

Natura Impact Report

BALDOYLE - STAPOLIN Local Area Plan

Appropriate Assessment

June 2013



Comhairle Contae Fhine Gall
Fingal County Council

LAP



NATURA IMPACT REPORT

BALDOYLE-STAPOLIN LOCAL AREA PLAN 2013-2019

FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

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1 Introduction

1.1 Requirement for Appropriate Assessment

This Natura Impact Report (NIR) has been prepared by Scott Cawley Ltd. on behalf of Fingal County Council. It provides information on and assesses the potential for the Baldoyle-Stapolin Local Area Plan (LAP) to impact on sites within the Natura 2000 network. This is the final version of the NIR and is published alongside the Baldoyle-Stapolin Local Area Plan 2013-2019 and serves as a documented record of the process of the Appropriate Assessment of the Local Area Plan throughout its preparation.

The preparation of the Local Area Plan (LAP) has had regard to Article 6 of the *Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora* (as amended) (hereafter referred to as the Habitats Directive). This is transposed in Ireland primarily by Part XAB of the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2010 and the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011 (S.I. 477) (hereafter referred to as the Habitats Regulations).

Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive sets out the requirement for an assessment of proposed plans and projects likely to affect European sites.

Article 6(3) establishes the requirement to screen all plans and projects and to carry out a further assessment if required (Appropriate Assessment (AA)):

Article 6(3): "Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the [European] site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subjected to an appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives. In light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implications for the site and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, the competent national authorities shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public."

The subsequent paragraph allows proposed plans and projects to be approved in certain conditions.

Article 6(4): "If, in spite of a negative assessment of the implications for the site and in the absence of alternative solutions, a plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature, Member States shall take all compensatory measures necessary to ensure that the overall coherence of the Natura 2000 is protected. It shall inform the Commission of the compensatory measures adopted. Where the site concerned hosts a priority natural habitat type and/or a priority species the only considerations which may be raised are those relating to human health or public safety, to the beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment or, further to an opinion from the Commission, to other imperative reasons of overriding public interest."

This Natura Impact Report (NIR) is the documented record of the Appropriate Assessment process for the Baldoyle-Stapolin Local Area Plan 2013-2019.

1.2 Appropriate Assessment Process: Purpose and Process

Fingal County Council has prepared the Baldoyle-Stapolin Local Area Plan 2013-2019. This LAP sets out objectives and policies which will be used to guide the development of the area.

All land use plans, such as the Baldoyle-Stapolin Local Area Plan, must be examined to ensure that there will not be any significant adverse effects on European designated sites. These particular sites

are regarded to be of European importance and are part of the European Commission's (EC) Natura 2000 network of sites in Ireland. They are termed candidate Special Areas of Conservation (cSAC) designated as per the EC Habitats Directive and Special Protection Areas (SPA) under the EC Birds Directive. The Irish Government and local planning authorities have a legal obligation to protect these sites.

The process of assessing the Plan is a structured exercise with a series of steps. The overall purpose of the process is to ensure that the Plan does not result in adverse effects on the "integrity" of European sites. The overall process is termed "Appropriate Assessment", using the terms set out in the EC Habitats Directive Article 6(3).

The assessment of the plan took place in two distinct stages:

- Stage 1 – Screening
- Stage 2 –Appropriate Assessment (which results in the publication of the Natura Impact Report)

These two stages are within the overall "Appropriate Assessment Process". The first stage was to look at the Plan in principle and to answer the questions: *is it likely that the implementation of this Plan could result in likely significant effects on European sites?* It does not matter where these sites may be – impacts can occur across administrative boundaries. This step is known as Screening for Appropriate Assessment. The Screening Stage is described in more detail in Section 2.

If the screening stage results in a judgement that likely significant effects may occur or cannot be ruled out, a more detailed 'Appropriate Assessment' (AA) is required. Whilst the structure of this assessment process is not specified in the legislation, there are guidance documents that are used to provide an indication of how this assessment may be carried out.

In order to ensure that the Baldoyle-Stapolin Local Area Plan complied fully with the requirements of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive and all relevant Irish transposing legislation, Scott Cawley Ltd., on behalf of Fingal County Council carried out the screening of the Plan to see if it required Stage 2 to be carried out. Section 2 of this NIR records the output of the Screening Stage.

The Screening Stage determined that due to the types of development that could arise as a result of implementing the Local Area Plan, significant effects could not be ruled out and that the Plan would need further assessment. The Appropriate Assessment process then moved to Stage 2- Appropriate Assessment.

To inform the preparation of the Local Area Plan, a Policy Guidance Note was prepared by the Appropriate Assessment Team. This is attached as Appendix A. This Note highlighted the ways in which the Plan may result in impacts on the individual cSACs and SPAs and provided recommended Policies and Objectives to be included in the Plan.

Stage 2 involved analysing the relationship between the proposed policies and objectives in the Local Area Plan and the sensitivities of the European Sites. Where there was potential for an impact to occur then the assessment team recommended changes to elements of the Plan to avoid or mitigate the potential impact. These recommendations were integrated into the Draft Plan so that the implementation of the Final Plan will not result in any significant effects on European sites.

Fingal County Council provided the Appropriate Assessment team with draft Chapters during their process of preparing the Draft Plan. These Chapters were reviewed by the AA team and subsequently revised by the Council. A summary of the results of the AA of the Plan are provided in Section 3 of this report.

The Draft Plan was put on public display from 6th February 2013 to 22nd March 2013, during which time a number of submissions were made by members of the public and statutory agencies/prescribed

bodies. These submissions were assessed by the AA team and the Council were alerted to any submissions that may have had implications for European Sites – this is discussed in Section 3.5. A Manager’s Report on the submissions to the Draft Plan was discussed at the Council meeting on 13th May 2013. The report contained the Manager’s response to and recommendations on the submissions received. The amendments arising from the Manager’s recommendations were screened by the AA team to assess whether they would be likely to pose significant impacts on the European Sites.

Motions received from Councillors, 13 in total, were also screened by the AA team prior to the Council meeting which discussed the Draft Plan on May 13th 2013. The Manager’s response to these motions was also screened and any amendments arising from the Council meeting on May 13th were screened following the meeting to determine if they would give rise to any likely significant effects on European Sites.

The Council Members adopted the amendments and made the changes to specific Policies and Objectives within the Draft Plan. The final version of the Plan was adopted by Council Members at the meeting on 13th May 2013.

Figure 1 overleaf shows the process of the Appropriate Assessment, in relation to the preparation of the Baldoyle-Stapolin Local Area Plan.

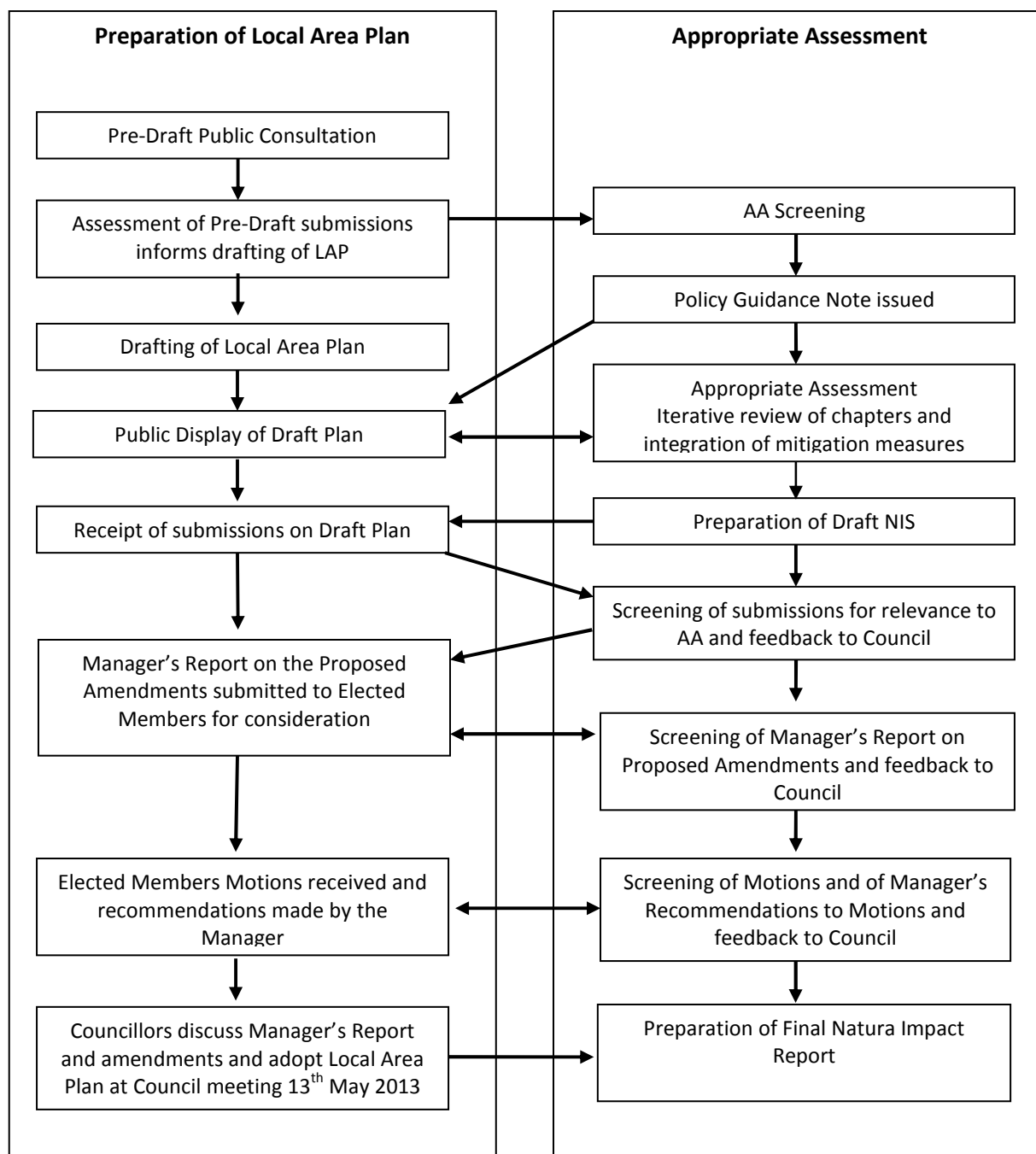


Figure 1: Relationship between the Appropriate Assessment and Local Area Plan Preparation process.

1.3 Formal Guidance

The AA process took account of guidance contained in the following documents:

- Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland - Guidance for Planning Authorities. (Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2010 revision).
- Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive: Guidance for Planning Authorities. Circular NPW 1/10 & PSSP 2/10.
- Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly Affecting Natura 2000 sites: Methodological Guidance on the Provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC

(European Commission Environment Directorate-General, 2001); hereafter referred to as the EC Article 6 Guidance Document. The guidance within this document provides a non-mandatory methodology for carrying out assessments required under Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive.

- Managing Natura 2000 Sites: The Provisions of Article 6 of the Habitat's Directive 92/43/EEC (EC Environment Directorate-General, 2000); hereafter referred to as MN2000.
- Guidance Document on Article 6(4) of the 'Habitats Directive' 92/43/EEC. Clarification of the Concepts of Alternative Solutions, Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest, Compensatory Measures, Overall Coherence. Opinion of the European Commission (European Commission, January 2007).
- Guidelines for Good Practice Appropriate Assessment of Plans under Article 6(3) Habitats Directive (International Workshop on Assessment of Plans under the Habitats Directive, 2011).

1.4 Data Sources

Sources of information that were used to collect data on the Natura 2000 network of sites are listed below:

- Ordnance Survey of Ireland mapping and aerial photography available from www.osi.ie and Google Earth (accessed on dates from March 2011 to December 2012).
- Online data available on European sites as held by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) from www.npws.ie (accessed on dates from March 2011 to December 2012).
- Natura 2000 standard Data Form
- Publicly-accessible biodiversity datasets
- Biodiversity Data for County Fingal including that contained within Fingal County Council GIS system
- Information on water quality in the area available from www.epa.ie
- Information on the River Basin Districts from www.wfdireland.ie
- Information on soils, geology and hydrogeology in the area available from www.gsi.ie
- Status of EU Protected Habitats in Ireland. (National Parks & Wildlife Service, 2007 & 2008)
- Status of Birds in Ireland: An Analysis of Conservation Concern 2008-2013 (Lynas et al, 2007)
- Fingal Development Plan 2011-2017
- Available information on the Portmarnock Draft Local Area Plan
- Fingal Biodiversity Action Plan 2010–2015
- Range of ecological reports and EIS report for proposed developments within LAP lands

1.5 Consultation

The Council held a consultation meeting with the National Parks and Wildlife Service on 20th February 2012 followed by a further meeting on 28th August 2012. The purpose of these meetings was to discuss the status of the European Sites surrounding the LAP lands, their sensitivities and threats and how the LAP can be prepared to avoid impacts on these sites. The comments made at this meeting were integrated into the preparation of the LAP. Issues discussed during the February meeting

included the existing infrastructure in place to the southwest of the LAP area, sluice gates, areas used by Brent Geese for grazing, shooting north of a wildlife sanctuary and pedestrian linkages, including an underpass at the railway line. The consultation meeting with NPWS in August 2012 discussed the design layout proposals including the positioning of playing pitches, avoidance of development in areas, creation of park and wildlife areas and pedestrian and potential cycle routes and width.

A formal consultation letter was also sent to the Development Applications Unit (DAU) of the NPWS, Inland Fisheries Ireland and BirdWatch Ireland on the 3rd May 2012. A data request was also sent to NPWS and the EPA on the 3rd May 2012 with data on protected species received from the NPWS on the 8th May 2012 and incorporated into the Appropriate Assessment process where relevant. No comments were issued by the NPWS to the DAU (File Ref: G Pre00200/2012A).

On the 9th May 2012, data was provided by the EPA on WFD Salmonid Waters, Registered Protected Areas -Nutrient Sensitive Rivers, Registered Protected Areas -Nutrient Sensitive Lakes and Estuaries and Small Stream Risk Score Values and incorporated into the assessment where relevant.

Informal consultation was also undertaken with NPWS local staff, BirdWatch Ireland and members of Irish Brent Goose Research Group.

2 Stage 1 Screening

2.1 Methodology

2.2 Desk and Field Based Study

The Screening process included a desktop study as well as site visit undertaken on the 10th May 2012.

A site meeting was held between representatives from Fingal County Council, Dublin City Council and Scott Cawley Ltd. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss various aspects of the proposed policies within the two Council's LAP lands, how these would interact, current site-specific issues and also to consider requests from the general public and how these could be incorporated into the Plan whilst simultaneously ensuring no adverse impacts to the surrounding European Sites.

Potential policies within the Plan and background data including existing Environmental Impact Statements and a range of ecological studies were used to inform the AA.

Early in the AA process, it was identified that one of the main threats to the integrity of the Baldoyle Bay SPA (adjacent to the LAP lands) is the loss of feeding grounds for wintering birds and/or disturbance to such birds utilising the existing open agricultural and amenity grassland areas for grazing. No wintering bird surveys of the LAP area had been previously undertaken, therefore Fingal County Council commissioned wintering bird surveys during the 2011/2012 winter bird season. The aim was to record the bird species that were utilising specific areas around the Baldoyle Estuary. Three surveys were undertaken from December to February 2011-2012 by BirdWatch Ireland. The report is attached to this NIR as Appendix B.

2.3 Overview of Baldoyle-Stapolin Local Area Plan

The LAP develops a sustainable strategy for the future development of the area in line with current best practices.

The LAP lands are located in the southeastern corner of Fingal approximately 8km northeast of the city centre, on the edge of Baldoyle Village. The lands meet the administrative area of Dublin City Council along the Dublin – Belfast railway to the west. The lands on the western side of the railway include Clongriffin within Dublin City Council's wider North Fringe Area encompassing Northern Cross/Clare Hall/Belmayne to Clongriffin.

The LAP lands include the former Baldoyle Racecourse and Stapolin House. The area includes recently developed residential developments of Myrtle and Red Arches which form two phases of the overall six phases of development envisaged within the LAP lands under the original Baldoyle Action Area Plan (2001). “Racecourse Park” is located to the east of the existing residential development on site.

2.4 Overview of Fingal Development Plan 2011-2017

The LAP is implemented within the planning hierarchy beneath the Fingal County Development Plan 2011-2017. The County Development Plan was also subject to an AA in accordance with the EC Habitats Directive and it is assumed that the LAP will be implemented in the context of the County Development Plan and its assessment.

The LAP lands comprise of the following zoning objectives within the Fingal Development Plan:

- c. 41 hectares of land zoned **Objective RA** – ‘Provide for new residential communities in accordance with approved local area plans and subject to the provision of the necessary social and physical infrastructure’. This area includes the existing residential communities of Myrtle and Red Arches, smaller areas of open space and internal roads.
- c. 81 hectares of land zoned **Objective HA** – ‘Protect and enhance high amenity areas’.

Figure 2 below provides an indication of the site boundary and zoning areas within the LAP boundary.

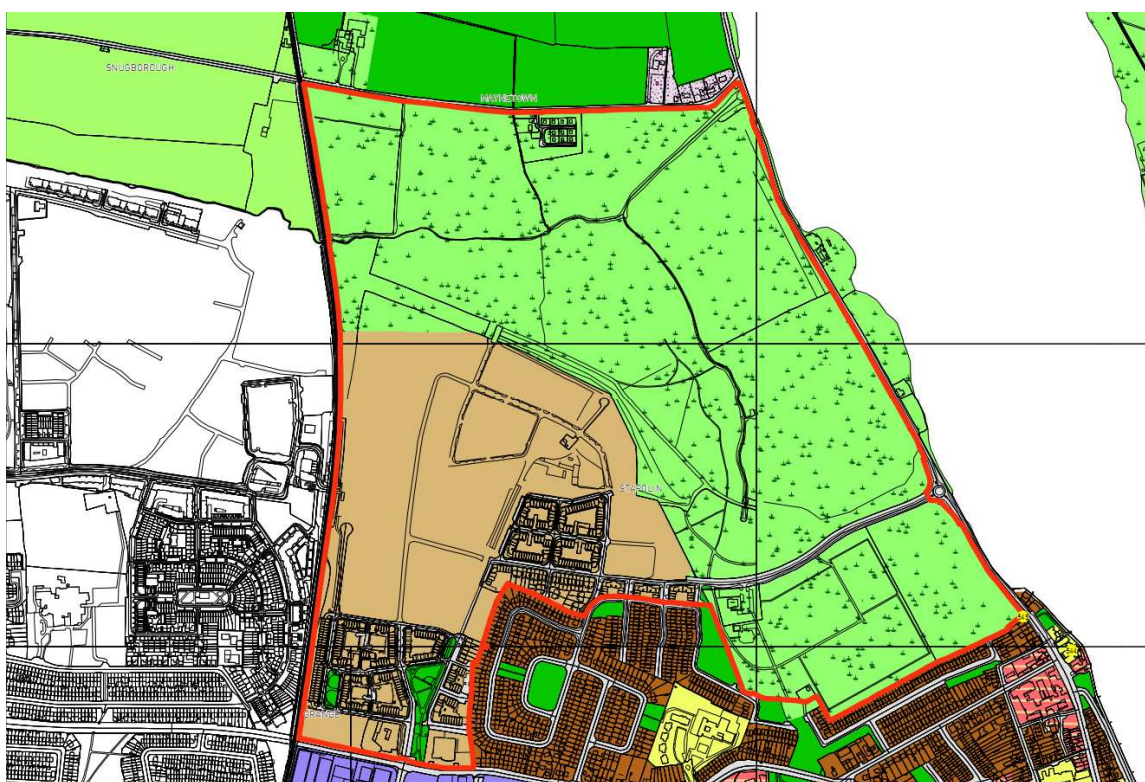


Figure 2: Baldoyle –Stapolin LAP land enclosed in Red line boundary. Brown areas zoned RA (Residential), Green areas zoned as HA (Amenity Areas). Map Sourced from Fingal County Council.

The “RA” zoned lands (residential communities - objective noted above) are the primary focus for both the existing and proposed residential element of the LAP. The “HA” zoned lands (high amenity areas - objective noted above), known as Racecourse Park located to the north and east of the residentially zoned lands, will form the open space to serve the residents of the area and beyond. In the RA lands there is also an objective to provide a “Local Centre” on the western section of the residentially zoned lands, adjacent to the railway line, and an objective to provide for a “School”. In

addition specific objectives include a cycle and pedestrian route to the south, a proposed road through the middle of the residential area connecting to the west of the LAP lands and to the south.

The northern half of the residentially-zoned (RA) lands and the entire area of the High Amenity lands to the east are covered by a “Sensitive Landscape” Designation.

The HA-zoned lands to the north and east of the LAP lands, adjacent to Balydoyle Estuary have specific objectives including cycle and pedestrian route, to preserve views, a coastal walk running the length of the Baldoyle Estuary connecting to other areas.

There are also site-specific local objectives as listed below:

- Objective 459 Ensure that the visual impact of any development on the green belt will be minimised by its siting, design and planting.
- Objective 467 - Develop the Racecourse Park.
- Objective 469 - Provide for a public park and sensitively designed retirement village subject to screening for assessment under the Habitats Directive.
- Objective 471 - Within the 250/270 acres (102/109 hectares) of open space to provide for (a) a millennium park of at least 100 acres (40.74 hectares) with 22 acres (8.96 hectares) of playing pitches, natural areas to ensure conservation, cycle/walkways towards Portmarnock, landscape walkways suitable for wheelchairs with benches called after jumps/fences of the old racecourse and dry land for pitches, the public park to be provided in phase 1 of the development (b) a golf course (c) parkland in tandem with housing development in the area.

2.5 LAP Themes and Objectives

The Local Area Plan notes that the overall vision for Baldoyle-Stapolin is underpinned by four inter-linked thematic objectives. They form the basis for the LAP policies and must be utilised to guide future planning for the lands. Objectives for each theme are noted below and their potential impact on European sites and their qualifying interests was assessed as part of the Screening Stage.

Table 1 Themes and Objectives in the Local Area Plan

Theme 1: Sustainable Development	
<i>The creation of an urban area with buildings and surrounding areas constructed to high standards of sustainable design, accessible good quality public transport, green spaces and corridors and strong inclusive communities.</i>	
Objective	
1	Establish sustainable communities, which embody the principles of sustainable development and meet current and future social, economic and environmental needs in a balanced and integrated way.
2	Be at the forefront of sustainable development with commercial buildings, community facilities, housing and infrastructure which employ best practice in all aspects of environmental sustainability.
3	Establish a rich tapestry of quality connected open spaces and river corridors across the LAP Lands, which provide for visual amenity and recreational use while addressing the need for nature conservation and flood risk mitigation.
4	Implement an integrated and sustainable transport infrastructure strategy for Baldoyle-Stapolin which supports the effective management of sustainable travel patterns across the site.
Theme 2: High Quality Places for All	
<i>The development of interesting, exciting and stimulating buildings and public spaces, which make the most of natural features and are well connected to surrounding areas.</i>	
Objective	
5	Achieve a high standard of design through development that creates a real sense of place through the juxtaposition and provision of buildings, streets, spaces, features and facilities of high quality design, layout and materials.
Theme 3: A New Heart for Baldoyle-Stapolin	
<i>The development of a new mixed use local centre and public realm in which people want to live, work and invest.</i>	
Objective	
6	Create a sustainable mixed-use centre for Baldoyle-Stapolin which meets local needs by providing a range of retail, commercial, leisure and residential uses and establishes a distinctive sense of place and heart for the community.
7	Promote a change in the name of the train station from Clongriffin to Clongriffin/Baldoyle in order to reflect its location within the wider developing area of Baldoyle-Stapolin and Clongriffin
Theme 4: Homes for the Future	
<i>The creation of well designed sustainable homes and neighbourhoods, which cater for a wide range of households.</i>	
Objective	
8	Facilitate a change in the name of the train station from Clongriffin to Clongriffin/Baldoyle in order to reflect its location within the wider developing area of Baldoyle-Stapolin and Clongriffin
9	Deliver between 800-1100 new dwellings, in addition to those already delivered on the LAP lands, to help meet existing and future housing needs and to create a sustainable mixed-use community.
10	New homes will provide a mix of type, size and tenure including social housing, medium to high-density layout appropriate to the location of the site and be designed to highest standards.

2.6 Overview of Receiving Environment

The lands covered by the Baldoyle-Stapolin LAP lands are located north of Dublin City Centre on the coast of Baldoyle Bay which flows into the Irish Sea. They are located on the southern boundary of Fingal where it joins Dublin City Council administrative lands along the Belfast railway. The site is situated in a metropolitan area surrounding Dublin. To the west of the Dublin/Belfast railway line lies the mixed use area of Clongriffin with Dublin City's wider north fringe area encompassing Northern Cross, Clarehall, Belmayne to Clongriffin.

The LAP lands are a mix of built environment and agricultural fields with overgrown hedgerows forming treelines. The site also contains a mosaic of invading scrub with unmanaged grassland used as amenity areas by the local residents and recolonising areas on which development has ceased.

The agricultural lands to the north are zoned for OS – Preserve and provide for open space and recreational activities, HA – Protect and enhance high amenity areas and RC – Provide for small scale infill development servicing local needs while maintaining the rural nature of the cluster (Fingal County Council, 2011). These lands will form part of the Portmarnock LAP area which was under review at the time of the adoption of the Baldoyle-Stapolin LAP.

The area to the west is zoned in Dublin City Development Plan 2011-2017 as Z14 – To seek the social, economic and physical development and/or rejuvenation of an area with mixed use of which residential and “Z6” would be the predominant uses (Z6 refers to creation of enterprise and employment creation) (Dublin City Council, 2011). A portion of this area, Clongriffin, currently provides residential housing, transport, shops and amenities. Baldoyle Estuary is located to the east with Portmarnock Point and Velvet Strand located between the estuary and Irish Sea.

The areas to the south of the LAP lands are currently developed and zoned as:

CI – Provide for and protect civic, religious, community, education, health care and social infrastructure, GE – Provide opportunities for general enterprise and employment, OS – Preserve and provide for open space and recreational amenities, RS – Provide for residential development and protect and improve residential amenity and TC – Protect and enhance the special physical and social character of town and district centres and provide and/or improve urban facilities (Fingal County Council, 2011).

The Mayne River runs in a west to east direction joining Baldoyle Estuary at the northeastern corner of the site. This river is categorised as ‘Poor’ quality by the EPA with a risk score of 1a – ‘At risk of not achieving good status’ (www.epa.ie).

At the time of the preparation of the Draft LAP, the southeastern segment of the LAP lands contained six grass sports pitches. The area between the pitches and coast road was undeveloped but was the subject of outline planning permission for a retirement home. This area of land was dominated by grassland. The remaining area of land zoned for residential development contained residential development, or had been previously cleared and contained a mix of rank, unmanaged vegetation with invading scrub criss-crossed with access roads. The lands outside of the residential areas (or cleared lands) were a mixture of unmanaged grassland with invading scrub, agricultural land managed for tillage or with potential for grazing.

Baldoyle cSAC overlaps the LAP lands with Baldoyle Bay SPA abutting the eastern boundary of the site, along the Coast Road. The cSAC overlaps the northeastern segment of the lands which supported grassland, grazed intermittently by horses (pers comm. Fingal County Council). This area contained within the cSAC is known as the River Mayne Marsh which hosted species typical of salt marsh habitat – a qualifying interest of Baldoyle Bay cSAC and further discussed below.

2.7 Features of the Surrounding Environment

The LAP lands are located within the Eastern River Basin District with the Mayne River running through the site. According to the Santry Mayne Sluice Water Management Unit Report (2009) the principal pressures on the Santry, Mayne and Sluice rivers were misconnected foul sewers from houses and businesses, combined sewer overflows (wastewater discharges) and urban area pollution.

Malahide Shellfish Area is located c.2km to the northeast and extends from Lambay Island to Portmarnock. Balbriggan/Skerries Shellfish Area is situated in adjacent tidal waters. This was designated under the European Communities (Quality of Shellfish Waters) Regulation 2006 (as amended) S. I. No. 268 of 2006 to protect or improve shellfish waters in order to support shellfish life and growth. It was designed to protect the aquatic habitat of bivalve and gastropod molluscs, which include oysters, mussels, cockles, scallops and clams. Any pollution or output from the River Mayne or the LAP lands to the estuary has potential to impact on the quality of sea water and on the health of the Shellfish Area off the Irish coast. The Shellfish Waters Directive sets out a mix of mandatory and recommended physical, chemical and microbiological water quality requirements that EU member states must meet in order to protect these designated areas.

2.8 Screening Steps

Best practice in AA Screening promotes a site-led approach to the process. The site-led approach puts the environmental conditions that maintain site integrity first. So the first steps in the screening stage were identifying the European Sites within the “zone of influence” of the Plan and then collecting as much information as possible on the “Qualifying Interests” and how site integrity may be defined for each European Site. The site-led approach focused on how the site integrity can be maintained by avoiding impacts on key environmental conditions. This approach allowed issues such as cumulative impacts to be identified.

The site-led approach was summarised as follows:

1. Which European sites lie within the zone of influence of the plan? (sometimes referred to as pre-screening)
2. What are the Qualifying Interests for each European site?
3. What are the underpinning ecological and environmental conditions to maintain these Qualifying Interests at Favourable Conservation Status?
4. What are the threats – actual or potential- that could affect the underpinning factors?
5. Are there aspects of the LAP that could give rise to these or other threats?

If, based upon the currently available information, there were aspects of the Plan that could affect the European Sites then they would require further analysis in the form of a Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment.

2.9 Description of European Designated sites in the surrounding area

In accordance with the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government guidance (DoEHLG, 2010), an initial distance of 15km from the LAP boundary was selected for consideration of European sites. This distance was deemed to be sufficient to cover all likely significant effects which may arise from the implementation of the Plan on European sites. Spatial boundary data on the European network were extracted from the NPWS website on 12th October 2012, and updated in December 2012 because of new marine designation off the Irish coast.

All European sites which fell within 15km of the LAP boundary are listed in Appendix C and illustrated in Figure 4, Appendix D. In order to identify those sites that could be potentially affected, it was necessary to describe the European site in the context of why it had been designated (its “Qualifying

Interests”) and the environmental and ecological conditions that maintain the condition of these features. The Qualifying Interests and threats to the sites were extracted from the NPWS website database (www.npws.ie). The underpinning conditions that were required to maintain the ecological functions of these features are listed in this table. Threats to sites were also scoped during informal consultation with regional NPWS staff in February and August 2012.

A list of all European sites within 15km are presented below in Table 2.

Table 2 European Designated Sites within 15km of Baldoyle – Stapolin LAP	
Candidate Special Areas of Conservation	Special Protection Areas
Baldoyle Bay	Lambay Island
North Dublin Bay	Rogerstown Estuary
Lambay Island	Malahide Estuary
Rogerstown Estuary	Baldoyle Bay
Malahide Estuary	Dalkey Islands
Irelands Eye	Irelands Eye
Howth Head	Howth Head
South Dublin Bay	South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary
Rockabill to Dalkey Island	North Bull Island

2.10 Description of Other Designated sites in the surrounding area

In addition to examining European Sites, the AA process also examined national-level and other non-European designated sites which fall within 15km of the LAP boundary. Although Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) and proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs) and other designated sites such as Nature Reserves, Wildfowl Sanctuaries and Ramsar sites do not form part of the Natura 2000 Network, they often provide an important supporting role to the network, particularly when it comes to fauna species which often do not obey site boundaries. For example, a pNHA/NHA that provides regular feeding grounds for a population of Golden Plover for which a separate site is designated as an SPA plays a role in the maintenance of the species at favourable conservation status for that SPA. In other words, in that example, in order to protect the European network it *may* also be important to protect the pNHA /NHA which provides a supporting role to it.

Table 3 lists the non-European Sites illustrated in conjunction with national and international sites in Figure 5, Appendix D. Details on each of the sites can be found in Appendix E.

Table 3 Proposed Natural Heritage Areas, Nature Reserves and Wildfowl Sanctuaries within 15km of Baldoyle – Stapolin LAP				
Nature Reserves and Wildfowl Sanctuaries	Proposed Natural Heritage Areas	Ramsar Sites	Shellfish Areas	
Baldoyle Estuary Nature Reserve and Wildfowl Sanctuary	Rogerstown Estuary	Baldoyle Bay	Malahide	
North Bull Island Nature Reserves	Royal Canal	Rogerstown Estuary		
Rogerstown Estuary Wildfowl Sanctuary	Liffey Valley	Broadmeadow Estuary		
	Grand Canal	North Bull Island		
	Feltrim Hill	Sandymount Strand / River Tolka Estuary		

Table 3 Proposed Natural Heritage Areas, Nature Reserves and Wildfowl Sanctuaries within 15km of Baldoyle – Stapolin LAP

Nature Reserves and Wildfowl Sanctuaries	Proposed Natural Heritage Areas	Ramsar Sites	Shellfish Areas
	Santry Demesne		
	Ireland's Eye		
	North Dublin Bay		
	Dolphins, Dublin Docks		
	South Dublin Bay		
	Boosterstown Marsh		
	Howth Head		
	Sluice River Marsh		
	Malahide Estuary		
	Baldoyle Bay		
	Lambay Island		
	Portraine Shore		
	Dalkey Coastal Zone and Killiney Hill		

2.11 Reasons for Designation, Site Sensitivities and Threats

In order to identify those European Sites that could potentially be affected by the LAP, it was necessary to describe each European Site in the context of why it had been designated (its "Qualifying Interests") and the environmental and ecological conditions that maintain the condition of these features. As noted the Qualifying Interests and threats to the sites were extracted from the NPWS website database (www.npws.ie) and *Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland* (NPWS, 2007). Threats to sites were also scoped during informal consultation and meetings with NPWS staff during 2012.

The results of this desktop exercise are presented in Appendix C. This table lists each European site within 15km of Baldoyle-Stapolin LAP, qualifying interest for European Sites, key environmental conditions supporting each qualifying interest and key threats to each qualifying interest.

The key output of this stage was the identification of the types of threats to the integrity of the European sites. These threats were then compared to the consequences of implementing the Baldoyle-Stapolin LAP 2013-2019 to see if there is a risk of any likely significant effects. Table 4 lists generic threats which were identified from NPWS Report on the *Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland* (2007). These generic threats do not take account of specific sensitivities at each Natura 2000 site. Site-specific threats were sourced from NPWS Natura 2000 data forms, site synopses and liaison with regional NPWS staff allowing site-specific sensitivities to be identified.

Table 4 Main Pressures and Threats to the Qualifying Interests of European Sites within 15km (Listed in Appendix C)

Qualifying Interests of European Sites [EU Reference Code]	Main pressures and threats to habitat conservation status ^{1,2,3,4}	
Estuaries [1130]	Aquaculture Recreational fishing Housing development Sewage outflow Industrialisation Autoroutes	Port/Marina Water Pollution Reclamation of land Drainage Dredging Invasion of species.
Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]	Aquaculture Professional fishing Bait digging Removal of fauna Aggregate extraction (removal of beach material) Disposal of industrial waste	Industrialisation Port/Marina Communications networks Water Pollution Reclamation of land Coastal protection works Invasion by a species
Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210]	Grazing Sand and gravel extraction –removal of beach materials Walking, horse riding and non-motorised vehicles Outdoor sports and leisure activities - motorised vehicles	Other leisure and tourism impacts (beach cleaning) Trampling, overuse Sea defence or coastal protection works
Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220]	Sand and gravel extraction -removal of beach materials Disposal of inert materials Improved access to site (car park) Walking, horse riding and non-motorised vehicles	Outdoor sports and leisure activities – motorised vehicles Trampling, overuse Sea defence or coastal protection works Erosion
Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230]	Fertilisation Grazing Overgrazing by sheep Overgrazing by hare, rabbits and small mammals Restructuring agricultural land holding Burning Hand cutting of peat	Dispersed habitation Disposal of household waste Routes, autoroutes Golf course Camping and caravans Trampling, overuse Sea defence/coastal protection works Erosion
<i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonizing mud and sand [1310]	Grazing Overgrazing by sheep Overgrazing by cattle Discontinuous urbanization (development) Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles (amenity)	Landfill, land reclamation and drying out, general reclamation of land from the sea, estuary or marsh Invasion by species (<i>Spartina anglica</i>) Erosion
Spartina swards <i>Spartinion maritimae</i> [1320]	Reclamation of land from the sea, estuary or marsh	Erosion Biocoenotic evolution

¹ Sourced from Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland: Backing Documents, Article 17 forms, maps. Vol. 1 – 3 (NPWS, 2007).

² Sourced from Birdguides (2003-2006), Birds of the Western Palearctic. Version 2.0.1.

³ Sourced from BirdLife International (2013). IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org>, January 2012

⁴ Sourced from AEWA, (2006), Technical Series No. 11, International Single Species Action Plan for Light-bellied Brent Goose (East Canadian High Arctic Population) *Branta bernicla hrota*.

