

Clonsilla Framework Plan

Appropriate Assessment Screening Report

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**Built.
Environment.**

Environmental Assessment **Built Environment**

Client:

Fingal County Council

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1 Introduction

1.1 Background

Fingal County Council (FCC) has prepared a Framework Plan for Clonsilla, to guide future development in the Clonsilla area, with a focus on urban improvement for walking and cycling infrastructure, provision of public open space and defining the 'village centre'. Building on this overall approach, the strategic aims of the Clonsilla Framework Plan are to:

- *Embrace a sustainable future;*
- *Repair and improve the urban fabric;*
- *Create a vibrant, liveable core area;*
- *Improve accessibility and permeability;*
- *Provide for new civic and social activities.*

Brady Shipman Martin has been appointed by FCC to undertake a screening exercise for Appropriate Assessment (AA). This will determine the effects, if any, on European sites, of the implementation of the Draft Clonsilla Framework Plan (hereafter referred to as either the 'Framework Plan' or the 'Plan'). The AA process assessed the Draft Clonsilla Framework Plan as presented in Sections 4 & 6 of this report. Post public consultation, the AA screening assessed the recommended amendments to the Draft Plan prior to adoption. The Clonsilla Framework Plan, incorporating the recommended amendments, was subsequently adopted by the members of Fingal County Council. Refer to Section 7.

This document constitutes an Appropriate Assessment Screening Report prepared for this purpose. European sites are also known as Natura 2000 Sites (Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA)), and are designated for nature conservation. The requirements for an Appropriate Assessment are set out under *Article 6 of the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC)*, transposed into Irish law through the *European Union (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (as amended)* and the *Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended)*.

A comprehensive study has been undertaken and the potential impacts on European sites, both as a result of the implementation of the Plan and in-combination with other plans and projects, are appraised in this report.

This AA Screening Report should be read in conjunction with the Clonsilla Framework Plan, the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening Report (prepared by Brady Shipman Martin, 2025) and the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) (McCloy Consulting, 2025).

1.2 Expertise and Qualifications

This report has been prepared by Namrata Kaile, Ecologist and Environmental Consultant at Brady Shipman Martin. She holds a Bachelor's Degree (BSc) in Life Sciences from University of Delhi and a Master's Degree (MSc) with distinction in Environmental Sciences from Trinity College Dublin. She is a full member of Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (MCIEEM) and has been working professionally in the field of environmental consultancy for the last five years. Namrata is experienced in drafting and reviewing AA Screening Reports, Natura Impact Statements, EIA Screening Report as well as in coordination of EIARs. She is also experienced in undertaking baseline ecological surveys and preparing Ecological Impact Assessments Reports (EcIA).

This report has been technically reviewed by Ecologist Matthew Hague BSc MSc Adv. Dip. Plan. & Env. Law CEnv MCIEEM. Matthew is an Associate with Brady Shipman Martin and is a highly experienced and qualified ecologist, with a master's degree in Ecosystem Conservation and Landscape Management. He has over 20

years of experience in ecological and environmental consultancy, across a wide range of sectors. He has prepared numerous reports for AA Screening as well as Natura Impact Statements, for projects of all scales, from small residential developments to nationally important infrastructure projects. Matthew is a Chartered Environmentalist (CEnv) and a full member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (MCIEEM). Matthew has also completed an Advanced Diploma in Planning and Environmental Law, at King's Inns and is a member of the Irish Environmental Law Association (IELA).

1.3 Legal requirement for Appropriate Assessment

European sites make up a network of sites designated for nature conservation under Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (the "Habitats Directive") and Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds (the "Birds Directive"). The requirements for Appropriate Assessment are set out under *Article 6 of the Habitats Directive*, transposed into Irish law by the *European Union (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (as amended)*¹ (the "Birds and Natural Habitats Regulations") and the *Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended)* (the "Planning Acts").

European sites are also known as Natura 2000 Sites (Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA)). As defined in section 177R of the Planning Acts "European site" means:

- (a) a candidate site of Community importance,
- (b) a site of Community importance,
- (ba) a candidate special area of conservation,
- (c) a special area of conservation,
- (d) a candidate special protection area and
- (e) a special protection area.

Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive states that:

(3) Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have 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 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 first test is to establish whether, in relation to a particular plan or project, appropriate assessment is required. Sections 177U of the Planning Acts requires that the AA screening test must be applied to the Plan, as follows:

- To assess, in view of best scientific knowledge, if the development, individually or in combination with another plan or project is likely to have a significant effect on the European site;
- An appropriate assessment is required if it cannot be excluded, on the basis of objective information, that the development (plan or project), individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will have a significant effect on a European site.

¹ SI No. 477 of 2011, SI No. 293 of 2021

This AA Screening Report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Birds Directive, the Habitats Directive, the Planning Acts and the Birds and Natural Habitats Regulations.

2 Methodology

2.1 Baseline data collection

This assessment focused on habitats and species that are listed as Qualifying Interests (QI) (in the case of SACs) and Special Conservation Interests (SCI) (in the case of SPAs) in the designations for European sites. During the assessment the potential for *ex-situ* effects on European sites was also appraised.

This report takes the following guidance documents into account:

- Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland – Guidance for Planning Authorities (Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2010 revision);
- Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive: Guidance for Planning Authorities. Circular NPWS 1/10 & PSSP 2/10;
- Assessment of plans and projects in relation to Natura 2000 sites- Methodological guidance on Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (European Commission, 2021);
- Managing Natura 2000 sites: The Provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. Guidance issued by the European Commission (21st November 2018);
- Guidance document on the strict protection of animal species of Community Interest under the Habitats Directive (Directorate – General for Environment (European Commission, 2021);
- Practice Note PN01 Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management (Office of the Planning Regulator, March 2021);
- Guidance for Public authorities on the Application of Articles 12 and 16 of the EU Habitats Directive to development/works undertaken by or on behalf of a Public authority (National Parks and Wildlife Services (NPWS) (2021)).

Information was collated from the organisations and websites listed below:

- Data on European sites and rare and protected plant and animal species contained in the following databases:
 - The National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) of the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (www.NPWS.ie);
 - The National Biodiversity Data Centre (NDBC) (www.biodiversityireland.ie);
 - BirdWatch Ireland (www.birdwatchireland.ie);
 - Bat Conservation Ireland (www.batconservationireland.org).
- Information on land-use zoning from the online mapping of the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government (<http://www.myplan.ie/en/index.html>);
- Recent and historical OSi mapping and aerial photography, including www.geohive.ie;
- Information on local watercourses from www.catchments.ie;
- Information on water quality in the area (www.epa.ie);
- Information on soils, geology and hydrogeology in the area (www.gsi.ie);
- Information on the Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland (Article 17 report) (NPWS, August 2019);
- Ireland's 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan 2023-2030 (Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, 2024);
- Fingal Development Plan 2023-2029 and the accompanying reports;

- Fingal Biodiversity Action Plan 2023-2030 (Fingal County Council, 2023).

The report has regard to the following legislative instruments:

- Planning and Development, Act 2000, as amended;
- Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended;
- European Commission (EC) Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC;
- European Commission (EC) Birds Directive 2009/147/EC;
- European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (as amended).

The report takes full account of the details of the Plan and a detailed examination of all relevant elements was undertaken. The Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Report (Brady Shipman Martin, 2025) was also reviewed in the preparation of this report.

3 Screening for Appropriate Assessment

3.1 Background

The first part of the Appropriate Assessment process is the Screening phase. Screening identifies the likely effects of the implementation of the Plan on European sites that could arise, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, and considers whether these impacts are likely to have a significant effect on the European site in view of the site's conservation objectives.

In accordance with sections 177U and 177V of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, the AA screening must be carried out:

- To assess, in view of best scientific knowledge, if the Plan, individually or in combination with another plan or project is likely to have a significant effect on the European site;
- An appropriate assessment is required if it cannot be excluded, on the basis of objective information, that the Plan, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will have a significant effect on a European site.

Screening must be undertaken without the inclusion of mitigation and it is in this context that this AA Screening Report is prepared.

Following screening therefore, if there is a possibility of there being a significant effect on a European site, this will generate the need for an appropriate assessment for the purposes of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive. This means that if the conclusions at the end of the screening exercise are that significant effects on any European sites, as a result of the implementation of the Plan, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects, are likely, uncertain or unknown, then an Appropriate Assessment must be carried out. This is in accordance with established precedent and case law.

3.2 Potential zone of influence

This assessment is based on the source-pathway-receptor model, which dictates that, for an effect to occur, there must be a 'source' (such as a construction site); a 'receptor' (such as a designated site for nature conservation); and a 'pathway' between the two (such as a watercourse that links the construction site to the designated site). A construction site or completed development may also create a barrier to movement, for example, by preventing the migration of fauna along a river corridor, or by obstructing the migration of birds.

Identification of a potential effect means that there is a possibility of ecological or environmental damage occurring, with the level and significance of the impact depending upon the nature and exposure to the

potential effect and the characteristics of the receptor. Although there may be a risk of an impact, it may not necessarily occur, and if it does occur, it may not be significant.

There are no set recommended distances for projects to consider European sites as being relevant for assessment. In 2010, DoEHLG stated that (pp. 31 – 32):

“The approach to screening is likely to differ somewhat for plans and projects, depending on scale and on the likely effects, but the following should be included:

- 1. Any Natura 2000 sites within or adjacent to the plan or project area*
- 2. Any Natura 2000 sites within the likely zone of impact of the plan or project. A distance of 15km is currently recommended in the case of plans, and derives from UK guidance (Scott Wilson et al., 2006). For projects, the distance could be much less than 15km, and in some cases less than 100m, but this must be evaluated on a case-by-case basis with reference to the nature, size and location of the project, and the sensitivities of the ecological receptors, and the potential for in combination effects*
- 3. Natura 2000 sites that are more than 15km from the plan or project area depending on the likely impacts of the plan or project, and the sensitivities of the ecological receptors, bearing in mind the precautionary principle. In the cases of sites with water dependent habitats or species, and a plan or project that could affect water quality or quantity, for example, it may be necessary to consider the full extent of the upstream and/or downstream catchment.”*

The 2021 Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR) guidelines, *Practice Note PN01: Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management*, state that the Zone of Influence “*should be established on a case-by-case basis using the Source-Pathway-Receptor framework and not by arbitrary distances (such as 15 km)*” (p. 8).

Therefore, considering the nature of the Plan and in accordance with the source-pathway-receptor model, the potential Zone of Influence (Zoi) for the Plan has been defined as follows:

- Any site to which there is a pathway from the Plan area, regardless of distance, upon which significant effects could arise, resulting from the implementation of any element of the Plan. See Section 4.2.

Throughout the preparation of the Plan the aims, objectives and actions were reviewed in the context of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive, in order to ensure that no elements of the Plan would have a significant impact on any European site.

4 Description of the Draft Clonsilla Framework Plan

4.1 Overview

Fingal County Council (FCC) has prepared a Framework Plan for Clonsilla, to guide future development in the Clonsilla area, with a focus on urban improvement for walking and cycling infrastructure, provision of public open space and defining the ‘village centre’.

Building on this overall approach, the **strategic aims** of the Clonsilla Framework Plan are to:

- *Embrace a sustainable future;*
- *Repair and improve the urban fabric;*
- *Create a vibrant, liveable core area;*
- *Improve accessibility and permeability;*
- *Provide for new civic and social activities.*

Following **objectives** have been formulated that provide the Plan a coordinated approach to deliver the Vision:

- 1. Create a Distinct Identity
- 2. Promote a Vibrant village centre
- 3. Promote and Facilitate Active Travel
- 4. Deliver a High-Quality Public Realm
- 5. Support the Enhancement of Community and Recreational Facilities
- 6. Protect and Enhance the Natural Environment
- 7. Realise the Full Potential of Transport Infrastructure
- 8. Showcase the History and Celebrate the Assets of Clonsilla
- 9. Promote a High Quality of Life, Health and Wellbeing

Having regard to these aims and objectives, the Framework Plan identifies specific public realm works, active travel measures, enhancement and reuse of existing community facilities, and addresses accessibility and connectivity throughout the Plan area.

As outlined in the Development Plan, Framework Plans are advisory in nature, providing a long-term vision for the future and allowing sufficient flexibility to manage change depending on the particular circumstances.

Figure 4.1 Clonsilla Framework Plan Study Area (Extract from Figure 1-4 of the Draft Clonsilla Framework Plan, FCC 2024)



4.2 Vision

The vision for Clonsilla is a key component of the Plan and it states:

'Clonsilla will become a distinct place that embraces its rich heritage and natural assets, fostering pride of place and a sense of community through improvements in the public realm, enhanced community and recreational facilities, prioritisation of active travel, increased legibility and the showcasing of its unique attributes.'

4.3 Objectives

A number of objectives have been formulated that provide the framework a coordinated approach to deliver the above Vision and address the existing challenges within the study area. These include:

Objective 1: Create a Distinct Identity - *Clonsilla must not only retain and protect the attributes and assets that give it its distinctiveness but must utilise and showcase these to build a distinct identity.*

Objective 2: Promote a Vibrant Village Centre - *Clonsilla village centre faces a number of challenges and how these are addressed will define the future of Clonsilla. The vibrancy of the village centre will be enhanced through diversity of use including retail, commercial, social and recreation spaces as well as public realm improvements and traffic management.*

Objective 3: Promote and Facilitate Active Travel - *Clonsilla should not only embrace the future opportunities presented by the Royal Canal greenway in terms of wider accessibility through active travel but it must also promote active travel within the village through traffic management measures and the provision of active travel infrastructure such as the Clonsilla Active Travel Link.*

Objective 4: Deliver a High-Quality Public Realm - *The public realm provides the setting for Clonsilla, including the public spaces that people use every day. Quality design and materials are required to deliver a public realm that encourages vibrancy and facilitates social interaction.*

Objective 5: Support the Enhancement of High-Quality Community and Recreational Facilities - *The enhancement and reuse of existing community facilities such as green spaces will be supported.*

Objective 6: Protect and Enhance the Natural Environment - *Clonsilla has an enviable natural environment rich in biodiversity and wildlife from the Royal Canal to the parkland nature of the lands of the former Lohunda House. In line with the Development Plan, this should not only be respected and protected but should be strengthen and enhanced.*

Objective 7: Realise the Full Potential of Transport Infrastructure - *Clonsilla is strategically located in terms of availability of rail and bus services and proximity to the Canal and future greenway. Better accessibility to existing infrastructure and planning for the integration of new infrastructure into Clonsilla is key to its future vibrancy, vitality and attractiveness as a place to live.*

Objective 8: Showcase the History and Celebrate the Assets of Clonsilla - *Clonsilla has a wealth of historical and cultural assets that should be showcased through strategic signage, public art and cultural and community events.*

Objective 9: Promote a High Quality of Life, Health and Wellbeing - *To remain an attractive place to live and provide a high quality of life, Clonsilla needs to plan for inclusive and healthy communities through education, community and health facilities and access to amenity and recreation space.*

4.4 Public Realm and Traffic Management Strategies for Clonsilla

The Public Realm Strategy for Clonsilla aims to guide the enhancement, development and management of the public realm in Clonsilla, improving legibility, character and identity and delivering an integrated and permeable Clonsilla through linkages. The Strategy also considers how public realm improvements can support other initiatives such as improving human health and wellbeing and promoting biodiversity. The guiding principles for the public realm strategy includes:

- *Making space for people*
- *Showcasing Clonsilla's Uniqueness*
- *Delivering an Inclusive Clonsilla*

- *Promoting Quality*
- *Incorporating the Environment*
- *Facilitating Movement*

The Traffic Management Strategy seeks to redress the dominance of vehicular traffic in Clonsilla, delivering an Active Travel Network through enhanced pedestrian and cyclist facilities. The Public Realm Strategy supports this and seeks to capitalise on it by taking space back from vehicular traffic to deliver a high-quality public realm and where possible to create new or enhanced spaces. The implementation of the Traffic Management Strategy will deliver a number of positive outcomes for Clonsilla which will not only facilitate and encourage more sustainable forms of travel but will enhance Clonsilla both visually and as place to visit and spend time. These outcomes include:

- *Redress the balance in favour of pedestrians and cyclists over vehicular traffic in Clonsilla.*
- *Improved journey time reliability for bus passengers travelling through Clonsilla.*
- *Creation of a calmed environment on Clonsilla Road through the removal of through traffic.*
- *Reduction in vehicular speeds through Clonsilla thereby improving noise and air quality.*
- *Delivery of high quality, attractive active travel routes from Clonsilla and its surrounding residential communities to attractions in the area.*
- *Consider the removal of barriers to permeability and active movement in the residential areas to the south of Clonsilla Road.*
- *Improved access to the train station for pedestrians and cyclists.*
- *Creation of an enhanced environment for pupils and parents visiting St. Mochta's National School by sustainable modes.*
- *Better integration of and access to the Royal Canal Urban Greenway from the village centre.*

Figure 4.2 Overall Framework Plan Strategy (Extract from Figure 6-2 of the Draft Clonsilla Framework Plan, FCC 2024)

