION MEASURES

Whilst there is no legal requirement to monitor the outputs of the AA process, there is an obligation to monitor the implementation of the CDP through the E.C. SEA Directive as implemented in Ireland. Contingency measures may have to be applied if there is evidence that Objectives cannot be implemented successfully. The *European Communities (Environmental Liability) Regulations 2008* will also apply in the event of any environmental damage to habitats and species both within and outside of the European sites.

8.0 CONCLUSION

This NIR has reviewed the potential impacts arising from the CCAP and found that, without the implementation of mitigation measures, the Plan will have the potential to impact upon the Conservation Objectives of eight European Sites and their relevant qualifying features that occur within the zone of influence of the Plan.

The potential impacts that could negatively affect these European Sites have been outlined in Section 6 this NIR. These potential impacts relate to actions of the CCAP that aim to expand the walking, cycling, bus and rail networks, maintain roads and protect coastal zones. Section 7 outlines the environmental safeguards within the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown CDP that will be applied for all land use activities supported by the CCAP. The purpose of these safeguards is to minimise and/or eliminate potential impacts associated with the CCAP land use actions to European Sites and the wider environment in general.

The mitigation measures outlined in Section 7 of this NIR will protect these European Sites from potential adverse impacts. Table 7.1 has listed these mitigation measures and evaluated their potential to safeguard European Sites from these actions. A rationale has been provided to demonstrate how these mitigation measures will provide effective safeguards against any land use projects arising from the actions of the CCAP that aim to expand the walking, cycling, bus and rail networks, maintain roads and protect coastal zones..

The measures and requirements of the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown CDP and particularly Objectives LHB19, LHB20 and LHB21 that aim to protect, conserve and appropriately manage European Sites provide a basis for eliminating or minimising to an insignificant level potential adverse land use effects that could arise from the land use actions identified in Table 6.1 of this NIR. These objectives along with the additional safeguards within the CDP as outlined in Table 7.1 above will provide a basis for ensuring any future land use facilitated by the CCAP will not be supported where they present a risk of likely significant effects to European Sites.

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APPENDIX 1: SCREENING STATEMENT FOR APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT



Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County
Council

Climate Change Action Plan 2019 -
2024

Statement in Support of

Screening for Appropriate
Assessment

25th January 2019

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council

Climate Change Action Plan 2019 - 2024

Statement in support of Screening for Appropriate Assessment

Document Stage	Document Version	Prepared by
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This report has been prepared by DEC Ltd with all reasonable skill, care and diligence. Information report herein is based on the interpretation of data collected and has been accepted in good faith as being accurate and valid.

This report is prepared for South Dublin County Council and we accept no responsibility to third parties to whom this report, or any part thereof, is made known. Any such party relies on the report at their own risk.

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1.1 INTRODUCTION

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council intends to implement its first Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) for the period 2019 to 2024. Minogue and Associates have been appointed by South Dublin County Council to prepare a statement in support of Screening for Appropriate Assessment for the CCAP.

The function of this Screening Exercise is to identify the potential for the proposed CCAP to result in likely significant effects to European Sites and to provide information so that South Dublin County Council can determine whether a Natura Impact Report and Appropriate Assessment is required for the Action Plan.

1.2 HABITATS DIRECTIVE ASSESSMENT

Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive requires an assessment of the potential effects of a land use plan or project on one or more Natura 2000 (N2K) Sites. It is noted that a Habitats Directive Assessment is commonly referred to as an “Appropriate Assessment” (Dodd *et al*, 2007). However “Appropriate Assessment” forms only one stage of the HDA process (all stages making up the assessment process are outlined in detail below). The EU Habitats Directive provides the legislative framework for the protection of habitats and species throughout Europe through the establishment of a network of designated conservation areas known as the N2K network. The N2K network includes sites designated as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), under the EU Habitats Directive and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) designated under the EU Birds Directive. Under the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats Regulations 2011, as amended) SACs and SPAs are referred to as European Sites. SACs are designated in areas that support habitats listed on Annex I and/or species listed on Annex II of the Habitats Directive. SPAs are designated in areas that support: 1% or more of the all-Ireland population of bird species listed on Annex I of the EU Birds Directive; 1% or more of the population of a migratory species; and more than 20,000 waterfowl.

Articles 6(1) & (2) of the Habitats Directive set out provisions for the conservation management of European Sites. Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of this Directive set out a series of procedural steps to test whether or not a plan or project is likely to affect a European Sites. Article 6(3) also establishes the requirement for a HDA:

“any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the (European) site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans and projects, shall be subjected 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 implication 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 affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public”.

Therefore, the objective of this Screening is to identify whether or not land use measures supported by the Plan will have the potential to adversely affect the Conservation Objectives of European Sites. Such a conclusion will be arrived at by assessing the implications of future developments that will be supported by the Plan on each European Site occurring within its zone of influence.

The HDA is underpinned by the precautionary principle. Therefore, if the risk of adverse impacts to the conservation objectives of a European Site cannot be ruled out it is assumed that the potential for an adverse impact will exist. Where such uncertainties are identified during the assessment, measures will be proposed to avoid or mitigate the risk of adverse impacts occurring.

The Screening was undertaken with reference to the following guidance documents on Habitats Directive Assessments:

- Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland – Guidance for Planning Authorities (2009). DEHLG.
- Managing Natura 2000 Sites – The provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats directive 92/43/EEC. European commission (2018).
- Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly Affecting Natura 2000 sites – Methodological Guidance of the Provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats directive 92/43/EEC. European Commission (2001).

1.3 STAGES OF THE HABITATS DIRECTIVE ASSESSMENT

The European Commission (2001) Guidance has outlined a staged process for the completion of a HDA.

- Stage 1 – Screening: This stage defines the proposed plan, establishes whether the proposed plan is necessary for the conservation management of the European Site and assesses the likelihood of the plan to have a significant effect, alone or in combination with other plans or projects, upon a European Site.
- Stage 2 – Appropriate Assessment: If a plan or project is likely to have a significant effect an Appropriate Assessment must be undertaken. In this stage the impact of the plan or project to the Conservation Objectives of the European Site is assessed. The outcome of this assessment will establish whether the plan will have an adverse effect upon the integrity of the European Site.
- Stage 3 – Assessment of Alternative Solutions: If it is concluded that, subsequent to the implementation of mitigation measures, a plan has an adverse impact upon the integrity of a European Site it must be objectively concluded that no alternative solutions exist before the plan can proceed.
- Stage 4 – Where no alternative solutions exist and where adverse impacts remain but imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI) exist for the implementation of a plan or project an assessment of compensatory measures that will effectively offset the damage to the Natura site 2000 will be necessary.

The remainder of this document sets out the Methodology and Results of the Screening exercise. It is structured as follows:

Section 2: Habitats Directive Assessment Methodology;

Section 3: Description of the proposed Climate Change Action Plan & Screening of Actions for likely significant effects;

Section 4: Identifies the European Sites within the zone of influence of the Plan;

Section 5: Identifies the Likely Significant Effects of the Plan to European Sites occurring within its zone of influence; and

Section 6: Provides a Screening conclusion.

2.0 SCREENING METHODOLOGY

The function of the Screening Assessment is to identify whether the Plan will have a likely significant effect on European Sites. In this context “likely” means any effect that may be reasonably predicted and “significant” means not trivial or inconsequential but an effect that is potentially relevant to the Site’s conservation objectives¹. Any effect, which would compromise the functioning and viability of a Site and interfere with achieving the conservation objectives of the Site would constitute a significant effect.

The nature of the likely interactions between the Plan and the Conservation Objectives of European Sites will depend upon the potential for future land use activities supported by the Plan to interact with European Sites and their associated qualifying features of interest; the sensitivity of European Site qualifying features to potential impacts associated with land use activities facilitated by the Plan; the current conservation status of the European Site qualifying features; and the likely changes that will result from the implementation of the Plan, in combination with other plans and projects.

The European Commission Guidelines (2001) outline the stages involved in undertaking a Screening assessment of a plan or project that has the potential to have likely significant effects on European Sites. The methodology adopted for the Screening of the Plan is informed by these guidelines and was undertaken in the following stages:

- A brief description of the Plan is provided and determine whether it is necessary for the conservation management of European Sites;
- Identification of European Sites occurring within the zone of influence of the Plan;
- Identification of potential likely significant effects to European Sites; and

¹ See English Nature’s **Habitat Regulations Guidance Note No. 3, 1999.**

- Identification of other plans or projects that, in combination with the Plan, have the potential to affect European Sites.

