

APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT SCREENING

In Accordance With The Requirements Of

ARTICLE 6(3)

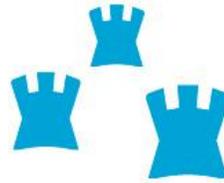
Of The

EU HABITATS DIRECTIVE

For The

DRAFT BELMAYNE - BELCAMP LANE MASTERPLAN

JULY 2020



Comhairle Cathrach
Bhaile Átha Cliath
Dublin City Council

SECTION 1 – INTRODUCTION & TERMS OF REFERENCE

Dublin City Council has prepared a draft Masterplan (hereafter referred to as “the draft Masterplan”) for lands at Belmayne and Belcamp Lane in Dublin 13/ Dublin 17. The draft Masterplan puts forward proposals for buildings, spaces, movement and land use in Belmayne and Belcamp in accordance with the vision, policies and objectives and key site frameworks of the Clongriffin – Belmayne Local Area Plan 2012. The purpose of the draft Masterplan is to facilitate the implementation of Phase 5 and part of Phase 4 of the Clongriffin/Belmayne Local Area Plan 2012. The draft Masterplan is a non-statutory plan framed within the context of the City Development Plan 2016 – 2022 (CDP) and the Clongriffin – Belmayne Local Area Plan 2012 (LAP) (life of LAP extended in 2017 for 5 years).

This is an Appropriate Assessment (AA) screening of the draft Belmayne - Belcamp Lane Masterplan. It provides information on, and assesses the potential of the Masterplan proposals to impact on the Natura 2000 network (hereafter referred to as European Sites)¹ and is being published alongside the draft Masterplan.

The draft Masterplan is intended as a detailed guide to the future development of the Belmayne Town Centre and Belcamp Lane lands, providing a framework for the urban design, layout and function of this area in order to guide future projects and other activities, in accordance with the CDP and the LAP.

The CDP identifies Clongriffin-Belmayne as a Strategic Development and Regeneration Area (SDRA1 North Fringe Clongriffin-Belmayne). The lands within the plan area are therefore primarily subject to Land Use Zoning Objective Z14, which seeks the social, economic, physical development or rejuvenation of an area with residential, employment and mixed uses. The CDP designates a Key District Centre at Clongriffin and Belmayne - Key District Centre (KD1 North Fringe East and West). Key District Centres (KDC's), are the top tier of urban centres outside of the city centre.

As a KDC, Clongriffin-Belmayne is expected to deliver on a range of requirements including:

- Increased density of development;
- A viable retail & commercial core;
- A comprehensive range of high quality community & social services; and,
- Distinctive spatial identity with a high quality physical environment.

The CDP also contains a ‘Specific Objective’ for a Local Area Plan in respect of these lands. In the case of Clongriffin – Belmayne, this LAP is already in place since 2012, with significant supporting drainage infrastructure, water supply, amenity, educational, roads and transport infrastructure also already in situ. A

¹ The Natura 2000 network is a European network of important ecological sites, as defined under Article 3 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, which comprises both special areas of conservation and special protection areas. Special conservation areas are sites hosting the natural habitat types listed in Annex I, and habitats of the species listed in Annex II, of the Habitats Directive, and are established under the Habitats Directive itself. Special protection areas are established under Article 4 of the Birds Directive 2009/147/EC for the protection of endangered species of wild birds. The aim of the network is to aid the long-term survival of Europe's most valuable and threatened species and habitats. In Ireland these sites are designed as European sites-defined under the Planning Acts and/or the Birds and Habitats Regulations as (a) a candidate site of Community importance, (b) a site of Community importance, (c) a candidate special area of conservation, (d) a special area of conservation, (e) a candidate special protection area, or (f) a special protection area. They are commonly referred to in Ireland as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs).

'Specific Objective' for Road Schemes and Bridges (Malahide Road / R107 (including North Fringe Improvements and 'Main Street') also pertains to the Masterplan lands.

The draft Masterplan will sit within the framework of the statutory LAP which sets the planning policy framework for all projects and development within the Clongriffin – Belmayne area, with all planning proposals being assessed against the policies and objectives of this LAP. The LAP was subject to Appropriate Assessment during its preparation and it outlines a range of objectives and measures to safeguard the environment and to ensure that plans and projects facilitated by it do not have the potential to result in significant or adverse effects on European Sites, either singularly or in a cumulative manner.

In addition to the policies, objectives and 'Key Sites Frameworks' of the LAP, the following published projects / studies / reports / Section 28 Guidelines have informed the draft Masterplan:

- a) The Economic and Retail Study 2018 – for Belmayne & Clongriffin, by AECOM Ltd, in conjunction with Braniff Associates on behalf of Dublin City Council. This study provides independent, evidence-based assessment of the retail and economic potential of the Key District Centre at Belmayne and Belcamp Lane and it made recommendations on the quantum and location of town centre uses
- b) South Fingal Transport Study (SFTS) by Systra, published by Fingal County Council
- c) Sustainable Urban Housing: Design Standards for New Apartments Guidelines for Planning Authorities, March 2018, DoEHLG
- d) Urban Development and Building Heights Guidelines for Planning Authorities, December 2018, DoEHLG
- e) The supporting flood risk assessment and high level surface water drainage strategy carried out in conjunction with the preparation of the draft Masterplan

The draft Masterplan takes cognisance of national, regional and local planning policy made since 2012, any new relevant ministerial guidelines of relevance. The National Planning Framework (NPF) (Project Ireland 2040) identifies the development of Clongriffin (Clongriffin-Belmayne) as a 'Key Future Growth Enabler for Dublin'. The Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan (MASP) for the Dublin Metropolitan Area (which forms part of the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Eastern and Midland Regional Area, 2019-2031), identifies Clongriffin – Belmayne's potential to support Dublin's sustainable growth and continued competitiveness through the delivery of housing and employment.

Terms of Reference

In compliance with Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and EU Birds Directive (79/409/EEC), as transposed into Irish legislation by the Natura 2000 Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 and Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), the potential effects of the policies and objectives of all statutory land use plans and projects on certain sites that are designated for the protection of nature under EU legislation must be assessed as an integral part of the plan making process. The DoEHLG's Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland - Guidance for Planning Authorities (2009, 2010) seeks screening for Appropriate Assessment for Masterplans.

For the purposes of Article 6 Assessments, Natura 2000 network sites or European Sites are those identified as Sites of Community Importance under the Habitats Directive (normally called Special Areas of Conservation) or classified as Special Protection Areas under the EU Birds Directive (79/409/EEC). The principal trigger for undertaking an 'Appropriate Assessment' would be if the plan as proposed was likely, either directly or indirectly, to have significant effects on a Natura 2000 Network site (i.e. on the conservation objectives of a European Site).

For the purposes of this report, the draft Masterplan is the plan being assessed in compliance with Article 6(3).

This AA Screening assesses, 1) whether the making of the draft Masterplan, is directly connected to or necessary for the conservation management of any European Site, and 2) whether the draft Masterplan, alone or in combination with other plans and projects, is likely² to result in significant³ effects on any European Site within the Natura 2000 network in view of its conservation objectives. The objective of this screening is to identify whether or not the draft Masterplan will give rise to likely significant effects on a European Site in light of its conservation objectives. Such a conclusion will be arrived at by assessing the nature of the land use activities that will be supported by the draft Masterplan, the potential for these activities to interact with European Sites occurring within the draft Masterplan's Zone of Influence, and the likely changes that will result from the making of the draft Masterplan, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects.

Circular Letter SEA 1/08 & NPWS 1/08 issued by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government requires that, as a result of European Court of Justice Case 418/04 EC Commission v Ireland, any draft land use plan (or amendments or variations) proposed under the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended), specifically Section 177 of the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2010, must be screened for any potential impact on areas designated as Natura 2000 network sites. The results of the screening should be recorded and made available to the public.

The draft Masterplan has been screened to ascertain if it is required to be subject to an *'Appropriate Assessment'* under the EU Habitats Directive. Based on the *'Methodological guidance on the provision of Article 6(3) and (4) of the EU Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC'*, a *'Screening Matrix'* and a *'Finding of No Significant Effects Matrix'* have been completed.

This Screening was undertaken by the Planning and Property Development Department of Dublin City Council. It should be noted that the proposed draft Masterplan has been screened separately in respect of the need for Strategic Environmental Assessment and it has been determined that, taking into account the criteria detailed in Schedule 2A of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001, as amended, and observations by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) received on 9th January 2020 and by the Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI) received on 13th January 2020, that the Draft Masterplan would not be likely to have significant effects on the environment. The draft Masterplan has also been subject to a Flood Risk Assessment.

² "likely" meaning any effect that may be reasonably predicted

³ "significant" meaning not trivial or inconsequential but an effect that is potentially relevant to the Site's conservation objectives (i.e. any effect, which would compromise the functioning and viability of a Site and interfere with achieving the conservation objectives of the Site would constitute a significant effect.)

SECTION 2 – METHODOLOGY

The DoEHLG's *Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland - Guidance for Planning Authorities* (2009, 2010) outlines the stages involved in undertaking a Screening Assessment of a plan or project that has the potential to have likely significant effects on the conservation objectives of a European Site. The methodology adopted for the screening of the draft Masterplan (the draft plan) is informed by this Guidance and was undertaken in the following stages:

1. **Description of the draft plan and the receiving environment**, and determination as to whether the plan is directly connected to or necessary for the conservation management of European Site(s);
2. **Identification and analysis of European Sites** occurring within the **Zone of Influence** of the draft plan;
3. Identification of whether or not there are elements of the draft plan with **potential to give rise to likely significant effects** – i.e. direct, indirect etc. - on the conservation objectives of European Sites; and,
4. Identification of **other plans or projects** that, **in combination** with the draft plan, have the **potential to effect** European Sites.

If the conclusions at the end of screening are that there is no likelihood of significant effects occurring on any European Sites as a result of the draft plan, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects, then there is no requirement to undertake an Appropriate Assessment.

A description of the draft Masterplan and the receiving environment is provided to identify the potential ecological impacts.

The potential impacts are examined in order to define the potential Zone of Influence of the draft Masterplan on the receiving environment. This then informs the assessment of whether the draft Masterplan will result in likely significant effects on any European Sites; i.e. affect the conservation objectives supporting the favourable conservation condition of the European Site's QIs or SCIs.

In establishing which European Sites are potentially at risk from the draft Masterplan, a source-pathway-receptor approach was applied. In order for an impact to occur, there must be a risk enabled by having a source (e.g. water abstraction or construction works), a receptor (e.g. a European Site or its QI(s) or SCI(s)), and a pathway between the source and the receptor (e.g. pathway by air for airborne pollution, or a pathway by a watercourse for mobilisation of pollution). For an impact to occur, all three elements must exist; the absence or removal of one of the elements means there is no possibility for the impact to occur. The identification of source-pathway-receptor connection(s) between the draft Masterplan area and European Sites essentially is the process of identifying which European Sites are within the Zone of Influence (Zoi) of the draft Masterplan, and therefore potentially at risk of significant effects. The Zoi is the area over which the draft Masterplan could affect the receiving environment such that it could potentially have significant effects on the QI habitats or QI/SCI species of a European Site, or on the achievement of their conservation objectives. However, the identification of a source-pathway-receptor link does not automatically mean that significant effects will arise. The likelihood for significant effects will depend upon the characteristics of the source (e.g. extent and duration of construction works), the characteristics of the pathway (e.g. direction and strength of prevailing winds for airborne pollution) and the characteristics of the receptor (e.g. the sensitivities of the European Site and its QIs/SCIs). Where uncertainty exists, the precautionary principle is applied.

