

# APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT SCREENING REPORT

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FOR THE  
**DRAFT SUSTAINABLE SWORDS STRATEGY**

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

**for: Fingal County Council**

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County Dublin



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# 1. Introduction

## 1.1. Background

CAAS has been appointed by Fingal County Council to carry out an Appropriate Assessment (AA) screening of the Draft Sustainable Swords Strategy for Swords, Fingal, County Dublin (the Draft Strategy). This Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening Report (also known as Stage One AA) has been prepared to assess whether or not a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) (also known as Stage Two AA) is required for the Draft Strategy. AA is a procedure carried out in accordance with the requirements of Article 6(3) of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (as amended) (hereafter referred to as the "Habitats Directive").

## 1.2. Legislative Context

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

Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive States:

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

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

Article 3(1) of the Habitats Directive States:

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

AA is an assessment of the likely significant effects arising from a plan or project, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, to assess if the plan or project will adversely affect any European

site concerned including implications in view of the European site's conservation objectives. These sites consist of SACs and SPAs and provide for the protection and long-term survival of Europe's most valuable and threatened species and habitats. Where a formal consent process applies, the AA process is concluded by the relevant competent authority making a determination in accordance with article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive.

### **1.3. Overview of the Habitats Directive and Appropriate Assessment Process**

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

There are four main stages in the AA process:

#### **Stage One: Screening**

The process that identifies the likely impacts upon a European site of a project or plan, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans and considers whether these impacts are likely to be significant.

#### **Stage Two: Appropriate Assessment**

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

#### **Stage Three: Assessment of Alternative Solutions**

The process that examines alternative ways of achieving the objectives of the project or plan that avoids adverse impacts on the integrity of the European site.

#### **Stage Four: Assessment where no alternative solutions exist and where adverse impacts remain**

An assessment of compensatory measures where, in the light of an assessment of imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI), it is deemed that the project or plan should proceed.

### **1.4. Approach**

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

The Draft Strategy was subject to Screening for AA and an AA Screening Report was prepared to accompany it on public display. The AA Screening Report concluded that "the Draft Strategy is not foreseen to give rise to any significant adverse effects on any designated European sites, alone or in

combination with other plans or projects.” The Council undertook a Screening for AA determination to this effect.

The Draft Strategy and associated documents, including the AA Screening Report and associated AA determination, were placed on public display and submissions were invited.

Submissions received resulted in a number of relatively minor changes to the Strategy being proposed by the Chief Executive. These changes have been considered by the Screening for AA process, with this updated AA Screening Report being prepared. The conclusion is that “the Draft Strategy for adoption<sup>1</sup> is not foreseen to give rise to any significant adverse effects on any designated European sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects.”

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

- Identification of European sites within 15km<sup>2</sup> of the subject lands;
- Identification of European sites pathways for effects from the site have been identified (if relevant<sup>3</sup>) greater than 15km from the subject lands;
- Review of the NPWS site synopses and conservation objectives for European sites within 15km and for which potential pathways from the proposed site have been identified; and
- Examination of available information on protected species.

### **Source-Pathway Receptor Model**

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

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

In the context of this report, a receptor is an ecological feature that is known to be utilised by the qualifying interests or special conservation interests of a European site. A source is any identifiable element of the Draft Strategy that is known to interact with ecological processes. A pathway is any connection or link between the source and the receptor<sup>4</sup>. This report provides information on whether direct, indirect and cumulative adverse effects could arise from the Draft Strategy.

The ecological desktop study completed for the AA screening of the Strategy comprised the following elements:

- Identification of European sites within 15km of the Strategy boundary with identification of potential pathways links for specific sites (if relevant) greater than 15km from the Strategy boundary;
- Review of the NPWS site synopsis and conservation objectives for European sites with identification of potential pathways from the Strategy area; and
- Examination of available information on protected species.

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<sup>1</sup> Incorporating: the Draft Strategy that was placed on display; all and any changes to the Draft Strategy in response to Chief Executive’s Recommendations following public display; and any additional changes in advance of finalisation/adoption that are considered by the Screening for AA process.

<sup>2</sup> While the actual zone of influence is likely to be much smaller, the default 15km zone extent has been applied on a precautionary basis further detail on this is identified in section 3.2

<sup>3</sup> This is particularly relevant for all sites with hydrological connectivity or other significant ecological pathways

<sup>4</sup> qualifying interest or special conservation interests of the European site in question and the known sensitivities of these key ecological receptors

## **Guidance**

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

- Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland. Guidance for Planning Authorities, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2009;
- Commission Notice: Managing Natura 2000 sites - The provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC", European Commission 2018;
- Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites: Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC", European Commission Environment DG, 2002;
- Managing Natura 2000 sites: The Provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC", European Commission, 2000; and
- Practice Note PN01: Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management, Office of the Planning Regulator, 2021.

## 2. Description of Draft Strategy<sup>5</sup>

### 2.1. Sword's overview

Swords is a busy suburban area in the north of County Dublin, just west of the M1 motorway. It encompasses a small-town centre, with substantial suburban housing estates and communities. The area encompassing and surrounding the strategy area is generally very built up, with patches of remaining agricultural grasslands in the north and north west. There are hedgerows and treelines throughout the suburban developments of swords. There is also the Ward River which flows from the west into central Swords, and the Broadmeadow River which flows into north Swords from the north - both of which meet in north east swords and immediately flow into the Malahide Estuary. Swords itself is a major transport thoroughfare connecting the north Dublin commuter belts and trade networks with Dublin city.

### 2.2. Overview of the Draft Strategy

The Sustainable Swords Strategy is focused on the strategic regeneration and compact, sustainable development of Swords. The goals of the Strategy are to increase the resilience of the local economy, and to provide for an enhanced, accessible, inclusive, child-friendly, and healthy urban environment. The ambition is to form a coordinating device that will establish a package of measures and projects that are prioritised, programmed, and impactful. The aim of the Strategy is to identify a coordinated range of 'pipeline' projects that can be funded as part of the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund and other appropriate funding streams. Swords is a dynamic town that has rapidly grown in recent decades. This growth is anticipated to continue. The Strategy focuses specifically on placemaking within the town centre; aiming to reverse the historic shift away from Main Street that commenced in the early 2000s to facilitate better placemaking and a more resilient town centre. The Strategy aims to facilitate a sustainable approach to development and placemaking in Swords. This is about making a better place to live, work and visit, positioning Swords for the future as a more attractive, vibrant, and resilient town.

The Strategy is intended to increase the resilience of the local economy and to provide for an enhanced, accessible, inclusive, child-friendly, and healthy urban environment. By carefully considering the combined qualitative analysis of the physical assets and condition of the town and, the quantitative baseline data, the opinions and advice provided by consultees, as well as national and international good practice in placemaking and the future role of town centres the project team have developed a vision, recommendations, along with themes and projects that are based on solid evidence, voices from the community and that are in line with the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals.

The Strategy provides further detail and guidance regarding sustainable development, including public realm and sustainable mobility developments and activities, that are already provided for, in general terms, by the existing land use planning and transport framework, that has already been subject to levels of appropriate environmental assessment.

Any land use development or activity progressed under the Strategy shall be required to comply with provisions of the Fingal County Development Plan and the Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area. In order to be consented, any proposals for land use development or activity will need to receive confirmation that they can be progressed in full compliance with the Fingal County Development Plan and the Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area.

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<sup>5</sup> Incorporating: the Draft Strategy that was placed on display; all and any changes to the Draft Strategy in response to Chief Executive's Recommendations following public display; and any additional changes in advance of finalisation/adoption that are considered by the Screening for AA process.

All drawings, routes and illustrations contained within this document are indicative only, for illustration purposes. All greenway and cycleway route are taken from the Cycle Plan for the Greater Dublin Area.



## 3. Screening for Appropriate Assessment

### 3.1. Introduction

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

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

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

Site-Specific Conservation Objectives (SSCOs) have been designed to define favourable conservation status for a particular habitat or species at that site. According to the European Commission interpretation document 'Managing Natura 2000 sites: The provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC', paragraph 4.6(3): "The integrity of a site involves its ecological functions. The decision as to whether it is adversely affected should focus on and be limited to the site's conservation objectives."

The following NPWS Generic Conservation Objectives have been considered in the screening:

- For SACs, 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; and
- For SPAs, to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA.

Where available, Site-Specific Conservation Objectives (SSCOs) designed to define favourable conservation status for a particular habitat<sup>6</sup> or species<sup>7</sup> at that site have been considered.

### 3.2. Identification of relevant European sites

The Department of the Environment (2009) Guidance on AA recommends a 15 km buffer zone to be considered. Although sites beyond this buffer zone would be considered if relevant, a review of all sites within this zone has allowed the conclusion to be made that in the absence of significant hydrological links the characteristics of the Strategy will not impose effects beyond the 15 km buffer. The assessment process also considers hydrogeological processes and possible effects to ground water with respect to ground water sensitive habitats and species.