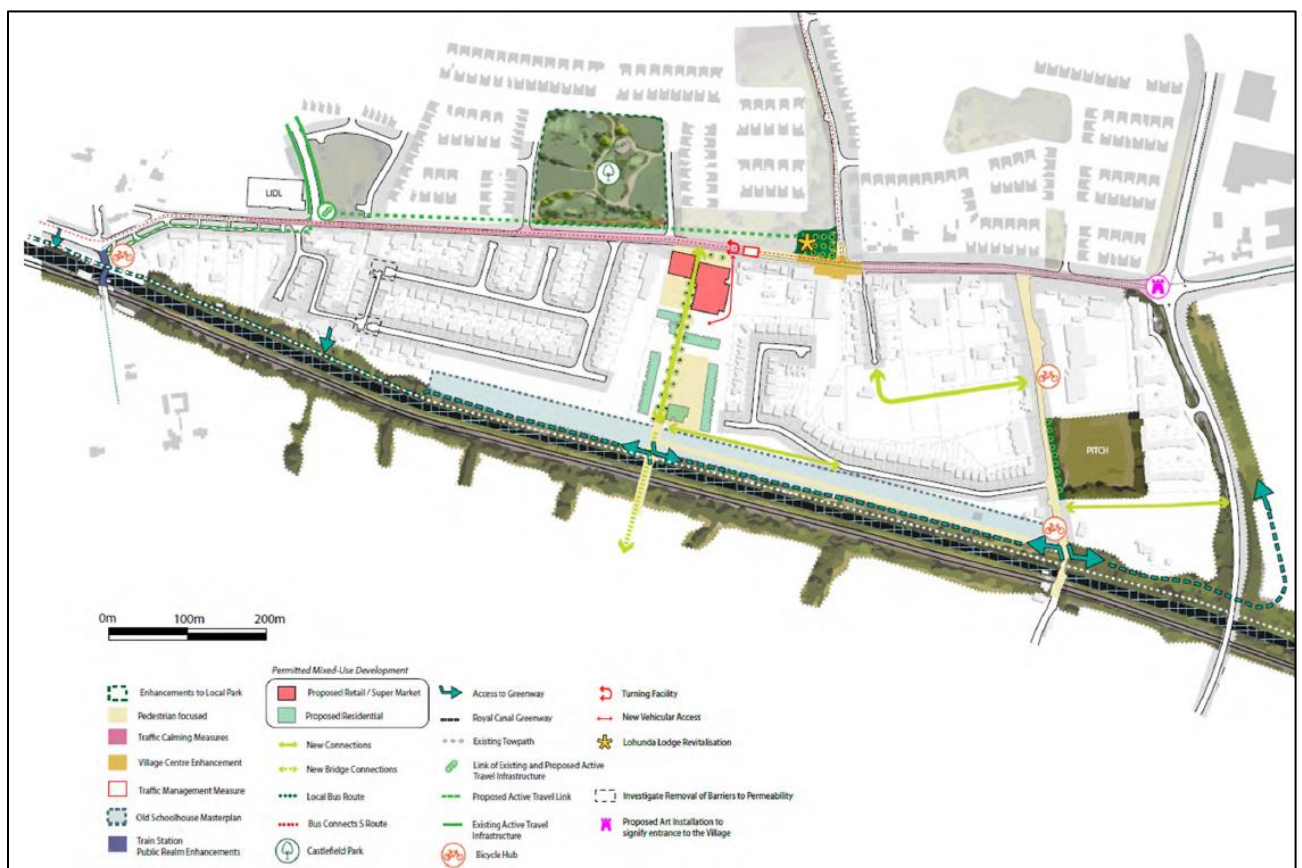


Figure 4.3 Overall Traffic Management Strategy (Extract from Figure 6-6 of the Draft Clonsilla Framework Plan, FCC 2024)



4.5 Key Projects

A number of key projects have been identified in the strategy that align with and support the delivery of the Public Realm and Traffic Management Strategies and have the potential to significantly improve the public realm, provide enhanced accessibility while also providing valuable new recreational facilities and spaces for Clonsilla. These include:

1. A Redefined Village Centre
2. Clonsilla Road Traffic Management
3. Clonsilla Active Travel Link
4. Castlefield Park
5. Clonsilla Road Western Gateway
6. Clonsilla Road Eastern Gateway
7. Porterstown Road
8. Wayfinding

The location of key projects 1 to 7 is indicated on **Figure 3.3** below, with key project 8 applying to the whole area.

Figure 4.4 Key Projects (Extract from Figure 7-1 of the Draft Clonsilla Framework Plan, FCC 2024)



Key Project 1 – A Redefined Village Centre	
Project Physical Changes	Concept for the Redefined Village Centre
1. Integrates this public recreational space with the active travel link (Key Project 3). 2. Provides a playground and seating. 3. Removes the existing railings. 4. Redefines the green space as a multi-use space that can accommodate social gatherings e.g. farmers markets. 5. Implements junction tightening and introduces surface/textural changes across the junction (see also Key Project 2). 6. Revises the car parking arrangements to the front of the commercial units. 7. Rationalises or relocates the existing bollards, railings, wirescape and lampposts where possible while ensuring the area is well lit at night.	An aerial map of the village center showing seven numbered points (1-7) indicating specific physical changes to the public space, including playgrounds, seating, and junction improvements. The map shows a central green space with various numbered points indicating specific changes to the public space, including playgrounds, seating, and junction improvements.

Key Project 2 – Clonsilla Road Traffic Management	
Project Physical Changes	
- Implements directional signage on the west side of Clonsilla Link Road and on the east side of Shelerin Road which redirects through traffic onto the Ongar Distributor Road, whilst signposting local services along Clonsilla Road.	

- Implements traffic management measures to the west of the village centre, to discourage through traffic on Clonsilla Road, whilst prioritising the needs of bus services along this route.
- Provides additional traffic calming measures on Clonsilla Road in the form of surface treatment changes, junction tightening and road narrowing to help maintain consistently lower traffic speeds.
- Delivers additional raised crossings on Clonsilla Road at desired locations, for example at parks and bus stops, to slow traffic and prioritise pedestrian movements at key desire lines.



Key Project 3 – Clonsilla Active Travel Link

Project Physical Changes

1. Between Clonsilla train station and the junction of Weavers Walk, segregate the active travel link from Clonsilla Road traffic via the existing link to the north of Larch Grove residential properties, or if deemed appropriate, via a new segregated link within the green verge space on the south side of Clonsilla Road.
2. Provide a crossing point on Clonsilla Road to the east of Weavers Walk, connecting to the existing active travel infrastructure on Clonsilla Link Road.
3. Provides an active travel link immediately north of Clonsilla Road through existing open areas to the proposed public recreational space at the junction with Shelerin Road, retaining the existing mature trees and undertaking work for the maintenance and improvement of the tree lined/vegetated area along the north of Clonsilla Road.
4. At the eastern end of the link adjacent to Lohunda Lodge, provides an active travel crossing on Clonsilla Road to enable cyclist to cross from the active travel link to the village centre or join the calmed section of Clonsilla Road as set out in the Eastern Gateway (Key Project 6).



Key Project 4 – Castlefield Park

Project Physical Changes

1. Provides paths that cross the park along desire lines from Castlefield Woods and Castlefield Park residential areas.
2. Provides a playground.

3. Retains and enhance the natural landscape areas.
4. Incorporates the Active Travel Link, (see Key Project 3).
5. Provides seating.
6. Provides a multigenerational space e.g. exercise machines.



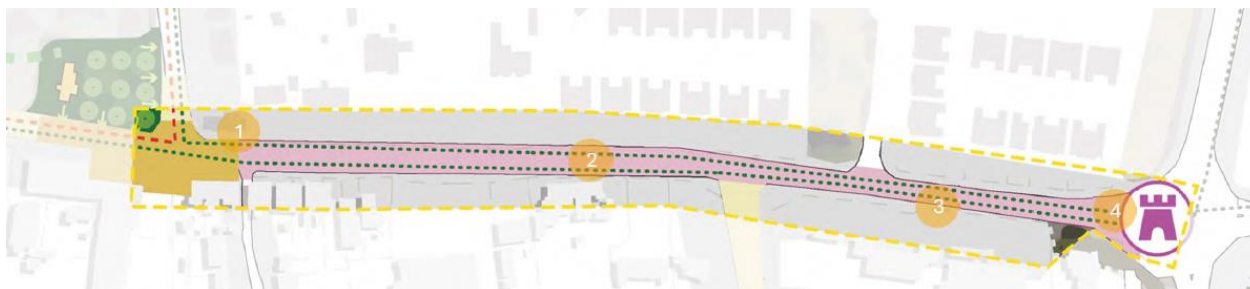
Key Project 5 – Clonsilla Road Western Gateway

Project Physical Changes	Concept for the Clonsilla Road Western Gateway
1. Uses high-quality materials to create an attractive public realm arrival space as part of the Dart + West project delivery. 2. Provides formal and secure bicycle docking and storage facilities. 3. Provides signage as part of the heritage interpretation for Clonsilla Note: The layout relating to the DART + West works is indicative based on available information and will be subject to final detailed design by the NTA and Irish Rail.	An aerial photograph of the Clonsilla Road Western Gateway area, showing the intersection of Clonsilla Road and the DART line. Numbered callouts (1-3) indicate specific features and improvements. Callout 1 points to a public realm arrival space. Callout 2 points to bicycle docking and storage facilities. Callout 3 points to signage.

Key Project 6 – Clonsilla Road Eastern Gateway

Project Physical Changes
1. On Eastern side of Shelerin Road junction provides enhanced controlled active travel crossing in keeping with the National Cycle Manual standards to guide cyclists travelling on Shelerin Road or starting their journey from the village centre onto the mixed- use street section of Clonsilla Road. 2. Creates of a calmed environment on Clonsilla Road to enable cyclist to share the carriageway in a central position with traffic. Shared environment to be achieved through narrowing of the carriageway, removal of central lane markings, introduction of textural surface treatments and enhanced landscaping to visually reduce sightlines. 3. Creates an enhanced School Zone in front of the St Mochta’s National School to prioritise pedestrian and cycle access and improve bus set down for school and public services. Visibility of school entrance to be enhanced through signposting and placemaking.

4. In keeping with the guiding principles set out in the National Cycle Manual, the entrance to the Diswellstown roundabout on the Clonsilla Road is to be amended to reduce traffic speeds and create an enhanced environment for pedestrians and cyclists on approach to the school.



Key Project 7 – Porterstown Road

Project Physical Changes	Concept for Porterstown Road
1. Provides a controlled raised crossing on Porterstown Road to facilitate access to Clonsilla including for children accessing St. Mochta's National School. 2. Facilitates the potential delivery of a mixed-traffic zone. 3. Protects and preserves the existing historic water pump.	

Key Project 8 – Wayfinding

Project Physical Changes	Fingal's Standard Signage
Provides sensitively designed and sited signage in accordance with Fingal County Council signage guidance at each key project location where appropriate.	



4.5.1 Implementation and Monitoring

The Plan includes an outline schedule of the main actions arising from the Framework Plan (Refer to **Table 4.1** (on page over)). The schedule includes details as to the ownership of each action, bodies which are expected to provide project support, sources of potential funding as well as indicative timelines.

It is also noted that as many of the actions identified as part of this Framework Plan are likely to be subject to additional detailed design and permitting / environmental assessment the overall timeframe for the completion of all actions could take 5 to 10 years in total.

Monitoring will be undertaken on an annual basis and take account of indicators such as:

- The actions undertaken and projects commenced and/or completed;
- Funding opportunities identified, applied for and secured.

Clonsilla Framework Plan

Appropriate Assessment Screening Report

Table 4.1 Schedule of Actions in the Framework Plan (Extract from Table 8-1 of the Draft Clonsilla Framework Plan, FCC 2024)

Project/Opportunities	Actions	Owner	Project Support	Potential Funding Sources	Indicative Timelines
A Redefined Village Centre	Prepare detailed drawings	FCC	Local Residents, Private Landowners, Local Community, Local Businesses.	URDF, Local Enhancement Programme	Medium Term
	Seek consent through relevant consent process				
	Review available funding, prepare and submit application(s)				
Clonsilla Road Traffic Management	Undertake a Transport Appraisal as appropriate	FCC	NTA, Local Residents, Local Community, Local Businesses.	Active Travel Investment Grant	Medium Term
	Prepare detailed drawings				
	Seek consent through relevant consent process				
	Review available funding, prepare and submit application(s)				
Clonsilla Active Travel Link	Undertake a Transport Appraisal as appropriate	FCC	NTA, Local Residents, Local Community, Private Landowners.	Active Travel Investment Grant	Medium - Long Term
	Prepare detailed drawings				
	Seek consent through relevant consent process				
	Review available funding, prepare and submit application(s)				
Castlefield Park	Prepare detailed drawings	FCC	Local Residents, Private Landowners, Local Community.	URDF, Local Enhancement Programme	Medium - Long Term
	Seek consent through relevant consent process				
	Review available funding, prepare and submit application(s)				
Clonsilla Road Western Gateway	Engage with all relevant stakeholders including the NTA and Irish Rail	FCC	NTA, Irish Rail, Local Residents, Local Community.	URDF, Active Travel Funding associated with DART + West	Medium Term
	Prepare detailed drawings				
	Seek consent through relevant consent process				
	Review available funding, prepare and submit application(s)				
Clonsilla Road Eastern Gateway	Undertake a Transport Appraisal as appropriate	FCC	NTA, Local Residents, Local Community, Private Landowners, St. Mochta's National School.	Active Travel Investment Grant	Short - Medium Term
	Prepare detailed drawings				
	Seek consent through relevant consent process				
	Review available funding, prepare and submit application(s)				
Porterstown Road	Engage with the NTA and Irish Rail	FCC	NTA, Irish Rail, Local Residents, Local Community, Private Landowners, St. Mochta's National School.	URDF, Active Travel Funding associated with DART + West, Heritage Council, Local Enhancement Programme.	Medium Term
	Prepare detailed drawings				
	Seek consent through relevant consent process				
	Review available funding, prepare and submit application(s)				
Wayfinding	Provision of a strategic heritage sign near the train station.	FCC	Local Residents, Local Community, Local Businesses, Private Landowners, Developers	URDF, Local Enhancement Programme.	Short - Medium Term
	Review available funding, prepare and submit application(s)				
Potential New Connections	Undertake a Transport Appraisal as appropriate	FCC	Local Residents, Local Community, Private Landowners, Developers.	URDF, Active Travel Funding, Heritage Council, Local Enhancement Programme.	Medium - Long Term
	Investigate the removal of barriers to movement in the residential areas to the south of Clonsilla Road (including Lambourne Avenue and Weaver's Wood)				
Monitoring	Ongoing	FCC	Local Community		

5 Description of the receiving environment

The Clonsilla Framework Plan includes areas of land situated south of Clonsilla Road/ Larch Road, bounded by Diswellstown Road to the east, Callaghan Bridge to the west and extending just south of the Royal Canal and railway tracks. The Plan also includes 3no. open space and parkland areas to the north of the Clonsilla Road. Refer to **Figure 5.1** below. Clonsilla benefits from proximity to the M50 Motorway and N3 National Route as well as being located on the national rail network. The R121 serves as the main street for the Clonsilla Village. It runs east-west and forms the northern boundary of the Framework Plan lands. Diswellstown Road runs north-south and forms the eastern boundary of the site from the Clonsilla roundabout to the Dr. Troy Bridge.

Development in Clonsilla is set against the policies and objectives of the Fingal Development Plan 2023-2029. The Clonsilla Framework Plan is not a statutory land use plan and does not set a framework for future development consents. It is a Local Authority Plan, as required under the Development Plan (*refer to Table 2.19: List of proposed Framework Plans – Clonsilla (FP 13.C)*). As set out within the Fingal Development Plan 2023-2029 settlement hierarchy, Clonsilla is designated as being situated within the 'Dublin City and Suburbs' consolidation area.

The Fingal Development Plan 2023-2029 sets policies and objective for the preparation and implementation of the Framework Plan and states-

Policy CSP9 – Framework Plans: Prepare Framework Plans as required for identified areas to facilitate a co-ordinated approach to development.

Policy CSP10 – Implementation of Framework Plans: Prepare Framework Plans for areas designated on Development Plan maps in co-operation with relevant stakeholders, and actively secure the implementation of these plans and the achievement of the specific objectives indicated therein.

There is also a specific objective for Masterplan 13a (Old School House) which is entirely located within the boundary of the Framework Plan.

Objective CSO 11 - Masterplan for the Old School House, Clonsilla: Master Plan for the Old School House, Clonsilla, to be completed within two years from the commencement of the Development Plan.