In assessing the potential for the proposed development to result in likely significant effects on any European Sites, any measures intended to avoid or reduce the harmful effects of the plan on European Sites were not taken into account.

2.1 The Local Area Plan and the Masterplan

The basis for the draft Masterplan is set out in the Clongriffin / Belmayne LAP and the CDP, both of which have been subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Appropriate Assessment (AA) in accordance with the requirements of the SEA and Habitat Directives.

The Clongriffin-Belmayne Local Area Plan 2012

The Clongriffin – Belmayne Local Area Plan (LAP) was adopted by Dublin City Council on 3rd December 2012. The life of the Plan was extended by 5 years in November 2017. The statutory LAP sets out a clear framework for the sustainable development of 200 hectares of lands at Clongriffin – Belmayne. It specifically it sets out:

- An overall vision
- A spatial framework
- An approximate development capacity
- Policies and objectives against which planning applications for the lands will need to accord
- Key strategic infrastructure requirements
- A phasing strategy / phasing rationale (6 no. phases)
- Key Site Frameworks in the case of Phase 5 District Centre lands at Belmayne and Belcamp Lane

LAP Key Sites

The LAP identifies lands at ***Belmayne and Belcamp Lane*** as ‘**Key Sites**’ critical to the delivery of the overall place-making of Clongriffin-Belmayne through the creation / completion of a mixed use urban district centred on high quality transport. These Key Sites are mostly Council owned lands.

The LAP seeks the preparation of an integrated Masterplan for the Belcamp Lane and Belmayne Town Centre lands, to guide their optimum development in terms of layout, yield, use mix, height, amenities and integration with public transport and to ensure that new development will positively functionally integrate with the existing Northern Cross and Clarehall Shopping Centre developments.

Section 8.0 of the LAP details the framework for the Belcamp Lane and Belmayne Town Centre lands and the applicable Masterplan objectives (see Box 1, Key Masterplan Objectives below).

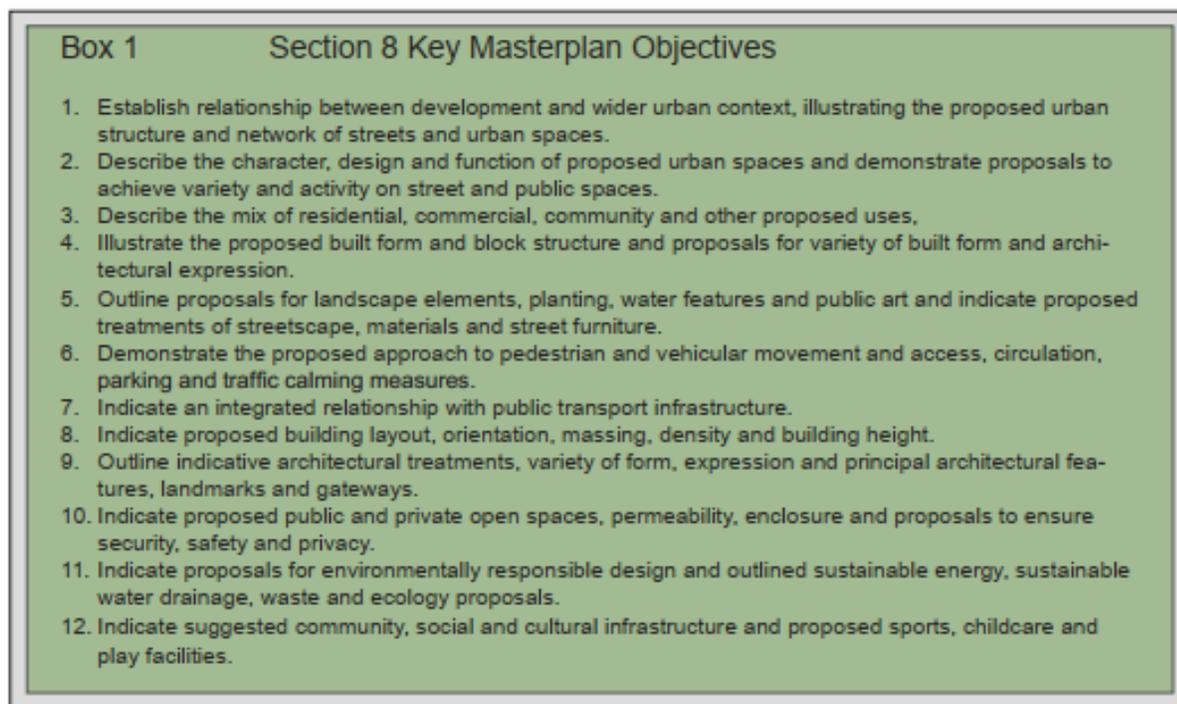


Figure 1: LAP Objectives for the Belcamp Lane and Belmayne Town Centre lands Masterplan

Delivering on the vision for the **Belmayne and Belcamp Lane** lands, as per the LAP Objectives above, requires the completion of major infrastructure including works incl. those relating to roads, foul water and surface water management. In terms of surface water management at a strategic level within the Masterplan area for example, the LAP specifies that feasible best practice SUDS / sustainable drainage measures shall be incorporated into any forthcoming development project on the Masterplan lands to ensure that the quantum and quality of runoff from roads, paved areas and roofs is managed and improved. Such measures include:

- a) *Infiltration systems* including infiltration trenches, infiltration basins, permeable paving, landscaping, soak ways and green roofs.
- b) *Filtration systems* including swales, bio retention systems and filter strips.
- c) *Retention systems* including retention swales.
- d) *Detention systems* including underground tanks, underground attenuation, detention basins and filter drawings

The further intention of the LAP, as per its Masterplan Objective 11 for the Belcamp and Belmayne Town Centre lands, is to ensure that the quantity of surface water discharge from the development shall replicate existing greenfield runoff rates - by limiting flow by means of flow control devices constructed to the requirements of Dublin City Council. The high level Surface Water Management Strategy prepared for the draft Masterplan indicates that the management of surface water at source is the priority and ideally, only overflow in extreme weather events shall be directed to main surface water infrastructure.

The Masterplan

The Masterplan area comprises a total of 24 ha encompassing two distinct parcels of serviced greenfield lands – Belmayne (c.15 ha) and Belcamp Lane (c.9 ha). The lands are located to the north east and south west of the Malahide Road Junction, adjacent Clarehall and Northern Cross, and fall gently in a north easterly direction towards the River Mayne.



Figure 2. Location of the Belcamp-Belmayne draft Masterplan lands

The Masterplan lands are located c.9 km from Dublin City Centre in close proximity to Dublin Airport and the M1/M50 to the North West, and to Clongriffin Railway Station and the coast to the east. The lands lie to the south and west of the City's administrative boundary with Fingal County Council; delineated by the River Mayne to the north and by the Dublin / Belfast Rail Corridor to the east.

The Masterplan lands form part of the wider Clongriffin – Belmayne area, a developing urban area since 2000 which is located at the north eastern boundary of Dublin city (the area is also known as the North Fringe). The lands, which are located to the north east and south west of the Malahide Road Junction respectively, adjacent Clarehall and Northern Cross, are served by the Malahide Road QBC (City Centre/ Clongriffin) which facilities a high frequency bus from the city centre to Clongriffin Rail Station.



Figure 3: LAP Phases 4 & 5

The lands are located in an area which has experienced extensive residential development in recent years. This context is illustrated by the aerial image in Figure 4.

The lands are currently predominantly greenfield (grassland/scrubland) and partially brownfield in nature, traversed by powerlines/cycle routes and bounded by a mix of hedgerows, treelines and artificial fencing. Based on the Fossit⁴ habitat classification and recent ecological assessments in the vicinity⁵, the lands can be described as a mix of unmanaged amenity grassland, managed allotments/park, dry meadows, bramble scrub, immature woodland, treeline and recolonizing bare ground - habitats and flora that are common and widespread in Ireland and considered to be of low/ negligible ecological importance. A large proportion of lands within the area surrounding the draft Masterplan lands are developed leaving the subject lands relatively fragmented from an ecological perspective (as illustrated by Figure 4 below).

⁴ Fossit, J.A. (2000) A Guide to Habitats in Ireland. The Heritage Council, Kilkenny.

⁵ Reg. Ref. 3238/17 AA Screening Statement by HRA Planning (June 2017)



Figure 4: Physical character of the Masterplan lands

The lands are located in the Mayne-Santry River catchment and the River Mayne runs some 30m to the north of a small portion of the lands and is separated from same by Parkside Avenue. The bulk of the lands lie within 300-500m of the river. This river discharges into the Irish Sea via the Mayne estuary at Baldoyle (c.2.5km to the east). The EPA water quality for the River Mayne is classed as poor / at risk, whilst the Irish Sea at Dublin is classed as unpolluted/good/not at risk.

Topographical information within the Masterplan area indicates that the lands generally fall in a north-easterly direction toward the river. There is currently no formal attenuation or systematic management of surface water on the Masterplan lands, with the rain which falls on the lands percolating to the ground. Drainage ditches are evident on the lands but there is no apparent direct outfall to the river.

It is noted that the foul sewer, surface water drainage and attenuation network has been substantially constructed within the overall LAP area and that the Masterplan lands are capable of being served by this existing system. As set out in the high level Surface Water Management Strategy prepared in respect of the Masterplan, the surface water drainage and attenuation infrastructure has been constructed within developed Belmayne Lands for example. This storm water drainage system drains the lands at Belmayne to the existing surface water network via a 900mm pipe which discharges to the attenuation tanks/ponds adjoining the River Mayne, before discharging to the River Mayne at a controlled rate. Water supply for the Masterplan lands (which form part of North Fringe area) would be derived from the Dublin Region Water Supply which is sourced from the Liffey, Dodder and Vartry Rivers. The existing water supply network for the North Fringe area is served by a 600 mm and 450mm watermain which runs from west to east across the north section of the LAP. In terms of foul sewerage/ wastewater management, the Masterplan lands form part of the North Fringe Sewer catchment which ultimately discharges to the Regional Waste Water Treatment Plant at Ringsend via the North Fringe Sewer (a major trunk sewer completed in 2004). Whilst emissions from the plant are currently not in compliance with the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive, Irish Water are in the process of upgrading the plant in order to improve treatment standards and increase network capacity by 50% with a target completion date of 2022/ 2023.

The purpose of the draft Masterplan is, in accordance with the LAP, to put forward a comprehensive worked up development framework for the subject lands. Specifically, the Masterplan must identify the quantum and location of town centre development achievable on these lands for a range of uses (residential, mixed use commercial, community, civic and open space) along with achievable height, massing and bulk of buildings, grid and block detail, movement, patterns of development, density, and residential and commercial yields as required by the LAP's Key Masterplan Objectives (see Box 1 above).