<sup>6</sup> Favourable conservation status of a habitat is achieved when: its natural range, and area it covers within that range, are stable or increasing; the specific structure and functions which are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future; and the conservation status of its typical species is favourable.

<sup>7</sup> The favourable conservation status of a species is achieved when: population dynamics data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself on a long-term basis as a viable component of its natural habitats; the natural range of the species is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future; and there is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis.

Details of European sites that occur within 15 km are provided in Figure 3.1 and Table 3.1 below. Figure 3.1 also shows hydrological connectivity. Information on QIs, SCIs and site-specific vulnerabilities and sensitivities (see Appendix I) and background information (such as that within Ireland's Article 17 Report to the European Commission, site synopses and Natura 2000 standard data forms) have been considered by the AA screening assessment. Conservation objectives that have been considered by the assessment are included in the following National Parks and Wildlife Service documents:

- NPWS (2012) Conservation Objectives for Baldoyle Bay SAC [IE0000199] Version 1.
- NPWS (2016) Conservation Objectives for Howth Head SAC [IE0000202] Version 1.
- NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives for Lambay Island SAC [IE0000204] Version 1.
- NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives for Malahide Estuary SAC [IE0000205] Version 1.
- NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives for North Dublin Bay SAC [IE0000206] Version 1.
- NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives for Rogerstown Estuary SAC [IE0000208] Version 1.
- NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives for South Dublin Bay SAC [IE0000210] Version 1.
- NPWS (2017) Conservation Objectives for Ireland's Eye SAC [IE0002193] Version 1.
- NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives for Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC [IE0003000] Version 1.
- NPWS (2015) Conservation Objectives for North Bull Island SPA [IE0004006] Version 1.
- NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives for Rockabill SPA [IE0004014] Version 1.
- NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives for Rogerstown Estuary SPA [IE0004015] Version 1.
- NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives for Baldoyle Bay SPA [IE0004016] Version 1.
- NPWS (2015) Conservation Objectives for Sandymount Strand/Tolka Estuary SPA [IE0004024] Version 1.
- NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives for Broadmeadow/Swords Estuary SPA [IE0004025] Version 1.
- NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives for Lambay Island SPA [IE0004069] Version 8.
- NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives for Howth Head Coast SPA [IE0004113] Version 8.
- NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives for Ireland's Eye SPA [IE0004117] Version 8.
- NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives for Skerries Islands SPA [IE0004122] Version 8.

The assessment considers available conservation objectives. Since conservation objectives focus on maintaining the favourable conservation condition of the QIs/SCIs of each site, the screening process concentrated on assessing the potential effects of the Strategy against the QIs/SCIs of each site. The conservation objectives for each site were consulted throughout the assessment process.

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

- Ireland's Article 17 Report to the European Commission "*Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland*" (NPWS, 2019);
- Ireland's Article 12 Report to the European Commission "*Bird species' status and trends reporting format for the period 2008-2012*" (NPWS, 2012)
- Site Synopses<sup>8</sup>; and
- NATURA 2000 Standard Data Forms<sup>8</sup>

<sup>8</sup> NPWS (2019); NPWS Database of protected site data and associated documents for each European site; available at <https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites>: last accessed 21st March 2022

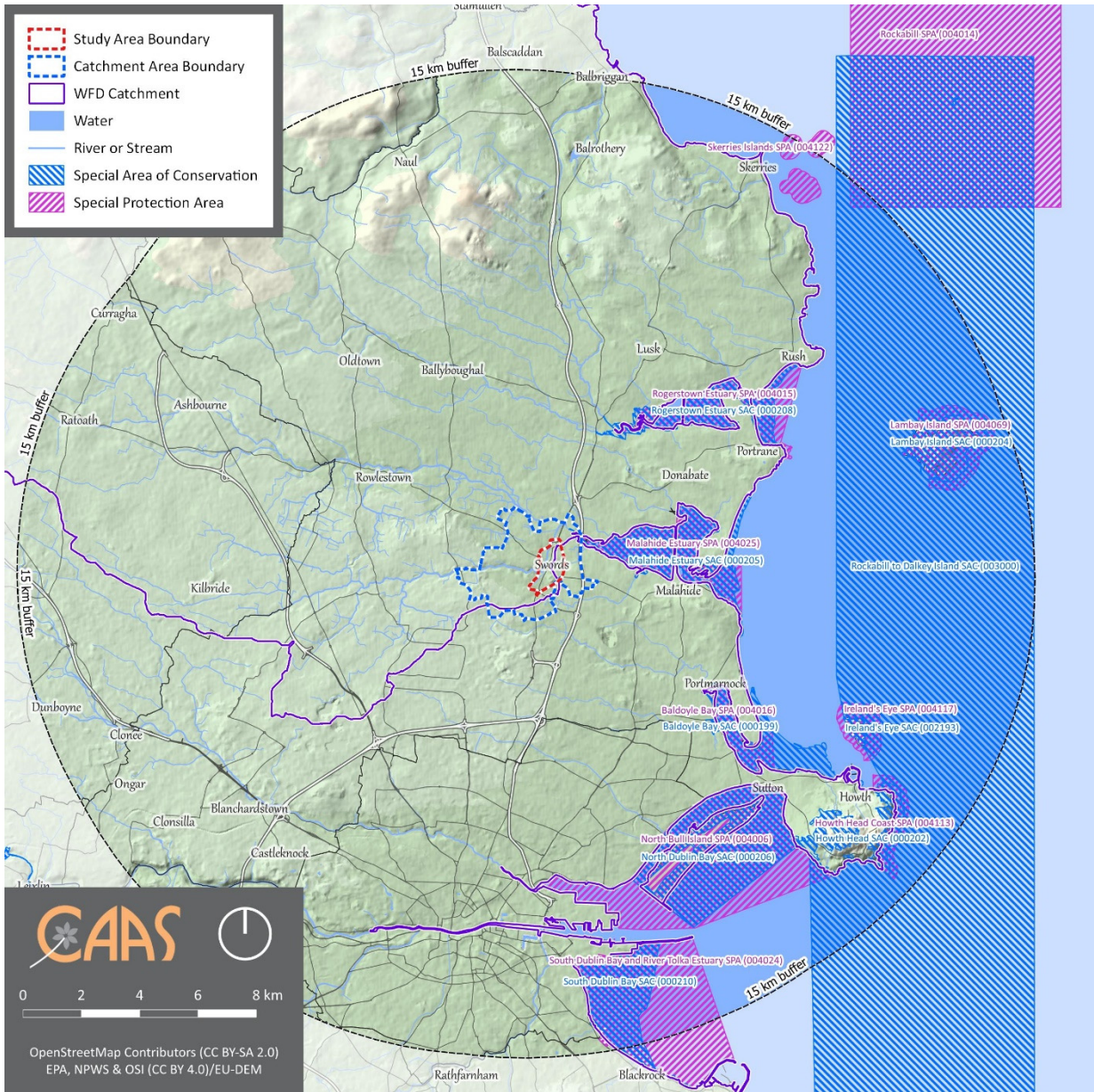


Figure 3.1 European sites within 15km and hydrological connectivity<sup>9</sup>

<sup>9</sup> Source: NPWS (datasets downloaded August 2022)

### 3.3. Assessment criteria

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

Under the Habitats Directive, projects that are directly connected with or necessary to the management of a European site do not require AA. For this exception to apply, management is required to be interpreted narrowly as nature conservation management in the sense of Article 6(1) of the Habitats Directive. This refers to specific measures to address the ecological requirements of annexed habitats and species (and their habitats) present on a site(s). The relationship should be shown to be direct and not a by-product of the project, even if this might result in positive or beneficial effects for a site(s). The primary purpose of the Draft Strategy is not the nature conservation management of the sites, but to produce a place-making strategy focused on the strategic regeneration and compact, sustainable development of Swords. Therefore, the Draft Strategy would not be considered by the Habitats Directive to be directly connected with or necessary to the management of European designated sites.

#### 3.3.2. Elements of the Draft Strategy with potential to give rise to effects

This Strategy provides further detail and guidance regarding the following for the Swords area:

- Sustainable development;
- Public realm and sustainable mobility developments; and,
- Public realm and sustainable mobility activities.

However, these elements of the Draft Strategy are already provided for, in general terms, by the existing land use planning and transport framework, that has already been subject to appropriate levels of environmental assessment.

Any land use development or activity progressed under the Strategy shall be required to comply with provisions of the Fingal County Development Plan and the Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area.

In order to be consented, any proposals for land use development or activity will need to receive confirmation that they can be progressed in full compliance with the Fingal County Development Plan and the Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area.

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Therefore, the Strategy does not introduce any additional sources for effects that were not already considered by the existing Fingal Development Plan and Greater Dublin Area Transport Strategy and associated AA processes.