3.0 DESCRIPTION OF THE CCAP

3.1 OVERVIEW

For the first time, Dublin's four local authorities have joined together to develop Climate Change Action Plans as a collaborative response to the impact that climate change is having, and will continue to have, on the Dublin Region and its citizens. While each plan is unique to its functional area, they are unified in their approach to climate change adaptation and mitigation, and their commitment to lead by example in tackling this global issue.

These CCAPs follow on from the publication of A Strategy for Climate Change Action Plans for the Dublin Local Authorities (DLAs), which was published in January 2017. The strategy used a structured approach that focused on seven key areas (Citizen Engagement, Planning, Energy, Transport, Water, Waste, and Ecosystems & Biodiversity), and set out how the DLAs would develop the four climate change action plans. The action plans will be unique to each local authority area but synchronised in their methodology.

This plan concentrates on the two approaches required to tackle climate change. The first, mitigation, consists of actions that will reduce current and future GHG emissions; examples of these include reductions in energy use, switching to renewable energy sources and carbon sinks. The second approach, adaptation, consists of actions that will reduce the impacts that are already happening now from our changing climate and those that are projected to happen in the future.

The actions in this draft CCAP for Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown will be continually monitored and updated by a dedicated climate action team working across all Council departments. They will be assisted by the newly established Dublin Metropolitan Climate Action Regional Office, which will ensure that the overall plan is fully updated every five years to reflect latest policy, technology and climate-related impacts. The new office will work with Codema, as technical support and research partner, to ensure that the plans continue to be informed by national and international best practice.

The actions in the CCAP are presented around a number of themes as follows:

- Energy and Buildings

- Transport
- Flood Resilience
- Nature Based Solutions
- Resource Management.

Collectively, these collectively address the four targets of this plan, which are:

- A 33% improvement in the Council's energy efficiency by 2020
- A 40% reduction in the Council's greenhouse gas emissions by 2030
- To make Dublin a climate resilient region, by reducing the impacts of future climate change -related events
- To actively engage and inform citizens on climate change.

As such, this CCAP encompasses the functional area of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council. This area is referred to throughout this report as the "Plan area". The administrative area of the County Council for which the Plan has been prepared comprises 222.7 km².

3.2 SCREENING OF CCAP ACTIONS

All CCAP actions outlined in the Plan are presented in Appendix 1. A screening of each of these actions is also provided in Appendix 1. The majority of these actions have been identified as not having the potential to result in any land use effects or where land use effects arise, they are identified as having potential positive impacts for the environment. However a small number of actions, six in total, associated with transport and flood mitigation measures, have been identified as having the potential, in the absence of mitigation, to result in likely significant effects to European Sites. It is noted that the identification of likely significant effects associated with these actions is underpinned by a precautionary approach and the broad level of information available for each of these three actions at the Plan stage. In the

absence of definitive locations that will be subject to land use activities facilitated by these actions it cannot be ruled out that such activities will not have the potential to result in likely significant effects to European Sites.

The six actions that could not be screened out that this stage of the Habitats Directive Assessment process are as follows:

Active Travel and Behaviour Change: Action No. 4 – Develop and expand the County walking network

Active Travel and Behaviour Change: Action No. 7 – Develop and extend cycle network

Active Travel and Behaviour Change: Action No. 12 – Road maintenance improvements

Active Travel and Behaviour Change: Action No. 13 – Expand Bus network in the county

Public Transport: Action No. 14 – Expand rail network in the County

Flood Risk Management: Action No 3 - Implement Coastal Zone Management Plan

3.3 PROPOSED CCAP & NATURA CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT

The proposed CCAP seeks to implement measures that will reduce the greenhouse gas emissions and provide improved resilience to climate change within the local authority area.

It is clear from this overarching objective of the proposed CCAP, that it is not necessary for the management of any European Site for nature conservation purposes. Therefore consideration is given to the Plan and whether it has the potential to result in likely significant effects to European Sites and their Conservation Objectives.