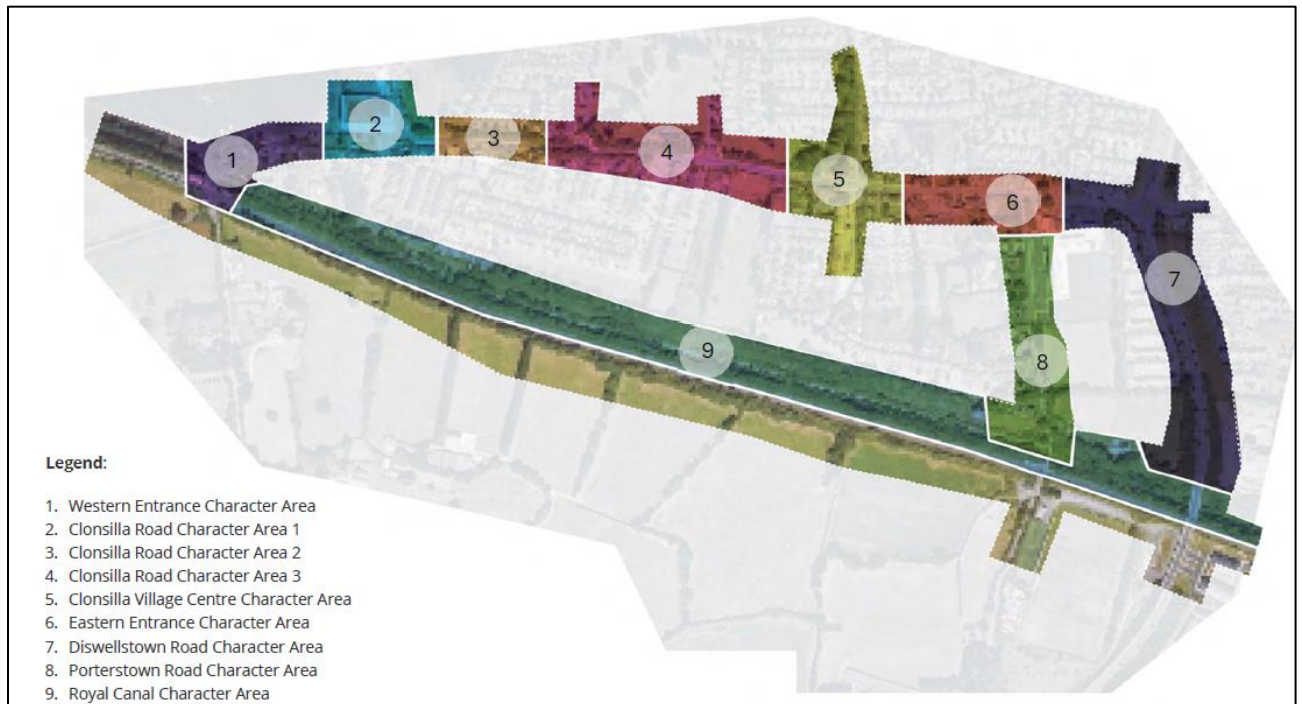
The lands within the Clonsilla Framework Plan area are generally included within zoning objective 'RS' Residential - *Provide for residential development and protect and improve residential amenity*; 'TC' 'Town and District Centre' - *Protect and enhance the special physical and social character of town and district centres and provide and/or improve urban facilities*; 'OS' Open Space – *Preserve and provide for open space and recreational amenities*; and 'CI' Community Infrastructure - *Provide for and protect civic, religious, community, education, health care and social infrastructure*. Refer to **Figure 6.2**. The study area is also categorised as a 'highly sensitive landscape' under the Fingal Development Plan 2023-2029 and there is a specific objective to '*Protect & Preserve Trees, Woodlands and Hedgerows*' within the Plan area.

The Royal Canal and the railway line form a natural barrier to the south and as a result significant residential development is to the north of Clonsilla Road. As set out in the Plan, the existing village is characterised by the following nine distinctive character areas (refer to **Figure 5.1**):

- *Character Area 1: The western gateway to Clonsilla, at the junction of Clonsilla Road with the Royal Canal and Clonsilla Train Station, is characterised by the mature trees of the former estate of Clonsilla House and the historic church and graveyard, and the original rail and canal structures. St. Mary's Church is just outside the boundary of the Framework Plan area, It and its setting forms the backdrop to northward views from Callaghan Bridge and the westward vista of Clonsilla Road. The single storey dwellings of Larch Grove on the south side and Churchview on the north side also contribute to the area's character.*

- *Character Area 2: The western end of Clonsilla Road is characterised by a tight footpath and new supermarket on the northern side, an open space area directly opposite on the eastern side of the Clonsilla Link Road. Low density bungalow housing characterises the southern side of the Clonsilla Road at this location.*
- *Character Area 3: Further along Clonsilla Road the character becomes more urban in pockets with the petrol station, funeral home and wider footpaths. The northern side of Clonsilla Road retains a tree-lined character indicative of the former estate landscape character associated with Lohunda House.*
- *Character Area 4: Further east on Clonsilla Road the character changes with mature trees lining both sides of the road and narrow pedestrian footpaths. The lands to the north of Clonsilla Road are characterised by the wooded Castlefield Park which retains its estate landscape character and by residential estates mainly in the form of semi-detached and detached dwellings.*
- *Character Area 5: The character of this length of Clonsilla Road is mixed commercial being the village centre and also accommodates a number of dwellings, including several cottages. The historic Weaver's Row and Lohunda Lodge form part of the streetscape, with the latter set within a wooden area reflecting the historic estate landscape.*
- *Character Area 6: The character at this length of road is mixed commercial and residential in nature. The Clonsilla Inn is located in this Character Area, as are the multiple individual property entrances and the new residential development on the north side of the road.*
- *Character Area 7: Diswellstown Road forms the eastern boundary of the Framework Plan area, with the section from the Dr. Troy Bridge to The Courtyard residential development having a distinct tree lined character on both sides. This character changes, with The Courtyard residential development and the strip of open space opposite, bound by the wall of the residential estates to the east, highlighting the width of the Road at this location. The eastern entrance to Clonsilla is marked by the Clonsilla roundabout. St. Mochta's National School forms the southern edge with the Roundabout acting as the eastern entry point. Clonsilla Road is lined on the northern side by modern semi-detached dwellings set back from the road.*
- *Character Area 8: Porterstown Road within the Framework Plan area has a distinct character defined by its narrow width and the number of historic and vernacular structures along its relatively short length. The lack of a footpath along its eastern side from St. Mochta's National School to the Canal is also a characteristic of the Road.*
- *Character Area 9: The Royal Canal is an important element of the industrial heritage of Clonsilla. For its length within the Framework Plan area, the Canal has a distinct overgrown, wooded ravine-like character.*

Figure 5.1 Character areas within the Plan study area (Extract from Figure 4-2 of the Draft Clonsilla Framework Plan, FCC 2024)

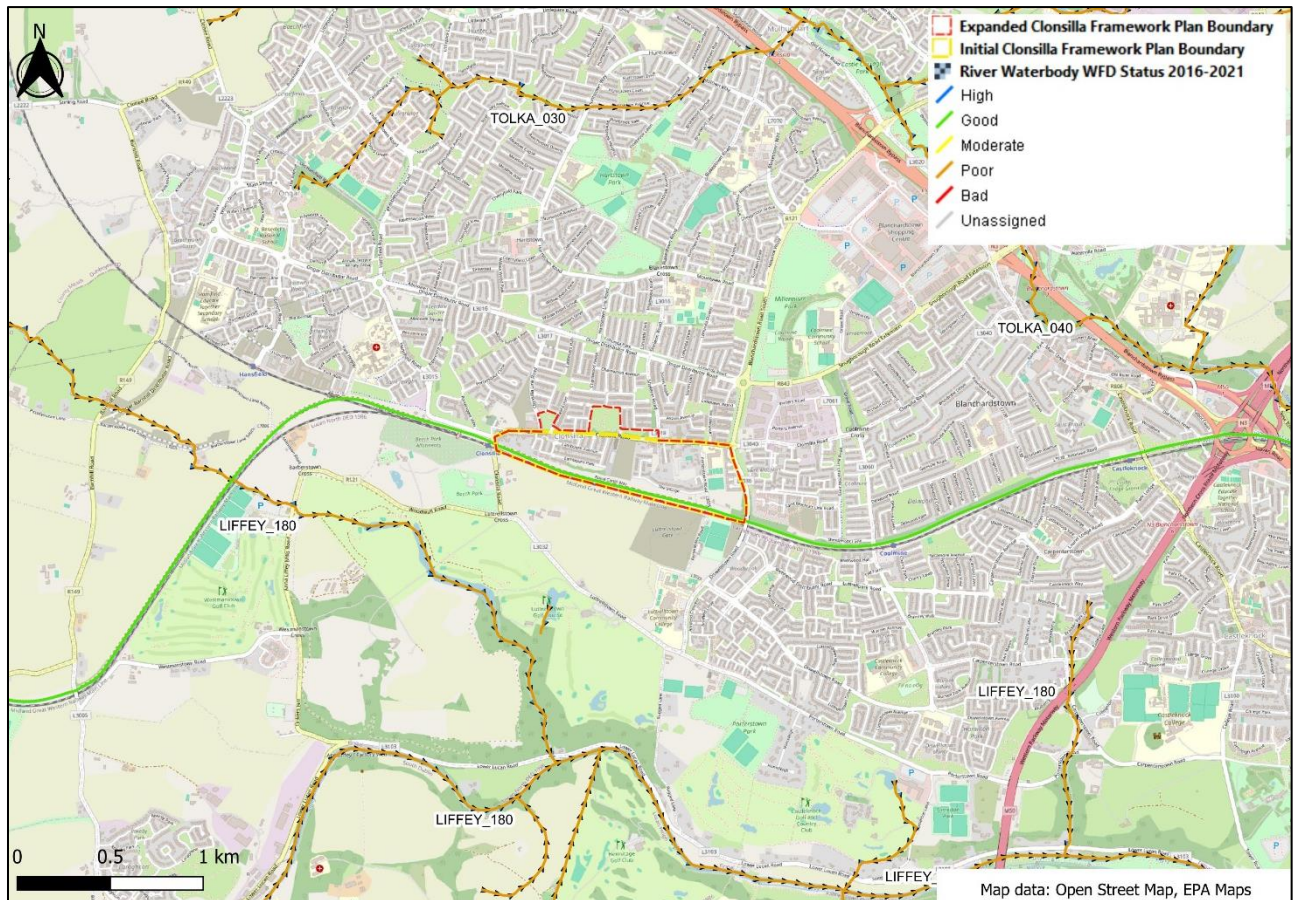


The Plan Area is located within the Liffey and Dublin Bay catchment (09), the Liffey_SC_100 subcatchment (09_1) and the Liffey_180 river sub-basin. The Water Framework Directive (WFD) status of the rivers, transitional & coastal waterbodies in the vicinity of the Plan area ranges from 'poor' to 'good' during the 2016-2021 monitoring period. The waterbodies within the study area includes (refer to **Figure 5.2**):

- Royal Canal Main Line (Liffey and Dublin Bay) (IE_09_AWB_RCMLE0 (Good and the risk status is under 'review')

The River Liffey is c. 650m to the south-west and the River Tolka is c. 2km to the north-east and both these watercourses are unconnected to the study area.

Figure 5.2 WFD waterbody status within the Plan Area



5.1.1 European sites

There are no European (Natura 2000) sites within the framework plan area. The nearest sites are listed below (and shown in Figure 5.3):

■ Special Areas of Conservation (SAC):

- Rye Water Valley/ Carton SAC (site code 001398), c. 5km to the south-west;
- Glenasmole Valley SAC (site code 001209), c. 13.9km to the south;
- South Dublin Bay SAC (site code 000210), c. 13.6km to the south-east.
- North Dublin Bay SAC (site code 000206), c. 15.0km to the east;
- Wicklow Mountains SAC (site code 002122), c. 16.4km south;
- Malahide Estuary SAC (site code 000205), c. 16.6km to the north-east;
- Baldoyle Bay SAC (site code 000199), c. 17.5km to the north-east;
- Rogerstown Estuary SAC (site code 000208), c. 19.1km to the north-east;
- Howth Head SAC (site code 000202), c. 20.8km to the east;
- Ireland's Eye SAC (site code 002193), c. 22km to the north-east;
- Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC (site code 003000), c. 22.2km to the north-east.

■ Special Protection Areas (SPA):

- North Bull Island SPA (site code 004006), c. 12km to the east;
- South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA (site code 004024), c. 13.6km to the south-east;
- Malahide Estuary SPA (site code 004025), c. 16.6km to the north-east;

- North-west Irish Sea SPA (site code 004236), c. 17.5km to the east;
- Wicklow Mountains SPA (site code 004040), c. 17.6km south;
- Baldoyle Bay SPA (site code 004016), c. 18.4km to the east;
- Rogerstown Estuary SPA (site code 004015), c. 19.1km to the north-east;
- Ireland's Eye SPA (site code 004117), c. 22km to the east;
- Howth Head Coast SPA (site code 004113), c. 23km to the east.

5.1.2 Other designated areas (other than European sites)

Designated sites (i.e. proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHA) and designated Natural Heritage Areas (NHA)) within the potential Zone of Influence have been included in this assessment in order to address their potential to act as supporting sites for European sites. There are no pNHA or NHA sites within the framework plan area. There are further no NHAs within the 20km buffer distance from the site. The nearest pNHAs are listed below (refer to [Figure 5.4](#)):

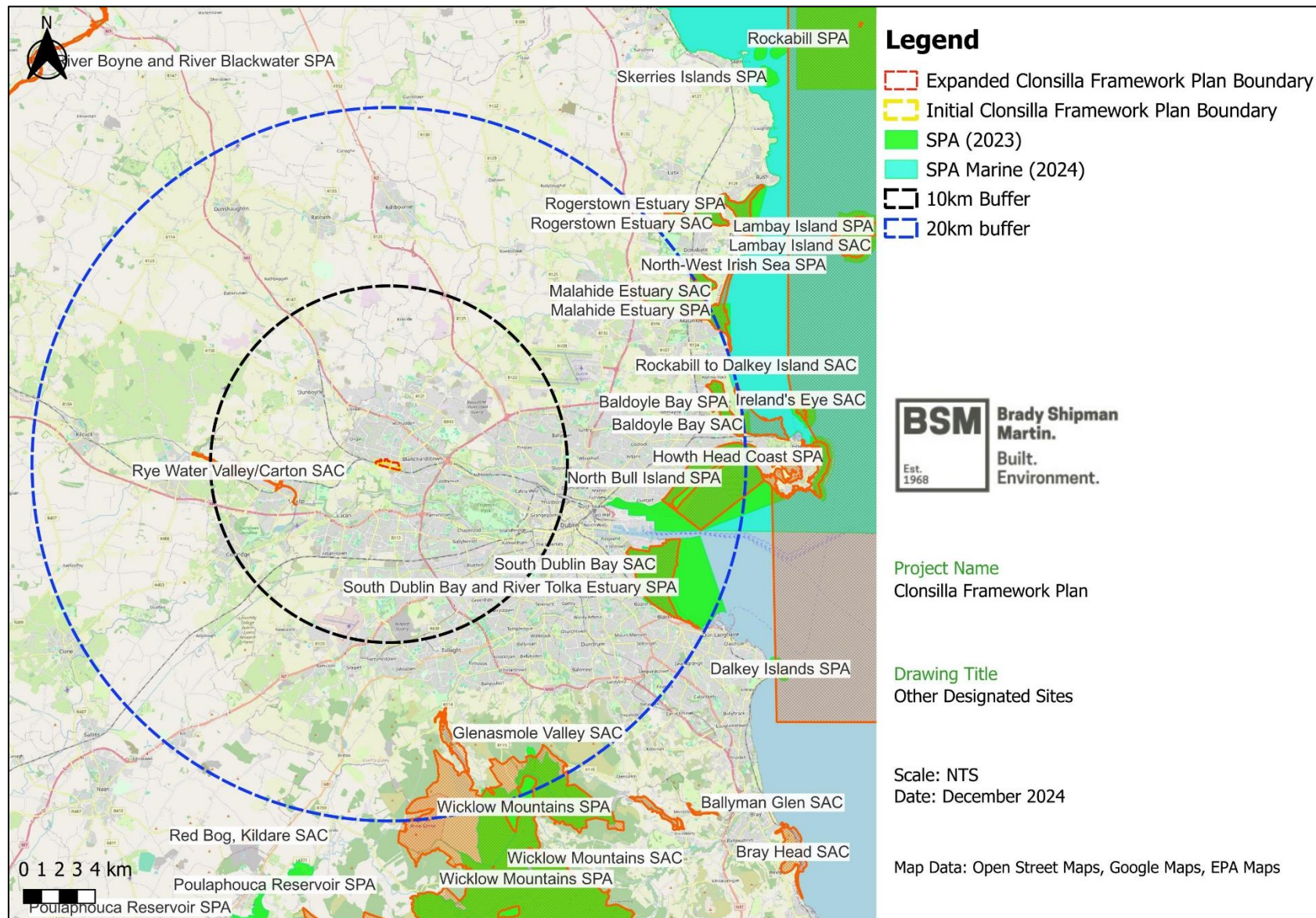
■ Proposed Natural Heritage Area (pNHA):

- Royal Canal pNHA (site code 002103), within the study area;
- Liffey Valley pNHA (site code 000128), c. 850m to the south;
- Rye Water Valley / Carton pNHA (site code 001398), c. 5km to the south-west;
- Grand Canal pNHA (site code 002104), c. 5.7km to the south;
- Santry Demesne pNHA (site code 000178), c. 10.2km to the east;
- Dodder Valley pNHA (site code 000991), c. 11.1km to the south;
- North Dublin Bay pNHA (site code 000206), c. 12km to the east;
- Dolphins Dublin Docks pNHA (site code 000201), c. 14.3km to the south-east;
- South Dublin Bay pNHA (site code 000210), c. 13.6km to the south-east;
- Lugmore Glen pNHA (site code 001212), c. 12km to the south;
- Glenasmole Valley pNHA (site code 001209), c. 13.9km to the south;
- Slade of Saggart and Crooksling Glen pNHA (site code 000211), c. 13.2km to the south-west;
- Feltrim Hill pNHA (site code 001208), c. 15.2km to the north-east;
- Booterstown Marsh pNHA (site code 001205), c. 15.5km to the south-east;
- Malahide Esturay pNHA (site code 000205), c. 16.2km to the north-east;
- Fitzsimon's Wood pNHA (site code 001753), c. 16.5km to the south-east;
- Sluice River Marsh pNHA (site code 001763), c. 17.4km to the north-east;
- Baldoyle Bay pNHA (site code 000199), c. 17.6km to the north-east;
- Kilteel Wood pNHA (site code 001394), c. 17.8km to the south-west;
- Rogerstown Estuary pNHA (site code 000208), c. 19km to the north-east;
- Howth Head pNHA (site code 000202), c. 20.5km to the east;
- Portraine Shore pNHA (site code 001215), c. 22km to the north-east.