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

This section documents the final stage of the screening process. It has used the information collected on the sensitivity of each European site and describes any potential effects on European sites resulting from the Draft Strategy. This assumes the absence of any controls, conditions, or mitigation measures. In determining the potential for effects, a number of factors have been taken into account. Firstly, the sensitivity and reported threats to European sites. Secondly, the individual elements of the Draft Strategy and the potential effects they may cause on the sites were considered. The elements of the Draft Strategy with potential to affect European sites are presented in Table 3.1. Sites are screened out based on one or a combination of the following criteria:

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

### 3.4. Characterising potential significant effects

Table 3.1 Screening assessment of the potential effects arising from the Draft Strategy

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature	Potential Effects (refer also to Sections 3.3.2 and 3.3.3 above)	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
000205	Malahide Estuary SAC	Within	Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> - white dunes [2120], <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Mediterranean salt meadows ( <i>Juncetalia maritimi</i> ) [1410], Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation - grey dunes [2130], Atlantic salt meadows ( <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i> ) [1330]	<p>This SAC is sensitive to direct land use management activities, hydrological and groundwater interactions.</p> <p>The Strategy provides further detail and guidance regarding sustainable development, including public realm and sustainable mobility developments and activities, that are already provided for, in general terms, by the existing land use planning and transport framework, that has already been subject to appropriate levels of appropriate environmental assessment.</p> <p>Any land use development or activity progressed under the Strategy shall be required to comply with provisions of the Fingal County Development Plan and the Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area.</p> <p>In order to be consented, any proposals for land use development or activity will need to receive confirmation that they can be progressed in full compliance with the Fingal County Development Plan and the Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area.</p> <p>Therefore, the Strategy does not introduce any additional sources for effects that were not already considered by the existing Fingal Development Plan and Greater Dublin Area Transport Strategy and associated AA processes.</p>	No	No
004025	Malahide Estuary SPA	Within	Great Crested Grebe ( <i>Podiceps cristatus</i> ) [A005], Red-breasted Merganser ( <i>Mergus serrator</i> ) [A069], Golden Plover ( <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> ) [A140], Oystercatcher ( <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> ) [A130], Grey Plover ( <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> ) [A141], Shelduck ( <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> ) [A048], Dunlin ( <i>Calidris alpina</i> ) [A149], Light-bellied Brent Goose ( <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> ) [A674], Goldeneye ( <i>Bucephala clangula</i> ) [A067], Knot ( <i>Calidris canutus</i> ) [A143], Black-tailed Godwit ( <i>Limosa limosa</i> ) [A156], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Pintail ( <i>Anas acuta</i> ) [A054], Bar-tailed Godwit ( <i>Limosa lapponica</i> ) [A157], Redshank ( <i>Tringa totanus</i> ) [A162]	<p>The SPA is sensitive to hydrological interactions, disturbance effects and direct land use management activities.</p> <p>The Strategy provides further detail and guidance regarding sustainable development, including public realm and sustainable mobility developments and activities, that are already provided for, in general terms, by the existing land use planning and transport framework, that has already been subject to appropriate levels of appropriate environmental assessment.</p> <p>Any land use development or activity progressed under the Strategy shall be required to comply with provisions of the Fingal County Development Plan and the Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area.</p> <p>In order to be consented, any proposals for land use development or activity will need to receive confirmation that they can be progressed in full compliance with the Fingal County Development Plan and the Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area.</p> <p>Therefore, the Strategy does not introduce any additional sources for effects that were not already considered by the existing Fingal Development Plan and Greater</p>	No	No

AA Screening Report for the Draft Sustainable Swords Strategy

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature	Potential Effects (refer also to Sections 3.3.2 and 3.3.3 above)	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
				Dublin Area Transport Strategy and associated AA processes.		
000208	Rogerstown Estuary SAC	2.92	Mediterranean salt meadows ( <i>Juncetalia maritimi</i> ) [1410], Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> - white dunes [2120], Atlantic salt meadows ( <i>Glaucopuccinellietalia maritimae</i> ) [1330], Estuaries [1130], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310]	<p>This SAC is sensitive to direct land use management activities, hydrological and groundwater interactions.</p> <p>The Strategy provides further detail and guidance regarding sustainable development, including public realm and sustainable mobility developments and activities, that are already provided for, in general terms, by the existing land use planning and transport framework, that has already been subject to appropriate levels of appropriate environmental assessment.</p> <p>Any land use development or activity progressed under the Strategy shall be required to comply with provisions of the Fingal County Development Plan and the Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area.</p> <p>In order to be consented, any proposals for land use development or activity will need to receive confirmation that they can be progressed in full compliance with the Fingal County Development Plan and the Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area.</p> <p>Therefore, the Strategy does not introduce any additional sources for effects that were not already considered by the existing Fingal Development Plan and Greater Dublin Area Transport Strategy and associated AA processes.</p>	No	No
004015	Rogerstown Estuary SPA	3.36	Ringed Plover ( <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> ) [A137], Oystercatcher ( <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> ) [A130], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Light-bellied Brent Goose ( <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> ) [A674], Grey Plover ( <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> ) [A141], Dunlin ( <i>Calidris alpina</i> ) [A149], Greylag Goose ( <i>Anser anser</i> ) [A043], Shelduck ( <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> ) [A048], Black-tailed Godwit ( <i>Limosa limosa</i> ) [A156], Redshank ( <i>Tringa totanus</i> ) [A162], Knot ( <i>Calidris canutus</i> ) [A143], Shoveler ( <i>Anas clypeata</i> ) [A056]	<p>The SPA is sensitive to hydrological interactions, disturbance effects and direct land use management activities.</p> <p>The Strategy provides further detail and guidance regarding sustainable development, including public realm and sustainable mobility developments and activities, that are already provided for, in general terms, by the existing land use planning and transport framework, that has already been subject to appropriate levels of appropriate environmental assessment.</p> <p>Any land use development or activity progressed under the Strategy shall be required to comply with provisions of the Fingal County Development Plan and the Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area.</p> <p>In order to be consented, any proposals for land use development or activity will need to receive confirmation that they can be progressed in full compliance with the Fingal County Development Plan and the Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area.</p> <p>Therefore, the Strategy does not introduce any additional sources for effects that were not already considered by the existing Fingal Development Plan and Greater Dublin Area Transport Strategy and associated AA processes.</p>	No	No

AA Screening Report for the Draft Sustainable Swords Strategy

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature	Potential Effects (refer also to Sections 3.3.2 and 3.3.3 above)	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
000199	Baldoyle Bay SAC	5.16	Mediterranean salt meadows ( <i>Juncetalia maritimi</i> ) [1410], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], Atlantic salt meadows ( <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i> ) [1330]	<p>The SAC is sensitive to hydrological interactions and direct land use management.</p> <p>The Strategy provides further detail and guidance regarding sustainable development, including public realm and sustainable mobility developments and activities, that are already provided for, in general terms, by the existing land use planning and transport framework, that has already been subject to appropriate levels of appropriate environmental assessment.</p> <p>Any land use development or activity progressed under the Strategy shall be required to comply with provisions of the Fingal County Development Plan and the Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area.</p> <p>In order to be consented, any proposals for land use development or activity will need to receive confirmation that they can be progressed in full compliance with the Fingal County Development Plan and the Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area.</p> <p>Therefore, the Strategy does not introduce any additional sources for effects that were not already considered by the existing Fingal Development Plan and Greater Dublin Area Transport Strategy and associated AA processes.</p>	No	No
004016	Baldoyle Bay SPA	5.16	Shelduck ( <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> ) [A048], Golden Plover ( <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> ) [A140], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Light-bellied Brent Goose ( <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> ) [A674], Grey Plover ( <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> ) [A141], Bar-tailed Godwit ( <i>Limosa lapponica</i> ) [A157], Ringed Plover ( <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> ) [A137]	<p>The SPA is sensitive to hydrological interactions, disturbance effects and direct land use management activities.</p> <p>The Strategy provides further detail and guidance regarding sustainable development, including public realm and sustainable mobility developments and activities, that are already provided for, in general terms, by the existing land use planning and transport framework, that has already been subject to appropriate levels of appropriate environmental assessment.</p> <p>Any land use development or activity progressed under the Strategy shall be required to comply with provisions of the Fingal County Development Plan and the Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area.</p> <p>In order to be consented, any proposals for land use development or activity will need to receive confirmation that they can be progressed in full compliance with the Fingal County Development Plan and the Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area.</p> <p>Therefore, the Strategy does not introduce any additional sources for effects that were not already considered by the existing Fingal Development Plan and Greater Dublin Area Transport Strategy and associated AA processes.</p>	No	No