The draft Masterplan lands have a projected residential unit capacity of 2,200 – 2,600, equating to a population of 6 / 7,000 persons (based on a household size of 2.76 in LAP area as per Census 2016).

Overall, the draft Masterplan is structured to yield the following quantum of development on the subject lands:

	Belmayne Town Centre	Belcamp Lane
Residential Units	c. 1,400-1,600 units	c. 800-1,000 units
Retail/café/commercial	c. 10,500 sq. m	c. 2,000 sq. m
Community/ Educational	c. 21,500 sq. m	c. 4,000 sq. m
Public Open Space / Civic Space	c. 20,000 sq. m	c. 6,000 sq. m

Table 1: Masterplan development yield

The draft Masterplan lands are to be developed in accordance with the 'Phasing & Implementation Strategy' of the LAP. This strategy seeks to guide the orderly and sequential development of the lands and in particular, to provide for the phased delivery of connections and green open space / linkages to support both new development and existing communities. It is envisaged that the main phases involved in its implementation will be site preparation (incl. demolition/ clearance of waste material/ enabling works), construction and operational phases.

Conclusion

The Masterplan lands are located in the catchment of the River Mayne and in an area of north Dublin that has experienced substantial development in recent years. The lands are fragmented from an ecological perspective and are of low ecological value. The lands will be connected to and served by existing foul, potable and surface water infrastructure.

The LAP recommends that a Masterplan is prepared in respect of the Belcamp-Belmayne lands. The Masterplan builds on the framework plans set out in the LAP in order to put forward a more comprehensive development strategy for the subject lands in terms of urban design, land use, built form, infrastructure, movement and amenities. The Masterplan will facilitate the development of its lands, allowing the completion of local infrastructure and the provision of new housing and services. In summary, the overall purpose of the Masterplan is to develop and detail the sustainable development framework for these lands as set out in the statutory LAP and CDP.

It is clear from the scope and content of the draft Masterplan as outlined above, that it is not necessary for the management of any European Site for nature conservation purposes. Therefore, the next steps are to consider the Zone of Influence of the plan and whether or not the Masterplan has the potential to result in likely significant effects for the European Sites and their conservation objectives.

2.2 Identification of Relevant European Sites within the Zone of Influence of the draft Masterplan

In order to assess the Zone of Influence (ZOI) of this plan in respect to European Sites the following factors need to be considered:

- The location and nature of the European Sites
- Potential impacts arising from the Masterplan
- Pathways between the Masterplan area and the European Sites (Natura 2000 network)

In order to identify the European Sites that could potentially be significantly affected by the implementation of the draft Masterplan, the Appropriate Assessment Screening of the LAP was reviewed and it was found that those European Sites within a 15 km radius (determined to be the precautionary or potential ZOI) of the draft Masterplan area were assessed in accordance with DoEHLG recommended procedures for identifying European Sites. The LAP screening assessment concluded that this 15km distance was adequate to capture all potentially significant impacts.

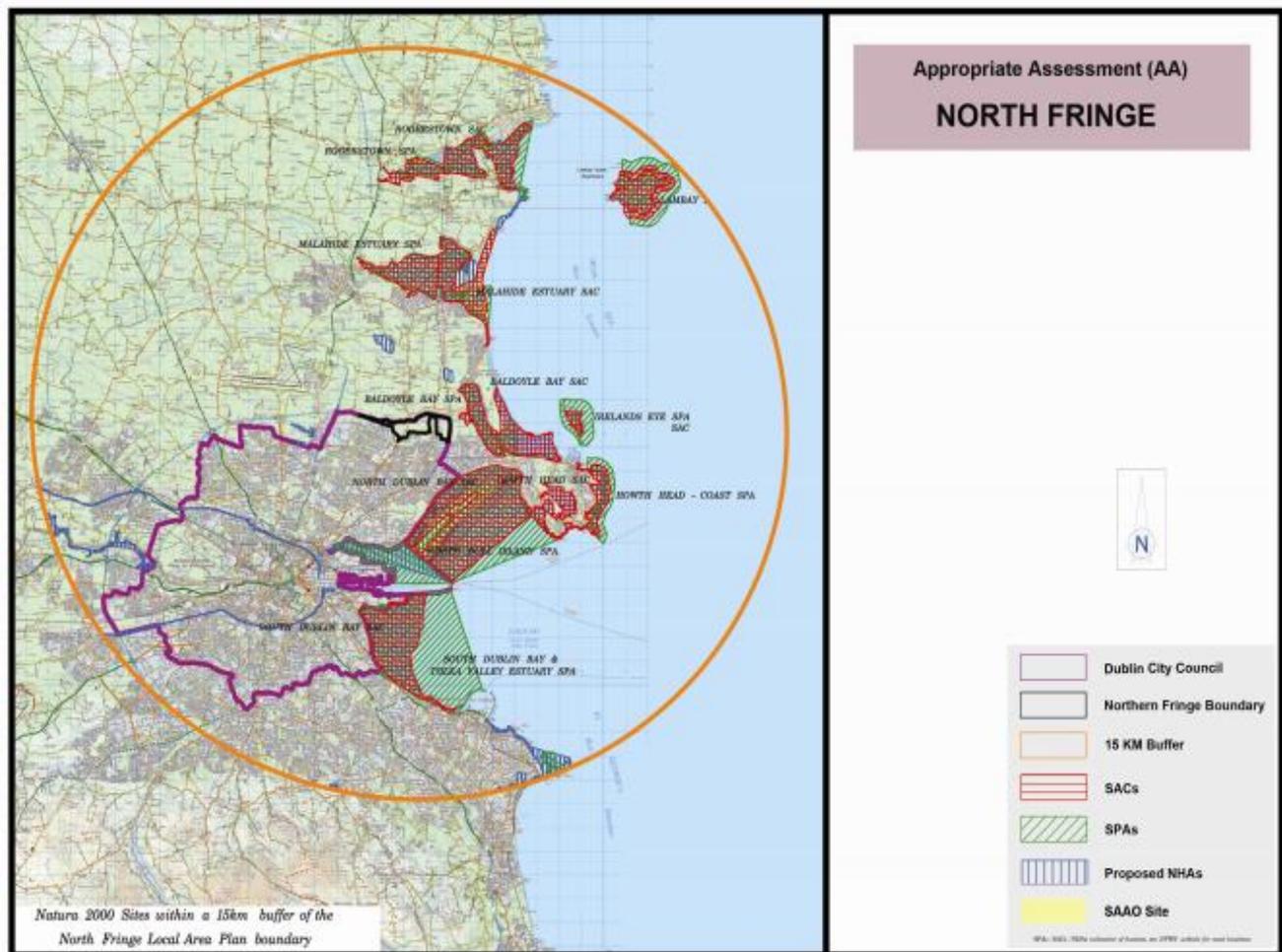


Figure 5: European Sites within the potential Zone of Influence of the draft Masterplan (as per the LAP)

Following the same methodology as the LAP, a desktop review was conducted of the identity, location and conservation objectives of the Natura 2000 sites within 15km radius of the draft Masterplan area (in accordance

with best practice). European sites outside of this 15km radius are either located a considerable physical distance inland or located within different surface water catchment zones to the proposed development.

The sites' profiles were determined from information obtained from the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) online map viewer. A total number of 18 no. European Sites were identified within a 15km radius of the draft Masterplan area, whilst no Natura 2000 Sites were identified within or directly adjacent to the draft Masterplan area itself – findings which were generally in line with the findings of the LAP assessment. These European Sites along with their qualifying features of interest are presented Tables 2 and 3 below.

TABLE 2: SPECIAL AREAS OF CONSERVATION WITHIN 15KM OF THE DRAFT MASTERPLAN AREA (THE POTENTIAL ZONE OF INFLUENCE)

Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)			
Site Code	European Site Name	Qualifying Features of Interest/Special Conservation Interests	Distance from Plan Area
000199	Baldoyle Bay SAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] • Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] • Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) [1330] • Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410] 	c. 3km (east)
000202	Howth Head SAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230] • European dry heaths [4030] 	c. 6km (south-east)
000204	Lambay Island SAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reefs [1170] • Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230] • <i>Halichoerus grypus</i> (Grey Seal) [1364] • <i>Phoca vitulina</i> (Harbour Seal) [1365] 	c. 13km (north-east)
000205	Malahide Estuary SAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] • Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] • Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) [1330] • Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410] • Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120] • Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130] 	c. 7km (north)
000206	North Dublin Bay SAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] • Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210] • Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] • Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) [1330] • Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410] • Embryonic shifting dunes [2110] • Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120] • Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130] • Humid dune slacks [2190] • <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> (Petalwort) [1394] 	c. 3km (south-east)
000208	Rogerstown Estuary SAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estuaries [1130] • Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] • Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] • Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) [1330] • Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410] • Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120] • Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130] 	c. 10.5 km (north)
000210	South Dublin Bay SAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] • Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210] • Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] 	c. 7km (south)

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embryonic shifting dunes [2110] 	
000713	Ballyman Glen SAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220] • Alkaline fens [7230] 	c. 22.5 km (south)
000725	Knocksink Wood SAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220] • Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0] 	c. 22 km (south)
001209	Glenasmole Valley SAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (* important orchid sites) [6210] • Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae) [6410] • Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220] 	c. 20 km (south-west)
002122	Wicklow Mountains SAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (Littorelletalia uniflorae) [3110] • Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160] • Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010] • European dry heaths [4030] • Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060] • Calaminarian grasslands of the <i>Violetalia calaminariae</i> [6130] • Species-rich <i>Nardus</i> grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe) [6230] • Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130] • Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (<i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsietalia ladani</i>) [8110] • Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8210] • Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220] • Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0] • Lutra (Otter) [1344] 	c. 20 km (south)
000714	Bray Head SAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120] • Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> [7140] • Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230] • European dry heaths [4030] 	c. 25.5 km (south-east)
002193	Ireland's Eye SAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220] • Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230] 	c. 7 km (east)
003000	Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reefs [1170] • <i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1341] 	c. 7 km (east)
001398	Rye Water/ Carton Valley SAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220] • <i>Vertigo angustior</i> (Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail) [1014] • <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i> (Desmoulin's Whorl Snail) [1016] 	c. 21 km (south-west)

TABLE 3: SPECIAL PROTECTION AREAS WITHIN 15KM OF THE DRAFT MASTERPLAN AREA (THE POTENTIAL ZONE OF INFLUENCE)

Special Protection Areas (SPAs)			
Site Code	European Site Name	Qualifying Features of Interest/Special Conservation Interests	Distance from Plan Area
004006	North Bull Island SPA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) • Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) • Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) • Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) • Shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>) • Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) • Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) • Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) • Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) • Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) • Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) • Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) • Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) • Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) • Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) • Turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>) • Black-headed Gull (<i>Larus ridibundus</i>) 	c. 3km (south-east)
004015	Rogerstown Estuary SPA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greylag Goose (<i>Anser anser</i>) [A043] • Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046] • Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048] • Shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>) [A056] • Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130] • Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137] • Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] • Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143] • Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149] • Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156] • Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162] • Wetland and Waterbirds [A999] 	c. 10.5 km (north)
004016	Baldoyle Bay SPA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046] • Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048] • Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137] • Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140] • Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] • Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A147] 	c. 3km (east)

