

SCREENING STATEMENT

IN SUPPORT OF THE
APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

FOR THE
**MATERIAL ALTERATIONS TO THE
POOLBEG WEST SDZ
PLANNING SCHEME
(SI NO. 279 OF 2016)**

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF
ARTICLE 6(3) OF THE EU HABITATS DIRECTIVE

for: Dublin County Council

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1 Introduction

1.1 Background

CAAS has been appointed by Dublin City Council to prepare this Screening Statement in support of the Appropriate Assessment (AA) of the Material Alterations to the Poolbeg West SDZ Planning Scheme in accordance with the requirements of Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive¹.

An Appropriate Assessment is a requirement of Article 6 of the Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (as amended) (hereafter referred to as the "Habitats Directive"). The overall aim of the Habitats Directive is to maintain or restore the "Favourable Conservation Status" of habitats and species of European Community Interest. These habitats and species are listed in the Habitats and Birds Directives (Council Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds) with Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas designated to afford protection to the most vulnerable of them. These two designations are collectively known as European Sites.

European and national legislation places a collective obligation on Ireland and its citizens to maintain habitats and species in the European Sites at favourable conservation condition. The Government and its agencies are responsible for the implementation and enforcement of regulations (in particular Part XAB of the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2010 and the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011 (S.I. 477) (often referred to as the Habitats Regulations) to ensure the ecological integrity of these sites. Appropriate Assessment (AA) is an assessment of whether a plan or project, alone and in combination with other plans or projects, could have significant effects on a European Site in view of the site's conservation objectives.

Similarly, a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening has been undertaken to assess the impacts of the Material Alterations on a number of environmental considerations including biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between these considerations, whenever applicable.

1.2 Legislative Context

The Appropriate Assessment process (AA) is an assessment of the potential for adverse or negative effects of a plan or project, in combination with other plans or projects, on the conservation objectives of a European Site. These sites consist of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and provide for the protection and long-term survival of Europe's most valuable and threatened species and habitats.

The Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora, better known as "The Habitats Directive", provides legal protection for habitats and species of European importance. Articles 3 to 9 provide the legislative means to protect habitats and species of Community interest through the establishment and conservation of an EU-wide network of sites known as Natura 2000. In Ireland, these are candidate Special Areas of Conservation (cSACs) designated under the Habitats Directive and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) designated under the Conservation of Wild Birds Directive (79/409/ECC), hereafter referred to as European Sites.

Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive set out the decision-making tests for plans and projects likely to affect European Sites. Article 6(3) establishes the requirement for AA:

"Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the [Natura 2000] site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually

¹ Directive 92/43/EEC

or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subjected 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.

If, in spite of a negative assessment of the implications for the [Natura 2000] site and in the absence of alternative solutions, a plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature, Member States shall take all compensatory measures necessary to ensure that the overall coherence of 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."

These requirements are implemented in the Republic of Ireland by the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011. These regulations consolidate the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1997 to 2005 and the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) (Control of Recreational Activities) Regulations 2010, as well as addressing transposition failures identified in judgements of the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU).

If, in spite of a negative assessment of the implications for the site and in the absence of alternative solutions, a plan or project may nevertheless be carried out for "Imperative Reasons Of Overriding Public Interest", including those of a social or economic nature, the Member State shall take all compensatory measures necessary to ensure that the overall coherence of European suite 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.

Appropriate Assessment should be based on best scientific knowledge and Planning Authorities should ensure that scientific data (ecological and hydrological expertise) is utilised. This report details a Screening Statement to inform the AA process which is finalised by the statutory authority.

1.3 Guidance

This Screening Statement has been prepared in accordance with the following guidance:

- *Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland. Guidance for Planning Authorities. Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2010.*
- *Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites: Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, European Commission Environment DG, 2002.*
- *Managing Natura 2000 sites: The Provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC: European Commission, 2000.*
- *Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly Affecting Natura 2000 Sites: Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Luxembourg (EC 2001);*

- *Guidance document on Article 6(4) of the 'Habitats Directive' 92/43/EEC – Clarification of the concepts of: alternative solutions, imperative reasons of overriding public interest, compensatory measures, overall coherence, opinion of the commission. Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Luxembourg (EC 2007).*
- *Flora (Protection) Order, 1999 (As amended 2015)*

In addition, a detailed online review of published scientific literature and 'grey' literature was conducted. This included a detailed review of the National Parks and Wildlife Website including mapping and available reports for relevant sites and in particular sensitive qualifying interests/special conservation interests described and their conservation objectives. The EPA Envision Map-viewer (www.epa.ie) and available reports were also reviewed.

Definitions of conservation status, integrity and significance used in this assessment are defined in accordance with 'Managing Natura 2000 sites: The provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC' (EC, 2000).

- The conservation status of a natural habitat is defined as the sum of the influences acting on a natural habitat and its typical species that may affect its long-term natural distribution, structure and functions as well as the long-term survival of its typical species;
- The conservation status of a species is defined as the sum of the influences acting on the species concerned that may affect the long-term distribution and abundance of its population;
- The integrity of a European Site is defined as the coherence of the site's ecological structure and function, across its whole area, or the habitats, complex of habitats and/or populations of species for which the site is or will be classified;
- Significant effect should be determined in relation to the specific features and environmental conditions of the protected site concerned by the plan or project, taking particular account of the site's conservation objectives.

1.4 Approach

There are four main stages in the AA process; the requirements for each depending on likely impacts to European Sites (SAC/ SPA).

Stage One: Screening

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

Stage Two: Appropriate Assessment

The consideration of the impact on the integrity of the European Site of the project or plan, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, with respect to the site's structure and function and its conservation objectives. Additionally, where there are adverse impacts, an assessment of the potential mitigation of those impacts. If adequate mitigation is proposed to ensure no significant adverse impacts on European Sites, then the process may end at this stage. However, if the likelihood of significant impacts remains, then the process must proceed to Stage 3.

Stage Three: Assessment of Alternative Solutions

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

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

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

The Habitats Directive promotes a hierarchy of avoidance, mitigation and compensatory measures. First, the plan should aim to avoid any impacts on European Sites by identifying possible impacts early in the plan-making process and writing the plan in order to avoid such impacts. Second, mitigation measures should be applied, if necessary, during the AA process to the point where no adverse impacts on the site(s) remain. If the plan is still likely to result in impacts on European Sites, and no further practicable mitigation is possible, then it must be rejected. If no alternative solutions are identified and the plan is required for imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI test) under Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, then compensation measures are required for any remaining adverse effect.

1.4.1 Source-Pathway-Receptor Process

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

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

In the interest of this report, receptors are the ecological features which are known to be utilised by the qualifying interests or special conservation interests of a European Site. A source is any identifiable element of the Planning Scheme provision which is known to have interactions with ecological processes. The pathways are any connections or links between the source and the receptor. This report determines if direct, indirect and cumulative adverse effects (however minor) will arise from the proposed development.