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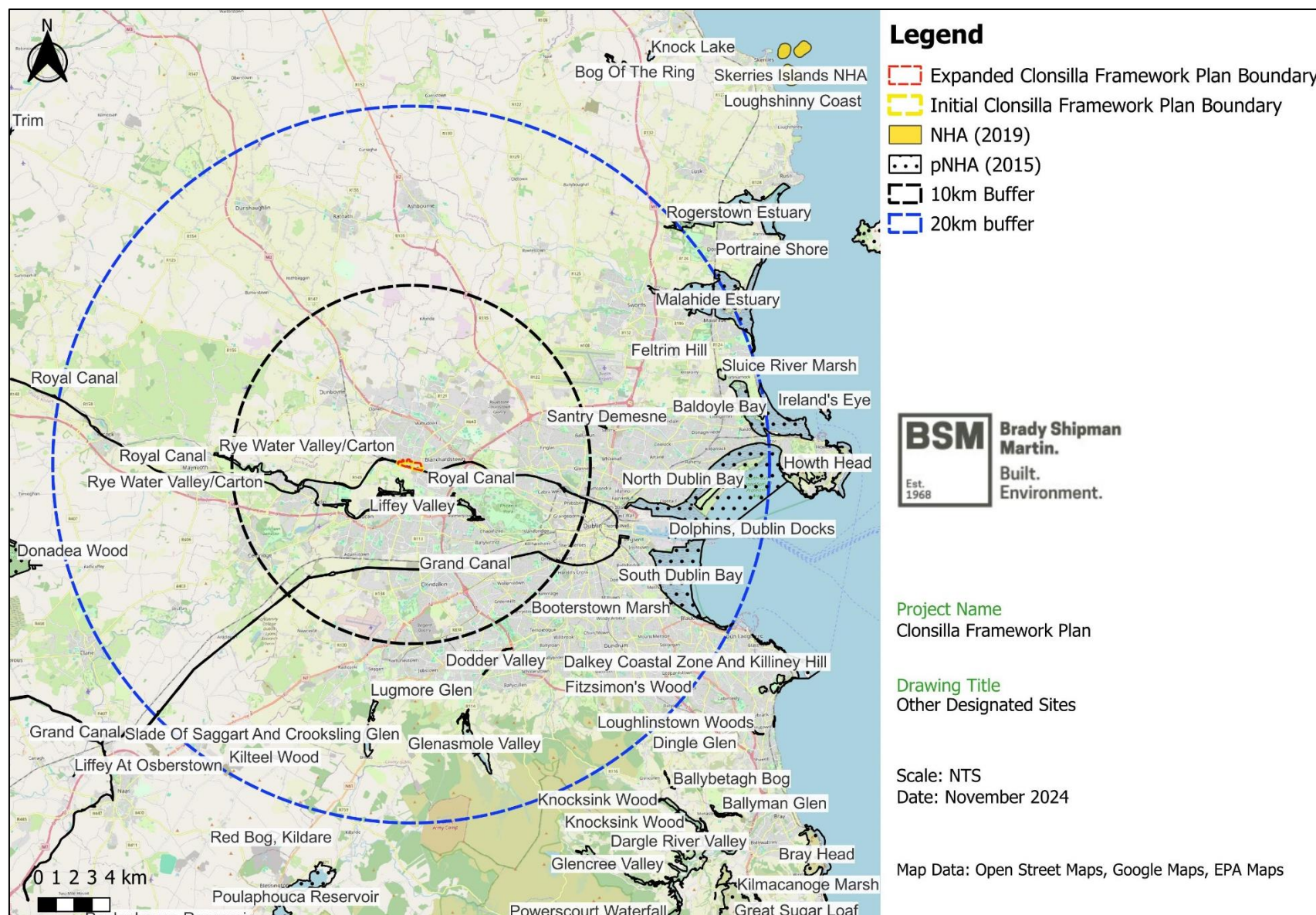
Figure 5.3 European sites within zone of influence of the Plan. A 10km & 20km radius is shown for scale.



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Figure 5.4 NHA and pNHA sites within zone of influence of the Plan. A 10km & 20km radius is shown for scale.



6 Potential impacts from the Draft Clonsilla Framework Plan, including in-combination effects

6.1 Description of any likely direct, indirect or secondary impacts of the Plan on European sites by virtue of:

6.1.1 Size and Scale

The non-statutory Framework Plan will guide future development in the Clonsilla area with a focus on urban improvement for walking and cycling infrastructure, provision of public open space and defining the 'village centre'. Building on this overall approach, the **strategic aims** of the Clonsilla Framework Plan are to:

- *Embrace a sustainable future;*
- *Repair and improve the urban fabric;*
- *Create a vibrant, liveable core area;*
- *Improve accessibility and permeability;*
- *Provide for new civic and social activities.*

The **vision** for Clonsilla is a key component of the Plan and it states:

'Clonsilla will become a distinct place that embraces its rich heritage and natural assets, fostering pride of place and a sense of community through improvements in the public realm, enhanced community and recreational facilities, prioritisation of active travel, increased legibility and the showcasing of its unique attributes.'

As set out in Section 4.3 number of **objectives** have been formulated that provide the framework a coordinated approach to deliver the above Vision and address the existing challenges within the study area. These include:

- *Objective 1: Create a Distinct Identity - Clonsilla must not only retain and protect the attributes and assets that give it its distinctiveness but must utilise and showcase these to build a distinct identity.*
- *Objective 2: Promote a Vibrant Village Centre - Clonsilla village centre faces a number of challenges and how these are addressed will define the future of Clonsilla. The vibrancy of the village centre will be enhanced through diversity of use including retail, commercial, social and recreation spaces as well as public realm improvements and traffic management.*
- *Objective 3: Promote and Facilitate Active Travel - Clonsilla should not only embrace the future opportunities presented by the Royal Canal greenway in terms of wider accessibility through active travel but it must also promote active travel within the village through traffic management measures and the provision of active travel infrastructure such as the Clonsilla Active Travel Link.*
- *Objective 4: Deliver a High-Quality Public Realm - The public realm provides the setting for Clonsilla, including the public spaces that people use every day. Quality design and materials are required to deliver a public realm that encourages vibrancy and facilitates social interaction.*
- *Objective 5: Support the Enhancement of High-Quality Community and Recreational Facilities - The enhancement and reuse of existing community facilities such as green spaces will be supported.*
- *Objective 6: Protect and Enhance the Natural Environment - Clonsilla has an enviable natural environment rich in biodiversity and wildlife from the Royal Canal to the parkland nature of the lands of the former Lohunda House. In line with the Development Plan, this should not only be respected and protected but should be strengthen and enhanced.*
- *Objective 7: Realise the Full Potential of Transport Infrastructure - Clonsilla is strategically located in terms of availability of rail and bus services and proximity to the Canal and future greenway. Better*

accessibility to existing infrastructure and planning for the integration of new infrastructure into Clonsilla is key to its future vibrancy, vitality and attractiveness as a place to live.

- *Objective 8: Showcase the History and Celebrate the Assets of Clonsilla - Clonsilla has a wealth of historical and cultural assets that should be showcased through strategic signage, public art and cultural and community events.*
- *Objective 9: Promote a High Quality of Life, Health and Wellbeing - To remain an attractive place to live and provide a high quality of life, Clonsilla needs to plan for inclusive and healthy communities through education, community and health facilities and access to amenity and recreation space.*

Having regard to these aims and objectives, the Framework Plan identifies specific public realm works, active travel measures, enhancement and reuse of existing community facilities, and addresses accessibility and connectivity throughout the Plan area.

The Public Realm Strategy for Clonsilla aims to guide the enhancement, development and management of the public realm in Clonsilla, improving legibility, character and identity and delivering an integrated and permeable Clonsilla through linkages. The Strategy also considers how public realm improvements can support other initiatives such as improving human health and wellbeing and promoting biodiversity.

The Traffic Management Strategy seeks to redress the dominance of vehicular traffic in Clonsilla, delivering an Active Travel Network through enhanced pedestrian and cyclist facilities. This Public Realm Strategy supports this and seeks to capitalise on it by taking space back from vehicular traffic to deliver a high-quality public realm and where possible to create new or enhanced spaces. The implementation of this Traffic Management Strategy will deliver a number of positive outcomes for Clonsilla which will not only facilitate and encourage more sustainable forms of travel but will enhance Clonsilla both visually and as place to visit and spend time.

A number of key projects have been identified in the strategy that align with and support the delivery of the Public Realm and Traffic Management Strategies and have the potential to significantly improve the public realm, provide enhanced accessibility while also providing valuable new recreational facilities and spaces for Clonsilla. These include:

- 1. A Redefined Village Centre
- 2. Clonsilla Road Traffic Management
- 3. Clonsilla Active Travel Link
- 4. Castlefield Park
- 5. Clonsilla Road Western Gateway
- 6. Clonsilla Road Eastern Gateway
- 7. Porterstown Road
- 8. Wayfinding

The key projects (8no.) are detailed in Section 3 of this report.

As outlined in the Development Plan, Framework Plans are advisory in nature, providing a long-term vision for the future and allowing sufficient flexibility to manage change depending on the particular circumstances.

The Plan also sets an implementation plan and outlines a schedule of the main actions arising from the Framework Plan. The schedule includes details as to the ownership of each action, bodies which are expected to provide project support, sources of potential funding as well as indicative timelines.

As many of the actions identified as part of this Framework Plan are likely to be subject to additional detailed design and permitting / environmental assessment, the overall timeframe for the completion of all actions could take 5 to 10 years in total.

Monitoring undertaken on an annual basis shall take account of indicators such as - environmental, urban structure, movement, social and economic characteristics of the Village, the actions undertaken and projects commenced and/or completed, funding opportunities identified, applied for and secured.

The size and scale of the Plan will not result in any impacts that have the potential, alone or in-combination with other plans or projects, to result in likely significant effects to European Sites.

The Plan objectives and actions have been designed with the intention of protecting and enhancing Clonsilla's heritage including built, cultural, landscape and natural heritage features. The Objective 6 for the Plan states–

'Objective 6: Protect and Enhance the Natural Environment - Clonsilla has an enviable natural environment rich in biodiversity and wildlife from the Royal Canal to the parkland nature of the lands of the former Lohunda House. In line with the Development Plan, this should not only be respected and protected but should be strengthen and enhanced.'

The Public Realm Strategy as part of the Plan also considers how public realm improvements can support other initiatives such as improving human health and wellbeing and incorporating the environment, specifically in the context of the Key Projects identified within the Plan and described in Section 4 of this report.

Given this intention, it is expected that any potential impacts on European sites would be avoided in the first instance.

Figure 6.1 Clonsilla Framework Plan Area

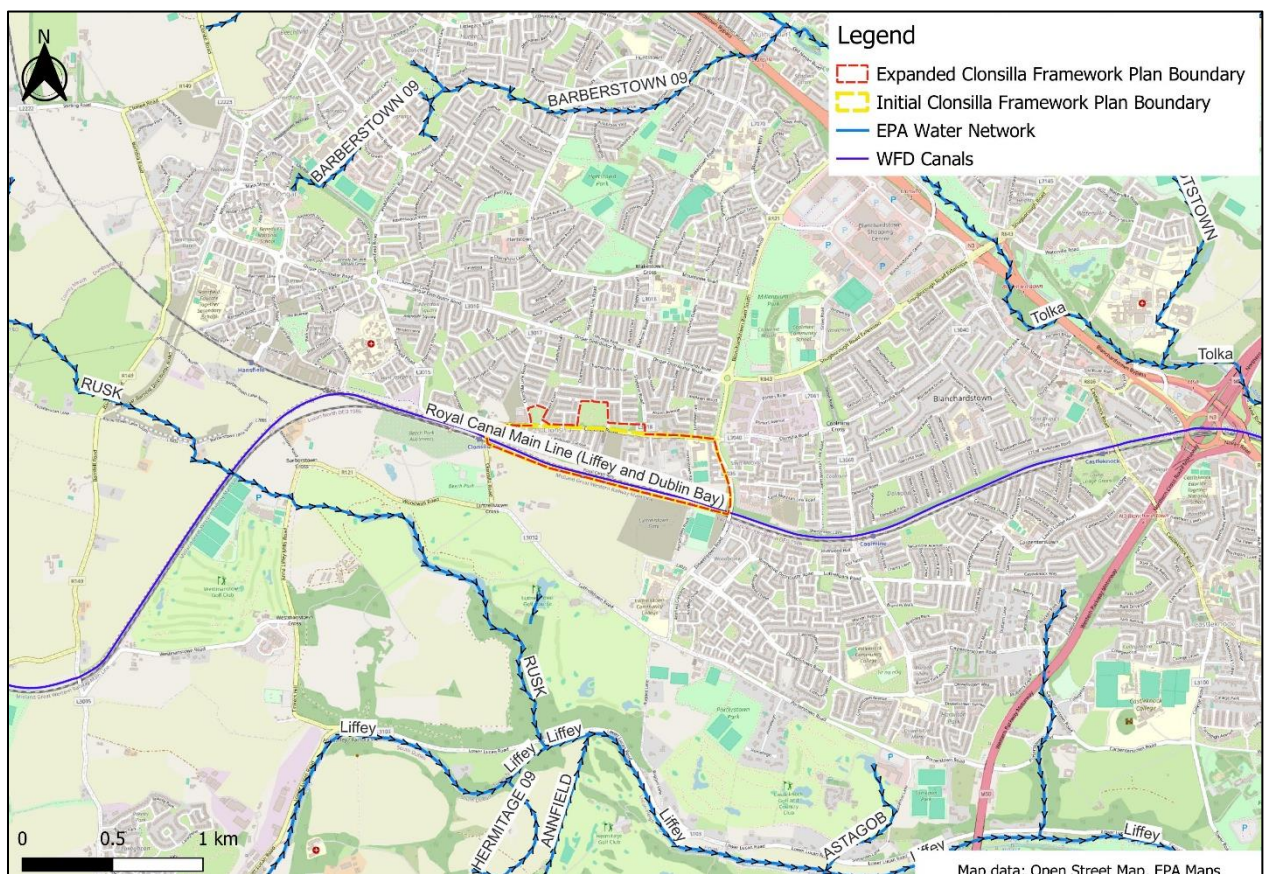
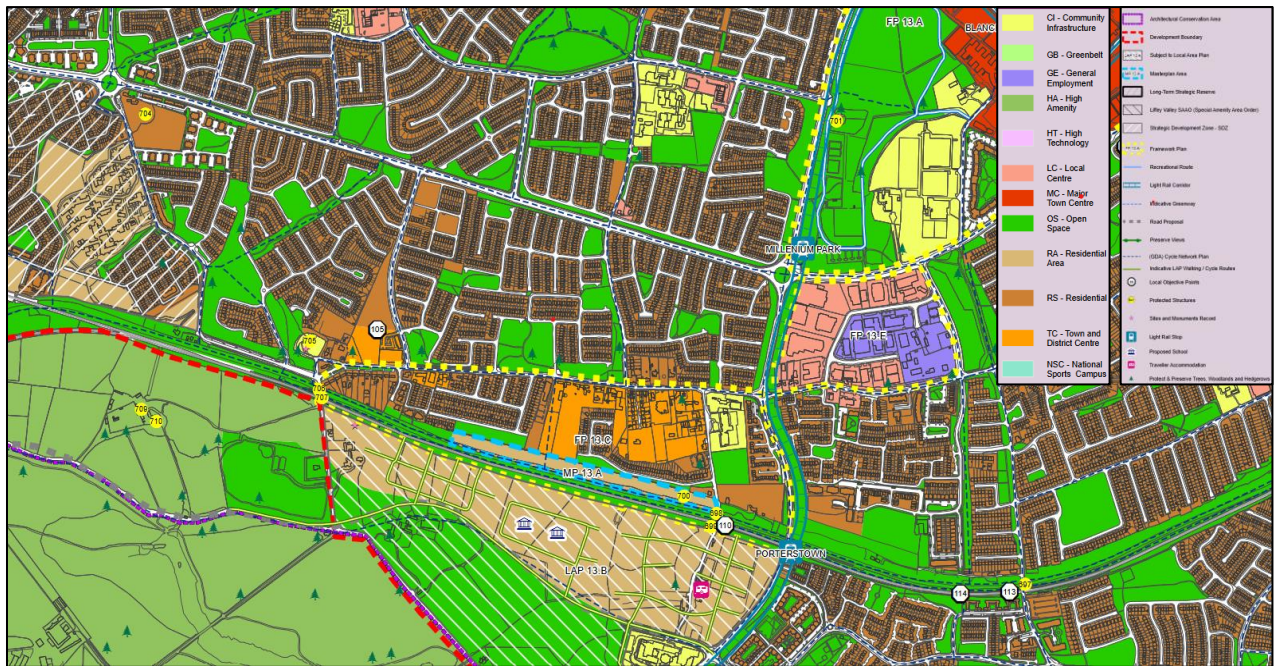


Figure 6.2 Extract from the Fingal Development Plan 2023-2029 (Sheet No. 13 Blanchardstown South)



6.1.2 Land take

There is no requirement for land take from any European site under any of the projects/ opportunities /actions stated in the Plan.