004024	South Dublin Bay And River Tolka Estuary SPA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wetland and Waterbirds [A999] • Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) • Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) • Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) • Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) • Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) • Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) • Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) • Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) • Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) • Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) • Roseate Tern (<i>Sterna dougallii</i>) • Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) • Arctic Tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) 	c. 5km (south)
004025	Broadmeadow/ Swords Estuary SPA (Malahide Estuary SPA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) • Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) • Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) • Goldeneye (<i>Bucephala clangula</i>) • Red-breasted Merganser (<i>Mergus serrator</i>) • Great Crested Grebe (<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>) • Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) • Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) • Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) • Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) • Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) • Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) • Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) • Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) 	c. 6km (north)
004069	Lambay Island SPA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fulmar (<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>) [A009] • Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017] • Shag (<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>) [A018] • Greylag Goose (<i>Anser anser</i>) [A043] • Lesser Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>) [A183] • Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) [A184] • Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) [A188] • Guillemot (<i>Uria aalge</i>) [A199] • Razorbill (<i>Alca torda</i>) [A200] • Puffin (<i>Fratercula arctica</i>) [A204] 	c. 13km (north-east)

004113	Howth Head Coast SPA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) [A188] 	c. 8 km (south-east)
004117	Ireland's Eye SPA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017] • Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) [A184] • Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) [A188] • Guillemot (<i>Uria aalge</i>) [A199] • Razorbill (<i>Alca torda</i>) [A200] 	c. 7 km (east)
004040	Wicklow Mountains SPA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>) • Peregrine (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>) 	c. 20 km (south)
004172	Dalkey Islands SPA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roseate Tern (<i>Sterna dougallii</i>) [A192] • Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193] • Arctic Tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) [A194] 	c. 15 km (south-east)

In summary, Tables 2 and 3 illustrate that the draft Masterplan area does not overlap with the boundary of any European Site. Therefore, as the plan area is not located within or directly adjacent to the Natura 2000 network, there are no European Sites at risk of the direct effects of habitat loss or fragmentation impacts. In addition, based on the Fossit habitat classification carried out in Section 2 of this document, it can be concluded that the draft Masterplan area does not contain any of the habitats or species of special interest which have been designated for the purposes of protection and management under the Habitats Directive.

Tables 2 and 3 show that 18 no. European Sites are located within the 15km potential Zone of Influence of the draft Masterplan area. In order to determine whether each of these 18 no. European Sites are located in the actual Zone of Influence of the draft Masterplan, further consideration needs to be given to:

- Whether there is **connectivity / a pathway** between the European Site (Receptor) and the Masterplan area (Source). This is considered further in Table 4 below
- If there are elements of the draft Masterplan identified as having the potential to result in development/ land use **activities which could result in negative ecological effects** for any European Sites (this is considered further in Section 3)

Assessment of connectivity/ pathways between European Sites and draft Masterplan area

European Sites and their associated qualifying features are identified as occurring in the Zone of Influence of a plan **where pathways establish a link** between the lands subject to that plan and European Sites, or where the lands subject to the draft Masterplan are likely to play an important role in supporting populations of mobile species (i.e. birds etc.) that are listed as special conservation interests/qualifying species for surrounding European Site.

Given the nature and extent of the Masterplan, potential pathways have been determined to be hydrological and noise/ lighting/ general disturbance:

A hydrological pathway (incl. foul, surface water and groundwater) is established where a European Site is located **downstream** of the Masterplan area, or **upstream** of the Masterplan area where qualifying feature of interest of the European Site includes freshwater dependent mobile qualifying species.

A general disturbance (i.e. resulting from human-related terrestrial and other activities) pathway is established where the European Sites is located within **500m** of the boundary of the Masterplan area. General disturbance, which can be caused by and include factors such as noise and light, can occur during both the construction and operational phases. European Sites at a greater distance than 500m will not be sensitive to human-related activities that may arise as a result of the Masterplan.⁶

⁶ Parameter based on best practice in the assessment literature - wintering birds collectively considered at risk of disturbance at up to 500m based on compilation of data from Madsen (1985); Smit & Visser (1993) and Rees et al., (2005) and mandatory min. setback of 500m in respect of visual disturbance as per the Draft Revised Wind Energy Guidelines December 2019

TABLE 4: ASSESSMENT OF CONNECTIVITY / PATHWAYS BETWEEN EUROPEAN SITES AND DRAFT MASTERPLAN AREA

European Site	Hydrological Pathway	Noise Pathway	Light Pathway	Human-related Disturbance Pathway	Does the European Site occur within the Zone of Influence of the Draft Masterplan?
Baldoye Bay SAC	The plan area is located upstream of this SAC. Given this direct connectivity to the Mayne River, potential for downstream hydrological connection and physical proximity, and in line with the findings of the AA Screening (and subsequent Appropriate Assessment) of the LAP, there is a potential pathway.	No. This SAC is located 3km from the plan area and is outside the Zone of Influence of any noise generated within the plan area.	No. This SAC is located 3km from the plan area and is outside the Zone of Influence of any light generated within the plan area.	No. This SAC is located 3km from the plan area and is outside the Zone of Influence of any human-related activity generated within the plan area.	Yes
Howth Head SAC	No. There are no hydrological pathways connecting the plan area to this SAC.	No. This SAC is located 6km from the plan area and is outside the Zone of Influence of any noise generated within the plan area.	No. This SAC is located 6km from the plan area and is outside the Zone of Influence of any light generated within the plan area.	No. This SAC is located 6km from the plan area and is outside the Zone of Influence of any human-related activity generated within the plan area.	No. This European Site is located outside the Zone of Influence of the plan due to the absence of any impact pathways between the plan area and this Site
Lambay Island SAC	No. There are no hydrological pathways connecting the plan area to this SAC.	No. This SAC is located 13km from the plan area and is outside the Zone of Influence of any noise generated within the plan area.	No. This SAC is located 13km from the plan area and is outside the Zone of Influence of any light generated within the plan area.	No. This SAC is located 13km from the plan area and is outside the Zone of Influence of any human-related activity generated within the plan area.	No. This European Site is located outside the Zone of Influence of the plan due to the absence of any impact pathways between the plan area and this Site
Malahide Estuary SAC	No. There are no hydrological pathways connecting the plan area to this SAC.	No. This SAC is located 7km from the plan area and is outside the Zone of Influence of any noise	No. This SAC is located 7km from the plan area and is outside the Zone of Influence of any light generated within the	No. This SAC is located 7km from the plan area and is outside the Zone of Influence of any	No. This European Site is located outside the Zone of Influence of the plan due to the absence

		generated within the plan area.	plan area.	human-related activity generated within the plan area.	of any impact pathways between the plan area and this Site
European Site	Hydrological Pathway	Noise Pathway	Light Pathway	Human-related Disturbance Pathway	Does the European Site occur within the Zone of Influence of the Draft Masterplan?
North Dublin Bay SAC	The Masterplan lands form part of the North Fringe Sewer catchment which ultimately discharges to the Regional Waste Water Treatment Plant at Ringsend via the sewer. Wastewater discharges from the Ringsend wastewater treatment plant lead to waters in the vicinity of this SAC.	No. This SAC is located 3km from the plan area and is outside the Zone of Influence of any noise generated within the plan area.	No. This SAC is located 3km from the plan area and is outside the Zone of Influence of any light generated within the plan area.	No. This SAC is located 3km from the plan area and is outside the Zone of Influence of any human-related activity generated within the plan area.	Yes
Rogerstown Estuary SAC	No. There are no hydrological pathways connecting the plan area to this SAC.	No. This SAC is located 10.5km from the plan area and is outside the Zone of Influence of any noise generated within the plan area.	No. This SAC is located 10.5km from the plan area and is outside the Zone of Influence of any light generated within the plan area.	No. This SAC is located 10.5km from the plan area and is outside the Zone of Influence of any human-related activity generated within the plan area.	No. This European Site is located outside the Zone of Influence of the plan due to the absence of any impact pathways between the plan area and this Site
South Dublin Bay SAC	The Masterplan lands form part of the North Fringe Sewer catchment which ultimately discharges to the Regional Waste Water Treatment Plant at Ringsend via the sewer. Wastewater discharges from the Ringsend wastewater	No. This SAC is located 7km from the plan area and is outside the Zone of Influence of any noise generated within the plan area.	No. This SAC is located 7km from the plan area and is outside the Zone of Influence of any light generated within the plan area.	No. This SAC is located 7km from the plan area and is outside the Zone of Influence of any human-related activity generated within the plan area.	Yes

	treatment plant lead to this SAC.				
European Site	Hydrological Pathway	Noise Pathway	Light Pathway	Human-related Disturbance Pathway	Does the European Site occur within the Zone of Influence of the Draft Masterplan?
Ireland's Eye SAC	No. There are no hydrological pathways connecting the plan area to this SAC.	No. This SAC is located 7km from the plan area and is outside the Zone of Influence of any noise generated within the plan area.	No. This SAC is located 7km from the plan area and is outside the Zone of Influence of any light generated within the plan area.	No. This SAC is located 7km from the plan area and is outside the Zone of Influence of any human-related activity generated within the plan area.	No. This European Site is located outside the Zone of Influence of the plan due to the absence of any impact pathways between the plan area and this Site
Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC	No. There are no hydrological pathways connecting the plan area to this SAC.	No. This SAC is located 7km from the plan area and is outside the Zone of Influence of any noise generated within the plan area.	No. This SAC is located 7km from the plan area and is outside the Zone of Influence of any light generated within the plan area.	No. This SAC is located 7km from the plan area and is outside the Zone of Influence of any human-related activity generated within the plan area.	No. This European Site is located outside the Zone of Influence of the plan due to the absence of any impact pathways between the plan area and this Site
North Bull Island SPA	The Masterplan lands form part of the North Fringe Sewer catchment which ultimately discharges to the Regional Waste Water Treatment Plant at Ringsend via the sewer. Wastewater discharges from	No. This SPA is located 3km from the plan area and is outside the Zone of Influence of any noise generated within the plan area.	No. This SPA is located 3km from the plan area and is outside the Zone of Influence of any light generated within the plan area.	No. This SPA is located 3km from the plan area and is outside the Zone of Influence of any human-related activity generated within the	Yes

	the Ringsend wastewater treatment plant lead to waters in the vicinity of this SPA.			plan area.	
European Site	Hydrological Pathway	Noise Pathway	Light Pathway	Human-related Disturbance Pathway	Does the European Site occur within the Zone of Influence of the Draft Masterplan?
Rogerstown Estuary SPA	No. There are no hydrological pathways connecting the plan area to this SPA.	No. This SPA is located 10.5km from the plan area and is outside the Zone of Influence of any noise generated within the plan area.	No. This SPA is located 10.5km from the plan area and is outside the Zone of Influence of any light generated within the plan area.	No. This SPA is located 10.5km from the plan area and is outside the Zone of Influence of any human-related activity generated within the plan area.	No. This European Site is located outside the Zone of Influence of the plan due to the absence of any impact pathways between the plan area and this Site
Baldoyle Bay SPA	The plan area is located upstream of this SPA. Given this direct connectivity to the Mayne River, potential for downstream hydrological connection and physical proximity, and in line with the findings of the AA Screening (and subsequent Appropriate Assessment) of the LAP, there is a potential pathway.	No. This SPA is located 3km from the plan area and is outside the Zone of Influence of any noise generated within the plan area.	No. This SPA is located 3km from the plan area and is outside the Zone of Influence of any light generated within the plan area.	No. This SPA is located 3km from the plan area and is outside the Zone of Influence of any human-related activity generated within the plan area.	Yes
South Dublin Bay And River Tolka Estuary SPA	The Masterplan lands form part of the North Fringe Sewer catchment which ultimately discharges to the Regional Waste Water Treatment Plant at Ringsend via the sewer. Wastewater discharges from the Ringsend wastewater treatment plant lead to this	No. This SPA is located 5km from the plan area and is outside the Zone of Influence of any noise generated within the plan area.	No. This SPA is located 5km from the plan area and is outside the Zone of Influence of any light generated within the plan area.	No. This SPA is located 5km from the plan area and is outside the Zone of Influence of any human-related activity generated within the plan area.	Yes

