# Appropriate Assessment Screening Report

**for the proposed**

## Corkagh Park development,

**at**

## Corkagh Park, Clondalkin

**in accordance with the requirements of Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive**

**for:** **South Dublin County Council**

Comhairle Contae Átha Cliath Theas
South Dublin County Council

**by:** **CAAS Ltd.**

1st Floor

24-26 Ormond Quay Upper

D07 DAV9

CAAS

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| | Author/Reviewer | Date |
|---|---|---|
| **Prepared by** | Karen Dylan Shevlin | Various dates to 04 October 2021 |
| **Reviewed by** | Andrew Torsney | 09 December 2021 |
| | Paul Fingleton | |
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# 1. Introduction

## 1.1. Background

CAAS Ltd. has been appointed by South Dublin County Council to examine planning and ecological considerations of the proposed Corkagh Park development, Clondalkin, Dublin 22 (the proposed development). This Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening Report (also known as *Stage One* AA) has been prepared to assess whether or not a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) (also known as *Stage Two* AA) is required for the proposed development. AA is a procedure carried out in accordance with the requirements of Article 6(3) of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (as amended) (hereafter referred to as the "Habitats Directive").

## 1.2. Report Structure

This report sets out the legislative context for the assessment process with reference to relevant guidelines and highlight the experience and qualifications of the author (See Appendix IV for author qualifications). It then details the proposed development and the works associated with this which are then interrogated to identify any possible effects which may be ecologically relevant for European sites. Following this, the metrics for the assessment of 'significance' of these effects are explained and applied to each of the European sites with ecological connectivity to the proposed development area. This assessment is undertaken in view of the conservation objectives and known sensitivities of the qualifying interests and special conservation interests for each European site. Other plans and projects are then considered to identify any likely in combination effects which may result in significant adverse effects to European sites.

## 1.3. Legislative Context

The Habitats Directive provides legal protection for habitats and species of European importance. The overall aim of the Habitats Directive is to maintain or restore the "favourable conservation status" of habitats and species of European Community Interest. These habitats and species are listed in the Habitats and Birds Directives (Habitats Directive as above and Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds) with Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) designated to afford protection to the most vulnerable among them. These two designations are collectively known and referred to as European sites. Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive set out the decision-making tests for plans and projects likely to affect such sites. Article 6(3) establishes the requirement for AA. These requirements are implemented in the Republic of Ireland by the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (as amended) and the Planning and development Act 2000 (as amended).

Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive States:

> *'Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives. In the light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implications for the site and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, the competent national authorities shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it*

*will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public'.*

The AA process relates to the protection of species listed in Annex I and Annex II of the Habitats Directive which form the Natura 2000 network (Article 3(1)). Species breeding and resting places of species listed in Annex IV of the Habitats Directive are nationally protected in Ireland as per Articles 15 and 16 of the Habitats Directive. The actual species listed in Annex IV do not form part of the Natura 2000 network as they are not mentioned in Article 3(1) of the Directive which defines the Natura 2000 network.

Article 3(1) of the Habitats Directive States:

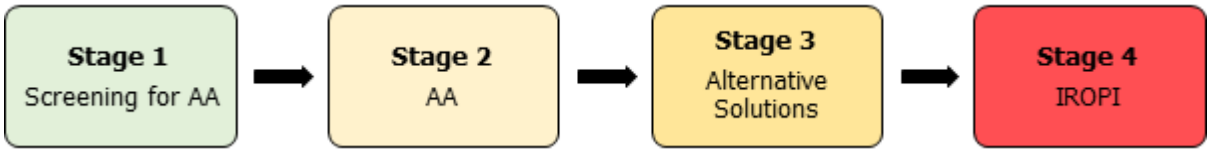
*'A coherent European ecological network of special areas of conservation shall be set up under the title Natura 2000. This network, composed of sites hosting the natural habitat types listed in Annex I and habitats of the species listed in Annex II, shall enable the natural habitat types and the species' habitats concerned to be maintained or, where appropriate, restored at a favourable conservation status in their natural range'.*

AA is an assessment of the likely significant effects arising from a plan or project, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, to assess if the plan or project will adversely affect any European site concerned including implications in view of the European site's conservation objectives. These sites consist of SACs and SPAs and provide for the protection and long-term survival of Europe's most valuable and threatened species and habitats. Where a formal consent process applies, the AA process is concluded by the relevant competent authority making a determination in accordance with article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive.

### 1.4. Overview of the Habitats Directive and Appropriate Assessment Process

The Habitats Directive itself promotes a hierarchy of avoidance, mitigation and compensatory measures. This approach aims to avoid any effects on European sites by identifying possible effects early in the plan or project making process and avoiding such effects. Second, the approach involves the application of mitigation measures, if necessary, during the AA process to the point where no adverse impacts on the site(s) remain. If potential significant effects on European sites remain, and no further practicable mitigation is possible, the approach requires the consideration of alternative solutions. If no alternative solutions are identified and the plan or project is required for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, then compensation measures are required for any remaining adverse effects.

There are four main stages in the AA process:




**Stage One: Screening**

The process that identifies the likely impacts upon a European site of a project or plan,

either alone or in combination with other projects or plans and considers whether these impacts are likely to be significant.

**Stage Two: Appropriate Assessment**
The consideration of the impact on the integrity of the European site of the project or plan, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, with respect to the site's structure and function and its conservation objectives. Additionally, where there are adverse effects mitigation measures are required to avoid or minimise potential effects. The details of these mitigation measures are then assessed in the context of the ecological integrity of the plan/project characteristics to ensure no significant adverse effects on European sites. If this assessment process shows there are no residual significant effects, then the process may end at this stage, stage two, of the AA process which are formalised in Natura Impact Statements (NIS) reports which support the overall AA process. However, if the likelihood of significant impacts remains, then the process must proceed to Stage Three.

**Stage Three: Assessment of Alternative Solutions**
The process that examines alternative ways of achieving the objectives of the project or plan that avoids adverse impacts on the integrity of the European site.

**Stage Four: Assessment where no alternative solutions exist and where adverse impacts remain**
An assessment of compensatory measures where, in the light of an assessment of imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI), it is deemed that the project or plan should proceed.

## 1.5. Approach

This AA screening is based on best scientific knowledge and has utilised ecological expertise. In addition, a detailed online review of published scientific literature and 'grey' literature was conducted. This included a detailed review of the National Parks and Wildlife Website including mapping and available reports for relevant sites and in particular sensitive qualifying interests/special conservation interests described and their conservation objectives. The EPA Envision map viewer (www.epa.ie) and available reports were also reviewed, as was the NPWS (2019) publication "The Status of Protected EU Habitats and Species in Ireland".

The ecological desktop study that has been completed for the AA screening of the proposed project, comprised the following elements:

- Identification of European sites within 15km[1] of the subject lands;
- Identification of European sites within 15km of the site with identification of potential pathways to specific sites (if relevant[2]) greater than 15km from the subject lands;
- Review of the NPWS site synopses and conservation objectives for European sites within 15km and for which potential pathways from the proposed site have been identified; and
- Examination of available information on protected species.

[1] While the actual zone of impact is likely to be much smaller, the default 15km zone extent has been applied on a precautionary basis
[2] This is particularly relevant for all sites with hydrological connectivity

**Source-Pathway Receptor Model**

Ecological impact assessment of potential effects on European sites is conducted following a standard source-pathway-receptor model, where, in order for an effect to be established, all three elements of this mechanism must be in place. The absence or removal of one of the elements of the mechanism is sufficient to conclude that a potential effect is not of any relevance or significance.

- Source(s) – e.g. pollutant run-off from proposed development;
- Pathway(s) – e.g. groundwater connecting to nearby qualifying wetland habitats; and,
- Receptor(s) – qualifying aquatic habitats and species of European sites.

In the context of this report, a receptor is an ecological feature that is known to be utilised by the qualifying interests or special conservation interests of a European site. A source is any identifiable element of the proposed development that is known to interact with ecological processes. A pathway is any connection or link between the source and the receptor[3].

This report provides information on whether direct, indirect and cumulative adverse effects could arise from the proposed development.

**Guidance**

The AA screening has been prepared taking into account legislation including the aforementioned legislation and guidance including the following:

- *Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland. Guidance for Planning Authorities, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2009;*
- *Commission Notice: 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 on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC", European Commission Environment DG, 2002;*
- *Managing Natura 2000 sites: The Provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC", European Commission, 2000; and*
- *Practice Note PN01: Appropriate Assessment Screening for development Management, Office of the Planning Regulator, 2021.*

[3] qualifying interest or special conservation interests of the European site in question and the known sesnitivities of these key ecological receptors

# 2. Description of proposed development

## 2.1. Receiving Environment Overview

Corkagh park is a large urban park situated in South East Dublin, on the outskirts of Dublin City. The park is within a highly urbanised area which increases the local ecological value of the park. The park consists of a majority of amenity grassland areas for sport and recreation. In addition, the park holds patches of native broadleaf woodland, hedgerows, and parkland habitats that are dispersed throughout, as well as several open watersources with small bordering riparian areas.

## 2.2. Overview of the proposed development

South Dublin County Council proposes amendments to current pathways and entrances within the park, as well as the installation of new pathways and one new entrance. The proposal also includes a new cafe building and stage area to facilitate a social centre to the park. The high-level scope of the works will include; securing the site, site clearance, vegetation and tree removal works, earthworks and grading, seeding and fertilising as well as the installation of fencing and gates.

## 2.3. Details of Proposal

The proposed development is comprised of a series of alterations to the existing Corkagh Park, Clondalkin, Dublin 22. In the wider landscape context, the park is located South West of Dublin City, with Clondalkin and the M50 Motorways to the east, and business parks and the greater Dublin area to the west. Locally the park is bordered by the N7 and Roadstone Quarry to the south, sports grounds, and suburban housing estates to the north and east (Figure 2.1). The Park is also intersected by the Camac River, a tributary of the River Liffey, which flows from the South West to the North East of the park. The Camac River then joins the River Liffey approximately 8.8km downstream. Corkagh Park is thus located in a highly modified, suburban environment, at the intersection between greater Dublin, suburban living, and the city centre.

The proposed alterations to Corkagh Park are approximately 120 Ha. (300 acres to broaden the destination appeal of the park, and better position the Regional Park within the overall tourism proposition of the Dublin Suburbs and Clondalkin Village in particular. Guided by the County development Plan, national Tourism policy, the South Dublin Tourism Strategy 2015, and the Corkagh Park development and Delivery Plan (2020), South Dublin County Council proposes a range of integrated projects via the Master Plan which aim to use the Park's strategic position to elevate Corkagh Park to an authentic visitor experience. The proposal comprises the following elements:

1. Repurposing and Upgrade of Corkagh Park Arrival Points
2. Bespoke Signage and Branding Strategy
3. Key Routes/Pathways Upgrade
4. Activity Zones including Parkland Features, Spaces & Elements, consisting of:
    a) Family Fun Zone: path for fairy trail, additional fairy houses, viewing and picnic areas
    b) Engaging with Nature Zone: viewing decks onto the ponds and picnic areas
    c) The Hub Zone: café, play areas and multifunctional space for markets and events.

For detailed design drawings see the associated report CRP - RP - 001 - Part VIII Summary of Proposals - particularly the CRP (90) LP 200 SERIES - General Arrangement PlansCRP_RP_001.