6.1.3 Distance from European Site

There are no European (Natura 2000) sites within the framework plan area. The nearest sites (all sites within the potential zone of influence) are described in Section 5. A total of 11no. SACs and 9no. SPAs are located within 20km of the Plan area. The closest Natura 2000 site to the Plan area is the Rye Water Valley/ Carton SAC (site code 001398), c. 5km to the south-west. All the other Natura 2000 sites are in excess of 10km linear distance to the site.

6.1.4 Resource requirement

There are no resource requirements from any European site as a result of any of the projects/ opportunities /actions contained within the Plan.

6.1.5 Emissions (to land, water or air)

There are no emissions of any kind that would result in significant effects on any European site as a result of any of the projects/ opportunities /actions contained within the Plan.

6.1.6 Excavation requirements

There are no excavation requirements from any European site as a result of any of the projects/ opportunities /actions contained within the Plan.

6.1.7 Transport requirements

There are no transport requirements related to any European site as a result of any of the projects/ opportunities /actions contained within the Plan.

6.2 Description of any likely changes arising as a result of:

6.2.1 Reduction in habitat area

The Plan proposes no reductions in habitat area in any European site.

6.2.2 Disturbance to key species

The projects/ opportunities /actions described within the Plan will not result in any disturbance to key species, in designated sites and elsewhere. No habitat or species disturbance will arise.

6.2.3 Habitat or species fragmentation

The projects/ opportunities /actions within the Plan will not result in habitat or species fragmentation.

There will be no loss, fragmentation, disruption, disturbance or other change to any element of any European site as a result of the implementation of the Plan, and no interference with the key relationships that define the structure or function of any European site.

6.2.4 Reduction in species density

The Plan will not result in any effects that have the potential to result in reduction in the extent of the qualifying habitats of European Sites, disturb qualifying species of European Sites in the wider surrounding area or affect species population.

6.2.5 Changes in key indicators of conservation value

The projects/ opportunities /actions within the Plan will not result in any changes to key indicators of conservation value. The Plan will not result in any interference with the key relationships that define the structure or function of any European site.

6.2.6 Climate change

The projects/ opportunities /actions contained in the Plan all align with the National Climate Action Plan 2024, the Fingal Development Plan 2023-2029 and the Fingal County Council Climate Change Action Plan 2019-2024. It is core strategy of the Fingal Development Plan 2023-2029 to continue to build mixed use communities at approximate locations across the County that can sustain and grow a low carbon society.

The SFRA has been prepared by McCloy Consulting (2024) in accordance with the OPW Guidelines and provides Stage 1 and 2 assessments of all sources of flood risk within the Plan Area. The report summarises that –

‘No fluvial or coastal flood risk has been identified at the Plan Area. Therefore, in line with the OPW Guidelines and Fingal SFRA, the Plan Area is wholly located in Flood Zone C and is appropriate for development of any vulnerability classification (as defined in the OPW Guidelines).

A precautionary approach should also be applied to flood risk management to reflect uncertainties in available flood data, risk assessment techniques, and climate change projections.’

6.3 Description of any likely impacts on European sites in terms of:

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

The Plan will result in no interference with the key relationships that define the structure of any European site.

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

The Plan will result in no interference with the key relationships that define the function of any European site.

Potential pathways for impacts to European sites are presented in [Table 5.1](#) and the potential impact of the Plan on the European sites within the potential Zone of Influence is presented in [Table 5.2](#).

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Table 6.1 Potential impacts on designated sites in the potential Zone of Influence

Site	Reasons for designation (information correct as of November 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link	Likely Significant Effect?
Rye Water Valley/ Carton SAC (site code 001398), c. 5km to the south-west	1014 Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail (<i>Vertigo angustior</i>) 1016 Desmoulin's Whorl Snail (<i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i>) 7220 Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion)* According to this SAC's site Conservation Objectives document (Version 1, dated 22 December 2021), for the listed QI, the Conservation Objective is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat for which the SAC has been selected.	There is no hydrological pathway between the Plan Area and this SAC, and there is no potential for habitat loss or degradation. There will be no impacts on water quality or any other emissions and no loss of habitat or species, fragmentation or disturbance to the qualifying interests of this site as a result of the implementation of the projects/ opportunities or actions proposed in the Plan.	No
Glenasmole Valley SAC (site code 001209), c. 13.9km to the south	6210 Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (* important orchid sites) 6410 <i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae) 7220 Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion)* According to this SAC's site Conservation Objectives document (Version 1, dated 10 December 2021), for the listed QI, the Conservation Objective is to restore the favourable conservation condition of the	There is no hydrological pathway between the Plan Area and this SAC, and there is no potential for habitat loss or degradation. There will be no impacts on water quality or any other emissions and no loss of habitat or species, fragmentation or disturbance to the qualifying interests of this site as a result of the implementation of the projects/ opportunities or actions proposed in the Plan.	No

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Site	Reasons for designation (information correct as of November 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link	Likely Significant Effect?
	Annex I habitat for which the SAC has been selected.		
North Bull Island SPA (site code 004006), c. 12km to the east	■ A046 Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) ■ A048 Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) ■ A052 Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) ■ A054 Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) ■ A056 Shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>) ■ A130 Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) ■ A140 Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) ■ A141 Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) ■ A143 Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) ■ A144 Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) ■ A149 Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) ■ A156 Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) ■ A157 Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) ■ A160 Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) ■ A162 Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) ■ A169 Turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>) ■ A179 Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) ■ A999] Wetland According to this SPA's site Conservation Objectives document (Version 1, dated 9 March 2015), for each of the listed SCIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain	There is a potential hydrological pathway to this SPA via the Royal Canal. However, no significant effects on water quality, and therefore on the site's SCIs, are predicted. Surface/ground water arising during the implementation of the projects/ opportunities or actions within the Plan could potentially contain pollutants (foul water, silt, hydrocarbons and other chemicals). Such contaminated water could potentially discharge to the ground or the local surface water drainage network (including the Royal Canal) and from there, eventually, to the sea. There would be no significant effects on the conservation objectives of the European site should this occur, given the nature and location of the Plan study area at Clonsilla and the objectives set out in the Plan. Even in the event of a pollution incident significant enough to impact upon surface/ground water quality locally, it is reasonable to assume that this would not be perceptible in the SPA. This is due to the significant separation between the Plan area and the European site – it is over 12.0km (straight line distance) from the SPA. In addition, significant dilution and mixing of surface and sea water would occur. There will be no loss of habitat or species, or disturbance to the qualifying interests of this site as a result of the implementation of the Plan. No operational impacts on this European site related to surface & foul water management are envisaged as a result of the implementation of the objectives of the Plan. Any development will be undertaken in accordance with the policies and objectives of the Fingal Development Plan 2023-2029.	No

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Site	Reasons for designation (information correct as of November 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link	Likely Significant Effect?
	the favourable conservation condition of the species and wetland habitat for which the SPA has been selected.		
South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA (site code 004024), c. 13.6km to the south-east	■ A144 Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) ■ A157 Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) ■ A149 Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) ■ A162 Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) ■ A179 Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) ■ A143 Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) ■ A192 Roseate Tern (<i>Sterna dougallii</i>) ■ A046 Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) ■ A141 Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) ■ A130 Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) ■ A194 Arctic Tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) ■ A193 Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) ■ A137 Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) ■ A999 Wetlands According to this SPA's site Conservation Objectives document (Version 1, dated 9 March 2015), for each of the listed SCIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain the favourable conservation condition of the species and wetland habitat for which the SPA has been selected.	There is a potential hydrological pathway to this SPA via the Royal Canal. However, no significant effects on water quality, and therefore on the site's SCIs, are predicted. Surface/ground water arising during the implementation of the projects/ opportunities or actions within the Plan could potentially contain pollutants (foul water, silt, hydrocarbons and other chemicals). Such contaminated water could potentially discharge to the ground or the local surface water drainage network (including the Royal Canal) and from there, eventually, to the sea. There would be no significant effects on the conservation objectives of the European site should this occur, given the nature and location of the Plan study area at Clonsilla and the objectives set out in the Plan. Even in the event of a pollution incident significant enough to impact upon surface/ground water quality locally, it is reasonable to assume that this would not be perceptible in the SPA. This is due to the significant separation between the Plan area and the European site – it is over 13.6km (straight line distance) from the SPA. In addition, significant dilution and mixing of surface and sea water would occur. There will be no loss of habitat or species, or disturbance to the qualifying interests of this site as a result of the implementation of the Plan. No operational impacts on this European site related to surface & foul water management are envisaged as a result of the implementation of the objectives of the Plan. Any development will be undertaken in accordance with the policies and objectives of the Fingal Development Plan 2023-2029.	No
South Dublin Bay SAC (site code	■ 1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide	There is a potential hydrological pathway to this SAC via the Royal Canal. However, no significant effects on water quality, and therefore on the site's QIs, are predicted.	No

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Site	Reasons for designation (information correct as of November 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link	Likely Significant Effect?
000210), c. 13.6km to the south-east	The following habitats are listed as Qualifying Interests on the NPWS website, but are not included in the Conservation Objectives document: ■ 1210 Annual vegetation of drift lines ■ 1310 Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand ■ 2110 Embryonic shifting dunes According to this SAC's site Conservation Objectives document (Version 1, dated 22 August 2013), for the listed QI, the Conservation Objective is to maintain the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat for which the SAC has been selected.	Surface/ground water arising during the implementation of the projects/ opportunities or actions within the Plan could potentially contain pollutants (foul water, silt, hydrocarbons and other chemicals). Such contaminated water could potentially discharge to the ground or the local surface water drainage network (including the Royal Canal) and from there, eventually, to the sea. There would be no significant effects on the conservation objectives of the European site should this occur, given the nature and location of the Plan study area at Clonsilla and the objectives set out in the Plan. Even in the event of a pollution incident significant enough to impact upon surface/ground water quality locally, it is reasonable to assume that this would not be perceptible in the SAC. This is due to the significant separation between the Plan area and the European site – it is over 13.6km (straight line distance) from the SAC. In addition, significant dilution and mixing of surface and sea water would occur. There will be no loss of habitat or species, or disturbance to the qualifying interests of this site as a result of the implementation of the Plan. No operational impacts on this European site related to surface & foul water management are envisaged as a result of the implementation of the objectives of the Plan. Any development will be undertaken in accordance with the policies and objectives of the Fingal Development Plan 2023-2029.	
North Dublin Bay SAC (site code 000206), c. 15.0km to the east	■ 1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide ■ 1210 Annual vegetation of drift lines ■ 1310 Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand ■ 1330 Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glaucopuccinellietalia maritimae</i>) ■ 1395 Petalwort (<i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i>) ■ 1410 Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) ■ 2110 Embryonic shifting dunes ■ 2120 Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes)	There is a potential hydrological pathway to this SAC via the Royal Canal. However, no significant effects on water quality, and therefore on the site's QIs, are predicted. Surface/ground water arising during the implementation of the projects/ opportunities or actions within the Plan could potentially contain pollutants (foul water, silt, hydrocarbons and other chemicals). Such contaminated water could potentially discharge to the ground or the local surface water drainage network (including the Royal Canal) and from there, eventually, to the sea. There would be no significant effects on the conservation objectives of the European site should this occur, given the nature and location of the Plan study area at Clonsilla and the objectives set out in the Plan. Even in the event of a pollution incident significant enough to impact upon surface/ground water quality locally, it is reasonable to assume that this would not be perceptible in the SAC. This is due to the significant separation between the Plan area and the European site – it is over 15km (straight line distance) from the SAC. In addition, significant dilution and mixing of surface and sea water would occur.	No

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Site	Reasons for designation (information correct as of November 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link	Likely Significant Effect?
	2130 Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes)* 2190 Humid dune slacks According to this SAC's site Conservation Objectives document (Version 1, dated 06 November 2013), for each of the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is 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.	There will be no loss of habitat or species, or disturbance to the qualifying interests of this site as a result of the implementation of the Plan. No operational impacts on this European site related to surface & foul water management are envisaged as a result of the implementation of the objectives of the Plan. Any development will be undertaken in accordance with the policies and objectives of the Fingal Development Plan 2023-2029.	
North-west Irish Sea SPA (site code 004236), c. 17.5km to the east	- A065 Common Scoter (<i>Melanitta nigra</i>) - A001 Red-throated Diver (<i>Gavia stellata</i>) - A003 Great Northern Diver (<i>Gavia immer</i>) - A009 Fulmar (<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>) - A013 Manx Shearwater (<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>) - A018 Shag (<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>) - A017 Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) - A177 Little Gull (<i>Larus minutus</i>) - A188 Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) - A179 Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) - A182 Common Gull (<i>Larus canus</i>)	There is a potential hydrological pathway to this SPA via the Royal Canal. However, no significant effects on water quality, and therefore on the site's SCIs, are predicted. Surface/ground water arising during the implementation of the projects/ opportunities or actions within the Plan could potentially contain pollutants (foul water, silt, hydrocarbons and other chemicals). Such contaminated water could potentially discharge to the ground or the local surface water drainage network (including the Royal Canal) and from there, eventually, to the sea. There would be no significant effects on the conservation objectives of the European site should this occur, given the nature and location of the Plan study area at Clonsilla and the objectives set out in the Plan. Even in the event of a pollution incident significant enough to impact upon surface/ground water quality locally, it is reasonable to assume that this would not be perceptible in the SPA. This is due to the significant separation between the Plan area and the European site – it is over 17.5km (straight line distance) from the SPA. In addition, significant dilution and mixing of surface and sea water would occur. There will be no loss of habitat or species, or disturbance to the qualifying interests of this site as a result of the implementation of the Plan. No operational impacts on this European site related to surface & foul water management are envisaged as a result of the implementation of the objectives of the Plan. Any development will be undertaken in accordance with the policies and objectives of the Fingal Development Plan 2023-2029.	No

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Site	Reasons for designation (information correct as of November 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link	Likely Significant Effect?
	■ A183 Lesser Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>) ■ A184 Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) ■ A187 Great Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus marinus</i>) ■ A195 Little Tern (<i>Sterna albifrons</i>) ■ A192 Roseate Tern (<i>Sterna dougallii</i>) ■ A193 Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) ■ A194 Arctic Tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) ■ A204 Puffin (<i>Fratercula arctica</i>) ■ A200 Razorbill (<i>Alca torda</i>) ■ A199 Guillemot (<i>Uria aalge</i>) According to this SPA's site Conservation Objectives document (Version 1 - dated 19 September 2023), for each of the listed SCIs, the Conservation Objective maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the species for which the SPA has been selected.		
Wicklow Mountains SAC (site code 002122), c. 16.4km south	■ 1355 Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) ■ 3110 Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (Littorelletalia uniflorae) ■ 3130 Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the Littorelletea uniflorae and/or Isoeto-Nanojuncetea ■ 3160 Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds ■ 4010 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i>	There is no hydrological pathway between the Plan Area and this SAC, and there is no potential for habitat loss or degradation. There will be no impacts on water quality or any other emissions and no loss of habitat or species, fragmentation or disturbance to the qualifying interests of this site as a result of the implementation of the projects/ opportunities or actions proposed in the Plan.	No

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Site	Reasons for designation (information correct as of November 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link	Likely Significant Effect?
	■ 4030 European dry heaths ■ 4060 Alpine and Boreal heaths ■ 6130 Calaminarian grasslands of the <i>Violetalia calaminariae</i> ■ 6230 Species-rich <i>Nardus</i> grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe)* ■ 7130 Blanket bogs (* if active bog) ■ 8110 Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (<i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsietalia ladani</i>) ■ 8210 Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation ■ 8220 Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation ■ 91A0 Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles According to this SAC's site Conservation Objectives document (Version 1, dated 31 July 2017), for each of the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is 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.		
Wicklow Mountains SPA (site code 004040), c. 17.6km south	■ A098 Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>) ■ A103 Peregrine (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>) According to this SPA's site Conservation Objectives document (Version 1 - dated	There is no hydrological pathway between the Plan Area and this SPA, and there is no potential for habitat loss or degradation. There will be no impacts on water quality or any other emissions and no loss of habitat or species, fragmentation or disturbance to the special conservation interests	No

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Site	Reasons for designation (information correct as of November 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link	Likely Significant Effect?
	16 July 2024), for each of the listed SCIs, the Conservation Objective maintain the favourable conservation condition of the species for which the SPA has been selected.	of this site as a result of the implementation of the projects/ opportunities or actions proposed in the Plan.	
Malahide Estuary SAC (site code 000205), c. 16.6km to the north-east	■ 1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide ■ 1310 Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand ■ 1320 Spartina swards (Spartinion maritimae) ■ 1330 Atlantic salt meadows (Glaucopuccinellietalia maritimae) ■ 1410 Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) ■ 2120 Shifting dunnes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria (white dunes) ■ 2130 Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes)* *indicates a priority habitat under the Habitats Directive According to this SAC's site Conservation Objectives document (Version 1, dated 27 May 2013), for each of the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is 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.	There is no hydrological pathway between the Plan Area and this SAC, and there is no potential for habitat loss or degradation. There will be no impacts on water quality or any other emissions and no loss of habitat or species, fragmentation or disturbance to the qualifying interests of this site as a result of the implementation of the projects/ opportunities or actions proposed in the Plan.	No