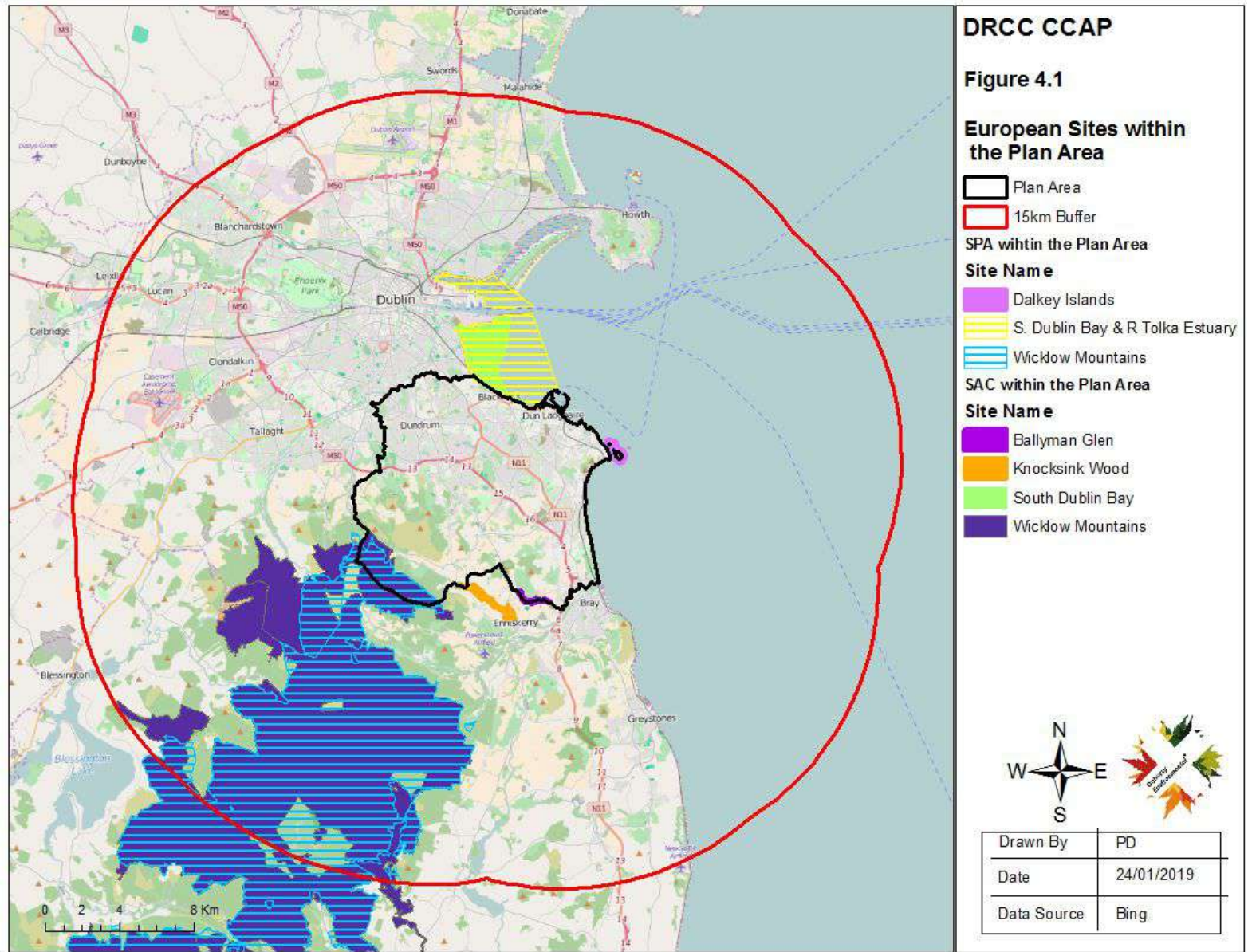
4.0 IDENTIFICATION OF EUROPEAN SITES WITHIN THE ZONE OF INFLUENCE OF THE PLAN

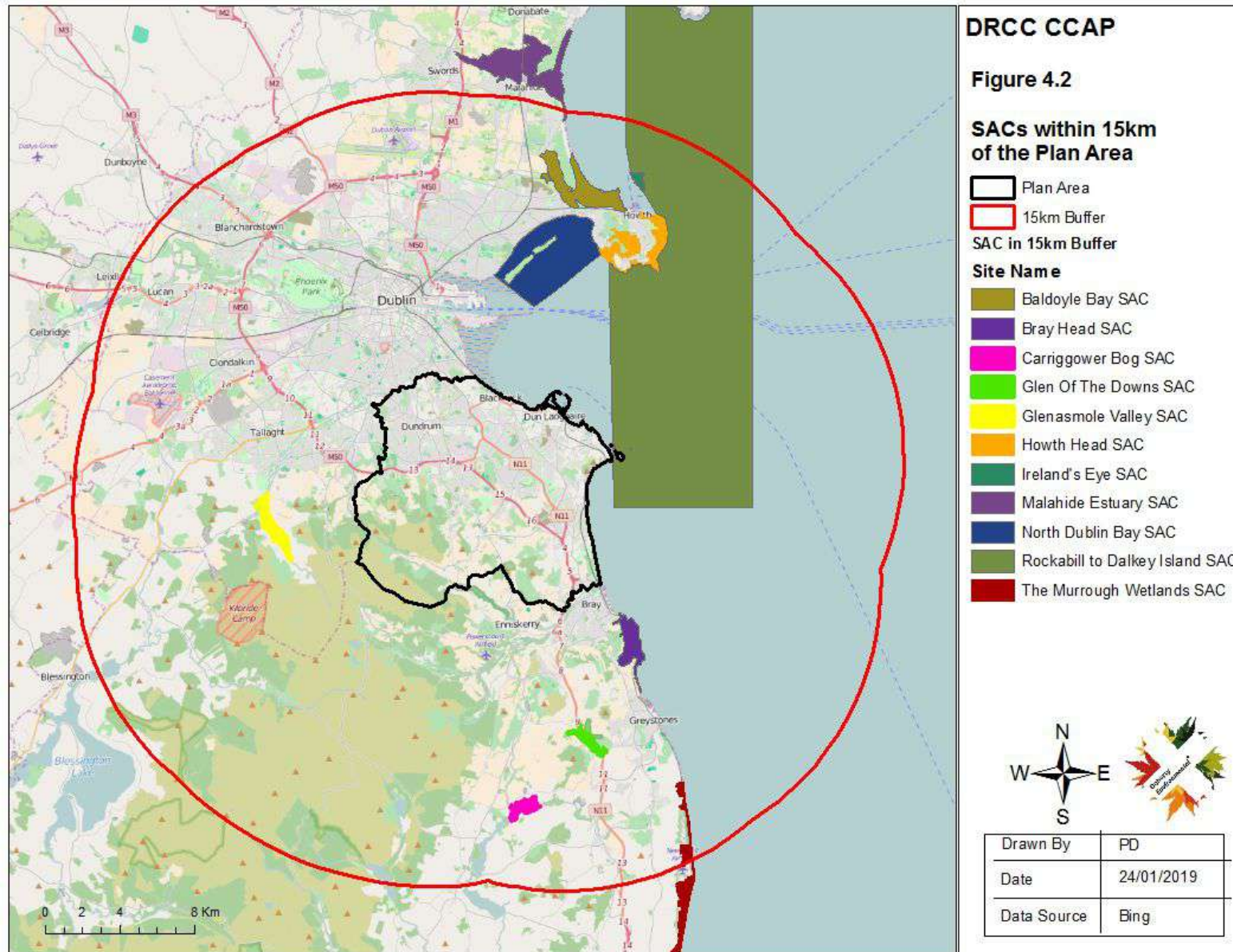
In order to identify the European Sites that could be significantly affected by the implementation of the proposed CCAP an initial long-list of sites occurring within a 15km radius of the Plan area (i.e. Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council) has been compiled. The establishment of a 15km buffer area surrounding the Plan area is in line with the DAHLG recommended procedures for identifying European Sites. The buffer distance of 15km was also considered sufficient to ensure all potential impacts to European Sites arising from the implementation of the Plan were taken into account (see Section 4.1 below for more information). This is based on the absence of any impact pathways (i.e. the absence of a hydrological pathway) between the Plan area and other European Sites occurring at a distance greater than 15km from the Plan area.

4.1 EUROPEAN SITES WITHIN 15KM OF THE PLAN

Table 4.1 lists all European Sites occurring within and surrounding the Plan area. A total number of seven European Sites, comprising four SACs and three SPAs occur within the Plan Area (see Figures 4.1). In addition to these European Sites a total of 13 SACs and 5 SPAs occur within a 15km radius of the Plan Area (see Figure 4.2 and Figure 4.3).

Table 4.1 lists the qualifying features of interest of the SAC and the special conservation interests of the SPAs occurring within the Plan area and the surrounding 15km buffer zone. In addition the broad habitat types and species for which each site is designated are also outlined.





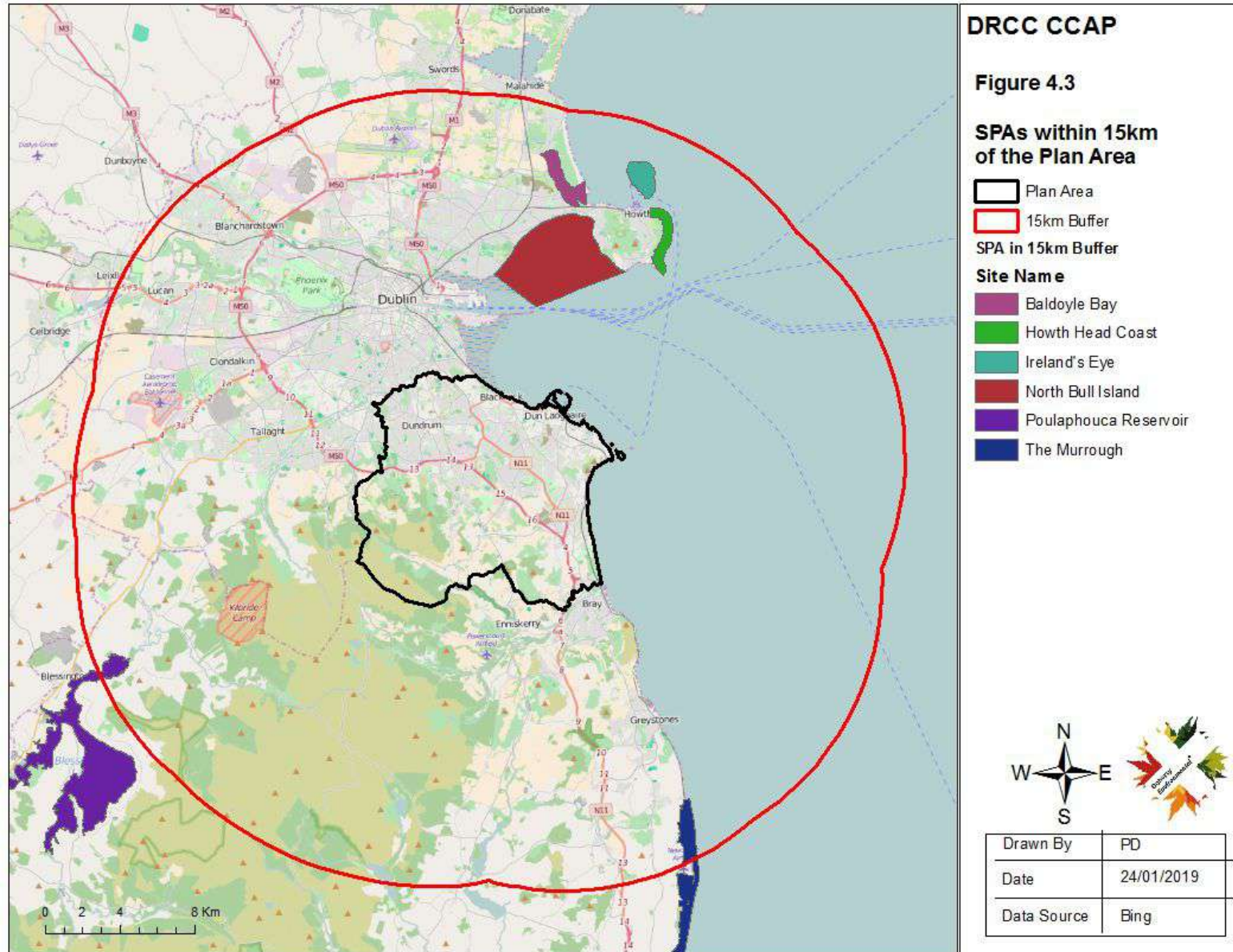


Table 4.1: European Sites within 15km of the Plan Area

European Sites	Distance from Plan Area	Qualifying Features of Interest/Special Conservation Interests	Broad QI/SCI Category
European Sites within the Plan Area			
Dalkey Island SPA	Within Plan area	Roseate Tern (<i>Sterna dougallii</i>) [A192] Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193] Arctic Tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) [A194]	Breeding waterbirds
Ballyman Glen SAC	Within Plan area	Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220] Alkaline fens [7230]	Groundwater dependent habitats
Knocksink Woods SAC	Within Plan area	Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220] Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i>) [91E0]	Groundwater dependent habitats