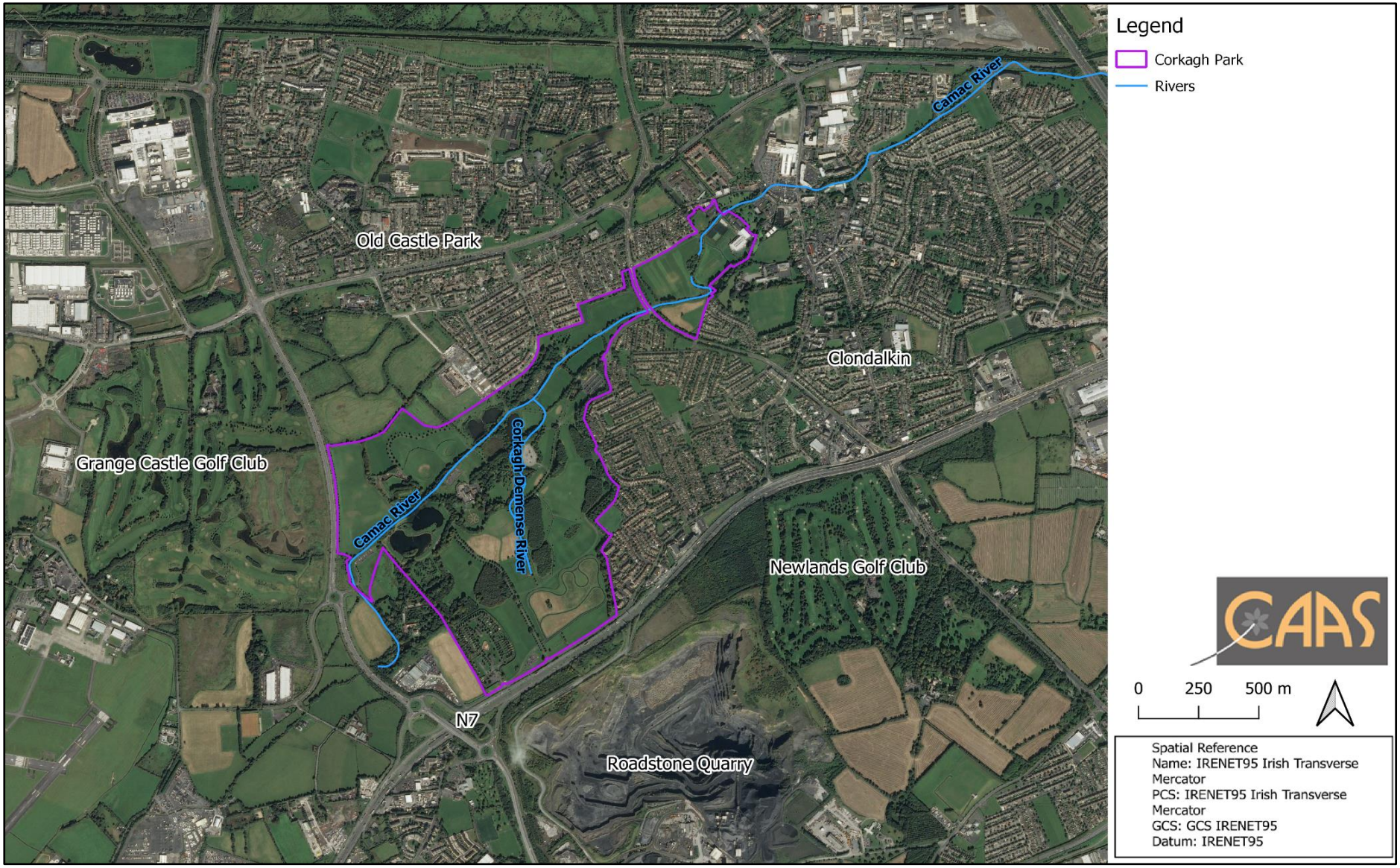



**Figure 2.1 Location of Corkagh Park**

# 3. Screening for Appropriate Assessment

## 3.1. Introduction

This stage of the process identifies any likely significant effects on European sites from the project, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans. A series of questions are asked in order to determine:

- Whether a plan or project can be excluded from AA requirements because it is directly connected with or necessary to the management of a European site.
- Whether the project will have a potentially significant effect on a European site, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, in view of the site's conservation objectives or if residual uncertainty exists regarding potential impacts.

An important element of the AA process is the identification of the "'Conservation Objectives", "Qualifying Interests" (QIs) and/ or "Special Conservation Interests" (SCIs) of European sites requiring assessment. QIs are the habitat features and species listed in Annexes I and II of the Habitats Directive for which each European site has been designated and afforded protection. SCIs are wetland habitats and bird species listed within Annexes I and II of the Birds Directive. It is also vital that the threats to the ecological / environmental conditions that are required to support QIs and SCIs are considered as part of the assessment.

Site-Specific Conservation Objectives (SSCOs) have been designed to define favourable conservation status for a particular habitat or species at that site. According to the European Commission interpretation document 'Managing Natura 2000 sites: The provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC', paragraph 4.6(3):

> *"The integrity of a site involves its ecological functions. The decision as to whether it is adversely affected should focus on and be limited to the site's conservation objectives."*

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.

The 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.

## 3.2. Identification of relevant European sites

This section of the screening process describes the European sites which exist within the Zone of Influence (ZOI) of the site. An assessment of the sources of effects (see Section 3.3 below) identified that effects from the proposed development are likely to be localised – in the absence of

hydrological pathways. The Environment, Heritage and Local Government (2009) Guidance on AA recommends a 15km zone to be considered.

There are two key considerations when identifying ecological pathways - the first is the distance from which potential sources for effects can radiate and the second is the potential for sensitive receptors (QIs/SCIs) to interact with the zone of influence. It is understood that sites designated for vagile species are known to utilise isolated resources across the landscape coudl intersect with the localised zone of influence; however, beyond 15km potential effects to such species at this scale are not identified to be significant due to the broad home range available to these species and the availability of alternate resources. Therefore, on a precautionary basis the radius of 5km has been adopted for this AA - however, further considerations were given to hydrological pathways from the proposed development.

European sites that with ecological connectivity pathways of the proposed development are listed in Table 3.1 and illustrated in Figure 3.1 below. Details on the specific QIs and SCIs of each European site are also identified in the Appendix, as well as site-specific threats and vulnerabilities of each of the sites.

In order to determine the potential effects of the proposal, information on the qualifying features, known vulnerabilities and threats to site integrity pertaining to any potentially affected European sites has been reviewed. Background information on threats to individual sites and vulnerability of habitats and species that was used during this assessment included the following:

- Ireland's Article 17 Report to the European Commission *"Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland"* (NPWS, 2019);
- Ireland's Article 12 Report to the European Commission *"Bird species' status and trends reporting format for the period 2008-2012"* (NPWS, 2012)
- Site Synopses[4]; and
- NATURA 2000 Standard Data Forms[4].

The assessment considers the SSCOs of each of the sites within the ZOI. Since the conservation objectives for the European sites focus on maintaining the favourable conservation condition of the QIs/SCIs of each site, the screening process has concentrated on assessing the potential effects of the proposed development against the QIs/SCIs of each site. The conservation objectives for each site have been taken into account throughout the assessment process.

[4] NPWS (2019); NPWS Database of protected site data and associated documents for each European site; available at https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites: last accessed 24th September 2021

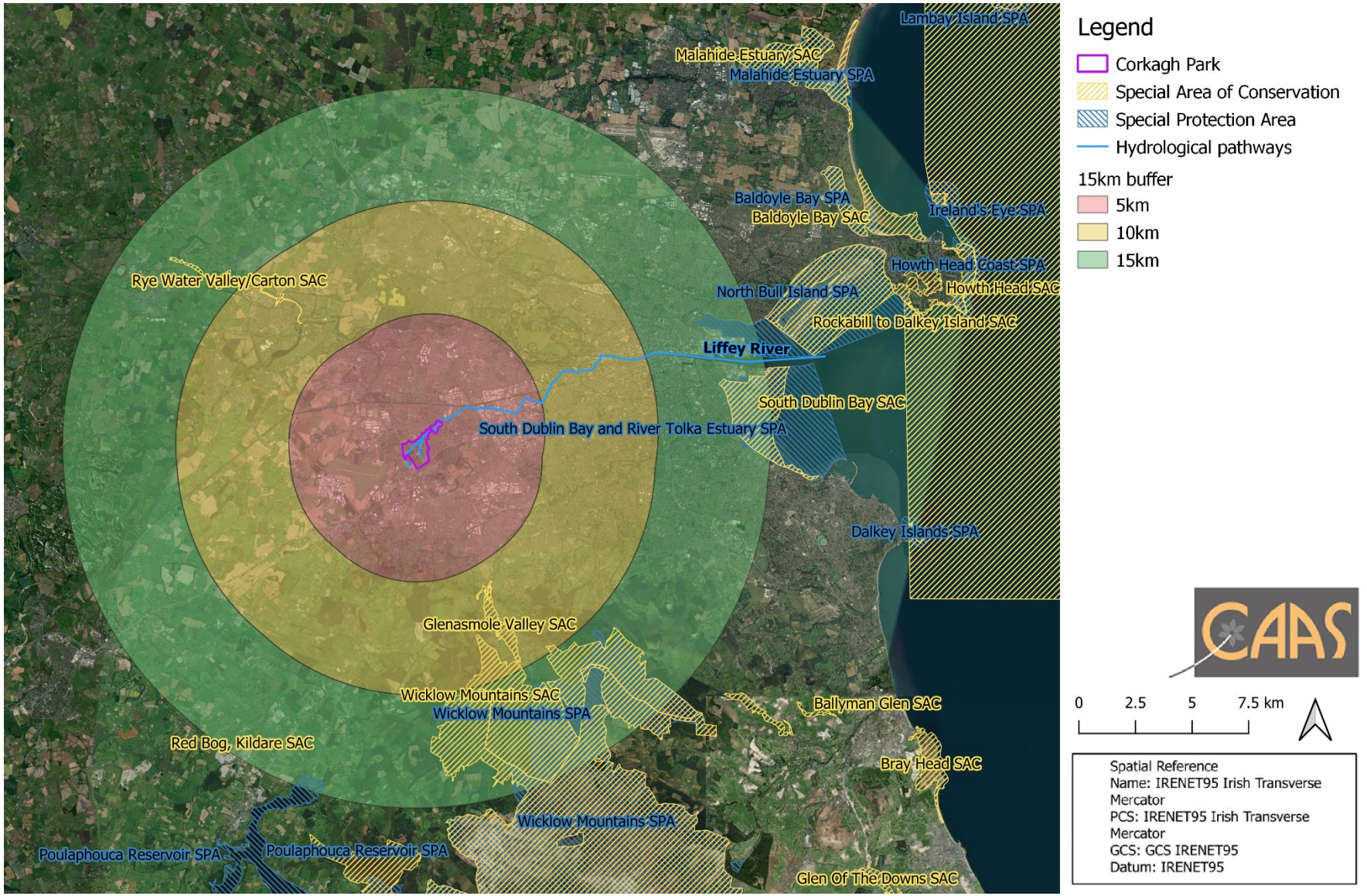



**Figure 3.1 European sites within 15km of the proposed development boundary[5]**

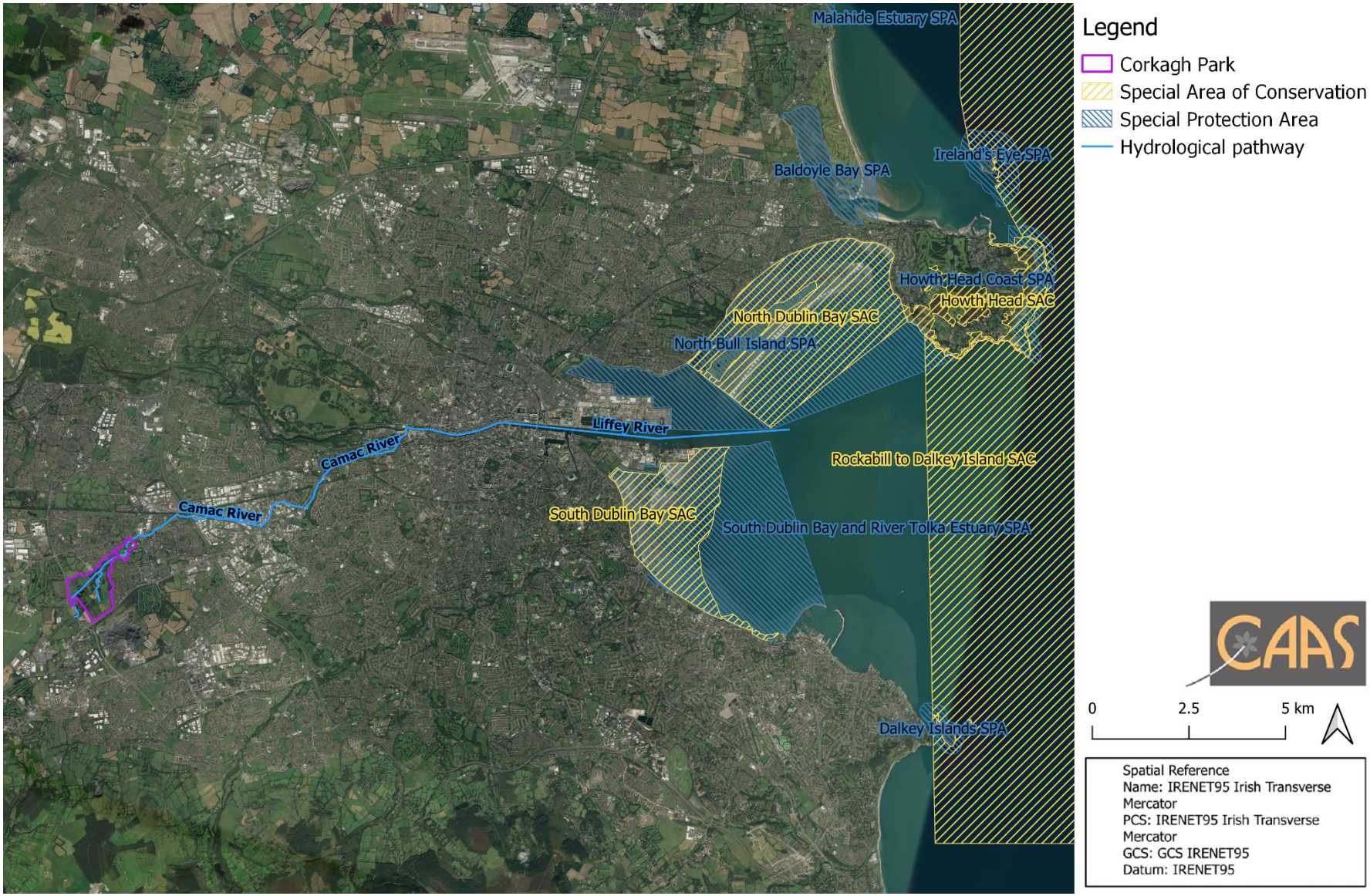



**Figure 3.2 Hydrological connectivity to European sites beyond 15km of the proposed development boundary[5]**

## 3.3. Assessment criteria

### 3.3.1. Is the development necessary to the management of European sites?

Under the Habitats Directive, projects that are directly connected with or necessary to the management of a European site do not require AA. For this exception to apply, management is required to be interpreted narrowly as nature conservation management in the sense of Article 6(1) of the Habitats Directive. This refers to specific measures to address the ecological requirements of annexed habitats and species (and their habitats) present on a site(s). The relationship should be shown to be direct and not a by-product of the project, even if this might result in positive or beneficial effects for a site(s).