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Site	Reasons for designation (information correct as of November 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link	Likely Significant Effect?
Malahide Estuary SPA (site code 004025), c. 16.6km to the north-east	■ A005 Great Crested Grebe (<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>) ■ A046 Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) ■ A048 Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) ■ A054 Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) ■ A067 Goldeneye (<i>Bucephala clangula</i>) ■ A069 Red-breasted (<i>Merganser Mergus serrator</i>) ■ A130 Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) ■ A140 Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) ■ A141 Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) ■ A143 Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) ■ A149 Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina alpina</i>) ■ A156 Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) ■ A157 Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) ■ A162 Redshank (<i>Tringa tetanus</i>) ■ A999 Wetlands According to this SPA's site Conservation Objectives document (Version 1, dated 16 August 2013), for each of the listed SCIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain the favourable conservation condition of the species and wetland habitat for which the SPA has been selected.	There is no hydrological pathway between the Plan Area and this SPA, and there is no potential for habitat loss or degradation. There will be no impacts on water quality or any other emissions and no loss of habitat or species, fragmentation or disturbance to the special conservation interests of this site as a result of the implementation of the projects/ opportunities or actions proposed in the Plan.	No

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Site	Reasons for designation (information correct as of November 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link	Likely Significant Effect?
Baldoyle Bay SAC (site code 000199), c. 17.5km to the north-east	■ 1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide ■ 1310 Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand ■ 1330 Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glaucopuccinellietalia maritima</i>) ■ 1410 Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) According to this SAC's site Conservation Objectives document (Version 1, dated 19 November 2012), for each of the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected.	There is no hydrological pathway between the Plan Area and this SAC, and there is no potential for habitat loss or degradation. There will be no impacts on water quality or any other emissions and no loss of habitat or species, fragmentation or disturbance to the qualifying interests of this site as a result of the implementation of the projects/ opportunities or actions proposed in the Plan.	No
Baldoyle Bay SPA (site code 004016), c. 18.4km to the east	■ A046 Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) ■ A048 Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) ■ A137 Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) ■ A140 Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) ■ A141 Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) ■ A157 Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) ■ A999 Wetlands According to this SPA's site Conservation Objectives document (Version 1, dated	There is no hydrological pathway between the Plan Area and this SPA, and there is no potential for habitat loss or degradation. There will be no impacts on water quality or any other emissions and no loss of habitat or species, fragmentation or disturbance to the special conservation interests of this site as a result of the implementation of the projects/ opportunities or actions proposed in the Plan.	No

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Site	Reasons for designation (information correct as of November 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link	Likely Significant Effect?
	27 February 2013), for each of the listed SCIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain the favourable conservation condition of the species and wetland habitat for which the SPA has been selected.		
Rogerstown Estuary SAC (site code 000208), c. 19.1km to the north-east	■ 1130 Estuaries ■ 1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide ■ 1310 Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand ■ 1330 Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glaucopuccinellietalia maritima</i>) ■ 1410 Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) ■ 2120 Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) ■ 2130 Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes)* *indicates a priority habitat under the Habitats Directive According to this SAC's site Conservation Objectives document (Version 1, dated 14 August 2013), for each of the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is 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.	There is no hydrological pathway between the Plan Area and this SAC, and there is no potential for habitat loss or degradation. There will be no impacts on water quality or any other emissions and no loss of habitat or species, fragmentation or disturbance to the qualifying interests of this site as a result of the implementation of the projects/ opportunities or actions proposed in the Plan.	No
Rogerstown Estuary SPA (site code	■ A043 Greylag Goose (<i>Anser anser</i>)	There is no hydrological pathway between the Plan Area and this SPA, and there is no potential for habitat loss or degradation.	No

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Site	Reasons for designation (information correct as of November 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link	Likely Significant Effect?
004015), c. 19.1km to the north-east	■ A046 Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) ■ A048 Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) ■ A056 Shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>) ■ A130 Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) ■ A137 Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) ■ A141 Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) ■ A143 Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) ■ A149 Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina alpina</i>) ■ A156 Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) ■ A162 Redshank (<i>Tringa tetanus</i>) ■ A999 Wetlands According to this SPA's site Conservation Objectives document (Version 1, dated 20 May 2013), for each of the listed SCIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain the favourable conservation condition of the species and wetland habitat for which the SPA has been selected.	There will be no impacts on water quality or any other emissions and no loss of habitat or species, fragmentation or disturbance to the special conservation interests of this site as a result of the implementation of the projects/ opportunities or actions proposed in the Plan.	
Howth Head SAC (site code 000202), c. 20.8km to the east	■ 1230 Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts ■ 4030 European dry heaths According to this SAC's site Conservation Objectives document (Version 1, dated 06 December 2016), for each of the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to	There is no hydrological pathway between the Plan Area and this SAC, and there is no potential for habitat loss or degradation. There will be no impacts on water quality or any other emissions and no loss of habitat or species, fragmentation or disturbance to the qualifying interests of this site as a result of the implementation of the projects/ opportunities or actions proposed in the Plan.	No

Site	Reasons for designation (information correct as of November 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link	Likely Significant Effect?
	maintain the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitats for which the SAC has been selected.		
Howth Head Coast SPA (site code 004113), c. 23km to the east	■ A188 Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) According to this SPA's Site-specific Conservation Objectives document (Version 1, dated 29 October 2024), for the listed SCI, the Conservation Objective is to restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA.	There is no hydrological pathway between the Plan Area and this SPA, and there is no potential for habitat loss or degradation. There will be no impacts on water quality or any other emissions and no loss of habitat or species, fragmentation or disturbance to the special conservation interests of this site as a result of the implementation of the projects/ opportunities or actions proposed in the Plan.	No
Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC (site code 003000), c. 22.2km to the north-east.	■ 1170 Reefs ■ 1351 Harbour Porpoise (<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>) According to this SAC's site Conservation Objectives document (Version 1, dated 07 May 2013), for each of the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected.	There is a potential hydrological pathway to this SAC via the Royal Canal. However, no significant effects on water quality, and therefore on the site's QIs, are predicted. Surface/ground water arising during the implementation of the projects/ opportunities or actions within the Plan could potentially contain pollutants (foul water, silt, hydrocarbons and other chemicals). Such contaminated water could potentially discharge to the ground or the local surface water drainage network (including the Royal Canal) and from there, eventually, to the sea. There would be no significant effects on the conservation objectives of the European site should this occur, given the nature and location of the Plan study area at Clonsilla and the objectives set out in the Plan. Even in the event of a pollution incident significant enough to impact upon surface/ground water quality locally, it is reasonable to assume that this would not be perceptible in the SAC. This is due to the significant separation between the Plan area and the European site – it is over 22.2km (straight line distance) from the SAC. In addition, significant dilution and mixing of surface and sea water would occur. There will be no loss of habitat or species, or disturbance to the qualifying interests of this site as a result of the implementation of the Plan. No operational impacts on this European site related to surface & foul water management are envisaged as a result of the implementation of the objectives of the Plan. Any development	No

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Site	Reasons for designation (information correct as of November 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link	Likely Significant Effect?
		will be undertaken in accordance with the policies and objectives of the Fingal Development Plan 2023-2029.	
Ireland's Eye SAC (site code 002193), c. 22km to the north-east	■ 1220 Perennial vegetation of stony banks ■ 1230 Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts According to this SAC's site Conservation Objectives document (Version 1, dated 27 January 2017), for each of the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) for which the SAC has been selected.	There is no hydrological pathway between the Plan Area and this SAC, and there is no potential for habitat loss or degradation. There will be no impacts on water quality or any other emissions and no loss of habitat or species, fragmentation or disturbance to the qualifying interests of this site as a result of the implementation of the projects/ opportunities or actions proposed in the Plan.	No
Ireland's Eye SPA (site code 004117), c. 22km to the east	■ A017 Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) ■ A184 Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) ■ A188 Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) ■ A199 Guillemot (<i>Uria aalge</i>) ■ A200 Razorbill (<i>Alca torda</i>) According to this SPA's Site-specific Conservation Objectives document (Version 1, dated 12 November 2024), for each of the listed SCIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA.	There is no hydrological pathway between the Plan Area and this SPA, and there is no potential for habitat loss or degradation. There will be no impacts on water quality or any other emissions and no loss of habitat or species, fragmentation or disturbance to the special conservation interests of this site as a result of the implementation of the projects/ opportunities or actions proposed in the Plan.	No

Table 6.2 Assessment of potential impact of the Draft Plan on the European sites within the potential Zone of Influence

Project	Actions	Potential for impact on Natura 2000 Sites	Mitigation Required?
KEY PROJECTS			
Key Project 1 - A Redefined Village Centre	1. Integrates this public recreational space with the active travel link (Key Project 3). 2. Provides a playground and seating. 3. Removes the existing railings. 4. Redefines the green space as a multi-use space that can accommodate social gatherings e.g. farmers markets. 5. Implements junction tightening and introduces surface/textural changes across the junction (see also Key Project 2). 6. Revises the car parking arrangements to the front of the commercial units. 7. Rationalises or relocates the existing bollards, railings, wirescape and lampposts where possible while ensuring the area is well lit at night.	No significant effects on any Natura 2000 sites are envisaged.	No
Key Project 2 – Clonsilla Road Traffic Management	1. Implements directional signage on the west side of Clonsilla Link Road and on the east side of Shelerin Road which redirects through traffic onto the Ongar Distributor Road, whilst signposting local services along Clonsilla Road. 2. Implements traffic management measures to the west of the village centre, to discourage through traffic on Clonsilla Road, whilst prioritising the needs of bus services along this route. 3. Provides additional traffic calming measures on Clonsilla Road in the form of surface treatment changes, junction tightening and road narrowing to help maintain consistently lower traffic speeds. 4. Delivers additional raised crossings on Clonsilla Road at desired locations, for example at parks and bus stops, to slow traffic and prioritise pedestrian movements at key desire lines.	No significant effects on any Natura 2000 sites are envisaged.	No
Key Project 3 – Clonsilla Active Travel Link	1. Between Clonsilla train station and the junction of Weavers Walk, segregates the active travel link from Clonsilla Road traffic via the existing link to the north of Larch Grove residential properties, or if deemed appropriate, via a new segregated link within the green verge space on the south side of Clonsilla Road. 2. Provide a crossing point on Clonsilla Road to the east of Weavers Walk, connecting to the existing active travel infrastructure on Clonsilla Link Road.	No significant effects on any Natura 2000 sites are envisaged.	No

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Project	Actions	Potential for impact on Natura 2000 Sites	Mitigation Required?
	3. Provides an active travel link immediately north of Clonsilla Road through existing open areas to the proposed public recreational space at the junction with Shelerin Road, retaining the existing mature trees and undertaking work for the maintenance and improvement of the tree lined/vegetated area along the north of Clonsilla Road. 4. At the eastern end of the link adjacent to Lohunda Lodge, provides an active travel crossing on Clonsilla Road to enable cyclist to cross from the active travel link to the village centre or join the calmed section of Clonsilla Road as set out in the Eastern Gateway (Key Project 6).		
Key Project 4 – Castlefield Park	1. Provides paths that cross the park along desire lines from Castlefield Woods and Castlefield Park residential areas. 2. Provides a playground. 3. Retains and enhance the natural landscape areas. 4. Incorporates the Active Travel Link, (see Key Project 3). 5. Provides seating. 6. Provides a multigenerational space e.g. exercise machines.	No significant effects on any Natura 2000 sites are envisaged.	No
Key Project 5 – Clonsilla Road Western Gateway	1. Uses high-quality materials to create an attractive public realm arrival space as part of the Dart + West project delivery. 2. Provides formal and secure bicycle docking and storage facilities. 3. Provides signage as part of the heritage interpretation for Clonsilla Note: The layout relating to the DART + West works is indicative based on available information and will be subject to final detailed design by the NTA and Irish Rail.	No significant effects on any Natura 2000 sites are envisaged.	No
Key Project 6 – Clonsilla Road Eastern Gateway	1. On Eastern side of Shelerin Road junction provides enhanced controlled active travel crossing in keeping with the National Cycle Manual standards to guide cyclists travelling on Shelerin Road or starting their journey from the village centre onto the mixed- use street section of Clonsilla Road. 2. Creates of a calmed environment on Clonsilla Road to enable cyclist to share the carriageway in a central position with traffic. Shared environment to be achieved through narrowing of the carriageway, removal of central lane markings, introduction of textural surface treatments and enhanced landscaping to visually reduce sightlines.	No significant effects on any Natura 2000 sites are envisaged.	No

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Project	Actions	Potential for impact on Natura 2000 Sites	Mitigation Required?
	3. Creates an enhanced School Zone in front of the St Mochta's National School to prioritise pedestrian and cycle access and improve bus set down for school and public services. Visibility of school entrance to be enhanced through signposting and placemaking. 4. In keeping with the guiding principles set out in the National Cycle Manual, the entrance to the Diswellstown roundabout on the Clonsilla Road is to be amended to reduce traffic speeds and create an enhanced environment for pedestrians and cyclists on approach to the school.		
Key Project 7 – Porterstown Road	1. Provides a controlled raised crossing on Porterstown Road to facilitate access to Clonsilla including for children accessing St. Mochta's National School. 2. Facilitates the potential delivery of a mixed-traffic zone. 3. Protects and preserves the existing historic water pump.	No significant effects on any Natura 2000 sites are envisaged.	No
Key Project 8 – Wayfinding	Provides sensitively designed and sited signage in accordance with Fingal County Council signage guidance at each key project location where appropriate.	No significant effects on any Natura 2000 sites are envisaged.	No

6.4 Summary of potential impacts of the implementation of the Plan

There will be no loss of any habitat or species listed as a QI or SCI of any designated site as a consequence of the implementation of the Plan. There is, therefore, no potential for the effects of habitat loss or fragmentation to occur.

There will also be no significant effects on any European sites as a result of:

- Habitat loss and/or fragmentation;
- Land-take;
- Resource requirements such as water abstraction;
- Impacts to habitat structure;
- Mortality to species (such as roadkill);
- Noise pollution / vibration impacts;
- Light pollution;
- Emissions to air (including dust);
- Emissions to water.

Additionally, for the reasons outlined in this report for the European sites, no impacts on any other designated sites including proposed Natural Heritage Areas, will occur.

7 Public Consultation on the Draft Clonsilla Framework Plan and Adoption of the Clonsilla Framework Plan

The Draft Clonsilla Framework Plan went on public display from Wednesday 15th January 2025 to Friday 14th February 2025 (inclusive of both dates) at the Fingal County Council Offices at County Hall, Main Street, Swords, County Dublin, and at Blanchardstown Public Library, The Civic Centre, Blanchardstown Centre, Dublin 15, and on the County Council's online portal: <https://consult.fingal.ie/en/browse>.

A total of 336 no. submissions were received from members of the public and other interested parties in relation to the Draft Clonsilla Framework Plan during the public display period. In addition, a submission was received from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in relation to the SEA. The Chief Executive prepared a report on the Submissions and Observations received on the Draft Clonsilla Framework Plan and made recommendations for proposed amendments. The recommended amendments were screened for AA (and SEA) and the CE's Report and associated screenings were circulated to the Members.

The CE's Report included recommendations for minor, non-material modifications to the Draft Plan as a result of the consultation process. The alterations were screened for the requirement for Appropriate Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment and no likely significant environmental effects were identified. Refer to **Table 7.1** below.

The Clonsilla Framework Plan, incorporating the recommended amendments, was subsequently adopted by the members of Fingal County Council.

Clonsilla Framework Plan

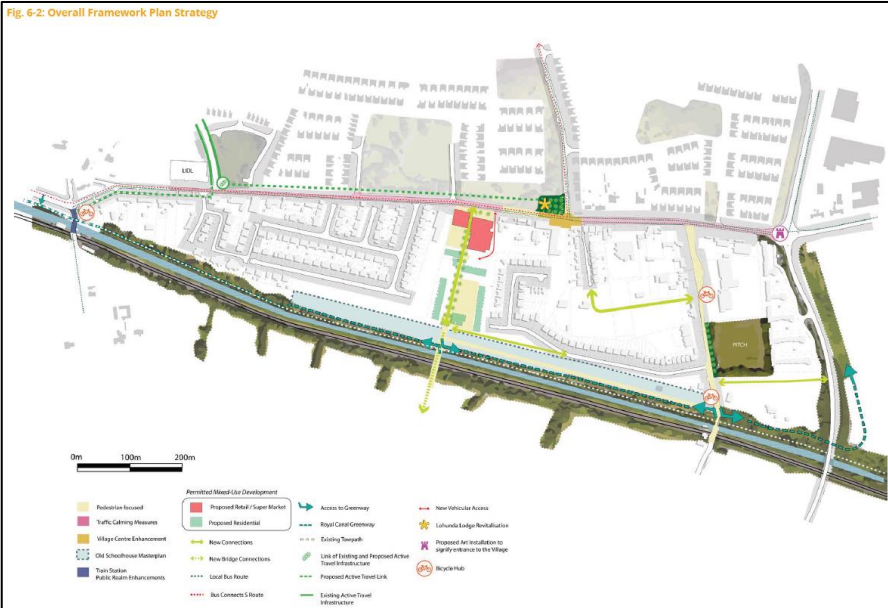
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Table 7.1 Screening of Recommended Amendments to the Draft Clonsilla Framework Plan for AA and SEA

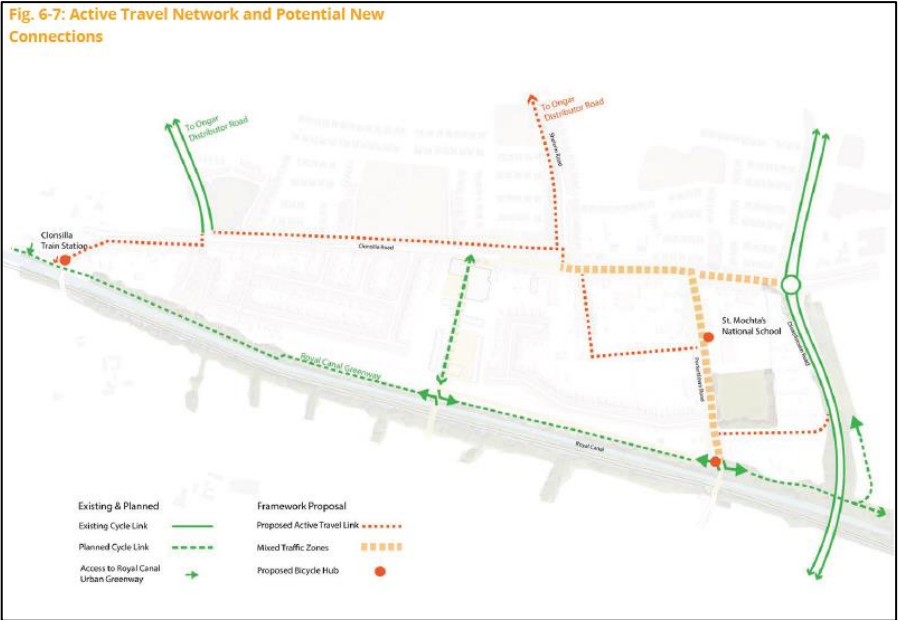
In this table, text deleted from the Draft Clonsilla Framework Plan is shown as ~~red strikethrough~~, while new text is shown as *green italic*.