1.4.2 Zone of Influence

Following the source-pathway-receptor process a Zone of Influence (ZOI) will be determined based on the characteristics of the development (detailed in section 3.2) and the foreseen distribution of likely effects through any pathways identified. Once the ZOI is established, all European Sites within it will be assessed with specific reference to the sensitive receptors of each site and pathways for effect that relate to the ecological integrity of the site.

1.5 Relationship between the Appropriate Assessment process and the Plan

Appropriate Assessment (AA) needs to be fully integrated with the various stages of the development plan process in order to ensure that the ecological implications of the planning scheme do not affect any areas designated as European Sites. As the AA process, has been managed by part of the Forward Planning team, interaction has occurred from the early stages of writing of the draft planning scheme and subsequent Material Alterations to impress the importance of protection of European Sites and that the plan should be formulated to avoid adverse impacts on these sites. In addition, the Strategic Environmental Assessment process has been taken into account in the appropriate assessment process. The screening of objectives and the assessment of objectives in the context of mitigation measures and potential effects of the designated sites, has been an iterative process throughout each stage of the plan-making process.

2 Description of the Material Alterations to the Planning Scheme and Receiving Environment

2.1 Context of the Planning Scheme

The Dublin City Development Plan 2016-2022 identified the Poolbeg West area as one of 18 Strategic Development and Regeneration Areas (SDRA), and from this the Poolbeg West SDZ Planning Scheme was prepared. The Planning Scheme must be compliant with all the policies and measures set out within the higher-level planning City Development Plan. The SDRA has set specific development principals in Section 15.1.1.6 for the Poolbeg West area in the following areas:

- Housing
- Employment
- Education
- Social
- Economic
- Business
- Maritime
- Marketing
- Environment
- Movement/Transport
- Land-Use/Urban Design
- Flood Risk
- Implementation

The Development Plan has been developed to be consistent with the Regional Planning Guidelines directions and in particular protecting and future conservation of designated sites.

2.2 Description of the Planning Scheme

The main aim of the Planning Scheme is to set out a framework for the physical development of the Poolbeg West SDZ area so that growth may take place in a coordinated, sensitive and orderly manner, while at the same time being sensitive to the environment.

Within the 34ha of the Poolbeg West SDZ, there is potential for significant development for major economic and community expansion, a substantial scale in the context of city-centre regeneration. The North Lotts and Grand Canal Dock SDZ (22ha) identified 305,000m² of commercial floorspace equating to c23,000 workers and on this basis, the SDZ could accommodate 80,000 – 100,000m² commercial floor space, providing employment for up to c8,000 workers.

As detailed above the policies and objectives outlined in the Planning Scheme are in addition to the development principals, policies and objectives contained in the Dublin City Development Plan 2016-2022.

2.2.1 Existing Policies and Objectives relating to the protection of European Sites

- Key Principle: Protect Dublin Bay Key principle: Ensure that all measures are taken to mitigate against any potential impacts on Dublin Bay and its environs.
- CD3 To support the expansion and growth of existing sports, libraries and leisure facilities, in particular water based sports (consistent with nature conservation policy), in recognition of the waterside context of the SDZ, and the strong maritime traditions of the Ringsend/Irishtown area for the benefit of the local community and in particular programmes that encourage engagement by younger people.
- IU 13. To ensure the protection of surface and ground water quality in the plan area and surrounding areas, and the protection of protected habitats and species including designated national and international conservation sites in implementing the plan and to meet the requirements of the Water Framework Directive
- IU 14. To require that each significant planning application be accompanied by a Construction and Environmental Management Plan, which shall include information on construction traffic routes,

hours of operation, control of noise, and environmental effects and associated, detailed mitigation including that relating to the excavation of material and the storage, transport, treatment and disposal of wastes.

- GI1 To develop a hierarchy of inter-connected open spaces, recreation areas and green landscaped areas, via walking and cycling routes, through the SDZ and ensure that ecosystem functions and existing amenity uses are not compromised and existing biodiversity and heritage is protected and enhanced.
- GI2 To incorporate open space into the green infrastructure of the SDZ, providing a multi-functional role including urban drainage, flood management, biodiversity, outdoor recreation and carbon absorption.
- GI3 To require the provision of green landscaping, including tree planting where practical, on key streets within the SDZ and to improve amenity, increase opportunities for wildlife and contribute to improvements in air and water quality and water attenuation.
- GI4 To respect the integrity of designated nature areas and seek to achieve favourable conservation status of the habitats in these designated areas.
- GI5 All developments in the SDZ should have regard to the mitigation measures set out in Environmental report.
- GI6 To require that all development proposals, including internal courtyards, maximise the opportunities for ecological and biodiversity enhancement
- GI7 To ensure that in new residential developments, public and communal open space is provided which is sufficient in quantity and distribution to meet the requirements of the projected population and includes play facilities for children.
- GI8 To seek the development of Coastal Park, Village Green and Port Park in the SDZ area offering new amenities and recreational activities and to support the upgrade of existing parks and amenity areas adjoining the SDZ
- GI9 To require Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDs) in all developments, incorporating a sequence of SUDS techniques that work together in series to control the flow, volume and frequency of runoff as well as preventing or treating pollution as water flows through the development (Management Train).
- GI10 To integrate new green infrastructure solutions into new developments and in the public realm to boost biodiversity and improve surface water management within the SDZ area, include the use of permeable materials for surfaces, planted roofs, living walls, swales, retention basin/ponds and provision of storm water tree trenches.
- GI11 Any plan or project with the potential to give rise to significant direct, indirect or secondary impacts on a Natura 2000 site(s) shall be subject to an Appropriate Assessment in accordance with Article (3) of the Habitats Directive.
- GI12 To promote environmental stewardship by managing invasive species and human-wildlife conflicts with birds' species and to improve water quality.
- Public Realm Aim: Environmental protection and enhancement:
 - To protect the SDZ area's existing natural reserves and amenity, and enhance its biodiversity through the creation of new parks, green infrastructural routes and corridors.
 - To improve the environmental quality of the SDZ through new water management proposals using SUDS, swales and water attenuation where appropriate to mitigate against flooding.
 - To plant native flora to support and develop natural habitats for land/water based fauna.
 - To create green buffers between new development in the SDZ and the surrounding industrial landscape to soften their visual impact.
 - To provide green landscaping including tree planting on streets within the SDZ area to increase opportunities for wildlife and contribute to improvements in air and water quality and water attenuation.
 - To encourage the use of green roofs and vertical greenery on buildings where appropriate.

- US3 To distribute land uses throughout Poolbeg West site in a manner that responds to surrounding constraints, protects sensitive areas and residential amenities and creates a series of focal points for residents and workers.
- US4 To create a varied open space/green infrastructure network that protects the coastal area, integrates with Sean Moore Park and provides a series of ecological and visual connections across Poolbeg West.