The primary purpose of the proposed development is not the nature conservation management of the sites, but to provide for the development of amenity facilities such as a sound stage and café area in the central hub as well as maintenance works and upgrades within Corkagh Park. Therefore, the proposed development would not be considered by the Habitats Directive to be directly connected with or necessary to the management of European designated sites.

### 3.3.2. Elements of the proposed development with potential to give rise to effects

This screening assessment process identifies whether the changes brought about by the proposal are likely to cause any direct, indirect or secondary effects (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) on the European sites. During this assessment a number of factors have been taken into account including the sites' conservation objectives and known threats. The overall aim of the assessment is to predict the consequences that can be reasonably foreseen by implementation of the proposed development.

For the purposes of this assessment the proposed development is identified to have potential to have only construction phase effects. The operational phase of the project will be consistent with existing park use with centralisation of activities – in the context of European sites they are no effects from this likely to extend beyond the immediate vicinity and the closest European site is over 5km away; therefore, is not foreseen to interact with European sites during the operational phase. The construction phase elements of the project do introduce potential sources for effects to ecological processes - effects such as:

- Disturbance effects through noise and vibration;
- Earthworks and dust;
- Hydrological connectivity and surface water run-off.

The construction phase will be small-scale and temporary. The construction phase effects identified are considered in the context of European sites identified above, their sensitivities and conservation objectives.

### 3.3.3. Identification of potential effects and screening of sites

This section documents the final stage of the screening process. It has used the information collected on the sensitivity of each European site and describes any potential effects on European sites resulting from the proposed development. This assumes the absence of any controls, conditions, or mitigation measures. In determining the potential for effects, a number of factors have been taken into account. Firstly, the sensitivity and reported threats to European sites.

Secondly, the individual elements of the proposed development and the potential effects they may cause on the sites were considered. The elements of the proposed development with potential to affect European sites are presented in Table 3.1.

Sites are screened out based on one or a combination of the following criteria:

- where it can be shown that there are no significant pathways such as hydrological links between activities of the proposed development and a site;
- where a site is located at such a distance from proposed development area that effects are not foreseen; and
- where known threats or vulnerabilities of a site cannot be linked to potential impacts that may arise from the proposed development.

## 3.4. Characterising potential significant effects

This section of the report explains the metrics used when assessing if the potential effects (previously identified) will have significant implications for European sites. The following parameters are described when characterising impacts (following guidance from the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Environmental Protection Agency and National Roads Authority):

- **Direct and Indirect Impacts** - An impact can be caused either as a direct or as an indirect consequence of a Plan/Project.
- **Magnitude** - Magnitude measures the size of an impact, which is described as high, medium, low, very low or negligible.
- **Extent** - The area over that the impact occurs – this should be predicted in a quantified manner.
- **Duration** - The time that the effect is expected to last prior to recovery or replacement of the resource or feature.
  - Temporary: Up to 1 Year;
  - Short Term: The effects would take 1-7 years to be mitigated;
  - Medium Term: The effects would take 7-15 years to be mitigated;
  - Long Term: The effects would take 15-60 years to be mitigated; and
  - Permanent: The effects would take 60+ years to be mitigated.
- **Likelihood** – The probability of the effect occurring taking into account all available information.
  - Certain/Near Certain: >95% chance of occurring as predicted;
  - Probable: 50-95% chance as occurring as predicted;
  - Unlikely: 5-50% chance as occurring as predicted; and
  - Extremely Unlikely: <5% chance as occurring as predicted.

The Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) guidelines for ecological impact assessment (2016) define: an ecologically significant impact as an impact (negative or positive) on the integrity of a defined site or ecosystem and/or the conservation status of habitats or species within a given geographic area; and the integrity of a site as the coherence of its ecological structure and function, across its whole area, which enables it to sustain the habitat, complex of habitats and/or the levels of populations of the species for which it was classified.

The Habitats Directive requires the focus of the assessment at this stage to be on the integrity of the site as indicated by its Conservation Objectives. It is an aim of NPWS to draw up conservation management plans for all areas designated for nature conservation. These plans will, among other things, set clear objectives for the conservation of the features of interest within a site.

SSCOs have been prepared for a number of European sites. These detailed SSCOs aim to define favourable conservation condition for the qualifying habitats and species at that site by setting targets for appropriate attributes which define the character habitat. The maintenance of the favourable condition for these habitats and species at the site level will contribute to the overall maintenance of favourable conservation status of those habitats and species at a national level.

> **Favourable conservation status** of a **species** can be described as being achieved when: '*population data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself, and the natural range of the species is neither being reduced or 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.*'
>
> **Favourable conservation status** of a **habitat** can be described as being achieved when: '*its natural range, and area it covers within that range, is stable or increasing, and the ecological factors that 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*'.

A Generic Conservation Objective for a SAC is provided below:

- To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected.

A Generic Conservation Objective for a SPA is provided below:

- To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA.

### 3.4.1. Types of potential Effects

EC guidance[6] outlines the types of effects that may affect European sites. These include effects from the following activities:

- Land take
- Resource requirements (drinking water abstraction etc.)
- Emissions (disposal to land, water or air)
- Excavation requirements (removal of soil and vegetation)
- Transportation requirements
- Duration of construction, operation, decommissioning

The 2001 European Commission AA guidance outlines the following potential changes that may occur at a designated site, which may result in effects on the integrity and function of that site:

[6] Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites: Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, European Commission Environment DG, 2001

- Reduction of habitat area
- Disturbance to key species
- Habitat or species fragmentation
- Reduction in species density
- Changes in key indicators of conservation value (water quality etc.)
- Climate change

The elements detailed above were considered with specific reference to each of the European sites identified in Table 3.1 but are also considered in a broader sense below.

**Loss/reduction of habitat area**

There are no European sites present within the boundary of the proposed site, and the closest European site is 5.93 km away. Similarly, there were no Annex I habitats or supporting habitat for Annex II species identified on site. Therefore, there will be no effects posed to European sites in this respect.

**Habitat or species fragmentation**

The proposed development seeks to improve local access to the park and improve existing pathways and social facilities on site and involves small-scale, temporary works, most of which are adjustments to existing infrastructure. There is a direct surface hydrological connection between the proposed site and European sites in the form of the Camac River. However, given the parkland nature and highly urban context of the proposed site; the significant distance of approximately 12.5km to the closest hydrologically connected European site; and, the short term, temporary nature of the proposed development, the proposed development is not identified to introduce connectivity or fragmentation issues with respect to European sites. Similarly, there were no Annex I habitats or supporting habitat for Annex II species identified on site. Therefore, there will be no effects posed to European sites in this respect.

**Disturbance to key species**

None of the species and/or habitats identified in Table 3.1 below were recorded on site. The nearest European site is 5.93 km away from the proposed site and therefore disturbance effects such as noise or lighting etc. resulting from the proposed development are not present. Given the parkland setting and the availability of alternative resources in the park area, the park context, as well as the temporary small-scale nature of the development that will not damage any supporting habitat for SCI species, there are no significant effects foreseen related to ex-situ foraging of SCI species as a result of the proposed development.

**Reduction in species density**

The site is 5.93 km from the closest European site. There is a hydrological corridor connecting the proposed site and European sites in Dublin Bay; however, the closest European site is approximately 12.5km downstream. Thus, due to distance, the small scale and temporary nature of the proposed works, and the dilution effects downstream, there are no effects foreseen regarding reduction of species density of any European site as a result of the hydrological connection with the proposed site. Similarly, there are no habitats identified on site of any ecological significance for European sites. Thus, there is also no supporting terrestrial habitat within the proposed development for any European site, there will be no reduction in species density of any of the QI or SCI species.

**Changes of indicators of conservation value**

The site is 5.93 km from the closest European site. There is a direct surface hydrological connection between the proposed site and European sites in the form of the Camac River. However, given the parkland nature and highly urban context of the proposed site; the significant distance of approximately 12.5km to the closest hydrologically connected European site; and, the short term, temporary nature of the proposed development, the proposed development is not identified to introduce potential for significant effects with respect to European sites via water quality. Therefore, there are no sources for effects with pathways that will affect any conservation indicators related to European sites.

**Climate change**

The proposed development will not result in any additional greenhouse gas emissions as a result of the operational phase. The operational phase will only have sources from emissions relating to recreational use of the park – cars arriving to site – similar to existing uses and the increased emissions from the small café and events area. These are negligible in scale in the context of European sites due to the distances observed. The construction phase will have minor increased temporary emissions. However, given the small scale and temporary time frame of the development, these are determined to be negligible. Therefore, there are no effects predicted arising from climate change to the degree that it would affect the QIs or SCIs of the European sites considered as a result of the proposed development.

**Table 3.1 Screening assessment of the potential effects arising from the proposed development**

| Site Code | Site Name | Distance | Qualifying Feature | Potential Effects | Pathway for Significant Effects | Potential for In-Combination Effects |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 001209 | Glenasmole Valley SAC | 5.93 | Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils *(Molinion caeruleae)* [6410], Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates *(Festuco-Brometalia)* * important orchid sites [6210], Petrifying springs with tufa formation *(Cratoneurion)* [7220] | There are no Annex I habitats or supporting habitats for Annex II species within the proposed development area.<br>There are no pathways for effects from the site to the SAC. Furthermore, the operational phase is consistent with the existing land use and the construction phase will be small scale temporary. Therefore, there are no potential effects to this European site identified. | No | No |
| 001398 | Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC | 6.93 | Desmoulin`s whorl snail *(Vertigo moulinsiana)* [1016], Petrifying springs with tufa formation *(Cratoneurion)* [7220], Narrow-mouthed whorl snail *(Vertigo angustior)* [1014] | There are no Annex I habitats or supporting habitats for Annex II species within the proposed development area.<br>There are no pathways for effects from the site to the SAC. Furthermore, the operational phase is consistent with the existing land use and the construction phase will be small scale temporary. Therefore, there are no potential effects to this European site identified. | No | No |
| 002122 | Wicklow Mountains SAC | 7.81 | Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220], European dry heaths [4030], Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0], Blanket bogs * if active bog [7130], Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160], Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels *(Androsacetalia alpinae and Galeopsietalia ladani)* [8110], Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix [4010], Otter *(Lutra lutra)* [1355], Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains *(Littorelletalia uniflorae)* [3110], Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060], Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8210], | There are no Annex I habitats or supporting habitats for Annex II species within the proposed development area.<br>There are no pathways for effects from the site to the SAC. Furthermore, the operational phase is consistent with the existing land use and the construction phase will be small scale temporary. Therefore, there are no potential effects to this European site identified. | No | No |