	SPA.				
Broadmeadow/ Swords Estuary SPA (Malahide Estuary SPA)	No. There are no hydrological pathways connecting the plan area to this SPA.	No. This SPA is located 6km from the plan area and is outside the Zone of Influence of any noise generated within the plan area.	No. This SPA is located 6km from the plan area and is outside the Zone of Influence of any light generated within the plan area.	No. This SPA is located 6km from the plan area and is outside the Zone of Influence of any human-related activity generated within the plan area.	No. This European Site is located outside the Zone of Influence of the plan due to the absence of any impact pathways between the plan area and this Site
European Site	Hydrological Pathway	Noise Pathway	Light Pathway	Human-related Disturbance Pathway	Does the European Site occur within the Zone of Influence of the Draft Masterplan?
Lambay Island SPA	No. There are no hydrological pathways connecting the plan area to this SPA.	No. This SPA is located 13km from the plan area and is outside the Zone of Influence of any noise generated within the plan area.	No. This SPA is located 13km from the plan area and is outside the Zone of Influence of any light generated within the plan area.	No. This SPA is located 13km from the plan area and is outside the Zone of Influence of any human-related activity generated within the plan area.	No. This European Site is located outside the Zone of Influence of the plan due to the absence of any impact pathways between the plan area and this Site
Howth Head Coast SPA	No. There are no hydrological pathways connecting the plan area to this SPA.	No. This SPA is located 8km from the plan area and is outside the Zone of Influence of any noise generated within the plan area.	No. This SPA is located 8km from the plan area and is outside the Zone of Influence of any light generated within the plan area.	No. This SPA is located 8km from the plan area and is outside the Zone of Influence of any human-related activity generated within the plan area.	No. This European Site is located outside the Zone of Influence of the plan due to the absence of any impact pathways between the plan area and this Site
Ireland's Eye SPA	No. There are no hydrological pathways connecting the plan area to this SPA.	No. This SPA is located 7km from the plan area and is outside the Zone of	No. This SPA is located 7km from the plan area and is outside the Zone of Influence of any light	No. This SPA is located 7km from the plan area and is outside the Zone of	No. This European Site is located outside the Zone of Influence of the plan

		Influence of any noise generated within the plan area.	generated within the plan area.	Influence of any human-related activity generated within the plan area.	due to the absence of any impact pathways between the plan area and this Site
European Site	Hydrological Pathway	Noise Pathway	Light Pathway	Human-related Disturbance Pathway	Does the European Site occur within the Zone of Influence of the Draft Masterplan?
Dalkey Islands SPA	No. There are no hydrological pathways connecting the plan area to this SPA.	No. This SPA is located 15km from the plan area and is outside the Zone of Influence of any noise generated within the plan area.	No. This SPA is located 15km from the plan area and is outside the Zone of Influence of any light generated within the plan area.	No. This SPA is located 15km from the plan area and is outside the Zone of Influence of any human-related activity generated within the plan area.	No. This European Site is located outside the Zone of Influence of the plan due to the absence of any impact pathways between the plan area and this Site

Following the precautionary principle, sites with the potential to come within the Zone of Influence of the Masterplan have been highlighted in Table 4 above. It is considered that there is potential for indirect pathways through stormwater and/or foul water sewer systems. However, it is important to note that the existence of a pathway does not automatically equate to the likelihood of a significant effect occurring (i.e. where a pathway exists but the magnitude of the potential impact generated at the source is sufficiently small, the likelihood of the pathway giving rise to a significant effect can be ruled out). This theme is explored further in Section 3 of this report where the potential for the draft Masterplan to give rise to likely significant effects is assessed.

In line with the results of the AA Screening exercise undertaken for the LAP, Tables 2, 3 and 4 above illustrate that the draft Masterplan could potentially impact on the following 2 no. European Sites by virtue of their indirect surface water hydrological connectivity via the River Mayne:

- Baldoyle Bay SAC
- Baldoyle Bay SPA

In addition, it was found that by virtue of an indirect foul water hydrological connection via the North Fringe Sewer, the Masterplan lands could also potentially impact on the following 4 no. European Sites:

- North Dublin Bay SAC
- South Dublin Bay SAC
- North Bull Island SPA
- South Dublin Bay And River Tolka Estuary SPA

In summary, and in line with the findings of the AA Screening carried out on the LAP, 2 no. European Sites have been identified as potentially coming within the Zone of Influence of the Masterplan due to the existence of a surface water hydrological pathway. 4 no. additional sites were deemed to have the potential to come within the Masterplan's Zone of Influence on the basis of a foul water hydrological pathway.

The next step of this Screening is to examine the nature and extent of the draft Masterplan in order to assess its potential to result in development/ land use activities which could give rise to likely significant effects on the 6 no. European Sites identified above as occurring within its Zone of Influence.

SECTION 3 – POTENTIAL FOR THE DRAFT MASTERPLAN TO GIVE RISE TO LIKELY SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS

The full development of the Clongriffin – Belmayne development area has always been seen as a long term project. The North Fringe Action Area Plan 2000 set out the initial development strategy and urban framework for 200ha of zoned lands at Clongriffin - Belmayne. On foot of same some 3,400 residential units have been constructed and 41,000 sq. metres of mixed commercial, retail and hotel floorspace were developed. In addition key infrastructure in terms of water and drainage, roads, a railway station, a substantial part of Clongriffin Town Centre and a redesigned Father Collins Park were delivered under the 2000 plan. The Clongriffin-Belmayne Local Area Plan was subsequently prepared for this area in 2012. Another c.1,500 have been constructed under this Plan. This LAP recommended the preparation of a development framework in the form of a Masterplan for the Belcamp-Belmayne lands.

The receiving environment is characterised as urban and subject to development proposals/ designated for future development under the LAP and the DCP. Further detail on the nature and character of the lands is available in Section 2 of this document, in the draft Masterplan and in the SEA screening report. Whilst characterised by agricultural fields with hedgerows and ditches in the recent past, these development lands are now surrounded by urban development and characterised by flat disturbed / rough grass, paths, scrub and an existing roadway and infrastructure. An overhead electricity line (38 KV) traverses lands at Belmayne and services skirt around site boundaries. There are no watercourses located on the lands (aside from land drains). Surrounding development is drained to attenuation tanks which ultimately drain to the River Mayne in the north which flows into Baldoyle Bay which is a Natura 2000 site. The use of Storm Water (SW) attenuation as well as Sustainable Drainage Systems (SUDS) means that the quality (and quantity) of stormwater run-off is managed and controlled in compliance with the requirements of the Greater Dublin Strategic Drainage Study (GSDSDS). This has a positive impact on receiving water i.e. the Mayne River. The master planning of the SW network provides a modern network that mirrors international best practice in its approach. In general, there is relatively new infrastructure in this area which was designed to facilitate sustainable development of the North Fringe lands. A major trunk sewer (North Fringe Sewer) was constructed running broadly parallel to the Mayne River. Individual sites must discharge to this sewer, subject to approval at planning application stage.

As discussed at length in Section 1, the draft Masterplan sits at the bottom of the plan hierarchy and within the framework of the operational LAP for the area. The CDP sets the city wide planning policy framework for all projects and development in the city. All future planning and development proposals for the Belcamp-Belmayne subject lands will be guided by the proposed draft Masterplan (which is compatible and complementary with the policies and objectives of the operational LAP) and assessed against the policies and objectives of both the CDP and LAP.

Appropriate Assessment was carried out at all stages of the CDP and LAP in order to ensure that their policies and objectives did not result in significant adverse impacts on the integrity of any of the identified European Sites as per Figure 6 below.

Policy/ Objective found to have the potential to affect Natura 2000 sites.	Baldoyle Bay SAC (00199)			Baldoyle Bay SPA (004016)			Avoidance/Mitigation Measures
	Potential Impacts			Potential Impacts			
	Direct	Indirect	Cumulative	Direct	Indirect	Cumulative	
MTO2			X		X	X	See Section 3.5
MTO7		X	X		X	X	See Section 3.5
MTO8		X	X		X	X	See Section 3.5
MTP1		X	X		X	X	See Section 3.5
MTP2		X	X		X	X	See Section 3.5
ESP1		X	X		X	X	See Section 3.5
ESP3		X	X		X	X	See Section 3.5
ESP4		X	X		X	X	See Section 3.5
EOSP2		X	X		X	X	See Section 3.5
ISP2		X	X		X	X	See Section 3.5
UDO5		X	X		X	X	See Section 3.5
ESO2		X	X		X	X	See Section 3.5
ESO10		X	X		X	X	See Section 3.5
EOSO3		X	X		X	X	See Section 3.5
EOSO4		X	X		X	X	See Section 3.5
CTO1		X	X		X	X	See Section 3.5

Figure 6: Extract from the Appropriate Assessment Screening report of the LAP

The Appropriate Assessment of the LAP focused on the potential long distance indirect and cumulative impact of River Mayne within the LAP boundary, in combination with other contemporary plans and projects, on Natura 2000 sites in the wider vicinity of the LAP area. The LAP assessment found that, whilst the majority of LAP policies and objectives did not have an impact, there was potential for indirect negative impacts on Baldoyle Bay SAC/SPA arising from an increased population and changes to the Mayne River's water quality and quantity occurring due to the implementation of the LAP. In response, the LAP, drawing on the policies and objectives of the CDP and other relevant higher-level policy documents, put forward a suite of measures (policies and other actions) as part of the LAP – each designed to avoid and reduce the potential for impact and significant adverse effects on European Sites. These measures have continued to be implemented since the adoption of the LAP in 2012 and will continue to be implemented until the expiry of the LAP in 2022.