<p>South Dublin Bay & Tolka Estuary SPA</p>	<p>Within Plan area</p>	<p>Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046] Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130] Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137] Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143] Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144] Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149] Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157] Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162] Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179] Roseate Tern (<i>Sterna dougallii</i>) [A192] Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193] Arctic Tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) [A194] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]</p>	<p>Wintering coastal waterbirds Breeding Terns Coastal habitats</p>
<p>South Dublin Bay SAC</p>	<p>Within Plan area</p>	<p>Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]</p>	<p>Coastal habitats</p>

		<p>Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210]</p> <p>Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310]</p> <p>Embryonic shifting dunes [2110]</p>	
<p>Wicklow Mountain SAC</p>	<p>Within Plan area</p>	<p>Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>) [3110]</p> <p>Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160]</p> <p>Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010]</p> <p>European dry heaths [4030]</p> <p>Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060]</p> <p>Calaminarian grasslands of the <i>Violetalia calaminariae</i> [6130]</p> <p>Species-rich <i>Nardus</i> grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe) [6230]</p> <p>Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130]</p> <p>Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (<i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsietalia ladani</i>) [8110]</p> <p>Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8210]</p>	<p>Surface water dependent habitats</p> <p>Terrestrial grassland, peatland, woodland and exposed rock habitat</p> <p>Mammals (otters)</p>

		<p>Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220]</p> <p>Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0]</p> <p>Lutra lutra (Otter) [1355]</p>	
Wicklow Mountain SPA	Within Plan area	<p>Merlin (Falco columbarius)</p> <p>Peregrine (Falco peregrinus)</p>	Breeding raptor bird species
European Sites within 15km of the Plan area			
Glenasmole Valley SAC	4km to the west	<p>Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (* important orchid sites) [6210]</p> <p>Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae) [6410]</p> <p>Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220]</p>	<p>Terrestrial grassland and peatland habitat</p> <p>Groundwater dependent habitat</p>
North Dublin Bay SAC	km to the	<p>Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]</p> <p>Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210]</p> <p>Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and</p>	<p>Coastal habitats</p> <p>Plant species (Petalwort liverwort)</p>

		<p>sand [1310]</p> <p>Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>) [1330]</p> <p>Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410]</p> <p>Embryonic shifting dunes [2110]</p> <p>Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120]</p> <p>Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130]</p> <p>Humid dune slacks [2190]</p> <p><i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> (Petalwort) [1395]</p>	
North Bull Island SPA	4.5km to the north	<p>Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046]</p> <p>Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048]</p> <p>Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052]</p> <p>Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) [A054]</p> <p>Shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>) [A056]</p> <p>Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130]</p> <p>Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140]</p>	<p>Wintering coastal waterbirds</p> <p>Coastal habitats</p>

		<p>Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141]</p> <p>Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143]</p> <p>Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144]</p> <p>Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149]</p> <p>Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156]</p> <p>Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157]</p> <p>Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160]</p> <p>Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162]</p> <p>Turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>) [A169]</p> <p>Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179]</p> <p>Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]</p>	
Baldoyle Bay SAC	10km to the north	<p>Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]</p> <p>Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310]</p> <p>Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>) [1330]</p> <p>Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410]</p>	Coastal habitats

<p>Baldoyle Bay SPA</p>	<p>10km to the north</p>	<p>Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046] Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048] Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137] Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140] Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]</p>	<p>Wintering coastal waterbirds Coastal habitats</p>
<p>Malahide Estuary SAC</p>	<p>14.5km to the north</p>	<p>Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>) [1330] Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410] Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120] Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130]</p>	<p>Coastal Habitats</p>

Howth Head SAC	8km to the north	Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230] European dry heaths [4030]	Terrestrial exposed rock and peatland habitats
Howth Head Coast SPA	8km to the north	Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) [A188]	
Ireland's Eye SAC	11km to the north	Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220] Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230]	Terrestrial peatland habitats
Ireland's Eye SPA	11km to the north	Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017] Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) [A184] Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) [A188] Guillemot (<i>Uria aalge</i>) [A199] Razorbill (<i>Alca torda</i>) [A200]	Terrestrial peatland habitats
Bray Head SAC	2km to the south	Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230] European dry heaths [4030]	Terrestrial exposed rock and peatland habitats
Carriggower Bog SAC	11km to the southwest	Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140]	Terrestrial peatland habitats

Glen Of The Downs SAC	7km to the south	Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0]	Terrestrial woodland habitats
Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA	km to the	Greylag Goose (<i>Anser anser</i>) [A043] Lesser Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>) [A183]	Winter waterbirds
The Murrough Wetlands SAC	11km to the south	Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210] Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220] Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>) [1330] Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410] Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davalliana</i> [7210] Alkaline fens [7230]	Groundwater dependent habitats Groundwater/surface water dependent species
The Murrough SPA	11km to the south	Red-throated Diver (<i>Gavia stellata</i>) [A001] Greylag Goose (<i>Anser anser</i>) [A043] Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046] Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050] Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052]	Wintering waterbirds Breeding Terns

		Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179] Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) [A184] Little Tern (<i>Sterna albifrons</i>) [A195] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	
Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC	Adjacent to the Plan area	Reefs [1170] <i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]	Marine Habitat Marine mammal

4.2 EUROPEAN SITES WITHIN THE ZONE OF INFLUENCE OF THE PLAN

The next step of this Screening Exercise is to identify which, if any, of European Sites listed in Table 4.1 above occur within the zone of influence of the Plan area.

A source-pathway-receptor model has been used to establish which European Sites could occur within the zone of influence of potential impacts. Under such a model the elements of the Plan for which likely significant effects cannot be ruled out represents the source. As noted above these elements relate to the provision of transport infrastructure and the coastal zone management works.

Potential impacts will have the potential to arise where these elements of the Plan have the potential to interact with qualifying features of interest/special conservation interests of European Sites. These interactions may arise as a result of direct impacts to habitats and species through habitat loss and disturbance or where pathways (such as rivers and streams) link land use activities associated with these elements to qualifying feature of interest/special conservation interests.

The receptors represent European Sites and their associated qualifying features of interest/special conservation interests.

European Sites and their associated qualifying features are likely to occur in the zone of influence of the project only where potential for the above interactions and pathways establish a link between the six Plan actions that have been identified to have the potential to result in negative land use effects and European Sites. Table 4.2 provides a determination as to whether each European Site (as listed in Table 4.1) occur within the zone of influence of the project. This determination has been undertaken in line with the following assessment questions:

- Does the Plan Action have the potential to interact with qualifying habitats?
- Does the Plan Action have the potential to interact with qualifying species/special conservation interest bird species?

- Is there a hydrological pathway linking the Plan Action to European Sites and does this pathway have the potential to function as an impact pathway?

Table 4.2: Identification of European Sites within the Zone of Influence of the Plan

European Sites	Potential Interaction with Qualifying Habitats	Potential Interaction with Qualifying Species	Potential Hydrological Pathway	Does the European Sites occur within the zone of influence of the Plan?
European Sites within the Plan Area				
Dalkey Island SPA	Any coastal zone management works that might be implemented by the Plan at Dalkey Island will have the potential to result in interactions with habitats on the island that support breeding terns.	Any coastal zone management works that might be implemented by the Plan at Dalkey Island will have the potential to result in interactions with the breeding tern populations supported by the island.	Any works on the island associated with coastal zone management will have the potential to result in interactions with the breeding tern population supported by the island and the habitats that these species rely on.	Yes
Ballyman Glen SAC	Any works associated with the expansion of the walking and cycling network within the County within or adjacent to this SAC will have the potential to result in likely significant effects to the qualifying habitats of this SAC.	No Annex II species are listed as qualifying features of interest for this SAC.	A watercourse referred to by the EPA as the County Brook stream flows through this SAC. This watercourses upstream of the SAC forms the county boundary. Any works associated with walking, cycling, road maintenance within the catchment of this stream upstream of the SAC could have the potential to result in negative effects to the alkaline fen and petrifying spring habitats of this SAC.	Yes