Table 4 Main Pressures and Threats to the Qualifying Interests of European Sites within 15km (Listed in Appendix C)

Qualifying Interests of European Sites [EU Reference Code]	Main pressures and threats to habitat conservation status ^{1,2,3,4}	
	Sea defence or coastal protection works Other human induced changes in hydraulic conditions (dredging)	Other natural processes (transition of <i>Spartina</i> sward to other saltmarsh)
Atlantic salt meadows <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i> [1330]	Grazing Overgrazing by sheep Overgrazing by cattle Urbanised areas, human habitation (development) Discontinuous urbanization (development) Other industrial/commercial areas (development) Disposal of industrial waste (dumping) Disposal of inert materials (dumping) Other urbanisation, industrial and similar activities (development) Paths, tracks, cycling tracks	Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles (amenity) Landfill, land reclamation and drying out, general Reclamation of land from the sea, estuary or marsh Sea defence or coastal protection works Erosion Invasion by species (<i>Spartina anglica</i>)
Grey seal <i>Halichoerus grypu</i> [1364]	Fish and Shellfish Aquaculture Fixed location fishing Trawling Drift-net fishing Hunting Sand and gravel extraction Mines Sport and leisure structures Outdoor sports and leisure activities - nautical sports Pollution	Noise nuisance Other pollution or human impacts/activities Dumping, depositing of dredged deposits Natural catastrophes Interspecific faunal relations – parasitism & introduction of disease
Harbour porpoise <i>Phocaena phocaena</i> [1170]	Professional fishing Drift-net fishing Outdoor sports and leisure activities	Water pollution Noise nuisance Natural processes (biotic and abiotic)
Petalwort <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> [1395]	Fertilisation Abandonment of pastoral systems Overgrazing general Undergrazing Restructuring agricultural land holding Stock feeding Paths, tracks, cycling tracks	Sport and leisure structures Outdoor sports and leisure activities Drainage Water pollution Erosion Drying out
Mediterranean salt meadows <i>Juncetalia maritimi</i> [1410]	Grazing Over-grazing by sheep Over-grazing by cattle Discontinuous urbanization (development) Disposal of industrial waste (dumping) Disposal of inert materials (dumping)	Other urbanisation, industrial and similar activities (development) Paths, tracks, cycling tracks Landfill, land reclamation and drying out, general Reclamation of land from the sea, estuary or marsh Erosion

Table 4 Main Pressures and Threats to the Qualifying Interests of European Sites within 15km (Listed in Appendix C)

Qualifying Interests of European Sites [EU Reference Code]	Main pressures and threats to habitat conservation status ^{1,2,3,4}	
Embryonic shifting dunes [2110]	Sand and gravel extraction Removal of beach materials Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles Motorised vehicles Trampling, overuse	Sea defence or coastal protection works Erosion Other natural processes (depletion of sediment source)
Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120]	Grazing Sand and gravel extraction Removal of beach materials Paths, tracks, cycling routes Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles Motorised vehicles	Trampling, overuse Sea defence or coastal protection works Erosion Other natural processes (depletion of sediment source)
*Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130]	Mowing/cutting Agricultural improvement Fertilisation Grazing Abandonment of pastoral systems Overgrazing by sheep Overgrazing by cattle Overgrazing by hares, rabbits, small mammals Undergrazing Restructuring agricultural holding Stock feeding Burning Sand and gravel extraction Urbanised areas, human habitation Discontinuous urbanisation Dispersed habitation Disposal of household waste	Other urbanisation, industrial or similar activities Paths, tracks, cycling routes Routes, autoroutes Golf course Sports pitch Camping and caravans Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles Motorised vehicles Pollution Trampling, overuse Other pollution or human activities Sea defence or coastal protection works Erosion Invasion by a species Competition
Reefs [1170]	Professional fishing Taking of Fauna Taking of Flora	Water Pollution Climate change Invasion of a non-native species
Humid dune slacks [2190]	Agricultural improvement Fertilisation Grazing Overgrazing by sheep Overgrazing by cattle Overgrazing by hare, rabbits, small mammals Undergrazing Restructuring agricultural land holding Forestry	Stock feeding Golf course Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles Motorised vehicles Trampling, overuse Drainage Other human induced changes in hydraulic conditions Drying out Invasion by a species
European dry heaths [4030]	Overgrazing Abandonment of pastoral systems General Forestry management Forestry planting	Burning Fertilisation Agricultural improvement Sand and gravel extraction

Table 4 Main Pressures and Threats to the Qualifying Interests of European Sites within 15km (Listed in Appendix C)

Qualifying Interests of European Sites [EU Reference Code]	Main pressures and threats to habitat conservation status ^{1,2,3,4}
Fulmar (<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>) [A009]	Ingestion of anthropogenic sea debris (can lead to death).
Arctic Tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) [A194]	Sea level rise, and extreme weather events (waves washing over colonies can destroy entire colonies). Human disturbance (day-trippers, sailors), and predation by gulls and rats. rat and gull predation of breeding colonies
Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157]	Degradation of foraging sites due to land reclamation, pollution, human disturbance and invasion by <i>Spartina</i> species.
Black-headed Gull (<i>Larus ridibundus</i>) [A179]	No specific threats. Oil pollution could deteriorate feeding areas.
Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156]	Human disturbance, spread of invasive species (<i>Spartina</i> species), and loss of grassland feeding sites (may avoid saline influenced coastal grasslands if don't contain earthworms). Juvenile birds which select good wintering sites also select good breeding sites, therefore maintaining high quality wintering sites is crucial to raising productivity on breeding grounds and slowing the rate of decline.
Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193]	Sea level rise, and extreme weather events (waves washing over colonies can destroy entire colonies). Human disturbance (day-trippers, sailors), and predation by gulls and rats. rat and gull predation of breeding colonies
Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017]	Off-shore windfarms and on-shore powerline collisions, persecution from angling/ aquaculture industry, drowning in gill nets, predation by Gulls at colony.
Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160]	Human disturbance, pollution, and hunting.
Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149]	Land reclamation (drainage), and the invasion of alien plant species (such as the grass <i>Spartina anglica</i> which has spread on British mudflats, resulting in the reduction in size of feeding areas available). The species is also threatened by disturbance on intertidal mudflats from construction work and foot-traffic on footpaths.
Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140]	Susceptible to very cold winter temperatures and severe weather conditions. Disturbance and loss of roosting and feeding grounds, spread of <i>Spartina</i> species.
Goldeneye (<i>Bucephala clangula</i>) [A067]	Recreational activities, water pollution (including WwTW) infilling, water sports and other amenity activities at Malahide Estuary, resulting in disturbance of feeding/roosting sites.
Great Crested Grebe (<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>) [A005]	Drowning in gill-nets, overfishing.
Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141]	Over-fishing, disturbance and habitat loss at roost sites.
Greylag Goose (<i>Anser anser</i>) [A043]	Poisoning from lead shot ingestion, agricultural changes, disturbance from both terrestrial and aquatic recreation at roosting sites
Guillemot (<i>Uria aalge</i>) [A199]	Drowning in gill nets, ingestion of anthropogenic sea debris (can lead to death), displacement from off-shore windfarms.
Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) [A184]	Competition for food with other <i>Larus</i> species. Licensed culling for protection of other seabirds (e.g. terns), botulism.
Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) [A188]	Ingestion of anthropogenic sea debris (can lead to death).
Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143]	Over-fishing, and water pollution from historical landfills, over-exploitation of shellfish, human disturbance at roosts and feeding sites,

Table 4 Main Pressures and Threats to the Qualifying Interests of European Sites within 15km (Listed in Appendix C)

Qualifying Interests of European Sites [EU Reference Code]	Main pressures and threats to habitat conservation status ^{1,2,3,4}
Lesser Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>) [A183]	Competition for food with other <i>Larus</i> species. Licensed culling for protection of other seabirds (e.g. terns), botulism.
Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046]	Habitat loss/degradation (human induced) – agriculture, infrastructural development, human settlement, tourism, recreation, dams, invasive species; accidental mortality – collision; persecution; pollution – global warming, sea level rise, water pollution; natural disasters – drought, storms, flooding; changes in native species dynamics – competitors, pathogens/parasites; poor regeneration, restricted range; human disturbance – recreation, transport, agricultural, industrial.
Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130]	Over-fishing of benthic shellfish and the resulting disappearance of intertidal mussel and cockle beds, also threatened by habitat degradation on its wintering grounds due to land reclamation, pollution, and human disturbance.
Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) [A054]	Recreational activities, water pollution infilling, water sports and other amenity activities at Malahide Estuary.
Puffin (<i>Fratercula arctica</i>) [A204]	Predation by <i>Rattus norvegicus</i> and <i>R. rattus</i> at Lambay. Drowning in gill nets, ingestion of anthropogenic sea debris (can lead to death).
Razorbill (<i>Alca torda</i>) [A200]	Drowning in gill nets, ingestion of anthropogenic sea debris (can lead to death), displacement from off-shore windfarms.
Red-breasted Merganser (<i>Mergus serrator</i>) [A069]	Overfishing, drowning in fishing nets.
Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162]	Human disturbance, spread of invasive species (<i>Spartina</i> species), loss of breeding habitat.
Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137]	Over-fishing, and water pollution from historical landfills, botulism, disturbance at coastal roost sites
Roseate Tern (<i>Sterna dougallii</i>) [A192]	Sea level rise, and extreme weather events (waves washing over colonies can destroy entire colonies). Human disturbance (day-trippers, sailors), and predation by gulls and rats. rat and gull predation of breeding colonies
Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144]	Human disturbance (and free-running dogs) in sandy shoreline feeding habitats, and rocky roosting habitats.
Shag (<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>) [A018]	Windfarms, overfishing, oil spills, persecution from angling/ aquaculture industry, drowning in gill nets, predation by gulls at colony.
Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048]	Habitat loss at feeding and roosting sites. <i>Spartina</i> invasion of feeding areas.
Shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>) [A056]	Wintering habitat loss, potential impact from collisions with overhead lines, poisoning from lead-shot ingestion.
Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052]	Drainage of feeding sites, disturbance at roost sites, poisoning from lead-shot ingestion, hunting.
Turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>) [A169]	Human disturbance (incl. dogs) at feeding and roosting sites. Note however relative tolerance of humans during feeding.
Wetlands & Waterbirds [A999]	Bait digging, wildfowling, spread of <i>Spartina</i> , disturbance including dog walkers, recreational activities, water pollution, infilling, oil spillages from shipping (sourced Natura 2000 forms for each site).

2.12 Other Plans or Projects nearby which may lead to cumulative impacts upon local ecology

The EC Habitats Directive and the Habitats Regulations 2011 require that the impacts on Natura 2000 sites be assessed from the plan or project in question and also in the presence of other plans and projects that could affect the same Natura 2000 sites.

The Appropriate Assessment process identified the plans and projects that could act in combination with the Local Area Plan to pose likely significant effects on European sites within the study area and its environs. This section identifies if these plans and/or projects have undergone an Appropriate Assessment themselves as it is assumed that if a plan has been adopted following an AA then it cannot pose likely significant adverse effects on European Sites.

The Local Area Plan must comply with higher level strategic actions and will, in turn, guide lower level decisions such as approving or refusing of planning applications and other projects. Relevant plans and projects have been identified and are summarised below:

To the north of the LAP lands, areas in Portmarnock were zoned for amenity areas and residential development in the County Development Plan. Portmarnock Head is designated for high amenity use to “Protect and enhance high amenity areas” (Fingal County Council, 2011). The lands to the west of the LAP boundary were zoned as “Strategic Residential Reserve” by Dublin City Council. This along with Baldoyle-Stapolin LAP lands is one of Dublin’s larger new development areas which when completed, will have approximately 10,000 new homes, as well as new retail and commercial areas.

The lands adjoining the site to the southwest are largely zoned “To protect, provide and improve residential amenities” (Z1) under the Dublin City Development Plan 2011-2017.

See

<http://www.dublincity.ie/Planning/DublinCityDevelopmentPlan/Pages/CityDevelopmentPlan.aspx>

These lands zoned for various uses including recreational, amenity and opens space and green networks (Z10), institutional, educational, recreational, community, green infrastructure and health uses (Z15), industrial uses and opportunities for employment (Z7). The majority of lands to the south towards Clontarf, Sutton, Howth and Donaghmede are also existing residential developments. Consideration was given to the cumulative impact of the various zoning objectives surrounding the LAP site.

Consideration was given to the cumulative impact of the various zoning objectives surrounding the LAP site.

Lands zoned within the Draft Portmarnock South Local Area Plan 2013-2019 are located adjacent to the northern boundary of the site. The Draft LAP provides policies for residential development, to provide open space and to protect and improve high amenity areas. Development of these lands has potential to result in cumulative impacts on Baldoyle Bay cSAC/SPA. The Draft LAP, once adopted, will replace the Portmarnock South 2006 LAP.

The lands controlled by the Clongriffin–Belmayne (North Fringe) Local Area Plan 2012-2018, bordered the western perimeter of the Baldoyle-Stapolin LAP lands. Policies within this plan have potential to impact upon the local ecology in particular policy MTO7 - *To develop a pedestrian route along the River Mayne and access the potential to connect with amenity lands in Baldoyle Estuary and further amenities along the coastal routes*. It is likely that such policies would increase access for pedestrians and cyclists to the coast and through the open grassland that separates the residential developments from the coast. This could lead to a potential increase in disturbance of birds or direct damage to habitats of Baldoyle Bay SPA or cSAC.

The Baldoyle-Stapolin LAP lands are within the North Fringe Sewer catchment which discharges to Ringsend Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP). At the time of preparation of the LAP and AA, Ringsend WWTP was operating at its designed capacity. Dublin City Council is finalising proposals to

increase capacity from 1.7 million PE (population equivalent) to 2.1 million which is expected to be completed by 2015. The Baldoyle-Stapolin LAP notes that the requirement under the Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations 2007 (SI No. 684 of 2007) for the Water Service Authority to satisfy itself that there is drainage capacity available in the network prior to granting a planning permission for any development, will apply to all developments proposed under the Baldoyle-Stapolin LAP.

The Greater Dublin Drainage Initiative led by Fingal County Council will provide strategic drainage infrastructure (including a new regional WWTP) will be commissioned by 2020. (<http://www.greaterdublindrainage.com/>). At the time of the adoption of the Baldoyle-Stapolin LAP, Clonshaugh (located west of the LAP lands) was one of the sites selected for consideration for locating the WWTP (<http://www.greaterdublindrainage.com/>). However details of this plan were not available at the time of writing, as design issues including routes for a marine outfall and drainage network were still to be finalised. The proposed WWTP and all infrastructure was undergoing a separate Appropriate Assessment Screening to ensure no adverse impacts on any European Sites will occur.

The LAP lands are included within the Eastern River Basin Management Plan with the Mayne River Water Management Unit developed specifically to assess the River Mayne with the overall objective of achieving and maintain good water quality status (Santry Mayne Sluice WMU, 2009).

2.13 Likely Significant Effects from the LAP on European sites

This section documents the final stage of the screening process. It used the information collected on the sensitivity of the qualifying interests of each European Site and identified any likely significant effects of implementation of the LAP. This assumed the absence of mitigation measures that were later incorporated within the individual policies in the Plan.

The Screening Stage identified likely significant effects of the LAP both in isolation and potentially in combination with other plans or projects – see Table 5. These potential impacts have been addressed in more detail in Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment. The sites highlighted in grey are those which were subsequently scrutinised in Stage 2. Plans and/or projects not considered to result in potential in-combination impacts were not considered further.

Table 5 Natura 2000 Sites Details				
Site	Potential Impacts arising from the Proposed LAP	Is there a likely risk of a Significant Effect?	Other plans to be considered in Combination?⁵	Is there a risk of Significant Impact in combination?
CANDIDATE SPECIAL AREAS OF CONSERVATION				
Baldoyle Bay cSAC (000199)	Section of cSAC included within LAP lands. LAP could result in an alteration of baseline conditions which may impact upon the qualifying interests of the cSAC. A potential alteration in the surface water, ground water, pollution, flooding regime, flood defence, recreational uses, increase in population and a potential alteration of erosion rates all have potential alone or in combination all have potential to result in changes to baseline conditions on which qualifying interests depend.	YES	Fingal Development Plan, Dublin City Development Plan Eastern River Basin Management Plan Mayne River Water Management Unit FEMFRAMS Clongriffin Belmayne LAP Portmarnock South LAP Malahide Shellfish Area Sutton to Sandycove Promenade and Cycleway (S2S) The Greater Dublin Drainage Initiative	YES
North Dublin Bay cSAC (000206)	LAP lands located north of cSAC. Unlikely to result in direct or indirect impacts on cSAC due to distance and coastline separating sites. Potential cumulative impacts from Ringsend WWTW discharge if operating over capacity.	NO	Fingal Development Plan, Dublin City Development Plan Eastern River Basin Management Plan Mayne River Water Management Unit FEMFRAMS Sutton to Sandycove Promenade and Cycleway (S2S)	YES
Lambay Island cSAC (000204)	Due to the isolation of Lambay Island c.4km off the Irish coast and private ownership of the island with restricted access, potential impacts are considered unlikely.	NO	Fingal Development Plan, Dublin City Development Plan Eastern River Basin Management Plan Malahide Shellfish Area	NO
Rogerstown Estuary cSAC (000208)	LAP lands located south of cSAC. Unlikely to result in direct or indirect impacts on cSAC due to distance separating sites.	NO	Fingal Development Plan, Dublin City Development Plan Eastern River Basin Management Plan Mayne River Water Management Unit FEMFRAMS Clongriffin Belmayne LAP Portmarnock South LAP	NO

⁵This list is not considered to be exhaustive.

Table 5 Natura 2000 Sites Details				
Site	Potential Impacts arising from the Proposed LAP	Is there a likely risk of a Significant Effect?	Other plans to be considered in Combination?5	Is there a risk of Significant Impact in combination?
			Malahide Shellfish Area	
Malahide Estuary cSAC (000205)	LAP lands located south of cSAC. Unlikely to result in direct or indirect impacts on cSAC due to distance separating sites.	NO	Fingal Development Plan, Dublin City Development Plan Eastern River Basin Management Plan Mayne River Water Management Unit FEMFRAMS Clongriffin Belmayne LAP Portmarnock South LAP Malahide Shellfish Area Sutton to Sandycove Promenade and Cycleway (S2S)	NO
Irelands Eye cSAC (002193)	LAP lands located south of cSAC. Unlikely to result in direct or indirect impacts on cSAC due to distance separating sites and isolation of Ireland's Eye off the coast.	NO	Fingal Development Plan, Dublin City Development Plan Eastern River Basin Management Plan Mayne River Water Management Unit FEMFRAMS Malahide Shellfish Area	NO
Howth Head cSAC (000202)	Residential development may result in increased pressure on sensitive habitats potentially resulting in an increase in pollution, recreational activities, erosion of habitats and invasive species, mainly due to an influx of residents.	YES	Fingal Development Plan, Dublin City Development Plan Eastern River Basin Management Plan Mayne River Water Management Unit FEMFRAMS Clongriffin Belmayne LAP Portmarnock South LAP Malahide Shellfish Area	YES
Rockabill to Dalkey Island cSAC (003000)	cSAC situated off-shore. Unlikely to result in direct or indirect or cumulative impacts on cSAC.	NO	Fingal Development Plan, Dublin City Development Plan Eastern River Basin Management Plan Mayne River Water Management Unit FEMFRAMS Malahide Shellfish Area	NO
South Dublin	LAP lands located north of cSAC. Unlikely to result in	NO	Fingal Development Plan,	YES

Table 5 Natura 2000 Sites Details				
Site	Potential Impacts arising from the Proposed LAP	Is there a likely risk of a Significant Effect?	Other plans to be considered in Combination?5	Is there a risk of Significant Impact in combination?
Bay cSAC (000210)	direct or indirect impacts on cSAC due to distance and coastline separating sites. Potential cumulative impacts from Ringsend WWTW discharge if operating over capacity.		Dublin City Development Plan Eastern River Basin Management Plan FEMFRAMS	
Special Protection Areas (SPA)				
Lambay Island SPA (004069)	Too distant for any disturbance impacts to be likely as a result of the Plan.	NO	Fingal Development Plan, Malahide Shellfish Area	NO
Rogerstown Estuary SPA (004015) c.	Developments resulting in an influx of residents and recreational activities may result in an increase in pollution, recreational activities that may result in disturbance to wintering species. Pollution may also result in a reduction in water quality and feeding resources for bird species. However none of these potential threats are considered to result in likely adverse impacts due to the distance between the two sites and the provision of recreational/opens spaces within the LAP lands.	NO	Fingal Development Plan, Dublin City Development Plan Eastern River Basin Management Plan Mayne River Water Management Unit FEMFRAMS Malahide Shellfish Area	NO
Malahide Estuary SPA (004025) (also known as Broadmeadow/Swords SPA)	Developments resulting in an influx of residents and recreational activities may result in an increase in pollution, recreational activities that may result in disturbance to wintering species. Pollution may also result in a reduction in water quality and feeding resources for bird species. However none of these potential threats are considered to result in likely adverse impacts.	NO	Fingal Development Plan, Dublin City Development Plan Eastern River Basin Management Plan Mayne River Water Management Unit FEMFRAMS Clongriffin Belmayne LAP Portmarnock South LAP Malahide Shellfish Area Sutton to Sandycove Promenade and Cycleway (S2S)	NO
Baldoyle Bay SPA (004016)	Developments resulting in an influx of residents and recreational activities may result in an increase in pollution, recreational activities that may result in disturbance to bird species. Pollution may also result in	YES	Fingal Development Plan, Dublin City Development Plan Eastern River Basin Management Plan Mayne River Water Management Unit	YES

Table 5 Natura 2000 Sites Details				
Site	Potential Impacts arising from the Proposed LAP	Is there a likely risk of a Significant Effect?	Other plans to be considered in Combination?5	Is there a risk of Significant Impact in combination?
	a reduction in water quality and feeding resources for bird species.		FEMFRAMS Clongriffin Belmayne LAP Portmarnock South LAP Malahide Shellfish Area Sutton to Sandycove Promenade and Cycleway (S2S) The Greater Dublin Drainage Initiative	
Dalkey Islands SPA (004172)	Too distant for any disturbance impacts to be significant as a result of the Plan.	NO	Fingal Development Plan, Dublin City Development Plan Eastern River Basin Management Plan Dun Laoghaire Rathdown Development Plan	NO
Ireland's Eye SPA (004117)	Too distant for any disturbance impacts to be significant as a result of the Plan.	NO	Fingal Development Plan, Dublin City Development Plan Eastern River Basin Management Plan Mayne River Water Management Unit FEMFRAMS Malahide Shellfish Area	NO
Howth Head SPA (004113)	Due to the breeding location of qualifying interest on cliffs, combined with distance from the LAP lands, potential for impacts from disturbance are not considered to be significant as a result of the Plan.	NO	Fingal Development Plan, Dublin City Development Plan Eastern River Basin Management Plan Mayne River Water Management Unit FEMFRAMS Clongriffin Belmayne LAP Portmarnock South LAP Malahide Shellfish Area	NO
North Bull Island SPA (004006)	Developments resulting in an influx of residents and recreational activities may result in an increase in pollution and/or recreational activities that may result in disturbance to wintering species. Pollution may also result in a reduction in water quality and feeding resources for bird species.	YES	Fingal Development Plan, Dublin City Development Plan Eastern River Basin Management Plan FEMFRAMS	YES
South Dublin	LAP lands located north of cSAC. Unlikely to result in	NO	Fingal Development Plan,	YES

Table 5 Natura 2000 Sites Details				
Site	Potential Impacts arising from the Proposed LAP	Is there a likely risk of a Significant Effect?	Other plans to be considered in Combination?5	Is there a risk of Significant Impact in combination?
Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA (004024)	direct or indirect impacts on cSAC due to distance and coastline separating sites. Potential cumulative impacts from Ringsend WWTW discharge if operating over capacity.		Dublin City Development Plan Eastern River Basin Management Plan Sutton to Sandycove Promenade and Cycleway (S2S)	

2.14 Conclusions of Screening Assessment Process

The Screening process identified nine cSACs and nine SPA's within 15km of Baldoyle – Stapolin Local Area Plan area. A proportion of Baldoyle cSAC overlaps with the LAP lands. Based on the information provided above and by applying the precautionary principle it was determined that it was not possible to rule out significant adverse impacts on seven of the surrounding European Sites; and therefore the report needs to proceed to Stage Two: Appropriate Assessment as detailed in Section 3 below for these sites. The seven sites which were “screened in” are Baldoyle Bay cSAC, Baldoyle Bay SPA, Howth Head cSAC, North Dublin Bay cSAC, South Dublin Bay cSAC, North Bull Island SPA and South Dublin Bay SPA. Sites that were “screened-out” are not subject to further consideration in the assessment.

3 Stage Two: Provision of information for an Appropriate Assessment

3.1 Assessment Methodology

The overall aim of the Habitats and Birds Directives is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation status of habitats and/or species of community interest. Site specific conservation objectives aim to define favourable conservation conditions for particular habitats or species within that site. The conservation objectives for the qualifying interests of the surrounding European Sites are listed in Appendix C).

According to the European Commission interpretation document 'Managing Natura 2000 sites: The provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC', paragraph 4.6(3):

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

Within this stage often referred to as "Stage 2 of the Appropriate Assessment", the potential impacts of the proposed development on the integrity of the surrounding European Sites are examined with respect to the conservation objectives of each European Site and to its general structure and function. The assessment of impacts on the Natura 2000 network of sites was undertaken by the following steps:

1. Identify site-specific issues so that the impact evaluation is correctly informed. This was primarily achieved through research of desktop information, site visit and consultation with regional staff of the NPWS.
2. Issuing a Policy Guidance Note for Fingal County Council to pro-actively inform the preparation of Policies and Objectives. This note contained a summary of the pre-screening and recommendations of policies to promote and avoid during the preparation of the LAP.
3. Iterative Review of draft Chapters of the Draft LAP to allow the amendment of policies, objectives and supporting text. This was to ensure that potential impacts were avoided or mitigated for through the addition of policies and objectives.
4. Review of submissions (by the public and Council Members) and proposed amendments to the Draft LAP to allow the amendment of policies, objectives and supporting text in the Final LAP.

3.2 Site-specific issues at Natura 2000 sites

Each European site "screened in" during the Screening Stage in Section 2 above are discussed below with specific threats to each site discussed, including specific elements of the LAP deemed to pose likely significant effects to the relevant European sites. Habitats or species unlikely to be impacted upon are not discussed below. In total 7 sites were "screened in" for potential adverse impacts:

- Baldoyle Bay cSAC (000199)
- North Dublin Bay cSAC (000206)
- Howth Head cSAC (000202)
- South Dublin Bay cSAC (000210)
- Baldoyle Bay SPA (004016)
- North Bull Island SPA (004006)
- South Dublin Bay SPA (004024)

3.2.1 Baldoyle Bay cSAC (000199)

Baldoyle Bay candidate Special Area of Conservation (cSAC) includes the whole of the Baldoyle Estuary, a portion of Portmarnock Strand or Velvet Strand, Sutton Strand with a small parcel contained within the LAP lands at the northeastern corner of the LAP lands, along the River Mayne.

- Alteration of Tidal Influences

The salt marsh habitat (Atlantic salt meadows and Mediterranean salt meadows) within the LAP lands on the landward side of the Coast Road are a result of tidal water entering the Mayne River. The tidal influence has declined over the last few years following upgrading works on the tidal valves at the outlet of the Mayne River at the estuary as part of flood control measures (Fingal Co. Co., 2009). Two plant species legally protected under the Flora (Protection) Order, 1999, were previously recorded within this salt marsh habitat: Borrer's Saltmarsh-grass *Puccinellia fasciculata* and Meadow Barley *Hordeum secalinum*. However repeated searches have not recorded these two species recently (Fingal Co. Co., 2009).

- Pollution

Baldoyle Bay is an estuarine system. According to the Natura 2000 Data Form, the site receives pollution from a number of sources, mainly the inflowing rivers (Mayne and Sluice) but also an unsatisfactory sewage network. The River Mayne has a Q-value of 3 which is classed as Poor under the EC Water Framework Directive. An investigative monitoring report on the Mayne was undertaken in March/April of 2012 (DCC, 2012). The results shows that water quality within the river for Ammonia, Phosphorus and Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) did not meet the requirement of the "good" status required under the Water Framework Directive. The current "Poor" status and any further depreciation of water quality are considered a potential threat to habitats downstream and their supporting species.

- Disturbance and Recreational Activities

Potential threats include visitor pressure, disturbance to wildfowl (including shooting) and dumping along the shore (Site Synopsis, 2000). Little Tern *Sterna albifrons* EU Birds Directive Annex I species, formerly nested at Portmarnock Point but regular disturbance is a problem with no recordings since 1991 (Site Synopsis, 2000). The zoning of the western area of the LAP lands for development could result in an influx of residents which has a potential to impact on the salt marsh habitat of the cSAC through increased levels of coastal recreation if not appropriately managed.

- Loss of Habitat

The footprint of the proposed development will not overlap with any Annex I habitats for which the site is designated. Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide, *Salicornia* and other annuals colonizing mud and sand are both located within the estuary. *Spartina* is noted to be well established in the inner estuary however it may be causing unfavourable interactions with the intertidal and salt marsh habitats (Natura 2000 Data Form).

Atlantic salt meadows and Mediterranean salt meadows habitats are located on the coastline and within the cSAC along the River Mayne, within the LAP lands. This area of the cSAC within the LAP lands is currently unmanaged and in previous discussion with NPWS, a grazing regime was suggested as part of an active management plan to avoid natural succession to scrub. Similarly, overgrazing is a potential threat to the habitats. From this perspective the integrity of the River Mayne Marsh and associated habitats will be protected from development by inclusion within the LAP as open space areas. However it should be stated that the coastal walk and cycle path seek to pass through this strip of cSAC, parallel to the Coast Road.

Discussions between Fingal County Council and National Transport Authority have led to an agreement of a maximum shared path/cycle way width of 3m (pers. comm., Fingal Council, 2012). This will replace the proposed walkway for which Fingal Co. Co. previously undertook an AA in 2009, as previously mentioned above. This walkway was 1.5m wide with mitigation measures proposed for disturbance to birds. The route was also selected with the aim of reducing any potential impact to qualifying interests of the Natura 2000 sites. However without such mitigation potential impacts exist from the LAP including disturbance to wintering fauna and loss of salt marsh habitat.

3.2.2 North Dublin Bay cSAC (000206)

- Recreational Activities

Bull Island possesses an excellent diversity of coastal habitats. The Natura 2000 data form noted that North Bull Island dune system is one of the most important systems on the east coast and is one of the few in Ireland that is actively accreting. Dunes are subject to high recreational pressures and moderate levels of grazing by rabbits which cause some localised damage. The Natura 2000 data form noted that damaged areas are monitored by Dublin City Council and appropriate management implemented. However potential adverse impacts on these habitats through an increase in visitor numbers, due to an increase in surrounding residential numbers (including from proposed developments outside the LAP area), cannot be ruled out.

3.2.3 Howth Head cSAC (000202)

- Recreational Activities

The NPWS site synopsis for this site noted that recreation is the main activity within the cSAC, consisting mostly of walking and horse-riding which has led to some erosion within the site. Fires also pose a danger to the site, as well as loss of extent due to housing development. Undergrazing is also a threat to heath habitat with Fingal County Council launching a grazing programme in 2012 in an attempt to combat the threat. The increase in residential development within the LAP lands may result in an increase in recreational pressures on European dry heaths, a qualifying interest of the cSAC.

3.2.4 South Dublin Bay cSAC (000210)

- Pollution

South Dublin Bay cSAC is an intertidal site with extensive areas of sand and mudflats. The Natura 2000 Data Form noted that the intertidal areas receive water that is somewhat polluted though there were no apparent impacts on the associated flora and fauna. An additional potential risk is the discharge from Ringsend WWTP which is currently operating over capacity. Any increase in waste has potential to reduce water quality which may impact upon the diverse communities they support including invertebrates, algae and eel grass and therefore the integrity of the site.

3.2.5 Baldoyle Bay SPA (004016)

Baldoyle Bay Special Protection Area (SPA) encompasses Baldoyle Bay, predominately overlapping Baldoyle Bay cSAC however it does not overlap with the boundary of the LAP lands.

- Disturbance and Recreational Activities

An Appropriate Assessment was undertaken for the proposed Coastal Pathway from Portmarnock Bridge to “The Coast” housing development in Baldoyle by Fingal Co. Co. in 2009. The gravel walkway was designed to be 1.5m wide and fenced off from the adjacent cSAC. It was noted in the AA that any future walkway and cycleway along the Coast Road would be located on the landward side to avoid disturbance along the estuary (Fingal Co. Co., 2009). The conclusion of the AA noted that the landward side coastal pathway could proceed with issues of disturbance and loss of habitat mitigated for through provision of a screening structure at the mouth of the River Mayne to reduce disturbance to birds and the introduction of a grazing regime to reduce scrub levels and sward height thereby opening up the grassland habitat and creating favourable conditions for rare plants and communities. Disturbance also exists from dog walkers along the coast road and within feeding grounds for the qualifying interests. Access to the shore is restricted however the plans for the creation of Racecourse Park may result in an increased level of disturbance to feeding birds without appropriate management.

- Loss of Feeding Habitat

The zoning of residential development may result in a loss of feeding habitat for qualifying interests of the SPA, in particular Light-bellied Brent Geese. As previously noted, a bird survey (Appendix B), was undertaken from December to February 2011-2012 by BirdWatch Ireland covering the LAP lands in question and surrounding areas. The overall aim was to produce a baseline data on the bird species using the lands surrounding the estuary and establish how important these lands are for the birds using the Baldoyle estuary (Pierce and Dillion, 2012). The objectives of the study included the collection of baseline data on all wintering bird species using such lands and to highlight the presence of any species of conservation concern.

Baldoyle-Stapolin LAP lands were included in survey area “D”. The report noted land-use within the study lands was varied. Western fields were in stubble in December and re-ploughed in January. Southern/eastern fields comprised mainly of rough ungrazed grassland with large areas of saltmarsh, gorse and scrub. The report notes no evidence of any Light-bellied Brent Geese at the southern edge where the lands had been disturbed and allowed to lie fallow. The survey found 10 individuals of Light-bellied Brent Geese feeding in the northern area of the site on the 3 February 2012. Area D3 – the south-eastern “leg” of the LAP lands had larger numbers of 700 geese on the 9th December 2011, 10 on the 7th January 2012 and 400 on the 27th January 2012. The commonly-used threshold for international importance is 1% of the international flyway population. For Light Bellied Brent Geese this is 400 (<http://wpe.wetlands.org/>). However according to BirdWatch Ireland, this figure may rise, with Ireland possibly hosting the majority or all of the wintering population in the future (pers. comm., BirdWatch Ireland 20/12/12). The results of the survey show that survey area D3 (illustrated below in Figure 3) often hosts numbers of Light-Bellied Brent Geese greater or equal to 1% of the international population.

This area currently contains grass sports pitches and is known locally as Red Arches Pitches which provide an open corridor to Grange Park. Any loss of grazing habitat, increase in disturbance or reduced access may reduce attractiveness of this site to feeding Light-bellied Brent Geese. A previous study identified the area north of these playing pitches but south of the cSAC within the LAP lands as of Major Importance for this species, i.e. hosting between 401-1450 individuals (Benson, 2009). This latter area was noted within BirdWatch Ireland report (2012) as “currently unsuitable for many migratory species to feed or roost on” with no evidence of usage recorded. Both areas will be maintained as “amenity areas” with the grass playing pitches retained and the grassland which is known as Racecourse Park managed for amenity and wildlife. This park will act as an ecological buffer zone between the residential development to the south west and the SPA to the east.

Based on the BirdWatch Ireland report, the LAP lands are noted to be of ecological value (international numbers found to be using lands) to one of the qualifying interests of the SPA – Light Bellied Brent Geese. Usage of the LAP lands by other qualifying interests of Baldoyle SPA were not noted in the BirdWatch Ireland report results and therefore was not considered significant (BWI, 2012).

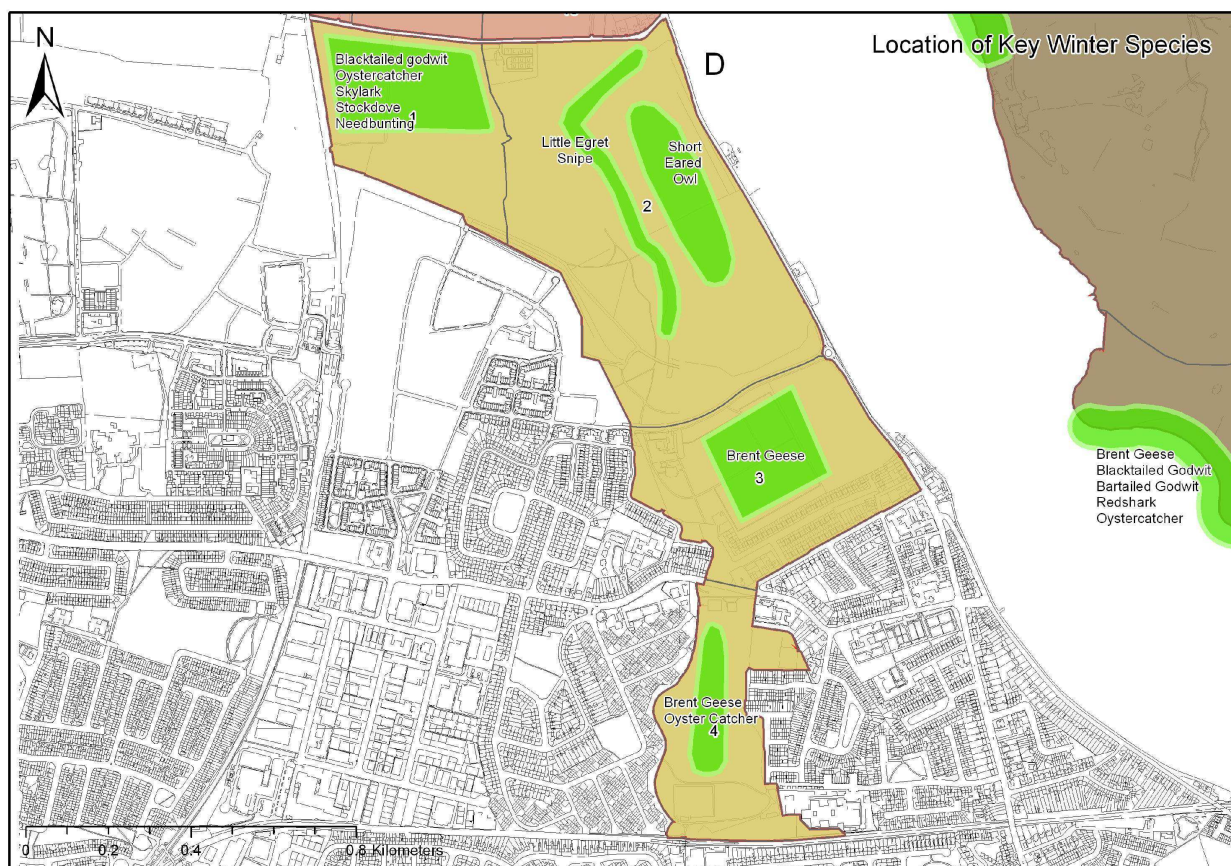


Figure 3: Study Area D with location of recorded wintering birds highlighted in green in relation to the LAP lands. (BirdWatch Ireland, 2012)

3.2.6 North Bull Island SPA (004006)

- Pollution

North Bull Island SPA is an excellent example of an estuarine complex and is one of the top sites in Ireland for wintering waterfowl. The Natura 2000 Data Form notes that the intertidal areas receive polluted water though there are no apparent impacts on the associated flora and fauna. An additional risk is the discharge from Ringsend WWTP which is currently operating over capacity. Any increase in waste has potential to reduce water quality which may impact upon the diverse communities they support including invertebrates, algae and eel grass. Such food resources are vital for wintering birds therefore any adverse impact would threaten the integrity of the site.

3.2.7 South Dublin Bay SPA (004024)

- Pollution

South Dublin Bay SPA hosts extensive intertidal mud and sand flats which support wintering waterfowl which regularly host internationally important numbers of Light Bellied Brent Geese. The Natura 2000 Data Form notes that the intertidal areas receive polluted water though there are no apparent impacts on the associated flora and fauna. An additional risk is the discharge from Ringsend WWTP which is currently operating over capacity. Any increase in waste has potential to reduce water quality which may impact upon the diverse communities the mud and sand flat habitats support including invertebrates, algae and eel grass. Such food resources are vital for wintering birds therefore any adverse impact would threaten the integrity of the site.

3.3 Global issues at Natura 2000 sites

3.3.1 Implications of Sea Level Rise

Climate change is an on-going threat to habitats and species globally. Due to the coastal location of the LAP lands and loss of low-lying undeveloped lands to development, an alteration of coastal flooding is considered a potential threat to Baldoyle cSAC/SPA. Studies undertaken as part of the European Climate Adaptation Platform assessed change in exposure to coastal flooding by noting projected inundation depth changes due to sea level rise. This was calculated on the basis of regional coastal storm surge heights projected by the DIVA model for a 100 year return event and heightened by a 1m sea level rise. County Dublin was assessed as having a low negative impact with a change of 0.1-0.3m (<http://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/map-viewer?mapViewerAppId=ast-vulnrisk-espon01>, 2012). The magnitude of habitat loss as a result of this rise in level does not appear to have been modelled as far as could be established. Based on the low-lying location of Qualifying Interests such as salt marsh habitats along the coast, potential adverse impacts cannot be ruled out.

Sea level rise may also result in changes in flooding patterns of rivers. Online mapping illustrates inundation depth changes due to climate induced changes in river flooding. No to marginal impact of up to 0.1m was predicted for Dublin area (<http://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/map-viewer?mapViewerAppId=ast-vulnrisk-espon01>, 2012). Based on the mapping data, potential impacts on the Qualifying Interests cannot be determined.

3.4 Likely Effects of the LAP on European Sites

A Policy Guidance Note was prepared at the commencement of the preparation of the Draft LAP to help those preparing the Plan in avoiding adverse impacts on Natura 2000 sites (Appendix A). The Guidance Note provided advice to the Council that would allow impacts on Natura 2000 sites to be avoided or mitigated by amending Policies, adding caveats or protective Policies.

Table 6 presents the culmination of the AA of the LAP. It shows how specific policies/objectives of the LAP were deemed to pose likely significant effects to Natura 2000 sites. It also shows how these policies were amended to avoid, reduce or minimise the potential adverse effects.

Note only policies that were deemed to pose a potential threat to European Sites and required mitigation are included here.

The AA process involved the analysis of the initial drafts of objectives and where necessary, the inclusion of mitigation policies to ensure that the implementation of the Plan would not result in adverse impacts on Natura 2000 sites.

The LAP, as a strategic planning document, lacks the finer details for each project/plan or development that will be proposed for lands within the LAP. In order to combat potential issues that may arise at the project/plan stage, “protective” objectives were devised whose specific function was to protect the integrity of the sites and the environmental conditions underpinning them. These “protective” objectives of the LAP are listed below in Table 7.