AA Screening Report for the Draft Sustainable Swords Strategy

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature	Potential Effects (refer also to Sections 3.3.2 and 3.3.3 above)	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
004006	North Bull Island SPA	8.15	Curlew ( <i>Numenius arquata</i> ) [A160], Oystercatcher ( <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> ) [A130], Grey Plover ( <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> ) [A141], Shoveler ( <i>Anas clypeata</i> ) [A056], Dunlin ( <i>Calidris alpina</i> ) [A149], Pintail ( <i>Anas acuta</i> ) [A054], Redshank ( <i>Tringa totanus</i> ) [A162], Turnstone ( <i>Arenaria interpres</i> ) [A169], Black-tailed Godwit ( <i>Limosa limosa</i> ) [A156], Black-headed Gull ( <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> ) [A179], Sanderling ( <i>Calidris alba</i> ) [A144], Light-bellied Brent Goose ( <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> ) [A674], Shelduck ( <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> ) [A048], Knot ( <i>Calidris canutus</i> ) [A143], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Golden Plover ( <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> ) [A140], Teal ( <i>Anas crecca</i> ) [A052], Bar-tailed Godwit ( <i>Limosa lapponica</i> ) [A157]	<p>The hydrologically sensitive species of this SPA are highly sensitive to changes in siltation loads, the distribution of silt loads, pollutants, water levels and anthropogenic disturbance.</p> <p>The Strategy provides further detail and guidance regarding sustainable development, including public realm and sustainable mobility developments and activities, that are already provided for, in general terms, by the existing land use planning and transport framework, that has already been subject to appropriate levels of appropriate environmental assessment.</p> <p>Any land use development or activity progressed under the Strategy shall be required to comply with provisions of the Fingal County Development Plan and the Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area.</p> <p>In order to be consented, any proposals for land use development or activity will need to receive confirmation that they can be progressed in full compliance with the Fingal County Development Plan and the Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area.</p> <p>Therefore, the Strategy does not introduce any additional sources for effects that were not already considered by the existing Fingal Development Plan and Greater Dublin Area Transport Strategy and associated AA processes.</p>	No	No
000206	North Dublin Bay SAC	8.17	Atlantic salt meadows ( <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i> ) [1330], Mediterranean salt meadows ( <i>Juncetalia maritimi</i> ) [1410], Embryonic shifting dunes [2110], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], Humid dune slacks [2190], Petalwort ( <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> ) [1395], Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210], Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> - white dunes [2120], Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation - grey dunes [2130]	<p>The SAC is sensitive to land use management and hydrological and groundwater interactions.</p> <p>The Strategy provides further detail and guidance regarding sustainable development, including public realm and sustainable mobility developments and activities, that are already provided for, in general terms, by the existing land use planning and transport framework, that has already been subject to appropriate levels of appropriate environmental assessment.</p> <p>Any land use development or activity progressed under the Strategy shall be required to comply with provisions of the Fingal County Development Plan and the Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area.</p> <p>In order to be consented, any proposals for land use development or activity will need to receive confirmation that they can be progressed in full compliance with the Fingal County Development Plan and the Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area.</p> <p>Therefore, the Strategy does not introduce any additional sources for effects that were not already considered by the existing Fingal Development Plan and Greater Dublin Area Transport Strategy and associated AA processes.</p>	No	No



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Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature	Potential Effects (refer also to Sections 3.3.2 and 3.3.3 above)	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
003000	Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC	8.19	Harbour porpoise ( <i>Phocoena phocoena</i> ) [1351], Reefs [1170]	<p>The SAC is sensitive to hydrological interactions and direct land use management activities.</p> <p>The Strategy provides further detail and guidance regarding sustainable development, including public realm and sustainable mobility developments and activities, that are already provided for, in general terms, by the existing land use planning and transport framework, that has already been subject to appropriate levels of appropriate environmental assessment.</p> <p>Any land use development or activity progressed under the Strategy shall be required to comply with provisions of the Fingal County Development Plan and the Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area.</p> <p>In order to be consented, any proposals for land use development or activity will need to receive confirmation that they can be progressed in full compliance with the Fingal County Development Plan and the Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area.</p> <p>Therefore, the Strategy does not introduce any additional sources for effects that were not already considered by the existing Fingal Development Plan and Greater Dublin Area Transport Strategy and associated AA processes.</p>	No	No
004024	South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA	8.76	Black-headed Gull ( <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> ) [A179], Common tern ( <i>Sterna hirundo</i> ) [A193], Knot ( <i>Calidris canutus</i> ) [A143], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Dunlin ( <i>Calidris alpina</i> ) [A149], Grey Plover ( <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> ) [A141], Redshank ( <i>Tringa totanus</i> ) [A162], Roseate Tern ( <i>Sterna dougallii</i> ) [A192], Light-bellied Brent Goose ( <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> ) [A674], Sanderling ( <i>Calidris alba</i> ) [A144], Oystercatcher ( <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> ) [A130], Arctic tern ( <i>Sterna paradisaea</i> ) [A194], Ringed Plover ( <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> ) [A137], Bar-tailed Godwit ( <i>Limosa lapponica</i> ) [A157]	<p>The hydrologically sensitive habitats and species of this SPA are highly sensitive to changes in siltation loads, the distribution of silt loads, pollutants, water levels, and anthropogenic disturbance.</p> <p>The Strategy provides further detail and guidance regarding sustainable development, including public realm and sustainable mobility developments and activities, that are already provided for, in general terms, by the existing land use planning and transport framework, that has already been subject to appropriate levels of appropriate environmental assessment.</p> <p>Any land use development or activity progressed under the Strategy shall be required to comply with provisions of the Fingal County Development Plan and the Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area.</p> <p>In order to be consented, any proposals for land use development or activity will need to receive confirmation that they can be progressed in full compliance with the Fingal County Development Plan and the Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area.</p> <p>Therefore, the Strategy does not introduce any additional sources for effects that were not already considered by the existing Fingal Development Plan and Greater Dublin Area Transport Strategy and associated AA processes.</p>	No	No

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Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature	Potential Effects (refer also to Sections 3.3.2 and 3.3.3 above)	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
004117	Ireland's Eye SPA	9.62	Cormorant ( <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> ) [A017], Herring Gull ( <i>Larus argentatus</i> ) [A184], Razorbill ( <i>Alca torda</i> ) [A200], Kittiwake ( <i>Rissa tridactyla</i> ) [A188], Guillemot ( <i>Uria aalge</i> ) [A199]	<p>The SPA is sensitive to hydrological interactions, disturbance effects and direct land use management activities.</p> <p>The Strategy provides further detail and guidance regarding sustainable development, including public realm and sustainable mobility developments and activities, that are already provided for, in general terms, by the existing land use planning and transport framework, that has already been subject to appropriate levels of appropriate environmental assessment.</p> <p>Any land use development or activity progressed under the Strategy shall be required to comply with provisions of the Fingal County Development Plan and the Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area.</p> <p>In order to be consented, any proposals for land use development or activity will need to receive confirmation that they can be progressed in full compliance with the Fingal County Development Plan and the Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area.</p> <p>Therefore, the Strategy does not introduce any additional sources for effects that were not already considered by the existing Fingal Development Plan and Greater Dublin Area Transport Strategy and associated AA processes.</p>	No	No
002193	Ireland's Eye SAC	9.34	Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic Coasts [1230], Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220]	<p>The SAC is sensitive to hydrological interactions and direct land use management activities.</p> <p>The Strategy provides further detail and guidance regarding sustainable development, including public realm and sustainable mobility developments and activities, that are already provided for, in general terms, by the existing land use planning and transport framework, that has already been subject to appropriate levels of appropriate environmental assessment.</p> <p>Any land use development or activity progressed under the Strategy shall be required to comply with provisions of the Fingal County Development Plan and the Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area.</p> <p>In order to be consented, any proposals for land use development or activity will need to receive confirmation that they can be progressed in full compliance with the Fingal County Development Plan and the Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area.</p> <p>Therefore, the Strategy does not introduce any additional sources for effects that were not already considered by the existing Fingal Development Plan and Greater Dublin Area Transport Strategy and associated AA processes.</p>	No	No
000202	Howth Head SAC	10.85	European dry heaths [4030], Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic Coasts [1230]	<p>The SAC is sensitive to direct land use management activities and hydrological interactions.</p>	No	No

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Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature	Potential Effects (refer also to Sections 3.3.2 and 3.3.3 above)	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
				<p>The Strategy provides further detail and guidance regarding sustainable development, including public realm and sustainable mobility developments and activities, that are already provided for, in general terms, by the existing land use planning and transport framework, that has already been subject to appropriate levels of appropriate environmental assessment.</p> <p>Any land use development or activity progressed under the Strategy shall be required to comply with provisions of the Fingal County Development Plan and the Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area.</p> <p>In order to be consented, any proposals for land use development or activity will need to receive confirmation that they can be progressed in full compliance with the Fingal County Development Plan and the Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area.</p> <p>Therefore, the Strategy does not introduce any additional sources for effects that were not already considered by the existing Fingal Development Plan and Greater Dublin Area Transport Strategy and associated AA processes.</p>		
004113	Howth Head Coast SPA	11.52	Kittiwake ( <i>Rissa tridactyla</i> ) [A188]	<p>The SPA is sensitive to hydrological interactions, disturbance effects and direct land use management activities.</p> <p>The Strategy provides further detail and guidance regarding sustainable development, including public realm and sustainable mobility developments and activities, that are already provided for, in general terms, by the existing land use planning and transport framework, that has already been subject to appropriate levels of appropriate environmental assessment.</p> <p>Any land use development or activity progressed under the Strategy shall be required to comply with provisions of the Fingal County Development Plan and the Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area.</p> <p>In order to be consented, any proposals for land use development or activity will need to receive confirmation that they can be progressed in full compliance with the Fingal County Development Plan and the Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area.</p> <p>Therefore, the Strategy does not introduce any additional sources for effects that were not already considered by the existing Fingal Development Plan and Greater Dublin Area Transport Strategy and associated AA processes.</p>	No	No
000210	South Dublin Bay SAC	11.60	Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Embryonic shifting dunes [2110]	<p>The hydrologically sensitive habitats of this SAC are highly sensitive to changes in siltation loads, the distribution of silt loads, pollutants and water levels, and anthropogenic disturbance.</p> <p>The Strategy provides further detail and guidance regarding sustainable development, including public realm and sustainable mobility developments and</p>	No	No