| Site Code | Site Name | Distance | Qualifying Feature | Potential Effects | Pathway for Significant Effects | Potential for In-Combination Effects |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Calaminarian grasslands of the Violetalia calaminariae [6130], Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas - and submountain areas in Continental Europe [6230] | | | |
| 004040 | Wicklow Mountains SPA | 10.45 | Merlin *(Falco columbarius)* [A098], Peregrine falcon *(Falco peregrinus)* [A103] | There are no Annex I habitats or supporting habitats for Annex II species within the proposed development area.<br>There are no pathways for effects from the site to the SPA. Furthermore, the operational phase is consistent with the existing land use and the construction phase will be small scale temporary. Therefore, there are no potential effects to this European site identified. | No | No |
| 004024 | South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA | 12.53 | Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Ringed Plover *(Charadrius hiaticula)* [A137], Grey Plover *(Pluvialis squatarola)* [A141], Light-bellied Brent Goose *(Branta bernicla hrota)* [A046], Redshank *(Tringa totanus)* [A162], Dunlin *(Calidris alpina)* [A149], Bar-tailed Godwit *(Limosa lapponica)* [A157], Common tern *(Sterna hirundo)* [A193], Oystercatcher *(Haematopus ostralegus)* [A130], Knot *(Calidris canutus)* [A143], Black-headed Gull *(Chroicocephalus ridibundus)* [A179], Arctic tern *(Sterna paradisaea)* [A194], Sanderling *(Calidris alba)* [A144], Roseate Tern *(Sterna dougallii)* [A192] | There are no Annex I habitats or supporting habitats for Annex II species within the proposed development area.<br>There is a direct hydrological connection between at proposed site and this European site via the Camac River. However, given the distances involved, there are considerable dilution effects downstream. Furthermore, the operational phase is consistent with the existing land use and the construction phase will be small scale temporary.<br>Therefore, there are no potential effects to this European site identified. | No | No |
| 000210 | South Dublin Bay SAC | 12.86 | Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210], Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], Embryonic shifting dunes [2110], Mudflats and sandflats not | There are no Annex I habitats or supporting habitats for Annex II species within the proposed development area.<br>There is a direct hydrological connection between at proposed site and this European site via the Camac River. However, given the | No | No |

| Site Code | Site Name | Distance | Qualifying Feature | Potential Effects | Pathway for Significant Effects | Potential for In-Combination Effects |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | covered by seawater at low tide [1140] | distances involved, there are considerable dilution effects downstream. Furthermore, the operational phase is consistent with the existing land use and the construction phase will be small scale temporary.<br>Therefore, there are no potential effects to this European site identified.<br>Therefore, there are no potential effects to this European site identified. | | |
| 000397 | Red Bog, Kildare SAC | 14.15 | Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140] | There are no Annex I habitats or supporting habitats for Annex II species within the proposed development area.<br>There are no pathways for effects from the site to the SAC. Furthermore, the operational phase is consistent with the existing land use and the construction phase will be small scale temporary. Therefore, there are no potential effects to this European site identified. | No | No |
| 004063 | Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA | 14.43 | Lesser Black-backed Gull *(Larus fuscus)* [A183], Greylag Goose *(Anser anser)* [A043] | There are no Annex I habitats or supporting habitats for Annex II species within the proposed development area.<br>There are no pathways for effects from the site to the SPA. Furthermore, the operational phase is consistent with the existing land use and the construction phase will be small scale temporary. Therefore, there are no potential effects to this European site identified. | No | No |
| 004006 | North Bull Island SPA | 15.1 | Dunlin *(Calidris alpina)* [A149], Shelduck *(Tadorna tadorna)* [A048], Black-tailed Godwit *(Limosa limosa)* [A156], Oystercatcher *(Haematopus ostralegus)* [A130], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Sanderling *(Calidris alba)* [A144], Curlew *(Numenius arquata)* [A160], Shoveler *(Anas clypeata)* [A056], Light-bellied Brent Goose *(Branta bernicla hrota)* [A046], Knot | There are no Annex I habitats or supporting habitats for Annex II species within the proposed development area.<br>There is a direct hydrological connection between at proposed site and this European site via the Camac River. However, given the distances involved, there are considerable dilution effects downstream. Furthermore, the operational phase is consistent with the existing land use and the construction phase will be small scale temporary.<br>Therefore, there are no potential effects to this European site | No | No |

| Site Code | Site Name | Distance | Qualifying Feature | Potential Effects | Pathway for Significant Effects | Potential for In-Combination Effects |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | *(Calidris canutus)* [A143], Bar-tailed Godwit *(Limosa lapponica)* [A157], Teal *(Anas crecca)* [A052], Black-headed Gull *(Chroicocephalus ridibundus)* [A179], Grey Plover *(Pluvialis squatarola)* [A141], Turnstone *(Arenaria interpres)* [A169], Redshank *(Tringa totanus)* [A162], Pintail *(Anas acuta)* [A054], Golden Plover *(Pluvialis apricaria)* [A140] | identified. | | |
| 000206 | North Dublin Bay SAC | 16.7 | Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], Humid dunes slacks [2190], Mediterranean salt meadows *(Juncetalia maritimi)* [1410], Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210], Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation - grey dunes [2130], Atlantic salt meadows *(Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae)* [1330], Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria - white dunes [2120], Embryonic shifting dunes [2110], Petalwort *(Petalophyllum ralfsii)* [1395] | There are no Annex I habitats or supporting habitats for Annex II species within the proposed development area.<br>There is a direct hydrological connection between at proposed site and this European site via the Camac River. However, given the distances involved, there are considerable dilution effects downstream. Furthermore, the operational phase is consistent with the existing land use and the construction phase will be small scale temporary.<br>Therefore, there are no potential effects to this European site identified. | No | No |
| 003000 | Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC | 20.6 | Harbour porpoise *(Phocoena phocoena)* [1351], Reefs [1170] | There are no Annex I habitats or supporting habitats for Annex II species within the proposed development area.<br>There is a direct hydrological connection between at proposed site and this European site via the Camac River. However, given the distances involved, there are considerable dilution effects downstream. Furthermore, the operational phase is consistent with the existing land use and the construction phase will be small scale temporary.<br>Therefore, there are no potential effects to this European site | No | No |

| Site Code | Site Name | Distance | Qualifying Feature | Potential Effects | Pathway for Significant Effects | Potential for In-Combination Effects |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | identified. | | |
| 004172 | Dalkey Islands SPA | 20.7 | Roseate tern *(Sterna dougallii)* [A192], Arctic tern *(Sterna paradisaea)* [A194], Common tern *(Sterna hirundo)* [A193] | There are no Annex I habitats or supporting habitats for Annex II species within the proposed development area.<br>There is a direct hydrological connection between at proposed site and this European site via the Camac River. However, given the distances involved, there are considerable dilution effects downstream. Furthermore, the operational phase is consistent with the existing land use and the construction phase will be small scale temporary.<br>Therefore, there are no potential effects to this European site identified. | No | No |
| 000202 | Howth Head SAC | 21.1 | Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic Coasts [1230], European dry heaths [4030] | There are no Annex I habitats or supporting habitats for Annex II species within the proposed development area.<br>There is a direct hydrological connection between at proposed site and this European site via the Camac River. However, given the distances involved, there are considerable dilution effects downstream. Furthermore, the operational phase is consistent with the existing land use and the construction phase will be small scale temporary.<br>Therefore, there are no potential effects to this European site identified. | No | No |
| 004113 | Howth Head Coast SPA | 23.6 | Kittiwake *(Rissa tridactyla)* [A188] | There are no Annex I habitats or supporting habitats for Annex II species within the proposed development area.<br>There is a direct hydrological connection between at proposed site and this European site via the Camac River. However, given the distances involved, there are considerable dilution effects downstream. Furthermore, the operational phase is consistent with the existing land use and the construction phase will be small scale temporary.<br>Therefore, there are no potential effects to this European site identified. | No | No |

## 3.5. Other plans and projects

Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive requires an assessment of a plan or project to consider other plans or projects that might, in combination with the plan or project, have the potential to adversely affect European sites.

As part of this assessment a search of the South Dublin County Council planning database was undertaken to identify relevant plans and programmes which relate to the proposed development. Similarly, all developments from the receiving area were considered; this was achieved through a search of the national planning database using a distance parameter around the red line boundary to search. The radius is defined by the authoring ecologist using criteria which depend on the characteristics of the proposed development and the associated sources (identified above); these criteria include:

- Having direct or indirect connectivity to a European site;
- Being in close proximity to a European site;
- Being of a substantial scale relative to the conditions and/or current works taking place in the surrounding landscape;
- Having disperse emissions or far-reaching sources for effects;
- Having sources for effects to ecological connectivity.

These factors are considered in the context of characteristics of the proposed development and a distance buffer of 200m was used to search for projects within the receiving environment. The sources for effects from the proposed development are considered in combination with the potential sources for effects from the receiving environment for potential additive or interactive effects to the receiving environment.

**Plans of relevance within the receiving environment or in-combination with effects arising from the proposed development:**

- South Dublin County development Plan 2016 – 2022
- South Dublin County Draft development Plan 2022 – 2028
- Draft Biodiversity Action Plan for South Dublin County 2020 - 2026

Considering that the proposed development has a small-scale temporary construction phase and the operational phase is consistent with the existing land use, it is not foreseen that proposed development will have any significant in-combination effects with the above plans.

**Projects within the receiving environment assessed for in-combination with effects arising from the proposed development:**

To identify projects for consideration for the in-combination effects section, the National Planning and Housing development database was used[7]. A review of all planning applications within the identified zone was conducted focusing on all applications within the past 5 years[8].

[7] https://data-housinggovie.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/planning-application-sites-2010-onwards; 24th September 2021

[8] planning application have a standard lifespan of 5 years as per Section 40 (3)(b) of the Planning & development Act 2000, as amended; therefore, these are viewed to be the 'live' applications, all other projects are considered as part of the site context

This being an urban parkland there are numerous other proposed projects in the vicinity including works which are at planning stage or underway on various sites. The database search found that the majority of projects within the area are relating to the alterations of existing structures, small private home extensions, extension of permissions, and minor developments which fall under the South Dublin County Development Plan housing targets (see Table 3.2 for complete list).

All other construction and infrastructure work in the local area are small in scale and best practice construction measures will also be implemented for each. Due to the scale and nature of the proposed works there are no significant adverse effects identified as a result of the implementation of the proposed Corkagh Park development. On this basis, assessment guidance (CIEEM, 2018) indicates that there is no need to consider cumulative effects. However, taking a precautionary approach, relevant plans and projects have nonetheless been reviewed and assessed (Table 3.2).

These developments will increase cumulative impacts of the proposed project but only during the construction phase, and, given the overall long-term negligible impacts of the proposed project, the overall cumulative impacts for local biodiversity as a result of the proposed project are also negligible.

**Table 3.2 Local planning applications within the receiving environment of the proposed development (arranged in ascending area)**

| Planning Code | Status | Overview | Project Area (sq. m) | Characteristics of the potential interactions between the projects; sources and pathways | Is there a risk of in-combination effects | Are significant in-combination effects likely |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| SD20B/0165 | Grant Permission | Conversion of the attic space to a bedroom and ensuite. This will involve the construction of a dormered extension with two windows to the rear section of the existing roof. | 374 | This is a small-scale project with a temporary construction phase, and the operation phase will have localised effects that are in keeping with the surrounding urban built environment.<br>In addition, the proposed project is over 12km from the nearest SAC with no ecological pathways for significant effect. | No | No |
| SD21B/0045 | Grant Permission | Attic extension creating attic storage space of circa 24sq.m, which includes a rear dormer attic extension, roof light windows on the front elevation, associated alterations to all elevations and all ancillary site works. | 434 | This is a small-scale project with a temporary construction phase, and the operation phase will have localised effects that are in keeping with the surrounding urban built environment.<br>In addition, the proposed project is over 12km from the nearest SAC with no ecological pathways for significant effect. | No | No |
| SD20B/0293 | Grant Permission | Conversion of existing attic to non-habitable storage use; remodel of existing hip roof profile to 'Dutch' hip to the side; provision of dormer to the rear; rooflight to the front roof; enlarge the ground floor window to the side and all associated site works. | 472 | This is a small-scale project with a temporary construction phase, and the operation phase will have localised effects that are in keeping with the surrounding urban built environment.<br>In addition, the proposed project is over 12km from the nearest SAC with no ecological pathways for significant effect. | No | No |
| SD17B/0212 | Grant Permission | (1) Conversion of existing attic to non-habitable storage use (2) to replace existing hipped roof with 'Dutch' hip gable to the side (3) dormer window to the rear and all associated site works. | 478 | This is a small-scale project with a temporary construction phase, and the operation phase will have localised effects that are in keeping with the surrounding | No | No |