2.3 Material Alterations to the Poolbeg West SDZ Planning Scheme

A total of 5 alterations were made to the Poolbeg West SDZ Planning Scheme that were deemed to be material. These Material Alterations are detailed below:

i. Urban form and Height

Additional storeys are provided for on a number of streets within the scheme, apart from Sean Moore Road which remains 4-5 Storeys. In addition, provision is made for an increase in the height of the landmark buildings, with the maximum height of the focal building overlooking the park increased from 16 to 20 storeys. The scheme is also amended to show a general height of up to 20m (5 storeys) on the Port Lands. These amendments facilitate a possible increase from c.3000 to c.3,500 units. All buildings are subject to detail assessment in relation to amenity, urban design etc at planning application stage.

ii. Affordable Housing

Provision is now made for an additional 550 affordable housing in the SDZ by way of agreement between Dublin City Council, the Minister for Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government, and the beneficial owners of the land. It is considered that the change in tenure diversity from the 10% (350 units) provided in the Draft Planning Scheme to 900 units would constitute a material alteration.

iii. Mix of Units

The planning scheme is modified to that the minimum amount of 3 bed units is increased from 15% to 20% and the maximum amount for 1 bed units is reduced from 25-30% to 20-25% in the SDZ. These modifications constitute a material alteration to the mix of units in the SDZ.

iv. Re-allocation of B2 lands to Mixed use

The land identified as B2 in the Draft Planning Scheme and shown as Industrial & Port Zone is now zoned for mixed use, mainly to allow for existing developments on site such as Bissett Engineering and to allow for consideration a film studio type development in the B2 area. These alterations which will include a reduction in the Port Park size, are considered to be Material Alterations to the scheme.

v. Social, Cultural, Creative and Artistic Spaces

The scheme is amended to require all developments over 50 units/5000m² to provide 5 % social, cultural, creative and artistic spaces in the SDZ as identified in a cultural community audit rather than in the general locality.

2.4 Relationship with other Relevant Plans and Programmes

The Poolbeg SDZ Planning Scheme sits within a hierarchy of land use forward planning strategic actions. The Material Alterations to the Poolbeg SDZ sit within the hierarchy and must comply with the overall planning scheme. Similarly, the Planning Scheme must comply with relevant higher level strategic actions and may, in turn, guide lower level strategic actions. The Poolbeg SDZ sits within a planning hierarchy beneath the Dublin City Development Plan (DSDZ) 2016-2022 which itself sits beneath and must be consistent with higher level strategies and plans such as the National Spatial Strategy and the Regional Planning Guidelines.

2.4.1 The National Spatial Strategy

The National Spatial Strategy sets out the strategic planning framework for the future development of Ireland. The NSS focuses on the physical consolidation of the metropolitan area, which includes the entire functional area of DCC. This necessitates the sustainable development of all vacant, derelict and underused lands including areas of underutilised physical and social infrastructure.

2.4.2 Regional Planning Guidelines

The Regional Planning Guidelines for the greater Dublin area 2010-2022 translate the national strategy to regional level. The RPG settlement hierarchy seeks to prioritise and focus investment and growth to achieve integration in services, infrastructure, transport, economic activity and new housing. The Dublin Regional Authority have been replaced by Eastern and Midlands regional assembly with a Regional spatial and economic strategy for the region being published following the publication of the National Planning Framework.

2.4.3 Dublin City Development Plan 2016-2022

Dublin City Development Plan (2016-2022) provides an integrated, coherent framework to ensure the development of the city in an inclusive way which includes the quality of living for current citizens and making it a more appealing place to work or live. Poolbeg West presents an opportunity to deliver significant levels of private and public housing, employment, schools and community and recreational facilities within the life of the plan.

2.4.4 Environmental Protection Objectives

The Planning Scheme is subject to a number of high level environmental protection policies and objectives with which it must comply. Examples of Environmental Protection Objectives include the aims of the EU Habitats Directive which is to contribute towards ensuring biodiversity through the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora in the European territory of Member States and the purpose of the Water Framework Directive which is to establish a framework for the protection of inland surface waters, transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater which, among other things, prevents deterioration in the status of all water bodies and protects, enhances and restores all waters with the aim of achieving good status.

3 Screening for Appropriate Assessment

3.1 Introduction to Screening

3.1.1 Background to Screening

This stage of the process identifies any likely significant effects to European Sites from a project or plan, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans. The screening phase was progressed in the following stages. A series of questions are asked during the Screening Stage of the AA process in order to determine:

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

An important element of the AA process is the identification of the 'conservation objectives', 'Qualifying Interests' and/ or 'Special Conservation Interests' of European Sites requiring assessment. Qualifying Interests (QI's) are the habitat features and species listed in Annex I & II of the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) for which each European Site has been designated and afforded protection. The 'Special Conservation Interests' (SCI's) are wetland habitats and bird species listed within Annex I & II of the Birds Directive. It is also vital that the threats to the ecological / environmental conditions that are required to support QI's and SCI's are considered as part of the assessment.

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

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

Favourable conservation status of a habitat is achieved when:

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

The favourable conservation status of a species is achieved when:

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

The screening stage of the Appropriate Assessment takes account of the elements detailed above with regard to the details and characteristics of the project or plan to determine if potential for effects to the integrity of the European Site are likely. The characteristics of the Material Alterations to the SDZ Planning Scheme were constructed through an iterative process, as a result the European Sites which are screened below may differ from those of high level plans, due to refinements in the methods/project details available.

3.1.2 Desktop Studies

The ecological desktop study was completed by Andrew Torsney (Senior Ecologist; MRes, BSc) for this Appropriate Assessment of the Material Alterations comprised the following elements:

- Identification of European Sites within 15km with identification of potential pathways links for specific sites (if relevant) greater than 15km from the proposed development study area.;
- Review of the NPWS site synopsis and conservation objectives for European Sites with identification of potential pathways from the proposed development; and
- A series of ecological desk studies were undertaken in March 2017. This included but is not limited to the collation of information on protected species including Bats, Otters, Bird species (including Annex I species), Annex II habitat types, protected and Red Data Book Flora species, invertebrates and amphibians. The results of these studies are included as part of the Appropriate Assessment where they were deemed relevant to the European Sites and their QI's/SCI's.

3.2 Identification of Relevant European Sites

This section of the screening process describes the European Sites which exist within the Zone of Influence of the site. The DoEHLG (2009) Guidance on Appropriate Assessment recommends a 15km buffer zone be considered around the site. It is not foreseen that in the absence of significant hydrological links the characteristics of this plan (detailed above) will impose impacts beyond this Zone of Influence. The coastal nature of the site limits the level of groundwater interactions present.

Those European Sites that occur within 15km of the Planning Scheme area or that were identified to have hydrological linkages to the Planning Scheme Area are listed in Table 3-1 and illustrated in Figure 1 below. None of the sites identified are vulnerable to groundwater effects.