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Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature	Potential Effects (refer also to Sections 3.3.2 and 3.3.3 above)	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
				<p>activities, that are already provided for, in general terms, by the existing land use planning and transport framework, that has already been subject to appropriate levels of appropriate environmental assessment.</p> <p>Any land use development or activity progressed under the Strategy shall be required to comply with provisions of the Fingal County Development Plan and the Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area.</p> <p>In order to be consented, any proposals for land use development or activity will need to receive confirmation that they can be progressed in full compliance with the Fingal County Development Plan and the Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area.</p> <p>Therefore, the Strategy does not introduce any additional sources for effects that were not already considered by the existing Fingal Development Plan and Greater Dublin Area Transport Strategy and associated AA processes.</p>		
000204	Lambay Island SAC	11.31	Harbour seal ( <i>Phoca vitulina</i> ) [1365], Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230], Grey seal ( <i>Halichoerus grypus</i> ) [1364], Reefs [1170]	<p>The SAC is sensitive to direct land use management activities and hydrological interactions.</p> <p>The Strategy provides further detail and guidance regarding sustainable development, including public realm and sustainable mobility developments and activities, that are already provided for, in general terms, by the existing land use planning and transport framework, that has already been subject to appropriate levels of appropriate environmental assessment.</p> <p>Any land use development or activity progressed under the Strategy shall be required to comply with provisions of the Fingal County Development Plan and the Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area.</p> <p>In order to be consented, any proposals for land use development or activity will need to receive confirmation that they can be progressed in full compliance with the Fingal County Development Plan and the Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area.</p> <p>Therefore, the Strategy does not introduce any additional sources for effects that were not already considered by the existing Fingal Development Plan and Greater Dublin Area Transport Strategy and associated AA processes.</p>	No	No
004069	Lambay Island SPA	11.31	Herring Gull ( <i>Larus argentatus</i> ) [A184], Fulmar ( <i>Fulmarus glacialis</i> ) [A009], Greylag Goose ( <i>Anser anser</i> ) [A043], Guillemot ( <i>Uria aalge</i> ) [A199], Puffin ( <i>Fratercula arctica</i> ) [A204], Kittiwake ( <i>Rissa tridactyla</i> ) [A188], Razorbill ( <i>Alca torda</i> ) [A200], Shag ( <i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i> ) [A018], Cormorant	<p>The SPA is sensitive to hydrological interactions, disturbance effects and direct land use management activities.</p> <p>The Strategy provides further detail and guidance regarding sustainable development, including public realm and sustainable mobility developments and activities, that are already provided for, in general terms, by the existing land use planning and transport framework, that has already been subject to appropriate</p>	No	No

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Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature	Potential Effects (refer also to Sections 3.3.2 and 3.3.3 above)	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
			<i>(Phalacrocorax carbo)</i> [A017], Lesser Black-backed Gull ( <i>Larus fuscus</i> ) [A183]	<p>levels of appropriate environmental assessment.</p> <p>Any land use development or activity progressed under the Strategy shall be required to comply with provisions of the Fingal County Development Plan and the Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area.</p> <p>In order to be consented, any proposals for land use development or activity will need to receive confirmation that they can be progressed in full compliance with the Fingal County Development Plan and the Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area.</p> <p>Therefore, the Strategy does not introduce any additional sources for effects that were not already considered by the existing Fingal Development Plan and Greater Dublin Area Transport Strategy and associated AA processes.</p>		
004122	Skerries Islands SPA	13.24	Cormorant ( <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> ) [A017], Turnstone ( <i>Arenaria interpres</i> ) [A169], Shag ( <i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i> ) [A018], Herring Gull ( <i>Larus argentatus</i> ) [A184], Light-bellied Brent Goose ( <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> ) [A674], Purple Sandpiper ( <i>Calidris maritima</i> ) [A148]	<p>The SPA is sensitive to hydrological interactions, disturbance effects and direct land use management activities.</p> <p>The Strategy provides further detail and guidance regarding sustainable development, including public realm and sustainable mobility developments and activities, that are already provided for, in general terms, by the existing land use planning and transport framework, that has already been subject to appropriate levels of appropriate environmental assessment.</p> <p>Any land use development or activity progressed under the Strategy shall be required to comply with provisions of the Fingal County Development Plan and the Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area.</p> <p>In order to be consented, any proposals for land use development or activity will need to receive confirmation that they can be progressed in full compliance with the Fingal County Development Plan and the Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area.</p> <p>Therefore, the Strategy does not introduce any additional sources for effects that were not already considered by the existing Fingal Development Plan and Greater Dublin Area Transport Strategy and associated AA processes.</p>	No	No
004014	Rockabill SPA	14.27	Common tern ( <i>Sterna hirundo</i> ) [A193], Arctic tern ( <i>Sterna paradisaea</i> ) [A194], Purple Sandpiper ( <i>Calidris maritima</i> ) [A148], Roseate Tern ( <i>Sterna dougallii</i> ) [A192]	<p>The SPA is sensitive to hydrological interactions, disturbance effects and direct land use management activities.</p> <p>The Strategy provides further detail and guidance regarding sustainable development, including public realm and sustainable mobility developments and activities, that are already provided for, in general terms, by the existing land use planning and transport framework, that has already been subject to appropriate levels of appropriate environmental assessment.</p> <p>Any land use development or activity progressed under the Strategy shall be</p>	No	No

AA Screening Report for the Draft Sustainable Swords Strategy

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature	Potential Effects (refer also to Sections 3.3.2 and 3.3.3 above)	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
				<p>required to comply with provisions of the Fingal County Development Plan and the Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area.</p> <p>In order to be consented, any proposals for land use development or activity will need to receive confirmation that they can be progressed in full compliance with the Fingal County Development Plan and the Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area.</p> <p>Therefore, the Strategy does not introduce any additional sources for effects that were not already considered by the existing Fingal Development Plan and Greater Dublin Area Transport Strategy and associated AA processes.</p>		

### **3.5. Other plans and projects**

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

There are no provisions in the Draft Strategy that introduce any additional sources for effects to European sites as the Strategy provides further detail and guidance regarding sustainable development of the Swords area that is already provided for, in general terms, by the existing land use planning and transport framework, that has already been subject to appropriate levels of environmental assessment. Therefore, there are no in combination effects identified.

## 4. Conclusion

This Stage One Screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA) of the Draft Sustainable Swords Strategy for Swords, Fingal, County Dublin, demonstrates that the Draft Strategy for adoption<sup>10</sup> is not likely to have significant effects on any European site.

The Draft Strategy is adjacent to the Malahide Estuary SAC and SPA. The AA screening process has considered potential effects which may arise during the construction and operational phases as a result of the implementation of the Draft Strategy. The Draft Strategy provides further detail and guidance regarding sustainable development, including public realm and sustainable mobility developments and activities that are already provided for, in general terms, by the existing land use planning and transport framework, that has already been subject to appropriate levels of environmental assessment. Therefore, the Strategy does not introduce any additional sources for effects that were not already considered by the existing Fingal Development Plan and Greater Dublin Area Transport Strategy and associated AA processes.

Given the nature of the detail and guidance regarding sustainable development provided for in the Draft Strategy and the lack of additional sources for effects identified, mitigation measures are not required to avoid and/or minimise potential effects to European sites which were not already captured by existing AA processes. Therefore, the proposed project will not lead to any significant effects in-combination with effects arising from any other plans or projects.

It is concluded that the Draft Strategy for adoption<sup>11</sup> is not foreseen to give rise to any significant adverse effects on any designated European sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects. This evaluation is made in view of the conservation objectives of the habitats or species for which these sites have been designated. Consequently, a Stage Two AA (NIS) is not required.

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<sup>10</sup> Incorporating: the Draft Strategy that was placed on display; all and any changes to the Draft Strategy in response to Chief Executive's Recommendations following public display; and any additional changes in advance of finalisation/adoption that are considered by the Screening for AA process.