| Planning Code | Status | Overview | Project Area (sq. m) | Characteristics of the potential interactions between the projects; sources and pathways | Is there a risk of in-combination effects | Are significant in-combination effects likely |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | urban built environment.<br>In addition, the proposed project is over 12km from the nearest SAC with no ecological pathways for significant effect. | | |
| SD19B/0201 | Grant Permission | Single storey front extension; alteration to front living room window; all associated site works. | 492 | This is a small-scale project with a temporary construction phase, and the operation phase will have localised effects that are in keeping with the surrounding urban built environment.<br>In addition, the proposed project is over 12km from the nearest SAC with no ecological pathways for significant effect. | No | No |
| SD20B/0043 | Grant Permission | Conversion of existing attic space comprising of modification of existing roof structure; new gable window; new access stairs and flat roof dormer to the rear. | 511 | This is a small-scale project with a temporary construction phase, and the operation phase will have localised effects that are in keeping with the surrounding urban built environment.<br>In addition, the proposed project is over 12km from the nearest SAC with no ecological pathways for significant effect. | No | No |
| SD20B/0202 | Grant Permission | Conversion of existing attic space comprising of modification of existing roof structure; new access stairs from first floor and flat roof dormer to the rear. | 514 | This is a small-scale project with a temporary construction phase, and the operation phase will have localised effects that are in keeping with the surrounding urban built environment<br>In addition, the proposed project is over 12km from the nearest SAC with no ecological pathways for significant effect. | No | No |
| SD20B/03 | Grant | Single storey front, rear and side extension comprising of two bedrooms, 1 en-suite and 1 bathroom; attic converted for storage | 514 | This is a small-scale project with a temporary construction phase, and the | No | No |

| Planning Code | Status | Overview | Project Area (sq. m) | Characteristics of the potential interactions between the projects; sources and pathways | Is there a risk of in-combination effects | Are significant in-combination effects likely |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 61 | Permission | and roof windows to rear and side of roof; extend wall along site boundary and relocate wall 1.8m high that divides front and rear gardens and relocate access door to rear garden and all associated site works. | | operation phase will have localised effects that are in keeping with the surrounding urban built environment.<br>In addition, the proposed project is over 12km from the nearest SAC with no ecological pathways for significant effect. | | |
| SD19B/0400 | Grant Permission | Conversion of existing attic space comprising of modification of existing roof structure; new gable window; new access stairs and construction of flat roof dormer to the rear. | 516 | This is a small-scale project with a temporary construction phase, and the operation phase will have localised effects that are in keeping with the surrounding urban built environment.<br>In addition, the proposed project is over 12km from the nearest SAC with no ecological pathways for significant effect. | No | No |
| SD21B/0034 | Grant Permission | Attic conversion with dormer type window projection to rear; new study/storage facility and all associated site works. | 535 | This is a small-scale project with a temporary construction phase, and the operation phase will have localised effects that are in keeping with the surrounding urban built environment<br>In addition, the proposed project is over 12km from the nearest SAC with no ecological pathways for significant effect. | No | No |
| SD19B/0236 | Grant Permission | Conversion of existing attic space comprising of modification of existing roof structure; new access stairs and construction of flat roof dormer to the rear. | 554 | This is a small-scale project with a temporary construction phase, and the operation phase will have localised effects that are in keeping with the surrounding urban built environment.<br>In addition, the proposed project is over 12km from the nearest SAC with no ecological pathways for significant effect. | No | No |

| Planning Code | Status | Overview | Project Area (sq. m) | Characteristics of the potential interactions between the projects; sources and pathways | Is there a risk of in-combination effects | Are significant in-combination effects likely |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| SD19B/0212 | Grant Permission | Removal of green landscaping area and existing garden wall; extension of driveway to accommodate two car parking spaces; dishing part of the existing kerb and footpath to match new driveway. | 578 | This is a small-scale project with a temporary construction phase, and the operation phase will have localised effects that are in keeping with the surrounding urban built environment.<br>In addition, the proposed project is over 12km from the nearest SAC with no ecological pathways for significant effect. | No | No |
| SD19B/0256 | Grant Permission | Demolition of existing partial detached garage; new single storey family flat to the side of the existing dwelling; tiled roof, new permeable driveway paving and all associated site works. | 596 | This is a small-scale project with a temporary construction phase, and the operation phase will have localised effects that are in keeping with the surrounding urban built environment.<br>In addition, the proposed project is over 12km from the nearest SAC with no ecological pathways for significant effect. | No | No |
| SD20B/0392 | Grant Permission | Single storey front porch and ancillary site works. | 649 | This is a small-scale project with a temporary construction phase, and the operation phase will have localised effects that are in keeping with the surrounding urban built environment.<br>In addition, the proposed project is over 12km from the nearest SAC with no ecological pathways for significant effect. | No | No |
| SD20B/0291 | Grant Permission | Single storey extension to the front of the existing two storey dwelling house along with associated elevational alterations, site works and landscaping. | 657 | This is a small-scale project with a temporary construction phase, and the operation phase will have localised effects that are in keeping with the surrounding urban built environment.<br>In addition, the proposed project is over | No | No |

| Planning Code | Status | Overview | Project Area (sq. m) | Characteristics of the potential interactions between the projects; sources and pathways | Is there a risk of in-combination effects | Are significant in-combination effects likely |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | 12km from the nearest SAC with no ecological pathways for significant effect. | | |
| SD19B/0210 | Grant Permission | Alterations to house including the construction of a two-storey extension to the back and to the side. | 658 | This is a small-scale project with a temporary construction phase, and the operation phase will have localised effects that are in keeping with the surrounding urban built environment.<br>In addition, the proposed project is over 12km from the nearest SAC with no ecological pathways for significant effect. | No | No |
| SD21B/0074 | Grant Permission & Refuse Permission | Construction of a new two storey extension to rear of existing semi-detached dwelling and associated site works; Ground floor extension (40sq.m) comprising of kitchen, dining/lounge space & utility room with provision of extensive green flat roof and 2no. roof-lights above; First floor extension (4sq.m) will comprise of bathroom with flat roof & 1no. roof-light above. | 733 | This is a small-scale project with a temporary construction phase, and the operation phase will have localised effects that are in keeping with the surrounding urban built environment<br>In addition, the proposed project is over 12km from the nearest SAC with no ecological pathways for significant effect. | No | No |
| SD16A/0243 | Grant Permission | Increase in number of children to 22 in Naoinra. There are no building works proposed. | 736 | This is a small-scale project with a temporary construction phase, and the operation phase will have localised effects that are in keeping with the surrounding urban built environment.<br>In addition, the proposed project is over 12km from the nearest SAC with no ecological pathways for significant effect. | No | No |
| SD17B/0101 | Grant Permission | Construction of a single-storey, 38.5sq.m extension to the side and front of existing dwelling; attic conversion to storage area with 'Velux' type windows in rear of roof. | 750 | This is a small-scale project with a temporary construction phase, and the operation phase will have localised effects that are in keeping with the surrounding | No | No |

| Planning Code | Status | Overview | Project Area (sq. m) | Characteristics of the potential interactions between the projects; sources and pathways | Is there a risk of in-combination effects | Are significant in-combination effects likely |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | urban built environment.<br>In addition, the proposed project is over 12km from the nearest SAC with no ecological pathways for significant effect. | | |
| SD17B/0089 | Grant Permission | Extension to rear and alteration of existing dwelling including provision of 1 dormer window to rear to existing attic room. 1 relocated roof light to rear, internal alterations and all associated site works. | 782 | This is a small-scale project with a temporary construction phase, and the operation phase will have localised effects that are in keeping with the surrounding urban built environment.<br>In addition, the proposed project is over 12km from the nearest SAC with no ecological pathways for significant effect. | No | No |
| SD16B/0298 | Grant Permission | Single storey extension to the front, side and rear of dwelling to incorporate a family flat and a single storey rear extension and associated works. | 844 | This is a small-scale project with a temporary construction phase, and the operation phase will have localised effects that are in keeping with the surrounding urban built environment.<br>In addition, the proposed project is over 12km from the nearest SAC with no ecological pathways for significant effect. | No | No |
| SD18A/0423 | Grant Permission | Construction of end terrace, 3 bed dwelling; new vehicular entrance to existing dwelling and new vehicular entrance to proposed dwelling; new boundary walls and all associated works. | 896 | This is a small-scale project with a temporary construction phase, and the operation phase will have localised effects that are in keeping with the surrounding urban built environment.<br>In addition, the proposed project is over 12km from the nearest SAC with no ecological pathways for significant effect. | No | No |
| SD18B/02 | Grant | (a) Conversion of attic space to storage space with dormer to rear roof elevation with two rooflights to the front roof elevation; (b) | 911 | This is a small-scale project with a temporary construction phase, and the | No | No |

| Planning Code | Status | Overview | Project Area (sq. m) | Characteristics of the potential interactions between the projects; sources and pathways | Is there a risk of in-combination effects | Are significant in-combination effects likely |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 57 | Permission | build a single storey garage to the side gable elevation; (c) widen driveway entrance with dishing to footpath to facilitate off street parking. | | operation phase will have localised effects that are in keeping with the surrounding urban built environment.<br>In addition, the proposed project is over 12km from the nearest SAC with no ecological pathways for significant effect. | | |
| SD19B/0214 | Grant Permission | Construction of single storey front extension and extension to porch; single storey family flat to the side; alterations to vehicular entrance and driveway; gate piers & boundary walls and all associated works. | 955 | This is a small-scale project with a temporary construction phase, and the operation phase will have localised effects that are in keeping with the surrounding urban built environment.<br>In addition, the proposed project is over 12km from the nearest SAC with no ecological pathways for significant effect. | No | No |
| SD19B/0278 | Grant Permission | Single storey extension to the side of the existing two storey house to include commercial counselling/consultation space and ancillary accommodation. | 979 | This is a small-scale project with a temporary construction phase, and the operation phase will have localised effects that are in keeping with the surrounding urban built environment.<br>In addition, the proposed project is over 12km from the nearest SAC with no ecological pathways for significant effect. | No | No |
| SD17B/0066 | Grant Permission | Single storey extension to front and side of house and internal alterations including loft conversion with 'Velux' windows to rear roof profile and all associated site works. | 996 | This is a small-scale project with a temporary construction phase, and the operation phase will have localised effects that are in keeping with the surrounding urban built environment.<br>In addition, the proposed project is over 12km from the nearest SAC with no ecological pathways for significant effect. | No | No |

| Planning Code | Status | Overview | Project Area (sq. m) | Characteristics of the potential interactions between the projects; sources and pathways | Is there a risk of in-combination effects | Are significant in-combination effects likely |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| SD17A/0450 | Grant Permission | Demolish existing dilapidated dwelling and construct 2 new semi-detached 2 storey (+ attic room) dwellings and associated works. | 999 | This is a small-scale project with a temporary construction phase, and the operation phase will have localised effects that are in keeping with the surrounding urban built environment.<br>In addition, the proposed project is over 12km from the nearest SAC with no ecological pathways for significant effect. | No | No |
| SD20B/0072 | Grant Permission | Two storey extension to the side of the house with some internal modifications and all ancillary site works. | 1,016 | This is a small-scale project with a temporary construction phase, and the operation phase will have localised effects that are in keeping with the surrounding urban built environment.<br>In addition, the proposed project is over 12km from the nearest SAC with no ecological pathways for significant effect. | No | No |
| SD19B/0455 | Grant Permission | Single storey side extension and associated ancillary works. | 1,045 | This is a small-scale project with a temporary construction phase, and the operation phase will have localised effects that are in keeping with the surrounding urban built environment.<br>In addition, the proposed project is over 12km from the nearest SAC with no ecological pathways for significant effect. | No | No |
| SD17B/0370 | Grant Permission | Construction of a single storey granny flat (area 46.6sq.m) to the side of existing two storey dwelling, connection to existing on-site services, use of existing entrance and all associated works. | 1,213 | This is a small-scale project with a temporary construction phase, and the operation phase will have localised effects that are in keeping with the surrounding urban built environment.<br>In addition, the proposed project is over | No | No |