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

- *Ireland's Article 17 Report to the European Commission "Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland" (NPWS, 2013).*
- *Site Synopses.*
- *NATURA 2000 Standard Data Forms.*

Since the conservation objectives for the European Sites focus on maintaining the favourable conservation condition of the QI's/SCI's of each site, the screening process concentrated on assessing the potential implications of the Poolbeg West SDZ against the QI's/SCI's of each site. The attributes and targets associated with the conservation objectives for each site were considered in the assessment. In general terms, these related to habitat extent or population trends of designated features and the maintenance or improvement of habitat quality or population trends.

Table 3-1 European Sites within the 15km Zone of Influence of the Poolbeg West SDZ Planning Scheme, or that have been identified with significant hydrological links to the Poolbeg West SDZ area.

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)
004024	South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA ²	Within SDZ Boundary
000210	South Dublin Bay SAC ³	0 – Directly Adjacent
004006	North Bull Island SPA ⁴	2.6
000206	North Dublin Bay SAC ⁵	2.69
003000	Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC ⁶	7.37
000202	Howth Head SAC ⁷	7.76
000199	Baldoyle Bay SAC ⁸	8.13
004016	Baldoyle Bay SPA ⁹	8.13
004172	Dalkey Island SPA ¹⁰	9.49
004113	Howth Head Coast SPA ¹¹	10.13
004117	Irelands Eye SPA ¹²	11.28
002193	Irelands Eye SAC ¹³	11.48
000205	Malahide Estuary SAC ¹⁴	11.67
002122	Wicklow Mountain SAC ¹⁵	11.9
004040	Wicklow Mountains SPA ¹⁶	12.15
004025	Broadmedow/Swords Estuary SPA ¹⁷	12.35
001209	Glenasmole Valley SAC ¹⁸	13.46
000725	Knocksink Wood SAC ¹⁹	13.78
000713	Ballyman Glen SAC ²⁰	14.41

² NPWS (2016) Conservation Objectives: South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA 004024. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

³ NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives: South Dublin Bay SAC 000210. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

⁴ NPWS (2016) Conservation Objectives: North Bull Island SPA 004006. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

⁵ NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives: North Dublin Bay SAC 000206. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

⁶ NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives: Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC 003000. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

⁷ NPWS (2016) Conservation Objectives: Howth Head SAC 000202. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.

⁸ NPWS (2012) Conservation Objectives: Baldoyle Bay SAC 000199. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

⁹ NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives: Baldoyle Bay SPA 004016. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

¹⁰ NPWS (2016) Conservation objectives for Dalkey Islands SPA [004172]. Generic Version 5.0. Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.

¹¹ NPWS (2016) Conservation objectives for Howth Head Coast SPA [004113]. Generic Version 5.0. Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.

¹² NPWS (2016) Conservation objectives for Ireland's Eye SPA [004117]. Generic Version 5.0. Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.

¹³ NPWS (2017) Conservation Objectives: Ireland's Eye SAC 002193. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.

¹⁴ NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives: Malahide Estuary SAC 000205. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

¹⁵ NPWS (2016) Conservation objectives for Wicklow Mountains SAC [002122]. Generic Version 5.0. Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.

¹⁶ NPWS (2016) Conservation objectives for Wicklow Mountains SPA [004040]. Generic Version 5.0. Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.

¹⁷ NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives: Malahide Estuary SPA 004025. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

¹⁸ NPWS (2016) Conservation objectives for Glenasmole Valley SAC [001209]. Generic Version 5.0. Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.

¹⁹ : NPWS (2016) Conservation objectives for Knocksink Wood SAC [000725]. Generic Version 5.0. Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.

²⁰ NPWS (2016) Conservation objectives for Ballyman Glen SAC [000713]. Generic Version 5.0. Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.

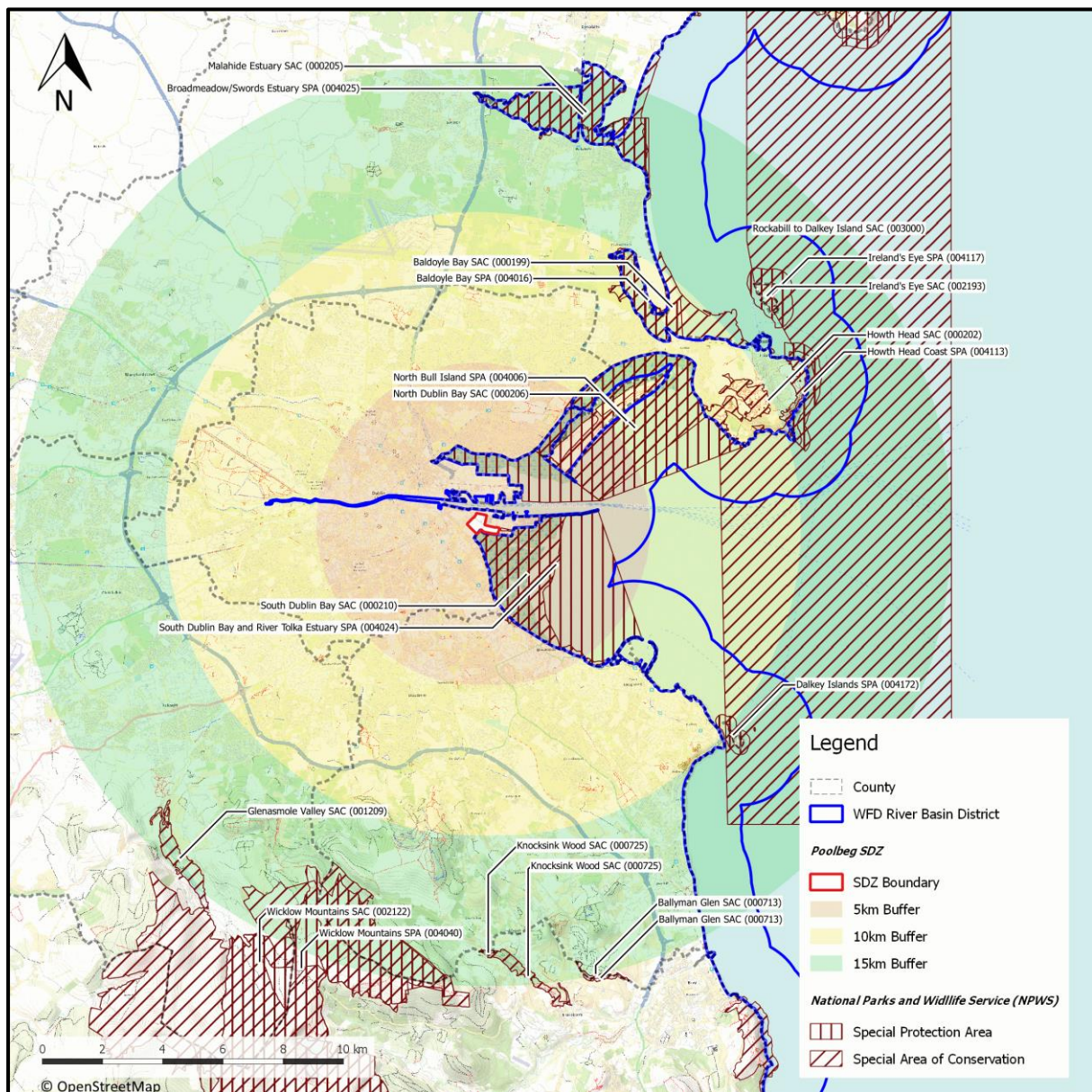


Figure 1 European Sites with Hydrological Links or Within 15 km of the Planning Scheme Area