Proposed Amendment	Outline Description	Screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA)	Screening for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)
CE's Rec. (1)	Chief Executive's Recommendation (1) – Section 2.3 'Objectives' It is recommended that Objective 9 on <u>page 4</u> of the Draft Framework Plan be amended as follows: Objective 9: Promote a High Quality of Life, Health and Wellbeing 'To remain an attractive place to live and provide a high quality of life, Clonsilla needs to plan for inclusive and healthy communities through education, community and health facilities and access to amenity and recreation spaces. <i>All projects arising from the Plan shall be designed in a manner that ensures passive surveillance and deters anti-social behaviour, in accordance with relevant Development Plan policy.</i>	The amendment provides for a minor positive addition to Objective 9 to address provision of passive surveillance for public safety. No likely significant environmental effects on European sites arise as a result of this amendment to the Plan. The requirement for Stage 2 AA is screened out.	The amendment provides for a minor positive addition to Objective 9 to address provision of passive surveillance for public safety. Having regard to the criteria set in Schedule 1 of S.I. No. 435 of 2004, as amended by S.I. No. 200 of 2011, no likely significant environmental effects arise as a result of this amendment to the Plan and the requirement for SEA is screened out.
CE's Rec. (2)	Chief Executive's Recommendation (2) – Section 3.4 'Natural and Built Heritage' It is recommended that the following text be included on <u>page 7</u> in Section 3.4.1 Natural Heritage of the Draft Framework Plan as follows: <i>Clonsilla is also characterised by open space lands and mature trees of the former estate within the Castlefield development and at Lohunda Lodge and with hedgerows and trees along the northern side of Clonsilla Road and along the Royal Canal, which are important natural heritage assets and lend themselves to the overall character of the area.</i>	The amendment provides for additional text to Section 3.4.1 of the Plan to highlight the importance of existing open space and mature trees within the Plan area that describes the overall character of the area.	The amendment provides for additional text to Section 3.4.1 of the Plan to highlight the importance of existing open space and mature trees within the Plan area that describes the overall character of the area.

Proposed Amendment	Outline Description	Screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA)	Screening for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)
		No likely significant environmental effects on European sites arise as a result of this amendment to the Plan. The requirement for Stage 2 AA is screened out.	Having regard to the criteria set in Schedule 1 of S.I. No. 435 of 2004, as amended by S.I. No. 200 of 2011, no likely significant environmental effects arise as a result of this amendment to the Plan and the requirement for SEA is screened out.
CE's Rec. (3)	Chief Executive's Recommendation (3) – Section 5.2 'The Public Consultation Process' It is recommended that Chapter 5 'Consultation' of the Draft Framework Plan on page 19 be updated to take account of the overall consultation process including changes arising from the consideration of this Chief Executive's Report by Elected Members including any motions received.	Amendment provides for clarification. No likely significant environmental effects on European sites arise as a result of updating the Plan with overall consultation process. The requirement for Stage 2 AA is screened out.	Amendment provides for clarification. Having regard to the criteria set in Schedule 1 of S.I. No. 435 of 2004, as amended by S.I. No. 200 of 2011, no likely significant environmental effects arise as a result of updating the Plan with overall consultation process and the requirement for SEA is screened out.
CE's Rec. (4)	Chief Executive's Recommendation (4) – Figure 6.2 'Overall Framework Plan Strategy' It is recommended that a number of changes are made Fig 6-2 'Overall Framework Plan Strategy' on <u>page 26</u> of the Draft Framework Plan including the removal of: <i>Investigate Removal of Barriers to Permeability</i>	This is a minor amendment to remove measures from the Figure 6-2 'Overall Framework Plan Strategy'.	This is a minor amendment to remove measures from the Figure 6.2 'Overall Framework Plan Strategy'.

Proposed Amendment	Outline Description	Screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA)	Screening for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)
	Traffic Management Measure Turning Facility The Figure 6.2 has been updated as follows: 	No likely significant environmental effects on European sites arise as a result of this amendment to the Plan. The requirement for Stage 2 AA is screened out.	Having regard to the criteria set in Schedule 1 of S.I. No. 435 of 2004, as amended by S.I. No. 200 of 2011, no likely significant environmental effects arise as a result of this amendment to the Plan and the requirement for SEA is screened out.
CE's Rec. (5)	Chief Executive's Recommendation (5) – Figure 6.6 'Overall Traffic Management Strategy' It is recommended that Fig 6-6 Overall Traffic Management Strategy on page 30 of the Draft Clonsilla Framework Plan is amended to remove the Traffic Management Measure. The Figure 6.6 has been updated as follows:	This is a minor amendment to remove a proposed measure from the Figure 6-6 'Overall Traffic Management Strategy'. No likely significant environmental effects on European sites arise as a result of this amendment	This is a minor amendment to remove a proposed measure' from the Figure 6-6 'Overall Traffic Management Strategy'. Having regard to the criteria set in Schedule 1 of S.I. No. 435 of 2004, as

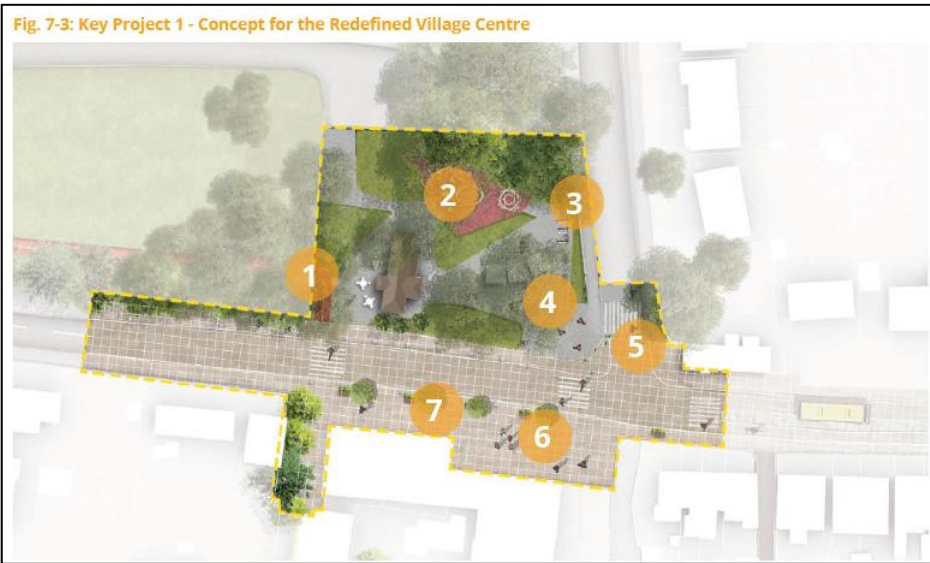
Proposed Amendment	Outline Description	Screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA)	Screening for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)
	Fig. 6-6: Overall Traffic Management Strategy  Clonsilla Road Traffic Calming Measures Village Centre Enhancement Mixed Traffic Western and Eastern Gateways Junction Tightening Additional Pedestrian Crossing Controlled Raised Crossing Amended Roundabout at Diswellstown Road	to the Plan. The requirement for Stage 2 AA is screened out.	amended by S.I. No. 200 of 2011, no likely significant environmental effects arise as a result of this amendment to the Plan and the requirement for SEA is screened out.
CE's Rec. (6)	Chief Executive's Recommendation (6) – Section 6.3 'Traffic Management Strategy' It is recommended that the following text is be deleted from Section 6.3.3 on <u>page 31</u> of the Plan: <i>In order to improve overall levels of permeability in the residential areas to the south of Clonsilla Road (including Lambourne Avenue and Weaver's Wood), active consideration should also be given to addressing existing barriers to movement in this area.</i>	This is a minor amendment to remove text. No likely significant environmental effects on European sites arise as a result of this amendment to the Plan. The requirement for Stage 2 AA is screened out.	This is a minor amendment to remove text. Having regard to the criteria set in Schedule 1 of S.I. No. 435 of 2004, as amended by S.I. No. 200 of 2011, no likely significant environmental effects arise as a result of this amendment change to the Plan and the requirement for SEA is screened out.
CE's Rec. (7)	Chief Executive's Recommendation (7) – Section 7.2 "Active Travel Network and Potential New Connections"	This is a minor amendment to remove text in Figure 6-7 'Active Travel Network	This is a minor amendment to remove text in Figure 6-7 'Active

Proposed Amendment	Outline Description	Screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA)	Screening for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)
	It is recommended that Fig 6-7 'Active Travel Network and Potential New Connections' on page 31 of the Draft Clonsilla Framework Plan is amended to remove the following text: <i>Investigate Removing Barriers to Permeability</i> The Figure 6.7 has been updated as follows:  Fig. 6-7: Active Travel Network and Potential New Connections Existing & Planned: Existing Cycle Link (solid green line) Planned Cycle Link (dashed green line) Access to Royal Canal Urban Greenway (green arrow) Framework Proposal: Proposed Active Travel Link (dashed red line) Mixed Traffic Zones (orange dashed line) Proposed Bicycle Hub (red dot)	<i>and Potential New Connections'.</i> No likely significant environmental effects on European sites arise as a result of this amendment to the Plan. The requirement for Stage 2 AA is screened out.	<i>Travel Network and Potential New Connections'.</i> Having regard to the criteria set in Schedule 1 of S.I. No. 435 of 2004, as amended by S.I. No. 200 of 2011, no likely significant environmental effects arise as a result of this amendment to the Plan and the requirement for SEA is screened out.
CE's Rec. (8)	Chief Executive's Recommendation (8) – Section 7.2 'Key Project 1' It is recommended that additional text is added on page 34, paragraph 4 of the Draft Framework within Section 7.2.1 'Purpose of the Project' as follows: <i>'Future use of the Lodge and proposed improvements to the associated open space should have regard to the importance of the structure as a heritage building of significance within Clonsilla, <u>its existing mature trees</u> and the requirements of the Fingal Development Plan.'</i>	This is an addition of text to <i>Section 7.2.1 Purpose of the Project</i> to address the existing mature trees near Lohunda Lodge. No likely significant environmental effects on European sites arise as a	This is an addition of text to <i>Section 7.2.1 Purpose of the Project</i> to address the existing mature trees near Lohunda Lodge. Having regard to the criteria set in Schedule 1 of S.I. No. 435 of 2004, as

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Proposed Amendment	Outline Description	Screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA)	Screening for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)
		result of this amendment in the Plan. The requirement for Stage 2 AA is screened out.	amended by S.I. No. 200 of 2011, no likely significant environmental effects arise as a result of this amendment in the Plan and the requirement for SEA is screened out.
CE's Rec. (9)	Chief Executive's Recommendation (9) – Section 7.2 'Key Project 1' It is recommended that additional text is added on <u>page 34</u> of the Draft Framework Plan within Section 7.2.2 Project Features as follows: <u><i>Ensure that all improvements will have full regard to any and all requirements relating to pedestrian and road user safety at this location.</i></u>	This is an additional text t to address pedestrian and road user safety. No likely significant environmental effects on European sites arise as a result of this text in the Plan. The requirement for Stage 2 AA is screened out.	This is additional text to address pedestrian and road user safety. Having regard to the criteria set in Schedule 1 of S.I. No. 435 of 2004, as amended by S.I. No. 200 of 2011, no likely significant environmental effects arise as a result of this text in the Plan and the requirement for SEA is screened out.
CE's Rec. (10)	Chief Executive's Recommendation (10) – Section 7.2 'Key Project 1' It is recommended that the text on <u>page 35</u>, Section 7.2.4 -Project Physical Changes of the Draft Framework Plan be amended as follows: <i>2 Provides a Playground and Seating.</i> <u><i>2 Provides an Enhanced Public Realm Area</i></u>	This is a minor change to text to address provision of enhanced public realm area. No likely significant environmental effects on European sites arise as a result of this amendment in the Plan. The	This is a minor change to text to address provision of enhanced public realm area. Having regard to the criteria set in Schedule 1 of S.I. No. 435 of 2004, as amended by S.I. No. 200 of 2011, no likely

Proposed Amendment	Outline Description	Screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA)	Screening for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)
		requirement for Stage 2 AA is screened out.	significant environmental effects arise as a result of this amendment in the Plan and the requirement for SEA is screened out.
CE's Rec. (11)	Chief Executive's Recommendation (11) – Figure 7.3 'Key Project 1' It is recommended that Fig 7.3 'Key Project 1 – Concept for the Redefined Village Centre on <u>page 35</u> of the Draft Framework Plan be amended to include all existing mature trees. The Figure 7.3 has been updated as follows: Fig. 7-3: Key Project 1 - Concept for the Redefined Village Centre 	This is a minor change to <i>Figure 7-3 Key Project 1</i> to include all existing mature trees. No likely significant environmental effects on European sites arise as a result of this amendment in the Plan. The requirement for Stage 2 AA is screened out.	This is a minor change to <i>Figure 7-3 Key Project 1</i> to include all existing mature trees. Having regard to the criteria set in Schedule 1 of S.I. No. 435 of 2004, as amended by S.I. No. 200 of 2011, no likely significant environmental effects arise as a result of this amendment in the Plan and the requirement for SEA is screened out.
CE's Rec. (12)	Chief Executive's Recommendation (12) – Figure 7.3 'Key Project 1' It is recommended that Fig. 7-5: CGI Image of Concept Design for the Redefined Village Centre be amended to include all existing mature trees.	This is a minor amendment to <i>Figure 7-5 CGI Image of Concept Design for the Redefined Village Centre</i> to	This is a minor amendment to <i>Figure 7-5 CGI Image of Concept Design for the Redefined</i>

Proposed Amendment	Outline Description	Screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA)	Screening for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)
		include all existing mature trees. No likely significant environmental effects on European sites arise as a result of this amendment in the Plan. The requirement for Stage 2 AA is screened out.	<i>Village Centre</i> to include all existing mature trees. Having regard to the criteria set in Schedule 1 of S.I. No. 435 of 2004, as amended by S.I. No. 200 of 2011, no likely significant environmental effects arise as a result of this amendment in the Plan and the requirement for SEA is screened out.
CE's Rec. (13)	Chief Executive's Recommendation (13) – 'Key Project 3' It is recommended that additional text is added on page 38 of the Draft Framework Plan within Section 7.4.2 Project Features as follows: <u><i>Ensure that all improvements will have full regard to any and all requirements relating to pedestrian and road user safety at this location.</i></u>	This is additional text to address pedestrian and road user safety. No likely significant environmental effects on European sites arise as a result of this amendment in the Plan. The requirement for Stage 2 AA is screened out.	This is additional text to address pedestrian and road user safety. Having regard to the criteria set in Schedule 1 of S.I. No. 435 of 2004, as amended by S.I. No. 200 of 2011, no likely significant environmental effects arise as a result of this amendment in the Plan and the requirement for SEA is screened out.
CE's Rec. (14)	Chief Executive's Recommendation (14) – Section 7.4 'Key Project 3' It is recommended that additional text is added on page 38 of the Draft Framework Plan within Section 7.4.2 Project Features as follows,	This is a minor addition to Section 7.4.2 of the Plan to highlight the presence of existing trees and	This is a minor addition to Section 7.4.2 of the Plan to highlight the presence of existing trees and

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Proposed Amendment	Outline Description	Screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA)	Screening for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)
	Retains and enhances the setting of significant trees and <u>and hedgerows and provides for the maintenance and improvement of the tree lined/vegetated area along the north of Clonsilla</u>	hedgerows along the north of Clonsilla Road and provide for their maintenance and improvement. No likely significant environmental effects on European sites arise as a result of this amendment in the Plan. The requirement for Stage 2 AA is screened out.	hedgerows along the north of Clonsilla Road and provide for their maintenance and improvement. Having regard to the criteria set in Schedule 1 of S.I. No. 435 of 2004, as amended by S.I. No. 200 of 2011, no likely significant environmental effects arise as a result of this amendment in the Plan and the requirement for SEA is screened out.
CE's Rec. (15)	Chief Executive's Recommendation (15) – Section 7.5 'Key Project 4' It is recommended that the text on <u>page 40</u>, Section 7.5.2 -Project Features of the Draft Framework Plan be amended as follows: Delivers a range of recreational spaces, both formal and informal that can be enjoyed by all ages of the community.	This is a minor change to remove text. No likely significant environmental effects on European sites arise as a result of this amendment in the Plan. The requirement for Stage 2 AA is screened out.	This is a minor change to remove text regarding recreational spaces. Having regard to the criteria set in Schedule 1 of S.I. No. 435 of 2004, as amended by S.I. No. 200 of 2011, no likely significant environmental effects arise as a result of this amendment in the Plan and the requirement for SEA is screened out.