| Planning Code | Status | Overview | Project Area (sq. m) | Characteristics of the potential interactions between the projects; sources and pathways | Is there a risk of in-combination effects | Are significant in-combination effects likely |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | 12km from the nearest SAC with no ecological pathways for significant effect. | | |
| SD18A/0445 | Grant Permission | Demolition of side extension to existing dwelling; construction of single storey extension to the rear of existing dwelling; construction of a new detached two storey dwelling on the site to the side of existing dwelling; new vehicular access for both dwellings; front and side garden wall and gate piers to each property and all associated site works. | 1,363 | This is a small-scale project with a temporary construction phase, and the operation phase will have localised effects that are in keeping with the surrounding urban built environment.<br>In addition, the proposed project is over 12km from the nearest SAC with no ecological pathways for significant effect. | No | No |
| SD20B/0488 | Grant Permission | Change of use for existing ground floor single storey side extension only from Doctor's Surgery to residential use. A new front porch, a first floor front, side and rear extension over existing single storey side extension, a new single storey rear extension with roof window and all associated site works. | 1,369 | This is a small-scale project with a temporary construction phase, and the operation phase will have localised effects that are in keeping with the surrounding urban built environment.<br>In addition, the proposed project is over 12km from the nearest SAC with no ecological pathways for significant effect. | No | No |
| SD19B/0344 | Grant Permission | Single storey extension to existing garage; new works allowing for utility and storage/playroom space and all associated site works. | 1,567 | This is a small-scale project with a temporary construction phase, and the operation phase will have localised effects that are in keeping with the surrounding urban built environment.<br>In addition, the proposed project is over 12km from the nearest SAC with no ecological pathways for significant effect. | No | No |
| SD17B/0304 | Grant Permission For Retention | Retention of two storey extension to the side and rear of existing dwelling and associated site works. | 1,619 | This is a small-scale project with a temporary construction phase, and the operation phase will have localised effects that are in keeping with the surrounding | No | No |

| Planning Code | Status | Overview | Project Area (sq. m) | Characteristics of the potential interactions between the projects; sources and pathways | Is there a risk of in-combination effects | Are significant in-combination effects likely |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | urban built environment.<br>In addition, the proposed project is over 12km from the nearest SAC with no ecological pathways for significant effect. | | |
| SD19B/0445 | Grant Permission | Construction of single storey extension to side and rear of existing dwelling with rooflights and all associated site works. | 1,681 | This is a small-scale project with a temporary construction phase, and the operation phase will have localised effects that are in keeping with the surrounding urban built environment.<br>In addition, the proposed project is over 12km from the nearest SAC with no ecological pathways for significant effect. | No | No |
| SD18A/0388 | Grant Permission | Construction of a new part 2, 3 and 4 storey apartment development with 12 units; 4 two bed units, 7 one bed units and 1 studio unit; 1st, 2nd and 3rd floor roof gardens and recessed balconies at 1st, 2nd and 3rd floor onto Mill Lane; 12 car parking spaces and 18 bicycle spaces at ground floor level with a landscaped deck above; vehicular access to site with at Mill Lane and associated landscaping and site works at junction of Mill Lane and Leinster Terrace. | 2,199 | This is a medium-scale project with a short-term construction phase, and the operation phase will have localised effects that are in keeping with the surrounding urban built environment. The project will be subject to its own assessment process and mitigation if required.<br>In addition, the proposed project is over 12km from the nearest SAC with no ecological pathways for significant effect. | No | No |
| SD16A/0450 | Grant Permission | A social housing development comprising of 10 one bed units in a three-storey apartment building, associated car parking and bicycle parking, bin store, new vehicular access onto Old Nangor Road, new pedestrian access to replace existing vehicular entrance, landscaping, boundary treatments and all associated site and engineering works necessary to facilitate the development. | 2,850 | This is a medium-scale project with a short-term construction phase, and the operation phase will have localised effects that are in keeping with the surrounding urban built environment.<br>The project will be subject to its own assessment process and mitigation if required. | No | No |

| Planning Code | Status | Overview | Project Area (sq. m) | Characteristics of the potential interactions between the projects; sources and pathways | Is there a risk of in-combination effects | Are significant in-combination effects likely |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | In addition, the proposed project is over 12km from the nearest SAC with no ecological pathways for significant effect. | | |
| SD18A/0271 | Grant Permission | Construction of a community housing scheme for the elderly arranged in 4 blocks of 1-5 storeys with lower ground floor entry level to Blocks A, B and C. The scheme will comprise 99 1–2-bedroom apartments consisting of 76 1-bedroom, 21 2-bedroom and 2 studio apartments for visitors with north west, south west, south east and north east facing balconies/terraces, ancillary areas including plant/stores to Blocks A and C, communal areas/facilities and entrance lobby in Block B (c.194sq.m) and bin storage and plant room in Block D (c.106sq.m), lobby, stair and lift access throughout. All associated site development works, services provision, drainage, new pedestrian and vehicular access, car and bicycle parking, roof plant including photovoltaic panels, ESB cabinet, open space, landscaping and boundary treatment works. The total gross floor area of the proposal is c8,229sq.m. This site of c.0.9986ha is on part of the former Clondalkin Paper Mills Pitch and Putt Club lands, Mill Lane, off the Old Nangor Road. The subject site is bounded to the north by the River Camac, to the south by Mill Lane to the east by the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses and pitch and putt clubhouse/bar known as 'The Glue Pot' and to the west by Clondalkin Leisure Centre. | 27,726 | This is a medium-scale project with a short-term construction phase, and the operation phase will have localised effects that are in keeping with the surrounding urban built environment.<br>The project will be subject to its own assessment process and mitigation if required.<br>In addition, the proposed project is over 12km from the nearest SAC with no ecological pathways for significant effect. | No | No |
| SD20A/0335 | Grant Permission | Removal of two existing prefabricated classrooms and construction of a four classroom, two storey extension to the west of the existing school buildings, together with connections to services and all associated site works. | 59,133 | This is a medium-scale project with a short-term construction phase, and the operation phase will have localised effects that are in keeping with the surrounding urban built environment.<br>In addition, the proposed project is over 12km from the nearest SAC with no ecological pathways for significant effect. | No | No |

| Planning Code | Status | Overview | Project Area (sq. m) | Characteristics of the potential interactions between the projects; sources and pathways | Is there a risk of in-combination effects | Are significant in-combination effects likely |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| SD17A/0384 | Grant Permission | (a) Removal of the existing signage on the front elevation, (b) the installation of illuminated fascia signage to the front elevation, (c) the erection of 1 Totem Pole to the Old Nangor Road entrance with recessed up-lighting installed at ground level, (d) 1 Totem Pole to the Ninth Lock Road entrance with recessed up-lighting installed at ground level and (e) associated site works. | 120,825 | This is a small-scale project with a temporary construction phase, and the operation phase will have localised effects that are in keeping with the surrounding urban built environment.<br>In addition, the proposed project is over 12km from the nearest SAC with no ecological pathways for significant effect. | No | No |
| SD18A/0447 | Grant Permission | Modifications to existing grant of permission, Reg. Ref. SD17A/0035, consisting of: material change of roof finish for the construction of two new 3 storey primary school buildings for Gaelscoil na Camóige agus Gaelscoil Chluain Dolcáin and a material change of roof finish for the construction of the new single storey PE hall building for Coláiste Chilliain; roof mounted photovoltaic (PV) panels for Gaelscoil na Camóige agus Gaelscoil Chluain Dolcáin and for the PE hall building; Gaelscoil na Camóige will accommodate PV panels on the east facing (rear roof); Gaelscoil Chluain Dolcáin will accommodate PV panels on the south facing (rear roof); the PE hall building will accommodate PV panels on the southwest facing (rear roof); the overall number of PV panels is 340 with an approximate area of 560sq.m. | 136,422 | This is a medium-scale project with a short-term construction phase, and the operation phase will have localised effects that are in keeping with the surrounding urban built environment.<br>The project will be subject to its own assessment process and mitigation if required.<br>In addition, the proposed project is over 12km from the nearest SAC with no ecological pathways for significant effect. | No | No |
| SD17A/0035 | Grant Permission | Construction of two new 3 storey primary school buildings for Gaelscoil na Camóige agus Gaelscoil Chluain Dolcáin providing 16 classrooms each, a shared general-purpose area, ancillary teaching and staff accommodation. The development will also consist of the construction of a new single storey PE Hall building for Coláiste Chilliain. The development will also include two new pedestrian access routes, with one located on New Nangor Road and with another located at the junction of New Nangor Road and Old Nangor Road, a new vehicle entrance and exit onto Old Nangor Road to provide a one-way vehicle route with a bus/vehicle set down zone, conversion of existing vehicle | 136,434 | This is a medium-scale project with a short-term construction phase, and the operation phase will have localised effects that are in keeping with the surrounding urban built environment.<br>The project will be subject to its own assessment process and mitigation if required.<br>In addition, the proposed project is over 12km from the nearest SAC with no | No | No |

| Planning Code | Status | Overview | Project Area (sq. m) | Characteristics of the potential interactions between the projects; sources and pathways | Is there a risk of in-combination effects | Are significant in-combination effects likely |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | entrance to Colaiste Chillian to an in-only entrance, 2 new hard play courts and play space at each primary school with site landscaping, bicycle parking spaces and car parking spaces for each primary school including accessible car parking spaces, internal refurbishment works to Coláiste Chilliain to facilitate the reintegration of teaching accommodation upon Gaelscoil Chluain Dolcáin's move to the new school, removal of the existing temporary changing room and relocation of car park spaces at Coláiste Chilliain to provide accessible parking spaces and associated works. The development will also comprise of connections to public utility and drainage services, boundary treatments, alterations to existing drainage layout and associated site development works. | | ecological pathways for significant effect. | | |
| SD15A/0304 | Grant Permission | (a) 4 temporary single storey adjoined buildings with a total floor area of 348sq.m, all with associated access ramps/steps amd railings; each building which will consist of a classroom with individual toilet accommodation, shall be connected to the existing foul and surface water systems. (b) delineate 3 disabled car parking spaces by adjusting 6 existing car parking spaces. (c) relocate 7 existing car parking spaces. (d) construct 2 additional car parking spaces and 6 additional bicycle parking spaces. (e) all associated site works. | 136,434 | This is a medium-scale project with a short-term construction phase, and the operation phase will have localised effects that are in keeping with the surrounding urban built environment.<br>The project will be subject to its own assessment process and mitigation if required.<br>In addition, the proposed project is over 12km from the nearest SAC with no ecological pathways for significant effect. | No | No |
| SD18A/0126 | Grant Permission For Retention | Continuance of use of the 3 existing buildings and all associated external areas for storage and warehousing of motor vehicles, plant, machinery and other durable products for the sale by public auction, all associated ancillary uses and all associated site works. | 215,378 | This is a medium-scale project with no construction phase, and the operation phase will have localised effects that are in keeping with the surrounding urban built environment.<br>In addition, the planning is over 12km from the nearest SAC with no ecological pathways for significant effect. | No | No |

| Planning Code | Status | Overview | Project Area (sq. m) | Characteristics of the potential interactions between the projects; sources and pathways | Is there a risk of in-combination effects | Are significant in-combination effects likely |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| SD21A/0012 | Grant Permission | Deepening of part (c. 43ha.) of the existing and permitted quarry (An Bord Pleanala refs. 301177 & QD0026) to a quarry floor level of -10mOD using conventional blasting techniques; use of mobile processing plant; product stockpiles; final restoration scheme and all ancillary works within a planning application area of 49.4ha and within the overall landholding of 241.6ha and will be accompanied by an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR). | 1,389,560 | This is a large-scale project with a short-term construction phase, and the operation phase will have localised effects that are in keeping with the surrounding urban built environment.<br>The project will be subject to its own assessment process and mitigation if required.<br>In addition, the proposed project is over 12km from the nearest SAC with no ecological pathways for significant effect. | No | No |
| SD16A/0293 | Grant Permission For Retention | Retention of the following: (1) Quarry control office & garage (1835sq.m) & 5 storage portacabins (14sq.m,14sq.m, 14sq.m 12.6sq.m & 8.4sq.m); (2) ESB switching station (58sq.m) & substation (36sq.m); (3) spare parts storage area (c. 2445sq.m); (4) maintenance shed (117.7sq.m); (5) car park (30 spaces & 627.7sq.m); (6) 2 lampost (10.5m high); (7) 'Clause 804' plant (1177.7sq.m); (8) wet sand plant (684.4sq.m); (9) 2 weighbridges (325.4sq.m); (10) general waste storage area (c. 12.5sq.m); (11) quarry fuelling station with two 9m3 fuel tanks (126.8sq.m); (12) metal recycling storage area (c.310sq.m); (13) truck parking area (c. 6632sq.m); (14) 1 security camera post (2.2m high); (15) 1 lamp post (9.2 high); (16) hydrocarbon interceptor; (17) tyre storage bays (c.140sq.m); (18) dry sand pant (2203.4sq.m); (19) 1 lamp post (10.3m high); (20) quarry stores (163sq.m); (21) effluent holding tank; (22) security station (13.9sq.m) and 2 lamp post (6.5m high); (23) wheel wash (236.3sq.m); (24) 'Tricel' effluent treatment system; (25) settlement lagoon system (3208.9sq.m); (26) sand polishing filter; (27) security fence (2.9m high); (28) overburden storage mound (7.3 ha); (29) perimeter screening berm (5m to 8m high by 1.6km long & 6ha); (30) perimeter screening berm (5.2m high by 310m long & 7930sq.m); (31) plant storage area ( 8356sq.m); (32) perimeter screening | 1,405,885 | This is a large-scale project with a short-term construction phase, and the operation phase will have localised effects that are in keeping with the surrounding urban built environment.<br>The project will be subject to its own assessment process and mitigation if required.<br>In addition, the proposed project is over 12km from the nearest SAC with no ecological pathways for significant effect. | No | No |

| Planning Code | Status | Overview | Project Area (sq. m) | Characteristics of the potential interactions between the projects; sources and pathways | Is there a risk of in-combination effects | Are significant in-combination effects likely |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | berm (9.2m high by 147 long & 4770sq.m); (33) screening berm (8.4m high by 340m long & 5257sq.m); (34) perimeter screening berm (6.5m high by 240m long & 5665sq.m); (35) perimeter screening berm (9m high by 320m long & 1ha); (36) screening berm (2.7m high by 245m long &3125sq.m); (37) screening berm (3.5m high by 950m long & 1.1ha); (38) screening berm (3m high by 243m long & 3030sq.m); (39) screening berm (3.3m high by 238m long & 2088sq.m); (40) settlement pond area (6.4ha); (41) screening berm (3.5m high by 379m long & 4793sq.m); (42) screening berm ( 3.1m high by 244m long & 3743sq.m); (43) internal access road (285m long) to Outer Ring Road entrance/exit, gate, pedestrian gates, footpaths, paladin fencing (1.8m high) & 6 lampposts (6m high); (44) screening berm (5.2m high by 215m long & 4040sq.m); (45) relocation of entrance to C&D recovery site permitted under SD02A/0167 & all ancillary site works; internal roads & landscape planting. | | | | |

# 4. Conclusion

This stage one screening for AA of the proposed Corkagh Park development, Clondalkin, Dublin 22 demonstrates that the proposed development is not likely to have significant effects on any European site.