Source: NPWS (datasets verified June 2017)

3.3 Assessment Criteria

3.3.1 Is the Plan Necessary to the Management of European Sites?

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

The Material Alterations to the Planning Scheme represent changes to the Poolbeg West SDZ Planning scheme which provides a framework for development within the Poolbeg West Area. Therefore, the Planning Scheme is not considered by the Habitats Directive to be directly connected with or necessary to the management of European designated sites.

3.3.2 Elements of the Material Alterations with Potential to Give Rise to Effects

i. Urban form and Height

Increasing the height allowances of buildings within the SDZ land, as outlined in Material Alteration I, has potential for adverse effects.

ii. Affordable Housing

The alterations to affordable housing introduce no additional sources for effects to ecological processes.

iii. Mix of Units

The alterations to social housing unit mix do not introduce any additional sources for effects to ecological processes.

iv. Re-allocation of B2 lands to Mixed use

The reallocation of lands from B2 to Mixed use (Material Alteration IV) does not influence ecological processes. The planning scheme provides for development with robust policies and objectives already in place, the 'Mixed-Use' of the B2 lands therefore is already provided for within the Planning Scheme and was considered within the existing NIR for the Poolbeg West Planning Scheme.

v. Social, Cultural, Creative and Artistic Spaces

The alterations to Social, Cultural, Creative and Artistic Spaces do not introduce any additional sources for effects to ecological processes.

Additional alterations were made however, these were identified not to be material as they related to text changes for clarity and descriptive purposes. These were reviewed as part of the AA Screening process but did not show interaction in relation to ecological processes.

3.3.3 Identification of Potential Likely Significant Effects

This section documents the final stage of the screening process. It has used the information collected on the sensitivity of each European Site and describes any likely significant effects resulting from the Material Alterations. This assumes the absence of any controls, conditions, or mitigation measures. In determining the potential for significant effects, a number of factors have been taken into account. Firstly, the sensitivity and reported threats to the European Site. Secondly, the individual elements of the LAP and the potential effect they may cause to the site were considered. The elements of the Material Alterations with potential to cause effect to European Sites are presented in Table 3-2 below.

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

- where it can be shown that there are no hydrological links between activities of the Material Alterations to the SDZ, and the site to be screened;
- where the site is located at such a distance from Material Alterations to the SDZ that effects are not foreseen;
- where it is that known threats or vulnerabilities at a site cannot be linked to potential impacts that may arise from the Material Alterations to the SDZ.

The following parameters are described when characterising impacts (following CIEEM (2016), EPA (2002) and NRA (2009)):

Direct and Indirect Impacts - An impact can be caused either as a direct or as an indirect consequence of a proposed development.

Magnitude - Magnitude measures the size of an impact, which is described as high, medium, low, very low or negligible.

Extent - The area over which the impact occurs – this should be predicted in a quantified manner.

Duration - The time for which the effect is expected to last prior to recovery or replacement of the resource or feature.

- Temporary: Up to 1 Year;
- Short Term: The effects would take 1-7 years to be mitigated;
- Medium Term: The effects would take 7-15 years to be mitigated;
- Long Term: The effects would take 15-60 years to be mitigated;
- Permanent: The effects would take 60+ years to be mitigated.

Likelihood – The probability of the effect occurring taking into account all available information.

- Certain/Near Certain: >95% chance of occurring as predicted;
- Probable: 50-95% chance as occurring as predicted;
- Unlikely: 5-50% chance as occurring as predicted;
- Extremely Unlikely: <5% chance as occurring as predicted.

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

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

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

Favourable conservation status of a species can be described as being achieved when: 'population data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself, and the natural range of the species is neither being reduced or likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future, and there is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis.'

Favourable conservation status of a habitat can be described as being achieved when: *'its natural range, and area it covers within that range, is stable or increasing, and the ecological factors that are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future, and the conservation status of its typical species is favourable'.*

Generic Conservation Objectives for cSACs have been provided as follows:

- *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.*

One generic Conservation Objective has been provided for SPAs as follows:

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

Table 3-2 Screening of European Sites within 15 km of the Poolbeg West SDZ Planning Scheme Area

Site Code	European Site	Distance	Qualifying Interests & Special Conservation Interests (Sensitive Receptors)	Potential effects (Sources of effects with regard to the qualifying interests, special conservation interests and/or conservation objectives of the European Site)	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
004024	South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA 004024	Within Site	Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046] Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130] Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137] Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143] Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144] Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149] Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157] Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162] Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179] Roseate Tern (<i>Sterna dougallii</i>) [A192] Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193] Arctic Tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) [A194] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	No additional sources for effects are imposed by the material alteration. Development within the Poolbeg West SDZ area was provided for by the Draft Planning Scheme which was subject to a full NIR. The increased height of buildings within the SDZ Material Alterations will not impose additional interaction with ecological processes. Therefore no effects to the ecological integrity of the SPA are foreseen as a result of the material alterations.	No	No
000210	South Dublin Bay SAC 000210	0km	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210] Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] Embryonic shifting dunes [2110]	The Material Alterations will not influence ecological processes. There are no additional sources for effects within the Material Alteration. There will be no alteration to the conservation objectives or qualifying interests of this SAC due to the characteristics of the Material Alterations.	No	No
004006	North Bull Island SPA 004006	2.6km	Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046] Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048] Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052] Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) [A054] Shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>) [A056] Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130]	No additional sources for effects are imposed by the material alteration on the landscape scale. Height interactions over these distances are negligible therefore there will be no effect to the SPA.	No	No