Table 6: Text of the LAP and how objectives were mitigated as a result of the Appropriate Assessment process

Chapter/ Section/Titl e	Objective Code	Policy/Objective/Theme	Potential Likely Significant Impact	Mitigation Insertions added in RED
4A.3.1 Designated Sites	Objective GI 8	Maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of Annex 1 habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected: [1140] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1310] Salicornia and other annuals colonizing mud and sand [1330] Atlantic salt meadows (Glaucopuccinellietalia maritimae) [1410] Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi)	None. Text added in to highlight the relevant cSAC that the objective refers to.	Maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of Annex 1 habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the Baldoyle Bay cSAC has been selected: [1140] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1310] Salicornia and other annuals colonizing mud and sand [1330] Atlantic salt meadows (Glaucopuccinellietalia maritimae) [1410] Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi)
4A.3.1 Designated Sites	Objective GI 9	Maintain habitats and species within the Baldoyle Bay SPA and SAC at favourable conservation condition and ensure the ecological integrity of Baldoyle Bay.	Risk of <u>qualifying interests</u> not being maintained at favourable conservation status due to impacts outside of the SPA/SAC. Also LAP lands provide important winter feeding resources for qualifying interests of SPA which may have been overlooked.	Maintain qualifying interest habitats and species within the Baldoyle Bay SPA and SAC at favourable conservation condition to ensure the ecological integrity of Baldoyle Bay and further ensure that the LAP lands continue to provide supporting function for the Qualifying Interest species.
4A.3.1 Designated Sites	Objective GI 10	Ensure that sufficient information is provided as part of development proposals to enable Appropriate Assessment screening to be undertaken and to enable a fully informed assessment of impacts on biodiversity to be made.	Risk of plans or projects, as opposed to “developments” not being incorporated into the Appropriate Assessment process.	Ensure that sufficient information is provided as part of development, plan or project proposals to enable Appropriate Assessment screening to be undertaken and to enable a fully informed assessment of impacts on biodiversity to be made.

Table 6: Text of the LAP and how objectives were mitigated as a result of the Appropriate Assessment process

Chapter/ Section/ Title	Objective Code	Policy/Objective/Theme	Potential Likely Significant Impact	Mitigation Insertions added in RED
4A.3.2 Racecourse Park – Mitigation within the Ecological Buffer Zone	Objective GI 12	Promote opportunities for the enhancement of local biodiversity features including the creation of new habitats through managed spaces and new water features such as pools and ponds in order to promote wildlife use associated with the existing designated sites.	Creation of new biodiversity features including habitats may result in the loss of qualifying interest habitats, or habitats utilised by qualifying interests.	Promote opportunities for the enhancement of local biodiversity features including the creation of new habitats through managed spaces and new water features such as pools and ponds in order to promote wildlife use associated with the existing designated sites. Such proposals may be subject to an Appropriate Assessment of the likely significant effects on European sites due to the proximity of urban centres to European sites.
4A.4 Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems	Objective GI 21	Ensure, as far as practical, that the design of SuDS enhances the quality of open spaces.	Risk of SUDS detracting ecological value from the surrounding area and not providing resources/habitat or increasing biodiversity within the local area.	Ensure, as far as practical, that the design of SuDS enhances the quality of open spaces and biodiversity.
4A.4 Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems	Objective GI 26	Require that where SuDS features are connected to the Mayne River best practice will apply and consultation with the relevant national bodies such as the National Parks and Wildlife Service and Inland Fisheries Ireland will take place to agree on the methodology for such works.	To ensure that SUDS design, location, outflow and flooding regime does not significantly impact on the conservation management objectives of the European sites and their qualifying interests.	Require that where SuDS features are connected to the Mayne River best practice will apply and consultation with the relevant national bodies such as the National Parks and Wildlife Service and Inland Fisheries Ireland will take place to agree on the methodology for such works. In any event, the design of SuDS features shall not conflict with conservation management objectives.
4A.5 Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems	Objective GI 28	Ensure that any new hedgerows and tree species within the site are planted with species which will provide alternative habitat for displaced wildlife, be compatible with local landscape values and help	Risk of introduction of invasive species to LAP lands which may negatively impact upon the qualifying interests and their conservation objectives.	Ensure that any new hedgerows and tree species within the site are planted with non-invasive species which will provide alternative habitat for displaced wildlife, be compatible with local landscape values and help maintain

Table 6: Text of the LAP and how objectives were mitigated as a result of the Appropriate Assessment process

Chapter/ Section/Titl e	Objective Code	Policy/Objective/Theme	Potential Likely Significant Impact	Mitigation Insertions added in RED
		maintain connectivity for species which relied on such features for commuting or feeding.		connectivity for species which relied on such features for commuting or feeding.
4A.6 Recreation & Amenity - Open Space Hierarchy	Objective GI 30	Manage the open space at Racecourse Park and any associated lands in accordance with the Landscape Masterplan and mitigation measures included in this LAP.	To ensure policies written to protect European Sites and the general biodiversity of the local area are adhered to.	Manage the open space at Racecourse Park and any associated lands in accordance with the Landscape Masterplan and mitigation measures and polices included in this LAP.
4A.6 Recreation & Amenity - Open Space Hierarchy	Objective GI 31	Promote sustainable recreation within the LAP lands that will allow inclusive use of the open space without causing adverse effects on the physical and biological functions of the green infrastructure. This will be achieved by prioritising use of the pocket parks, Stapolin Haggard, and appropriate areas of Racecourse Park and discouraging visitor access at sensitive sites such as the designated SAC lands.	To highlight that the qualifying interests of European sites, which may or may not be generally included as part of green infrastructure, are adequately protected from recreational pressures.	Promote sustainable recreation within the LAP lands that will allow inclusive use of the open space without causing adverse effects on the physical and biological functions of the green infrastructure and/or qualifying interest species and habitats of European sites.
4A.6 Recreation & Amenity - Open Space Hierarchy	Objective GI 32	New Objective included in 25th January 2013	This was devised to ensure all development types regardless of their location, undergo AA Screening. This includes minor changes to existing or proposed developments/infrastructure.	Require Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening for any development, including changes to the landscape, within Racecourse Park. This will include any changes to existing or future layout, materials or surfaces of pitches.
4A.6 Recreation & Amenity - Open Space Hierarchy	Objective GI 35	Require the provision of playing pitches in the northwestern corner of the Racecourse Park, south of Mayne Road, or alternative agreed location.	Risk of alternative location resulting in adverse impact. Mitigated to ensure alternative location appropriately screened.	Require the provision of playing pitches in the northwestern corner of the Racecourse Park, south of Mayne Road, or alternative agreed location. Any alternative location may be subject to Appropriate Assessment.

Table 6: Text of the LAP and how objectives were mitigated as a result of the Appropriate Assessment process

Chapter/ Section/Title	Objective Code	Policy/Objective/Theme	Potential Likely Significant Impact	Mitigation Insertions added in RED
4B.2 Movement and Transport	Objective TM 1	Develop and support a culture of sustainable travel into and within the Baldoyle-Stapolin LAP lands.	Risk of transport proposals and their location into and within LAP lands not fully assessed for potential impacts.	Ensure that any transport proposals take full account of the sensitivities of the receiving environment including European designated sites.
4C.2 Water Supply & Water Conservation	Objective WS5	Encourage the adoption of water saving measures throughout future development. This will increase the extent of development capable of being serviced by the existing water treatment plant. Such measures would include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water butts to collect rainwater • Low flush and dual flush toilets • Low water use appliances • Rainwater harvesting 	Reworded to reduce any potential long term cumulative negative impacts of any water extraction and discharge.	Require the adoption of water saving measures throughout future development. This will increase the extent of development capable of being serviced by the existing water treatment plant. Such measures would include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water butts to collect rainwater • Low flush and dual flush toilets • Low water use appliances • Rainwater harvesting
4C.2 Water Supply & Water Conservation	Objective WS6	Ensure that water main layout for the proposed development is in accordance with the most up-to-date version of Fingal County Council's 'Guidelines for the Laying of Distribution Watermains' and 'Guidelines for Drinking Water Supply'.	Ensure all water mains including their location, route and any future maintenance is fully assessed.	Ensure that water main layout for any proposed development is in accordance with the most up-to-date version of Fingal County Council's 'Guidelines for the Laying of Distribution Watermains' and 'Guidelines for Drinking Water Supply'.
4C. 4 Surface Water Managemen t	Objective SW2	Require all planning applications to submit a surface water drainage management plan which includes proposals for the management of surface water within sites, and runoff rates from sites, protecting the water quality of the River Mayne and retrofitting best practice SuDS techniques on existing sites where possible.	Risk of SuDS proposals resulting in an alteration of flow regime within the Mayne River which may impact on qualifying interest habitats (and habitats supporting bird fauna) downstream or along the banks of the Mayne.	Require all planning applications to submit details of compliance with the SuDS Strategy for the LAP which include proposals for the management of surface water within sites, and runoff rates from sites, protecting the water quality and flow regime of the River Mayne and retrofitting best practice SuDS techniques on existing sites where possible.

Table 6: Text of the LAP and how objectives were mitigated as a result of the Appropriate Assessment process

Chapter/ Section/Titl e	Objective Code	Policy/Objective/Theme	Potential Likely Significant Impact	Mitigation Insertions added in RED
4C. 8 Utilities	Objective UT 4	Ensure that telecommunications infrastructure is adequately screened, integrated and /or landscaped so as to minimise any adverse visual impacts and to preserve significant views from the visual intrusion of large-scale telecommunications infrastructure.	Elements of telecommunications such as location, design and height may result in impacts on migrating/commuting wintering bird species.	Ensure that telecommunications infrastructure is adequately screened, integrated and /or landscaped so as to address collision risk for birds , minimise any adverse visual impacts and preserve significant views from the visual intrusion of large-scale telecommunications infrastructure.
4C. 9 Waste Managemen t	Objective WM 2	Facilitate the installation of bring banks at suitable locations within the Plan Area.	Risk of bring banks increasing disturbance to wintering bird species through noise, litter or disturbance from users if inappropriately located.	Facilitate the installation of bring banks at suitable locations within the Plan Area. These will be situated as to not cause disturbance to ecological sensitive areas.
4C. 10 Construction and Demolition Waste	Objective WM 6	Ensure that developers/applicants take adequate measures to minimise the impacts of traffic, noise and dust during construction phases.	Risk of damage to qualifying interests through mismanagement of construction processes during the construction period.	Ensure that developers/applicants take adequate measures to minimise the impacts of traffic, noise, dust and litter during construction phases. A methodology statement for such measures shall be submitted at planning application stage, and developers shall employ best practice as applicable at the time of construction.

Table 7: Protective Objectives of the LAP

Chapter/ Section/Title	Objective Code	Policy/Objective/Theme
4A.3.1 Designated Sites	Objective GI 8	Maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of Annex 1 habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the Baldoyle cSAC has been selected: [1140] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1310] Salicornia and other annuals colonizing mud and sand [1330] Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>) [1410] Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>)
4A.3.1 Designated Sites	Objective GI 9	Maintain qualifying interest habitats and species within the Baldoyle Bay SPA and SAC at favourable conservation condition to ensure the ecological integrity of Baldoyle Bay and further ensure that the LAP lands continue to provide supporting function for the Qualifying Interest species.
4A.3.1 Designated Sites	Objective GI 10	Ensure that sufficient information is provided as part of development, plan or project proposals to enable Appropriate Assessment screening to be undertaken and to enable a fully informed assessment of impacts on biodiversity to be made.
4A.6 Recreation & Amenity - Open Space Hierarchy	Objective GI 32	Require Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening for any development, including changes to the landscape, within Racecourse Park. This will include any changes to existing or future layout, materials or surfaces of pitches.

3.4.1 Conservation Objectives

The EC Habitats Directive requires the focus of the assessment at this stage to be on the integrity of the European site as indicated by its Conservation Objectives. At the time of the preparation of the Draft LAP (December 2012) the National Parks and Wildlife Service had prepared generic objectives for three cSACs and three SPAs.

The generic objective for each cSAC is as follows:

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

These Annex I habitats and Annex II species for which each European Site is designated are listed in Appendix C. Favourable Conservation status/condition is achieved when:

“its natural range, and area it covers within that range, are stable or increasing, and the specific structure and functions which are necessary for its longterm maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future, and the conservation status of its typical species is “favourable”.

“Favourable” is defined as:

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

For SPAs, most have the following generic objective:

“Objective: To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA”

During the display process of the Draft LAP (February 2013), the conservation objectives for Baldoyle Bay SPA were revised to create site-specific objectives, which are discussed below in Table 8 and 9.

The main potential impacts of the LAP on the generic conservation objectives of five European Sites (North Dublin Bay cSAC (000206), Howth Head cSAC (000202), South Dublin Bay cSAC (000210), North Bull Island SPA (004006) and South Dublin Bay SPA (004024)), include an increase in local residential population potentially resulting in increased disturbance to wintering bird species (including increased dog walkers), loss and/or alteration of Annex I habitat and/or feeding habitat due to an alteration in management practices, trampling and a decrease in water quality due to an increase on pressure on waste water treatment facilities. A combination of the mitigated objectives in Table 6 and “protective” measures in Table 7 will ensure the conservation status/condition of the qualifying interests.

Site-specific Objectives were prepared for Baldoyle cSAC and SPA. These Conservation Objectives are more explicit and relate to each of the qualifying interests. The Conservation Objectives for Baldoyle cSAC and SPA relevant to this Assessment have been reproduced in Table 8 and 9 below to show the potential impact of the Plan on these objectives, prior to and post mitigation.

Table 8: Baldoyle Bay cSAC Conservation Objectives and Targets and how they may be affected by LAP

Attribute	Measure	Target	Potential impact of LAP on target without mitigation	Potential impact of LAP on target with mitigation
Mudflats and Sandflats not Covered by Seawater at Low Tide [1140]				
Community distribution	Hectares	Conserve the following community types in a natural condition: Fine sand dominated by <i>Angulus tenuis</i> community complex; and Estuarine sandy mud with <i>Pygospio elegans</i> and <i>Tubificoides benedii</i> community complex	Habitat located outside of LAP footprint. Pollution may threaten ecological integrity of communities.	Potential significant impacts avoided through full implementation of objectives, including “protective” measures (see Table 7). Objectives address the potential for pollution and effects on mudflats.
Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310]				
Habitat area	Hectares	Area stable or increasing, subject to natural processes, including erosion and succession. For sub-site mapped: Baldoyle-0.383ha.	Habitat located outside of LAP footprint. Alteration of SUDS, surface water run-off and/or alteration of Mayne River flow regime may result in erosion of habitat.	Potential significant impacts avoided through full implementation of objectives, including “protective” measures (see Table 7). Objectives address alteration of natural processes and potential effects on habitat area.
Habitat distribution	Occurrence	No decline, or change in habitat distribution, subject to natural processes.	Habitat located outside of LAP footprint. Alteration of SUDS, surface water run-off and/or alteration of Mayne River flow regime may result in erosion of habitat.	Potential significant impacts avoided through full implementation of objectives, including “protective” measures (see Table 7). Objectives address alteration of natural processes and potential effects on habitat distribution.
Physical structure: sediment supply	Presence/absence of physical barriers	Maintain natural circulation of sediments and organic matter, without any physical obstructions	Habitat located outside of LAP footprint. Alteration of SUDS, surface water run-off and/or alteration of Mayne River flow regime may result in erosion of habitat.	Potential significant impacts avoided through full implementation of objectives, including “protective” measures (see Table 7). Objectives address alteration of natural processes and potential effects on sediment supply.
Physical structure: creeks and pans	Occurrence	Maintain creek and pan structure, subject to natural processes, including erosion and succession	Habitat located outside of LAP footprint. Alteration of SUDS, surface water run-off and/or alteration of Mayne River flow regime may result in erosion of habitat.	Potential significant impacts avoided through full implementation of objectives, including “protective” measures (see Table 7). Objectives address alteration of natural processes and potential effects on creeks and pans.

Physical structure: flooding regime	Hectares flooded; frequency	Maintain natural tidal regime	Habitat located outside of LAP footprint. No barriers to the natural tidal regime envisaged.	Potential significant impacts avoided through full implementation of objectives, including “protective” measures (see Table 7). Objectives address alteration of natural processes and potential effects on flooding regime.
Vegetation structure: zonation	Occurrence	Maintain the range of coastal habitats including transitional zones, subject to natural processes including erosion and succession	Habitat located outside of LAP footprint. Alteration of SUDS, surface water run-off and/or alteration of Mayne River flow regime may result in erosion of habitat.	Potential significant impacts avoided through full implementation of objectives, including “protective” measures (see Table 7). Objectives address alteration of natural processes and potential effects on vegetation zone.
Vegetation structure: vegetation height	Centimeters	Maintain structural variation within sward	Habitat located outside of LAP footprint. Alteration of flow regime from River Mayne may impact upon vegetation substrate.	Potential significant impacts avoided through full implementation of objectives, including “protective” measures (see Table 7). Objectives address alteration of natural processes and River Mayne and potential effects on vegetation structure.
Vegetation structure: vegetation cover	Percentage cover at a representati ve sample of monitoring stops	Maintain more than 90% of area outside creeks vegetated	Habitat located outside of LAP footprint. Alteration of flow regime from River Mayne may impact upon vegetation substrate.	Potential significant impacts avoided through full implementation of objectives, including “protective” measures (see Table 7). Objectives address alteration of natural processes and River Mayne and potential effects on vegetation cover.
Vegetation composition: typical species and sub-communities	Percentage cover	Maintain the presence of species-poor communities with typical species listed in the Saltmarsh Monitoring Project (McCorry and Ryle, 2009)	Habitat located outside of LAP footprint. Pollution and/or alteration of flow may negatively impact vegetation composition.	Potential significant impacts avoided through full implementation of objectives, including “protective” measures (see Table 7). Objectives address alteration of natural processes and River Mayne and potential effects on vegetation composition.
Vegetation structure: negative indicator species- <i>Spartina anglica</i>	Hectares	No significant expansion of common cordgrass (<i>Spartina anglica</i>), with an annual spread of less than 1%	Habitat located outside of LAP footprint. Pollution and/or alteration of flow may negatively impact vegetation composition.	Potential significant impacts avoided through full implementation of objectives, including “protective” measures (see Table 7). Objectives address alteration of natural processes and River Mayne and potential effects on expansion of <i>Spartina anglica</i> .

Atlantic Salt Meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia</i>) [1330]				
Habitat area	Hectares	Area stable or increasing, subject to natural processes, including erosion and succession. For sub-site mapped: Baldoyle - 11.98ha	Habitat within and outside of footprint of LAP lands. No direct loss of area due to LAP ⁶ . Alteration of flooding regime, habitat management, disturbance, grazing, trampling and/or surface water run-off may reduce habitat area.	Potential significant impacts avoided through full implementation of objectives, including “protective” measures (see Table 7). Objectives address alteration of natural processes and River Mayne and potential effects on habitat area.
Habitat distribution	Occurrence	No decline, or change in habitat distribution, subject to natural processes	Habitat within and outside of footprint of LAP lands. No direct loss of area due to LAP. Alteration of flooding regime, habitat management, disturbance, grazing, trampling and/or surface water run-off may reduce habitat area.	Potential significant impacts avoided through full implementation of objectives, including “protective” measures (see Table 7). Objectives address alteration of natural processes and potential effects on habitat distribution.
Physical structure: sediment supply	Presence/absence of physical barriers	Maintain natural circulation of sediments and organic matter, without any physical obstructions	Habitat within and outside of footprint of LAP lands. No direct loss of area due to LAP. Alteration of flooding regime, habitat management, disturbance, grazing, trampling and/or surface water run-off may reduce habitat area.	Potential significant impacts avoided through full implementation of objectives, including “protective” measures (see Table 7). Objectives address alteration of natural processes and potential effects on sediment supply.
Physical structure: creeks and pans	Occurrence	Maintain/restore creek and pan structure to develop, subject to natural processes, including erosion and succession	Habitat within and outside of footprint of LAP lands. No direct loss of area due to LAP. Alteration of flooding regime, habitat management, disturbance, grazing, trampling and/or surface water run-off may reduce habitat area.	Potential significant impacts avoided through full implementation of objectives, including “protective” measures (see Table 7). Objectives address alteration of natural processes and potential effects on creeks and pans.
Physical structure: flooding regime	Hectares flooded; frequency	Maintain natural tidal regime	Habitat within and outside of footprint of LAP lands. No alteration of natural tidal regime envisaged.	Potential significant impacts avoided through full implementation of objectives, including “protective” measures (see Table 7). Objectives address alteration of natural processes and potential effects on flooding regime.

⁶ Based on habitat mapping as per NPWS conservation objectives (<http://www.npws.ie/media/npwsie/content/images/protectedsites/conservationobjectives/CO000199.pdf>)

Vegetation structure: zonation	Occurrence	Maintain the range of coastal habitats including transitional zones, subject to natural processes including erosion and succession	Habitat within and outside of footprint of LAP lands. No direct loss of area due to LAP. Alteration of flooding regime, habitat management, disturbance, grazing, trampling and/or surface water run-off may reduce habitat structure.	Potential significant impacts avoided through full implementation of objectives, including “protective” measures (see Table 7). Objectives address alteration of natural processes and potential effects on vegetation zone.
Vegetation structure: vegetation height	Centimeters	Maintain structural variation within sward	Habitat within and outside of footprint of LAP lands. No direct loss of area due to LAP. Alteration of flooding regime, habitat management, disturbance, grazing, trampling and/or surface water run-off may impact upon vegetation substrate.	Potential significant impacts avoided through full implementation of objectives, including “protective” measures (see Table 7). Objectives address alteration of natural processes and River Mayne and potential effects on vegetation structure.
Vegetation structure: vegetation cover	Percentage cover at a representative sample of monitoring stops	Maintain more than 90% of the area outside of the creeks vegetated	Habitat within and outside of footprint of LAP lands. No direct loss of area due to LAP. Alteration of flooding regime, habitat management, disturbance, grazing, trampling and/or surface water run-off may impact upon vegetation cover.	Potential significant impacts avoided through full implementation of objectives, including “protective” measures (see Table 7). Objectives address alteration of natural processes and River Mayne and potential effects on vegetation cover.
Vegetation composition: typical species and sub-communities	Percentage cover at a representative sample of monitoring stops	Maintain range of sub-communities with typical species listed in the Saltmarsh Monitoring Project (McCorry and Ryle, 2009)	Habitat within and outside of footprint of LAP lands. No direct loss of area due to LAP. Alteration of flooding regime, habitat management, disturbance, grazing, trampling and/or surface water run-off may impact upon vegetation composition.	Potential significant impacts avoided through full implementation of objectives, including “protective” measures (see Table 7). Objectives address alteration of natural processes and River Mayne and potential effects on vegetation composition.
Vegetation structure: negative indicator species- <i>Spartina anglica</i>	Hectares	No significant expansion of common cordgrass (<i>Spartina anglica</i>), with an annual spread of less than 1%	Habitat within and outside of footprint of LAP lands. Alteration of flooding regime, habitat management, disturbance, grazing, trampling and/or surface water run-off may impact upon vegetation composition.	Potential significant impacts avoided through full implementation of objectives, including “protective” measures (see Table 7). Objectives address alteration of natural processes and River Mayne and potential effects on expansion of <i>Spartina anglica</i> .

Mediterranean Salt Meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1330]				
Habitat area	Hectares	Area stable or increasing, subject to natural processes, including erosion and succession. For sub-site mapped: Baldoyle - 2.64ha.	Habitat within and outside of footprint of LAP lands. No direct loss of area due to LAP ⁷ . Alteration of flooding regime, habitat management, disturbance, grazing, trampling and/or surface water run-off may reduce habitat area.	Potential significant impacts avoided through full implementation of objectives, including “protective” measures (see Table 7). Objectives address alteration of natural processes and River Mayne and potential effects on habitat area.
Habitat distribution	Occurrence	No decline, or change in habitat distribution, subject to natural processes.	Habitat within and outside of footprint of LAP lands. No direct loss of area due to LAP. Alteration of flooding regime, habitat management, disturbance, grazing, trampling and/or surface water run-off may reduce habitat area.	Potential significant impacts avoided through full implementation of objectives, including “protective” measures (see Table 7). Objectives address alteration of natural processes and potential effects on habitat distribution.
Physical structure: sediment supply	Presence/absence of physical barriers	Maintain natural circulation of sediments and organic matter, without any physical obstructions	Habitat within and outside of footprint of LAP lands. No direct loss of area due to LAP. Alteration of flooding regime, habitat management, disturbance, grazing, trampling and/or surface water run-off may reduce habitat area.	Potential significant impacts avoided through full implementation of objectives, including “protective” measures (see Table 7). Objectives address alteration of natural processes and potential effects on sediment supply.
Physical structure: creeks and pans	Occurrence	Maintain creek and pan structure, subject to natural processes, including erosion and succession	Habitat within and outside of footprint of LAP lands. No direct loss of area due to LAP. Alteration of flooding regime, habitat management, disturbance, grazing, trampling and/or surface water run-off may reduce habitat area.	Potential significant impacts avoided through full implementation of objectives, including “protective” measures (see Table 7). Objectives address alteration of natural processes and potential effects on creeks and pans.
Physical structure: flooding regime	Hectares flooded; frequency	Maintain natural tidal regime	Habitat within and outside of footprint of LAP lands. No alteration of natural tidal regime envisaged.	Potential significant impacts avoided through full implementation of objectives, including “protective” measures (see Table 7). Objectives address alteration of natural processes and potential effects on flooding regime.

⁷ Based on habitat mapping as per NPWS conservation objectives (<http://www.npws.ie/media/npwsie/content/images/protectedsites/conservationobjectives/CO000199.pdf>)

Vegetation structure: zonation	Occurrence	Maintain the range of coastal habitats including transitional zones, subject to natural processes including erosion and succession	Habitat within and outside of footprint of LAP lands. No direct loss of area due to LAP. Alteration of flooding regime, habitat management, disturbance, grazing, trampling and/or surface water run-off may reduce habitat structure.	Potential significant impacts avoided through full implementation of objectives, including “protective” measures (see Table 7). Objectives address alteration of natural processes and potential effects on vegetation zone.
Vegetation structure: vegetation height	Centimeters	Maintain structural variation within the sward	Habitat within and outside of footprint of LAP lands. No direct loss of area due to LAP. Alteration of flooding regime, habitat management, disturbance, grazing, trampling and/or surface water run-off may impact upon vegetation substrate.	Potential significant impacts avoided through full implementation of objectives, including “protective” measures (see Table 7). Objectives address alteration of natural processes and River Mayne and potential effects on vegetation structure.
Vegetation structure: vegetation cover	Percentage cover at a representative sample of monitoring stops	Maintain more than 90% of the area outside of the creeks vegetated	Habitat within and outside of footprint of LAP lands. No direct loss of area due to LAP. Alteration of flooding regime, habitat management, disturbance, grazing, trampling and/or surface water run-off may impact upon vegetation cover.	Potential significant impacts avoided through full implementation of objectives, including “protective” measures (see Table 7). Objectives address alteration of natural processes and River Mayne and potential effects on vegetation cover.
Vegetation composition: typical species and sub-communities	Percentage cover at a representative sample of monitoring stops	Maintain range of sub-communities with typical species listed in the Saltmarsh Monitoring Project (McCorry and Ryle, 2009)	Habitat within and outside of footprint of LAP lands. No direct loss of area due to LAP. Alteration of flooding regime, habitat management, disturbance, grazing, trampling and/or surface water run-off may impact upon vegetation composition.	Potential significant impacts avoided through full implementation of objectives, including “protective” measures (see Table 7). Objectives address alteration of natural processes and River Mayne and potential effects on vegetation composition.
Vegetation structure: negative indicator species- <i>Spartina anglica</i>	Hectares	No significant expansion of common cordgrass (<i>Spartina anglica</i>), with an annual spread of less than 1%	Habitat within and outside of footprint of LAP lands. Alteration of flooding regime, habitat management, disturbance, grazing, trampling and/or surface water run-off may impact upon vegetation composition.	Potential significant impacts avoided through full implementation of objectives, including “protective” measures (see Table 7). Objectives address alteration of natural processes and River Mayne and potential effects on expansion of <i>Spartina anglica</i> .

Table 9: Baldoyle SPA Conservation Objectives and Targets and how they may be affected by LAP

Attribute	Measure	Target	Potential impact of LAP on target without mitigation	Potential impact of LAP on target with mitigation
Brent Goose <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> [A046]				
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend	Reduction of wintering feeding area, increase levels of disturbance, reduction in feeding time, increase in energy expenditure to locate suitable resources possibly resulting in a reduction in form.	Potential significant impacts avoided through implementation of objectives, including “protective” measures (see Table 7). Cognisance given to management of grassland areas within lands to provide for feeding habitat.
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing and intensity of use of areas by Light-bellied brent goose, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Loss of significant area of feeding habitat including increase of area designated for residential development or other development types.	Potential significant impacts avoided through implementation of objectives, including “protective” measures (see Table 7). Cognisance given to management of retained agricultural and grassland areas within LAP lands to provide for feeding habitat.
Shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> [A048]				
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	No potential impacts envisaged	No potential impacts envisaged
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by shelduck, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	No potential impacts envisaged	No potential impacts envisaged
Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> [A137]				
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	No potential impacts envisaged	No potential impacts envisaged
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by ringed plover, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Reduction in feeding grassland	Potential significant impacts avoided through implementation of objectives, including “protective” measures (see Table 7). Cognisance given to management of grassland areas within lands to provide for feeding habitat.

Golden Plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> [A140]				
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	No potential impacts envisaged	No potential impacts envisaged
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by golden plover, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Reduction in feeding grassland	Potential significant impacts avoided through implementation of objectives, including “protective” measures (see Table 7). Cognisance given to management grassland areas within lands to provide for feeding habitat.
Grey Plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> [A141]				
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	No potential impacts envisaged	No potential impacts envisaged
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by grey plover, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Reduction in feeding grassland	Potential significant impacts avoided through implementation of objectives, including “protective” measures (see Table 7). Cognisance given to management of grassland areas within lands to provide for feeding habitat.
Bar-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa lapponica</i> [A157]				
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	No potential impacts envisaged	No potential impacts envisaged
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by bar-tailed godwit, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	No potential impacts envisaged	No potential impacts envisaged
Wetlands [A999]				
Habitat area	Hectares	The permanent area occupied by the wetland habitat should be stable and not significantly less than the area of 263ha, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	No reduction in extent of SPA or other wetland habitat	Potential significant impacts avoided through implementation of objectives, including “protective” measures (see Table 7).

3.5 In-combination Impacts with other Plans and Projects

The EC Habitats Directive and the Habitats Regulations 2011 require that the impacts on Natura 2000 sites be assessed from the plan or project in question and also in the presence of other plans and projects that could affect the same Natura 2000 sites.

The Appropriate Assessment process identified the plans that could act in combination with the Local Area Plan to pose likely significant effects on European sites within the study area and its environs. This section identifies if these plans have undergone an Appropriate Assessment themselves as it is assumed that if a plan has been adopted following an AA then it cannot pose likely significant adverse effects on European sites.

The cumulative/in-combination impact assessment focused on the County Development Plan and surrounding Local Area Plans that have the highest potential to affect the same Natura 2000 sites which could be affected by Baldoyle-Stapolin LAP.

The Local Area Plan must comply with higher level strategic actions and will, in turn, guide lower level decisions such as approving or refusing planning applications. Relevant plans and programmes have been identified and are summarised below:

- National Spatial Strategy 2002-2020

The National Spatial Strategy (NSS) 2002-2020 established a detailed sustainable planning framework for strategic spatial planning to ensure development is targeted at the most appropriate locations. The NSS places emphasis on the creation of high-quality living environments through urban design and the integration of social and community amenities.

Whilst it did not undergo any formal Appropriate Assessment under the EC Habitats Directive, its relevance to the protection of Natura sites is embodied within several references to protection of protected species and habitats. Assuming that all plans and projects under the NSS comply with its provisions then there would be no impacts on European sites.

- Smarter Travel – A Sustainable Transport Future (2009)

“Smarter Travel” is the Government’s action plan to free towns and cities from traffic congestion, substantially cut CO₂ emissions, encourage car-based commuters to leave their cars at home, and encourage a shift toward walking, cycling and greater public transport usage.

It does not appear to have undergone any type of Appropriate Assessment and it does not seem to directly link to projects that could impact on European sites. It is not anticipated that there is a risk of interacting with any of the aspects of the LAP that would affect the conclusions made in this NIR.

- Greater Dublin Area Transport Strategy – 2030 vision

This Draft Transport Strategy of the National Transport Authority establishes appropriate policies and transport measures that will support the Greater Dublin Area in meeting its potential, as a competitive, sustainable city-region with a good quality of life for all. By improving the public transport network, limited strategic road building and demand management measures to meet the targets of Smarter Travel.

An Appropriate Assessment/Habitats Directive Assessment was carried out and noted potential for impacts on South Dublin Bay cSAC with indirect impacts on North Dublin Bay cSAC, South Dublin Bay cSAC and North Bull Island SPA. Where necessary, provisions were made for protecting these sites at project-level. It is not anticipated that there is a risk of these proposals interacting with any of the aspects of the LAP that would affect the conclusions made earlier.

- Regional Planning Guidelines for the Greater Dublin Area 2010- 2022

Regional planning authorities are required, under the Planning and Development (Regional Planning Guidelines) Regulations 2003 (SI No. 175 of 2003), to draw up Regional Planning Guidelines (RPGs), long term strategic planning frameworks, for their relevant region. An Appropriate Assessment was undertaken with mitigation measures in the form of amendments to the strategic policy and recommendations provided to ensure compliance with the Habitats Directive Article 6 requirements by integrating measures for the protection of Natura 2000 sites into all policy areas covered by the proposed plan.

- Fingal County Development Plan 2011-2017

The current Fingal County Development Plan identifies the development strategy for Baldoyle to *“Improve, strengthen and consolidate the role of the existing centre while promoting the provision of a range of facilities to support the existing and new populations making full use of sustainable transport practices”*. The Plan’s objectives include:

1. *Ensure the viability of the visual break on lands between Baldoyle and Portmarnock urban areas by locating appropriate outdoor sport and recreation opportunities which respect the character, sensitivity and natural heritage designations of the existing landscape subject to Appropriate Assessment Screening and full Appropriate Assessment if required.*
2. *Prepare an Urban Centre Strategy for Baldoyle.*

The plan noted that there was *“potential for some elements of the Development Plan to result in negative impacts on Natura 2000 sites should they be implemented following adoption of the Development Plan; however it was considered that “the Council’s commitments to the Habitats Directive and Appropriate Assessment that are presented in the Development Plan, including the mitigation measures in the form of amendments to the Development Plan proposed in this Report, will be sufficient to prevent inappropriate development that could result in significant negative impacts on the conservation objectives of Natura 2000 sites from occurring within the boundaries of the Natura 2000 sites, or adjacent to such sites”*.

- Dublin City Development Plan 2011-2017

Dublin City Council has provided specific policies in relation to the protection and preservation of designated sites under the EC Habitats Directive and the EU Birds Directive. The Appropriate Assessment process for the Dublin City Plan resulted in a conclusion that mitigatory measures identified in Stage 2 are adequate to ensure that the integrity of sites in the Natura 2000 network will not be receiving significant effects as a result of potential impacts of the policies and objectives contained within the Plan.

- Clongriffin–Belmayne (North Fringe) Local Area Plan 2012-2018

Some of the policies of the Clongriffin–Belmayne (North Fringe) Local Area Plan 2012-2018 are discussed previously. The NIR undertaken for the LAP concludes by stating that the *“the Assessment process for this report has resulted in a conclusion that mitigatory measures identified in Stage 2 are adequate to ensure that the integrity of the Natura 2000 sites will not be receiving significant effects as a result of potential impacts of the policies and objectives contained within the Draft Clongriffin–Belmayne Local Area Plan”*.

3.6 Summary of Policies protecting individual European Sites.

Table 10 below show a summary of the Objectives contained within Baldoyle–Stapolin Local Area Plan which act cumulatively to protect the individual Natura 2000 sites. This list does not cover all of the Objectives of a protective or mitigatory nature but identifies those that address specific sensitivities of the European sites.

Table 10 Objectives to Protect Individual European Sites

Site	Sensitivity/threat	Mitigation Objective
Baldoyle Bay cSAC (000199)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encroaching development at the Mayne River; • Water pollution from inflowing rivers and poor sewage network; • Bait digging and controlled wildfowling; • Invasion by <i>Spartina</i> species; • Disturbance to bird species; • Overgrazing by livestock 	GI4, GI8, GI9, GI10, GI11, GI12, GI13, GI15, GI17, GI18, GI19, GI26, GI28, GI30, GI31, GI32, TM1, TM22, WW1, SW2, SW7, WQ1, WQ2.
North Dublin Bay cSAC (000206)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreational activities • Grazing (rabbits) • Water abstraction • Water pollution • Oil spillages from shipping • Commercial bait digging 	GI10, GI18, GI19, GI31, GI32, TM1,
Howth Head cSAC (000202)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Controlling fire risk • Controlling visitor numbers • Air pollution • Overfishing affecting prey abundance 	GI10, GI18, GI19, GI31, GI32, TM1,
South Dublin Bay cSAC (000210)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land take for Infrastructure/ Industry • Water quality/pollution • Recreational Activities • Commercial Bait Digging • Disturbance 	GI10, GI18, GI19, GI31, GI32, TM1,
Baldoyle Bay SPA (004016)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disturbance from dog walkers • Infilling • Nutrient enrichment from inflowing rivers and sewage plants • <i>Spartina</i> may be causing unfavourable interactions with the intertidal and salt marsh habitats 	GI9, GI10, GI11, GI12, GI13, GI18, GI19, GI26, GI28, GI30, GI31, GI32, TM1, TM22, WW1, SW2, SW7, WQ1, WQ2, UT4, WM2.
North Bull Island SPA (004006)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pollution (Shipping) • Commercial Bait Digging • Recreational Activities • Water Sports 	GI10, GI18, GI19, GI31, GI32, TM1, UT4.
South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA (004024)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land take and Habitat Degradation • Pollution • Commercial Bait Digging • Recreational Activities 	GI10, GI18, GI19, GI31, GI32, TM1, UT4.

3.7 Responsibilities for implementing mitigation policies

The responsibility for implementing the Baldoyle-Stapolin Local Area Plan lies solely with the Planning Authority through the planning consent process. Applicants who intend to develop within the area are obliged to ensure that their application is consistent with the Policies and Objectives within the Plan and County Development Plan.

Applicants must also provide information to allow the Planning Authority to screen the application and decide if Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment is required.

3.8 Monitoring the Implementation of Objectives

Whilst there is no legal requirement to monitor the outputs of the AA process, there is an obligation to monitor the implementation of the Local Area Plan through the E.C. SEA Directive as implemented in Ireland. Contingency measures may have to be applied if there is evidence that Objectives cannot be implemented without giving rise to adverse effects.

4 Screening of Submissions and Manager's Recommendations made on the Draft Plan

The Draft Baldoyle-Stapolin Local Area Plan 2013-2019, together with accompanying Strategic Environmental Assessment and Draft Natura Impact Report, was put on public display from 6th February to 21st March 2013. Written submissions or observations with respect to the Draft LAP and/or Strategic Environmental Assessment and/or Appropriate Assessment were invited from members of the public and other interested parties.

Following completion of the public consultation period for the Draft Plan, a Manager's Report was prepared on the submissions summarising the issues raised, detailing the Manager's response to them and outlining recommendations to the Draft LAP. A total of 21 submissions were received.

Submissions underwent a screening process by the AA team to see which submissions (if any) had implications for European Sites. The assessment of the amendments recommended by the Manager on foot of the submissions (contained within the Manager's Report to the Members) are set out in Appendix F. In addition the Manager's responses to the Motions put forward by the Members to the Draft LAP are set out in Appendix G.

The Manager's Report, together with a SEA/AA screening of each proposed amendment, was considered by the Elected Members of Fingal County Council at the Council meeting on the 13th May 2013. Based on the screening exercise for SEA and AA, the Planning Authority determined, in accordance with the requirement of Section 12 (7)(aa) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), that the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the proposed amendments to the Draft Plan were not such that they required further Appropriate Assessment, as per the requirements of the relevant Directives.

5 Conclusion of the Appropriate Assessment

This Natura Impact Report records the decisions that were taken during the preparation of the Baldoyle-Stapolin Local Area Plan 2013-2019. It was determined that, assuming the successful implementation of the Policies and Objectives, there will be no likely significant effects on European sites, in isolation or in combination with other plans and projects.