<sup>11</sup> Incorporating: the Draft Strategy that was placed on display; all and any changes to the Draft Strategy in response to Chief Executive's Recommendations following public display; and any additional changes in advance of finalisation/adoption that are considered by the Screening for AA process.



## Appendix I Background information on European sites

European sites with functional connectivity (ecological pathways) to the Draft Strategy area including their Qualifying Interests, known threats and pressures

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature	Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
000199	Baldoyle Bay SAC	Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Atlantic salt meadows ( <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i> ) [1330], Mediterranean salt meadows ( <i>Juncetalia maritimi</i> ) [1410]	D01.02, G01.01.02, K02.03, F03.01, E01, K03.06, I01, X, F02.03.01, G02.01, E03, J02.01.02, G01.02	Roads, motorways, non-motorized nautical sports, eutrophication (natural), hunting, urbanised areas, human habitation, antagonism with domestic animals, invasive non-native species, bait digging or collection, golf course, discharges, reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh, walking, horse riding and non-motorised vehicles
000202	Howth Head SAC	Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic Coasts [1230], European dry heaths [4030]	I01, A04.03, X, D01.01, J01.01, G01.02, E01, G05.04, C01.01.01, C01	Invasive non-native species, abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing, paths, tracks, cycling tracks, burning down, walking, horse riding and non-motorised vehicles, urbanised areas, human habitation, vandalism, sand and gravel quarries, mining and quarrying
000204	Lambay Island SAC	Grey seal ( <i>Halichoerus grypus</i> ) [1364], Reefs [1170], Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230], Harbour seal ( <i>Phoca vitulina</i> ) [1365]	G01.01, X, A04, A03, E01, E02, F03.01, F02.03	Nautical sports, grazing, mowing or cutting of grassland, urbanised areas, human habitation, industrial or commercial areas, hunting, leisure fishing
000205	Malahide Estuary SAC	Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> - white dunes [2120], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Mediterranean salt meadows ( <i>Juncetalia maritimi</i> ) [1410], Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation - grey dunes [2130], Atlantic salt meadows ( <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i> ) [1330]	G02.01, D01.05, F03.01, G01.03, E01, X, G01.02, I01, J02.01.02, A08, D01.02, G01.01	Golf course, bridge, viaduct, hunting, motorised vehicles, urbanised areas, human habitation, walking, horse riding and non-motorised vehicles, invasive non-native species, reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh, fertilisation, roads, motorways, nautical sports
000206	North Dublin Bay SAC	Petalwort ( <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> ) [1395], Humid dune slacks [2190], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210], Atlantic salt meadows ( <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i> ) [1330], Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> - white dunes [2120], Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation - grey dunes [2130], Mediterranean salt meadows ( <i>Juncetalia maritimi</i> ) [1410], Embryonic shifting dunes [2110], Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310]	F02.03, E03, K03.06, I01, G01.01, H01.09, E02, G02.01, G01.02, H01.03, E01, A04, F02.03.01, G05.05, J01.01	Leisure fishing, discharges, antagonism with domestic animals, invasive non-native species, nautical sports, diffuse pollution to surface waters due to other sources not listed, industrial or commercial areas, golf course, walking, horse riding and non-motorised vehicles, other point source pollution to surface water, urbanised areas, human habitation, grazing, bait digging or collection, intensive maintenance of public parks or cleaning of beaches, burning down
000208	Rogerstown Estuary SAC	Atlantic salt meadows ( <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i> ) [1330], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> - white dunes [2120], Estuaries [1130], Mediterranean salt meadows ( <i>Juncetalia maritimi</i> ) [1410]	A08, G01.01, E01.03, J02.01.02, D01.02, E03, I01, A07, G02.01, F02.03.01, X, G01.02, A04, K01.01, J02.12.01	Fertilisation, nautical sports, dispersed habitation, reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh, roads, motorways, discharges, invasive non-native species, use of biocides, hormones and chemicals, golf course, bait digging or collection, walking, horse riding and non-motorised vehicles, grazing, erosion, sea defence or coast protection works, tidal barrages
000210	South Dublin Bay SAC	Embryonic shifting dunes [2110], Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210], Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]	F02.03.01, M01, G01.01.02, D01.02, K02.02, G01.02, E02, E01, E03, H03, D01.01, J02.01.02, G01.01, K02	Bait digging or collection, changes in abiotic conditions, non-motorized nautical sports, roads, motorways, accumulation of organic material, walking, horse riding and non-motorised vehicles, industrial or commercial areas, urbanised areas, human habitation, discharges, marine water pollution, paths, tracks, cycling tracks, reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh, nautical sports, biocenotic evolution, succession
002193	Ireland's Eye SAC	Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic Coasts [1230], Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220]	G05.01, G02.09, G01.01, A04.03, J01, G01.02, X	Trampling, overuse, wildlife watching, nautical sports, abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing, fire and fire suppression, walking, horse riding and non-motorised vehicles, no threats or pressures
003000	Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC	Harbour porpoise ( <i>Phocoena phocoena</i> ) [1351], Reefs [1170]	H06.01, J02.02, F02.02, D02, D03.02, E03, J02.11, X	Noise nuisance, noise pollution, removal of sediments (mud...), professional active fishing, utility and service lines, shipping lanes, discharges, siltation rate changes, dumping, depositing of dredged deposits, no threats or pressures

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Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature	Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
004006	North Bull Island SPA	Grey Plover ( <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> ) [A141], Oystercatcher ( <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> ) [A130], Shelduck ( <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> ) [A048], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Curlew ( <i>Numenius arquata</i> ) [A160], Turnstone ( <i>Arenaria interpres</i> ) [A169], Bar-tailed Godwit ( <i>Limosa lapponica</i> ) [A157], Dunlin ( <i>Calidris alpina</i> ) [A149], Golden Plover ( <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> ) [A140], Light-bellied Brent Goose ( <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> ) [A674], Black-tailed Godwit ( <i>Limosa limosa</i> ) [A156], Pintail ( <i>Anas acuta</i> ) [A054], Shoveler ( <i>Anas clypeata</i> ) [A056], Teal ( <i>Anas crecca</i> ) [A052], Black-headed Gull ( <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> ) [A179], Sanderling ( <i>Calidris alba</i> ) [A144], Redshank ( <i>Tringa totanus</i> ) [A162], Knot ( <i>Calidris canutus</i> ) [A143]	E02, E01.01, E03, G01.02, D03.02, D01.02, F02.03.01, G01.01, G02.01, G03, E01.04, D01.05	Industrial or commercial areas, continuous urbanisation, discharges, walking, horse riding and non-motorised vehicles, shipping lanes, roads, motorways, bait digging or collection, nautical sports, golf course, interpretative centres, other patterns of habitation, bridge, viaduct
004014	Rockabill SPA	Roseate Tern ( <i>Sterna dougallii</i> ) [A192], Arctic tern ( <i>Sterna paradisaea</i> ) [A194], Purple Sandpiper ( <i>Calidris maritima</i> ) [A148], Common tern ( <i>Sterna hirundo</i> ) [A193]	G01.01, D06	Nautical sports, other forms of transportation and communication
004015	Rogerstown Estuary SPA	Redshank ( <i>Tringa totanus</i> ) [A162], Ringed Plover ( <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> ) [A137], Oystercatcher ( <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> ) [A130], Shelduck ( <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> ) [A048], Grey Plover ( <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> ) [A141], Knot ( <i>Calidris canutus</i> ) [A143], Dunlin ( <i>Calidris alpina</i> ) [A149], Shoveler ( <i>Anas clypeata</i> ) [A056], Light-bellied Brent Goose ( <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> ) [A674], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Greylag Goose ( <i>Anser anser</i> ) [A043], Black-tailed Godwit ( <i>Limosa limosa</i> ) [A156]	G02.01, A04, J02.01, G01.01, F02.03.01, E03.02, F03.01, E01.03, A08, I01, E03.01	Golf course, grazing, landfill, land reclamation and drying out, general, nautical sports, bait digging or collection, disposal of industrial waste, hunting, dispersed habitation, fertilisation, invasive non-native species, disposal of household or recreational facility waste
004016	Baldoyle Bay SPA	Shelduck ( <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> ) [A048], Light-bellied Brent Goose ( <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> ) [A674], Bar-tailed Godwit ( <i>Limosa lapponica</i> ) [A157], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Ringed Plover ( <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> ) [A137], Golden Plover ( <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> ) [A140], Grey Plover ( <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> ) [A141]	D01.02, A08, J02.01.02, E01, I01, G02.01, K02.03, F02.03.01, F03.01, G01.02	Roads, motorways, fertilisation, reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh, urbanised areas, human habitation, invasive non-native species, golf course, eutrophication (natural), bait digging or collection, hunting, walking, horse riding and non-motorised vehicles
004024	South Dublin Bay and Tolka Estuary SPA	Dunlin ( <i>Calidris alpina</i> ) [A149], Grey Plover ( <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> ) [A141], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Redshank ( <i>Tringa totanus</i> ) [A162], Knot ( <i>Calidris canutus</i> ) [A143], Common tern ( <i>Sterna hirundo</i> ) [A193], Ringed Plover ( <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> ) [A137], Black-headed Gull ( <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> ) [A179], Roseate Tern ( <i>Sterna dougallii</i> ) [A192], Oystercatcher ( <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> ) [A130], Arctic tern ( <i>Sterna paradisaea</i> ) [A194], Sanderling ( <i>Calidris alba</i> ) [A144], Light-bellied Brent Goose ( <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> ) [A674], Bar-tailed Godwit ( <i>Limosa lapponica</i> ) [A157]	F02.03, G01.01, E01, E03, E02, D01.02, J02.01.02, K02.03, G01.02, F02.03.01	Leisure fishing, nautical sports, urbanised areas, human habitation, discharges, industrial or commercial areas, roads, motorways, reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh, eutrophication (natural), walking, horse riding and non-motorised vehicles, bait digging or collection
004025	Broadmeadow/Swords Estuary SPA	Grey Plover ( <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> ) [A141], Golden Plover ( <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> ) [A140], Light-bellied Brent Goose ( <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> ) [A674], Black-tailed Godwit ( <i>Limosa limosa</i> ) [A156], Knot ( <i>Calidris canutus</i> ) [A143], Pintail ( <i>Anas acuta</i> ) [A054], Red-breasted Merganser ( <i>Mergus serrator</i> ) [A069], Dunlin ( <i>Calidris alpina</i> ) [A149], Bar-tailed Godwit ( <i>Limosa lapponica</i> ) [A157], Shelduck ( <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> ) [A048], Oystercatcher ( <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> ) [A130], Great Crested Grebe ( <i>Podiceps cristatus</i> ) [A005], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Goldeneye ( <i>Bucephala clangula</i> ) [A067], Redshank ( <i>Tringa totanus</i> ) [A162]	D01.04, J02.01.02, I01, A08, D01.05, E02, E01, G01.02, G01.01, D01.01	Railway lines, reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh, invasive non-native species, fertilisation, bridge, viaduct, industrial or commercial areas, urbanised areas, human habitation, walking, horse riding and non-motorised vehicles, nautical sports, paths, tracks, cycling tracks
004069	Lambay Island SPA	Greylag Goose ( <i>Anser anser</i> ) [A043], Shag ( <i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i> ) [A018], Puffin ( <i>Fratercula arctica</i> ) [A204], Razorbill ( <i>Alca torda</i> ) [A200], Kittiwake ( <i>Rissa tridactyla</i> ) [A188], Fulmar ( <i>Fulmarus glacialis</i> ) [A009], Lesser Black-backed Gull ( <i>Larus fuscus</i> ) [A183], Herring Gull ( <i>Larus argentatus</i> ) [A184], Cormorant ( <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> ) [A017], Guillemot ( <i>Uria aalge</i> ) [A199]	A03, A04, E01.03, F03.01, D03.02, G01.01	Mowing or cutting of grassland, grazing, dispersed habitation, hunting, shipping lanes, nautical sports
004113	Howth Head Coast SPA	Kittiwake ( <i>Rissa tridactyla</i> ) [A188]	J01, G01.02	Fire and fire suppression, walking, horse riding and non-motorised vehicles