Knocksink Woods SAC	Any works associated with the expansion of the walking and cycling network within the County within or adjacent to this SAC will have the potential to result in likely significant effects to the qualifying habitats of this SAC.	No Annex II species are listed as qualifying features of interest for this SAC.	A watercourse referred to by the EPA as the County Brook stream flows through this SAC. This watercourses upstream of the SAC forms the county boundary. Any works associated with walking, cycling, road maintenance within the catchment of this stream upstream of the SAC could have the potential to result in negative effects to the alkaline fen and petrifying spring habitats of this SAC.	Yes
South Dublin Bay SAC	Any works associated with the expansion of the walking and cycling network within the County or with road maintenance and rail network expansion within or adjacent to this SAC will have the potential to result in likely significant effects to the qualifying habitats of this SAC.	No Annex II species are listed as qualifying features of interest for this SAC.	A minor watercourses flows through the plan area in the vicinity of Blackrock and drains to this SAC. Any works associated with walking, cycling, road maintenance or rail expansion within the catchment of this stream upstream of the SAC could have the potential to result in negative effects to the coastal habitats of the SAC.	Yes
South Dublin Bay & Tolka Estuary SPA	Any works associated with the expansion of the walking and cycling network within the County or with road maintenance and rail network expansion could have the potential to result in negative effects to the wetland habitats of this SPA.	Any works associated with cycling and walking routes, road maintenance works or rail expansion within or adjacent to this SPA could result in disturbance to the special conservation interest bird species supported by this SPA.	A minor watercourses flows through the plan area in the vicinity of Blackrock and drains to this SPA. Any works associated with walking, cycling, road maintenance or rail expansion within the catchment of this stream upstream of the SPA could have the potential to result in negative effects to the wetland habitats of this SPA, upon which special conservation interest bird	Yes

			species rely for foraging and roosting.	
Wicklow Mountain SAC	Any works associated with the expansion of the walking and cycling network or with road maintenance within or adjacent to this SAC could have the potential to result in negative effects to its qualifying habitats.	Any works associated with the expansion of the walking and cycling network or with road maintenance within or adjacent to this SAC will have the potential to interact with qualifying species of this SAC.	Any works associated with the expansion of the walking and cycling network or with road maintenance upstream of this SAC could result in negative effects to qualifying species and qualifying habitats of the SAC.	Yes
Wicklow Mountain SPA	Any works associated with the expansion of the walking and cycling network within the County or with road maintenance and rail network expansion could have the potential to result in negative effects to the wetland habitats of this SPA.	Any works associated with cycling and walking routes, road maintenance works or rail expansion within or adjacent to this SPA could result in disturbance to the special conservation interest bird species supported by this SPA.	A minor watercourse flows through the plan area in the vicinity of Blackrock and drains to this SPA. Any works associated with walking, cycling, road maintenance or rail expansion within the catchment of this stream upstream of the SPA could have the potential to result in negative effects to the wetland habitats of this SPA, upon which special conservation interest bird species rely for foraging and roosting.	Yes
European Sites within 15km of the Plan area				
Glenasmole Valley SAC	Any works associated with the expansion of the walking and cycling network, with road maintenance, the expansion of the rail network or coastal zone management will be completed at a remote distance from the qualifying habitats of this SAC. There will be no potential for the project to directly interact with these	No Annex II species are listed as qualifying features of interest for this SAC.	This SAC is located within a separate surface water catchment to the Plan area and as such there is no hydrological pathway linking the Plan area and associated land use elements to this SAC.	No.

	habitats.			
North Dublin Bay SAC	Any works associated with the expansion of the walking and cycling network, with road maintenance, the expansion of the rail network or coastal zone management will be completed at a remote distance from the qualifying habitats of this SAC. There will be no potential for the project to directly interact with these habitats.	No Annex II species are listed as qualifying features of interest for this SAC.	This SAC is located within a separate surface water catchment to the Plan area and as such there is no hydrological pathway linking the Plan area and associated land use elements to this SAC.	No.
North Bull Island SPA	Any works associated with the expansion of the walking and cycling network, with road maintenance, the expansion of the rail network or coastal zone management will be completed at a remote distance from the wetland habitats of this SPA. There will be no potential for the project to directly interact with these habitats.	The Plan area is located at a remote distance from this SPA and any land use works associated with the expansion of the walking and cycling network, with road maintenance, the expansion of the rail network or coastal zone management is not predicted to have the potential to result in negative effects to the conservation status of the special conservation interest bird species of this SPA..	This SPA is located within a separate surface water catchment to the Plan area and as such there is no hydrological pathway linking the Plan area and associated land use elements to this SPA.	No.
	Any works associated with the expansion of the walking and cycling network, with road maintenance, the expansion of the rail network or coastal zone management will be completed at a remote distance from the qualifying habitats of this SAC. There will be no potential for the project to directly interact with these	No Annex II species are listed as qualifying features of interest for this SAC.	This SAC is located within a separate surface water catchment to the Plan area and as such there is no hydrological pathway linking the Plan area and associated land use elements to this SAC.	No.

	habitats.			
Baldoyle Bay SAC	Any works associated with the expansion of the walking and cycling network, with road maintenance, the expansion of the rail network or coastal zone management will be completed at a remote distance from the qualifying habitats of this SAC. There will be no potential for the project to directly interact with these habitats.	No Annex II species are listed as qualifying features of interest for this SAC.	This SAC is located within a separate surface water catchment to the Plan area and as such there is no hydrological pathway linking the Plan area and associated land use elements to this SAC.	No.
Baldoyle Bay SPA	Any works associated with the expansion of the walking and cycling network, with road maintenance, the expansion of the rail network or coastal zone management will be completed at a remote distance from the wetland habitats of this SPA. There will be no potential for the project to directly interact with these habitats.	The Plan area is located at a remote distance from this SPA and any land use works associated with the expansion of the walking and cycling network, with road maintenance, the expansion of the rail network or coastal zone management is not predicted to have the potential to result in negative effects to the conservation status of the special conservation interest bird species of this SPA..	This SPA is located within a separate surface water catchment to the Plan area and as such there is no hydrological pathway linking the Plan area and associated land use elements to this SPA.	No.
Malahide Estuary SAC	Any works associated with the expansion of the walking and cycling network, with road maintenance, the expansion of the rail network or coastal zone management will be completed at a remote distance from the qualifying habitats of this SAC. There will be no potential for the project to directly interact with these	No Annex II species are listed as qualifying features of interest for this SAC.	This SAC is located within a separate surface water catchment to the Plan area and as such there is no hydrological pathway linking the Plan area and associated land use elements to this SAC.	No.

	habitats.			
Howth Head SAC	Any works associated with the expansion of the walking and cycling network, with road maintenance, the expansion of the rail network or coastal zone management will be completed at a remote distance from the qualifying habitats of this SAC. There will be no potential for the project to directly interact with these habitats.	No Annex II species are listed as qualifying features of interest for this SAC.	This SAC is located within a separate surface water catchment to the Plan area and as such there is no hydrological pathway linking the Plan area and associated land use elements to this SAC.	No.
Howth Head Coast SPA	Any works associated with the expansion of the walking and cycling network, with road maintenance, the expansion of the rail network or coastal zone management will be completed at a remote distance from the wetland habitats of this SPA. There will be no potential for the project to directly interact with these habitats.	The Plan area is located at a remote distance from this SPA and any land use works associated with the expansion of the walking and cycling network, with road maintenance, the expansion of the rail network or coastal zone management is not predicted to have the potential to result in negative effects to the conservation status of the special conservation interest bird species of this SPA..	This SPA is located within a separate surface water catchment to the Plan area and as such there is no hydrological pathway linking the Plan area and associated land use elements to this SPA.	No.
Ireland's Eye SAC	Any works associated with the expansion of the walking and cycling network, with road maintenance, the expansion of the rail network or coastal zone management will be completed at a remote distance from the qualifying habitats of this SAC. There will be no potential for the project to directly interact with these	No Annex II species are listed as qualifying features of interest for this SAC.	This SAC is located within a separate surface water catchment to the Plan area and as such there is no hydrological pathway linking the Plan area and associated land use elements to this SAC.	No.