Proposed Amendment	Outline Description	Screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA)	Screening for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)
CE's Rec. (16)	Chief Executive's Recommendation (16) – Section 7.5 'Key Project 4' It is recommended that the text on <u>page 41</u>, Section 7.5.4 -Project Physical Changes of the Draft Framework Plan be amended as follows: 2 Provides a playground <u>2 Provides Public Realm Enhancements</u> 6 Provides a multigenerational space e.g. exercise machines <u>6 Provides Public Realm Enhancements</u> The adopted plan has been amended as follows: 1. Provides paths that cross the park along desire lines from Castlefield Woods and Castlefield Park residential areas. 2. Provides a playground. 3. <u>1.</u> Retains and enhance the natural landscape areas. 4. <u>2.</u> Incorporates the Active Travel Link, (see Key Project 3). 5. Provides seating. 6. Provides a multigenerational space e.g. exercise machines. <u>3. Provides public realm enhancement.</u> The accompanying Figure 7-23 has also been updated as follows: 	This is a minor change to address provision of enhanced public realm area. No likely significant environmental effects on European sites arise as a result of this amendment in the Plan. The requirement for Stage 2 AA is screened out.	This is a minor change to address provision of enhanced public realm area. Having regard to the criteria set in Schedule 1 of S.I. No. 435 of 2004, as amended by S.I. No. 200 of 2011, no likely significant environmental effects arise as a result of this amendment in the Plan and the requirement for SEA is screened out.

Proposed Amendment	Outline Description	Screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA)	Screening for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)
CE's Rec. (17)	Chief Executive's Recommendation (17) – Section 7.5 'Key Project 4' Having regard to the above, it is recommended that Fig. 7-25 on page 41 of the Draft Plan is deleted. Figure 7-24 and 7-25 have been replaced as follows: Fig. 7-24: Castlefield Park  Fig. 7-25: Open Space at Clonsilla Link Road 	This is a minor change to remove Fig 7-25. No likely significant environmental effects on European sites arise as a result of this amendment in the Plan. The requirement for Stage 2 AA is screened out.	This is a minor change to remove Fig 7-25. Having regard to the criteria set in Schedule 1 of S.I. No. 435 of 2004, as amended by S.I. No. 200 of 2011, no likely significant environmental effects arise as a result of this amendment in the Plan and the requirement for SEA is screened out.
CE's Rec. (18)	Chief Executive's Recommendation (18) – Table 8-1 Schedule of Actions Gateway It is recommended that Table 8-1 Schedule of Actions Gateway on page 52 of the Draft Plan be amended to remove the row relating to Potential New Connections. Table 8-1 has been updated as follows:	This is a minor change to remove text. No likely significant environmental effects on European sites arise as a result of this amendment change to the Plan. The requirement for Stage 2 AA is screened out.	This is a minor change to remove text. Having regard to the criteria set in Schedule 1 of S.I. No. 435 of 2004, as amended by S.I. No. 200 of 2011, no likely significant environmental effects arise as a result of this amendment change to the Plan and the requirement for SEA is screened out.

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Proposed Amendment	Outline Description	Screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA)	Screening for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)																																																																																																																																													
	<table><tr><th colspan="6">Table 8-1: Schedule of Actions Gateway</th></tr><tr><th colspan="2">Project/Opportunities</th><th>Actions</th><th>Owner</th><th>Project Support</th><th>Potential Funding Sources</th><th>Indicative Timelines</th></tr><tr><td rowspan="3">A Redefined Village Centre</td><td></td><td>Prepare detailed drawings</td><td rowspan="3">FCC</td><td rowspan="3">Local Residents, Private Landowners, Local Community, Local Businesses.</td><td rowspan="3">URDF, Local Enhancement Programme</td><td rowspan="3">Medium Term</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>Seek consent through relevant consent process</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>Review available funding, prepare and submit application(s)</td></tr><tr><td rowspan="3">Clonsilla Road Traffic Management</td><td></td><td>Undertake a Transport Appraisal as appropriate</td><td rowspan="3">FCC</td><td rowspan="3">NTA, Local Residents, Local Community, Local Businesses.</td><td rowspan="3">Active Travel Investment Grant</td><td rowspan="3">Medium Term</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>Prepare detailed drawings</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>Seek consent through relevant consent process</td></tr><tr><td rowspan="3"></td><td></td><td>Review available funding, prepare and submit application(s)</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td rowspan="3">Clonsilla Active Travel Link</td><td></td><td>Undertake a Transport Appraisal as appropriate</td><td rowspan="3">FCC</td><td rowspan="3">NTA, Local Residents, Local Community, Private Landowners.</td><td rowspan="3">Active Travel Investment Grant</td><td rowspan="3">Medium - Long Term</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>Prepare detailed drawings</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>Seek consent through relevant consent process</td></tr><tr><td rowspan="3"></td><td></td><td>Review available funding, prepare and submit application(s)</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td rowspan="3">Castlefield Park</td><td></td><td>Prepare detailed drawings</td><td rowspan="3">FCC</td><td rowspan="3">Local Residents, Private Landowners, Local Community.</td><td rowspan="3">URDF, Local Enhancement Programme</td><td rowspan="3">Medium - Long Term</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>Seek consent through relevant consent process</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>Review available funding, prepare and submit application(s)</td></tr><tr><td rowspan="3">Clonsilla Road Western Gateway</td><td></td><td>Engage with all relevant stakeholders including the NTA and Irish Rail</td><td rowspan="3">FCC</td><td rowspan="3">NTA, Irish Rail, Local Residents, Local Community.</td><td rowspan="3">URDF, Active Travel Funding associated with DART + West</td><td rowspan="3">Medium Term</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>Prepare detailed drawings</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>Seek consent through relevant consent process</td></tr><tr><td rowspan="3"></td><td></td><td>Review available funding, prepare and submit application(s)</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td rowspan="3">Clonsilla Road Eastern Gateway</td><td></td><td>Undertake a Transport Appraisal as appropriate</td><td rowspan="3">FCC</td><td rowspan="3">NTA, Local Residents, Local Community, Private Landowners, St. Mochta's National School.</td><td rowspan="3">Active Travel Investment Grant</td><td rowspan="3">Short - 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8 Mitigation specific to European sites

This screening assessment is consistent with the judgment of the European Court in Case C-323/17, *People Over Wind & Sweetman v Coillte* (Judgment of the Court (Seventh Chamber) of 12 April 2018) and the recent case-law of the High Court, including *Heather Hill Management Company CLG v An Bord Pleanála* [2019] IEHC 450 and *Sweetman v An Bord Pleanála* [2020] IEHC 39.

It is also consistent with the judgment in *Eco Advocacy CLG v An Bord Pleanála* [2021] IEHC 265. In that case, Humphreys J confirmed the core legal principle, being that regard should not be had to mitigation measures at AA screening stage. Humphreys J decided in that case that clarification was required from the CJEU on the matter (as it related to the consideration of SUDs and whether these represented mitigation measures).

The CJEU, in its ruling on this case dated 15 June 2023 clarified issues defining mitigation in the context of European sites². It confirmed that Article 6(3) of Directive 92/43 *must be interpreted as meaning that, in order to determine whether it is necessary to carry out an appropriate assessment of the implications of a plan or project for a site, account may be taken of the features of that plan or project which involve the removal of contaminants and which therefore may have the effect of reducing the harmful effects of the plan or project on that site, where those features have been incorporated into that plan or project as standard features, inherent in such a plan or project, irrespective of any effect on the site.*

In relation to European sites, there will be no impacts capable of giving rise to any likely significant effects as a result of the Plan.

No mitigation is necessary or proposed for the protection of European sites.

9 In-combination effects

It is a requirement of Section 177U of the Planning Acts that, when considering whether a plan or project will have a significant effect on a European site, the assessment must take into account in-combination effects with other plans and projects. The assessment should consider plans and projects that are completed, approved but uncompleted, or proposed (but not yet approved)³. If there are identified effects arising from the plan or project, even if they are perceived as minor and not likely to have a significant effect on the integrity of a European site alone, then these effects must be considered in combination with the effects arising from other plans and projects.

Fingal Development Plan 2023-2029 sets out the Council's policies and objectives for the development of the County over the Plan period and has been subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and AA. It seeks to develop and improve, in a sustainable manner the social, economic, environmental and cultural assets of the County. The Plan has had due regard to all relevant policies and objectives set out in the Development Plan.

The Plan is a Local Authority Plan, as required under the Fingal Development Plan 2023-2029 (*refer to Table 2.19: List of proposed Framework Plans – Clonsilla (FP 13.C)*).

On the basis of objective information it can be excluded that the implementation of the Plan, individually or in-combination with other plans or projects, will have a significant effect on a European site.

²<https://curia.europa.eu/juris/document/document.jsf?text=&docid=274644&pageIndex=0&doclang=EN&mode=lst&dir=&occ=first&part=1&cid=21723482>

³ Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly Affecting European sites: Methodological Guidance on the Provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (European Commission Environment Directorate-General, 2001)

A number of other plans were considered when assessing in-combination effects, but it was determined that there would be no in-combination effects with these:

- Project Ireland 2040, The National Planning Framework (NPF) is the Government's high-level strategic vision for shaping future growth and development in the entire country over a 20-year period, which identifies heritage as a strategic investment priority, recognising 'Enhanced Amenities and Heritage' as a National Strategic Outcome;
- Revision to the National Planning Framework (April 2025);
- Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies (RSES) for the East and Midlands Area;
- Eastern & Midland Regional Assembly Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (2019 – 2031);
- Climate Action Plan 2025;
- Fingal County Council's Climate Action plan (2024 – 2029);
- Fingal Biodiversity Action Plan 2023-2030;
- Forest of Fingal - A Tree Strategy for Fingal 2023-2032;
- Fingal Tourism Strategy 2023-2029.

10 Screening conclusion

Following review of the Plan against the Conservation Objectives of the relevant European sites, it is concluded that there is no possibility that the implementation of the Plan could result in any likely significant effects on European sites on its own or in combination with other plans and programmes. This conclusion was reached without considering or taking into account mitigation measures or measures intended to avoid or reduce any impact on European sites.

In view of best scientific knowledge therefore, this report concludes that the Clonsilla Framework Plan, individually or in combination with another plan or project, is not likely to have a significant effect on European sites under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) in light of their conservation objectives. The Plan does not require an Appropriate Assessment and the preparation of a Natura Impact Report.

11 References

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⁴ Now Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII).

Appendix I: Background

The European⁵ network is a Europe-wide network of ecologically important sites (SPAs and cSACs – also known as ‘European Sites’ or ‘Natura 2000 sites’) that have been designated for protection under either the EU Birds Directive (Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the Conservation of Wild Birds) or the EU Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Flora and Fauna).

The main aim of the Habitats Directive is “to contribute towards ensuring biodiversity through the conservation of natural habitats of wild fauna and flora in the European territory of the Member States to which the treaty applies”. Any actions taken must be designed to “maintain or restore, at a favourable conservation status, natural habitats and species of wild fauna and flora of Community interest”. Under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive, an assessment is required where a plan or project may give rise to significant effects upon a European site.

In addition, it is a matter of law that candidate SACs (cSACs) and Sites of Community Importance (SCI) are considered in this process;

Article 6 (paragraphs (3) and (4)) of the Habitats Directive states that:

(3) Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have 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.

(4) If, in spite of a negative assessment of the implications for the site and in the absence of alternative solutions, a plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of social or economic nature, the Member State shall take all compensatory measures necessary to ensure that the overall coherence of Natura 2000 is protected. It shall inform the Commission of the compensatory measures adopted.

Where the site concerned hosts a priority natural habitat type and/or a priority species, the only considerations which may be raised are those relating to human health or public safety, to beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment or, further to an opinion from the Commission, to other imperative reasons of overriding public interest”

The requirements of the Habitats Directive are transposed into Irish law by means of the *European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (as amended)* (hereafter referred to as the *Birds and Habitats Regulations*) and by the *Planning and Development Act 2000*, as amended.

In Ireland, the statutory agency responsible for the designated areas is NPWS.

Stages in the assessment

European Commission guidance (2001)⁶ sets out the principles on how to undertake decision making in applying the Habitats Directive. The requirements of the Habitats Directive comprise four distinct stages:

Stage one: screening. The first part of the procedure consists of a pre-assessment stage (‘screening’) to ascertain whether the plan or project is directly connected with, or necessary to, the management of a Natura 2000 site, and, if this is not the case, then whether it is likely to have a significant effect on the site (7) (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) in view of the site’s conservation objectives. Stage one is governed by the first part of the first sentence of Article 6(3).

⁵ The EU Habitats Directive, Article 3.1, states “A Coherent European ecological network of Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas pursuant to Directive 79/409/EEC shall be set up under the title European”

⁶ European Commission (2001) *Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly Affecting European Sites: Methodological Guidance on the Provisions of Article 6 (3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC*

Stage two: the appropriate assessment. If likely significant effects cannot be excluded, the next stage of the procedure involves assessing the impact of the plan or project (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) against the site's conservation objectives, and ascertaining whether it will affect the integrity of the Natura 2000 site, taking into account any mitigation measures. It will be for the competent authorities to decide whether or not to approve the plan or project in light of the findings of the appropriate assessment. Stage two is governed by the second part of the first sentence and the second sentence of Article 6(3)..

Stage three: derogation from Article 6(3) under certain conditions. The third stage of the procedure governed by Article 6(4). It only comes into play if, despite a negative assessment, the developer considers that the plan or project should still be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest. This is only possible if there are no alternative solutions, the imperative reasons of overriding public interest are duly justified, and if suitable compensatory measures are adopted to ensure that the overall coherence of Natura 2000 is protected.

Conservation Objectives of European sites

The conservation objectives for a European Site are intended to represent the aims of the Habitats and Birds Directives in relation to that site. To this end, habitats and species of European Community importance should be maintained or restored to 'favourable conservation status' (FCS), as defined in Article 1 of the Habitats Directive below:

The conservation status of a natural habitat will be taken as 'favourable' when:

- Its natural range and the 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;
- Conservation status of typical species is favourable as defined in Article 1(i).

The conservation status of a species will be taken as favourable 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;
- There is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis.

Guidance from the European Commission⁷ indicates that the Habitats Directive intends FCS to be applied at the level of an individual site, as well as to habitats and species across their European range. Therefore, in order to properly express the aims of the Habitats Directive for an individual site, the conservation objectives for a site are essentially to maintain (or restore) the habitats and species of the site at (or to) FCS.

The European Commission guidance recommends that screening should fulfil the following steps:

1. Determine whether the plan (or policy) is directly connected with or necessary for the management of European sites;
2. Describe the plan and describe and characterise any other plans or projects which, in combination, have the potential for having significant effects on European sites;
3. Identify the potential effects on European sites;

Assess the likely significance of any effects on European sites.

⁷ Managing European sites: the provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. (European Commission 2000)

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Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening Determination under the EU Habitats Directive 6(3) and European Union (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (as amended) for the Clonsilla Framework Plan

An Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening determination has been made by Fingal County Council regarding the Clonsilla Framework Plan in accordance with the EU Habitats Directive 6(3), Regulation 42 of the European Union (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (as amended) and Section 177U of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

The Clonsilla Framework Plan will guide future development within the Clonsilla area to create a vibrant and sustainable town core which will support and encourage economic, social and cultural development and provide an attractive, high-quality environment for existing and future residents.

Proposed plans must undergo a formal 'test' or 'screening' to ascertain whether they are likely to result in any significant adverse effects on specific sites designated for their nature conservation importance. These sites are those designated under the European Commission's Natura 2000 network of sites (European sites). European sites are designated on the basis of the presence of certain habitats and species that are deemed to be of international importance. The Irish Government, and planning authorities, have a legal obligation to protect these sites. The Habitats Directive requires the screening of plans and projects. If the screening process concludes that likely significant effects cannot be ruled out, then a more detailed assessment is required.

Following review of the Framework Plan against the Conservation Objectives of the relevant European sites, it is concluded that there is no possibility that the implementation of the Framework Plan could result in any likely significant effects on European sites either on its own or in combination with other plans and programmes. This conclusion was reached without considering or taking into account mitigation measures or measures intended to avoid or reduce any impact on European sites.

The findings of the AA process are detailed in the AA Screening Report that accompanies this Determination. Fingal County Council has determined the Framework Plan, individually or in combination with other plans, does not have the potential to have effects on European Sites. Therefore, Stage 2 AA and the preparation of a Natura Impact Report is not required. The Plan was screened out for Appropriate Assessment based on the nature of the Framework Plan and in accordance with the source-pathway-receptor model.

Name/Signature:

Title: Senior Planner, Fingal County Council

Date: 12th May 2025