The Masterplan is a non-statutory development detailed urban design framework which translates and implements the statutory policies and objectives of the Local Area Plan. It is one of the planning mechanisms that together with the LAP and City Development Plan will help to deliver a sustainable new community on the lands at Belmayne and Belcamp Lane. The LAP sets out the planning policies/objectives and development strategy for the development of the Belmayne-Belcamp Lane lands and the Masterplan conforms with the LAP while at the same time adding further detail. Together, the LAP and the Masterplan will guide the assessment of planning applications for prospective development on the lands at Belmayne and Belcamp Lane.

As the draft Masterplan is only a guiding framework for the development of the Belcamp-Belmayne lands rather than a stand-alone plan, it is not necessary or appropriate to consider it in isolation at a project specific level. This will be assessed subsequent to the adoption of the Masterplan and once planning applications start to be submitted for determination in respect of the lands. These project-specific planning proposals will be guided by

the non-statutory Masterplan, but will be required to be consistent with the policies and objectives of both the statutory CDP and the LAP in order for permission to be granted.

As discussed in detail in Section 2, the statutory LAP sets out the following for its area inclusive of the Masterplan lands:

- overall vision,
- approximate development capacity,
- a spatial framework
- policies and objectives against which planning applications for the lands will need to accord,
- key strategic infrastructure requirements,
- a phasing strategy / phasing rationale, and,
- 'Key Site Frameworks' for lands at Belmayne and Belcamp Lane (Phase 5)

On foot of the above, the draft Masterplan provides proposals for buildings, spaces, movement and land use in three dimensions for Belmayne and Belcamp in accordance with the Clongriffin – Belmayne LAP. It identifies the quantum and location of District Centre development achievable on the lands in question for a range of District Centre uses along with achievable height, massing and bulk of buildings, grid and block detail, and patterns of development, density and residential and commercial yields as required by the CDP, the LAP and recent Section 28 Guidelines and relevant recent local studies pertaining to the lands (transport and retail).

In summary, the draft Masterplan will set an urban design and development capacity framework for projects and other activities for these lands. Final decisions relating to the Malahide Road bypass will be subject to further study, architectural detail and public realm and other issues will be determined through the development management process – which is guided by the CDP and LAP - which, where appropriate, will be subject to environmental assessment procedures.

Assessment of Likely Significant Effects on European Sites – Direct and Indirect

Habitat Loss and Fragmentation

The lands subject to the draft Masterplan are contained within the confines of the existing and operational Clongriffin-Belmayne LAP. Tables 2 and 3 above illustrate that the draft Masterplan area does not overlap with the boundary of any European Site and there are no European Sites (incl. habitats / species of special interest) contained within the draft Masterplan boundary⁷. The lands are 3km from the boundary of the nearest European Site. Because of this significant physical distance, there is no pathway for loss or disturbance of habitats listed in Tables 2 and 3 or of other semi-natural habitats that may act as ecological corridors for important species associated with the qualifying interests of the European Sites. On this basis that the lands are not located within or adjacent to any area designated for nature conservation under the applicable Directives, there are no European Sites at risk of direct habitat loss or direct/ indirect loss or fragmentation impacts.

In Combination

In terms of in-combination effects, as the lands are not considered to form part of any European Site – which could potentially lead to its loss or spatial/species fragmentation – there is no potential for in-combination effects arising from habitat loss or fragmentation.

Habitat Degradation as a Result of Hydrological Impacts

Surface Water

In terms of the potential for indirect effects, the nearest European Sites occur at a distance of 3km east from the plan area, whilst the River Mayne passes c.30m to the north of the nearest part of the plan area with no direct overland connection. As established in Section 2, the management of surface water at source is the priority and ideally, only overflow in extreme weather events shall be directed to main surface water infrastructure. Surface water runoff and discharges from the Masterplan area will be conveyed by the Mayne River and eventually enter the Irish Sea downstream c.3km to the east via the Mayne Estuary and the Mayne River. The ZoI of potential effects on water quality from the draft Masterplan is considered, on a precautionary basis, to extend to the discharge point of the Mayne River only as the intervening downstream distance of 3km between where the river passes within c. 30m of the northern-most extent of the lands to where the watercourse outflows to the Mayne Estuary at Baldoyle which gives rise to a dilution factor and marine buffer effect.

In light of the following, the ZoI is not considered to extend beyond this discharge point, and the draft Masterplan development will not have any measurable effects on water quality in the Irish Sea:

- The location of the draft Masterplan lands relative to the established surface water network in the LAP area;
- The relatively small area of the draft Masterplan lands, and the relatively small scope and potential scale of development within the plan area (relative to the LAP and CDP area);
- The required compliance with GSDS and resultant requirements around water quality and relatively low volume of any surface water run-off or discharge events relative to the receiving surface water and marine environments;

⁷ This conclusion is drawn on the basis of the latest/ best relevant scientific knowledge available to the authors at the time of writing this report, specifically consultation with DCC Parks Department and Biodiversity personnel and the findings of Ecological Impact and Appropriate Assessment screening reports prepared in connection with DCC & ABP Reg. Refs. 3009/19, 305316/19, 305319/19, 3894/19, 4214/18, 305680 and 3238/17

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- Sediment is not determined to be a pollutant in a coastal/ intertidal context as bays/estuaries rely on vast quantities of sediment to support their normal functioning and tidal/coastal habitats are not sensitive to sediment pollution in the same way that freshwater bodies are; and,
 - The level of mixing, dilution and dispersion of any surface water run-off/discharges in the receiving watercourses and the Irish Sea. It is anticipated that any pollutants entering the sea from the plan area will be diluted to such an extent that they will not be discernible, before they reach any European Sites

Therefore, there is low possibility of the draft Masterplan undermining the conservation objectives of any of the qualifying interests or special conservation interests of the European Sites in, or associated with, Dublin Bay as a result of surface water run-off or discharges.

Foul Water

Foul water, comprising sewage and effluent (and some surface water run-off), from the draft Masterplan area will be treated at Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) in line with the processing of all sewage in the LAP area and Greater Dublin Drainage Region. The LAP area is part of the North Fringe Sewer catchment which ultimately discharges to the Regional Waste Water Treatment Plant at Ringsend via the North Fringe Sewer (a major trunk sewer completed in 2004). The LAP lands are all part of the original design catchment for the North Fringe Sewer which provides for adequate capacity to facilitate future development within this area. The Ringsend WWTP operates under a discharge license from the EPA and must comply with the license conditions. The most recent information from Irish Water⁸ indicates that whilst this plant is currently operating above its PE (population equivalent) capacity, there are imminent plans to upgrade the treatment plant to meet higher PE demand and also to ensure the treated water discharged to the lower Liffey estuary meets the required standards. In addition, upgrade works are currently on-going at Ringsend WWTP to increase the capacity of the facility from 1.6 million PE to 2.4 million PE by 2028. This will result in an overall reduction in the final effluent discharge of a number of parameters from the facility including BOD, suspended soils, ammonia, DIN and MRP (Irish Water, 2018).

Whilst the issues at the Ringsend WWTP are being dealt with in the medium term, evidence suggests that some nutrient enrichment is benefiting wintering birds for which SPAs have been designated in Dublin Bay. Additional loading to this WWTP arising from the operational phase of the Masterplan is not considered to be significant on the basis of the following:

- There is no evidence that pollution through nutrient input is affecting the conservation objectives of the Dublin Bay SPAs and water quality in the bay is currently assessed as 'good' by the EPA
- Any potential for water pollution is undesirable (regardless of the conservation objectives of the SPAs/SACs – of which, none relate explicitly to water quality) and contrary to the aims of the Water Framework Directive
- The upgrade works at Ringsend WWTP will address future capacity demand

Considering the planned extension/upgrade to the Ringsend WWTP and the good water quality status of the Irish Sea in the vicinity of the Mayne Estuary together with relatively low volume of any foul water likely to be produced from the plan area (a significant quantum of PE units are supported by the operational LAP and the proposed Masterplan PE is considered to be an insignificant increase in terms of overall scale of loading), the draft Masterplan will not impact the overall water quality status of the Irish Sea as a result of increased foul water loading from developments within the draft Masterplan area.

Therefore, there is low possibility of the draft Masterplan undermining the conservation objectives of any of the qualifying interests or special conservation interests of the European Sites in, or associated with, the north-western Irish Sea as a result of foul water discharges. On this basis, the potential increased loading does

⁸Annual Report and Financial Statements, Irish Water, 2018 [https://www.ervia.ie/ervia-annual-report/20518_Irish_Water_AR_2018_V13\(web\).pdf](https://www.ervia.ie/ervia-annual-report/20518_Irish_Water_AR_2018_V13(web).pdf)

not have the capacity to alter the effluent released from the WWTP to such an extent as to result in likely significant effects on either of the European Sites.

In Combination

Theoretically, there is potential for “in-combination” effects on water quality in the Irish Sea from any other projects or land use plans carried out which can influence conditions in this area via rivers and other surface water features. As noted under the surface water and foul water sections above, the Irish Sea is currently ‘unpolluted’ and the Ringsend WWTP is subject to contemporaneous upgrading proposals. As there is no possibility of the draft Masterplan resulting in any measurable effect on water quality in the Irish Sea on its own, there is also no possibility of it acting in-combination with other plans or projects to affect water quality within the Irish Sea. Additionally, there are protective policies and objectives in place at a strategic planning level (i.e. within both the LAP and CDP) to protect water quality in the Irish Sea, to which any development will need to comply.

In summary, there are no no European Sites at risk of hydrological effects associated with the draft Masterplan and on this basis, no risk of habitat degradation arising for hydrological reasons.

Disturbance and Displacement Impacts

Abiding by the precautionary principle, a general disturbance (and or displacement) zone of 500m from the draft Masterplan area was used to determine whether a European Site could be sensitive to human-related activities. No European Sites were determined to come within this zone. The lands are located within and adjacent to an increasingly urbanized environment close to significant noise and artificial light sources such as main roads. If the draft Masterplan were to be adopted and project specific development proposals in respect of the lands granted permission subsequently, it is reasonable to assume a potential for construction-related disturbance and displacement of fauna species to occur in the vicinity of the Masterplan. For mammal species such as otter for example, disturbance effects would not be expected to extend beyond 150m⁹. For birds, disturbance effects would not be expected to extend beyond a distance of c.300-500m, as noise levels associated with general construction activities would attenuate to close to background levels at that distance. On the basis of these disturbance parameters, there are no European Sites within the disturbance ZoI – with the nearest European Site being 3km to the west of the draft Masterplan area.

In summary, there are no European Sites within the potential ZoI of disturbance effects associated with the construction or operation of the draft Masterplan.

⁹This is consistent with Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) guidance (Guidelines for the Treatment of Otters prior to the Construction of National Road Schemes and Guidelines for the Treatment of Badgers prior to the Construction of National Road Schemes) documents. This is a precautionary distance, and likely to be moderated by the screening effect provided by surrounding vegetation and buildings, with the actual ZoI of construction related disturbance likely to be much less in reality.