			<p>Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140] Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143] Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144] Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149] Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156] Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157] Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160] Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162] Turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>) [A169] Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]</p>			
000206	North Dublin Bay SAC 000206	2.69km	<p>Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210] Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glaucopuccinellietalia maritima</i>) [1330] Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410] Embryonic shifting dunes [2110] Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120] Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130] Humid dune slacks [2190] <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> (Petalwort) [1395]</p>	The Material Alterations will not influence ecological processes. There are no additional sources for effects within the Material Alteration. There will be no alteration to the conservation objectives or qualifying interests of this SAC due to the characteristics of the Material Alterations.	No	No
003000	Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC 003000	7.37km	<p>Reefs [1170] <i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]</p>	The Material Alterations will not influence ecological processes. There are no additional sources for effects within the Material Alteration. There will be no alteration to the conservation objectives or qualifying interests of this SAC due to the characteristics of the Material Alterations.	No	No
000202	Howth Head SAC 000202	7.76km	<p>Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230]</p>	The Material Alterations will not influence ecological processes. There are no additional	No	No

			European dry heaths [4030]	sources for effects within the Material Alteration. There will be no alteration to the conservation objectives or qualifying interests of this SAC due to the characteristics of the Material Alterations.		
000199	Baldoyle Bay SAC 000199	8.13km	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>) [1330] Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritima</i>) [1410]	The Material Alterations will not influence ecological processes. There are no additional sources for effects within the Material Alteration. There will be no alteration to the conservation objectives or qualifying interests of this SAC due to the characteristics of the Material Alterations.	No	No
004016	Baldoyle Bay SPA 004016	8.13km	Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046] Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048] Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137] Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140] Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	No additional sources for effects are imposed by the material alteration on the landscape scale. Height interactions over these distances are negligible therefore there will be no effect to the SPA.	No	No
004172	Dalkey Island SPA 004172	9.49km	Roseate Tern (<i>Sterna dougallii</i>) [A192] Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193] Arctic Tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) [A194]	No additional sources for effects are imposed by the material alteration on the landscape scale. Height interactions over these distances are negligible therefore there will be no effect to the SPA.	No	No
004113	Howth Head Coast SPA 004113	10.13km	Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) [A188]	No additional sources for effects are imposed by the material alteration on the landscape scale. Height interactions over these distances are negligible therefore there will be no effect to the SPA.	No	No
004117	Irelands Eye SPA 004117	11.28km	Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017] Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) [A184] Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) [A188] Guillemot (<i>Uria aalge</i>) [A199] Razorbill (<i>Alca torda</i>) [A200]	No additional sources for effects are imposed by the material alteration on the landscape scale. Height interactions over these distances are negligible therefore there will be no effect to the SPA.	No	No
002193	Irelands Eye SAC 002193	11.48km	Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220]	The Material Alterations will not influence ecological processes. There are no additional sources for effects within the Material	No	No

			Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230]	Alteration. There will be no alteration to the conservation objectives or qualifying interests of this SAC due to the characteristics of the Material Alterations.		
000205	Malahide Estuary SAC 000205	11.67km	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] Spartina swards (<i>Spartinion maritimae</i>) [1320] Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glaucopuccinellietalia maritimae</i>) [1330] Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410] Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120] Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130]	The Material Alterations will not influence ecological processes. There are no additional sources for effects within the Material Alteration. There will be no alteration to the conservation objectives or qualifying interests of this SAC due to the characteristics of the Material Alterations.	No	No
002122	Wicklow Mountain SAC 002122	11.9km	Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>) [3110] Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160] Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010] European dry heaths [4030] Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060] Calaminarian grasslands of the <i>Violetalia calaminariae</i> [6130] Species-rich <i>Nardus</i> grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe) [6230] Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130] Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (<i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsietalia ladanii</i>) [8110] Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8210]	The Material Alterations will not influence ecological processes. There are no additional sources for effects within the Material Alteration. There will be no alteration to the conservation objectives or qualifying interests of this SAC due to the characteristics of the Material Alterations.	No	No

			Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220] Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0] <i>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter) [1355]			
004040	Wicklow Mountains SPA 004040	12.15km	Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>) [A098] Peregrine (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>) [A103]	No additional sources for effects are imposed by the material alteration on the landscape scale. Height interactions over these distances are negligible therefore there will be no effect to the SPA.	No	No
004025	Broadmedow/Swords Estuary SPA 004025	12.35km	Great Crested Grebe (<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>) [A005] Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046] Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048] Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) [A054] Goldeneye (<i>Bucephala clangula</i>) [A067] Red-breasted Merganser (<i>Mergus serrator</i>) [A069] Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130] Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140] Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143] Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149] Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156] Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157] Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	No additional sources for effects are imposed by the material alteration on the landscape scale. Height interactions over these distances are negligible therefore there will be no effect to the SPA.	No	No
001209	Glenasmole Valley SAC 001209	13.46km	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) (* important orchid sites) [6210] Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>) [6410] Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220]	The Material Alterations will not influence ecological processes. There are no additional sources for effects within the Material Alteration. There will be no alteration to the conservation objectives or qualifying interests of this SAC due to the characteristics of the Material Alterations.	No	No

000725	Knocksink Wood SAC 000725	13.78km	Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220] Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i>) [91E0]	The Material Alterations will not influence ecological processes. There are no additional sources for effects within the Material Alteration. There will be no alteration to the conservation objectives or qualifying interests of this SAC due to the characteristics of the Material Alterations.	No	No
000713	Ballyman Glen SAC 000713	14.41km	Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220] Alkaline fens [7230]	The Material Alterations will not influence ecological processes. There are no additional sources for effects within the Material Alteration. There will be no alteration to the conservation objectives or qualifying interests of this SAC due to the characteristics of the Material Alterations.	No	No

3.4 Other Plans and Programs

Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive requires an assessment of a plan or project to consider other plans or programmes that might, in combinations with the plan or project, have the potential to adversely impact upon European Sites. There are no additional sources for effects to ecological processes identified. Therefore, there are no in combination effects with other plans or projects. The planning scheme itself gave consideration to these plans/projects include:

- Fingal County Development Plan 2017-2023
- South Dublin County Development Plan 2016-2022
- Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Development Plan 2016 -2022
- Dublin City Development Plan 2016 -2022
- Dublin Port Master Plan 2012-2040
- Dublin Dockland Masterplan 2008
- North Lotts Grand Canal Dock SDZ Planning Scheme (2013)
- Grangegorman SDZ Planning Scheme (2012)
- Dublin Port National Development Plan study 2009
- The Dublin Port 6-year Dredge Plan
- North Bull Island Management Plan
- Dublin City Biodiversity Action Plan 2015-2020
- The Dublin Waste to Energy Facility project
- Eastern River Basin District (ERBD) Management Plan 2009-2015
- S2S – Dolly mount promenade and flood protection project
- S2S – Cycleway and Footway Interim works 2013 project
- North City Arterial Watermain and Clontarf Flood defences project
- Dublin Eastern Bypass project
- Wastewater Treatment Plan Extension works at Ringsend
- Alexandra Basin Redevelopment Project
- Water Supply Project Eastern and Midland Region
- North Lotts & Grand Canal Dock SDZ Planning Scheme
- Greater Dublin Cycle Network

This AA was undertaken following an iterative process to inform the design of the Planning Scheme, a focused approach of mitigation by avoidance was taken to ensure minimizing any potential effects. The Plans and Projects listed above were assessed and considerations were made for any in-combination effects with the Material Alterations, taking into account existing mitigation measures (Table 3-3).