6 References

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Appendix A

Appendix B

Appendix C

Appendix C Details of European Sites within 15km of Baldoyle-Stapolin LAP					
Site Name & Code	Qualifying Interests	Current Conservation Status ⁸	Conservation Management Objectives ⁹	Conditions underpinning site integrity	Main pressures and threats to site integrity ¹⁰
candidate Special Areas of Conservation (cSAC)					
Baldoyle Bay cSAC (000199) 0km	<u>Annex I habitats for which the site is designated:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] • <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonizing mud and sand [1310] • Atlantic salt meadows <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i> [1330] • Mediterranean salt meadows <i>Juncetalia maritimi</i> [1410] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide – Unfavourable/Inadequate • <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonizing mud and sand – Unfavourable/Inadequate • Atlantic salt meadows – Unfavourable/Inadequate • Mediterranean salt meadows – Unfavourable/Inadequate 	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitats for which Baldoyle Bay SAC is selected, as defined by the attributes and targets listed in the sites conservation objectives document.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water quality including nutrient levels, water clarity, sediment levels • Appropriate agricultural practices including grazing pressures. • Surface and ground water quality • Appropriate levels of access and disturbance • Water levels • Air quality • Tidal currents • Erosion and deposition rates • Maintenance of habitat extent and condition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encroaching development at the Mayne River; • Water pollution from inflowing rivers and poor sewage network; • Bait digging and controlled wildfowling; • Invasion by <i>Spartina</i> species; • Disturbance to bird species; • Overgrazing by livestock
North Dublin Bay cSAC (000206) c.1.2km south	<u>Annex I habitats for which the sites is designated:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] • Annual vegetation of drift 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide – Unfavourable/Inadequate • Annual vegetation of drift lines – Unfavourable/Inadequate 	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water quality including nutrient levels, water clarity, sediment levels • Appropriate agricultural practices including grazing pressures. • Surface and ground water 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreational activities • Grazing (rabbits) • Water abstraction • Water pollution • Oil spillages from shipping • Commercial bait digging

8 Sourced from Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland: Backing Documents, Article 17 forms, maps. Vol. 1 – 3 (NPWS, 2007).

9 Sourced from Site Conservation Objectives (NPWS, 2011 & NPWS, 2012)

10 Sourced from Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland (NPWS, 2007) and/or Natura 2000 Standard Data Forms (NPWS, 2011).

Appendix C Details of European Sites within 15km of Baldoyle-Stapolin LAP					
Site Name & Code	Qualifying Interests	Current Conservation Status ⁸	Conservation Management Objectives ⁹	Conditions underpinning site integrity	Main pressures and threats to site integrity ¹⁰
	<p>lines [1210]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonizing mud and sand [1310] • Atlantic salt meadows <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</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] <p><u>Annex II species for which the sites is designated:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Petalwort <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> [1395] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonizing mud and sand – Unfavourable/Inadequate • <i>Spartina</i> swards – Unfavourable/Inadequate • Atlantic salt meadows – Unfavourable/Inadequate • Mediterranean salt meadows – Unfavourable/Inadequate • Embryonic shifting dunes – Unfavourable/Bad • Shifting dunes along the shoreline – Unfavourable/Bad • Fixed coastal dunes – Unfavourable/Inadequate • Humid dune slacks – Unfavourable/Bad <p><u>Annex II species for which the sites is designated:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Petalwort - Favourable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide • Annual vegetation of drift lines • <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonizing mud and sand • Atlantic salt meadows • Petalwort • Mediterranean salt meadows • Embryonic shifting dunes • Shifting dunes along the shoreline • Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation • Humid dune slacks 	<p>quality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate levels of disturbance • Water levels • Air quality • Tidal currents • Erosion and deposition rates • Height and frequency of the tides availability of foreshore sand and the average strength of the on-shore winds • Damp, calcareous sand in dune slacks and machair 	
Lambay Island cSAC (000204) c.11km North	<p><u>Annex I habitats for which the sites is designated:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vegetated sea cliffs – Unfavourable/Inadequate • Grey seal - Favourable 	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geology • Coastal habitats • Prey abundance • Water quality • There is no current 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Damage to nest sites by rodents • Competition for fishing resources with fishermen • Illegal culls

Appendix C Details of European Sites within 15km of Baldoyle-Stapolin LAP					
Site Name & Code	Qualifying Interests	Current Conservation Status ⁸	Conservation Management Objectives ⁹	Conditions underpinning site integrity	Main pressures and threats to site integrity ¹⁰
	<p>[1230]</p> <p><u>Annex II species for which the sites is designated:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grey seal <i>Halichoerus grypu</i> [1364] 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts • Grey seal 	<p>understanding of grey seal habitat use, requirements or preferences outside of the terrestrial/coastal interface. Terrestrial habitat occupied by grey seals during breeding and other shore-based phases of the annual cycle include coastland and marine littoral habitats such as grass banks islands of various size to estuarine sandbanks, intertidal rock ledges and boulder beaches.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disease e.g. Phocine Distemper Virus • Disturbance to breeding colonies • Pollution and discarded waste
<p>Rogerstown Estuary cSAC (000208) c.9.5km North</p>	<p><u>Annex I habitats for which the sites is designated:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estuaries [1130] • Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] • <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonizing mud and sand [1310] • <i>Spartina</i> swards <i>Spartinion maritima</i> [1320] • Atlantic salt meadows <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i> [1330] • Mediterranean salt meadows <i>Juncetalia maritimi</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estuaries – Unfavourable/Inadequate • Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide – Unfavourable/Inadequate • <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonizing mud and sand – Unfavourable/Inadequate • <i>Spartina</i> swards – Unfavourable/Inadequate • Atlantic salt meadows – Unfavourable/Inadequate • Mediterranean salt meadows – Unfavourable/Inadequate • Shifting dunes along the 	<p>To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estuaries • Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide • <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonizing mud and sand • Atlantic salt meadows • Mediterranean salt meadow • Shifting dunes along the shoreline 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water quality including nutrient levels, water clarity, sediment levels • Surface and ground water quality • Appropriate levels of disturbance • Water levels • Appropriate disturbance levels • Tidal currents • Wind energy • Erosion / deposition levels • Recreational activities • Trampling overuse 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reclamation/infill of land • Water quality • Erosion

Appendix C Details of European Sites within 15km of Baldoyle-Stapolin LAP					
Site Name & Code	Qualifying Interests	Current Conservation Status ⁸	Conservation Management Objectives ⁹	Conditions underpinning site integrity	Main pressures and threats to site integrity ¹⁰
	[1410] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120] *Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130] 	shoreline – Unfavourable/Bad <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fixed coastal dunes – Unfavourable/Inadequate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation 		
Malahide Estuary cSAC (000205) c.8km South	<u>Annex I habitats for which the sites is designated:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonizing mud and sand [1310] <i>Spartina</i> swards <i>Spartinion maritimae</i> [1320] 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] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide – Unfavourable/Inadequate <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonizing mud and sand – Unfavourable/Inadequate <i>Spartina</i> swards – Unfavourable/Inadequate Atlantic salt meadows – Unfavourable/Inadequate Mediterranean salt meadows – Unfavourable/Inadequate Shifting dunes along the shoreline – Unfavourable/Bad Fixed coastal dunes – Unfavourable/Inadequate 	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonizing mud and sand <i>Spartina</i> swards <i>Spartinion maritimae</i> [1320] Atlantic salt meadows Mediterranean salt meadow Shifting dunes along the shoreline Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water quality including nutrient levels, water clarity, sediment levels Railway viaduct Appropriate agricultural practices including grazing pressures. Surface and ground water quality Appropriate levels of disturbance Water levels Air quality Tidal currents Erosion and deposition rates Recreational activities Trampling overuse 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreational activities Water pollution Infilling Nutrient enrichment from the Broadmeadows River and sewage plants Disturbance Development
Irelands Eye	<u>Annex I habitats for which the</u>	• Perennial vegetation of	To maintain or restore the	• Water quality including	• Increase in visitor

Appendix C Details of European Sites within 15km of Baldoyle-Stapolin LAP					
Site Name & Code	Qualifying Interests	Current Conservation Status ⁸	Conservation Management Objectives ⁹	Conditions underpinning site integrity	Main pressures and threats to site integrity ¹⁰
cSAC (002193) c.4km east	<p><u>sites is designated:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220] Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230] 	<p>stony banks [1220] – Unfavourable/Inadequate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230] – Unfavourable/Inadequate 	<p>favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> [1220] Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1230] Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts 	<p>nutrient levels, water clarity, sediment levels</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintaining appropriate agricultural practices including grazing pressures. Surface and ground water quality Maintaining appropriate levels of disturbance Water levels Air quality Tidal currents Erosion and deposition rates 	<p>numbers damaging sandy habitats and disturbing bird species</p>
Howth Head cSAC (000202) c.3.5km south-east	<p><u>Annex I habitats for which the sites is designated:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230] European dry heaths [4030] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230] – Unfavourable/Inadequate European dry heaths [4030] - Unfavourable/Bad 	<p>To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230] European dry heaths [4030] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Controlling heath Fires Controlling recreational activities, visitor pressure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Controlling fire risk Controlling visitor numbers Air pollution Overfishing affecting prey abundance
Rockabill to Dalkey Island cSAC	<p><u>Annex I habitats for which the sites is designated:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reefs [1170] <p><u>Annex II species for which the sites is designated:</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reefs [1170] - Unfavourable/Inadequate Harbour porpoise <i>Phocaena phocaena</i> [1170] - Favourable 	<p>Currently unavailable.</p> <p>Based on current generic conservation objectives for other sites, conservation objectives likely to be;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tidal currents Direct disturbance to habitats Prey abundance Water quality Disturbance/noise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professional fishing Taking of Fauna Taking of Flora Water Pollution Climate change Invasion of a non-native species

Appendix C Details of European Sites within 15km of Baldoyle-Stapolin LAP					
Site Name & Code	Qualifying Interests	Current Conservation Status ⁸	Conservation Management Objectives ⁹	Conditions underpinning site integrity	Main pressures and threats to site integrity ¹⁰
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harbour porpoise <i>Phocaena phocaena</i> [1170] 		To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reefs [1170] Harbour porpoise <i>Phocaena phocaena</i> [1170] 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Direct damage to reef habitats Outdoor sports and leisure activities Noise Military manoeuvres Competition for fishing resources with fishermen Pollution
South Dublin Bay cSAC (000210) c.6.6km south	<u>Annex I habitats for which the sites is designated:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide – Unfavourable/Inadequate 	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Controlling bait digging Land reclamation for industrial / infrastructure usage Water quality including nutrient levels, water clarity, sediment levels Maintaining appropriate levels of disturbance Tidal currents Erosion and deposition rates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land take for Infrastructure/ Industry Water quality/pollution Recreational Activities Commercial Bait Digging Disturbance
Special Protection Areas (SPA)					
Site Name & Code	Qualifying Interests & Code	Current Conservation Status ¹¹	Conservation Management Objectives ¹²	Conditions underpinning site integrity	Threats to site integrity
Lambay Island SPA (004069)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fulmar (<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>) [A009] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [A009] – Green [A017] – Amber 	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Geology Coastal habitats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Predation from rat species Overfishing

11 Sourced from The status of birds in Ireland: an analysis of conservation concern 2008-2013, Paul Lynas, Stephen F., Newton, & James A. Robinson, Irish Birds 2007

12 Sourced from Conservation Objectives (NPWS, 2011)

Appendix C Details of European Sites within 15km of Baldoyle-Stapolin LAP					
Site Name & Code	Qualifying Interests	Current Conservation Status ⁸	Conservation Management Objectives ⁹	Conditions underpinning site integrity	Main pressures and threats to site integrity ¹⁰
c.11km north east	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [A018] – Amber • [A043] – Amber • [A183] – Amber • [A184] – Red • [A188] – Amber • [A199] – Amber • [A200] – Amber • [A204] – Amber 	<p>condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Fulmarus glacialis</i> [breeding] • <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> [breeding] • <i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i> [breeding] • <i>Anser anser</i> [wintering] • <i>Larus fuscus</i> [breeding] • <i>Larus argentatus</i> [breeding + wintering] • <i>Rissa tridactyla</i> [breeding] • <i>Uria aalge</i> [breeding] • <i>Alca torda</i> [breeding] • <i>Fratercula arctica</i> [breeding] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food supply • Appropriate levels of disturbance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pollution • Impacts on food resources
Rogerstown Estuary SPA (004015) c.4.5km South	<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</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [A043] –Amber • [A046] –Amber • [A048] – Amber • [A056] – Red • [A130] – Amber • [A137] – Amber • [A141] – Amber • [A143] – Red • [A149] – Amber • [A156] – Amber 	<p>To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Anser anser</i> [wintering] • <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> [wintering] • <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> [wintering] • <i>Anas clypeata</i> [wintering] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water quality including nutrient levels, water clarity, sediment levels • Water levels • Tidal currents • Wind energy • Erosion / deposition levels • Freshwater influx • Coastal habitats • Food supply • Appropriate levels of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pollution caused by increased fertiliser application, sewage and industrial waste. • Reclamation • Pollution from landfill site is also a major source • raw sewage • agricultural pollution • Agricultural nutrient enrichment

Appendix C Details of European Sites within 15km of Baldoyle-Stapolin LAP					
Site Name & Code	Qualifying Interests	Current Conservation Status ⁸	Conservation Management Objectives ⁹	Conditions underpinning site integrity	Main pressures and threats to site integrity ¹⁰
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>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] • Wetlands & waterbirds [A999] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [A162] – Red 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> [wintering] • <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> [wintering] • <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> [wintering] • <i>Calidris canutus</i> [wintering] • <i>Calidris alpina</i> [wintering] • <i>Limosa limosa</i> [wintering] • <i>Tringa totanus</i> [wintering] 	disturbance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural erosion • Anthropogenic erosion
<p>Malahide Estuary SPA (004025) c. 3.7km north (also known as Broadmeadow / Swords SPA)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great Crested Grebe (<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>) [A005] • Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046] • Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048] • Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) [A054] • Goldeneye (<i>Bucephala clangula</i>) [A067] • Red-breasted Merganser (<i>Mergus serrator</i>) [A069] • Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130] • Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140] • Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] • Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [A005] – Amber • [A046] – Amber • [A048] – Amber • [A054] – Red • [A067] – Amber • [A069] – Green • [A130] – Amber • [A140] – Red • [A141] – Amber • {A143} – Red • [A149] – Amber • [A156] – Amber • [A157] – Red • [A162] – Red 	<p>To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Podiceps cristatus</i> [wintering] • <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> [wintering] • <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> [wintering] • <i>Anas acuta</i> [wintering] • <i>Bucephala clangula</i> [wintering] • <i>Mergus serrator</i> [wintering] • <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> [wintering] • <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> [wintering] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water quality including nutrient levels, water clarity, sediment levels • Freshwater influx • Railway viaduct • Water levels • Tidal currents • Wind energy • Erosion / deposition levels • Coastal habitats • Food supply • Appropriate levels of disturbance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reclamation for industrial and/or infrastructural purposes. • Infilling • Landfill site is also a major source of pollution • Untreated waste • Agricultural nutrient enrichment • Water quality • Impacts on food resources • Disturbance from recreational activities • Disturbance from dog walkers

Appendix C Details of European Sites within 15km of Baldoyle-Stapolin LAP					
Site Name & Code	Qualifying Interests	Current Conservation Status ⁸	Conservation Management Objectives ⁹	Conditions underpinning site integrity	Main pressures and threats to site integrity ¹⁰
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [A143] • Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149] • Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156] • Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157] • Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162] • Wetlands & Waterbirds [A999] 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> [wintering] • <i>Calidris canutus</i> [wintering] • <i>Calidris alpina</i> [wintering] • <i>Limosa limosa</i> [wintering] • <i>Limosa lapponica</i> [wintering] • <i>Tringa totanus</i> [wintering] • Wetlands & Waterbirds 		
Baldoyle Bay SPA (004016) 0km	<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>) [A157] • Wetlands & Waterbirds [A999] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [A046] – Amber • [A048] – Amber • [A137] – Amber • [A140] – Red • [A141] – Amber • [A157] – Red 	<p>To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> [wintering] • <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> [wintering] • <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> [wintering] • <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> [wintering] • <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> [wintering] • <i>Limosa lapponica</i> [wintering] • Wetlands & Waterbirds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water quality including nutrient levels, water clarity, sediment levels • Water levels • Tidal currents • Wind energy • Erosion / deposition levels • Freshwater influx • Intertidal habitats • Coastal habitats • Food supply • Appropriate levels of disturbance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disturbance from dog walkers • Infilling • Nutrient enrichment from inflowing rivers and sewage plants • <i>Spartina</i> may be causing unfavourable interactions with the intertidal and salt marsh habitats
Irelands Eye SPA (004117)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [A017] - Amber 	<p>To maintain or restore the favourable conservation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breeding Habitat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Predation from rat species

Appendix C Details of European Sites within 15km of Baldoyle-Stapolin LAP					
Site Name & Code	Qualifying Interests	Current Conservation Status ⁸	Conservation Management Objectives ⁹	Conditions underpinning site integrity	Main pressures and threats to site integrity ¹⁰
c. 4km east	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [A184] - Red [A188] – Amber [A199] – Amber [A200] – Amber 	<p>condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> [breeding] <i>Larus argentatus</i> [breeding] <i>Rissa tridactyla</i> [breeding] <i>Uria aalge</i> [breeding] <i>Alca torda</i> [A200] [breeding] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coastal habitats Foraging Habitat Foraging Resources Water quality Coastal habitats Food supply Appropriate levels of disturbance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overfishing Pollution Impacts on food resources Disturbance Increased Recreation
Howth Head Coast SPA (004113) c. 5km south east	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [A188] – Amber 	<p>To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Rissa tridactyla</i> [breeding] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Breeding Habitat (sea cliffs) Foraging Habitat (Irish sea) Food supply Appropriate levels of disturbance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over-fishing Pollution Disturbance Increased Recreation
Dalkey Islands SPA (004172) c. 13km south	<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] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [A192] – Amber [A193] – Common Tern [A194] – Amber 	<p>To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Sterna dougallii</i> [passage] <i>Sterna hirundo</i> [passage] <i>Sterna paradisaea</i> [passage] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foraging Habitat Breeding Habitat Appropriate levels of disturbance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Severe Weather (Lack of Habitat Cover) Climate Change Rats Increased Recreation

Appendix C Details of European Sites within 15km of Baldoyle-Stapolin LAP					
Site Name & Code	Qualifying Interests	Current Conservation Status ⁸	Conservation Management Objectives ⁹	Conditions underpinning site integrity	Main pressures and threats to site integrity ¹⁰
North Bull Island SPA (004006) c. 1.2km south	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130] Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046] Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048] Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052] Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) [A054] Shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>) [A056] Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140] Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143] Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144] Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149] Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156] Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157] Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160] Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162] Turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>) [A169] Black-headed Gull (<i>Larus</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [A130] – Amber [A140] – Red [A141] – Amber [A143] – Red [A144] – Green [A149] – Amber [A046] – Amber [A048] – Amber [A149] – Amber [A052] – Amber [A054] – Red [A156] – Amber [A157] – Red [A160] – Amber [A162] – Red [A169] – Green [A179] - Red 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA: <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> [wintering] <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> [wintering] <i>Anas crecca</i> [wintering] <i>Anas acuta</i> [wintering] <i>Anas clypeata</i> [wintering] <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> [wintering] <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> [wintering] <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> [wintering] <i>Calidris canutus</i> [wintering] <i>Calidris alba</i> [wintering] <i>Calidris alpina</i> [wintering] <i>Limosa limosa</i> [wintering] <i>Limosa lapponica</i> [wintering] <i>Numenius arquata</i> [wintering] <i>Tringa totanus</i> [wintering] <i>Arenaria interpres</i> [wintering] <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> [wintering] Wetlands 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foraging Habitat Breeding Habitat Food supply Appropriate Levels of disturbance Water quality including nutrient levels, water clarity, sediment levels Water levels Tidal currents Erosion / deposition levels Freshwater influx Intertidal habitats Air Quality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pollution (Shipping) Commercial Bait Digging Recreational Activities Water Sports

Appendix C Details of European Sites within 15km of Baldoyle-Stapolin LAP					
Site Name & Code	Qualifying Interests	Current Conservation Status ⁸	Conservation Management Objectives ⁹	Conditions underpinning site integrity	Main pressures and threats to site integrity ¹⁰
	<p><i>ridibundus</i>) [A179]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wetlands & Waterbirds [A999] 				
<p>South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA (004024) c.5km south</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046] Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130] Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137] Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A140] Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143] Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144] Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149] Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157] Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162] Black-headed Gull (<i>Larus ridibundus</i>) [A179] Roseate Tern (<i>Sterna dougallii</i>) [A192] Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193] Arctic Tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) [A194] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [A046] – Amber [A130] – Amber [A137] – Amber [A140] – Amber [A143] – Red [A144] – Green [A149] – Amber [A157] – Red [A162] – Red [A179] - Red [A192] – Amber [A193] – Amber [A194] – Amber 	<p>To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> [wintering] <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> [wintering] <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> [wintering] <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> [wintering] <i>Calidris canutus</i> [wintering] <i>Calidris alba</i> [wintering] <i>Calidris alpina</i> [wintering] <i>Limosa lapponica</i> [wintering] <i>Tringa totanus</i> [wintering] <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> [wintering] <i>Sterna dougallii</i> [passage] <i>Sterna hirundo</i> [breeding + passage] <i>Sterna paradisaea</i> [passage] Wetlands [] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foraging Habitat Breeding Habitat Food supply Appropriate Levels of disturbance Water quality including nutrient levels, water clarity, sediment levels Water levels Tidal currents Erosion / deposition levels Freshwater influx Intertidal habitats Air Quality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land take and Habitat Degradation Pollution Commercial Bait Digging Recreational Activities

Appendix C Details of European Sites within 15km of Baldoyle-Stapolin LAP					
Site Name & Code	Qualifying Interests	Current Conservation Status⁸	Conservation Management Objectives⁹	Conditions underpinning site integrity	Main pressures and threats to site integrity¹⁰
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wetlands & Waterbirds [A999] 				

Appendix D

Appendix E

Appendix E National Designated Sites		
Site Name & Code	Distance from Site	Qualifying Interests
Nature Reserves and Wildfowl Sanctuaries		
Baldoyle Estuary Nature Reserve	0km	Baldoyle is of international importance as a wintering area for Brent Geese. Wading birds that winter at Baldoyle include black-tailed Godwits, Redshanks and Curlews. Fish within the estuary are prey for diving birds like the Great-crested Grebe and the Red-breasted Merganser.
Rogerstown Estuary Wildfowl Sanctuary	c.9.5km	The site is important for various species of waterbirds, supporting internationally important numbers of Brent Geese and large numbers of roosting gulls and terns. Various species of annalids, bivalves and small gastropods occur.
North Bull Island Nature Reserves and Wildfowl Sanctuary	c.1.2km	The island is covered with dune grassland. An extensive salt marsh lies to the northwest and at extreme low tides there are extensive mud flats between the island and the mainland. The reserves are of international scientific importance for Brent Geese and also on botanical, ornithological, zoological and geomorphological grounds.
proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHA's)		
Rogerstown Estuary (000208)	c.9.5km	This site is an good example of an estuarine system, with all typical habitats represented, including several listed on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estuaries; Mudflats and sandflats; Atlantic and Mediterranean salt meadows; dune habitats; <i>Salicornia</i> swards and <i>Spartina</i>. Rogerstown is an internationally important waterfowl site and has been a breeding site for Little Terns. The presence within the site of three rare plant species adds to its importance.
Royal Canal (002103)	c.7.7km	The Royal Canal pNHA is an important ecological asset for the diversity of species within the linear habitats present and the presence of rare and protected species. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>); Wildlife Act; Habitats Directive • Opposite-leaved Pondweed (<i>Groenlandia densa</i>) Red Data Book; FPO • Stonewort (<i>Tolypella intricata</i>); Red Data Book • Species diverse hedgerows and calcareous and calcifuge grassland species
Liffey Valley (000128)	c.14.4km	The site is important because of the diversity of the habitats within the site, ranging from aquatic to terrestrial. A number of rare and threatened plant species have been recorded from the site. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mixed Deciduous Woodland • Wet Marsh • Green figwort (<i>Scrophularia umbrosa</i>); Red Data Book • Hairy St. John's Wort (<i>Hypericum hirsutum</i>); FPO; Red Data Book • Yellow Archangel (<i>Lamiastrum galeobdolon</i>); FPO; Red Data Book • Part of the Liffey Valley Special Amenity Areas Order 1990
Grand Canal (002104)	c.8.2km	The ecological value of the canal lies more in the diversity of species it supports along its linear habitats than in the presence of rare species. It crosses through agricultural land and therefore provides a refuge for species threatened by modern farming methods. A number of different habitats are found within the canal boundaries - hedgerow, tall herbs, calcareous grassland, reed fringe, open water, scrub and woodland. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>); Wildlife Act; Habitats Directive • Smooth Newt (<i>Lissotriton vulgaris</i>); Wildlife Act

Appendix E National Designated Sites		
Site Name & Code	Distance from Site	Qualifying Interests
		Opposite-leaved Pondweed (<i>Groenlandia densa</i>) Red Data Book; FPO
Feltrim Hill (001208)	c.3.7km	The primary feature of interest is the presence of Knoll-reefs in Feltrim Hill. Knoll-reefs are known from central Ireland and Northern England but are comparatively rare in Britain. Feltrim Hill is regarded as a good example of the phenomenon and a number of fish species have been described from the lower shales.
Santry Demesne (000178)	c.6km	The primary importance of this site is that it contains a legally protected plant species. The woodland, however, is of general ecological interest as it occurs in an area where little has survived of the original vegetation. Hairy St. John's Wort (<i>Hypericum hirsutum</i>); FPO; Red Data Book Demesne Woodland
Ireland's Eye (000203)	c.4km	This uninhabited marine island has a well developed maritime flora, with two habitats (sea cliffs and shingle) listed on Annex II of the EU Habitats Directive, and nationally important seabird colonies.
North Dublin Bay (000206)	c.1.2km	North Dublin Bay pNHA is also designated as 'North Dublin Bay cSAC' and 'North Bull Island SPA'. Please refer to these designated areas for further descriptions of qualifying interests of the area.
Dolphins, Dublin Docks (000201)	c.6.9km	Dolphins, Dublin Docks pNHA is also designated as 'Sandymount Strand/Tolka Estuary SPA'. Please refer to these designated areas for further descriptions of qualifying interests of the area.
South Dublin Bay (000210)	c.6.6km	South Dublin Bay pNHA is also designated as 'South Dublin Bay cSAC' and 'Sandymount Strand/Tolka Estuary SPA'. Please refer to these designated areas for further descriptions of qualifying interests of the area.
Boosterstown Marsh (001205)	c.10.1km	Boosterstown Marsh is the only saltmarsh in south Dublin and, despite some concerns about the increasing salinity of the site, it remains a valuable habitat for many birds as well as containing a diverse flora including the protected plant Borrer's Saltmarsh-grass (<i>Puccinellia fasciculata</i>). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Borrer's Saltmarsh-grass (<i>Puccinellia fasciculata</i>); FPO Variety and abundance of bird species including Kingfisher, Little Egret and Yellow Wagtail
Howth Head (000202)	c.3km	Howth Head displays a fine range of natural habitats, including two Annex I habitats, within surprisingly close proximity to Dublin city. The site is also of scientific importance for its seabird colonies, invertebrates and lichens. It also supports populations of at least two legally protected plant species and several other scarce plants.
Sluice River Marsh (001763)	c.1.3km	This site is of importance as a relatively intact freshwater marsh, a habitat that is now rare in County Dublin. Some waterfowl from Baldoyle Estuary may use the marsh on occasions. Freshwater Marsh
Malahide Estuary (000205)	c.2.8km	Malahide Estuary pNHA is also designated as 'Malahide Estuary cSAC' and 'Malahide Estuary SPA'. Please refer to these designated areas for further descriptions of qualifying interests of the area.
Baldoyle Bay (000199)	0Km	Baldoyle Bay pNHA is also designated as 'Baldoyle cSAC' and 'Baldoyle SPA'. Please refer to these designated areas for further descriptions of qualifying interests of the area.
Lambay Island (000204)	c.11.2km	Lambay Island pNHA is also designated as 'Lambay Island cSAC' and 'Lambay Island SPA'. Please refer to these designated areas for further descriptions of qualifying interests of the area.
Portraine Shore (001215)	c.8km	The site is mostly a stretch of rocky shore, with some intertidal sands at the south end. A narrow strip of coastal vegetation above the rocky shore

Appendix E National Designated Sites		
Site Name & Code	Distance from Site	Qualifying Interests
		is included. Turnstones, Oystercatchers and Curlew feed along the shore. This site is a good example of a rocky bedrock shore with a typical flora and fauna. The grassy vegetation above the shore adds habitat diversity. The site is also an important geological site.
Dalkey Coastal Zone and Killiney Hill (1206)	c.11.7km	<p>This site represents a fine example of a coastal system with habitats ranging from the sub-littoral to coastal heath. The flora is well developed and includes some scarce species.</p> <p>The islands are important bird sites. Up to five pairs of Fulmar breed on the cliffs below the railway line. Kestrel breeds in the area, as well as Stonechat. The site also has geological importance.</p> <p>Dalkey Coastal Zone and Killiney Hill pNHA is also designated as 'Dalkey Island cSAC'. Please refer to these designated areas for further descriptions of qualifying interests of the area.</p>
Ramsar Sites		
Baldoyle Bay (413)	0km	A tidal embayment separated from the sea by a major sand dune system. Vast mudflats are exposed at low tide and there are extensive beds of <i>Spartina</i> . The site is internationally important for the wintering goose <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> , and nationally important numbers of various species of waterbirds use the site. Human activities include bait digging, shooting, and low levels of recreational boating and fishing.
Rogerstown Estuary (412)	c.9.5km	Numerous species of large numbers of wintering waterbirds use the tidal flats and the site is internationally important for 'Branta bernicla hrota'. Human activity in the area includes bait digging and shellfish collection.
Broadmeadow Estuary (833)	c.2.7km	The estuary is an important wintering site for numerous species of waterbirds. The Brent goose population is of international importance. The high numbers of diving birds reflects the lagoon-type nature of the inner estuary. Human activity in the area includes watersports where there is a marina present along with some housing in the surrounding locality.
North Bull Island (406)	c.1.8km	The area is important for nesting <i>Sterna albifrons</i> (80 pairs, or about 30% of the Irish population) and for numerous species of wintering waterbirds. Human activities include bait digging.
Sandymount Strand / Tolka Estuary (832)	c.8km	The site is important for various species of waterbirds, supporting internationally important numbers of Brent Geese and large numbers of roosting gulls and terns. Human activities include bait digging.
Shellfish Areas (Shellfish Waters Directive)		
Malahide (Map 32.)	c.4km	<p>Malahide is situated in County Dublin in the Eastern River Basin District (Map 1). The designated shellfish area is 36.3 km² in area and extends from Lambay Island to Portmarnock. Balbriggan/Skerries shellfish area is situated in adjacent tidal waters.</p> <p>The contributing catchment is 376.66 km² in area (Map 3) and drains number of rivers including the Broadmeadow and the Ward.</p>

Appendix F

Appendix G

Appendix A

12th April 2012

How to use this Policy Guidance Note

This Note has been prepared at the commencement of the preparation of the new Baldoyle-Stapolin and Portmarnock Local Area Plans 2012-2018, to help those preparing the new Plan in avoiding adverse impacts on Natura 2000 sites. It is an advisory note only and not exhaustive in its scope. It can be revised as the Plan is progressed further and more data is analysed.

Section 1 describes the Natura 2000 sites that have the potential to be adversely affected by the LAP's. It lists the types of impacts that could affect each site. These are the impacts that should be avoided.

Section 2 lists the advice for planners on how to avoid impacts on these sites. It is divided into the sections that make up the draft LAP's for ease of reference. Note that this Guidance note only relates to protection of Natura 2000 sites and not ecological features outside of them.

Section 3 provides policy guidance on how to maintain or safeguard specific conditions underpinning site integrity for each Qualifying Feature type found in Baldoyle-Stapolin and Portmarnock and its environs.

Section 1: Potential Impacts and current threats

As part of the Screening stage in the Appropriate Assessment process, the previous LAP's, consultation with Fingal County Council and existing background documentation on the LAP areas were interpreted as being the background for the Draft LAP's. Potential sources of impacts were identified and linkages between these impacts and the integrity of the Natura 2000 sites within Baldoyle-Stapolin and Portmarnock and its environs were subsequently highlighted. An informal meeting was held with NPWS staff and Fingal County Council on 20th February 2012 where the key issues surrounding each of the Natura 2000 sites were discussed, particularly in the context of current pressures on the Natura 2000 sites. The results of the Screening and this consultation exercise are presented below.

Baldoyle-Stapolin & Portmarnock Local Area Plans 2012-2018
Policy Guidance Note for the Protection of Natura 2000 Sites

Table 1 Natura 2000 sites and potential impacts from LAP's			
Site Name & Code	Qualifying Interests ¹	Possible Impacts arising from the Plan²	Specific Issues raised by NPWS (informal consultation)
Baldoyle cSAC (004016)	<p><u>Annex I habitats for which the sites is designated:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide • <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonizing mud and sand • <i>Spartina</i> swards <i>Spartinion maritimae</i> • Atlantic salt meadows <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i> • Mediterranean salt meadows <i>Juncetalia maritimi</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coastal developments can threaten local water quality especially during construction. The site receives pollution from a number of sources, chiefly the inflowing rivers but also an unsatisfactory sewage network (Natura 2000 data form). • Any changes in local water catchments leading to changes in water quality could affect condition of the habitats. • Loss and/or alteration of habitat due to development pressures along the Mayne River. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss Alteration of Coastal habitat including open grassland/salt marsh habitats along the River Mayne. These are known feeding grounds for Brent Geese. Increased population and activity within the area may further reduce attractiveness of area through increased disturbance levels. • Recommend appropriate management of saltmarsh within the cSAC potentially through horse grazing at appropriate stocking levels. • Appropriate Management Plan for local park including management of use of site by local population. • Works required on Mayne River including one way flood valve to enable brackish water to enter upstream to ensure long-term maintenance of salt marsh habitat which is currently degrading.
Baldoyle SPA (004016)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Light-bellied Brent Goose <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> • Shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> • Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> • Grey Plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> • Bar-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa lapponica</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coastal developments can threaten local water quality especially during construction. The site receives pollution from a number of sources, chiefly the inflowing rivers but also an unsatisfactory sewage network (Natura 2000 data form). • Increased disturbance to wintering wildfowl from increased population, recreational; activities and domestic animals. This disturbance is a mix of parameters including noise and visual disturbance (e.g. walkers, cyclists etc.). • Reduction in water quality may negatively impact habitat quality on which wintering wildfowl feed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss Alteration of Coastal habitat including open grassland/salt marsh habitats along the River Mayne. These are known feeding grounds for Brent Geese. Increased population and activity within the area may further reduce attractiveness of area through increased disturbance levels. • Increased population may result in unlicensed shooting of wildfowl in Murragh area. • Increased access to the area with little amenity. • Increased disturbance to wildfowl in the Sluice River Area

¹ Sourced from Natura 2000 Site Conservation Objectives (www.npws.ie)

² Sourced from Natura 2000 Data Form for Natura 2000 site (www.npws.ie); Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland (NPWS, 2007).

Baldoyle-Stapolin & Portmarnock Local Area Plans 2012-2018
Policy Guidance Note for the Protection of Natura 2000 Sites

Table 1 Natura 2000 sites and potential impacts from LAP's			
Site Name & Code	Qualifying Interests ¹	Possible Impacts arising from the Plan²	Specific Issues raised by NPWS (informal consultation)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss and/or alteration of coastal habitat (including open grassland areas) may negatively reduce attractiveness of such habitats to wintering wildfowl resulting in them flying further inland for suitable feeding grounds. • Dumping of unregulated waste in coastal habitats 	

Section 2: Recommendations for each Section in the Development Plan

This section provides some preliminary recommendations to be included as text, policies or objectives in the emerging LAP's.

2.1 Policy Context

- 2.1.1 Include reference to the role of the Council as competent authority for carrying out appropriate assessments under the EC Habitats and Birds Directives. This role applies to the preparation of these Local Area Plans but also to all other plans and projects that may have likely significant effects on the integrity of Natura 2000 sites.
- 2.1.2 State the LAP's will be consistent with the recommendation contained as mitigation measures in the Habitats Directive Assessment of the Regional Planning Guidelines, Fingal Development Plan 2011-2017, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Fingal Biodiversity Action Plan and the Eastern River Basin District Management Plan.
- 2.1.3 Highlight the legal requirement that all plans and projects that are proposed as a result of the LAP's should be screened according to Article 6 of the Habitats and an appropriate assessment carried out where necessary. Highlight that policies and objectives in this LAP's may help in determining if a full (Stage 2) Appropriate Assessment is required. There is no need to re-state this requirement throughout the rest of the LAP's as this is now enshrined in law.

2.2 Built Environment

- 2.2.1 Built Environment patterns should be proposed that take account of the indirect effects of local population increases on Natura 2000 sites. This is particularly important with regard to physical disturbance of riparian (riverbanks) habitat and sensitive coastal habitats such as salt marshes. Breeding birds and wildfowl (e.g. overwintering geese) are vulnerable to pedestrian and motorised craft disturbance. Policies that have any locational component should take account of known overwintering sites and should recommend that in any of these areas that wintering bird surveys should be carried out and any relevant proposed developments should be correctly designed to avoid these areas. If areas cannot be avoided, as the spatial extent of the constraints may be too large, then mitigation measures should be proposed such as the provision of feeding habitat elsewhere, location and screening of footpaths and roadways, and design of amenities etc.
- 2.2.2 Ensure that settlement patterns include the concurrent provision of appropriate services such as recreation, water supply and treatment facilities. The location of such facilities, the resources they use and their ecological impacts can have adverse effects on the integrity of Natura 2000 sites if inadequately designed or located. The location of any lands zoned for development within 100m of the Baldoyle Bay cSAC and SPA, or lands within its floodplain should be scrutinised for their potential for interaction with the Baldoyle Bay ecosystem. Any planning application within these high-risk areas is likely to require a full appropriate assessment (Stage 2 AA). This assessment would have to prove that the development can be constructed and operated:
 - Without resulting in runoff of contaminated surface water to the Baldoyle Bay or any of its tributaries;

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- Without loss of any salt marsh habitat
- Without causing loss of wintering bird feeding and resting habitat
- Without negatively impacting on habitats within Baldoyle Bay

In some cases this may require avoidance of areas for zoning.

- 2.2.3 Ensure that any new planning applications that may result in an increase in sewage takes place must only take place if the accepting Wastewater Treatment Plants has the capacity to accommodate extra loadings. Development that would add extra loading to a WWTP that is at or over-capacity and drains into a catchment containing a Natura 2000 site that is dependent on good water quality cannot be promoted. Policies which may wish to do so must be strongly caveated that the WWTP must be upgraded to allow treated effluent meet the water quality standard required by the catchment and the Natura 2000 site, before any additional development takes place. Several local authorities now refuse planning applications on the basis that there is no capacity for sewage treatment. Policies that rely upon good intentions to commit to upgrading plants within the lifetime of the Plan cannot used as mitigation measures, as experience has shown that economic changes can override these intentions. These types of caveats in Plans are no longer acceptable unless there is funding and contractual arrangements in place.
- 2.2.4 Precautions must also be made for water abstraction if it occurs within the catchment of any of the Natura 2000 sites that rely on water quality and volume. It cannot be assumed that water abstraction is sustainable without the relevant appropriate assessment being carried out.
- 2.2.5 Similarly precautions must also be made for flood and surface water run-off to ensure they are adequately treated to remove pollution in the form of silt, hydrocarbons and any other pollutants that may decrease water quality in the receiving body, in this case it is likely to be Baldoyle Bay.

2.3 Landscape and Heritage

- 2.3.1 Policies should be included to promote, provide information on and educate the local population on the need to protect Natura 2000 sites. These should also support the need for a network of green infrastructure, including surrounding pNHAs that may help to support the qualifying interest species.
- 2.3.2 Cognisance should be given to the fact that many protected species are located outside Natura 2000 sites.
- 2.3.3 Policies should also note that the location of the LAP lands are within a sensitive landscape of the Estuary and tributaries used by many species outside of the Natura 2000 sites. Design should be complementary with elements of the landscape used by protected species respected and maintained where possible e.g. open grasslands for wintering geese.
- 2.3.4 Policies promoting sensitive landscaping in all developments should be promoted. In order to reduce the risk of spread of non-native flora into Natura 2000 sites and also other areas of nature conservation value, all landscaping proposals should have an emphasis on use of native species. The LAP's should include a list of invasive species that should not be proposed as part of landscaping schemes (refer to the *European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011*).