Summary

The Masterplan will not result in direct impacts to habitats within any designated area, either through habitat removal or disturbance. Whilst the Masterplan lands are not located within, or directly adjacent to, any SAC or SPA, hydrological pathways (foul water and surface water) were found to exist to these areas. The nature and extent of these indirect pathways was considered in detail and it was found that there were no European Sites at risk of hydrological effects associated with the draft Masterplan and on this basis, no risk of habitat degradation arising for hydrological reasons.

The draft Masterplan does not involve the direct loss, reduction, disturbance or fragmentation of any of the habitats, species that are of conservation interest under the Natura 2000 network designation. Therefore, in the absence of any direct relationship with the project site and a European Site, the potential for significant direct effects on features of qualifying interest can be ruled out and no further assessment of them is considered necessary.

On the basis of the assessment above, it is concluded that the draft Masterplan will not have the potential to result in development/ land use effects or activities over and above those previously identified, assessed and dealt with as part of the Appropriate Assessment (Screening and NIR) of the LAP – which forms the practical planning and policy basis for the proposed draft Masterplan. On this basis, the plan is entirely in-keeping with the LAP and is not likely to result in additional effects or in this context, likely significant effects based on the reasoned assessment above

SECTION 4 - IN-COMBINATION EFFECTS WITH OTHER PLANS & PROJECTS

As part of the Habitats Directive Article 6(3) assessment process, consideration must be given to the potential for a plan to combine with other plans or projects to result in cumulative negative effects to European Sites.

The draft Masterplan will not be statutorily adopted. It will sit below the 2012 LAP, which in turn sits beneath the 2016 – 2022 CDP which occupies the Local Government level of the Spatial Planning Hierarchy in Ireland - below the Regional Assembly and Government levels. The Development Plan, which occupies the top of the Local Government Level Spatial Planning Hierarchy, influences Local Area Plans with the requirement that all lower plans (including non-statutory Masterplans) be consistent with the CDP.

The draft Masterplan sets out a master spatial structure and block layout supported by a hierarchical access and movement strategy, designed to guide the future integrated development of the Belcamp and Belmayne lands. This is in accordance with the 2012 LAP. The plan also provides detailed guidance on permissible land uses, height, density, use mix, urban form and design. Whilst the draft Masterplan is a non-statutory document, consideration has been given to the Masterplan's potential to combine with a number of other plans and projects relevant to the wider surrounding area.

These plans include those referenced in Section 1 (i.e. CDP and LAP) in addition to:

- Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES)
- The National Planning Framework (NPF)
- Fingal County Development Plan 2017-2023
- Baldoyle/Stapolin Local Area Plan 2013-2019
- Draft Dublin Airport Local Area Plan 2020-2026
- Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area 2016 – 2035
- Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project – Irish Water 2018 (ABP Reg. Ref. PL29S.301798)
- Relevant planning applications on and adjoining the subject lands
- Contemporary large scale development proposals under An Bord Pleanála planning including Reg. Refs. 305316/19, 305319/19, and Dublin City Council planning Ref. Refs. 3894/19, 3009/19, 4214/18 and 3238/17.

In this context, it is important to note that this part of the catchment of the River Mayne have been substantially transformed in the past two decades from farmland to built development. The character of the area is now typified by a combination of hard and soft infrastructure and open spaces with significant built development in the form of residential and mixed commercial uses. The cumulative effect of this kind of growth and land use change can arise from replacing existing greenfields/permeable ground with higher proportions of hard or impermeable surfaces. This overall change and its effect has been assessed and planned for under relevant land use plans (such as the CDP and LAP) which concluded that the proposals would not, alone or in combination, result in significant effects to European Sites.

Eventual full implementation of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) will result in continued improvements to water quality in Dublin Bay and adjoining watercourses. Environmental water quality can be impacted by the effects of surface water run-off from areas of hardstanding. These impacts are particularly pronounced in urban areas and can include pollution from a number of sources including particles and hydrocarbon residues. However, on March 2005 the Greater Dublin Drainage Study (GSDS) was published as a policy document to guide the provision of drainage infrastructure to 2030. The implementation of this policy has seen broad compliance with environmental and planning requirements in an integrated manner leading to long term improvement in the quality and quantity of surface (storm) water run-off. The Masterplan has been formulated to be fully compliant with the requirements of GSDS policy. In addition, the completion of upgrade works at Ringsend WWTP will deliver greater compliance with effluent quality standards and in turn, deliver an expected improvement in Dublin Bay's water quality.

In summary, as the draft Masterplan itself will not have any effects on the QIs/SCIs or conservation objectives of any European Sites, there is no potential for any other plan or project to act in combination with it to result in likely significant effects on any European Sites.

Given that the draft Masterplan, as identified in Sections 2 and 3 above, will not result in significant land use effects, or will not result in land use activities/ discharges that have the potential to result in likely significant effects on European Sites, there will be no potential for the Masterplan to combine with the above listed plans and projects, or any other plans or projects, to result in likely significant effects to European Sites.

SECTION 5 - SCREENING MATRIX FOR THE DRAFT MASTERPLAN

A Screening Matrix, in line with European Commission (2001) Guidelines is provided below in the Table below.

Brief Description of Project or Plan

The preparation of the Belmayne Town Centre and Belcamp Lane draft Masterplan is required by the statutory Clongriffin / Belmayne Local Area Plan 2012.

The statutory Local Area Plan sets out the following for the draft Masterplan lands:

- overall vision,
- approximate development capacity,
- a spatial framework
- policies and objectives against which planning applications for the lands will need to accord,
- key strategic infrastructure requirements,
- a phasing strategy / phasing rationale (6 no. Phases), and,
- 'Key Site Frameworks' for lands at Belmayne and Belcamp Lane (Phase 5)

On foot of the above, the draft Masterplan will provide proposals for buildings, spaces, movement and land use in three dimensions for Belmayne and Belcamp in accordance with the Clongriffin – Belmayne LAP. It identifies the quantum and location of District Centre development achievable on the lands in question for a range of District Centre uses along with achievable height, massing and bulk of buildings, grid and block detail, and patterns of development, density and residential and commercial yields as required by the Dublin City Development Plan 2016 – 2022, the Clongriffin – Belmayne Local Area Plan 2012, recent Section 28 Guidelines and relevant recent local studies (transport and retail) pertaining to the lands.

The draft Masterplan sits at the bottom of the plan hierarchy and as such is influenced by plans higher up the hierarchy e.g. the Clongriffin – Belmayne LAP for which it provides additional guidance for mostly Council owned lands. The draft Masterplan sets an urban design and development capacity framework for projects and other activities for these lands – in line with the development capacity guidance set out as part of Phases 4 and 5 of the LAP (Phasing Strategy) which calls for compact and intensive urban land use by reason of their location in a Key District Centre and along Main Street, which is to be a high frequency / capacity public transportation corridor. Final decisions relating to architectural detail and public realm and other issues will be determined through the development management process which, where appropriate, will be subject to environmental assessment procedures. The draft Masterplan will therefore influence planning applications / decisions on planning applications, but only in the context of the policies and objectives of the Clongriffin – Belmayne LAP, the Dublin City Development Plan 2016 – 2022 and recently published Section 28 Guidelines in relation to building height and density.

Full details are set out in Section 2.1 above.

Brief description of the European sites

18 no. European sites were identified within a 15km radius of the draft Masterplan area. These European Sites are identified and described in Tables 2 and 3 of Section 2 above.

Assessment Criteria

Describe the individual elements of the plan (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) likely to give rise to impacts on the European sites:

The draft Masterplan substantiates the LAP guidance by setting out a master spatial structure and block layout supported by a hierarchal infrastructure, access and movement strategy, designed to guide the future integrated development of the Belcamp and Belmayne lands. It also provides detailed guidance on permissible land uses, height, density, use mix, urban form and design. It is compatible and complementary with the strategies, policies and objectives of the LAP and the CDP relating to the provision and delivery of a sustainable neighbourhood.

The land use and servicing implications of the draft Masterplan have been assessed in full in Sections 2, 3 and 4 of this Screening document and it has been found that the proposed changes will not have the potential, alone or in-combination with other plans or projects, to result in likely significant effects on European Sites.

Describe any likely direct, indirect or secondary impacts of the project (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) on the European site by virtue of:

Size and scale;

The size and scale of the area subject of the draft Masterplan is in keeping with that of the operational LAP and it is not predicted to have any likely impacts on the conservation function of any European Site in respect to its size or scale. The plan will not, either alone or in combination with other plans or project, have any impact on European Sites by virtue of its size and scale.

Land-take;

There are not predicted to be additional land-take arising from the implementation of the draft Masterplan as the size and scale of the area subject of the draft Masterplan is in keeping with that of the operational LAP. The plan will not, either alone or in combination with other plans or project, have any impact on European Sites by way of additional land-take.

Distance from European site or key features of the site;

Full details are provided in Tables 2 and 3 of Section 2 above.

Resource requirements (water abstraction etc);

There are not predicted to be additional resource requirements arising from the implementation of the draft Masterplan i.e. over and above those envisaged by the LAP. In line with the operational LAP, resource supply, including potable water, will be provided from existing municipal infrastructure/ established networks in line with NPF and RSES water demand allocations for the Greater Dublin Area. The LAP includes the necessary policies, objectives and standards to ensure that no adverse impact will arise, singularly or in a cumulative manner. The plan will not, either alone or in combination with other plans or project, have any impact on European Sites by way of resource requirements.

Emissions (disposal to land, water or air);

There are not predicted to be additional emissions arising from the implementation of the draft Masterplan (i.e. over and above those already identified as arising from the implementation of the LAP). The most likely potential indirect or secondary impacts on a European Site are by way of effluent discharge from the

Ringsend waste water treatment plant which serves the entire Dublin region to Dublin Bay and via surface water discharges to Baldoyle via the River Mayne. Any future development proposal on the draft Masterplan lands will be subject to a planning application which is required to satisfy the requirements of the CDP, LAP and Masterplan, and to be subject to a project specific AA Screening, and carried out in accordance with best practice. The operational LAP includes the necessary policies, objectives and standards to ensure that no adverse impact will arise, singularly or in a cumulative manner. The draft Masterplan will not, either alone or in combination with other plans or project, have any impact on European Sites by way of emissions (disposal to land, water or air).

Excavation requirements;

There are not predicted to be additional excavation requirements arising from the implementation of the draft Masterplan as the size and scale of the area subject of the draft Masterplan is in keeping with that of the operational LAP. The plan will not, either alone or in combination with other plans or project, have any impact on European Sites by way of excavation requirements.

Transportation requirements;

There are not predicted to be additional transportation requirements arising from the implementation of the draft Masterplan as the transport and mobility proposals put forward in the draft Masterplan are in keeping with that of the operational LAP and related local transport studies. The plan will not, either alone or in combination with other plans or project, have any impact on European Sites by way of transportation requirements.

Duration of construction, operation, decommissioning, etc;

There are not predicted to be additional construction, operation or decommissioning requirements arising from the implementation of the draft Masterplan i.e. over and above those envisaged by the LAP. The plan will not, either alone or in combination with other plans or project, have any impact on European sites by way of construction, operation or decommissioning requirements.

Other

None.

In summary, the draft Masterplan will not result in land use effects that have the potential, alone or in combination with other plans or projects, to result in likely significant effects to European Sites.