	habitats.			
Ireland's Eye SPA	Any works associated with the expansion of the walking and cycling network, with road maintenance, the expansion of the rail network or coastal zone management will be completed at a remote distance from the wetland habitats of this SPA. There will be no potential for the project to directly interact with these habitats.	The Plan area is located at a remote distance from this SPA and any land use works associated with the expansion of the walking and cycling network, with road maintenance, the expansion of the rail network or coastal zone management is not predicted to have the potential to result in negative effects to the conservation status of the special conservation interest bird species of this SPA..	This SPA is located within a separate surface water catchment to the Plan area and as such there is no hydrological pathway linking the Plan area and associated land use elements to this SPA.	No.
Bray Head SAC	Any works associated with the expansion of the walking and cycling network, with road maintenance, the expansion of the rail network or coastal zone management will be completed at a remote distance from the qualifying habitats of this SAC. There will be no potential for the project to directly interact with these habitats.	No Annex II species are listed as qualifying features of interest for this SAC.	This SAC is located within a separate surface water catchment to the Plan area and as such there is no hydrological pathway linking the Plan area and associated land use elements to this SAC.	No.
Carriggower Bog SAC	Any works associated with the expansion of the walking and cycling network, with road maintenance, the expansion of the rail network or coastal zone management will be completed at a remote distance from the qualifying habitats of this SAC. There will be no potential for the project to directly interact with these	No Annex II species are listed as qualifying features of interest for this SAC.	This SAC is located within a separate surface water catchment to the Plan area and as such there is no hydrological pathway linking the Plan area and associated land use elements to this SAC.	No.

	habitats.			
Glen Of The Downs SAC	Any works associated with the expansion of the walking and cycling network, with road maintenance, the expansion of the rail network or coastal zone management will be completed at a remote distance from the qualifying habitats of this SAC. There will be no potential for the project to directly interact with these habitats.	No Annex II species are listed as qualifying features of interest for this SAC.	This SAC is located within a separate surface water catchment to the Plan area and as such there is no hydrological pathway linking the Plan area and associated land use elements to this SAC.	No.
Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA	Any works associated with cycling and walking routes and minor flood works within South Dublin will be completed at a remote distance from the wetland habitats of this SPA. There will be no potential for the project to directly interact with these habitats	Any works associated with cycling and walking routes and minor flood works within South Dublin are not likely to be undertaken within areas that are relied upon by the wetland bird species of this SPA. This is due to the absence of suitable coastal habitats within the Plan area to support such species. Given the absence of coastal habitat and the distance between the Plan area and this SPA there will be no potential for the Plan to interact with these species.	There are no hydrological pathways connecting the Plan area to this SPA.	No
The Murrough Wetlands SAC	Any works associated with the expansion of the walking and cycling network, with road maintenance, the expansion of the rail network or coastal zone management will be completed at a remote distance from the qualifying habitats of this SAC. There will be no potential for the	No Annex II species are listed as qualifying features of interest for this SAC.	This SAC is located within a separate surface water catchment to the Plan area and as such there is no hydrological pathway linking the Plan area and associated land use elements to this SAC.	No.

	project to directly interact with these habitats.			
The Murrough SPA	Any works associated with the expansion of the walking and cycling network, with road maintenance, the expansion of the rail network or coastal zone management will be completed at a remote distance from the qualifying habitats of this SAC. There will be no potential for the project to directly interact with these habitats.	No Annex II species are listed as qualifying features of interest for this SAC.	This SAC is located within a separate surface water catchment to the Plan area and as such there is no hydrological pathway linking the Plan area and associated land use elements to this SAC.	No.
Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC	This SAC surrounds Dalkey Island. Any coastal zone management works that might be implemented by the Plan at the island will have the potential to result in interactions with the reef habitats of this SAC.	This SAC surrounds Dalkey Island. Any coastal zone management works that might be implemented by the Plan at the island will have the potential to result in interactions with the harbour propoise population supported by this SAC.	Dalkey Island is surrounded by this SAC and any works on the island associated with coastal zone management will have the potential to result in interactions with the qualifying habitats and qualifying species of this SAC.	Yes.

Table 4.2 above outlines the relationship between the project site and the European Sites occurring within and in the surrounding 15km buffer area of the Plan area. Of the twenty European Sites occurring within and in a 15km radius of the Plan area, six have been identified as occurring within the zone of influence of the Plan. These European Sites are:

- Dalkey Island SPA;
- Ballyman Glen SAC;
- Knocksink Woods SAC;
- South Dublin Bay SAC
- South Dublin Bay River Tolka Estuary SPA
- Wicklow Mountains SAC;
- Wicklow Mountains SPA; and
- Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC

4.3 CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES FOR INTEREST FEATURES OF EUROPEAN SITES OCCURRING WITHIN THE ZONE OF INFLUENCE OF THE PROJECT

Generic conservation objectives for all European Sites have been established by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS). The generic conservation objective for the two habitats occurring within the zone of influence of the project is to maintain the favourable conservation status of these habitats. The favourable conservation status of these habitats is achieved when:

- its natural range, and area it covers within that range, are stable or increasing, and
- 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, and
- the conservation status of its typical species is favourable.

The generic conservation objective for the qualifying species occurring within the zone of influence of the project is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation status of these species. This is achieved 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, and
- the natural range of the species is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future, and
- there is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis.

5.0 LIKELY SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS OF THE PLAN TO EUROPEAN SITES OCCURRING WITHIN ITS ZONE OF INFLUENCE

The potential ecological effects of land use activities associated with the provision of cycling and walking routes, road maintenance works, the expansion of the rail network in the county and the provision of coastal zone management works could include:

- Habitat loss and fragmentation;
- Habitat degradation resulting from emissions to surface water;
- Habitat degradation resulting from emissions to groundwater;
- Habitat degradation resulting from the spread of non-native invasive species during works within enterprise zones; and
- Disturbance and/or displacement of qualifying species from within or outside European Sites.

5.1 IN-COMBINATION EFFECTS WITH OTHER PLANS & PROJECTS

As part of the Habitats Directive Article 6(3) assessment process consideration must be given to the potential for the Plan to combine with other plans or projects to result in cumulative negative effects to European Sites. Given the broad level of detail associated with the Plan's actions and the potential for land use effects to arise as result of the implementation of actions associated with cycling, walking and flood defense measures, the potential for the Plan to combine within other Plans to result in cumulative effects cannot be ruled out. The key plans

for which consideration has been given for potential cumulative effects are listed in Table 5.1 below.

Eastern and Midland Assembly Draft Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy 2018 (RSES)

National Planning Framework 2018 (NPF)

National Mitigation Plan

The Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area, 2016-2035

Water Services Strategic Plan

Neighbouring County Development Plans

River Basin District Management Plans

CFRAMS Study

Greater Dublin Drainage

The Greater Dublin Transport Strategy 2016-2035

South Dublin County Council Development Plan 2016-2022

South Dublin Heritage Plan 2014-2019

A Strategy towards a Climate Change Action Plan for Dublin 2017

Catchment-Based Flood Risk Management Plans (CFRMP)

6.0 SCREENING CONCLUSION

The Screening of the proposed SDDCC CCAP as set out above shows that, in the absence of appropriate mitigation measures, it cannot be ruled out that the Plan and future land use measures facilitated by it, will not have the potential to result in likely significant effects to the following European Sites and their qualifying features of interest:

- Dalkey Island SPA;
- Ballyman Glen SAC;
- Knocksink Woods SAC;
- South Dublin Bay SAC
- South Dublin Bay River Tolka Estuary SPA
- Wicklow Mountains SAC;
- Wicklow Mountains SPA; and
- Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC

Due to the potential risk of such effects occurring following the implementation of the CCAP, it has been concluded that the Plan has the potential to result in significant effects to European Sites. As such, a Natura Impact Report (NIR) is required to inform an Appropriate Assessment of the proposed CCAP.

7.0 APPENDIX 1: ACTION PLAN SCREENING

	Action Area	Potential for Land Use Effects
	Energy Planning	
1	Create Dublin Region Energy Master Plan	No. This action which calls for the preparation of this Plan will not in itself result in land use effects.
2	Prepare DLR Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan	No. This action which calls for the preparation of this Plan will not in itself result in land use effects.
3	Develop and implement Public Lighting Master Plan	No. This action which calls for the preparation of this Plan will not in itself result in land use effects.
4	Evidence-based climate change chapter in County Development Plan 2022-2028	No. This action which calls for the preparation of this Chapter will not in itself result in land use effects.
	ENERGY EFFICIENCY & RENEWABLES	
5	Deep retrofits of housing stock to nZEB or EnerPHit standard	No. This action which calls for the preparation of this Chapter will not in itself result in land use effects.
6	Undertake energy efficiency works in the Council's housing stock	No. Such works will be completed for the existing housing stock and will not have the potential to result in likely significant effects to European Sites.
7	Review all significant energy users within the Council to increase energy efficiencies	No. This review and associated increased in energy efficiency for existing energy users will not result in likely significant effects to European Sites.
8	Implement EPC project in 3 Council leisure centres	No. This action will not result in land use effects or likely significant effects to European Sites.