2.4 Population/Demographics

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- 2.4.1 All development should take place with cognisance to population/demographics. As a general rule, specific individual policy proposals are dependent on current and future demographics for all types of development in urban centres will have to have regard to the sensitivities of the Natura 2000 sites. Population and access to sensitive areas must be appropriately managed. In addition regard should be paid to how developments will be sustained by water supply, wastewater treatment facilities and accommodate surface water run-off.
- 2.4.2 Generally the assessment of impacts housing will take place in response to individual policy proposals. As a general rule, location-specific proposals for housing will have to have regard to the sensitivities of the Natura 2000 sites as indicated in the Screening report. Specific regard should be paid to how the development will be sustained by water supply and wastewater treatment facilities.
- 2.4.3 Promote careful consideration of the interface between housing areas and surroundings undeveloped areas with respect to the potential for littering, light spill, trampling of sensitive habitats and disturbance of sensitive species.
- 2.4.4 Recognise that the Fingal coastline is subject to natural geomorphological change and that long shore drift and areas of selective erosion and deposition are natural processes and should not be interfered with unless there are overriding reasons (which may be subject to appropriate assessment). Coastal development should take account of climate change and the interaction between the Natura 2000 qualifying interest habitats and species that may respond to rising seas levels and climatic changes.

2.5 Social and Cultural Wellbeing

- 2.5.1 Policies promoting leisure and recreation should promote use of local open space and avoid forcing populations to the coastal sensitive areas.
- 2.5.2 For coastal population centres, policies should promote development of off-leash parks and bye-laws controlling dog walking in certain areas of the beaches and strands. Whilst usually unpopular and hard to enforce, it can raise the awareness of the sensitivity of the coastal habitats to disturbance.
- 2.5.3 Ensure that any policy for creation of recreational areas/centres or amenities considers the qualifying interests of the Natura 2000 sites. In addition all proposals must be subject to an Appropriate Assessment process to ensure no adverse impacts on the Natura 2000 sites.
- 2.5.4 For policies that promote watersports and use of jet skis, consideration must be made to allocating preferential areas of water for recreation and buoying these in certain seasons to prevent disturbance to birds.

2.6 Infrastructure

- 2.6.1 Infrastructure proposals that have a spatial reference plan should take into the account the sensitivities of the Natura 2000 sites.
- 2.6.2 A policy of preferring to avoid locating any potentially damaging infrastructure within/through or on the periphery of a Natura 2000 sites is recommended. This may not always be possible (e.g. the R106 dissects the Baldoyle cSAC) and where this is the case then appropriate mitigation may be required.
- 2.6.3 Specific policy advice is given to the following infrastructure types:
 - a) Water Supply
 - Promote the preferential avoidance of abstraction from Natura 2000 sites unless it can be proven that there are no risks to the integrity of the site (by carrying out an appropriate assessment) highlight the potential of long-range effects of abstraction from both surface and groundwater including sites outside of the LAP's areas.

- b) Wastewater treatment
 - Include a policy that states that wastewater treatment plants discharging into the coastal Natura 2000 sites are, where required suitably maintained and upgraded in advance of any additional loadings beyond their capacity in order to protect water quality.
- c) Flooding
 - Avoid a policy of diverting or closed-culverting watercourses or drainage ditches as flood relief measures in and around Natura 2000 sites and promote use of open ditches.
 - Promote positive flood relief measures that can enhance habitats in the Boyne floodplain such as swales, constructed wetland basins etc.
- d) Waste management
 - Promote local waste disposal facilities close to housing areas including recycling banks to minimise the tendency to fly-tip.
- e) Energy
 - Ensure that any proposal for fracking or similar subsurface exploration is accompanied by an appropriate assessment that addresses the potential impacts on ground and potentially surface water quality.
 - Ensure that any proposal for geothermal or similar subsurface exploration is accompanied by an appropriate assessment that addresses the potential impacts on groundwater quality.
 - Ensure that any proposal for tidal or wave-energy projects is accompanied by an appropriate assessment that addresses the potential impacts on wintering birds, coastal habitats and their supporting ecosystems.
 - Ensure that any proposal for windfarm harvesting is accompanied by an appropriate assessment that addresses the potential impacts on passage of wintering and breeding avian fauna.
 - Promote a policy of preferential avoidance of siting wind energy projects in Natura 2000 sites, or sites that are on the flight lines of wintering birds unless it can be proven that there are no risks to the integrity of the sites (by carrying out an appropriate assessment supported by appropriate studies).
 - Promote a policy of preferential avoidance of overhead lines in Natura 2000 sites or surrounding qualifying interests feeding grounds, or sites that are on the flight lines of wintering birds unless it can be proven that there are no risks to the integrity of the sites (by carrying out an appropriate assessment supported by appropriate studies).

2.7 Transport and Movement

- All transport and movement proposals (including roads, rail, cycle tracks, pathways, bus routes) that have a spatial reference plan should take into the account the sensitivities of the Natura 2000 sites.
- A policy of preferring to avoid locating any potentially damaging infrastructure within/through or on the periphery of a Natura 2000 sites is recommended. This may not always be possible (e.g. the R106 dissects the Baldoyle cSAC) and where this is the case then appropriate mitigation may be required.

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- 2.7.1 Public Transport (Bus & Rail), Walking & Cycling.
- Will need to ensure consistency with NTA 2030 Vision AA.
 - Ensure that new cycle routes, pedestrian access and/or footpaths along the coastline and/or watercourses address the potential to cause habitat loss and visual disturbance of qualifying interest habitats and species and therefore are likely to require a Stage 2 AA.
 - Promote policies that allow pedestrian access to certain areas of Natura 2000 sites for sustainable appreciation of their value.
- 2.7.2 Roads Infrastructure
- Promote the preferential avoidance of increased access/proximity to Natura 2000 sites in new road schemes to avoid direct and indirect impacts on the qualifying interests of the Natura 2000 sites.
 - Highlight the need to address construction impacts when within at least 2km of a Natura 2000 site and even further with respect to hydrological links.
 - Promote the need to increase connectivity of green infrastructure/ecological corridors that connect Natura 2000 sites.
 - Highlight the importance of considering the localised increase in Nitrogen oxides and subsequent acidification/eutrophication effects on wetland sites downwind or in close proximity. Adopt the National Roads Authority guideline of looking at potential effects on Natura 2000 sites when located within 1km of the new road.

Section 3 Policies that will help to maintain Specific Conditions underpinning Site Integrity for each Qualifying Feature type.

The table below lists the qualifying interests found in the Natura 2000 sites adjacent to P Baldoyle-Stapolin and Portmarnock and its environs. The second column suggests the policies that will help protect these features.

Table 2 Natura 2000 Qualifying Features	
Qualifying Features	Policies to maintain site condition
Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote protection of watercourses from contamination, nutrient run-off and care when promoting activities that could increase nutrients into the ground and surface water. • Protect rivers and riparian corridors from habitat loss and pollution. Ensure that proposed development within 50m of any watercourse takes into account the potential for impacts on these habitats. • Ensure protection and reduce access to these habitats, in particular salt marsh habitat, through appropriate management of local population. • Integrated Coastal zone management approach required to protect coastal habitats from a wide range of anthropogenic pressures. • Protect against localised pollution incidents.
<i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonizing mud and sand	
<i>Spartina</i> swards <i>Spartinion maritimae</i>	
Atlantic salt meadows <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>	
Mediterranean salt meadows <i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect coastal roosting sites close to feeding sites. • Integrated Coastal zone management to protect against changes to flooding regime of coastal grasslands. • Protect against localised pollution incidents. • Protect against on-going and/or repeated disturbance due to pedestrians and dogs.
Light-bellied Brent Goose <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>	
Shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	
Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	

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Table 2 Natura 2000 Qualifying Features	
Qualifying Features	Policies to maintain site condition
Grey Plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	
Bar-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa lapponica</i>	

Appendix B

Wintering Bird Survey of the lands surrounding the Baldoyle Estuary

December to February 2011 - 2012



Prepared for
Fingal County Council
June 2012

Wintering bird survey of the lands surrounding the Baldoyle Estuary

December to February 2011 - 2012



FINGAL BRANCH

Prepared by:

Sean Pierce and David Dillon

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1. Introduction

The Baldoyle Estuary is designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) for birds under the EU Birds Directive and is internationally important for Light-bellied Brent Geese and nationally important for a further 5 species (Crowe 2005). It is also listed as a Ramsar Site (Crowe 2005) and a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) for its habitats under the EU Habitats Directive.

The estuary has been the focus of systematic waterbird monitoring since the early 1980s (Hutchinson 1989, Sheppard 1993) and monthly counts from September to March have been conducted since 1994 under the Irish Wetland Bird Survey (I-WeBS).

There have been some previous studies undertaken to assess the importance for birds on specific lands surrounding the Baldoyle Estuary. Lovatt et al (1985, 1986) studied the Birds of Portmarnock Dune system and Baldoyle Estuary and more recently Dillon (2008) studied the birds of Sluice Marsh. Benson (2009) referenced some areas within the present study that were important for Brent Geese.

However, to date no systematic survey has been carried out on the lands surrounding the entire estuary and there is little published information on the use of these lands by protected bird species.

In response to Fingal County Council's need for baseline data to inform the preparation of the Portmarnock and Baldoyle Local Area Plans, the County Development Plan and future development decisions, this study was commissioned in December 2011 with the following aims:

- To collect baseline data on all wintering birds species which utilise the lands surrounding the Baldoyle Estuary,
- To highlight the presence of any species of conservation concern, especially:
 - Annex I species listed under the EU Birds Directive,
 - Species featured under the qualifying interest of the Baldoyle Estuary SPA – Natura 2000 site,
 - and Species listed under Birds of Conservation Concern Ireland, particularly those which are of regional importance and the focus of specific conservation actions in Fingal

2.1 European Union Directives

The National Parks & Wildlife Service (NPWS) has prepared Site Synopses in relation to the Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Area (SPA) designations covering the Baldoyle Bay. These synopses contain outline descriptions of the designated areas, and in the case of the SAC synopsis, emphasise the habitats which are included in Annexes of the EU Habitats Directive.

The extent of the Baldoyle Bay SPA and SAC designations is shown in Figure 1 and the directives are explained in more detail below.

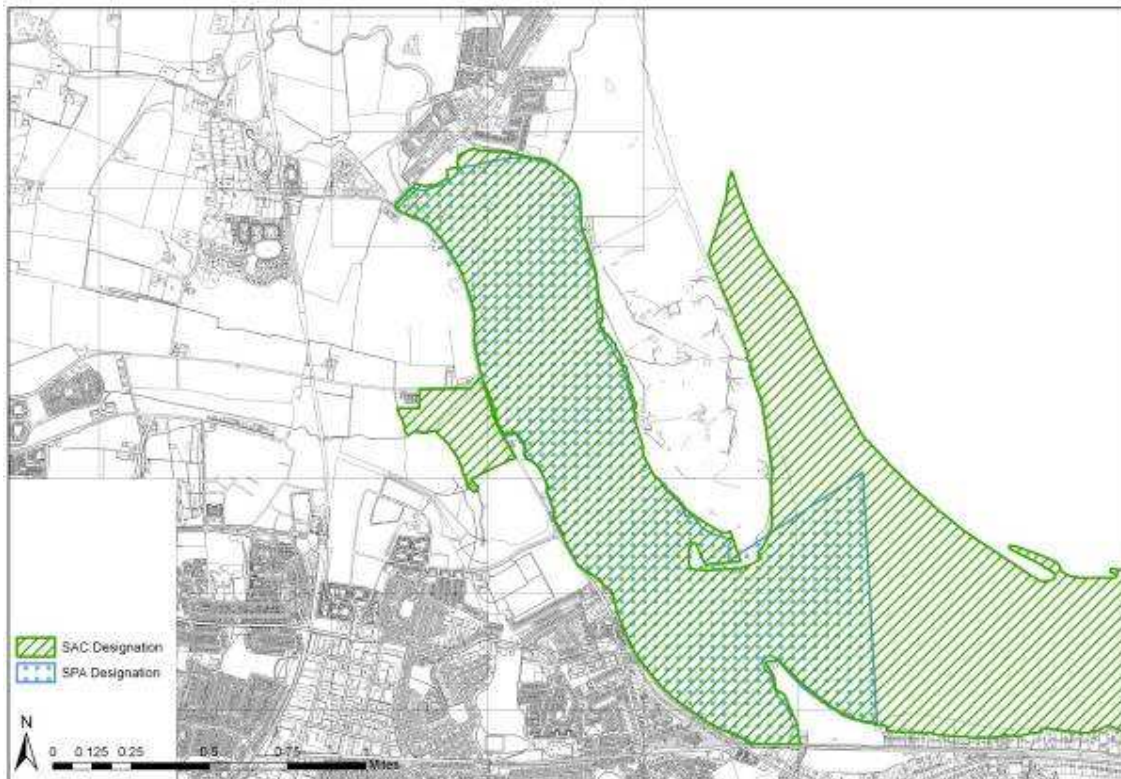


Figure 1: Special and Protection Area and Special Area of Conservation designations at the Baldoyle Estuary

Birds Directive - Special Protection Areas (SPAs)

In 1979 the European Union adopted a directive on the conservation of wild birds (Directive 79/409/EEC), which is commonly referred to as the "Birds Directive". The primary purpose of this directive is to give protection to Europe's birds and their habitats, especially to vulnerable species which are listed in Annex I of the directive. Species listed in Annex I are subject to special conservation measures concerning their habitat in order to ensure their survival and reproduction in their area of distribution. In relation to bird habitats, there is emphasis on wetlands, which are vital for many migratory water birds, some of which are listed in Annex I. Thirty three species of bird listed under Annex I of the EU Birds Directive 79/409 are deemed relevant to Ireland.

The primary means for bird habitat protection has been the establishment of a comprehensive network of Special Protection Areas (SPAs), under Article 4 of the directive. The SPAs are usually chosen on the basis that the sites are internationally important for birds, particularly Annex I species. The Irish authorities are obliged to prevent significant pollution or deterioration of the habitat, and significant disturbance to the birds for which the SPAs have been designated.

Habitats Directive Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)

Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) are prime habitat conservation areas in the country, considered to be important on a European as well as Irish level. The legal basis on which SACs are selected and designated is the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC), transposed into Irish law in the European Union (Natural Habitats) Regulations, 1997. The Habitats Directive lists (Annex I) certain habitats that must be protected within SACs. Baldoyle Bay contains four habitats listed on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive and has two legally protected plant species.

Together SPAs and SACs form "**Natura 2000**", a network of protected areas throughout the European Community. Planning authorities are obliged by law to ensure that these sites are protected and conserved. Any activities, which are likely to damage or destroy SACs and SPAs, whether within the site or beyond it, must be controlled, and are only allowed in certain very limited circumstances.

The Natura 2000 Data Form for Baldoyle states that

"Baldoyle Bay is an important bird site for wintering waterfowl and the inner part of the estuary is a Special Protection Area under the EU Birds Directive as well as being a Statutory Nature Reserve. Internationally important numbers of Pale-bellied Brent Geese (418) and nationally important numbers of two Annex I Birds Directive species- Golden Plover (1,900) and Bar-tailed Godwit (283) - have been recorded. Four other species also reached nationally important numbers: Shelduck (147), Pintail (26), Grey Plover (148) and Ringed Plover (218) - all figures are average peaks for four winters 1994/95 to 1997/1998. Breeding wetland birds at the site include Shelduck, Mallard and Ringed Plover. Small numbers of Little Tern, a species listed on Annex I of the EU Birds Directive, have bred on a few occasions at Portmarnock Point but not since 1991. Part of the tidal section of the Mayne River and adjoining brackish marshes are included in the site." (NPWS 2002) See Table 1.

Table 1: Birds listed in the Baldoye Estuary Natura 2000 Data Form

Common Name Number	Scientific Name	Number	Common Name	Scientific Name	Number
Birds listed Annex 1 of Council Directive 79/409/EEC					
Golden Plover*	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	1900	Little Tern	<i>Sterna albifrons</i>	0-5pairs
Bar-Tailed Godwit*	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>	283			
Migratory Birds regularly occurring not listed Annex 1 of Council Directive 79/409/EEC					
Brent Goose**	<i>Branta bernicla</i>	418	Knot	<i>Canutus canutus</i>	96
Shelduck*	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	147	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	28
Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	122	Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	11
Pintail*	<i>Anas acuta</i>	26	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	72
Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>	13	Redshank	<i>Tringa tetanus</i>	197
Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	479	Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	11
Ringed Plover*	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	218	Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	50
Grey Plover*	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	148	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	512
Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	631			

Notes: Species occurring in numbers of **** International importance; * National importance.**

Bird numbers presented in the Table 1 are based on the mean peak counts (I-WeBS) over the five-season periods 1995/96 - 1999/2000. Crowe (2005) shows that, based on data from period 1996/97 - 2000/01, all species of international and national importance retained their status and Black-tailed Godwit occurred in numbers of international importance at the site.

Threshold values for species of international importance are set by Wetlands International and are based on 1% of the international population estimate. Values for species of national importance are based on 1% of the national population estimate (Crowe *et al.* 2008)

2.2 Bird Species of Conservation Concern

In addition to species listed in the EU Birds Directive, species of conservation concern in the Irish and European context are also classified under Birds of Conservation Concern Ireland (BoCCI) and Species of European Conservation Concern (SPEC). Both of these assessment processes are used to identify priority species in order that conservation action can be taken to improve species status.

Birds of Conservation Concern Ireland (BoCCI) 2008 – 2013 (Lynas, P. *et al*/2008)

BirdWatch Ireland and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) have listed priority bird species suffering decline in the Irish/European and global context. The Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland (BoCCI) list classifies birds as Red (high conservation concern) or Amber (medium conservation concern) based on their conservation status and hence conservation priority. All other regularly occurring species are classified as Green List and are not considered threatened. Listed species must meet one or more of the following criteria:

Red List: Their breeding population or range has declined dramatically in recent years, or their breeding population has undergone a significant decline since 1800, or they are of global conservation concern.

Amber List: Their population or range has declined moderately in recent years, or they are rare or sporadically breeding species, or their breeding or wintering population is internationally important and/or localised, or they have an unfavourable conservation status in Europe.

Green List: Do not meet Red or Amber-listing criteria.

European Conservation Status (SPEC)

Species of European Conservation Concern are assessed by BirdLife International and recognised by the SPEC process:

SPEC 1: Species are those which are of global conservation concern. SPEC 1 species are automatically BoCCI Red-listed and both SPEC 2 and 3 species are Amber-listed except for those that do not breed in Ireland.

SPEC 2: Those species which have an unfavourable conservation status in Europe (if the population is threatened, declining, depleted from historical levels or is found only in a few locations) and is concentrated in Europe (i.e. more than 50% of the global population occurs in Europe).

SPEC 3: Species are which have an unfavourable conservation status in Europe (as above), but which are not concentrated in Europe.

Species which do not fulfil these criteria are regarded as **non-SPEC** species and of least conservation concern

3. Location and Study area

Baldoyle Estuary is located 11 kms north east of Dublin City centre. The town of Baldoyle is located on the south west corner of the estuary while Portmarnock lies adjacent to its northern edge.

The study area comprises the lands that surround the estuary. (See Fig 2).

The main Portmarnock Sand spit which runs south from Portmarnock forms the eastern boundary of the study area. The lands around Sluice Marsh and those adjacent to the Portmarnock Bridge form the northern boundary while the lands located between the Dublin to Belfast railway line and the R106 coastal road form the western boundary. The latter areas comprise of parts of the town lands of Maynestown, Grange and Stapolin and lie north of Baldoyle itself. The public amenity areas of Red Arches and Seagrang Park within Baldoyle were also included in the survey zone.

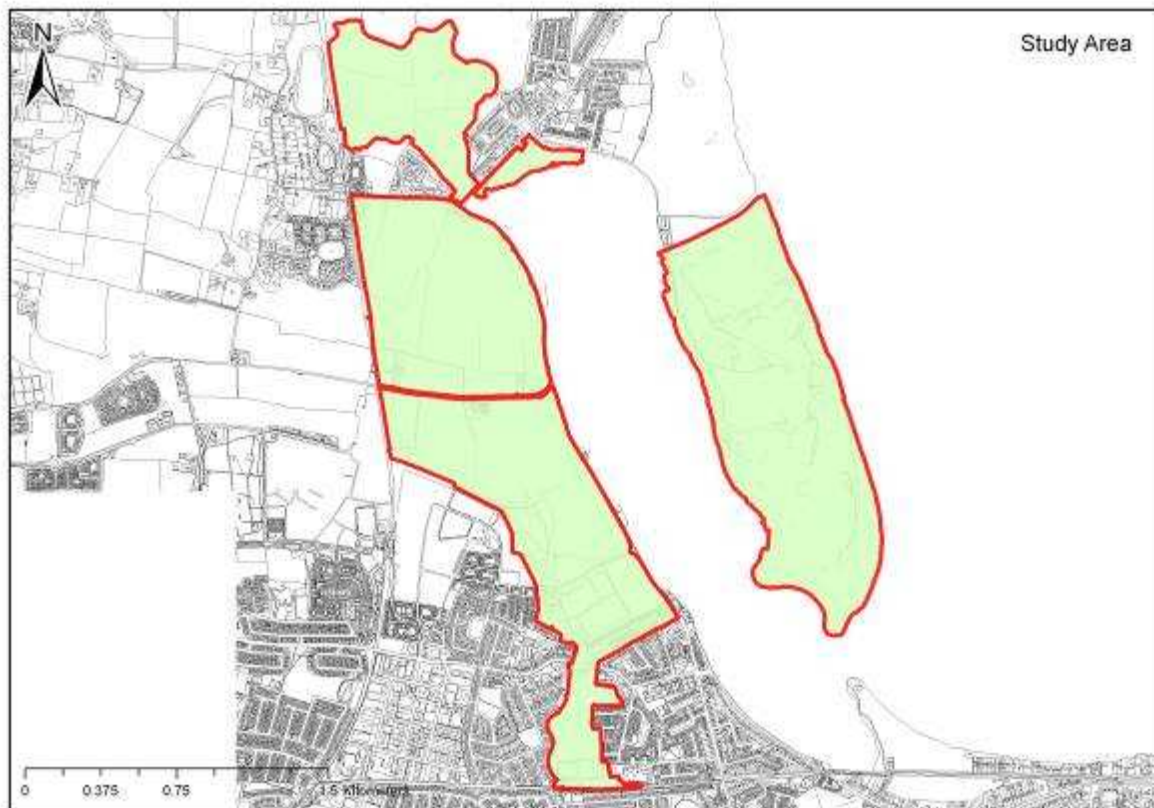


Figure 2 . Map of the Study Area around Baldoyle Estuary, Co Dublin

4. Landscape Overview

The landscape and land use within the study area is quite diverse ranging from highly managed public amenity parks and golf courses, to farmland and the long abandoned lands of the old Baldoyle Racecourse .

The lands that form the eastern boundary are owned by the Portmarnock Golf Club. They consist of a typical sand dune system adapted to provide a coastal links golf course. Within the golf course are areas of pine, gorse and sea buckthorn. Several ponds are found on the golf course and there is a semi natural area of dune vegetation, slacks, freshwater marsh and salt marsh along the southern and south western edges.

Sluice Marsh forms the northern edge of the study zone. The lands at the Sluice River Marsh are a complex mix of low-lying wet grasslands and saltmarsh on its eastern flank that become progressively wetter and dominated by marsh, rush, reedbed and alder carr on its western side where it adjoins the Dublin-Belfast railway line. The drier eastern side is grazed by horses.

Farmland dominates the north western half of the study zone. The lands are located within a roughly rectangular area running from the Portmarnock Railway Station southwards to the Mayne Road and bounded to the east by the R106. The land is entirely given over to fields of arable crops of wheat and barley divided by thin lines of hedgerow. An archaeological site called the Portmarnock Barrows is located just east of the Portmarnock Railway Station. A large set aside field forms the southern boundary of this section where it adjoins Mayne Road (R123). A small drainage stream runs along the northern hedge line of this set aside field and there is a wet pond located at its eastern end.

The southern half of the western study zone is dominated by the remains of the former Baldoyle Racecourse. Little is left of the racecourse but the lands that remain are elevated and well drained compared to the more low lying western sections. Large areas of open grassland remain although there are also extensive patches of gorse and bramble present. The south western areas in the town land of Stapolin have undergone some development with an access roadway and pedestrian pathways laid out in the format of a future public park to service the Clongriffin area. This development is to date unfinished and there are still rough grassland fields, trees and patches of scrub in this area.

The River Mayne flows through the northern half of the western study zone. Some trees and bushes are found along its banks but these peter out as the river reaches its tidal zone approaching its entry point to the estuary at Mayne Bridge. The field to the north of the river is rough grassland and is grazed by horses from the adjacent halting site on Mayne Road. There are several stubble fields located in the north west sector towards the Dublin-Belfast railway line.

A drainage channel runs north from the southern boundary at Stapolin to meet the Mayne River and is fringed by a stand of Phragmites reed. The low lying fields east and west of this drainage channel have freshwater ponds and boggy areas but these get progressively more saline as one moves north towards the Mayne River.

The public amenity lands at Red Arches and Seagrange Parks consist predominately of managed grassland although the eastern sides of the latter become wet and waterlogged during the winter months.

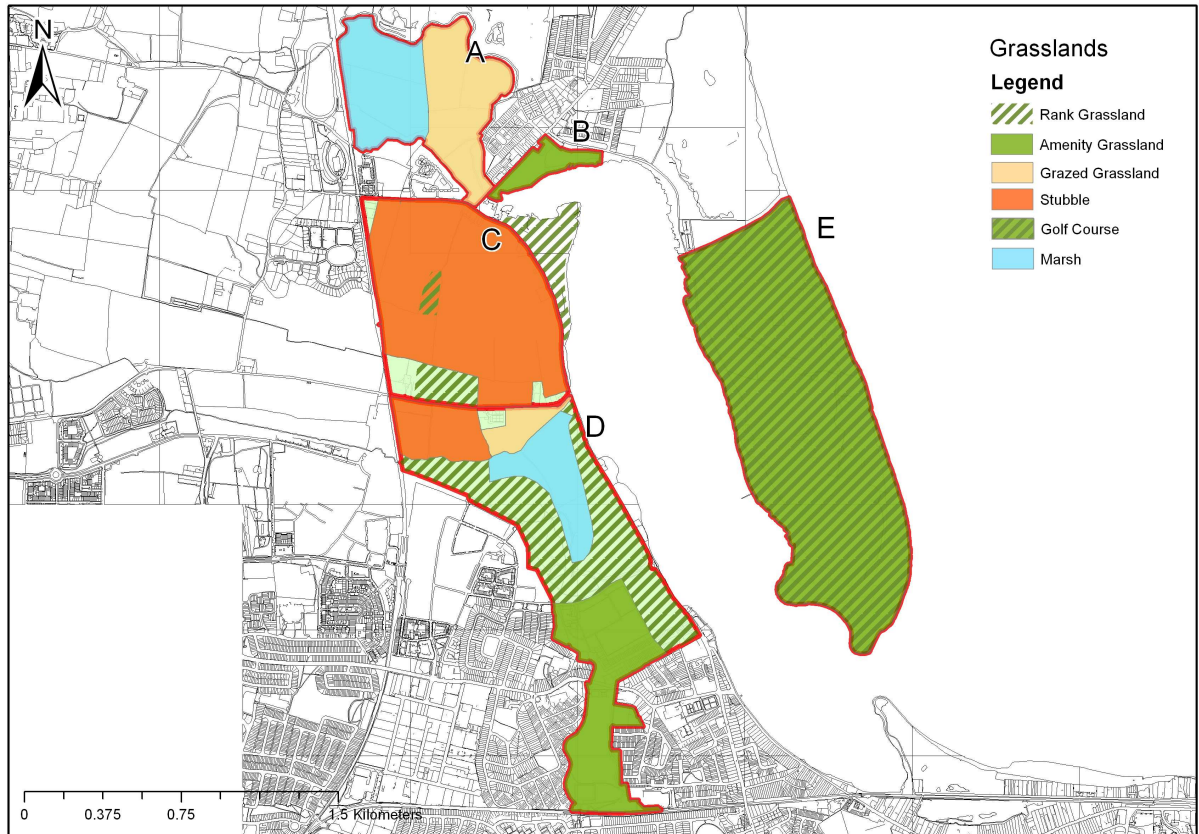


Figure 3: Habitat Map of lands surrounding the Baldoyle Estuary , Land Use, Dec. – Mar. 2012

5. Methodology

The area to be surveyed was defined by Fingal County Council and refined after the initial visits to include any other areas of potential interest. The lands were visited, mapped and for the purposes of this study divided into five accessible sections (labelled A-E, see Figure 4).

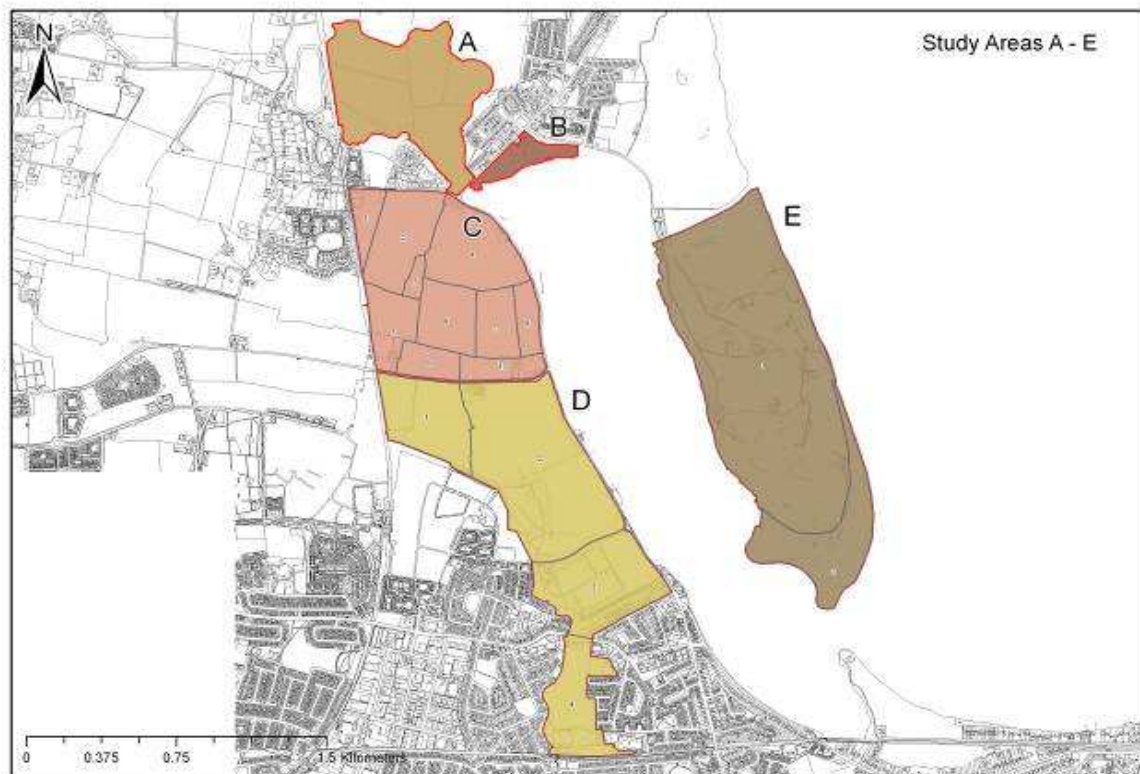


Figure 4: Colour coded map study sections for lands surrounding the Baldoyle Estuary

The fields in Sections C and D were given individual references to provide a higher detail of baseline information. In the case of the sections A, B and E this was not appropriate given the different nature of the land use or due to the small size of the area.

With the exception of area A, all survey areas were visited three times between December 2011 and February 2012. One additional visit was made to area C4 to observe the movements of geese and plover within the estuary complex and to identify sites which were used regularly. Area A was not surveyed during this winter. Instead the results of the wintering bird study carried out in 2007-2008 by David Dillon were incorporated in this report.

Every field/area was walked along its boundaries, open areas were observed and all birds present recorded. Long stops were undertaken where large numbers of birds were feeding to ensure accurate recording and counting. Within a section, where individual birds or large flocks (e.g. geese) moved between fields they were recorded once to avoid double counting. All fields/open areas which were suitable for geese were checked for fresh droppings. Observations were documented on land use and any particular habitats where bird species were present in high numbers. All observations took place when weather conditions were suitable for surveying. Where flocks of geese or waders were present, fields were not entered so as to minimise disturbance.

6. Results.

A total of 65 species were recorded in the survey areas from December 2011 to February 2012 (See Table 2). Please note that this also includes the IWEBS data of the Sluice River Marsh for 2007-2008.

Table 2: List of wintering species recorded at lands surrounding Baldoyle Estuary, Dec. – Feb. 2011-2012

No.	Species	Scientific name	No.	Species	Scientific name
1.	Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	34.	Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>
2.	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	35.	Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>
3.	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	36.	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>
4.	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	37.	Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>
5.	Light-bellied Brent Goose	<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>	38.	Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>
6.	Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	39.	Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>
7.	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	40.	Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>
8.	Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>	41.	Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>
9.	Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	42.	Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>
10.	Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	43.	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>
11.	Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	44.	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>
12.	Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>	45.	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>
13.	Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	46.	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>
14.	Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>	47.	Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>
15.	Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	48.	Blue Tit	<i>Parus caeruleus</i>
16.	Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	49.	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>
17.	Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	50.	Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>
18.	Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	51.	Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>
19.	Woodcock	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>	52.	Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>
20.	Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	53.	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus corone cornix</i>
21.	Jack Snipe	<i>Lymnocyptes minimus</i>	54.	Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>
22.	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	55.	Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>
23.	Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	56.	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
24.	Redshank	<i>Tringa tetanus</i>	57.	Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>
25.	Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	58.	Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>
26.	Black-headed Gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	59.	Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>
27.	Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	60.	Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>

28.	Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	61.	Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>
29.	Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>	62.	Redpoll	<i>Carduelis flammea</i>
30.	Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	63.	Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>
31.	Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	64.	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citronella</i>
32.	Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	65.	Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>



Picture courtesy of Shay Connelly

Photo 1: light bellied Brent Goose is one of the key species of the Baldoyle Estuary

6. Survey results by section

6.1 Sluice Marsh -Section A

The Sluice river marsh is located between the railway line and Portmarnock village. It is good example of a wetland habitat that has become increasingly rare in Fingal. The western half of the site is a freshwater marsh and a proposed Natural Heritage Area, while the eastern part is mainly grazed grassland. These grazed grasslands are particularly important for many birds in the Baldoyle Estuary. At high tide Brent geese, Black-tailed godwit, Teal and Curlew regularly use the open fields, while bar-tailed godwit, lapwing and redshank are using the site on a more occasional basis. Herons, Little egrets and Kingfisher frequent the sluice river on a regular basis.

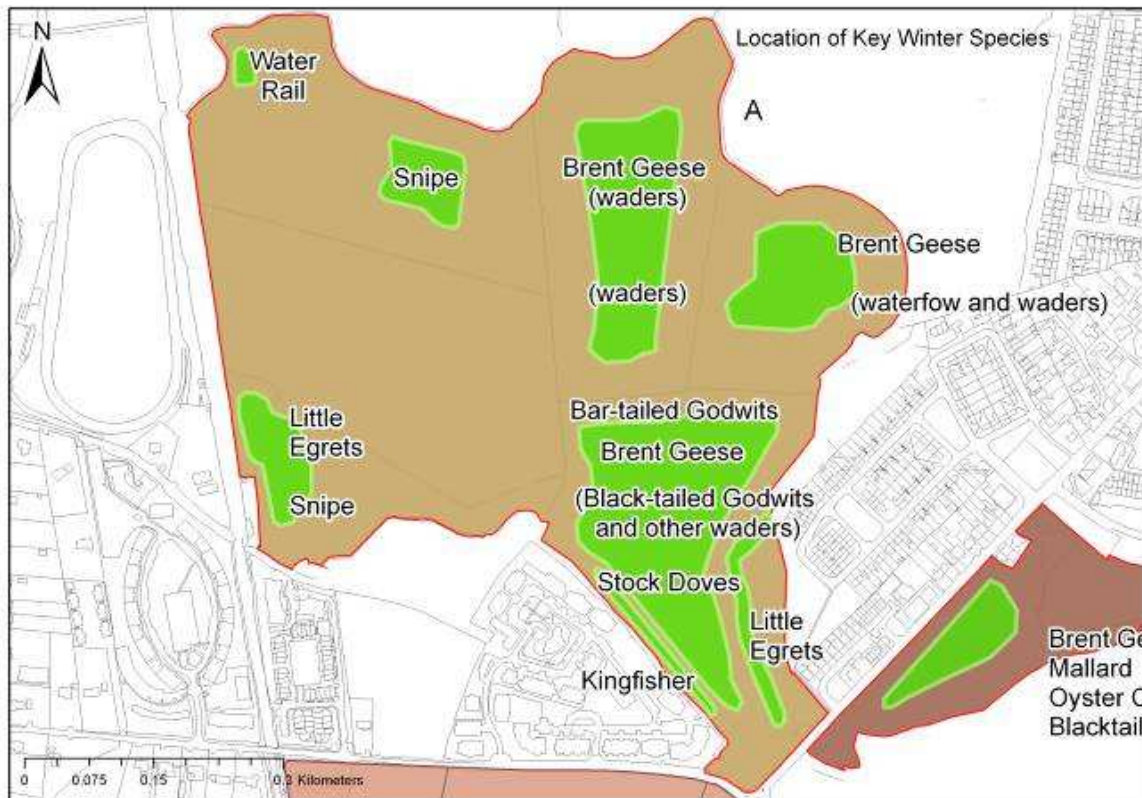


Figure 5: Map of important species located in the Sluice River Marsh

6.2 Portmarnock Green -Section B

Portmarnock Green is a public amenity area located east of the R106 coastal road at the south east corner of Portmarnock village. The grass amenity area borders the saltmarsh of the Baldoyle Estuary. The amenity area although quite public, regularly supports internationally important numbers of Brent Geese (300+) and nationally important numbers of Black-tailed Godwit (200+). Other waders like Redshank (80), Curlew(50), Bar-tailed Godwit (35) and Oystercatcher (100) occur. Duck species like Teal and Wigeon and Mallard occur in smaller numbers. At the southern corner where the Sluice River enters Baldoyle Estuary both Kingfisher (1) and Little Egrets (4+) are regularly seen.

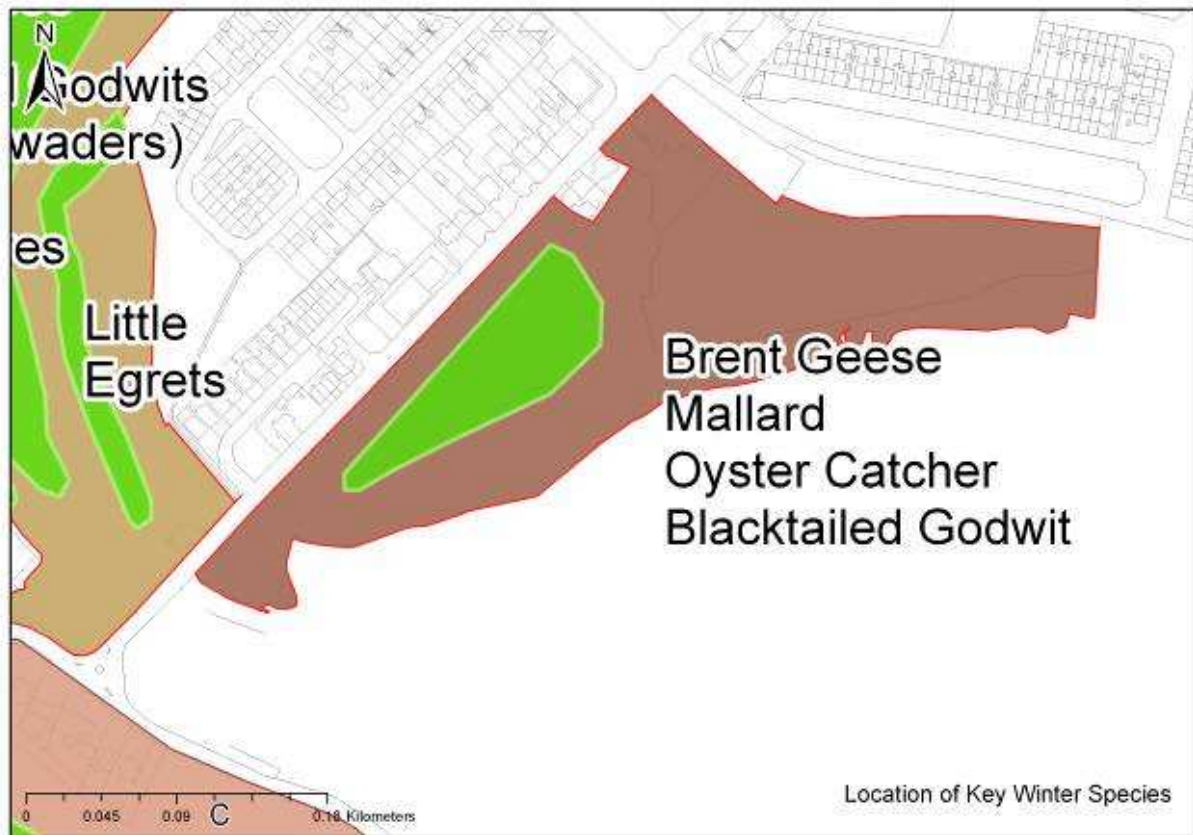


Figure 6: Map of important species located in Zone B

6.3 Maynestown -Section C

The six large fields in this section were all in stubble in December but all had been ploughed and seeded with wheat or barley by late January. Two areas were left unploughed. The northern section of the Mound Field C2 and the southern side of C6. Hedgerows on the western sides of C1,C2, C3,C5 and C6 were of good quality and important for thrushes, finches, sparrow and bunting species.