The AA screening process has considered potential effects which may arise during the construction and operational phases as a result of the implementation of the project. Through an assessment of the pathways for effects and an evaluation of the project characteristics, taking account of the processes involved and the distance of separation from European sites, it has been evaluated that there are no likely significant adverse effects on the qualifying interests, special conservation interests or the conservation objectives of any designated European site.

The proposed development is 5.93 km away from the closest SAC and 10.45 km away from the closest SPA. There is a direct surface hydrological connection between the proposed site and European sites in Dublin, however they are approximately 12.5km downstream. Given the nature of the proposed development works to Corkagh Park, the scale of the proposed works, the site context, and the localised and temporary nature of the potential effects, the proposed project will not lead to any significant adverse effects in-combination with effects arising from any other plans or projects.

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

## Appendix I Background information on European sites

| Site Code | Site Name | Qualifying Feature | Pressures Codes | Known Threats and Pressures |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 000202 | Howth Head SAC | Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic Coasts [1230], European dry heaths [4030] | A04.03, E01, G01.02, D01.01, C01.01.01, G05.04, I01, X, C01, J01.01 | Abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing, urbanised areas, human habitation, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, paths, tracks, cycling tracks, sand and gravel quarries, vandalism, invasive non-native species, no threats or pressures, mining and quarrying, burning down |
| 000206 | North Dublin Bay SAC | Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria - white dunes [2120], Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], Atlantic salt meadows *(Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae)* [1330], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Humid dune slacks [2190], Petalwort *(Petalophyllum ralfsii)* [1395], Mediterranean salt meadows *(Juncetalia maritimi)* [1410], Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210], Embryonic shifting dunes [2110], Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation - grey dunes [2130] | E01, A04, G05.05, G01.02, E02, I01, J01.01, G01.01, K03.06, G02.01, H01.03, F02.03, E03, F02.03.01, H01.09 | Urbanised areas, human habitation, grazing, intensive maintenance of public parcs or cleaning of beaches, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, industrial or commercial areas, invasive non-native species, burning down, nautical sports, antagonism with domestic animals, golf course, other point source pollution to surface water, leisure fishing, discharges, bait digging or collection, diffuse pollution to surface waters due to other sources not listed |
| 000210 | South Dublin Bay SAC | Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], Embryonic shifting dunes [2110], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210] | D01.01, E01, H03, J02.01.02, K02, G01.01.02, K02.02, E02, G01.01, E03, G01.02, D01.02, F02.03.01, M01 | Paths, tracks, cycling tracks, urbanised areas, human habitation, marine water pollution, reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh, biocenotic evolution, succession, non-motorized nautical sports, accumulation of organic material, industrial or commercial areas, nautical sports, discharges, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, roads, motorways, bait digging or collection, changes in abiotic conditions |
| 000397 | Red Bog, Kildare SAC | Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140] | A08, E01.03, F03.01, C01.01, A04, F02.03 | Fertilisation, dispersed habitation, hunting, sand and gravel extraction, grazing, leisure fishing |

| Site Code | Site Name | Qualifying Feature | Pressures Codes | Known Threats and Pressures |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 001209 | Glenasmole Valley SAC | Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates *(Festuco-Brometalia)* * important orchid sites [6210], Petrifying springs with tufa formation *(Cratoneurion)* [7220], Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils *(Molinion caeruleae)* [6410] | A03, A03.03, A04.02.02, A04.02.03, B01.02, B02.01.02, B02.02, I01, A08, A04, F02.03, D01.03, H01.05, A04.02.01, D01, B01.01, E01.02, H02.07, H01.08, C01.03, J02 | Mowing or cutting of grassland, abandonment or lack of mowing, non-intensive sheep grazing, non-intensive horse grazing, artificial planting on open ground (non-native trees), forest replanting (non-native trees), forestry clearance, invasive non-native species, fertilisation, grazing, leisure fishing, car parcs and parking areas, diffuse pollution to surface waters due to agricultural and forestry activities, non-intensive cattle grazing, roads, paths and railroads, forest planting on open ground (native trees), discontinuous urbanisation, diffuse groundwater pollution due to non-sewered population, diffuse pollution to surface waters due to household sewage and waste waters, peat extraction, human induced changes in hydraulic conditions |
| 001398 | Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC | Desmoulin`s whorl snail *(Vertigo moulinsiana)* [1016], Narrow-mouthed whorl snail *(Vertigo angustior)* [1014], Petrifying springs with tufa formation *(Cratoneurion)* [7220] | D01.02, A08, A04, J02.05.02, A10.01, E01.03, B, E01.01 | Roads, motorways, fertilisation, grazing, modifying structures of inland water courses, removal of hedges and coppice or scrub, dispersed habitation, sylviculture, forestry, continuous urbanisation |
| 002122 | Wicklow Mountains SAC | Otter *(Lutra lutra)* [1355], Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels *(Androsacetalia alpinae and Galeopsietalia ladani)* [8110], Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220], European dry heaths [4030], Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas - and submountain areas in Continental Europe [6230], Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0], Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160], Blanket bogs * if active bog [7130], Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix [4010], Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060], Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8210], Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains *(Littorelletalia uniflorae)* [3110], Calaminarian grasslands of the Violetalia calaminariae [6130] | K01.01, G05.04, G05.06, B02.05, G05.07, G01, G01.04, G01.03.02, G05.01, D01.01, E03.01, A05.02, I01, F03, G02.09, B06, L05, C01.03, F03.02.02, A04, G04.01, K04.05, E01, G01.02, G05.09, F04.02, J01.01 | Erosion, vandalism, tree surgery, felling for public safety, removal of roadside trees, non- intensive timber production (leaving dead wood or old trees untouched), missing or wrongly directed conservation measures, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, mountaineering, rock climbing, speleology, off-road motorized driving, trampling, overuse, paths, tracks, cycling tracks, disposal of household or recreational facility waste, stock feeding, invasive non-native species, hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), wildlife watching, grazing in forests or woodland, collapse of terrain, landslide, peat extraction, taking from nest (e.g. falcons), grazing, military manouvres, damage by herbivores (including game species), urbanised areas, human habitation, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, fences, fencing, collection (fungi, lichen, berries etc.), burning down |
| 003000 | Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC | Reefs [1170], Harbour porpoise *(Phocoena phocoena)* [1351] | D03.02, X, J02.11, H06.01, E03, F02.02, J02.02, D02 | Shipping lanes, no threats or pressures, siltation rate changes, dumping, depositing of dredged deposits, noise nuisance, noise pollution, discharges, professional active fishing, removal of sediments (mud...), utility and service lines |

| Site Code | Site Name | Qualifying Feature | Pressures Codes | Known Threats and Pressures |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 004006 | North Bull Island SPA | Black-tailed Godwit *(Limosa limosa)* [A156], Grey Plover *(Pluvialis squatarola)* [A141], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Turnstone *(Arenaria interpres)* [A169], Pintail *(Anas acuta)* [A054], Oystercatcher *(Haematopus ostralegus)* [A130], Light-bellied Brent Goose *(Branta bernicla hrota)* [A046], Knot *(Calidris canutus)* [A143], Bar-tailed Godwit *(Limosa lapponica)* [A157], Sanderling *(Calidris alba)* [A144], Shelduck *(Tadorna tadorna)* [A048], Teal *(Anas crecca)* [A052], Black-headed Gull *(Chroicocephalus ridibundus)* [A179], Redshank *(Tringa totanus)* [A162], Curlew *(Numenius arquata)* [A160], Golden Plover *(Pluvialis apricaria)* [A140], Dunlin *(Calidris alpina)* [A149], Shoveler *(Anas clypeata)* [A056] | E03, G01.01, D01.02, F02.03.01, D03.02, E01.04, G03, G01.02, G02.01, E01.01, D01.05, E02 | Discharges, nautical sports, roads, motorways, bait digging or collection, shipping lanes, other patterns of habitation, interpretative centres, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, golf course, continuous urbanisation, bridge, viaduct, industrial or commercial areas |
| 004024 | South Dublin Bay and Tolka Estuary SPA | Oystercatcher *(Haematopus ostralegus)* [A130], Ringed Plover *(Charadrius hiaticula)* [A137], Dunlin *(Calidris alpina)* [A149], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Light-bellied Brent Goose *(Branta bernicla hrota)* [A046], Knot *(Calidris canutus)* [A143], Black-headed Gull *(Chroicocephalus ridibundus)* [A179], Common tern *(Sterna hirundo)* [A193], Arctic tern *(Sterna paradisaea)* [A194], Redshank *(Tringa totanus)* [A162], Sanderling *(Calidris alba)* [A144], Grey Plover *(Pluvialis squatarola)* [A141], Roseate Tern *(Sterna dougallii)* [A192], Bar-tailed Godwit *(Limosa lapponica)* [A157] | G01.01, E01, F02.03.01, J02.01.02, E02, K02.03, D01.02, E03, G01.02, F02.03 | Nautical sports, urbanised areas, human habitation, bait digging or collection, reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh, industrial or commercial areas, eutrophication (natural), roads, motorways, discharges, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, leisure fishing |
| 004040 | Wicklow Mountains SPA | Peregrine falcon *(Falco peregrinus)* [A103], Merlin *(Falco columbarius)* [A098] | G01.02, D01.01, A04, C01.03, G03, B | Walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, paths, tracks, cycling tracks, grazing, peat extraction, interpretative centres, sylviculture, forestry |
| 004063 | Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA | Lesser Black-backed Gull *(Larus fuscus)* [A183], Greylag Goose *(Anser anser)* [A043] | B01, G01.01, F03.01, F02.03, D01.05 | Forest planting on open ground, nautical sports, hunting, leisure fishing, bridge, viaduct |
| 004113 | Howth Head Coast SPA | Kittiwake *(Rissa tridactyla)* [A188] | J01, G01.02 | Fire and fire suppression, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles |
| 004172 | Dalkey Islands SPA | Arctic tern *(Sterna paradisaea)* [A194], Roseate tern *(Sterna dougallii)* [A192], Common tern *(Sterna hirundo)* [A193] | E01, G01.01, G01.02, A04 | Urbanised areas, human habitation, nautical sports, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, grazing |