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Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature	Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
004117	Ireland's Eye SPA	Guillemot ( <i>Uria aalge</i> ) [A199], Cormorant ( <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> ) [A017], Razorbill ( <i>Alca torda</i> ) [A200], Kittiwake ( <i>Rissa tridactyla</i> ) [A188], Herring Gull ( <i>Larus argentatus</i> ) [A184]	G01.02, F02.03	Walking, horse riding and non-motorised vehicles, leisure fishing
004122	Skerries Islands SPA	Cormorant ( <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> ) [A017], Turnstone ( <i>Arenaria interpres</i> ) [A169], Purple Sandpiper ( <i>Calidris maritima</i> ) [A148], Shag ( <i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i> ) [A018], Herring Gull ( <i>Larus argentatus</i> ) [A184], Light-bellied Brent Goose ( <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> ) [A674]	G01.02	Walking, horse riding and non-motorised vehicles

## Appendix II Further information on the Qualifying Interests of SACs that have undergone assessment

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

EU Code	Qualifying Interests	Article 17 Report Summary - Threats and Pressures	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
[1130]	Estuaries	Most of the pressures on estuaries come from various sources of pollution, including domestic wastewater, agriculture and marine aquaculture. Alien invasive species such as the naturalised Pacific oyster ( <i>Magalana gigas</i> ) are also recognised as a significant pressure	A28, F20, G16, I02, XU	Agricultural activities generating marine pollution, residential or recreational activities and structures generating marine pollution (excl. marine macro- and micro- particular pollution, marine aquaculture generating marine pollution, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern)	Inappropriate development, changes in turbidity
[1140]	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide	Pressures on mudflats and sandflats are partly caused by pollution from agricultural, forestry and wastewater sources, as well as impacts associated with marine aquaculture, particularly the Pacific oyster ( <i>Magallana gigas</i> ).	A28, F20, G16	Agricultural activities generating marine pollution, residential or recreational activities and structures generating marine pollution (excl. marine macro- and micro- particular pollution, marine aquaculture generating marine pollution)	Surface and marine water dependent. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Moderate sensitivity to pollution. Changes to salinity and tidal regime. Coastal development.
[1170]	Reefs	The main pressures on reefs come from fishing methods that damage the seafloor.	G01, G03	Marine fishing and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) causing reduction of species/prey populations and disturbance of species, marine fish and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) activities causing physical loss and disturbance of seafloor habitats	Sensitive to disturbance and pollution.
[1210]	Annual vegetation of drift lines	Most of the pressures on drift lines are associated with activities such as recreation and coastal defences, which can interfere with sediment dynamics.	C01, F01, F06, F07, F08	Extraction of minerals (e.g. rock, metal ores, gravel, sand, shell), conversion from other land uses to housing, settlement or recreational areas (excluding drainage and modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions), development and maintenance of beach areas for tourism and recreation incl. beach nourishment and beach cleaning, sports, tourism and leisure activities, modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defence or coast protection works and infrastructures)	Overgrazing and erosion. Changes in management.
[1220]	Perennial vegetation of stony banks	The main pressures on this habitat are associated with coastal defences (which can interfere with sediment dynamics), recreation and shingle removal.	C01, E01, F07, F08, F09, I02	Extraction of minerals (e.g. rock, metal ores, gravel, sand, shell), roads, paths, railroads and related infrastructure (e.g. bridges, viaducts, tunnels), sports, tourism and leisure activities, modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defence or coast protection works and infrastructures), deposition and treatment of waste/garbage from household/recreational facilities, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern)	Marine water dependent. Low sensitivity to hydrological changes. Coastal development, trampling from recreational activity and gravel removal.
[1230]	Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts	A number of significant pressures were identified, including trampling by walkers, invasive non-native species, gravel extraction, and sea-level and wave exposure changes due to climate change.	C01, E01, F07, F08, I02, N03, N04	Extraction of minerals (e.g. rock, metal ores, gravel, sand, shell), roads, paths, railroads and related infrastructure (e.g. Bridges, viaducts, tunnels), sports, tourism and leisure activities, Modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defence or coast protection works and infrastructures), other invasive alien species (other than species of Union concern), increases or changes in precipitation due to climate change, Sea-level and wave exposure changes due to climate change	Land use activities such as tourism and/or agricultural practices. Direct alteration to the habitat or effects such as burning or drainage.
[1310]	Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand	Pressures on salicornia mud are caused by alien species and overgrazing by livestock	A09, I02	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern)	Marine water dependent. Medium sensitivity to hydrological change. Changes in salinity and tidal regime. Infilling, reclamation, invasive species.