Over 50 species of birds were recorded in this section. 22 of the most significant are listed in Appendix 3.

Important species are Little Egret (2), Lapwing (1000), Black-tailed Godwit (186). Four species of raptor, Buzzard, Kestrel, Merlin and Sparrowhawk were recorded feeding and hunting over the stubble fields.

The very large C4 field is particularly important for Lapwing and Black-tailed Godwit to provide feeding at times of high water on the Baldoyle Estuary. Furthermore, the section held very significant numbers of Skylark (479) Stock Dove (50) and Tree Sparrow (144) which are numbers of national importance. The area has importance for Linnet (60), Goldfinch (47), Reed Bunting (22) and Yellowhammer (12) and Woodpigeon (458).



Figure 7: Map of important species located in Maynestown -Section C

6.4 *Stapolin to Baldoyle -Section D*

The land use in Section D was quite varied. The four westernmost fields adjoining the railway line were in stubble in December but all had been ploughed by late January. The eastern and southern sectors comprise mainly of rough ungrazed grassland with large areas of saltmarsh, gorse and scrub. Several patches of freshwater reed and sedges border the drainage channel that runs north to link with the Mayne River. The northern field adjacent to the Halting Site on Mayne Road was grazed by horses. A large section of the former racecourse grassland area in the south east sector is used frequently for motorbike scrambling. Several walking pathways are laid out in the south west sector close to the new town of Clongriffin.



A total of 37 species of birds were recorded in this section.(See Appendix 1). The stubble fields on the western edge held the most important numbers and diversity, Oystercatcher 200, Black-tailed Godwit (200), Stock Dove (50), Skylark (45), Tree Sparrow 20, Yellowhammer (20), Reed Bunting (60) and Goldfinch (50).

The numbers are of importance particularly those of Stock Dove, Skylark, Reed Bunting and Yellowhammer. It is significant that the numbers of all species recorded dropped once the stubbles were ploughed over in Jan/Feb.

In the eastern sector the saltmarsh areas had Little Egret (1) Snipe (14) and Jack Snipe (1) and a roost of 50+ Reed Buntings in the Phragmites reedbed which is of significance and interest . Three species of raptor were recorded, Buzzard, Kestrel and Short-eared Owl. The site is a traditional location for this latter species in the Fingal context.

A section along the southern edge of the study zone was found to be important for winter finches. Here the lands had been recently disturbed and then allowed to lie fallow. The resultant vegetation was good feeding area for Goldfinch, Chaffinch, Linnet, Redpoll and Meadow Pipits.

There was no evidence found of any grazing by Brent Geese in this section. The vegetation was not suitable.



Picture courtesy of Shay Connelly

Photo 2: Short-eared Owl is a regular winter visitor to the former Racecourse lands

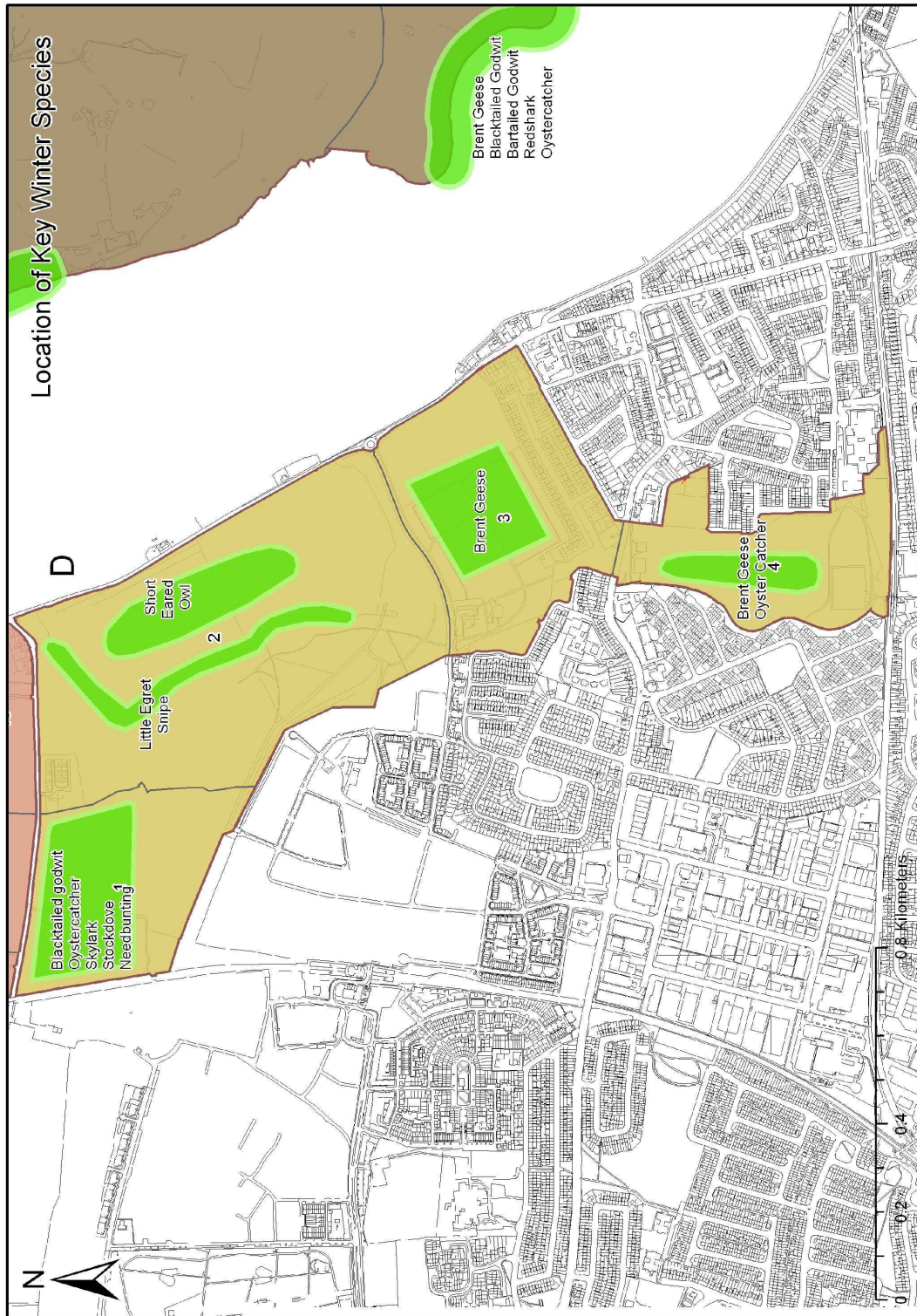


Figure 8: Map of important species located in the Racecourse lands – zone D

6.5 *Portmarnock Golf Course -Section E*

The lands of the Portmarnock Golf Club are a former sand dune system now managed as a links course. Along with the normal green and fairway pattern areas of pines, gorse, sea buckthorn and semi- natural dune vegetation are interspersed throughout the course . There are several small freshwater ponds located on the course and an area of saltmarsh is located at the southwest corner. There is an area of natural sand dunes, sea buckthorn and some freshwater marsh on the southern edge of the peninsula.



A total of 34 species were recorded in this section. The numbers of Brent Geese recorded (100 max) was surprisingly low. Benton(2009) lists the Portmarnock Peninsula as being a site of major importance and holding in the order of 400-1450 birds during her study. Direct evidence of heavy grazing by Brent Geese was found in only one area on the Portmarnock Golf Course during this survey and that was located on a broad open field north of the clubhouse which interestingly is not used by golfers. Birds were seen in smaller numbers grazing some of the central fairway areas and on the saltmarsh. Other areas along the eastern and south eastern sides of the Golf Course that appeared to be good grazing habitat for Brent Geese were not utilised during this survey dates.

The most significant species recorded on the Golf Course were Skylark (10), Snipe (3), Water Rail (1), Moorhen (3) Linnet (25) and Kestrel (1). These species were all recorded in the semi natural sand dune and freshwater complex at the southern end of the peninsula. The Golf Course itself held good numbers of common birds particularly in the stands of gorse and sea buckthorn interspersed through the links. Several Moorhen (max 2) were recorded on the freshwater ponds at the north end of the course.

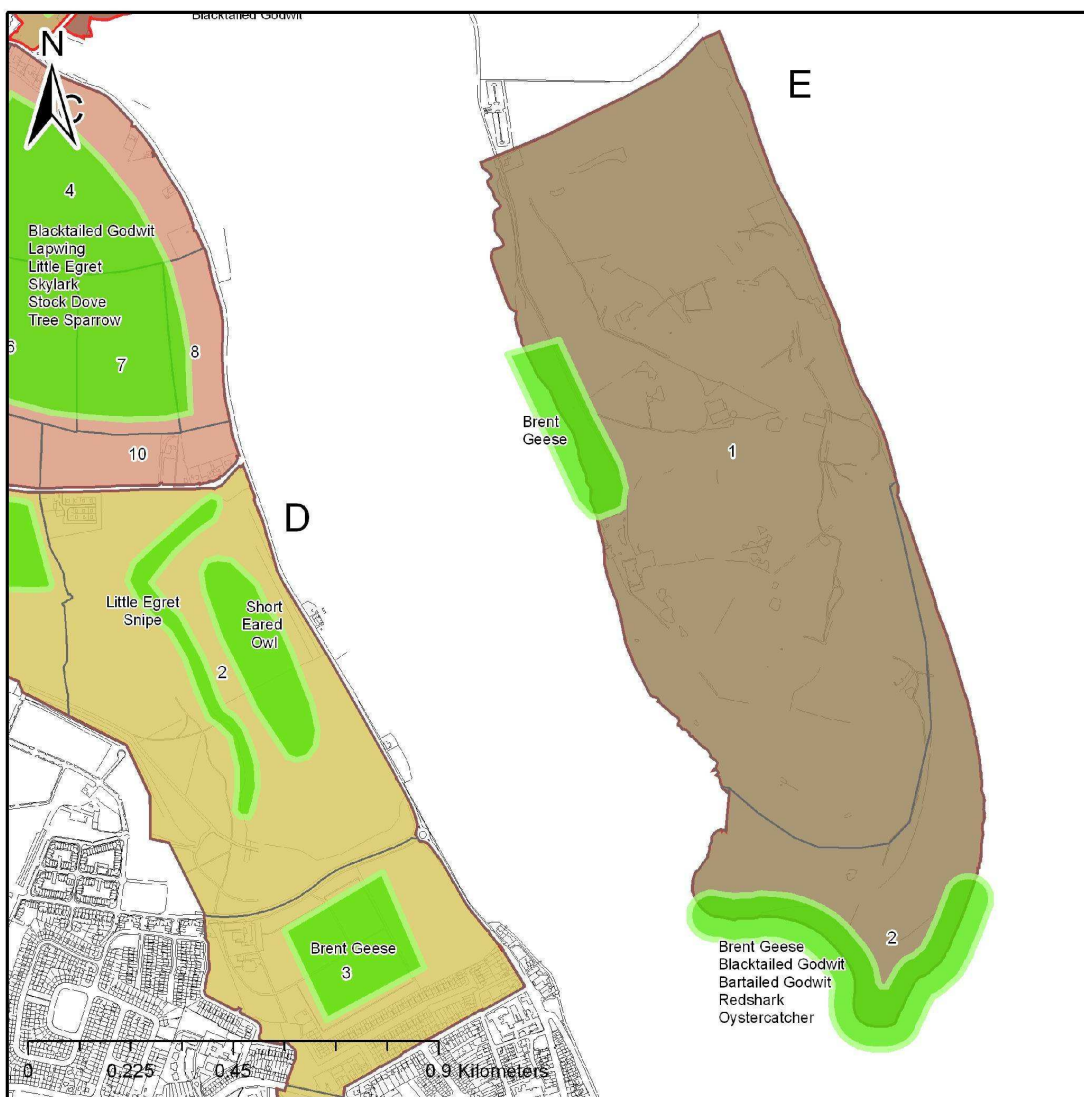


Figure 9: Map of important species located in the Portmarnock Golf Course – zone E

7. Discussion

The Baldoye Estuary is an internationally important wetland site for wintering waterbirds and is designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) for birds under the EU Birds Directive. The birds and their distribution pattern within the SPA boundaries is well documented as a result of the I-WeBS surveys, but information on the use of the surrounding lands by the waders and wildfowl was mainly based on anecdotal evidence. This study aims to produce a baseline data set on the bird species of the lands surrounding the estuary and establish how important these lands are for the birds of the Baldoye estuary.

The survey shows that there is a very good diversity of bird species in the land surrounding the estuary, with 65 bird species recorded. Most of these are common birds, but five bird species listed under Annex I of the EU Birds Directive and ten species which are listed under the qualifying interests the Baldoye SPA - Natura 2000 site were also recorded roosting and feeding in the surrounding lands. The survey also identified twenty one species of conservation concern under BoCCI, though many are listed based on their breeding populations. (See Table 3).

Table 3: Overview of conservation status of key species recorded at lands surrounding Baldoye Estuary, December – February 2011-2012

No	Species	Baldoye Estuary Natura 2000 site - listed species	EU Birds Directive	Birds of Conservation Concern			
				Europe	Ireland		Fingal
				SPEC	BoCCI	BoCCI qualifying criteria*	Target species
1.	Little Egret		Annex I				
2.	Brent Goose	International Importance		3	Amber	Non-breeding populations	✓
3.	Teal	✓			Amber	Breeding populations	
4.	Wigeon				Amber	Non-breeding populations	
5.	Kestrel			3	Amber	New SPEC 3 species	
6.	Merlin		Annex I		Amber	Breeding populations	
7.	Water Rail				Amber	Breeding populations	✓
8.	Oystercatcher	National Importance			Amber	Non-breeding populations	
9.	Golden Plover	International Importance	Annex I		Red	Breeding populations	✓
10.	Lapwing	✓		2	Red	Breeding populations	✓
11.	Snipe	✓		3	Amber	SPEC 3 species	✓
12.	Black-tailed Godwit	✓		2	Amber	Non-breeding populations	✓
13.	Bar-tailed Godwit	National importance	Annex I		Amber	Non-breeding populations	✓

14.	Redshank	National Importance			Red/Amber	R: Breeding populations A: Non-breeding populations	✓
15.	Greenshank	✓			Amber	Non-breeding populations	
16.	Stock Dove				Amber	Breeding populations	✓
17.	Kingfisher		Annex I	3	Amber	Breeding populations	✓
18.	Skylark			3	Amber	New SPEC 3 species	✓
19.	Starling			3	Amber	New SPEC 3 species	
20.	Tree Sparrow			3	Amber	New SPEC 3 species	✓
21.	Linnet			2	Amber	New SPEC 2 species	✓
22.	Yellowhammer				Red/Amber	Breeding populations	✓

7.1 Key bird species

One of the main conservation objectives for the Baldoyle Estuary is to maintain and where possible, increase the wader and wildfowl populations, particularly Brent Geese and the Annex I species Golden Plover, and Bar-tailed Godwit (NPWS 2002). Of these three species, the Light-bellied Brent Goose was the most significant species recorded in the lands surrounding the estuary. The geese occur in numbers of international importance at the estuary based on I-WeBS published counts of the estuary for the period 2001-2009 (Boland & Crowe 2012) with the average population of 1056 individuals.

During this study the geese were found to utilise all suitable grasslands over the surrounding lands and at all states of the tide. Geese flocks were highly mobile between the estuary and these lands during the course of a day. In all months Brent were recorded in numbers of international importance in survey sections at Portmarnock Marsh & Sluice River (Zone A), Portmarnock Green (Zone B), Red Arches, Seagrange Park (Zone D) which are most of the amenity lands surrounding the Baldoyle Estuary. Brent Geese were observed in good numbers (up to 500 birds) in the Maynestown lands (Zone C) in the recent past where they grazed the young wheat. Representatives of the National Parks and Wildlife Service met the local farmer on several occasions to explore possibilities for crop damage control (pers. Comment Maurice Eakin and Niall Harmey, NPWS).

Curiously, Brent Geese were not recorded in any significant numbers during this survey on the Portmarnock Golf Club peninsula which was known to hold internationally important numbers of this species (Benton 2009).

Bar-tailed Godwits were recorded at the Sluice River Marsh (Zone A) and on the Portmarnock Green (Zone B), albeit in low numbers. The majority of the Bar-tailed Godwits feed and roost within the estuary itself, but will use the surrounding grasslands in case of high tides and/or disturbance.

Golden Plover was not observed feeding or roosting in the surrounding lands during this survey. A flock of 4000 Golden Plover were recorded flying over the area during the site visit of 09/02/2012. The tide on the estuary was full in and it appeared that the birds were attempting to find an alternative roosting site but although they made repeated passes over the site they did not land during the time of the survey.

This was somewhat surprising as Golden Plover are known to use open stubble fields in the vicinity of estuaries (Roe J 2009). Golden Plover are frequently recorded roosting on estuary areas by day and often feed at night on surrounding farmland (Pierce per obs).

Several wader species were found commuting from the estuary to feed on the surrounding farmland especially the stubble field areas such as Lapwing (1000) Oystercatcher(200+) and Black-tailed Godwits (200+). The latter species in particular was found in nationally important numbers on the stubble fields at Maynestown and the Racecourse lands (C & D) and on the wet marsh at Portmarnock Marsh (Zone A).

Lapwing numbers peaked during this survey with 1000 birds seen on the stubbles at Maynestown (Zone C). Oystercatcher (200) and Redshank feed regularly on the wet grasslands of the amenity parks at Portmarnock Green (Zone B), Red Arches and Seagrange Park (Zone D) when tides fill the estuary.

Other important and protected species which are not linked to the SPA designation were present. Kingfisher and Little Egret both EU Annex I species, were recorded at the Sluice River (Zone A) and along the Mayne River (Zone D).

The remaining species on the SPA list for the Baldoyle Estuary such as Shelduck, Pintail, Red-breasted Merganser, Ringed Plover, Grey Plover, Knot, Sanderling, Turnstone and Dunlin spend most of the winter within the estuary boundaries.

The results of this survey also showed that the surrounding lands support important numbers of typical farmland birds in wintertime some of which are of conservation concern at present. The numbers of Stock Dove (85 +) Tree Sparrow (145), Yellowhammer (20), Reed Bunting (60) and Skylark (500) were found on the farmland stubbles of Maynestown (Zone C and D) are significant. Yellowhammer and Skylark were also present as breeding birds on the site in the period 2000-2006 (Goodwillie, 2007) and it is expected that this still is the case as the cereal farming has continued in the area. To protect the population of these red listed breeding birds, consideration should be given to their habitat requirements e.g. hedges with cereal plots in the design of the open space for both LAPs.



Photo 3 & 4: Black-tailed Godwit and Oystercatcher. Pictures courtesy of Shay Connelly

7.2 Key Areas for wintering birds in and around the Baldoyle Estuary

When looking at the overall picture of feeding and roosting by migratory birds at the Baldoyle Estuary, it becomes clear that there are two key sites within the estuary and seven in the surrounding lands. The key roosting sites within the estuary are located at the beach at the tip of the Portmarnock peninsula and the mudflats at the outfall of the Mayne river (based on IWEBS surveys). Figure 10 illustrates the key areas utilised by important species linked to the SPA designation.

The other key sites are the green of the Portmarnock Golf club, the green at the Texaco station, the pitches at Red Arches, the open space at Seagrange and the Sluice River marsh. They are all short grassland sites which are particularly important for the Brent Geese. The other two sites are open arable land at the Racecourse and at Maynestown (zone C) and these sites hold large numbers of waders such as Black-tailed Godwit, Oystercatcher and Lapwing. It will be important to protect all these key sites and the two habitat types to ensure that there are always roosting and feeding options available to the migratory birds during high tide and in case of ongoing disturbance by dogs and people.

Disturbance to birds is an important issue that will need to be taken into account in the local LAPs. With the exception of the Sluice River Marsh (Zone A) and the Maynestown lands (Zone C) the survey found very high levels of disturbance occurring at all the other sites. With a large part of area C planned for development and open space use, this means that another quiet undisturbed area will disappear with only the Sluice River Marsh remaining as a quiet area. As the number of people increases in Portmarnock and Balboyle, recreational pressure is also going to mount on the pitches at Red Arches and Seagrange and also on the arable land at the Racecourse lands. The recreational pressure is also likely to mount on the most important roosting site at the tip of the Portmarnock peninsula as more and more people are using the beach. The accumulative impact of recreational use of the proposed open space on the feeding and roosting sites in and around the estuary is a major concern and needs to be addressed in the LAPs.

The survey also highlighted the absence of significant numbers of birds over the very large land area of the former Baldoyle Racecourse (Zone D2). The lands here are currently unsuitable for many migratory species to feed or roost on. Small pockets of saltmarsh, freshwater marsh and stands of Phragmites reedbed are still important for Snipe(40+), Jack Snipe (1) and Reed Bunting (60+). It is also a traditional Fingal site for wintering Short-eared Owl while Little Egret feed on the Mayne River. Because of its proximity to the estuary, it is recommended that design and management of this open space be reappraised and habitat creation for the migratory species be considered for inclusion.

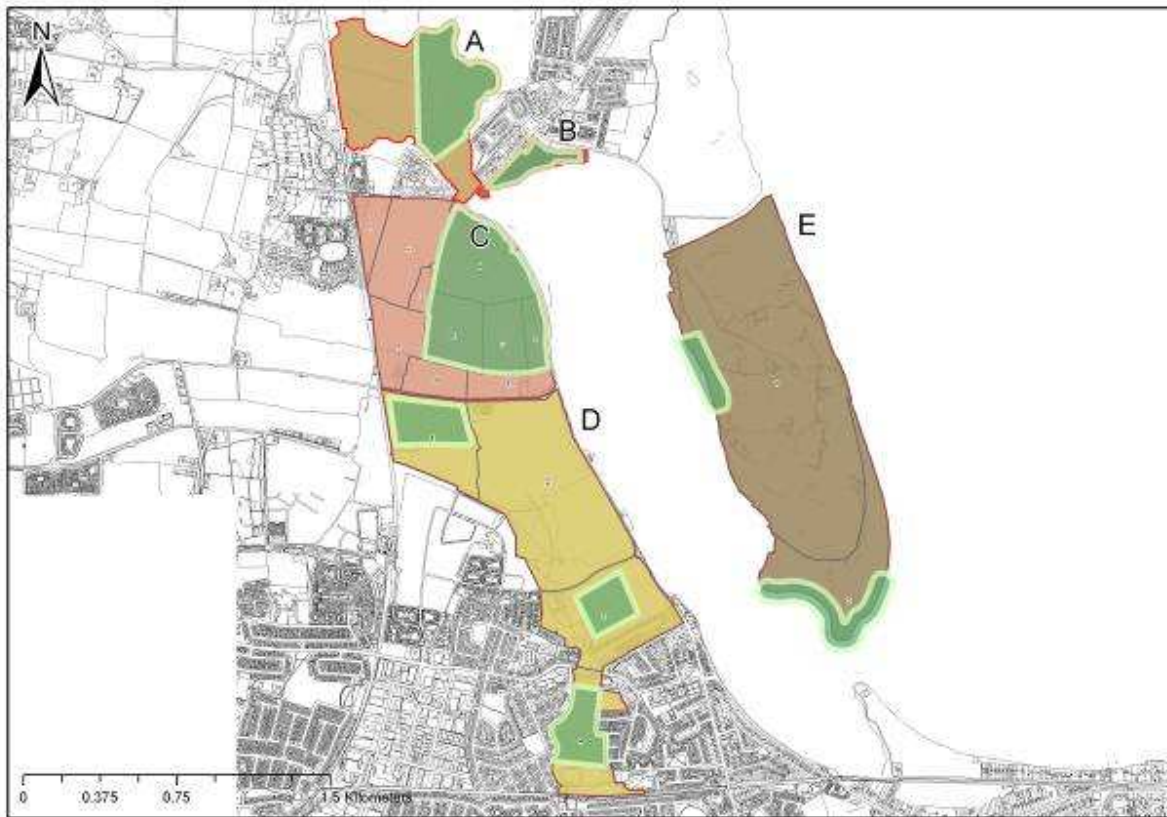


Figure 10: Map with key areas for migratory birds around the Baldoyle Estuary

In the ecological assessment of the Portmarnock LAP lands, Goodwillie (2007) states that no shorebirds regularly use the lands around Maynestown (zone C) and that the link between the estuary and the LAP lands are tenuous. Similarly, the environmental impact statement for the Portmarnock LAP lands by Sherman Oaks Ltd states that none of the wildfowl and waders that frequent the estuary are seen regularly on it, except for Snipe. This bird study found Little Egret, Lapwing, Black-tailed Godwit and Curlew using the open eastern part of the Maynestown lands on the three survey dates. Anecdotal observations in the area would support this data. The data for the ecological assessment for the Portmarnock LAP was collected during a period of 2002 – 2006 and these four species were not found in any significant numbers then. It is unclear from the report whether specific winter bird counts took place during that period. However, if bird counts were undertaken during the winter then this would suggest that the feeding and roosting habits of some of the birds linked to the estuary have changed in the intervening period. Ongoing disturbance at the some of the other key sites for the migratory birds in and around the estuary may have caused them to move to quieter lands in the vicinity of the Baldoyle Estuary.

8. Conclusion

This winter bird survey has demonstrated that the surrounding farmlands, amenity grasslands and golf club lands are important habitats for birds linked to the Baldoyle Estuary and should be viewed as being ecologically linked and not divorced from the estuarine areas. In times of hard weather, storms, high tides and low human disturbance times e.g dawn/ night times birds frequently move from the estuarine areas onto the surrounding lands for additional feeding or roosting needs. This valuable mix of land use together with the estuarine wetland habitats produces this diversity, if the mix stays as it is this level of diversity should continue.

The survey has found that the surrounding arable farmland in particular is an important feeding habitat for wader species from the estuary as well as winter finches, skylarks and buntings. The arable croplands location so close to the estuary allows this rich biodiversity to develop. If the surrounding arable lands are re zoned then the diversity and numbers of the bird species that give the SPA status to the Baldoyle Estuary may be affected.

Recommendations

1. Given the ever increasing human population and requirements for additional housing and recreational zones within the area it is important that future plans include the creation of “quiet zones” where migratory birds can still find quiet feeding and roosting areas.
2. The design of the open space at Baldoyle and Portmarnock should include a mixture of short grassland, arable land use and sacrificial wintering crops (Linnet Mix) to ensure that sufficient feeding and roosting sites can be found within the parkland for migratory birds and native wintering species.
3. Optimise existing sites for migratory birds such as the Racecourse lands and the Murrough spit, thereby developing new roosting and feeding site.

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Appendices

Overview of bird species recorded Zone A – Sluice River Marsh

Species name	1999/00*	I-WeBS Counts for Portmarnock Marsh & Sluice River 2006/07								
		Jan-06	Feb-06	Mar-06	Apr-06	Nov-06	Dec-06	Jan-07	Feb-07	Mar-07
Little Grebe	2		2	1		1	2			1
Grey Heron	2	1	4	9	3	4	4	18	16	5
Mute Swan	7			1	2	4	2		1	1
Mallard	5	12	27	22	15	43	55	11	37	24
Moorhen	3	2	1		1				3	2
Oystercatcher	3			12	6	4	114		2	
Lapwing	40					10				
Snipe	2	12	30	5	8	3	22	4	13	16
Curlew	16		11	19	5	8	79	45	24	25
Redshank	6	15	24	14	1		12			
Greenshank	2									
Black-headed	1									
Brent Goose		325	34	291	108	27	97	227	270	241
Little Egret		3	1	1	3	4	4	2	3	1
Teal		13	2	25	7	58	152	34	67	14
Black-tailed Godwit		21	7	36	4	7	20	65	145	17
Bar-tailed Godwit									23	
Kingfisher		1	2	1	2	1		1	1	
Water Rail			1		1			1		
Wigeon								21	3	2

Overview of bird species recorded Zone B - Portmarnock Green

	Species	9Dec 2011	7 Jan 2012	3 Feb 2012
1.	Light- bellied Brent	150	200	250
2.	Little Egret	1	4	4
3.	Grey Heron	4	5	4
4.	Mallard	100	50	70
5.	Wigeon	20	50	40
6.	Teal	5	15	20
7.	Oystercatcher	100	70	120
8.	Redshank	10	20	50
9.	Black-tailed Godwit	200	150	70
10.	Kingfisher	1	2	1

Overview of species recorded in Zone C

	Species - C1	17/12/2011	15/01/2012	11/02/2012
1	Tree Sparrow	1		
2	Woodpigeon	32	130	150
3	Stock Dove		45	2
4	Lapwing			34
5	Chaffinch	3		
6	Reed Bunting	11	6	1

	Species - C2	17/12/2011	15/01/2012	11/02/2012
1	Tree Sparrow	5	4	11
2	Woodpigeon	178	85	36
3	Stock Dove	2		2
4	Chaffinch	36	12	18
5	Greenfinch	15	37	4
6	Reed Bunting	7	3	2
7	Linnet	112	29	12
8	Redpoll	35		8

	Species - C3	17/12/2011	15/01/2012	11/02/2012
1	Skylark	33	25	26
2	Tree Sparrow	1	27	1
3	Woodpigeon	8	20	20
4	Chaffinch	2	4	
5	Greenfinch		2	
6	Bullfinch	2		
7	Long-tailed tit	14		
8	Buzzard		2	
9	Meadow Pipit		4	
10	Reed Bunting	6	1	10
11	Woodcock		2	

	Species - C4	12/12/2011	15/01/2012	9/02/2012	11/02/2012
1	Skylark	87		10	
2	House Sparrow	10			8
3	Tree Sparrow	17	12		
4	Woodpigeon	350		60	70
5	Stock Dove	20		50	10
6	Black-tailed	120	23		180
7	Lapwing	85	460	1000	6
8	Curlew		11	2	
9	Yellowhammer	4		2	12
10	Greenfinch	1	2		2
11	Kestrel	2			
12	Buzzard	1		1	2
13	Sparrowhawk			1	
14	Merlin			1	
15	Raven			2	
16	Meadow Pipit	23			
17	Reed Bunting	11			
18	Goldfinch	17			2
19	Linnet	60	26		
20	Redpoll		5		

	Species - C5	17/12/2011	15/01/2012	11/02/2012
1	Skylark	217	130	18
2	Tree Sparrow	30	11	
3	Woodpigeon	70	174	320
4	Stock Dove	26	22	70
5	Chaffinch	4	40	
6	Greenfinch	7		
7	Bullfinch	7		
8	Buzzard			2
9	Meadow Pipit	24	60	
10	Reed Bunting	23		
11	Linnet		80	

	Species - C6	12/12/2011	15/01/2012	11/02/2012
1	House Sparrow		2	
2	Tree Sparrow			2
3	Woodpigeon	31	125	25
4	Stock Dove	5	34	
5	Lapwing	8	25	
6	Reed Bunting		5	
7	Goldfinch		2	
8	Little Egret	1		

	Species C7	12/12/2011	15/01/2012	11/02/2012
1	Skylark	310		
2	House Sparrow	25		
3	Tree Sparrow	102		
4	Woodpigeon	45		
5	Stock Dove	15		
6	Black-tailed		114	6
7	Lapwing	30		24
8	Greenfinch	14		
9	Sparrowhawk	1		
10	Meadow Pipit	1		
11	Reed Bunting	4		11
12	Little Egret	1		

	Species - C8	12/12/2011	15/01/2012	11/02/2012
1	Skylark	72		
2	House Sparrow	7	12	2
3	Tree Sparrow	18	2	
4	Woodpigeon	12	24	56
5	Curlew	6		
6	Bullfinch	2		
7	Meadow Pipit	4		
8	Reed Bunting	5	7	2

	Species - C9	12/12/2011	15/01/2012	11/02/2012
1	Skylark			4
2	Kestrel		1	
3	Buzzard	1		
4	Meadow Pipit		4	1
5	Reed Bunting	2		
6	Goldfinch	30		
7	Snipe	1		

	Species - C10	12/12/2011	15/01/2012	11/02/2012
1	Skylark	10		
2	House Sparrow	2		
3	Tree Sparrow	7		
4	Woodpigeon	20	7	18
5	Stock Dove	2	2	
6	Greenfinch	4		

Overview of bird species recorded Zone D - Racecourse Fields Section 1 and 2

	Species	9/12/ 2011	7/1/ 2012	3/2/ 2012		Species	9/12/ 2011	7/1/ 2012	3/2/ 2012
1.	Light-bellied Brent			10	24	Blue Tit	2	2	6
2.	Little Egret	1		1	25	Magpie	20	10	15
3.	Teal	5			26	Jackdaw	15	5	15
4.	Buzzard	2	1		27	Rook	20	2	10
5.	Kestrel	1	1	1	28	Hooded Crow	6	2	6
6.	Pheasant	3	4	2	29	Starling	150	30	50
7.	Moorhen	1	1	2	30	Tree Sparrow		20	
8.	Oystercatcher	200	50	25	31.	Chaffinch	6	40	
9.	Redshank	1			32	Linnet		35	
10.	Black-tailed Godwit	200			33	Redpoll	2		2
11.	Snipe	14	4	2	34	Goldfinch	2	50	6
12.	Jack Snipe	1			35	Bullfinch	2	2	2
13.	Black-headed Gull	10	5	10	36	Reed Bunting	14	50	2
14.	Herring Gull	10	10	5	37	Yellowhammer		20	
15.	Stock Dove		25	50					
16.	Woodpigeon	10	10	30					
17.	Collared Dove	2	2	4					
18.	Short-eared Owl	✓*							
17.	Skylark	45	5						
18.	Meadow Pipit	2	4	2					
19	Wren	15	10	10					
20.	Dunnock	4	4	2					
21.	Robin	6	6	8					
22.	Song Thrush	3	2	6					
23.	Blackbird	8	10	8					

*Pellet found and species presence verified by another fieldworker

Overview of Species recorded in Zone D3 - Red Arches

	Species	9/12/ 2011	7/1/ 2012	27/1/ 2012
1.	Light-bellied Brent Geese	700	10	400
2.	Oystercatcher	100	50	34
3.	Common Gull			20

Overview of Species recorded in Zone D4 - Seagrange Park

	Species	9 Dec 2011	7 Jan 2012	27 Jan 2012
1	Light-bellied Brent Geese	50	120	300
2	Oystercatcher	100	25	40
3	Curlew	5	5	25
4	Black-tailed Godwit	140	85	155
5	Redshank	10	15	35

Overview of Species recorded in Zone E – Portmarnock Golf Club

	Species	15/12/ 2011	12/1/2012	9/2/2012
1.	Grey Heron	1	3	1
2.	Light-bellied Brent Goose	20		100
3.	Teal	2		
4.	Kestrel			1
5.	Pheasant	2	3	2
6.	Water Rail	1		
7.	Moorhen	1		3
8.	Redshank	10		
9.	Curlew	7	1	2
10.	Snipe	2	3	2
11.	Black-headed Gull	2	4	
12.	Wood Pigeon	15	20	25
13.	Collared Dove			2
14.	Skylark	2		10
15.	Meadow Pipit	2	4	4
16.	Pied Wagtail			2
17.	Wren	6	5	8
18.	Dunnock	5	4	5
19.	Robin	4	4	3
20.	Stonechat	2	2	2
21.	Blackbird	6	4	7
22.	Song Thrush		2	2
23.	Mistle Thrush	2	2	4
24.	Goldcrest	2	4	2
25.	Blue Tit	2	4	4
26.	Magpie	20	15	25
27.	Rook	6	10	8
28.	Hooded Crow	6	8	6
29.	Starling	20	20	35

Overview of Species recorded in Zone E – Portmarnock Golf Club continued

	Species	15/12/ 2011	12/1/2012	9/2/2012
30	Chaffinch	15	25	15
31	Linnet	15	20	25
32	Goldfinch	8	10	10
33	Greenfinch	6	6	6
34	Reed Bunting	4	6	4

Appendix C

Appendix C Details of European Sites within 15km of Baldoyle-Stapolin LAP					
Site Name & Code	Qualifying Interests	Current Conservation Status ⁸	Conservation Management Objectives ⁹	Conditions underpinning site integrity	Main pressures and threats to site integrity ¹⁰
candidate Special Areas of Conservation (cSAC)					
Baldoyle Bay cSAC (000199) 0km	<p><u>Annex I habitats for which the site is designated:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] • <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonizing mud and sand [1310] • Atlantic salt meadows <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i> [1330] • Mediterranean salt meadows <i>Juncetalia maritimi</i> [1410] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide – Unfavourable/Inadequate • <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonizing mud and sand – Unfavourable/Inadequate • Atlantic salt meadows – Unfavourable/Inadequate • Mediterranean salt meadows – Unfavourable/Inadequate 	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitats for which Baldoyle Bay SAC is selected, as defined by the attributes and targets listed in the sites conservation objectives document.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water quality including nutrient levels, water clarity, sediment levels • Appropriate agricultural practices including grazing pressures. • Surface and ground water quality • Appropriate levels of access and disturbance • Water levels • Air quality • Tidal currents • Erosion and deposition rates • Maintenance of habitat extent and condition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encroaching development at the Mayne River; • Water pollution from inflowing rivers and poor sewage network; • Bait digging and controlled wildfowling; • Invasion by <i>Spartina</i> species; • Disturbance to bird species; • Overgrazing by livestock
North Dublin Bay cSAC (000206) c.1.2km south	<p><u>Annex I habitats for which the sites is designated:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] • Annual vegetation of drift 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide – Unfavourable/Inadequate • Annual vegetation of drift lines – Unfavourable/Inadequate 	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water quality including nutrient levels, water clarity, sediment levels • Appropriate agricultural practices including grazing pressures. • Surface and ground water 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreational activities • Grazing (rabbits) • Water abstraction • Water pollution • Oil spillages from shipping • Commercial bait digging

8 Sourced from Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland: Backing Documents, Article 17 forms, maps. Vol. 1 – 3 (NPWS, 2007).

9 Sourced from Site Conservation Objectives (NPWS, 2011 & NPWS, 2012)

10 Sourced from Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland (NPWS, 2007) and/or Natura 2000 Standard Data Forms (NPWS, 2011).