## Appendix II Qualifying Interests of SACs that have undergone assessment including summaries of current threats and sensitivities

| Qualifying Interests | EU Code | Current threats to Qualifying Interests | Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests |
|---|---|---|---|
| Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail *(Vertigo angustior)* | [1014] | Loss of riverside and canalside habitat; exploitation of esker sites and drainage of wetlands, and sheep grazing and overexploitation of dune sites. | Changes to ground vegetation condition, groundwater dependent and is highly sensitive to hydrological changes. |
| Desmoulin's Whorl Snail *(Vertigo moulinsiana)* | [1016] | Loss of riverside and canalside habitat; exploitation of esker sites and drainage of wetlands, and sheep grazing and overexploitation of dune sites. | Changes to ground vegetation condition, groundwater dependent and is highly sensitive to hydrological changes. |
| Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide | [1140] | Aquaculture, fishing, bait digging, removal of fauna, reclamation of land, coastal protection works and invasive species, particularly cord-grass; hard coastal defence structures; sea-level rise. | Surface and marine water dependent. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Moderate sensitivity to pollution. Changes to salinity and tidal regime. Coastal development. |
| Reefs | [1170] | Professional fishing; taking for fauna; taking for flora; water pollution; climate change; and change in species composition. | Sensitive to disturbance and pollution. |
| Annual vegetation of drift lines | [1210] | Grazing; sand and gravel extraction; recreational activities; coastal protection works. | Overgrazing and erosion. Changes in management. |
| Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts | [1230] | A number of significant pressures were identified, including trampling by walkers, invasive non-native species, gravel extraction, and sea-level and wave exposure changes due to climate change. There have been no significant losses in sea cliff habitat since the Directive came into force. | Land use activities such as tourism and/or agricultural practices. Direct alteration to the habitat or effects such as burning or drainage. |
| Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand | [1310] | Invasive Species; erosion and accretion. | Marine water dependent. Medium sensitivity to hydrological change. Changes in salinity and tidal regime. Infilling, reclamation, invasive species. |
| Atlantic salt meadows *(Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae)* | [1330] | Overgrazing; erosion; invasive species, particularly common cordgrass (Spartina anglica); infilling and reclamation. | Marine and groundwater dependent. Medium sensitivity to hydrological change. Changes in salinity and tidal regime. Overgrazing, erosion and accretion. |
| Harbour Porpoise *(Phocoena phocoena)* | [1351] | Pressures acting on the species in Irish waters mainly involve commercial vessel-based activities such as impacts arising from geophysical seismic exploration or from local/regional prey removal from fisheries. | Sensitive to disturbance, prey availability and pollution. |
| Otter *(Lutra lutra)* | [1355] | Decrease in water quality: Use of pesticides; fertilization; vegetation removal; professional fishing (including lobster pots and fyke nets); unting; poisoning; sand and gravel extraction; mechanical removal of peat; urbanised areas; human habitation; continuous urbanization; drainage; management of aquatic and bank vegetation for drainage purposes; and canalization or modifying structures of inland water course. | Surface and marine water dependent. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Sensitivity to pollution. |
| Petalwort *(Petalophyllum ralfsii)* | [1395] | There are no significant impacts affecting this species. | None identified. |
| Mediterranean salt meadows *(Juncetalia maritimi)* | [1410] | Over-grazing by cattle or sheep; infilling and reclamation. | Marine and groundwater dependent. Medium sensitivity to hydrological change. Changes in salinity and tidal regime. Coastal development and reclamation. |

| Qualifying Interests | EU Code | Current threats to Qualifying Interests | Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests |
|---|---|---|---|
| Embryonic shifting dunes | [2110] | Natural erosion processes exacerbated by recreation and sand extraction. Coastal protection interfering with natural processes. | Overgrazing, and erosion. Changes in management. |
| Shifting dunes along the shoreline with white dunes *(Ammophila arenaria)* | [2120] | Recreation and coastal defences, which may interfere with local sediment dynamics. | Overgrazing, and erosion. Changes in management. |
| Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation *(grey dunes)* | [2130] | Recreation; overgrazing and inappropriate grazing: non-native plant species, particularly sea buckthorn (*Hippophae rhamnoides*). | Overgrazing, and erosion. Changes in management. |
| Humid dune slacks | [2190] | Agricultural improvement; overgrazing and inappropriate grazing; forestry; recreational activity. | Overgrazing, and erosion. Changes in management. Sensitive to hydrological change. |
| Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains *(Littorelletalia uniflorae)* | [3110] | Nutrient enrichment; afforestation; waste water; invasive alien species; sport and leisure activities. | Surface and groundwater dependant. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution. |
| Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds | [3160] | Nutrient alterations; management shifts in the associated peatland habitat, afforestation; waste water; invasive alien species; sport and leisure activities. | Surface and groundwater dependant. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution |
| Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix | [4010] | Reclamation, afforestation and burning; overstocking; invasion by non-heath species; exposure of peat to severe erosion. | Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Inappropriate management. |
| European dry heaths | [4030] | Afforestation, overburning, over-grazing, under-grazing and bracken invasion. | Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Changes in management. Changes in nutrient status. |
| Alpine and Boreal heaths | [4060] | Abandonment; overgrazing; burning; outdoor recreation; quarries; communication networks; and wind farm developments. | Changes in management. Changes in nutrient or base status. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. |
| Calaminarian grasslands of the Murawy galmanowa *(Violetalia calaminariae)* | [6130] | Land reclamation, afforestation; drainage; and infrastructural development. | Changes in management such as grazing regime. Changes in nutrient or base status. Changes to vegetation composition. Introduction of alien species. |
| Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates *(Festuco-Brometalia)** important orchid sites | [6210] | Land reclamation, afforestation; drainage; and infrastructural development. | Changes in management such as grazing regime. Changes in nutrient or base status. Changes to vegetation composition. Introduction of alien species. |
| Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas *(and submountain areas, in Continental Europe)* | [6230] | Bracken encroachment, succession, inappropriate grazing, afforestation; drainage; and infrastructural development. | Changes in management such as grazing regime. Changes in nutrient or base status. Changes to vegetation composition. Introduction of alien species. |

| Qualifying Interests | EU Code | Current threats to Qualifying Interests | Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests |
|---|---|---|---|
| Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils *(Molinion caeruleae)* | [6410] | Agricultural intensification; drainage; abandonment of pastoral systems. | Changes in management such as grazing regime. Changes in nutrient or base status. Changes to vegetation composition. Introduction of alien species. |
| Blanket bogs *(* if active bog)* | [7130] | Land reclamation, peat extraction; afforestation; erosion and landslides triggered by human activity; drainage; burning and infrastructural development. | Surface water interactions. Drainage and land use management are the key things. |
| Transition mires and quaking bogs | [7140] | Drainage; burning; peat extraction; overgrazing; afforestation; erosion; and climate change. | Surface water interactions. Groundwater isolated system with sensitivities related to the bog basin. Drainage and land use management are the key things. |
| Petrifying springs with tufa formation *(Cratoneurion)* | [7220] | Ground water interactions, on site management activities. | Surface and groundwater dependant. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution. |
| Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels *(Androsacetalia alpinae and Galeopsietalia ladani)* | [8110] | Overgrazing, undergrazing and succession were recorded as medium-importance pressures in this reporting period, and Structure and functions were again assessed as Inadequate, the trend is considered to be stable rather than improving. This change is due to improved knowledge and the habitat is considered to have been stable since before the last assessment. | Erosion, overgrazing and recreation. |
| Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation | [8210] | Overgrazing; extractive industries; recreational activities and improved access. | Erosion, overgrazing and recreation. |
| Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation | [8220] | Pressures associated with the non-native invasive species New Zealand willowherb (Epilobium brunnescens). | Erosion, overgrazing and recreation. |
| Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles | [91A0] | The introduction of alien species; sub-optimal grazing patterns; general forestry management; increases in urbanisation and human habitation adjacent to oak woodlands; and the construction of communication networks through the woodland. | Changes in management. Changes in nutrient or base status. Introduction of alien species. |

## Appendix III Special Conservation Interests of SPAs that have undergone assessment

| Special Conservation Interests |
|---|
| Greylag goose *(Anser anser)* [A043] |
| Greylag goose *(Anser anser [Iceland/UK/Ireland])* [A043] |
| Common shelduck *(Tadorna tadorna)* [A048] |
| Eurasian teal *(Anas crecca)* [A052] |
| Northern pintail *(Anas acuta)* [A054] |
| Northern shoveler *(Anas clypeata)* [A056] |
| Merlin *(Falco columbarius)* [A098] |
| Peregrine falcon *(Falco peregrinus)* [A103] |
| Eurasian oystercatcher *(Haematopus ostralegus)* [A130] |
| Ringed plover *(Charadrius hiaticula)* [A137] |
| European golden plover *(Pluvialis apricaria)* [A140] |
| Grey plover *(Pluvialis squatarola)* [A141] |
| Red knot *(Calidris canutus)* [A143] |
| Sanderling *(Calidris alba)* [A144] |
| Bar-tailed godwit *(Limosa lapponica)* [A157] |
| Eurasian curlew *(Numenius arquata)* [A160] |
| Common redshank *(Tringa totanus)* [A162] |
| Ruddy turnstone *(Arenaria interpres)* [A169] |
| Black-headed gull *(Larus ridibundus)* [A179] |
| Lesser black-backed gull *(Larus fuscus)* [A183] |
| Black-legged kittiwake *(Rissa tridactyla)* [A188] |
| Roseate tern *(Sterna dougallii)* [A192] |
| Common tern *(Sterna hirundo)* [A193] |
| Arctic tern *(Sterna paradisaea)* [A194] |

**Vulnerabilities of Special Conservation Interests**

- Bird species are particularly vulnerable to direct disturbance due to noise and/or vibration. These effects are localised, and disturbance effects are foreseen to be low at distances beyond 2km[9].
- Direct habitat loss is a serious concern for bird species, as well as the reduction in habitat quality. Habitat degradation could occur through effects such as local enrichment due to agricultural practices or damage to habitat through activities such as trampling.
- Prey species diversity and availability is a key element of species conservation. Community dynamics and ecosystem functionality are complex concepts and require site specific information. The site synopsis and conservation objectives for the SPAs identified within the ZOI were used to identify any specific prey sensitivities.
- Availability of nesting/roosting habitat. Particularly for the Hen Harrier.
- Vegetation composition, structure and functionality.

**Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]** Direct land take is a common vulnerability to all sites; as well as significant water quality effects. The conservation objective of all SPAs designated for Wetland and Waterbirds is to maintain the favourable conservation condition of the wetland habitat as a resource for the regularly occurring migratory waterbirds using it.

[9] SNH (2007) A Review of Disturbance Distances in Selected Bird Species: Scottish Natural Heritage; M. Ruddock & D.P. Whitfield

Appendix IV Author Details

**Lead Author - Karen Dylan Shevlin** is an ecologist with over 7 years' experience working in multiple capacities in ecology in Ireland and international research organisations, and holds a MSc degree in Biodiversity and Conservation from Trinity College Dublin (2013). Karen has significant skills in leading ecological surveys of bats, birds, insects, habitats and mammals and data analysis, mapping and compiling reports. Karen is also a specialist in ecological theory and the impacts/effects that altering natural dynamics may have on the surrounding environment. This combination of skills and knowledge provides the backbone of the assessment process, and ensure that all of the baseline and detailed data gathered in the field is interpreted in a manner that is grounded in best scientific knowledge.

Karen has been involved in AA screenings, NISs, and EIARs for a range of projects ranging from smaller facilities upgrades projects to major wind turbine sites.

**Supervisor - Andrew Torsney** is a Principal Ecologist with 9 years' experience working on major national and local scale projects. Andrew graduated from University College Dublin in 2011 with a B.Sc. degree in Zoology and obtained Master's degree in Biodiversity and Conservation from the University of Leeds in 2012. He has a range of ecological skills which include habitat mapping, ecological surveying, data interpretation and report writing. Andrew is a vegetative plant specialist, who has a wealth of experience classifying riparian habitats and identifying rare floral species. Andrew has a vast knowledge of riparian and freshwater ecosystems and undertakes freshwater surveys regularly. Andrew holds 4 national protected species licenses and has a lot of experience optioning surveying licenses for aquatic species such as the white clawed crayfish. He is also a Bat specialist with a wealth of experience, in acoustic surveying and monitoring of bats. Throughout Andrews's career he has worked on a number of large-scale multifaceted projects such as the Killaloe to Dublin water supply project NIS. For this work, Andrew designed and oversaw all ecological field work relating to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and AA.

Andrew has been the principal ecologist for a range of projects including the AA of the National Wind Energy Guidelines, a number of AAs for County Councils and a range of large-scale infrastructure projects.

**Reviewer - Paul Fingleton** has an MSc in Rural and Regional Resources Planning (with specialisation in EIA) from the University of Aberdeen. Paul is a member of the International Association for Impact Assessment as well as the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment. He has over twenty-five years' experience working in the area of Environmental Assessment. Over this period, he has been involved in a diverse range of projects including contributions to, and co-ordination of, numerous complex EIARs and EIA screening reports. He has also contributed to and supervised the preparation of numerous AAs and AA screenings.
Paul is the lead author of the current EPA Guidelines and accompanying Advice Notes on EIARs. He has been involved in all previous editions of these statutory guidelines. He also provides a range of other EIA related consultancy services to the EPA. Paul is regularly engaged by various planning authorities and other consent authorities to provide specialised EIA advice.