Table 3-3 Plans or projects within the Zone of Influence of the Material Alterations to the Poolbeg West SDZ Planning Scheme that may have in-combination effects European Sites

Plan or project	Status	Overview	Possible significant effects from plan or project	Possible significant in-combination effects	Is there a risk of significant in-combination effects with the Poolbeg West SDZ Planning Scheme
Fingal County Development Plan 2017-2023	Published	To plan for support and the continued sustainable development of Fingal as an integrated network of vibrant socially and economically successful settlements, strategic green belts and open countryside, supporting and contributing to the economic development of the County and of the Dublin City Region.	Yes Appropriate Assessment carried out	No Potential impacts are to be avoided through mitigatory policies in the Planning Scheme.	There are no additional Sources for effects within the Material Alterations that interact with ecological processes. Therefore, there can be no in combination effects beyond those considered by the existing NIR for the site.
South Dublin County Development Plan 2016-2022	Published	The Development Plan sets out South Dublin County Council's policies and objectives for the continued development of the County from 2016 to 2022. The Plan seeks to develop and improve in a sustainable manner the social, economic, cultural and environmental assets of the County.	No Stage 1 Appropriate Assessment carried out	No Potential impacts are to be avoided through avoidance policies in the Planning Scheme.	There are no additional Sources for effects within the Material Alterations that interact with ecological processes. Therefore, there can be no in combination effects beyond those considered by the existing NIR for the site.
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Development Plan 2016 -2022	Published	The Plan sets out Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council's policies for the sustainable development of the County to 2016 and beyond.	No Stage 1 Appropriate Assessment carried out	No Impact avoidance measures put in place.	There are no additional Sources for effects within the Material Alterations that interact with ecological processes. Therefore, there can be no in combination effects beyond those considered by the existing NIR for the site.
Dublin City Development Plan 2016 -2022	Published	The Dublin City Development Plan sets out policies and objectives for Dublin City. This plan guides how and where development will take place in the city over the next 6 years. This includes SDRA sites including the Poolbeg Peninsula.	Yes Appropriate Assessment carried out	No Potential impacts are to be avoided through mitigatory policies in the Planning Scheme.	There are no additional Sources for effects within the Material Alterations that interact with ecological processes. Therefore, there can be no in combination effects beyond those considered by the existing NIR for the site.
Dublin Port Master	Published	The Master Plan is prepared for future sustainable growth and changes in	Yes	No	There are no additional Sources for effects within the Material Alterations

Plan 2012-2040		facilitating seaborne trade in goods and passenger movements to and from Ireland and the Dublin Region.	Appropriate Assessment carried out	Potential impacts are to be avoided through mitigatory policies in the Planning Scheme.	that interact with ecological processes. Therefore, there can be no in combination effects beyond those considered by the existing NIR for the site.
North Lotts Grand Canal Dock SDZ Planning Scheme (2013)	Published	The Planning Scheme sets out development objectives for the sustainable development of North Lotts and Grand Canal Strategic Development Zone Area.	Yes Appropriate Assessment carried out	No Potential impacts are to be avoided through mitigatory policies in the Planning Scheme.	There are no additional Sources for effects within the Material Alterations that interact with ecological processes. Therefore, there can be no in combination effects beyond those considered by the existing NIR for the site.
Grangegorman SDZ Planning Scheme (2012)	Published	The Planning Scheme sets out development objectives for the sustainable development of Educational Campus Complex.	No Stage 1 Appropriate Assessment carried out	No Potential impacts are to be avoided through avoidance policies in the Plan	There are no additional Sources for effects within the Material Alterations that interact with ecological processes. Therefore, there can be no in combination effects beyond those considered by the existing NIR for the site.
Dublin Port National Development Plan study 2009	Published	The report concerns an assessment of the role and future development of Dublin Port within the context of the National Development Plan.	No	No	There are no additional Sources for effects within the Material Alterations that interact with ecological processes. Therefore, there can be no in combination effects beyond those considered by the existing NIR for the site.
The Dublin Port 6-year Dredge Plan	Approved	This document supports an application for a Dumping at Sea Permit for a 6-year maintenance dredging plan for the period from 2009-2014.	Yes	No	There are no additional Sources for effects within the Material Alterations that interact with ecological processes. Therefore, there can be no in combination effects beyond those considered by the existing NIR for the site.
North Bull Island Management Plan	Published	The North Bull Island Management Plan aimed to summarize and update the key data, particularly about the current status of habitats and species of conservation status, to discuss the current management issues affecting natural heritage importance of the island and to outline specific	No	No	There are no additional Sources for effects within the Material Alterations that interact with ecological processes. Therefore, there can be no in combination effects beyond those considered by the existing NIR for the site.

		recommendations to manage these issues.			
Dublin City Biodiversity Action Plan 2015-2020	Published	The Biodiversity Action Plan is in place to aid with the objectives of the Dublin City Development Plan relating to quality of life, greenspace and amenity provision, planning development, and the protection of natural heritage in the city.	No	No	There are no additional Sources for effects within the Material Alterations that interact with ecological processes. Therefore, there can be no in combination effects beyond those considered by the existing NIR for the site.
The Dublin Waste to Energy Facility project	Approved	The Environmental Protection Agency has issued a Licence to DCC to operate a non-hazardous waste to energy facility. The proposed Dublin Waste to Energy (DWtE) facility will be located on the Poolbeg Peninsula in Dublin.	No	No	There are no additional Sources for effects within the Material Alterations that interact with ecological processes. Therefore, there can be no in combination effects beyond those considered by the existing NIR for the site.
Eastern River Basin District (ERBD) Management Plan 2009-2015	Published	The ERBD Management Plan describes the actions that are proposed to ensure the necessary protection of our waters over the coming years. There is a second phase of the management plan due to be created.	No Appropriate Assessment carried out	No Screening for potential effects under Habitats Directive Article 6 process is put in place once details of the implementation of the programme of Measures (POMs) under the ERBD are known.	There are no additional Sources for effects within the Material Alterations that interact with ecological processes. Therefore, there can be no in combination effects beyond those considered by the existing NIR for the site.
S2S – Dollymount promenade and flood protection project	Approved	The Dollymount Promenade and Flood Protection Project (DPFPP) is a dual-purpose scheme: 1. Provide promenade and cycleway connecting existing sections to complete 8km promenade and cycleway in North Dublin Bay and contribute to the overall aim of providing 22km in Dublin Bay. Provide flood defence between the Wooden Bridge and Causeway Road for residences along Clontarf Road and James Larkin Road.	Yes Appropriate Assessment carried out	No Mitigation policies put in place to minimise impacts.	There are no additional Sources for effects within the Material Alterations that interact with ecological processes. Therefore, there can be no in combination effects beyond those considered by the existing NIR for the site.