Appendix C Details of European Sites within 15km of Baldoyle-Stapolin LAP					
Site Name & Code	Qualifying Interests	Current Conservation Status ⁸	Conservation Management Objectives ⁹	Conditions underpinning site integrity	Main pressures and threats to site integrity ¹⁰
	<p>lines [1210]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonizing mud and sand [1310] • Atlantic salt meadows <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</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] <p><u>Annex II species for which the sites is designated:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Petalwort <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> [1395] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonizing mud and sand – Unfavourable/Inadequate • <i>Spartina</i> swards – Unfavourable/Inadequate • Atlantic salt meadows – Unfavourable/Inadequate • Mediterranean salt meadows – Unfavourable/Inadequate • Embryonic shifting dunes – Unfavourable/Bad • Shifting dunes along the shoreline – Unfavourable/Bad • Fixed coastal dunes – Unfavourable/Inadequate • Humid dune slacks – Unfavourable/Bad <p><u>Annex II species for which the sites is designated:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Petalwort - Favourable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide • Annual vegetation of drift lines • <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonizing mud and sand • Atlantic salt meadows • Petalwort • Mediterranean salt meadows • Embryonic shifting dunes • Shifting dunes along the shoreline • Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation • Humid dune slacks 	<p>quality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate levels of disturbance • Water levels • Air quality • Tidal currents • Erosion and deposition rates • Height and frequency of the tides availability of foreshore sand and the average strength of the on-shore winds • Damp, calcareous sand in dune slacks and machair 	
Lambay Island cSAC (000204) c.11km North	<p><u>Annex I habitats for which the sites is designated:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vegetated sea cliffs – Unfavourable/Inadequate • Grey seal - Favourable 	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geology • Coastal habitats • Prey abundance • Water quality • There is no current 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Damage to nest sites by rodents • Competition for fishing resources with fishermen • Illegal culls

Appendix C Details of European Sites within 15km of Baldoyle-Stapolin LAP					
Site Name & Code	Qualifying Interests	Current Conservation Status ⁸	Conservation Management Objectives ⁹	Conditions underpinning site integrity	Main pressures and threats to site integrity ¹⁰
	<p>[1230]</p> <p><u>Annex II species for which the sites is designated:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grey seal <i>Halichoerus grypu</i> [1364] 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts • Grey seal 	<p>understanding of grey seal habitat use, requirements or preferences outside of the terrestrial/coastal interface. Terrestrial habitat occupied by grey seals during breeding and other shore-based phases of the annual cycle include coastland and marine littoral habitats such as grass banks islands of various size to estuarine sandbanks, intertidal rock ledges and boulder beaches.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disease e.g. Phocine Distemper Virus • Disturbance to breeding colonies • Pollution and discarded waste
<p>Rogerstown Estuary cSAC (000208) c.9.5km North</p>	<p><u>Annex I habitats for which the sites is designated:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estuaries [1130] • Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] • <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonizing mud and sand [1310] • <i>Spartina</i> swards <i>Spartinion maritima</i> [1320] • Atlantic salt meadows <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i> [1330] • Mediterranean salt meadows <i>Juncetalia maritimi</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estuaries – Unfavourable/Inadequate • Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide – Unfavourable/Inadequate • <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonizing mud and sand – Unfavourable/Inadequate • <i>Spartina</i> swards – Unfavourable/Inadequate • Atlantic salt meadows – Unfavourable/Inadequate • Mediterranean salt meadows – Unfavourable/Inadequate • Shifting dunes along the 	<p>To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estuaries • Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide • <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonizing mud and sand • Atlantic salt meadows • Mediterranean salt meadow • Shifting dunes along the sho reline 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water quality including nutrient levels, water clarity, sediment levels • Surface and ground water quality • Appropriate levels of disturbance • Water levels • Appropriate disturbance levels • Tidal currents • Wind energy • Erosion / deposition levels • Recreational activities • Trampling overuse 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reclamation/infill of land • Water quality • Erosion

Appendix C Details of European Sites within 15km of Baldoyle-Stapolin LAP					
Site Name & Code	Qualifying Interests	Current Conservation Status ⁸	Conservation Management Objectives ⁹	Conditions underpinning site integrity	Main pressures and threats to site integrity ¹⁰
	[1410] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120] *Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130] 	shoreline – Unfavourable/Bad <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fixed coastal dunes – Unfavourable/Inadequate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation 		
Malahide Estuary cSAC (000205) c.8km South	<u>Annex I habitats for which the sites is designated:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonizing mud and sand [1310] <i>Spartina</i> swards <i>Spartinion maritimae</i> [1320] 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] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide – Unfavourable/Inadequate <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonizing mud and sand – Unfavourable/Inadequate <i>Spartina</i> swards – Unfavourable/Inadequate Atlantic salt meadows – Unfavourable/Inadequate Mediterranean salt meadows – Unfavourable/Inadequate Shifting dunes along the shoreline – Unfavourable/Bad Fixed coastal dunes – Unfavourable/Inadequate 	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonizing mud and sand <i>Spartina</i> swards <i>Spartinion maritimae</i> [1320] Atlantic salt meadows Mediterranean salt meadow Shifting dunes along the shoreline Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water quality including nutrient levels, water clarity, sediment levels Railway viaduct Appropriate agricultural practices including grazing pressures. Surface and ground water quality Appropriate levels of disturbance Water levels Air quality Tidal currents Erosion and deposition rates Recreational activities Trampling overuse 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreational activities Water pollution Infilling Nutrient enrichment from the Broadmeadows River and sewage plants Disturbance Development
Irelands Eye	<u>Annex I habitats for which the</u>	• Perennial vegetation of	To maintain or restore the	• Water quality including	• Increase in visitor

Appendix C Details of European Sites within 15km of Baldoyle-Stapolin LAP					
Site Name & Code	Qualifying Interests	Current Conservation Status ⁸	Conservation Management Objectives ⁹	Conditions underpinning site integrity	Main pressures and threats to site integrity ¹⁰
cSAC (002193) c.4km east	<p><u>sites is designated:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220] Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230] 	<p>stony banks [1220] – Unfavourable/Inadequate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230] – Unfavourable/Inadequate 	<p>favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> [1220] Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1230] Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts 	<p>nutrient levels, water clarity, sediment levels</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintaining appropriate agricultural practices including grazing pressures. Surface and ground water quality Maintaining appropriate levels of disturbance Water levels Air quality Tidal currents Erosion and deposition rates 	<p>numbers damaging sandy habitats and disturbing bird species</p>
Howth Head cSAC (000202) c.3.5km south-east	<p><u>Annex I habitats for which the sites is designated:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230] European dry heaths [4030] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230] – Unfavourable/Inadequate European dry heaths [4030] - Unfavourable/Bad 	<p>To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230] European dry heaths [4030] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Controlling heath Fires Controlling recreational activities, visitor pressure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Controlling fire risk Controlling visitor numbers Air pollution Overfishing affecting prey abundance
Rockabill to Dalkey Island cSAC	<p><u>Annex I habitats for which the sites is designated:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reefs [1170] <p><u>Annex II species for which the sites is designated:</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reefs [1170] - Unfavourable/Inadequate Harbour porpoise <i>Phocaena phocaena</i> [1170] - Favourable 	<p>Currently unavailable.</p> <p>Based on current generic conservation objectives for other sites, conservation objectives likely to be;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tidal currents Direct disturbance to habitats Prey abundance Water quality Disturbance/noise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professional fishing Taking of Fauna Taking of Flora Water Pollution Climate change Invasion of a non-native species

Appendix C Details of European Sites within 15km of Baldoyle-Stapolin LAP					
Site Name & Code	Qualifying Interests	Current Conservation Status ⁸	Conservation Management Objectives ⁹	Conditions underpinning site integrity	Main pressures and threats to site integrity ¹⁰
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harbour porpoise <i>Phocaena phocaena</i> [1170] 		To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reefs [1170] Harbour porpoise <i>Phocaena phocaena</i> [1170] 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Direct damage to reef habitats Outdoor sports and leisure activities Noise Military manouvers Competition for fishing resources with fishermen Pollution
South Dublin Bay cSAC (000210) c.6.6km south	<u>Annex I habitats for which the sites is designated:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide – Unfavourable/Inadequate 	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Controllong bait digging Land reclamation for industrial / infrastructure usage Water quality including nutrient levels, water clarity, sediment levels Maintaining appropriate levels of disturbance Tidal currents Erosion and deposition rates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land take for Infrastructure/ Industry Water quality/pollution Recreational Activities Commercial Bait Digging Disturbance
Special Protection Areas (SPA)					
Site Name & Code	Qualifying Interests & Code	Current Conservation Status ¹¹	Conservation Management Objectives ¹²	Conditions underpinning site integrity	Threats to site integrity
Lambay Island SPA (004069)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fulmar (<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>) [A009] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [A009] – Green [A017] – Amber 	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Geology Coastal habitats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Predation from rat species Overfishing

11 Sourced from The status of birds in Ireland: an analysis of conservation concern 2008-2013, Paul Lynas, Stephen F., Newton, & James A. Robinson, Irish Birds 2007

12 Sourced from Conservation Objectives (NPWS, 2011)

Appendix C Details of European Sites within 15km of Baldoyle-Stapolin LAP					
Site Name & Code	Qualifying Interests	Current Conservation Status ⁸	Conservation Management Objectives ⁹	Conditions underpinning site integrity	Main pressures and threats to site integrity ¹⁰
c.11km north east	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [A018] – Amber • [A043] – Amber • [A183] – Amber • [A184] – Red • [A188] – Amber • [A199] – Amber • [A200] – Amber • [A204] – Amber 	<p>condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Fulmarus glacialis</i> [breeding] • <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> [breeding] • <i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i> [breeding] • <i>Anser anser</i> [wintering] • <i>Larus fuscus</i> [breeding] • <i>Larus argentatus</i> [breeding + wintering] • <i>Rissa tridactyla</i> [breeding] • <i>Uria aalge</i> [breeding] • <i>Alca torda</i> [breeding] • <i>Fratercula arctica</i> [breeding] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food supply • Appropriate levels of disturbance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pollution • Impacts on food resources
Rogerstown Estuary SPA (004015) c.4.5km South	<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</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [A043] –Amber • [A046] –Amber • [A048] – Amber • [A056] – Red • [A130] – Amber • [A137] – Amber • [A141] – Amber • [A143] – Red • [A149] – Amber • [A156] – Amber 	<p>To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Anser anser</i> [wintering] • <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> [wintering] • <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> [wintering] • <i>Anas clypeata</i> [wintering] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water quality including nutrient levels, water clarity, sediment levels • Water levels • Tidal currents • Wind energy • Erosion / deposition levels • Freshwater influx • Coastal habitats • Food supply • Appropriate levels of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pollution caused by increased fertiliser application, sewage and industrial waste. • Reclamation • Pollution from landfill site is also a major source • raw sewage • agricultural pollution • Agricultural nutrient enrichment

Appendix C Details of European Sites within 15km of Baldoyle-Stapolin LAP					
Site Name & Code	Qualifying Interests	Current Conservation Status ⁸	Conservation Management Objectives ⁹	Conditions underpinning site integrity	Main pressures and threats to site integrity ¹⁰
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>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] • Wetlands & waterbirds [A999] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [A162] – Red 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> [wintering] • <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> [wintering] • <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> [wintering] • <i>Calidris canutus</i> [wintering] • <i>Calidris alpina</i> [wintering] • <i>Limosa limosa</i> [wintering] • <i>Tringa totanus</i> [wintering] 	disturbance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural erosion • Anthropogenic erosion
<p>Malahide Estuary SPA (004025) c. 3.7km north (also known as Broadmeadow / Swords SPA)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great Crested Grebe (<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>) [A005] • Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046] • Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048] • Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) [A054] • Goldeneye (<i>Bucephala clangula</i>) [A067] • Red-breasted Merganser (<i>Mergus serrator</i>) [A069] • Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130] • Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140] • Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] • Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [A005] – Amber • [A046] – Amber • [A048] – Amber • [A054] – Red • [A067] – Amber • [A069] – Green • [A130] – Amber • [A140] – Red • [A141] – Amber • {A143} – Red • [A149] – Amber • [A156] – Amber • [A157] – Red • [A162] – Red 	<p>To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Podiceps cristatus</i> [wintering] • <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> [wintering] • <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> [wintering] • <i>Anas acuta</i> [wintering] • <i>Bucephala clangula</i> [wintering] • <i>Mergus serrator</i> [wintering] • <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> [wintering] • <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> [wintering] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water quality including nutrient levels, water clarity, sediment levels • Freshwater influx • Railway viaduct • Water levels • Tidal currents • Wind energy • Erosion / deposition levels • Coastal habitats • Food supply • Appropriate levels of disturbance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reclamation for industrial and/or infrastructural purposes. • Infilling • Landfill site is also a major source of pollution • Untreated waste • Agricultural nutrient enrichment • Water quality • Impacts on food resources • Disturbance from recreational activities • Disturbance from dog walkers

Appendix C Details of European Sites within 15km of Baldoyle-Stapolin LAP					
Site Name & Code	Qualifying Interests	Current Conservation Status ⁸	Conservation Management Objectives ⁹	Conditions underpinning site integrity	Main pressures and threats to site integrity ¹⁰
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [A143] • Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149] • Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156] • Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157] • Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162] • Wetlands & Waterbirds [A999] 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> [wintering] • <i>Calidris canutus</i> [wintering] • <i>Calidris alpina</i> [wintering] • <i>Limosa limosa</i> [wintering] • <i>Limosa lapponica</i> [wintering] • <i>Tringa totanus</i> [wintering] • Wetlands & Waterbirds 		
Baldoyle Bay SPA (004016) 0km	<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>) [A157] • Wetlands & Waterbirds [A999] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [A046] – Amber • [A048] – Amber • [A137] – Amber • [A140] – Red • [A141] – Amber • [A157] – Red 	<p>To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> [wintering] • <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> [wintering] • <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> [wintering] • <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> [wintering] • <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> [wintering] • <i>Limosa lapponica</i> [wintering] • Wetlands & Waterbirds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water quality including nutrient levels, water clarity, sediment levels • Water levels • Tidal currents • Wind energy • Erosion / deposition levels • Freshwater influx • Intertidal habitats • Coastal habitats • Food supply • Appropriate levels of disturbance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disturbance from dog walkers • Infilling • Nutrient enrichment from inflowing rivers and sewage plants • <i>Spartina</i> may be causing unfavourable interactions with the intertidal and salt marsh habitats
Irelands Eye SPA (004117)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [A017] - Amber 	<p>To maintain or restore the favourable conservation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breeding Habitat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Predation from rat species

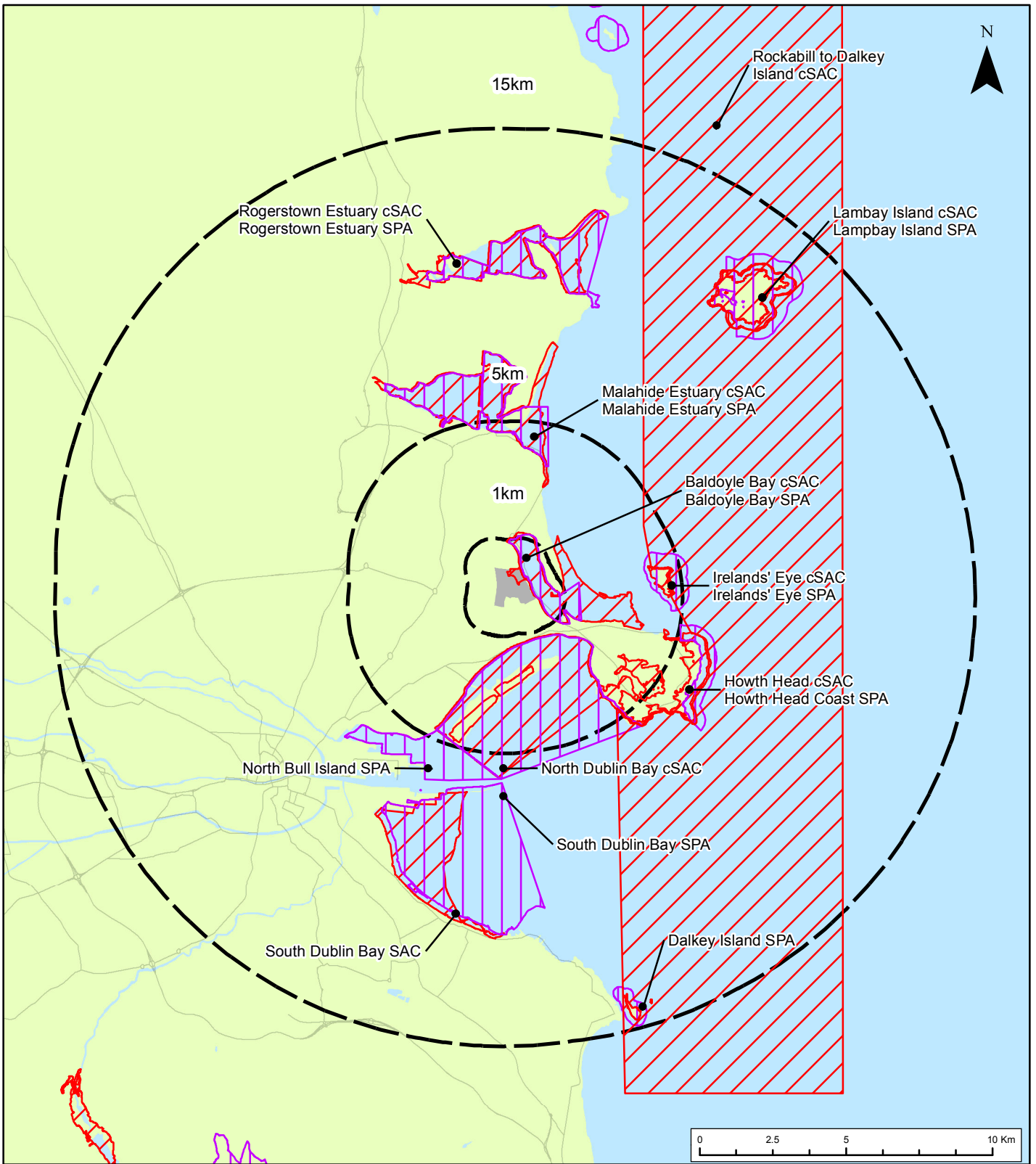
Appendix C Details of European Sites within 15km of Baldoyle-Stapolin LAP					
Site Name & Code	Qualifying Interests	Current Conservation Status ⁸	Conservation Management Objectives ⁹	Conditions underpinning site integrity	Main pressures and threats to site integrity ¹⁰
c. 4km east	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [A184] - Red [A188] – Amber [A199] – Amber [A200] – Amber 	<p>condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> [breeding] <i>Larus argentatus</i> [breeding] <i>Rissa tridactyla</i> [breeding] <i>Uria aalge</i> [breeding] <i>Alca torda</i> [A200] [breeding] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coastal habitats Foraging Habitat Foraging Resources Water quality Coastal habitats Food supply Appropriate levels of disturbance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overfishing Pollution Impacts on food resources Disturbance Increased Recreation
Howth Head Coast SPA (004113) c. 5km south east	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [A188] – Amber 	<p>To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Rissa tridactyla</i> [breeding] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Breeding Habitat (sea cliffs) Foraging Habitat (Irish sea) Food supply Appropriate levels of disturbance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over-fishing Pollution Disturbance Increased Recreation
Dalkey Islands SPA (004172) c. 13km south	<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] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [A192] – Amber [A193] – Common Tern [A194] – Amber 	<p>To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Sterna dougallii</i> [passage] <i>Sterna hirundo</i> [passage] <i>Sterna paradisaea</i> [passage] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foraging Habitat Breeding Habitat Appropriate levels of disturbance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Severe Weather (Lack of Habitat Cover) Climate Change Rats Increased Recreation

Appendix C Details of European Sites within 15km of Baldoyle-Stapolin LAP					
Site Name & Code	Qualifying Interests	Current Conservation Status ⁸	Conservation Management Objectives ⁹	Conditions underpinning site integrity	Main pressures and threats to site integrity ¹⁰
North Bull Island SPA (004006) c. 1.2km south	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130] Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046] Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048] Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052] Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) [A054] Shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>) [A056] Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140] Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143] Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144] Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149] Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156] Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157] Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160] Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162] Turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>) [A169] Black-headed Gull (<i>Larus</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [A130] – Amber [A140] – Red [A141] – Amber [A143] – Red [A144] – Green [A149] – Amber [A046] – Amber [A048] – Amber [A149] – Amber [A052] – Amber [A054] – Red [A156] – Amber [A157] – Red [A160] – Amber [A162] – Red [A169] – Green [A179] - Red 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA: <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> [wintering] <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> [wintering] <i>Anas crecca</i> [wintering] <i>Anas acuta</i> [wintering] <i>Anas clypeata</i> [wintering] <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> [wintering] <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> [wintering] <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> [wintering] <i>Calidris canutus</i> [wintering] <i>Calidris alba</i> [wintering] <i>Calidris alpina</i> [wintering] <i>Limosa limosa</i> [wintering] <i>Limosa lapponica</i> [wintering] <i>Numenius arquata</i> [wintering] <i>Tringa totanus</i> [wintering] <i>Arenaria interpres</i> [wintering] <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> [wintering] Wetlands 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foraging Habitat Breeding Habitat Food supply Appropriate Levels of disturbance Water quality including nutrient levels, water clarity, sediment levels Water levels Tidal currents Erosion / deposition levels Freshwater influx Intertidal habitats Air Quality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pollution (Shipping) Commercial Bait Digging Recreational Activities Water Sports

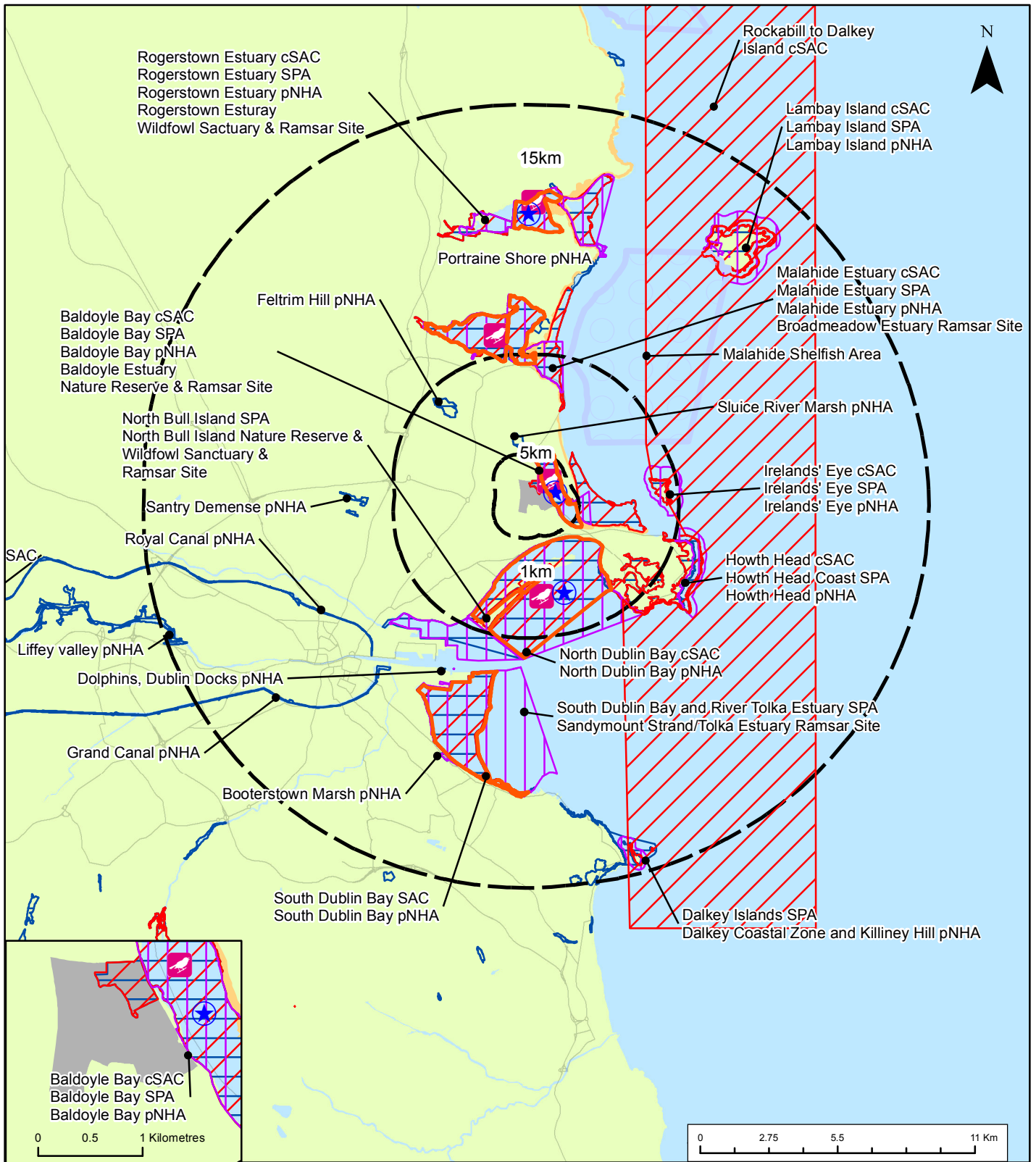
Appendix C Details of European Sites within 15km of Baldoyle-Stapolin LAP					
Site Name & Code	Qualifying Interests	Current Conservation Status ⁸	Conservation Management Objectives ⁹	Conditions underpinning site integrity	Main pressures and threats to site integrity ¹⁰
	<p><i>ridibundus</i>) [A179]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wetlands & Waterbirds [A999] 				
<p>South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA (004024) c.5km south</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046] Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130] Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137] Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A140] Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143] Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144] Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149] Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157] Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162] Black-headed Gull (<i>Larus ridibundus</i>) [A179] Roseate Tern (<i>Sterna dougallii</i>) [A192] Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193] Arctic Tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) [A194] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [A046] – Amber [A130] – Amber [A137] – Amber [A140] – Amber [A143] – Red [A144] – Green [A149] – Amber [A157] – Red [A162] – Red [A179] - Red [A192] – Amber [A193] – Amber [A194] – Amber 	<p>To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> [wintering] <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> [wintering] <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> [wintering] <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> [wintering] <i>Calidris canutus</i> [wintering] <i>Calidris alba</i> [wintering] <i>Calidris alpina</i> [wintering] <i>Limosa lapponica</i> [wintering] <i>Tringa totanus</i> [wintering] <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> [wintering] <i>Sterna dougallii</i> [passage] <i>Sterna hirundo</i> [breeding + passage] <i>Sterna paradisaea</i> [passage] Wetlands [] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foraging Habitat Breeding Habitat Food supply Appropriate Levels of disturbance Water quality including nutrient levels, water clarity, sediment levels Water levels Tidal currents Erosion / deposition levels Freshwater influx Intertidal habitats Air Quality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land take and Habitat Degradation Pollution Commercial Bait Digging Recreational Activities

Appendix C Details of European Sites within 15km of Baldoyle-Stapolin LAP					
Site Name & Code	Qualifying Interests	Current Conservation Status⁸	Conservation Management Objectives⁹	Conditions underpinning site integrity	Main pressures and threats to site integrity¹⁰
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wetlands & Waterbirds [A999] 				

Appendix D



<p>Legend</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1, 5, and 15 km Buffer Baldoye Stapolin LAP candidate Special Area of Conservation (cSAC) Special Protection Areas (SPA) 	Title		Fig 4: Natura 2000 sites within 1km, 5km, & 15km of the LAP		
	Project		Baldoye - Stapolin Local Area Plan		
	Project No.		120023		
	Client		Fingal County Council		
	Date		February 2013	Revision	02
			<p>Scott Cawley Environmental Consultants 127 Lower Baggot Street Dublin 2 Ireland Tel: +353-(0)1-6769815 Fax: +353-(0)1-6769816 www.scottcawley.com</p>		



Legend	Title	Fig 5: National, European and International sites and pNHAs within 15km of the LAP		
	Project	Baldoyle - Stapolin Local Area Plan		
	Project No.	120023		
	Client	Fingal County Council		
	Date	February 2013	Revision	02
		Scott Cawley Environmental Consultants 127 Lower Baggot Street Dublin 2 Ireland Tel: +353-(0)1-6769815 Fax: +353-(0)1-6769816 www.scottcawley.com		

Appendix E

Appendix E National Designated Sites		
Site Name & Code	Distance from Site	Qualifying Interests
Nature Reserves and Wildfowl Sanctuaries		
Baldoyle Estuary Nature Reserve	0km	Baldoyle is of international importance as a wintering area for Brent Geese. Wading birds that winter at Baldoyle include black-tailed Godwits, Redshanks and Curlews. Fish within the estuary are prey for diving birds like the Great-crested Grebe and the Red-breasted Merganser.
Rogerstown Estuary Wildfowl Sanctuary	c.9.5km	The site is important for various species of waterbirds, supporting internationally important numbers of Brent Geese and large numbers of roosting gulls and terns. Various species of annalids, bivalves and small gastropods occur.
North Bull Island Nature Reserves and Wildfowl Sanctuary	c.1.2km	The island is covered with dune grassland. An extensive salt marsh lies to the northwest and at extreme low tides there are extensive mud flats between the island and the mainland. The reserves are of international scientific importance for Brent Geese and also on botanical, ornithological, zoological and geomorphological grounds.
proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHA's)		
Rogerstown Estuary (000208)	c.9.5km	This site is an good example of an estuarine system, with all typical habitats represented, including several listed on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estuaries; Mudflats and sandflats; Atlantic and Mediterranean salt meadows; dune habitats; <i>Salicornia</i> swards and <i>Spartina</i>. Rogerstown is an internationally important waterfowl site and has been a breeding site for Little Terns. The presence within the site of three rare plant species adds to its importance.
Royal Canal (002103)	c.7.7km	The Royal Canal pNHA is an important ecological asset for the diversity of species within the linear habitats present and the presence of rare and protected species. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>); Wildlife Act; Habitats Directive • Opposite-leaved Pondweed (<i>Groenlandia densa</i>) Red Data Book; FPO • Stonewort (<i>Tolypella intricata</i>); Red Data Book • Species diverse hedgerows and calcareous and calcifuge grassland species
Liffey Valley (000128)	c.14.4km	The site is important because of the diversity of the habitats within the site, ranging from aquatic to terrestrial. A number of rare and threatened plant species have been recorded from the site. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mixed Deciduous Woodland • Wet Marsh • Green figwort (<i>Scrophularia umbrosa</i>); Red Data Book • Hairy St. John's Wort (<i>Hypericum hirsutum</i>); FPO; Red Data Book • Yellow Archangel (<i>Lamiastrum galeobdolon</i>); FPO; Red Data Book • Part of the Liffey Valley Special Amenity Areas Order 1990
Grand Canal (002104)	c.8.2km	The ecological value of the canal lies more in the diversity of species it supports along its linear habitats than in the presence of rare species. It crosses through agricultural land and therefore provides a refuge for species threatened by modern farming methods. A number of different habitats are found within the canal boundaries - hedgerow, tall herbs, calcareous grassland, reed fringe, open water, scrub and woodland. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>); Wildlife Act; Habitats Directive • Smooth Newt (<i>Lissotriton vulgaris</i>); Wildlife Act

Appendix E National Designated Sites		
Site Name & Code	Distance from Site	Qualifying Interests
		Opposite-leaved Pondweed (<i>Groenlandia densa</i>) Red Data Book; FPO
Feltrim Hill (001208)	c.3.7km	The primary feature of interest is the presence of Knoll-reefs in Feltrim Hill. Knoll-reefs are known from central Ireland and Northern England but are comparatively rare in Britain. Feltrim Hill is regarded as a good example of the phenomenon and a number of fish species have been described from the lower shales.
Santry Demesne (000178)	c.6km	The primary importance of this site is that it contains a legally protected plant species. The woodland, however, is of general ecological interest as it occurs in an area where little has survived of the original vegetation. Hairy St. John's Wort (<i>Hypericum hirsutum</i>); FPO; Red Data Book Demesne Woodland
Ireland's Eye (000203)	c.4km	This uninhabited marine island has a well developed maritime flora, with two habitats (sea cliffs and shingle) listed on Annex II of the EU Habitats Directive, and nationally important seabird colonies.
North Dublin Bay (000206)	c.1.2km	North Dublin Bay pNHA is also designated as 'North Dublin Bay cSAC' and 'North Bull Island SPA'. Please refer to these designated areas for further descriptions of qualifying interests of the area.
Dolphins, Dublin Docks (000201)	c.6.9km	Dolphins, Dublin Docks pNHA is also designated as 'Sandymount Strand/Tolka Estuary SPA'. Please refer to these designated areas for further descriptions of qualifying interests of the area.
South Dublin Bay (000210)	c.6.6km	South Dublin Bay pNHA is also designated as 'South Dublin Bay cSAC' and 'Sandymount Strand/Tolka Estuary SPA'. Please refer to these designated areas for further descriptions of qualifying interests of the area.
Boosterstown Marsh (001205)	c.10.1km	Boosterstown Marsh is the only saltmarsh in south Dublin and, despite some concerns about the increasing salinity of the site, it remains a valuable habitat for many birds as well as containing a diverse flora including the protected plant Borrer's Saltmarsh-grass (<i>Puccinellia fasciculata</i>). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Borrer's Saltmarsh-grass (<i>Puccinellia fasciculata</i>); FPO • Variety and abundance of bird species including Kingfisher, Little Egret and Yellow Wagtail
Howth Head (000202)	c.3km	Howth Head displays a fine range of natural habitats, including two Annex I habitats, within surprisingly close proximity to Dublin city. The site is also of scientific importance for its seabird colonies, invertebrates and lichens. It also supports populations of at least two legally protected plant species and several other scarce plants.
Sluice River Marsh (001763)	c.1.3km	This site is of importance as a relatively intact freshwater marsh, a habitat that is now rare in County Dublin. Some waterfowl from Baldoyle Estuary may use the marsh on occasions. Freshwater Marsh
Malahide Estuary (000205)	c.2.8km	Malahide Estuary pNHA is also designated as 'Malahide Estuary cSAC' and 'Malahide Estuary SPA'. Please refer to these designated areas for further descriptions of qualifying interests of the area.
Baldoyle Bay (000199)	0Km	Baldoyle Bay pNHA is also designated as 'Baldoyle cSAC' and 'Baldoyle SPA'. Please refer to these designated areas for further descriptions of qualifying interests of the area.
Lambay Island (000204)	c.11.2km	Lambay Island pNHA is also designated as 'Lambay Island cSAC' and 'Lambay Island SPA'. Please refer to these designated areas for further descriptions of qualifying interests of the area.
Portraine Shore (001215)	c.8km	The site is mostly a stretch of rocky shore, with some intertidal sands at the south end. A narrow strip of coastal vegetation above the rocky shore

Appendix E National Designated Sites		
Site Name & Code	Distance from Site	Qualifying Interests
		is included. Turnstones, Oystercatchers and Curlew feed along the shore. This site is a good example of a rocky bedrock shore with a typical flora and fauna. The grassy vegetation above the shore adds habitat diversity. The site is also an important geological site.
Dalkey Coastal Zone and Killiney Hill (1206)	c.11.7km	<p>This site represents a fine example of a coastal system with habitats ranging from the sub-littoral to coastal heath. The flora is well developed and includes some scarce species.</p> <p>The islands are important bird sites. Up to five pairs of Fulmar breed on the cliffs below the railway line. Kestrel breeds in the area, as well as Stonechat. The site also has geological importance.</p> <p>Dalkey Coastal Zone and Killiney Hill pNHA is also designated as 'Dalkey Island cSAC'. Please refer to these designated areas for further descriptions of qualifying interests of the area.</p>
Ramsar Sites		
Baldoyle Bay (413)	0km	A tidal embayment separated from the sea by a major sand dune system. Vast mudflats are exposed at low tide and there are extensive beds of <i>Spartina</i> . The site is internationally important for the wintering goose <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> , and nationally important numbers of various species of waterbirds use the site. Human activities include bait digging, shooting, and low levels of recreational boating and fishing.
Rogerstown Estuary (412)	c.9.5km	Numerous species of large numbers of wintering waterbirds use the tidal flats and the site is internationally important for 'Branta bernicla hrota'. Human activity in the area includes bait digging and shellfish collection.
Broadmeadow Estuary (833)	c.2.7km	The estuary is an important wintering site for numerous species of waterbirds. The Brent goose population is of international importance. The high numbers of diving birds reflects the lagoon-type nature of the inner estuary. Human activity in the area includes watersports where there is a marina present along with some housing in the surrounding locality.
North Bull Island (406)	c.1.8km	The area is important for nesting <i>Sterna albifrons</i> (80 pairs, or about 30% of the Irish population) and for numerous species of wintering waterbirds. Human activities include bait digging.
Sandymount Strand / Tolka Estuary (832)	c.8km	The site is important for various species of waterbirds, supporting internationally important numbers of Brent Geese and large numbers of roosting gulls and terns. Human activities include bait digging.
Shellfish Areas (Shellfish Waters Directive)		
Malahide (Map 32.)	c.4km	<p>Malahide is situated in County Dublin in the Eastern River Basin District (Map 1). The designated shellfish area is 36.3 km² in area and extends from Lambay Island to Portmarnock. Balbriggan/Skerries shellfish area is situated in adjacent tidal waters.</p> <p>The contributing catchment is 376.66 km² in area (Map 3) and drains number of rivers including the Broadmeadow and the Ward.</p>

Appendix F



**COMMENTS ON MANAGERS RECOMMENDATIONS WITH IMPLICATIONS ON NATURA
IMPACT REPORT**

BALDOYLE STAPOLIN LOCAL AREA PLAN

FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Rev.	Status	Author	Reviewed By	Approved By	Issue Date
V4	Final	JAH	PS	PS	01/05/13

3.1 Summary of Submission Received by the National Transport Authority

Manager's Recommendations:

Item (i) Amend **Objective RS 7**

From:

Seek to achieve the densities provided for in the Preferred Density Masterplan Figure 4D.1. In any event, a minimum of 38 dwellings per hectare (net density) shall be required in each residential block.

To read:

Seek to achieve the densities provided for in the Preferred Density Masterplan Figure 4D.1 in order to ensure the population catchments and critical mass necessary to support more services, justify existing and future investment in high quality public transport and community facilities and generate the conditions for lively streets and open spaces. In any event, a minimum of 38 dwellings per hectare (net density) shall be required in each residential block.

Scott Cawley Ltd. Comment: No implications on Appropriate Assessment conclusion.

Item (ii) Amend **Objective TM 2**

From:

Place strong emphasis on sustainable forms of transport such as walking, cycling and public transport, particularly for short trips.

To read:

*Place strong emphasis on sustainable forms of transport such as walking cycling and public transport, particularly for short trips, **and seek to achieve transport modal split targets that meet or exceed those set out in Department of Transport's 'Smarter Travel, A Sustainable Transport Future 2009-2020.***

Scott Cawley Ltd. Comment: No implications on Appropriate Assessment conclusion.

Item (iii) Revise the following paragraph at the end of section 4B.3

*Subsequent to the completion of the AECOM study for Fingal, the National Transport Authority (NTA) commissioned a study of the road network surrounding the Baldoyle-Stapolin LAP lands and the wider area to the west taking in large portions of the administrative areas of Fingal County Council and Dublin City Council. **The NTA study will outline the required provision and build out of transportation (roads and public transport) infrastructure at a strategic level to serve the wider area around the LAP lands. Once completed the NTA study, entitled the North East Transportation Study, will provide guidance for the funding and provision of transport infrastructure and services and in this way will inform and guide any changes to the suggested phasing strategy.***

Scott Cawley Ltd. Comment: No implications on Appropriate Assessment conclusion.

It is also recommended that **Objective TM 8** be amended:

From:

Ensure that the phasing of development within the LAP lands has regard to the capacity of the road network and to public transport provision.

To read:

*Ensure that the phasing of development within the LAP lands has regard to the capacity of the road network and to public transport provision **informed by the North East Transportation Study.***

Scott Cawley Ltd. Comment: No implications on Appropriate Assessment conclusion.

Item (iv) Make reference to the NTA Cycle Manual guidance document in Table 1.1

Scott Cawley Ltd. Comment: No implications on Appropriate Assessment conclusion.

Items (v) and (viii) Amend **Objective TM 14**

From:

Provide a clear, safe and legible network of cycling and pedestrian routes within the LAP lands that will link key destinations, including the village centre, Clongriffin train station and other important local destinations.

To read:

*Provide a clear, safe and legible network of cycling and pedestrian routes within the LAP lands that will link key destinations, including the village centre, **local schools**, Clongriffin train station and other important local destinations **and which will also provide linkages to the GDA Cycle Network.***

Scott Cawley Ltd. Comment: This proposed amendment may require minor revisions to the Natura Impact Report but will not affect the overall conclusion.

Item (vii) Insert a new map based local objective on the LAP map as follows:

Scott Cawley Ltd. Comment: No implications on Appropriate Assessment conclusion.

Map Objective 5 ***Ensure that key services such as local and primary health care facilities, public house, and crèche are provided within the village centre to ensure the appropriate mix of community services and facilities, the vitality of the Village Centre and to encourage the use of sustainable modes of transport.***

Scott Cawley Ltd. Comment: No implications on Appropriate Assessment conclusion.