9	Apply for energy funding through SEAI's BEC, EXEED and deep retrofit programmes	No. No. This action will not result in land use effects or likely significant effects to European Sites.
10	Continue upgrading public lighting to LEDs	No. No. This action will not r likely significant effects to European Sites.
11	Continued compliance with ISO50001	No. No. This action will not result in land use effects or likely significant effects to European Sites.
12	Display Energy Certificates for public buildings	No. No. This action will not result in land use effects or likely significant effects to European Sites.
13	Annual Monitoring and Reporting to SEAI	No. No. This action will not result in land use effects or likely significant effects to European Sites.
14	Promote DLR's exemplar role of energy efficiency in public sector	No. No. This action will not result in land use effects or likely significant effects to European Sites.
15	Publish Energy Review annually	No. No. This action will not result in land use effects or likely significant effects to European Sites.
	RESEARCH & INNOVATION	
16	Facilitate the Small Business Innovation and Research (SBIR) challenge for climate change solutions	No. No. This action will not result in land use effects or likely significant effects to European Sites.
17	Monitoring of smart lighting trials in County	No. No. This action will not result in likely significant effects to European Sites.
18	Continue to use Energy Elephant to monitor energy use in Council buildings	No. This action will not result in land use effects or likely significant effects to European Sites.
	ENERGY AWARENESS	

19	Energy awareness initiatives in Council owned buildings	No. This action will not result in land use effects or likely significant effects to European Sites.
20	Monitor and develop the Home Energy Saving Kits in DLR libraries	No. This action will not result in land use effects or likely significant effects to European Sites.
	TRANSPORT	
	Operations	
1	Increase number of electric vehicles in the Council fleet	No. No. This action will not result in land use effects or likely significant effects to European Sites.
	PLANNING & PUBLIC REALM	
	3 Promotion of road safety and active travel in schools	This action will not result in land use effects or likely significant effects to European Sites.
4	4 Develop and expand the County walking network	Yes. Given the absence of specific details regarding future projects associated with the County walking network that may be supported by and facilitated by this Action the potential likely significant effects to the follows European Sites cannot be ruled out at this stage: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ballyman Glen SAC; • Knocksink Woods SAC; • South Dublin Bay SAC • South Dublin Bay River Tolka Estuary SPA • Wicklow Mountains SAC; and • Wicklow Mountains SPA.
5	DLR Sports Partnership organised walks	No. This action will not result in land use effects or likely significant effects to European Sites.
6	Permeability and connectivity in the planning process	No. This action will not result in land use effects or likely significant effects to European Sites.

7	Develop and extend cycle network	<p>Yes. Given the absence of specific details regarding future projects associated with the County walking network that may be supported by and facilitated by this Action the potential likely significant effects to the follows European Sites cannot be ruled out at this stage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ballyman Glen SAC; • Knocksink Woods SAC; • South Dublin Bay SAC • South Dublin Bay River Tolka Estuary SPA • Wicklow Mountains SAC; and • Wicklow Mountains SPA.
8	Cycle Training Programme in schools	No. This action will not result in land use effects or likely significant effects to European Sites.
9	Develop County bike sharing scheme	No. This action will not result in land use effects or likely significant effects to European Sites.
10	Cycle parking in public realm	No. This action will not result in land use effects or likely significant effects to European Sites.
11	30 km/h speed limits	No. This action will not result in land use effects or likely significant effects to European Sites.
12	Road maintenance improvements	<p>Yes. Road maintenance improvements could involve land use works in the vicinity of European Sites. Given the absence of specific details regarding future projects associated with improvements that may be supported by and facilitated by this Action the potential likely significant effects to the follows European Sites cannot be ruled out at this stage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ballyman Glen SAC; • Knocksink Woods SAC; • South Dublin Bay SAC • South Dublin Bay River Tolka Estuary SPA • Wicklow Mountains SAC; and

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wicklow Mountains SPA
13	Expand Bus network in the county	<p>Yes. The expansion of the bus network in the county could involve land use works in the vicinity of European Sites. Given the absence of specific details regarding future projects associated with the expansion of the bus network that may be supported by and facilitated by this Action the potential likely significant effects to the follows European Sites cannot be ruled out at this stage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ballyman Glen SAC; • Knocksink Woods SAC; • South Dublin Bay SAC • South Dublin Bay River Tolka Estuary SPA • Wicklow Mountains SAC; and • Wicklow Mountains SPA
14	Expand rail network in the County	<p>Yes. The expansion of the bus network in the county could involve land use works in the vicinity of European Sites. Given the absence of specific details regarding future projects associated with the expansion of the bus network that may be supported by and facilitated by this Action the potential likely significant effects to the follows European Sites cannot be ruled out at this stage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ballyman Glen SAC; • Knocksink Woods SAC; • South Dublin Bay SAC • South Dublin Bay River Tolka Estuary SPA • Wicklow Mountains SAC; and • Wicklow Mountains SPA
15	Expand car clubs in the County	No. This action will not result in land use effects or likely significant effects to European Sites.
16	Expand EV network in the County	No. This action will not result in land use effects with the potential to result in likely significant effects to European Sites.

17	Engagement with citizens on new sustainable travel initiatives and schemes	No. This action will not result in land use effects or likely significant effects to European Sites.
18	Replacement of diesel hand sweepers/diesel power washers with electric models	No. This action will not result in land use effects or likely significant effects to European Sites.
	Flood Resilience	
1	Implement flood risk management guidelines	No. These guidelines outline best practice measures for undertaking flood risk management assessments and the implementation of this action will not result in land use effects or likely significant effects to European Sites.
2	Coordinate Emergency Response Plans incorporating climate change	No. This action will not in itself result in land use effects or likely significant effects to European Sites.
3	Implement Coastal Zone Management Plan	<p>Yes. Given that the details of the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council Coastal Zone Management Plan have yet to be prepared, that this Plan may contain land use measures for coastal protection and the presence of a number of coastal European Sites within the Plan area the potential for likely significant effects to these European Sites cannot be ruled out at this stage. The European Sites that could be at risk of likely significant effects from any actions associated with coastal zone management land use measures are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Dublin Bay SAC • South Dublin Bay River Tolka Estuary SPA • Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC • Dalkey Island SPA.
4	Implement coastal monitoring programme, map of vulnerable areas	No. This action will not result in land use effects or likely significant effects to European Sites.
5	Develop and implement a biosphere work programme within the County	No. This action will not result in land use effects or likely significant effects to European Sites.
6	Develop a climate change impact GIS risk map with scenarios for the	No. This action will not result in land use effects or likely significant effects to European Sites.

	Dublin Region	significant effects to European Sites.
7	Develop template to capture impacts, response and costs for all major climate events	No. This action will not result in land use effects or likely significant effects to European Sites.
8	Risk workshops to assess impacts on Council services	No. This action will not result in land use effects or likely significant effects to European Sites.
9	<p>Establish a Working Group to deal with the Issue of Pluvial Flood Risk. This shall include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to manage “urban creep” and the increase in impermeable surfaces • Promotion of SuDS early in design process • Development of pluvial flood forecasting through use of point rainfall forecasting <p>Interim use of DCC “FLAG” meetings as a model for DLAs in relation to pluvial flood forecasting and response.</p>	No. This action will not result in itself result in land use effects or likely significant effects to European Sites.
10	Update DLA urban drainage and flooding policies for current knowledge of flood risk and the latest best practice in drainage design	No. This action will not result in itself result in land use effects or likely significant effects to European Sites.
		No.
11	Cabinteely Park flood storage	No. This action will not result in itself result in land use effects or likely significant effects to European Sites. There are no linkages between Cabinteely Park and European Sites.
12	Fernhill Park flood storage feasibility study	No. This action will not result in itself result in land use effects or likely significant effects to European Sites. There are no linkages between Fernhill Park and European Sites.