In light of this conclusion, there will be no potential for the draft Masterplan to result in direct, indirect or secondary effects to European Sites.

Describe any likely changes to the European site arising as a result of:

Reduction of habitat area:

Not applicable.

Disturbance to key species/ Reduction in species density:

Not applicable.

Habitat or species fragmentation:

Not applicable.

Changes in key indicators of conservation value:

Not applicable.

Climate change:

Not applicable.

In summary, the draft Masterplan will not result in land use effects that have the potential to result in the:

- Reduction in the extent of qualifying habitats of European Sites in the wider surrounding area;
- Disturb qualifying species of European Sites in the wider surrounding area, or disturb the species that underpin the status of qualifying habitats of European Sites in the wider surrounding area;
- Fragmentation of qualifying habitats or species populations;
- Changes in key indicators of conservation value such as water quality or the attributes that underpin the conservation status of qualifying feature of interest of European Sites in the wider surrounding area.

Describe any likely impacts on the European site as a whole in terms of:

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

No predicted likely impact on the conservation structure of any European Sites.

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

No predicted likely impact on the conservation function of any European Sites.

In summary, as the draft Masterplan, alone or in combination with other plans or projects, will not have the potential to interact with any European Sites or their qualifying features of interest, it will not have the potential to interfere with key relationships that define the structure and function of European Sites.

Provide indicators of significance as a result of the identification of effects set out above in terms of:

Loss;

Not applicable.

Fragmentation;

Not applicable.

Disruption;

Not applicable.

Disturbance;

Not applicable.

Change to key elements of the site (e.g. water quality etc);

Not applicable.

In summary, as the draft Masterplan, alone or in combination with other plans or projects, will not have the potential to interact with any European Sites or their qualifying features of interest it will not have the potential to result in the: loss of qualifying habitats or habitats upon which qualifying species rely; fragmentation qualifying habitats or habitats upon which qualifying species rely; disruption qualifying habitats or habitats upon which qualifying species rely; disturbance qualifying habitats, habitats upon which qualifying species rely or qualifying species; and, change to key elements of European Sites (e.g. water quality etc.).

Describe from the above those elements of the project or plan, or combination of elements, where the above impacts are likely to be significant or where the scale or magnitude of impacts are not known.

There are no predicted likely impacts on the conservation function of any European Sites arising from the draft Masterplan in combination with the above plans or projects.

SECTION 6 – SCREENING CONCLUSION

The screening of the draft Masterplan, as set out in Section 2 and assessed in Sections 3 and 4 above, shows that the land use elements of the draft Masterplan will not result in land use effects that will have the potential, alone or in-combination with other plans or projects, to result in likely significant effects to European Sites. In light of the findings of this screening, it can be concluded by Dublin City Council that the Masterplan is not likely, alone or in-combination with other plans or projects, to have a significant effect on any European Sites in view of their conservation objectives.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS MATRIX

Name of Project or Plan:	Draft Belmayne and Belcamp Lane Masterplan
Name and location of European Network sites:	European Sites in the wider vicinity of the draft Masterplan area are provided in Section 2 above.
Description of the Project or Plan	As provided in the Screening Matrix in Section 5 above
Is the Project or Plan directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site (provide details)?	No. See Section 2.1 above
Are there other projects or plans that together with the project or plan being assessed could affect the site (provide details)?	No. Full details in Section 4 above

The Assessment of Significance of Effects	
Describe how the project or plan (alone or in combination) is likely to affect the European sites:	No predicted likely impact on the conservation function of any European Sites.
Explain why these effects are not considered significant:	Following an examination, analysis and evaluation of the relevant information, including in particular, the nature of the plan and its potential relationship with European Sites and their conservation objectives, as well as considering other plans and projects, and applying the precautionary principle, it has been determined, on the basis of objective information and the best scientific knowledge, that there is no potential for likely significant effects on any European Sites for the reasons set out in the Sections above. In addition, the draft Masterplan will not have the potential to

	<p>result in land use activities over and above those previously assessed, identified as part of the Appropriate Assessment (Screening and NIR) of the LAP.</p> <p>There are not predicted to be additional requirements arising from the draft Masterplan in terms of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ size and scale ○ land-take ○ resources ○ excavation ○ emissions ○ transportation ○ construction, operation or decommissioning <p>On this basis, it is concluded that there are not likely to be changes to the sites habitats or species arising as a result of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ loss ○ fragmentation ○ disruption ○ disturbance ○ changes to other key indicators of significance <p>On this basis, it is concluded that the draft Masterplan is not likely to result in a significant effects.</p>
<p>List of Agencies Consulted: Provide contact name and telephone or email address:</p>	<p>Consultation during the Appropriate Assessment screening process provides important information on the state of European Sites and any specific concerns that key stakeholders may have. The agencies below were given the opportunity to comment on the draft Masterplan and this draft AA Screening document.</p> <p>The Manager, Development Applications Unit, Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government. Email: sea@environ.ie margaret.killeen@environ.ie</p> <p>The Manager, The Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht Manager.DAU@chg.gov.ie</p> <p>Gerry Clerkin, Dept. Communications Energy and Natural Resources Gerry.clerkin@dcenr.gov.ie Email: CorporateSupport.Unit@dcenr.gov.ie</p> <p>Co-ordination Unit, Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment. Email: corporatesupport.unit@dccae.gov.ie</p> <p>Damian Clarke, Assistant Principal Officer, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine Email: damien.clarke@agriculture.gov.ie</p>

	<p>Tadhg O'Mahony, Environmental Protection Agency, Regional Inspectorate, Iniscarra, County Cork. Email: t.omahony@epa.ie sea@epa.ie Telephone: 021 – 486 0818</p> <p>Forward Planning Division, Fingal County Council Email: planning@fingalcoco.ie</p> <p>Inland Fisheries Ireland info@fisheriesireland.ie</p>
Response to Consultation	<p>Comments received from the Geological Survey Ireland (13th January 2020) incorporated.</p> <p>The Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI) made the following observations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are no current County Geological Sites in the vicinity of the masterplan. • Sources of Information on Groundwater, Geohazards, GeoThermal Energy, Natural Resources listed.

Data Collected to Carry out the Assessment	
Who carried out the Assessment?	Planning and Property Development Department Dublin City Council
Sources of Data	<p>Existing data</p> <p>As part of the Appropriate Assessment screening process for the plan, particular reference has been made to the following documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland -Guidance for Planning Authorities. Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government (2009, 2010 revision)</i> • <i>Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive: Guidance for Planning Authorities. Circular NPW 1/10 & PSSP 2/10</i> • <i>Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites Methodological guidance on the provision of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. European Commission, 2001</i> • Baldoyle/Stapolin Local Area Plan 2013-2019

- Circular letter SEA 1/08 and NPWS 1/08. Department of the Environment Heritage and Local Government (DoEHLG, February 2008)
- Clongriffin – Belmayne Local Area Plan 2012-2018 (incl. AA Addendum Report)
- *Communication from the Commission on the precautionary principle (European Commission, 2000)*
- Department of the Environment Heritage and Local Government (DoEHLG) Circular letter NPWS 1/10 and PSSP 2/10 (March 2010)
- Draft Dublin Airport Local Area Plan 2020-2026
- Dublin City Development Plan 2016-2022. (incl. Appropriate Assessment (Volume 6))
- Dublin City Council Climate Change Action Plan 2019-2024 (2019)
- Dublin City Council Climate Change Action Plan 2019-2024 – Appropriate Assessment Conclusion Statement (2019)
- Dublin City Council Climate Change Action Plan 2019-2024 – Final Natura Impact Statement (2019)
- Dublin City Council Climate Change Action Plan 2019-2024 – Appropriate Assessment Determination (2019)
- Dublin City Biodiversity Action Plan 2015 - 2020
- Dublin City Parks Strategy 2017-2022
- Draft SEA Screening for Belmayne Town Centre and Belcamp Lane Masterplan
- Existing NPWS Data. (Source: <https://www.npws.ie/> Accessed 13th November 2019)
- Fingal County Development Plan 2017-2023
- *Managing Natura 2000 sites. The provisions of Article 6, of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC (European Commission, 2018)*
- Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy for the Eastern & Midlands Region (incl. AA Screening and NIS)
- Resolution to extend Clongriffin - Belmayne LAP 2012 – Dublin City Council (November 2017)
- Submitted planning documentation associated with ABP Reg. Refs. PL29S.301798 and 305319/19, and DCC Reg. Refs. 305316/19, 3894/19, 3009/19 and 3238/17
- Screening for Appropriate Assessment of SDCC CP Variation No. 5
- Screening Reports for Appropriate Assessment associated with ABP Reg. Ref. 305319 & 305316

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surface Water Management Strategy (& Flood Risk Assessment) for Draft Belcamp-Belmayne Masterplan Lands 2020 • The National Planning Framework (NPF) (Project Ireland 2040) (incl. AA Screening and NIS)
<p>Level of Assessment Completed</p>	<p>Desktop study/ data review</p> <p>The desktop data sources used to inform the assessment presented in this document are as follows (accessed between November 2019 – December 2019):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online data available on European sites and protected habitats/ species as held by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) from www.npws.ie, including conservation objectives documents • Information on the surface water network and surface water quality in the area available from www.epa.ie • Information on groundwater resources and groundwater quality in the area available from www.epa.ie and www.gsi.ie • Ordnance Survey of Ireland mapping and aerial photography available from www.osi.ie • Information on the location, nature and policies, objectives, and design of the draft Masterplan supplied by the planning team • Information on land use and policies within the Clongriffin – Belmayne Local Area Plan 2012 and Dublin City Development Plan 2016-2022
<p>Where can the full results of the assessment be accessed and viewed</p>	<p>This document contains the full results of the Appropriate Assessment Screening exercise and will be placed on display with the draft Masterplan.</p>
<p>Overall Conclusion</p>	<p>Stage 1 Appropriate Assessment screening indicates that the proposed non-statutory Masterplan will not have any significant cumulative, direct or indirect impacts upon any of the Natura 2000 network sites. Therefore it is not considered necessary to undertake any further stages of the Appropriate Assessment process.</p> <p>This decision is based on the area of lands directly affected by the proposed Masterplan and on the nature, magnitude and spatial effects of the likely impacts of the plan, which are not deemed to be significant.</p> <p>The Planning Authority has determined that a full AA is not required for the draft Masterplan.</p>

SECTION 7– SCREENING DETERMINATION

An Appropriate Assessment Screening was undertaken of the Draft Belmayne – Belcamp Lane Masterplan, in accordance with the requirements of Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and EU Birds Directive (79/409/EEC). Stage 1 Screening determined that Appropriate Assessment of the Draft Masterplan was not required as the Masterplan, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, was not likely to have a significant effect on a European Site, in terms of its conservation objectives. On this basis, Dublin City Council, as the competent Authority (in compliance with Part XAB of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended) and taking into account the observation from GSI dated 13th January 2019, determined that an Appropriate Assessment of the Draft Masterplan was not required.

Emma Gosnell
Executive Planner
16th July 2020