Amend Map based *Objective 1* to refer to non-commercial community facilities to read as follows:

‘Facilitate and encourage community facilities which allow for shared and multi-purpose use and adaptability within the village centre, **or for non-commercial or small scale community facilities** other agreed locations **may be considered** subject to demand and resources’

Scott Cawley Ltd. Comment: No implications on Appropriate Assessment conclusion.

Insert new **Objective CI 3** in Section 4E

Encourage the provision of health care services within the Village Centre to cater for the needs of the existing and future population of the growing neighbourhood and to co-ordinate with the HSE, through the implementation of the LAP, on the future planning for such facilities under HSE investment plans.

And renumber remaining objectives accordingly.

Scott Cawley Ltd. Comment: No implications on Appropriate Assessment conclusion.

3.2 Summary of Submissions Received by other State Agencies/Prescribed Bodies

3.2.2 Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government Manager's Recommendations

Item (i) Insert a new heading under Section 1.5 of the LAP entitled ***Implementing the Settlement Strategy of the Fingal Development Plan*** and include the following text:

The Regional Planning Guidelines 2010-2022 prescribe housing unit allocations for Fingal for the period 2002-2016. The Development Plan has taken the housing targets, accounted for housing completions achieved within part of that timeframe and targeted approximately 29,930 units for the period 2011-2017 to meet population requirements. The RPG's require that each local authority makes adequate provision for housing supply so that it is in a good position for economic recovery in the medium to long term.

Aligned to this residential growth, the settlement strategy of the Development Plan advocates consolidation of the existing built footprint of the County and to maximise the potential of locations well serviced by public transport and social infrastructure. The LAP area is one such area with substantial development capacity and potential to deliver residential and recreation needs of the county. The LAP location is included in the wider Baldoyle/Sutton area in the Core Strategy, Table CS08, for the Fingal Development Plan 2011-2017 which outlines this settlement strategy.

The Baldoyle/Sutton area was identified as having a capacity to deliver 2,223 units of overall county target in the period 2011-2017. Of these units it is envisaged that the LAP lands have the capacity to deliver between 800 and 1,100 new units during the lifetime of the LAP, in addition to the 838 already completed or under construction. This is slightly less than was provided for at the time of making the Development Plan, when the figures were based on the old Action Area Plan. Account has been taken in the LAP that current market conditions do not favour apartment type development. However, the LAP sets out a preferred density which encourages increased densities in key areas and in the later phases of development, allowing population growth to take place in the longer term.

This future yield may change as the LAP is implemented taking into consideration specific residential designs that allow for a quality mix of typology, net residential density achieved and the provision of infrastructure to service future residential developments, in particular important road and public transport infrastructure to

facilitate the completion of the LAP area. The full completion of the area may be longer term beyond the current LAP timeframe owing to the property market and funding ability for significant infrastructure. It is evident however from the Development Plan settlement strategy that the LAP area is of strategic importance in accommodating the housing growth and needs for the growing population of the County and Greater Dublin Region in the medium and longer term and should be valued as an opportunity to plan for this growth in a sustainable manner in accordance with the strands of the Core Strategy of the Fingal Development Plan.
Scott Cawley Ltd. Comment: No implications on Appropriate Assessment conclusion.

Item (iii) Amend **Objective RE 4** as follows:

From:

Ensure that the scale of retail proposed is appropriate to a local centre and does not have a material adverse impact on the vitality and viability of existing centres within the area.

To read:

*Ensure that the scale of retail proposed is appropriate to a local centre and does not have a material adverse impact on the vitality and viability of existing centres within the area **and that retail floorspace provision is in compliance with current Retail Planning Guidelines.***

Scott Cawley Ltd. Comment: No implications on Appropriate Assessment conclusion.

Also:

Table 1.1 in Section 1 of the LAP be amended to include reference to the Retail Planning Guidelines for Planning Authorities and the Retail Design Manual
Scott Cawley Ltd. Comment: No implications on Appropriate Assessment conclusion.

3.2.4 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Manager's Recommendation

Include a sentence in Appendix 2, Section 3.3, first paragraph indicating that no rezoning or de-zoning occurred on foot of the Flood Risk Assessment as follows:

No rezoning or dezoning has occurred in the preparation of the Plan as a result of the Flood Risk Assessment.

Scott Cawley Ltd. Comment: No implications on Appropriate Assessment conclusion.

3.2.5 Health Service Executive (HSE)

Manager's Recommendation

Insert a new map based local objective on the LAP map as follows:

Map Objective 5 ***Ensure that key services such as local and primary health care facilities, public house, and crèche are provided within the village centre to ensure the appropriate mix of community services and facilities, the vitality of the Village Centre and to encourage the use of sustainable modes of transport.***

Scott Cawley Ltd. Comment: No implications on Appropriate Assessment conclusion.

Insert new **Objective CI 3** in Section 4E

Encourage the provision of health care services within the Village Centre to cater for the needs of the existing and future population of the growing neighbourhood and to co-ordinate with the HSE, through the implementation of the LAP, on the future planning for such facilities under HSE investment plans.

And renumber remaining objectives accordingly.

Scott Cawley Ltd. Comment: No implications on Appropriate Assessment conclusion.

3.3 Summary of Submissions received from Public Representatives

3.3.1 Cllr. Cian O'Callaghan

Insert a new paragraph into Section 6.3 at the end of the paragraph titled 'Uncompleted Development along Red Arches Road' as follows;

However, it is reasonable that action should be taken on the unfinished apartment blocks in Phase 2 before the rest of the site is fully developed. To this end, an objective is included to ensure delivery of this site prior to the construction of more than 50 units in Growth Area 3.

AND

Insert a new **Objective SP1** within Section 6.3 at the end of the paragraph titled 'Uncompleted Development along Red Arches Road' as follows:

Completion of the apartment blocks is required or a new development permitted and commenced on the apartment block site prior to the completion of more than 50 units in Growth Area 3.

Scott Cawley Ltd. Comment: No implications on Appropriate Assessment conclusion.

3.3.3 Senator Averil Power Manager's Recommendations

Insert new text as last paragraph in *Section 6.5 Interim Measures* to read:

Equally, it is important that new interim sites are not created as development proceeds. The Sequencing and Phasing set out in this Section ensures that development can only proceed on the basis of clear connectivity to the key areas of the Plan lands, in particular, the train station and Village Centre. However, it is also important that individual phases of development within the Growth Areas 1, 2 or 3 are not allowed to proceed in such a way as to create the potential for new development sites to leap-frog unfinished development sites. Therefore, *Objective SP 3* has been included below to ensure that a clear phasing programme within each Growth Area 1, 2 or 3 is included as part of all planning applications within the relevant Growth Area.

AND

Insert new **Objective SP 3**

Ensure that construction takes place in a sequential manner within the phasing of each Growth Area 1, 2 or 3 in order to avoid areas of new development leap-

frogging unfinished phases of development within each of those Growth Areas. Internal phasing arrangements within each Growth Area 1, 2 or 3 will be required and conditioned as part of planning applications.

Scott Cawley Ltd. Comment: No implications on Appropriate Assessment conclusion.

3.5 Summary of Submissions received from Community Organisations/Groups

3.5.1 Fingal Community and Voluntary Forum

Amend Map based *Objective 1* to refer to non-commercial community facilities to read as follows:

'Facilitate and encourage community facilities which allow for shared and multi-purpose use and adaptability within the village centre, **or for non-commercial or small scale community facilities** other agreed locations **may be considered** subject to demand and resources'

Scott Cawley Ltd. Comment: No implications on Appropriate Assessment conclusion.

3.6 Submissions from Landowners

3.6.1 Joseph Cunningham & Associates on behalf of Rondesere Ltd.

Insert a new map based local objective on the LAP map as follows:

Map Objective 5 - *Ensure that key services such as local and primary health care facilities, public house, and crèche are provided within the village centre to ensure the appropriate mix of community services and facilities, the vitality of the Village Centre and to encourage the use of sustainable modes of transport.*

Scott Cawley Ltd. Comment: No implications on Appropriate Assessment conclusion.

Amend Map based *Objective 1* to refer to non-commercial community facilities to read as follows:

'Facilitate and encourage community facilities which allow for shared and multi-purpose use and adaptability within the village centre, **or for non-commercial or small scale community facilities** other agreed locations **may be considered** subject to demand and resources'

Scott Cawley Ltd. Comment: No implications on Appropriate Assessment conclusion.

Insert new **Objective CI 3** in Section 4E

Encourage the provision of health care services within the Village Centre to cater for the needs of the existing and future population of the growing neighbourhood and to co-ordinate with the HSE, through the implementation of the LAP, on the future planning for such facilities under HSE investment plans.

Scott Cawley Ltd. Comment: No implications on Appropriate Assessment conclusion.

3.6.2 Gannon Properties

Amend Tables 6.2, 6.7 and 6.11 in the Phasing column related to the 'Green route to Clongriffin lands' as follows:

From:

Prior to the completion of 200 units or as soon as may be following any required third party agreements.

To read:

Prior to the completion of 200 units or as soon as may be following any required third party agreements **and subject to feasibility**.

Scott Cawley Ltd. Comment: No implications on Appropriate Assessment conclusion.

In the interest of clarity and to avoid unnecessary confusion replace all references to "Station Square" within the LAP with "**Stapolin Square**".

3.6.3 Helsingor Limited Manager's Recommendations

Density

Amend **Objective RS8** as follows:

Require, generally, a minimum net residential density of 50 units per hectare within the proposed village centre and along the northern boundary with Racecourse Park subject to appropriate design and amenity standards. **This will be reflected within the village centre by the provision of between 120 – 190 residential units.**

Scott Cawley Ltd. Comment: No implications on Appropriate Assessment conclusion.

Amend **Objective TM 26** to read:

*Require that, in line with the need to promote increased densities in Growth Areas 2 and 3 and the likelihood that a greater quantum of apartment units will be provided particularly along the Parkland edge to the north of the site, **with the exception of on-street visitor parking**, car parking be provided off-street in either underground or podium type parking arrangements.*

Scott Cawley Ltd. Comment: No implications on Appropriate Assessment conclusion.

Amend the final bullet point in Section 5.11.2 to read:

*At **In the lower density areas provided for in the LAP it is likely that parking will be on-street. However, at higher densities, with the exception of on-street visitor parking**, basement or podium level parking will be required.*

Scott Cawley Ltd. Comment: No implications on Appropriate Assessment conclusion.

Amend Table within Section 5.8.1 as follows:

*Building Face to Face Distance (Route Width): ~~39~~ **38-47***

*Median Strip 10 - ~~46~~ **24** metre wide green tree-lined corridor incorporating bio-swale elements*

Footpath ~~2-5~~ **2 metres**
Footpath Edge: Building line 2.5 metres behind footpath (**maximum**)
Tree Planting Minimum every ~~10~~ **15 metres** within the parking zone
Scott Cawley Ltd. Comment: No implications on Appropriate Assessment conclusion.

Amend Table within Section 5.8.2

Building Face to Face Distance (~~Route Width~~) 21.5 – 26.5 metres
Car Parking ~~Parallel~~ **or chevron** parking ~~except where opposite the village centre where chevron parking should be provided.~~
Underground/podium parking within the development sites.
Furniture zone adjacent to parking.

Scott Cawley Ltd. Comment: No implications on Appropriate Assessment conclusion.

Amend Table within Section 5.8.3 as follows:

Building Face to Face Distance (~~Route Width~~) 21.5 - 26.5 metres
Car Parking ~~On-street~~ **parallel or chevron** parking; **underground or podium** parking within the development sites.

Scott Cawley Ltd. Comment: No implications on Appropriate Assessment conclusion.

Amend text in Section 5.8.4 to add a sentence at the end of the text as follows:

Parallel parking is favoured on Quiet Streets to reduce the width of these streets and also to help calm traffic and create a sense of enclosure.

Scott Cawley Ltd. Comment: No implications on Appropriate Assessment conclusion.

Amend the Table in Section 5.8.4 as follows:

Building Face to Face Distance (~~Route Width~~) ~~Maximum 19 metres~~
19 metres where parallel parking on both sides
20 metres where one side is perpendicular and one parallel
25 metres where double perpendicular parking

Car Parking ~~On-street~~ **parallel or chevron** parking; **underground or podium** parking within the development sites.

Scott Cawley Ltd. Comment: No implications on Appropriate Assessment conclusion.

Amend the first bullet point in Section 5.13.7 to read

- *higher than minimum floor-to-ceiling heights particularly on the ground and first floors **of commercial buildings**, i.e. approximately 4 metres at ground level, 3.2 - 3.6metres for first level*

Amend the first bullet point in Section 5.17 under the heading *Building Design and Site Layout* to read:

- ***Building Heights: 3 storey blocks or 3 storey equivalent (10 metres minimum) to the south of the public plaza where it is clearly demonstrated at planning application stage that a sufficient quantum, size and mix of retail and commercial units appropriate to a village centre can be accommodated. 3-5 storey to blocks north of plaza.***

Scott Cawley Ltd. Comment: No implications on Appropriate Assessment conclusion.

3.6.4 Peshanko Limited Manager's Recommendations

Density

Correct the typographical error in Table 4D.1 where the Max/Preferred Density should read 42 rather than 45, the figure of 42 being already reflected in the total.

Revise the yields associated with Medium-High Area B in Table 4D.1 under the columns 'Minimum Units' and 'Preferred Density Masterplan Units' to reflect the indicated densities and revise the totals accordingly.

Omit the following sentence in Section 4C.3, page 32:

"All surface water run-off must be attenuated where possible and sustainable drainage systems utilised"

and replace it with:

"All surface water discharge shall meet the requirements of Section 6.3.3.4 Location of Development Volume 2 Greater Dublin Strategic Drainage Study and sustainable drainage systems utilised where possible." and insert an additional sentence below this that states ***"Water quality will be the significant factor and the implementation of Section 6.3.3.2. Location of Development Volume 2 Greater Dublin Strategic Drainage Study will also have to be adhered to with respect to the treatment train approach on the basis that it is advisable to adopt the approach that the first treatment focuses on sedimentation, the second on hydraulic attenuation and the third the wetland area"***.

Scott Cawley Ltd. Comment: No implications on Appropriate Assessment conclusion.

Replace the last two sentences in the third paragraph in column 2 on page 32 which currently reads:

"Compliance with this requirement results in compliance with flood risk management guidelines for surface-water discharge for up to the 1% AEP pluvial event. This requirement is best achieved by properly incorporating SUDS techniques into the design of any development."

To read:

"However, this requirement does not necessarily apply to the lands covered by this draft LAP due to their proximity to Baldoyle Estuary. Water quality can be enhanced by incorporating suitable SuDS techniques into the design of any development"

Scott Cawley Ltd. Comment: No implications on Appropriate Assessment conclusion.

Insert an additional sentence after the second sentence in the first bullet point in Section 4C.4.1 stating that ***"These will provide storage to meet attenuation requirements for the 100 year, 6 hour storm and also to cater for tide locking."***

Scott Cawley Ltd. Comment: No implications on Appropriate Assessment conclusion.

Insert additional sentence at the end of Section 4C.4.2 stating that:

“The above SUDS measures described for both the public realm and the private/semi private areas are not prescriptive however chosen methods must be both appropriate and strategic in nature. Future planning applications will be subject to a robust and flexible analysis and will take account of the strategic SUDS framework described above”

Scott Cawley Ltd. Comment: No implications on Appropriate Assessment conclusion.

Revise the reference to 1991 Daylight and Sunlight Standards in Section 5.12.3 to reflect updated standards produced in 2011 to read as follows:

From:

Daylight and sunlight levels, as a minimum, should be in accordance with Site Layout Planning for Daylight and Sunlight: A Guide to Good Practice (B.R.E. 1991) and British Standard (B.S.). 8206 Lighting for Buildings, Part 2 2008: Code of Practice for Daylighting or any update on these documents.

To read:

Daylight and sunlight levels, as a minimum, should be in accordance with Site Layout Planning for Daylight and Sunlight: A Guide to Good Practice (B.R.E. **2011**) and British Standard (B.S.). 8206 Lighting for Buildings, Part 2 2008: Code of Practice for Daylighting or any update on these documents.

Scott Cawley Ltd. Comment: No implications on Appropriate Assessment conclusion.

3.7 Summary of Submissions received from Others

3.7.1 PJ Monaghan – Leading Edge Project Directors

Insert a new map based local objective on the LAP map as follows:

Map based **Objective 5 - *Ensure that key services such as local and primary health care facilities, public house, and crèche are provided within the village centre to ensure the appropriate mix of community services and facilities, the vitality of the Village Centre and to encourage the use of sustainable modes of transport.***

Scott Cawley Ltd. Comment: No implications on Appropriate Assessment conclusion.

Amend Map based *Objective 1* to refer to non-commercial community facilities to read as follows:

‘Facilitate and encourage community facilities which allow for shared and multi-purpose use and adaptability within the village centre, **or for non-commercial or small scale community facilities** other agreed locations **may be considered** subject to demand and resources’

Scott Cawley Ltd. Comment: No implications on Appropriate Assessment conclusion.

Insert new **Objective CI 3** in Section 4E

Encourage the provision of health care services within the Village Centre to cater for the needs of the existing and future population of the growing neighbourhood and to co-ordinate with the HSE, through the implementation of the LAP, on the future planning for such facilities under HSE investment plans.

And renumber remaining objectives accordingly.

Scott Cawley Ltd. Comment: No implications on Appropriate Assessment conclusion.

3.8 Observations by Prescribed Bodies received outside Submission Period

3.8.1 Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht Manager's Recommendations

Amend the title of Table 4A.1 to read ~~Conservation Objectives Qualifying Interests for Baldoyle Bay SAC.~~

Amend Table 3.1 of the SEA to replace ~~Habitats Regulations (SI 94 of 1997 and its amendments)~~ with the **European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (SI 477 of 2011).**

Scott Cawley Ltd. Comment: No implications on Appropriate Assessment conclusion.

4.0 Manager's Amendments

Amend Tables in *Section 6 Sequencing and Phasing* as follows:

Amend Tables 6.1, 6.6 and 6.10 where they relate to the Hole in the Wall Road Upgrade under 'Requirement' column to read:

From:

Realignment of the Hole in the Wall Road with Drumnigh Rd on the R123 to create a new four arm crossroads junction has commenced.

To read:

The process for the realignment of the Hole in the Wall Road with Drumnigh Rd on the R123 to create a new four arm crossroads junction has commenced.

AND

Under the 'Phasing' column to read:

Prior to the completion of in excess of 280 residential units.

Scott Cawley Ltd. Comment: No implications on Appropriate Assessment conclusion.

Amend Table 6.11 for clarity where it relates to the 'Requirements' for Racecourse Park as follows:

From:

'The delivery and transfer to Fingal of the remainder of this Regional Park to take place on completion of development or by 2017, whichever is the earlier.'

To read:

'The delivery and transfer to Fingal of the remainder of this Regional Park to take place on completion of development or by 2017, whichever is the earlier **(unless otherwise agreed with Fingal County Council)**.'

Scott Cawley Ltd. Comment: No implications on Appropriate Assessment conclusion.

Insert a new sentence within Section 6.4.1, Section 6.4.2 and Section 6.4.3 at the end of the paragraph entitled 'Note' which states:

Where permissions exist on the site prior to the adoption of this LAP, the phasing set out in this section will generally not apply except insofar as it is possible to include the LAP phasing as part of the compliance of a condition attached to the permission.

AND

Revise those paragraphs or sections within the LAP which make reference to the number of units permitted on the lands to reflect the recent permission to Penshanko Ltd.

Scott Cawley Ltd. Comment: No implications on Appropriate Assessment conclusion.

Insert new objective GI 27 in Section 4A.4, SuDS section of Green Infrastructure to ensure that all commercial development on the LAP lands provide a green roof as follows:

New Objective GI 27

Ensure that green roofs are incorporated into the design of all new commercial buildings on the Plan lands

Scott Cawley Ltd. Comment: No implications on Appropriate Assessment conclusion.

Appendix G

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL

FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

MONDAY 13th MAY 2013

ITEM NO.

DRAFT BALDOYLE/STAPOLIN LOCAL AREA PLAN

MOTION NO 1

Councillor A. Lavin

Site(s) for HSE Medical Centre

Include a new map based Objective X on the southern section of the LAP lands, near the Grange Road to read:

Facilitate an alternative site near the Grange Road for a Medical Centre, in line with HSE requirements. Such a site should only be considered where it can be demonstrated that a Medical Centre cannot be delivered in the Village Centre within a reasonable time frame (not to exceed 3 years).

REPORT

The residential 'RA' zoning on the Plan lands permits a medical or primary care centre in principle. However, both the Development Plan and Draft Local Area Plan provide for a local centre immediately adjacent to the train station. The delivery of this local/village centre is critical to the overall success of The Coast development and to the linking of the development to the train station and new community to the west via a public square. To be economically viable and to ensure delivery of the considerable upfront infrastructure (the developer is required to have commenced construction on the village centre, including the public square linking the lands to the train station and Clongriffin, prior to the completion of 90 residential units) there must be a critical mass of commercial and community services within the village centre. This will ensure the sustainability of the centre in economic terms but just as importantly, in terms of promoting linkages to the Clongriffin district centre and facilitating and delivering sustainable modes of travel. It should also be noted that this approach is supported by

the NTA submission which indicates that key local destinations e.g. crèche, local health facilities, public house etc. should only be located within the local centre. Recognising the importance of the village centre to the success of the existing and new residential areas and to the encouragement of public transport use, this approach is supported by the Manager. Locating any key services outside the village centre will threaten the viability and timeliness of delivery of the centre and the opportunity to create a critical capacity to enable its success. For this reason, a new map based local objective (objective no. 5) has been proposed by the Manager to ensure that key services such as local and primary health care facilities, public house, crèche are provided within the village centre.

Notwithstanding the above, it is accepted that the Motion recognises the need for any medical centre to be provided in the first instance within the village centre and only after a 3 year timeframe to be facilitated on an alternative site within the LAP lands. The motion is generally accepted subject to a more reasonable 4 year timeframe and minor revisions.

RECOMMENDATION

Include a new map based Objective 6 on the southern section of the LAP lands, near Grange Road to read:

Facilitate an alternative site readily accessible from Grange Road for a Medical/Primary Care Centre, in line with HSE requirements. Such a site should only be considered where it can be demonstrated that a Medical/Primary Care Centre cannot be delivered in the village centre within a reasonable timeframe (not to exceed 4 years).

IMPLICATIONS FOR APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

Recommendation has no envisaged implications on Appropriate Assessment conclusion, once the alternative site is outside of the ecological buffer zone or lands zoned for amenity (HA).

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL

FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

MONDAY 13th MAY 2013

ITEM NO.

DRAFT BALDOYLE/STAPOLIN LOCAL AREA PLAN

MOTION NO 1

Councillor J. Maher

Site(s) for HSE Medical Centre

Include a new map based Objective X on the southern section of the LAP lands, near the Grange Road to read:

Facilitate an alternative site near the Grange Road for a Medical Centre, in line with HSE requirements. Such a site, should only be considered where it can be demonstrated that a Medical Centre cannot be delivered in the Village Centre within a reasonable time frame (not to exceed 4 years).

REPORT

The residential 'RA' zoning on the Plan lands permits a medical or primary care centre in principle. However, both the Development Plan and Draft Local Area Plan provide for a local centre immediately adjacent to the train station. The delivery of this local/village centre is critical to the overall success of The Coast development and to the linking of the development to the train station and new community to the west via a public square. To be economically viable and to ensure delivery of the considerable upfront infrastructure (the developer is required to have commenced construction on the village centre, including the public square linking the lands to the train station and Clongriffin, prior to the completion of 90 residential units) there must be a critical mass of commercial and community services within the village centre. This will ensure the sustainability of the centre in economic terms but just as importantly, in terms of promoting linkages to the Clongriffin district centre and facilitating and delivering sustainable modes of travel. It should also be noted that this approach is supported by

the NTA submission which indicates that key local destinations e.g. crèche, local health facilities, public house etc. should only be located within the local centre. Recognising the importance of the village centre to the success of the existing and new residential areas and to the encouragement of public transport use, this approach is supported by the Manager. Locating any key services outside the village centre will threaten the viability and timeliness of delivery of the centre and the opportunity to create a critical capacity to enable its success. For this reason, a new map based local objective (objective no. 5) has been proposed by the Manager to ensure that key services such as local and primary health care facilities, public house, crèche are provided within the village centre.

Notwithstanding the above, it is accepted that the Motion recognises the need for any medical centre to be provided in the first instance within the village centre and only after a 3 year timeframe to be facilitated on an alternative site within the LAP lands. The motion is generally accepted subject to a more reasonable 4 year timeframe and minor revisions.

RECOMMENDATION

Include a new map based Objective 6 on the southern section of the LAP lands, near Grange Road to read:

Facilitate an alternative site readily accessible from Grange Road for a Medical/Primary Care Centre, in line with HSE requirements. Such a site should only be considered where it can be demonstrated that a Medical/Primary Care Centre cannot be delivered in the village centre within a reasonable timeframe (not to exceed 4 years).

IMPLICATIONS FOR APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

Recommendation has no envisaged implications on Appropriate Assessment conclusion, once the alternative site is outside of the ecological buffer zone or lands zoned for amenity (HA).

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL

FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

MONDAY 13th MAY 2013

ITEM NO.

DRAFT BALDOYLE/STAPOLIN LOCAL AREA PLAN

MOTION NO 1

Councillor C. O Callaghan

Include a new map based objective X on the lands at the marketing suite to state:

Facilitate the provision of changing facilities for clubs and teams using the pitches in the Racecourse Park and meeting space for community use without, any further delay.

REPORT

Temporary permission was granted to Helsingor Ltd in October 2008 (Register Reference F08A/0854 refers) for the use of the permitted changing rooms and associated car parking as a marketing suite for residential properties under construction on the site. This permission will expire towards the end of 2013 and the re-use of the building as changing rooms will be further assessed at that time. However, there is no objection to the inclusion of the proposed map based objective subject to a minor revision in the interests of clarity.

RECOMMENDATION

Insert a new map based objective on the marketing suite to read:

Facilitate the provision of changing facilities for clubs and teams using the pitches in Racecourse Park and meeting space for community use within this existing building without any further delay.

IMPLICATIONS FOR APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

It is understood that this recommendation covers the change in use from the "marketing suite" back to its original proposed purpose as "changing facilities". Any external alterations or further development would require additional scrutiny for potential impacts on Natura 2000 sites.

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL

FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

MONDAY 13th MAY 2013

ITEM NO.

DRAFT BALDOYLE/STAPOLIN LOCAL AREA PLAN

MOTION NO 1

Councillor P. Coyle

In order to facilitate local clubs having complete facilities and also to provide a community facility, the present 'Marketing Suite' should revert to its original purpose as a 'Clubhouse' (with possibly a local club as an anchor tenant to help manage the facility). Accordingly the following Objective should be added to the LAP:

"Ensure that the 'Marketing Suite' building revert in the short-term to its original purpose as a clubhouse facility (for use by local clubs and as a meeting place for community groups)."

REPORT

Temporary permission was granted to Helsingor Ltd in October 2008 (Register Reference F08A/0854 refers) for the use of the permitted changing rooms and associated car parking as a marketing suite for residential properties under construction on the site. This permission will expire towards the end of 2013 and the re-use of the building as changing rooms will be further assessed at that time. However, there is no objection to the inclusion of a map based objective subject to revision in the interests of clarity.

RECOMMENDATION

Insert a new map based objective on the marketing suite to read:

Facilitate the provision of changing facilities for clubs and teams using the pitches in Racecourse Park and meeting space for community use within this existing building without any further delay.

IMPLICATIONS FOR APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

It is understood that this recommendation covers the change in use from the "marketing suite" back to its original proposed purpose as "changing facilities". Any external alterations or further development would require additional scrutiny for potential impacts on Natura 2000 sites.

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL

FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

MONDAY 13th MAY 2013

ITEM NO.

DRAFT BALDOYLE/STAPOLIN LOCAL AREA PLAN

MOTION NO 2

Councillor A. Lavin

School Sites

Include a new map based Objective 6 on the northern section of the village centre to read:

Facilitate an alternative site to the Grange Road site for an urban type school as part of the village centre's mixed use development on the northern section of the village centre subject to the requirement for such being indicated by the Department of Education and Skills within the next Capital Programme for Schools (i.e. the successor document to the 2012-2016 Capital Investment Programme for Schools).

AND CONSEQUENT AMENDMENTS

Revise Tables 6.8 and 6.13 under the 'Requirement' heading as follows:

From:

A new school on the lands is not identified in the 2012-2016 Capital Investment Programme for schools. However, a site has been reserved for future need.

To read:

A new school on the lands is not identified in the 2012-2016 Capital Investment Programme for schools. However, two alternative sites have been reserved for future need, one along Grange Road and the other in the Village Centre. Only one of these sites will be required.

REPORT

There is no objection to this motion.

RECOMMENDATION

Include a new map based Objective on the northern section of the village centre to read:

Facilitate an alternative site to the Grange Road site for an urban type school as part of the village centre's mixed use development on the northern section of the village centre subject to the requirement for such being indicated by the Department of Education and Skills within the next Capital Programme for Schools (i.e. the successor document to the 2012-2016 Capital Investment Programme for Schools).

AND CONSEQUENT AMENDMENTS

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From:

A new school on the lands is not identified in the 2012-2016 Capital Investment Programme for schools. However, a site has been reserved for future need.

To read:

A new school on the lands is not identified in the 2012-2016 Capital Investment Programme for schools. However, **two alternative sites have** been reserved for future need, **one along Grange Road and the other in the Village Centre. Only one of these sites will be required.**

APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS

It is not envisaged that the proposed recommendation will result in implications on Appropriate Assessment conclusion, once all development is contained within the residential zoned land.

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL

FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

MONDAY 13th MAY 2013

ITEM NO.

DRAFT BALDOYLE/STAPOLIN LOCAL AREA PLAN

MOTION NO 2

Councillor J. Maher

School Sites

Include a new map based Objective 6 on the northern section of the village centre to read:

Facilitate an alternative site to the Grange Road site for an urban type school as part of the village centre's mixed use development on the northern section of the village centre subject to the requirement for such being indicated by the Department of Education and Skills within the next Capital Programme for Schools (i.e. the successor document to the 2012-2016 Capital Investment Programme for Schools).

AND CONSEQUENT AMENDMENTS

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To read:

A new school on the lands is not identified in the 2012-2016 Capital Investment Programme for schools. However, **two alternative sites have** been reserved for future need, **one along Grange Road and the other in the Village Centre. Only one of these sites will be required.**

REPORT

There is no objection to this motion.

RECOMMENDATION

Include a new map based Objective on the northern section of the village centre to read:

Facilitate an alternative site to the Grange Road site for an urban type school as part of the village centre's mixed use development on the northern section of the village centre subject to the requirement for such being indicated by the Department of Education and Skills within the next Capital Programme for Schools (i.e. the successor document to the 2012-2016 Capital Investment Programme for Schools).

AND CONSEQUENT AMENDMENTS

Revise Tables 6.8 and 6.13 under the 'Requirement' heading as follows:

From:

A new school on the lands is not identified in the 2012-2016 Capital Investment Programme for schools. However, a site has been reserved for future need.

To read:

A new school on the lands is not identified in the 2012-2016 Capital Investment Programme for schools. However, **two alternative sites have** been reserved for future need, **one along Grange Road and the other in the Village Centre. Only one of these sites will be required.**

APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS

It is not envisaged that the proposed recommendation will result in implications on Appropriate Assessment conclusion, once all development is contained within the residential zoned land.

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL

FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

MONDAY 13th MAY 2013

ITEM NO.

DRAFT BALDOYLE/STAPOLIN LOCAL AREA PLAN

MOTION 2

Councillor P. Coyle

It is recommended to include the Objective:

"Provide a site for a small all-weather training facility (approx. 60 x 30 metres) adjacent to the current pitches and in front of the Clubhouse (current 'Marketing Suite')."

REPORT

The inclusion of an objective for a small all-weather pitch is welcomed in principle. However, the proposed location and dimensions are very specific given the existing grass pitches, the playground, marketing suite building, changing rooms and car parking. The Manager has also been advised that an all-weather may have a knock-on effect on surrounding land uses if it meant that new 'compensatory' feeding grounds for the Brent geese had to be preserved because the existing grasslands or pitches had to be used for the all-weather. The potential for a multi use games area in this area has already gone through an initial appropriate assessment screening as part of the LAP and would be acceptable. However, any cumulative impact of a multi use games area and an all weather pitch have not been assessed and there are concerns that the cumulative scale of development in this location may conflict with the ecological value of the surrounding area. A revised objective could facilitate a small all-weather pitch or a multi use games area within this general location without compromising existing pitches and amenities.

RECOMMENDATION

Insert a new map based objective in the vicinity of the changing rooms at the existing active recreational facilities within Racecourse Park to read:

Provide for a Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) or a small all-weather training facility similar in scale to a MUGA in the vicinity of the changing rooms at the existing active recreational facilities within Racecourse Park subject to screening for appropriate assessment.

IMPLICATIONS OF RECOMMENDATION ON APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

No implications envisaged on Appropriate Assessment conclusion.

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL

FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

MONDAY 13th MAY 2013

ITEM NO.

DRAFT BALDOYLE/STAPOLIN LOCAL AREA PLAN

MOTION NO 2

Councillor C. O Callaghan

Insert a new Objective SP2 within Section 6.3 at the end of the paragraph titled "Uncompleted Development along Red Arches Road" as follows:

Completion of the apartment blocks is required or a new development permitted and commenced on the apartment block site prior to the completion of more than 180 units in Growth Area 1 and the commencement of the 181st units in Growth Area 1.

REPORT

There is no objection to this motion subject to there being no material amendments passed which would undermine the viability of the village centre and the first phase of development in the LAP.

RECOMMENDATION

Insert a new Objective SP1 within Section 6.3 at the end of the paragraph titled "Uncompleted Development along Red Arches Road" as follows:

Completion of the apartment blocks is required or a new development permitted and commenced on the apartment block site prior to the completion of more than 180 units in Growth Area 1 and the commencement of the 181st unit in Growth Area 1.

And renumber all remaining Objectives accordingly.

APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS

No implications on Appropriate Assessment conclusion.

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL

FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

MONDAY 13th MAY 2013

ITEM NO.

DRAFT BALDOYLE/STAPOLIN LOCAL AREA PLAN

MOTION No 3

Councillor P. Coyle

In order to promote the LAP area it is recommended to seek a name change for the 'Clongriffin' Railway Station to 'Clongriffin/Baldoyle Stapolin' Railway Station.

REPORT

The Manager fully supports the intentions of this motion to promote the LAP area and would also support the appropriate renaming of the Clongriffin Railway Station to better reflect its location within the wider developing area of Baldoyle-Stapolin and Clongriffin. There is no objection to an objective being included within the LAP which seeks to "Facilitate a change in the name of the train station from 'Clongriffin' to 'Clongriffin/Baldoyle' in order to reflect its location within the wider developing area of Baldoyle-Stapolin and Clongriffin".

RECOMMENDATION

Insert new Objective 7 in Section 3 - Vision, Themes and Objectives under the heading, Theme 3 A New Heart for Baldoyle, as follows:

Facilitate a change in the name of the train station from Clongriffin to Clongriffin/Baldoyle in order to reflect its location within the wider developing area of Baldoyle-Stapolin and Clongriffin".

And renumber remaining objectives accordingly.

APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS

No implications on Appropriate Assessment conclusion.

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL

FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

MONDAY 13th MAY 2013

ITEM NO.

DRAFT BALDOYLE/STAPOLIN LOCAL AREA PLAN

MOTION NO 3

Councillor C. O Callaghan

Insert in the text Section 4A p.24

Objective G1 39

Facilitate the provision of an all weather pitch facility subject to appropriate assessment on open space lands.

REPORT

There is no objection to this motion in principle. However, it has implications for the conclusions of the appropriate assessment. The Manager has been advised that in the absence of certainty over a proposed location, it cannot be determined if likely significant effects of the proposal can be ruled out as the all weather facility in open space lands could conflict with environmental sensitivities.

To overcome any potential for conflict, the Manager recommends that a revised objective is inserted which indicates a specific location in the northwest of the Plan lands along Moyne Road where an active recreational hub is proposed.

RECOMMENDATION

Insert a new **Objective GI 39** to read:

Facilitate the provision of an all-weather pitch as part of the proposed pitches and active recreational hub to the northwest of the Plan lands, south of Moyne Road, subject to screening for appropriate assessment.

IMPLICATIONS OF RECOMMENDATION ON APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

No implications envisaged on Appropriate Assessment conclusion.

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL

FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

MONDAY 13th MAY 2013

ITEM NO.

DRAFT BALDOYLE/STAPOLIN LOCAL AREA PLAN

MOTION No 4

Councillor P. Coyle

Improved cycling facilities be provided, including cycle tracks to Baldoyle Racecourse Park, cycling generally to sports fields, to access Grange/Willie Nolan Road for Primary/Secondary Schools, and to link in to cycle at Coast Road.

REPORT

Section 4B.5 of the Draft LAP sets out the details of proposed cycle links throughout the LAP lands. It is envisaged that all routes within the street hierarchy will provide for both pedestrians and cyclists. However, given that the majority of the primary streets through the development have already been constructed, the opportunities to provide dedicated cycle tracks on these roads are limited. The main dedicated cycle tracks within the residential area will be along the Boulevards/Green Routes (Ireland's Eye Avenue and Stapolin Avenue). These will provide an important part of the overall movement network and public open space framework for pedestrians and cyclists within the LAP area. They will link Racecourse Park with the residential development, allowing people to move easily from their homes and the village centre to the Park. It is also proposed to provide combined pedestrian and cycle routes through Racecourse Park, as shown on the Landscape Masterplan for the parkland (Figure 4A.1) and these will provide linkages to the Coastal Path and the playing pitches. It must however be acknowledged that opportunities for routes through the eastern section of Racecourse Park will be limited as part of this area is within Baldoyle Bay SAC and therefore public access must be appropriately managed.

Sections of cycle path have been constructed in the existing parts of the development which connect out onto the Grange Road. The provision of cycle paths beyond this lie outside the remit of the Baldoyle Stapolin LAP. It should be noted that Section 4B.6.3 of the LAP does recognise that there are opportunities for the provision of pedestrian and cycle connections with adjacent communities and the wider area through the opening up of existing cul de sacs. In this regard Objective TM 24 seeks to Facilitate, with residents' support, the upgrading of existing cul-de-sacs and areas of open space by opening them up to allow pedestrian and cyclist access where it significantly shortens trips to community facilities, schools, open spaces, shopping facilities or public transport stops for future and existing residents.

RECOMMENDATION

No change recommended.

APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT REPORT

This motion if adopted would require additional scrutiny as part of the Appropriate Assessment process with potential implications to the Appropriate Assessment conclusion. In particular the cycle routes to "link in to cycle at Coast Road" and those potentially traversing the amenity areas / ecological buffer zone would require assessment.

The recommendation for no change will not result in implications to the Appropriate Assessment conclusion.

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL

FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

MONDAY 13th MAY 2013

ITEM NO.

DRAFT BALDOYLE/STAPOLIN LOCAL AREA PLAN

MOTION No 5

Councillor P. Coyle

In relation to the taking-in-charge of the Baldoyle Racecourse Park to now read:

*"The delivery and transfer to Fingal of the remainder of this Regional Park to take place on completion of development or by 2017, whichever is the earlier (**unless otherwise agreed with Fingal County Council**)"*

it is recommended exclude the addition "(unless otherwise agreed with Fingal County Council)"

REPORT

To date, and following protracted negotiations between the developer and the Parks Division, c. 40 hectares of land within Racecourse Park have been transferred into Council ownership. In relation to the delivery and transfer of the remainder of the parkland, there is an existing contractual and legal agreement in place between the Developer and the Parks Division which provides for the taking-in-charge of the remaining lands on completion of development or by 2017, whichever is the earlier. However, in the event that there are difficulties in achieving the transfer within this timeframe, the legal contract provides for a further final deadline of 2022. It is therefore considered necessary to acknowledge the existence of this agreement within the LAP.

RECOMMENDATION

No change recommended.

APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT REPORT

Recommendation will have no implications on Appropriate Assessment conclusion.