13	Kilbogget Park flood storage	No. This action will not result in itself result in land use effects or likely significant effects to European Sites. There are no linkages between Kilbogget Park and European Sites.
14	Installation of screen monitoring cameras	No. This action will not in itself result in land use effects or likely significant effects to European Sites.
15	Glenavon Park flood storage and integrated wetland	No. This action will not result in itself result in land use effects or likely significant effects to European Sites. There are no linkages between Glenavon Park and European Sites.
16	Marlay Park enhanced flood storage	No. This action will not result in itself result in land use effects or likely significant effects to European Sites. There are no linkages between Marlay Park and European Sites.
17	Sandyford Park flood storage	No. This action will not result in itself result in land use effects or likely significant effects to European Sites. There are no linkages between Sandyford Park and European Sites.
18	Corbawn coastal protection works	No. This action will not result in itself result in land use effects or likely significant effects to European Sites. There are no linkages between Corbawn Park and European Sites.
19	<i>Promote and encourage community involvement in the retrofit of SuDS in existing developments</i>	No. This action will not result in land use effects or likely significant effects to European Sites..
	NATURE BASED SOLUTIONS	
1	Establish regional working group on nature-based solutions	No. This action will not result in land use effects or likely significant effects to European Sites.
2	Agree joint action plans to protect habitats and species native to the County	No. This action will not result in land use effects or likely significant effects to European Sites.
3	Establish interdepartmental working	No. This action will not result in land use effects or likely

	group with engineers and planners	significant effects to European Sites.
4	Workshop on NBS, green infrastructure and Sustainable urban Drainage Systems (SuDS)	No. This action will not result in land use effects or likely significant effects to European Sites.
5	Produce regional floodplain management guidelines - use Santry River as demonstration	No. This action will not result in land use effects or likely significant effects to European Sites.
6	Undertake a feasibility study to develop an ecosystems audit template	No. This action will not result in land use effects or likely significant effects to European Sites.
7	Assessment of the impact of climate change on biodiversity and ecosystem services	No. This action will not result in land use effects or likely significant effects to European Sites.
	GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE	
8	Develop and implement pollinator support actions	No. This action will not result in land use effects or likely significant effects to European Sites.
9	Create region-wide map of green network to support walking and cycling	No. This action will not result in land use effects or likely significant effects to European Sites.
10	Implement Public Open Space and Parks Strategy	No. This action will not result in land use effects or likely significant effects to European Sites.
11	Incorporate natural play space into existing parks	No. This action will not result in land use effects or likely significant effects to European Sites.
	TREE MANAGEMENT	
12	Implement dlr TREES 2011-2015 strategy by producing a map of trees in the County	No. This action will not result in land use effects or likely significant effects to European Sites..
13	Develop Dublin tree and plant guide	No. This action will not result in land use effects or likely significant effects to European Sites.

14	Update dlr TREES 2011-2015 strategy	No. This action will not result in land use effects or likely significant effects to European Sites.
15	Promote the Heritage Tree Hunt	No. This action will not result in land use effects or likely significant effects to European Sites.
	CONSERVATION AND PRESERVATION	
16	Complete and climate proof Biodiversity Action Plan, Invasive Alien Species Plan, and dlr TREES 2011-2015 strategy	No. This action will not result in land use effects or likely significant effects to European Sites.
17	Review Dublin Bay Biosphere Plan and identify areas vulnerable to climate change	No. This action will not result in land use effects or likely significant effects to European Sites.
18	Coordinate action on biodiversity across the four Dublin Local Authorities	No. This action will not result in land use effects or likely significant effects to European Sites.
19	Protect and conserve floodplains, wetlands, and coastal areas subject to flooding	No. This action will not result in land use effects or likely significant effects to European Sites.
20	Promote the natural, historical and amenity value of watercourses while maximising flood protection	No. This action will not result in land use effects or likely significant effects to European Sites.
21	Launch awareness campaign to build awareness of native species	No. This action will not result in land use effects or likely significant effects to European Sites.
22	Bee Friendly Estates - promote planting of pro-pollinator flora	No. This action will not result in land use effects or likely significant effects to European Sites.
23	Update hedgerow study	No. This action will not result in land use effects or likely significant effects to European Sites.
24	Development of community garden at Fernhill Park	No. This action will not result in land use effects or likely significant effects to European Sites.

25	Deliver green roofs on civic buildings	No. This action will not result in land use effects or likely significant effects to European Sites.
	NATURE BASED SOLUTIONS	
	Resource Management	
26	<i>Develop demonstration sites to show how to combine nature conservation with existing land uses</i>	No. This action will not result in land use effects or likely significant effects to European Sites.
27	<i>Produce A Guide to Sustainable Living in County Dublin</i>	No. This action will not result in land use effects or likely significant effects to European Sites.
28	<i>Identify further sites suitable for community gardens for local food production</i>	No. This action will not result in land use effects or likely significant effects to European Sites.
29	<i>Sustainable gardening workshops</i>	No. This action will not result in land use effects or likely significant effects to European Sites.
30	<i>Support local communities through Lifelong Biodiversity Education</i>	No. This action will not result in land use effects or likely significant effects to European Sites.
31	<i>Assess benefit of increasing buffer distance of 10m from water courses to distances of 20m, 50m and 100m, in order to protect biodiversity and provide greater flood attenuation</i>	No. This action will not result in land use effects or likely significant effects to European Sites.
32	Establish a grant scheme to landowners of riparian habitat for the planting of trees and enhancement of riparian habitats to increase resilience to climate change	No. This action will not result in land use effects or likely significant effects to European Sites.
33	Tree planting in areas identified for climate change resilience	No. This action will not result in land use effects or likely significant effects to European Sites.
34	Pilot Demonstrator Projects for Rain Gardens and Blue-Green Streets –	No. This action will not result in land use effects or likely significant effects to European Sites.

	new builds and retroffing	
	RESOURCE MANAGEMENT	
	WASTE MANAGEMENT	
1	Monitor and enforce waste regulation	No. This action will not result in land use effects or likely significant effects to European Sites.
2	Assess waste in Council owned and operated buildings and plan actions to be taken	No. This action will not result in land use effects or likely significant effects to European Sites.
3	Run staff recycling awareness campaign	No. This action will not result in land use effects or likely significant effects to European Sites.
4	Identify neighbourhoods/areas in region in need of bring banks	No. This action will not result in land use effects or likely significant effects to European Sites.
5	Apply for Local Authority Prevention Network grants	No. This action will not result in land use effects or likely significant effects to European Sites.
6	Develop Stop Food Waste campaigns in DLR	No. This action will not result in land use effects or likely significant effects to European Sites.
7	Continue environmental awareness campaigns to support public in their efforts to manage their resource use	No. This action will not result in land use effects or likely significant effects to European Sites.
8	Promote Reuse Month annually	No. This action will not result in land use effects or likely significant effects to European Sites.
9	Use €co-Merit programme to advise businesses on how to become resource efficient	No. This action will not result in land use effects or likely significant effects to European Sites.
10	Help implement Recycling Ambassadors Programme	No. This action will not result in land use effects or likely significant effects to European Sites.

11	Secondary School Eco Conference	No. This action will not result in land use effects or likely significant effects to European Sites.
12	Maintain and increase Green Schools Programme participation	No. This action will not result in land use effects or likely significant effects to European Sites.
13	Work in partnership with resident/community groups in climate-related programmes	No. This action will not result in land use effects or likely significant effects to European Sites.
	LITTER & RECYCLING IN PUBLIC REALM	
15	Anti-dumping initiatives/ anti-litter campaigns	No. This action will not result in land use effects or likely significant effects to European Sites.
16	Marine litter clean up days	No. This action will not result in land use effects or likely significant effects to European Sites.
17	Introduce leaf composting programme	No. This action will not result in land use effects or likely significant effects to European Sites.
18	Support and promote local Tidy Town initiatives	No. This action will not result in land use effects or likely significant effects to European Sites.
19	Community fridge programme	No. This action will not result in land use effects or likely significant effects to European Sites.
20	Monitoring of Big Belly Bins in County	No. This action will not result in land use effects or likely significant effects to European Sites.
	Procurement	
21	Climate related evaluation criteria in all DLRCC tenders	No. This action will not result in land use effects or likely significant effects to European Sites.
	RESOURCE MANAGEMENT	

22	<i>Expand housing assistance programme to include tenant waste and water awareness</i>	No. This action will not result in land use effects or likely significant effects to European Sites.
23	<i>Waste management guidelines developed for developers of new housing schemes</i>	No. This action will not result in land use effects or likely significant effects to European Sites.