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EU Code	Qualifying Interests	Article 17 Report Summary - Threats and Pressures	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
[1330]	Atlantic salt meadows ( <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i> )	The main pressures on Atlantic salt meadows are from agriculture, including ecologically unstable grazing regimes and land reclamation, and the invasive non-native species common cord-grass ( <i>Spartina anglica</i> ).	A09, A33, A36, F07, F08, I02	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, modification of hydrological flow or physical alternation of water bodies for agriculture (excluding development and operation of dams), agriculture activities not referred to above, sports, tourism and leisure activities, modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defence or coast protection works and infrastructures), other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern)	Marine and groundwater dependent. Medium sensitivity to hydrological change. Changes in salinity and tidal regime. Overgrazing, erosion and accretion.
[1351]	Harbour Porpoise ( <i>Phocoena phocoena</i> )	Pressures acting on this species in Irish waters mainly involve commercial vessel-based activities such as impacts arising from geophysical seismic exploration or from local/regional prey removal by fisheries.	C09, G01	Geotechnical surveying, marine fishing and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) causing reduction of species/prey populations and disturbance of species	Sensitive to disturbance, prey availability and pollution.
[1364]	Grey Seal ( <i>Halichoerus grypus</i> )	Pressures on this species in Irish waters mainly involve commercial vessel-based activities such as impacts arising from geophysical seismic exploration or from local/regional prey removal by fisheries or by-catch in fisheries.	C09, G01	Geotechnical surveying, marine fishing and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) causing reduction of species/prey populations and disturbance of species	Prey availability, reduction in available habitat and water quality.
[1365]	Harbour Seal ( <i>Phoca vitulina</i> )	Pressures on this species in Irish waters mainly involve commercial vessel-based activities such as local/regional prey removal by fisheries or by-catch in fisheries, or geophysical seismic exploration; other possible impacts may occur from coastal tourism and localised human disturbance at haul-out sites.	C09, G01	Geotechnical surveying, marine fishing and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) causing reduction of species/prey populations and disturbance of species	Prey availability, reduction in available habitat and water quality.
[1395]	Petalwort ( <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> )	There are no pressures facing this species.	Xxp, Xxt	No pressures, No threats	None identified.
[1410]	Mediterranean salt meadows ( <i>Juncetalia maritimi</i> )	Most of the pressures on Mediterranean salt meadows are associated with agriculture, including overgrazing, under grazing and land reclamation.	A09, A10, A33, A36	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, extensive grazing or under grazing by livestock, modification of hydrological flow or physical alternation of water bodies for agriculture (excluding development and operation of dams), agriculture activities not referred to above	Marine and groundwater dependent. Medium sensitivity to hydrological change. Changes in salinity and tidal regime. Coastal development and reclamation.
[2110]	Embryonic shifting dunes	The majority of pressures on this habitat are associated with recreation and coastal defences, which can interfere with sediment dynamics.	C01, E03, F01, F06, F07, F08, L01, L02	Extraction of minerals (e.g. rock, metal ores, gravel, sand, shell), shipping lanes, ferry lanes and anchorage infrastructure (e.g. canalisation, dredging), conversion from other land uses to housing, settlement or recreational areas (excluding drainage and modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions), development and maintenance of beach areas for tourism and recreation incl. beach nourishment and beach cleaning, sports, tourism and leisure activities, modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defence or coast protection works and infrastructures), abiotic natural processes (e.g. erosion, silting up, drying out, submersion, salinization), natural succession resulting in species composition change (other than by direct changes of agricultural or forestry practices)	Overgrazing, and erosion. Changes in management.

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EU Code	Qualifying Interests	Article 17 Report Summary - Threats and Pressures	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
[2120]	Shifting dunes along the shoreline with white dunes ( <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> )	Most of the pressures on marram dunes are caused by the interference on sediment dynamics due to recreation and coastal defences.	E01, E03, F01, F06, F07, F08, I02, L01	Roads, paths, railroads and related infrastructure (e.g. bridges, viaducts, tunnels), shipping lanes, ferry lanes and anchorage infrastructure (e.g. canalisation, dredging), conversion from other land uses to housing, settlement or recreational areas (excluding drainage and modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions), development and maintenance of beach areas for tourism and recreation incl. beach nourishment and beach cleaning, sports, tourism and leisure activities, modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defence or coast protection works and infrastructures), other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), abiotic natural processes (e.g. erosion, silting up, drying out, submersion, salinization)	Overgrazing, and erosion. Changes in management.
[2130]	Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation ( <i>grey dunes</i> )	Pressures on fixed dunes are associated with recreation and ecologically unsuitable grazing practices.	A02, A09, A10, F07, F08, I02, L02	Conversion from one type of agricultural land use to another (excluding drainage and burning), intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, extensive grazing or under grazing by livestock, sports, tourism and leisure activities, modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defence or coast protection works and infrastructures), other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), natural succession resulting in species composition change (other than by direct changes of agricultural or forestry practices)	Overgrazing, and erosion. Changes in management.
[2190]	Humid dune slacks	Pressures on the habitat come from a number of sources. Including agricultural fertilisers, sports and leisure activities (e.g., walking, off-road driving and golf courses) and drainage. Succession to scrub is also a problem, particularly where it is linked to desiccation of the slack.	A19, A31, F07, I02, L02	Application of natural fertilisers on agricultural land, drainage for use as agricultural land, sports, tourism and leisure activities, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), natural succession resulting in species composition change (other than by direct changes of agricultural or forestry practices)	Overgrazing, and erosion. Changes in management. Sensitive to hydrological change.
[4030]	European dry heaths	A number of significant pressures were recorded for this habitat in the current reporting period, particularly overgrazing by sheep and burning for agriculture with afforestation and wind farms also being recognised as pressures.	A09, A11, B01, D01, N01, N02	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, burning for agriculture, conversion to forest from other land uses, or afforestation (excluding drainage), wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, temperature changes (e.g. rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change	Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Changes in management. Changes in nutrient status.

## Appendix III Further information on the Special Conservation Interests of SPAs that have undergone assessment

### Special Conservation Interests and Vulnerabilities of SPAs that have undergone assessment

Species Code	Common Name	Scientific Name	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
A009	Northern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	C03, F02	Renewable abiotic energy use, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources
A043	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	A02, A11, C03, D02, F03, G01, H07	Modification of cultivation practices, agriculture activities not referred to above, renewable abiotic energy use, utility and service lines, hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, other forms of pollution
A048	Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	F01, F02, G01, H03, M01	Marine and freshwater aquaculture, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, marine water pollution, changes in abiotic conditions
A054	Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	C03, F01, F03, G01, H01, H03, H07, J02	Renewable abiotic energy use, marine and freshwater aquaculture, hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), marine water pollution, other forms of pollution, human induced changes in hydraulic conditions
A056	Northern Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	C03, F03, G01, H01, H03, H07	Renewable abiotic energy use, hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), marine water pollution, other forms of pollution
A067	Common Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	C03, F01, F03, G01, H01, H03, H07, M02	Renewable abiotic energy use, marine and freshwater aquaculture, hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), marine water pollution, other forms of pollution, changes in biotic conditions
A069	Red-Breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>	C03, F01, F02, G01, H03	Renewable abiotic energy use, marine and freshwater aquaculture, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, marine water pollution
A130	Eurasian Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02	Renewable abiotic energy use, marine and freshwater aquaculture, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, marine water pollution, human induced changes in hydraulic conditions
A137	Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02, J03, M01	Renewable abiotic energy use, marine and freshwater aquaculture, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, marine water pollution, human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, other ecosystem modifications, changes in abiotic conditions
A140	European Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	A02, A04, B01, C01, C03, F01, G01, H03, J01, K03, M02	Modification of cultivation practices, grazing, forest planting on open ground, mining and quarrying, renewable abiotic energy use, marine and freshwater aquaculture, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, marine water pollution, fire and fire suppression, interspecific faunal relations, changes in biotic conditions
A141	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02, J03, M01	Renewable abiotic energy use, marine and freshwater aquaculture, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, marine water pollution, human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, other ecosystem modifications, changes in abiotic conditions
A143	Red Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02, J03, M01	Renewable abiotic energy use, marine and freshwater aquaculture, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, marine water pollution, human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, other ecosystem modifications, changes in abiotic conditions

AA Screening for the Draft Sustainable Swords Strategy

Species Code	Common Name	Scientific Name	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
A144	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	C03, F01, G01, H03, M01	Renewable abiotic energy use, marine and freshwater aquaculture, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, marine water pollution, changes in abiotic conditions
A149	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02, J03, M01	Renewable abiotic energy use, marine and freshwater aquaculture, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, marine water pollution, human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, other ecosystem modifications, changes in abiotic conditions
A157	Bar-Tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>	C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02, J03, M01	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Other Ecosystem Modifications, Changes in abiotic conditions
A162	Common Redthick	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02, J03, M01	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Other Ecosystem Modifications, Changes in abiotic conditions
A169	Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	C03, F01, G01, H03, J03, M01	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Other Ecosystem Modifications, Changes in abiotic conditions
A179	Black-Headed Gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	A04, C03, F02, H03, J03, M01	Grazing, Renewable abiotic energy use, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Marine water pollution, Other Ecosystem Modifications, Changes in abiotic conditions
A184	European Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	C03, F02, H03, J03	Renewable abiotic energy use, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Marine water pollution, Other Ecosystem Modifications
A188	Black-Legged Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	C03, F02, H03	Renewable abiotic energy use, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Marine water pollution
A193	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	C03, D01, D03, G01, I01	Renewable abiotic energy use, Roads, paths and railroads, Shipping lanes, ports, marine constructions, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Invasive non-native species
A194	Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	C03, D01, G01, I01, M01	Renewable abiotic energy use, Roads, paths and railroads, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Invasive non-native species, Changes in abiotic conditions
A200	Razorbill	<i>Alca torda</i>	C03, H03	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine water pollution
A204	Atlantic Puffin	<i>Fratercula arctica</i>	C03, H03, I01	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine water pollution, Invasive non-native species