<p>S2S – Cycleway and Footway Interim works 2013 project</p>	<p>Approved</p>	<p>The proposed Works is approximately 2km in length, extending from Bull Road (Wooden Bridge) to Causeway Road linking existing cycle and walking routes at either end.</p>	<p>No Stage 1 Screening. There is no potential for significant effects on the European sites. As such the project is screened out under the Habitats Directive as not requiring a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>There are no additional Sources for effects within the Material Alterations that interact with ecological processes. Therefore, there can be no in combination effects beyond those considered by the existing NIR for the site.</p>
<p>North City Arterial Watermain and Clontarf Flood Defences project</p>	<p>Approved</p>	<p>The New Water Pipeline from Fairview Park to Sutton and construction of flood defences along Clontarf Promenade, Dublin 3 was approved with conditions in 2008. Flood defence works will be carried out affecting the entire area of Clontarf Promenade, an area of public open space with path and cycleways, amenity grassland and ornamental tree and shrub planting. The existing sea wall and the rock- armoured shoreline to the west near Alfie Byrne Road are the boundaries with the area.</p>	<p>No Stage 1 screening. The Report concluded "that the project will have no adverse effect on the integrity of either of the Natura 2000 sites listed and as such this report returns a conclusion that there is no potential for significant effects on the Natura 2000 sites."</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>There are no additional Sources for effects within the Material Alterations that interact with ecological processes. Therefore, there can be no in combination effects beyond those considered by the existing NIR for the site.</p>
<p>Dublin Eastern Bypass project</p>	<p>Feasibility</p>	<p>The Dublin Eastern Bypass will complete a full ring motorway for the city by closing the 11km gap that exists on the south- eastern side between the Dublin Port Tunnel and the M50. A 2007 feasibility study recommended three options that included a viaduct or bored tunnel across the Port, a viaduct or tunnel across Sandymount Strand, and tunnels and cuttings from there to the N11 and Sandyford. Whilst there is a commitment to this project, a detailed timetable is not available. However, the</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>There are no additional Sources for effects within the Material Alterations that interact with ecological processes. Therefore, there can be no in combination effects beyond those considered by the existing NIR for the site.</p>

		proposed development may be implemented by 2030.			
Wastewater Treatment Plan Extension Works at Ringsend	Approved	The Project aims to extend the Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Works to its full intended capacity and also to end the discharge of treated water at the Liffey River Estuary, moving it instead to a new point further offshore. The proposed new offshore location would be approximately 9 km out from the Poolbeg Peninsula and would take advantage of improved dilution and dispersion due to greater water depths and stronger tidal currents. It would also be further away from Dublin's bathing waters and wildlife sanctuaries.	Yes Appropriate Assessment carried out	No Mitigation measures put in place to minimise effects.	There are no additional Sources for effects within the Material Alterations that interact with ecological processes. Therefore, there can be no in combination effects beyond those considered by the existing NIR for the site.
Alexandra Basin Redevelopment Project	Approved	The project aims to redevelop Alexandra Basin area in line with the Dublin Port Master Plan 2012-2040 that provides for future sustainable growth and changes in facilitating seaborne trade in goods and passenger movements to and from Ireland and the Dublin Region.	Yes Appropriate Assessment carried out	No Mitigation measures put in place to minimise effects.	There are no additional Sources for effects within the Material Alterations that interact with ecological processes. Therefore, there can be no in combination effects beyond those considered by the existing NIR for the site.
Water Supply Project Eastern and Midland Region	Feasibility; Under Assessment	The project aims to fulfill the growing demand for fresh drinking water within the Dublin Region. The current emerging preferred option is for abstraction from the Parteen Weir Site controlled by the ESB. An underground pipeline would connect the abstraction point to a terminal point in west Dublin.	Yes Appropriate Assessment is currently being carried out	No Mitigation measures will be put in place to minimise effects.	There are no additional Sources for effects within the Material Alterations that interact with ecological processes. Therefore, there can be no in combination effects beyond those considered by the existing NIR for the site.
North Lotts & Grand Canal Dock SDZ Planning Scheme	Published	This SDZ provides for strategic development within the city; it provides link pathways within the city such as the Dodder Bridge between Grand Canal Dock and Ringsend.	Yes Appropriate Assessment has been undertaken (Stage 2 NIS)	No Mitigation measures have been put in place to minimise effects.	There are no additional Sources for effects within the Material Alterations that interact with ecological processes. Therefore, there can be no in combination effects beyond those considered by the existing NIR for the site.
Greater Dublin Area Cycle	Published	Consolidate and ensure coordination of cycle network plans. The Urban Cycle	Yes	No	There are no additional Sources for effects within the Material Alterations

<p>Network Plan</p>		<p>Network at the Primary, Secondary and Feeder level; The Inter-Urban Cycle Network linking the relevant sections of the Urban Network and including the elements of the National Cycle Network within the GDA. It shall also include linkages to key transport locations outside of urban areas such as airports and ports; and the Green Route Network being cycle routes developed predominately for tourist, recreational and leisure purposes.</p>	<p>Appropriate Assessment carried out</p>	<p>Mitigation policies put in place to minimise impacts.</p>	<p>that interact with ecological processes. Therefore, there can be no in combination effects beyond those considered by the existing NIR for the site.</p>
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4 Conclusion

Stage 1 Screening for AA of the Material Alterations to the Poolbeg West SDZ Planning Scheme has been carried out. It has been demonstrated that implementation of the Planning Scheme is not foreseen to have any likely significant effects on any European Site.

The Material Alterations must comply with the policies, objectives and mitigation measures contained with this existing Poolbeg West SDZ Planning Scheme. The SDZ was subject to its own AA (Stage 2 full NIR) and SEA process which determined there are no likely significant effects to the integrity of any European Site foreseen as a result of the implementation of the plan.

The Appropriate Assessment screening process considered potential effects which may arise during implementation of the Material Alterations. Through an assessment of the sources for effects and an evaluation of the Material Alterations it was determined that the existing SDZ accounts for development within Poolbeg West Area. The existing mitigations within this Planning Scheme are seen to be robust, thus the effects arising from the Material Alterations are thought to be very low. It has been evaluated that the Material Alterations have no likely significant adverse effects on the qualifying interests, special conservation interests or the conservation objectives of any designated European Site. Any effects arising from the development of Regeneration Areas will be subject to project level AA's when fine scale detail is known.

It is concluded that the Material Alterations to the Poolbeg West SDZ Planning Scheme is not foreseen to give rise to any significant adverse effects on designated European sites²¹, alone or in combination with other plans or projects. This evaluation is made in view of the conservation objectives of the habitats or species for which these sites have been designated. Consequently, a Stage 2 – NIS is not required for the Material Alterations.

²¹ Except as provided for in Section 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be:
a) no alternative solution available,
b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the plan to proceed; and
c) Adequate compensatory measures in place.